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Rs 70,000 govt salary while pursuing post-graduation, Karnataka MLA's niece fired

Bengaluru(Agency)

A Karnataka Congress MLA's niece, who was posted as a medical officer at a state-run Namma Clinic in Bagalkot, has been removed from duty after she was found pursuing her postgraduate studies at a private medical college simultaneously. An enquiry has also



been launched against her over alleged dereliction of duty and unauthorised dual engagement. The matter came to light after Dr Ankita Yaragal, the niece of Bagalkot MLA Umesh Meti, remained absent from the Namma Clinic in Bagalkot for several days, leaving the facility without a medical officer. She was drawing over Rs 70,000 for the posting, including for the days she was absent since March this year. Subsequently, Bagalkot Zilla Panchayat CEO Gajanan Bale issued a notice to Dr Yaragal, which alleged that she continued to receive her salary or honorarium during this period while simultaneously pursuing her postgraduate studies. Dr Yaragal was directed to appear for the first inquiry on Wednesday. However, she did not turn up despite having permission from the principal of S Nijalingappa Medical College to attend the proceedings.

Pak navy ship collides with Indian vessel, New Delhi summons Islamabad's top envoy

New Delhi. (Agency)

New Delhi has summoned Islamabad's top envoy after a Pakistani naval ship collided with an Indian Navy vessel in international waters, 15 years after a similar incident sparked tensions in the Gulf of Aden. However, the Indian Navy warship did not suffer any damage.

In a strongly worded statement, the MEA said the "unacceptable and unprofessional conduct" of Pakistani naval units led to the collision. The



development comes as tensions between India and Pakistan remain at an all-time high following last year's Operation Sindoor.

HOW DID THE COLLISION HAPPEN?

The incident took place in international waters on the evening of September 15, sources told. The Indian warship was on a routine surveillance mission in the North Arabian Sea when a Pakistani naval vessel approached it at high speed and collided with it. However, no damage has been reported, sources said.

Narendra's Ongoing Trump Appeasement: Congress's swipe at govt over UPI move

New Delhi (Agency)

The Congress on Wednesday accused the government of giving in to a US demand to impose a new charge on some UPI payments from October 15, with senior leader Jairam Ramesh asking whether the move was intended to benefit American card companies. Questioning the rationale behind the move, the Rajya Sabha MP dubbed it "Narendra's Ongoing Trump Appeasement."

Under the government's new Merchant Discount Rate framework, merchants will be charged 0.4 per cent on direct UPI payments above Rs 2,000.

The fee will be paid by the merchant to its acquiring bank and capped at Rs 300 for transactions of Rs 75,000 and above. The government has said customers will not be

required to pay the charge, while person-to-person transactions will remain free. Taking a swipe at the government, the Congress leader said in a post on X, "Why 0.4%



MDR? Is it because debit card MDR is also 0.4%? Is this being done to enable US card companies to compete with UPI?" He then linked the UPI decision to US criticism of

India's digital payments system. "Here, the Modi Govt has given into a US demand to get rid of zero MDR and charge for UPI.

The US Trade Representative earlier this year criticised UPI for being free and having driven out Visa and Mastercard." The Congress leader also referred to the US House of Representatives vote on a Bill that, according to him, introduces 100 per cent tariffs on India, saying the US Senate had already approved the measure.

He also cited what he described as the Trump administration's crackdown on Indian immigrants and tougher rules affecting H-1B visa holders. "H-1B visa costs have been increased, and such holders could soon be deported immediately when out of a job.

The Congress accused the Centre of imposing a merchant charge on some UPI payments under US pressure. The government said consumers would not pay the MDR, while the BJP called the Opposition's attack fake news.

Serious questions are being raised about how a lower-level Gram Rakshak Dal (GRD) jawan allegedly amassed unaccounted wealth and gained control over police station operations.

Public pressure mounts on senior district officials, the Local Crime Branch (LCB), and the District Superintendent of Police (SP) to address these deep-rooted corruption claims under the state's zero-tolerance policy.

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad (Bopal):Sensational reports have emerged indicating a breakdown of law and order in the Bopal area, considered one of the most posh localities of Ahmedabad district. Serious allegations have been raised that Mehul Panchal, an ordinary GRD (Gram Rakshak Dal) jawan serving at Bopal Police Station, has allegedly become the 'administrator' of the entire police station. How did a GRD jawan earning a modest salary suddenly acquire such vast wealth? Will the Income Tax Department and Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) conduct an impartial investigation into the alleged administrator's unaccounted assets? This question has currently become a hot topic of discussion across the entire Bopal region. Rampant Network of Liquor, Gambling, Chemical-Laced Alcohol, and MD Drugs: Youth Devastated According to local circles and sources, illicit local and foreign liquor dens, gambling houses, and a network of deadly MD drugs are run-



ning unchecked in the Bopal area. The Bopal police seem to have learned no lessons even after previous tragic hooch tragedies in the state. Chemical-laced toxic alcohol is being sold openly in Bopal, directly inviting another hooch tragedy. Bootleggers hold no fear of the law enforcement uniform, and as a result, the region's

youth are being ruined by falling into deadly addictions. Illegal Activities Under the Guise of Spas Involving Foreign Girls: Police Silent Out of Greed for Money? According to shocking details, illegal and antisocial activities are being run by employing foreign girls in spa centers located in posh areas of Bopal. Allegations sug-

gest that due to the greed for extortion money among the alleged administrator and certain corrupt elements in the police force, all these illicit businesses have received a free pass. Is the local Police Inspector unaware of this matter, or are eyes being turned away out of greed for money? This remains a major question. Is LCB and District Police Chief (SP) Unaware? Demand for High-Level Investigation The biggest question that arises is whether the Ahmedabad District LCB (Local Crime Branch), senior police officials, and the District Superintendent of Police (SP) are truly unaware of all these illegal activities, or if a different picture is being presented to them. While Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi demonstrates a zero-tolerance policy against drugs and illegal activities in the state, the public of Bopal hopes for an in-depth investigation by Enforcement Directorate, Income Tax Department, and neutral agencies into this alleged administrator of Bopal Police Station and the entire extortion racket.

Fasting Manoj Jarange may cancel Mumbai march due to poor health

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange said he may call off his Mumbai journey after health problems worsened during his hunger strike, now in its 18th day. His warning sharpens pressure on the Maharashtra government even as police restrictions and Ganeshotsava festival security complicate the protest.

Beed(Agency).

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange said on Wednesday that his journey to Mumbai might be called off because of health problems caused by long hours of travel and his ongoing hunger strike. He said the burning sensation in his stomach and feet had made it difficult for him to continue. Jarange, who has been on a hunger strike for the last 18 days, is demanding OBC reservation for Maratha community members with Kunbi caste genealogies. He began his latest agitation from Antarwali Sarati in Jalna on Tuesday and set out for Mumbai despite the city police denying permission for a protest at Azad Maidan, citing law and order concerns during the Ganesh festival. He reached Patoda in Maharashtra's Beed district at around 11 am on Wednesday, nearly 14 hours after leaving Antarwali Sarati, and later

addressed a gathering there. Jarange said he was facing a severe burning sensation in his stomach and feet. "If I take treatment, the government becomes completely carefree. If I stop treatment, they become tense. This tour



to Mumbai is taking a toll on my health. I can continue if I'm fine, but such long travel is not good amid a hunger strike. The tour can also be cancelled if there is no option," he said.

Hundreds of villagers had extended support to him on the way as he travelled in a convoy of cars on Tuesday. Speaking in Patoda, he said, "Reservation is more important than the tour, which seems impossible because of the burning sensation in my stomach and feet."

He also urged supporters not to accompany him. "No vehicle should follow me from Patoda. I will change my route and go to Mumbai. I will only keep the police informed. Please let me go alone. If I am not allowed to enter Mumbai, then you can all come," he said. On Tuesday, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said maintaining law and order was the responsibility of the police and questioned the timing of the agitation during the Ganesh festival, while indicating that the government would not tolerate any intimidating tactics.

Calcutta HC sets aside order to vacate 2 floors of Abhishek Banerjee's office

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday set aside a West Bengal Fire Services Department order directing occupants to vacate the sixth and seventh floors of a Kolkata building housing TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee's office. The court ordered a fresh inspection after considering the party's reply.

New Delhi(Agency).

The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday set aside a West Bengal Fire Services Department order directing the occupants to vacate two floors of a high-rise building housing Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee's office. The court asked the department to reconsider the party's reply submitted on September 3 and to carry out a fresh inspection after giving notice to the petitioner.

The court also said that if any further gaps in fire safety measures are found during the fresh inspection, the authorities must inform the TMC so that corrective steps can be taken. It said the department would be free to take action in accordance with law if the petitioner fails to put the required fire safety measures

in place even after such notice. Justice Krishna Rao set aside the department's September 4 order to vacate the sixth and seventh floors of the building on Camac Street in south Kolkata, where the office of the TMC MP is located. The High Court had earlier, on September 11, directed the Fire Services Department not to implement its order until a final decision was passed. During the hearing, the TMC's lawyer said the party had been served a notice on September 4 asking it to vacate the two floors on the ground that the fire safety certificate had expired.

Opposing the petition, Advocate General Surojit Nath Mitra told the court that several fire safety parameters had been violated on the sixth and seventh floors and that a number of LPG cylinders had been kept on one of the floors.



Robbers throw burning chilli to smoke Ghaziabad house, flee with jewellery

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Six masked robbers broke into a scrap trader's house in Kalchina village around 2 am on Tuesday after throwing burning chilli through a window, which filled the house with smoke. When one of the family members opened the door to let the smoke out, the robbers allegedly barged in, overpowered the family and held them hostage as they rummaged through the house looking for jewellery and cash. Saddam, the homeowner, told police the gang broke the lock of his shop, set up at the front portion of his house, and broke the outdoor lights before entering, armed with pistols and knives. He claimed that the family was asleep when the men threw burning chilli into the house. His wife, Afroza, checked the house but found no fire. When she opened the gate to let the smoke out, the robbers allegedly entered and stabbed her with a knife, injuring her hand. "On hearing the screams, I woke up and saw the robbers and locked myself in the bedroom. I opened the door as the men threatened to harm my wife and children. They assaulted me and tied me up with my wife's scarf," Saddam said.

The complainant claimed that the accused seemed to have been tipped off about 10kg of silver and Rs 5 lakh cash in the house. "When they asked my wife about the jewellery and money, she told them we did not have the money. They kept asking her about the jewellery and cash in the house. When she didn't reply, they hit her with the butt of the pistol and put knives to my seven-year-old son and 13-year-old daughter. One of them took the keys of the almirah from my pocket and ransacked the house for almost one and a half hours," Saddam said. He said a neighbour grew suspicious and gathered residents armed with sticks who began approaching the house. Two of the robbers standing guard outside alerted those inside, following which the group allegedly fled with a pair of anklets, gold earrings, a gold kundal, a silver toe ring and other items, along with cash worth Rs 1 lakh. DCP (rural) Surendra Nath Tiwari said the accused had wrapped red chilli peppers in a cloth, set it alight and thrown it into the house through a window. Police recovered the burnt, chilli-filled cloth from inside the home.

7 owls rescued from Greater Noida condo, to be relocated to Surajpur sanctuary

Noida.(Agency)

Seven owls, including two adults and five owlets, have been rescued from a highrise in Greater Noida West, ending a weeklong ordeal for the residents. Over the past 10 days, residents claimed the owls swooped down on anyone passing through parking areas, lobbies and open spaces late at night or early in the morning and attacked them with their sharp talons. As many as seven people were allegedly injured in these attacks.

Owls generally do not attack humans and are shy birds that prefer to keep their distance. However, they can become aggressive when they feel threatened, particularly while protecting their nests or chicks. During breeding season, some species may become more territorial and dive-bomb people who approach too closely. The birds were rescued on Monday from a shaft in Tower 5 of La Residentia by a team of the district forest department and would be relocated to Surajpur Bird Sanctuary. Last week, Tower 4's Bijoy Tripathi reached home one night at 11. As soon as he parked his car, an owl swooped down and struck him twice on the back of his head. He had to get stitches and anti-rabies shots. "My neighbours got very scared and they started staying indoors after sunset," he said. "Many of them had even started wrapping their heads in blankets or wearing helmets to keep the birds away."

Another resident, Sumil Jalota, then reached out to wildlife conservation experts and filed a complaint with the forest department. Expert volunteer rescuer and wildlife photographer Ashish Tak, along with Dr Vineet Arora, watched the birds for three days to study their behaviour.

10ft stretch on Elevated Road caves in, Noida blames leakage in old pipes running below

Noida.(Agency)

A large portion of Elevated Road's Sector 60 to 18 carriageway caved in near Vishwa Bharti Public School on Tuesday morning, triggering long tailbacks in the morning rush hour. Noida Authority said a 10-foot-long, nearly three-foot-deep crater opened up on the ramp descending towards Sector 18 around 11 am after soil beneath the elevated road collapsed due to leaks in old water and sewage pipes.

Noida Authority said a 10-foot-long and nearly three-foot-deep crater opened up on the ramp descending towards Sector 18 around 11 am as the soil collapsed due to leakages in the old water and sewage pipes that run below the elevated road. Noida Authority general manager SP Singh said the crater was closed by evening, and the bitumen coating would be completed at night after traffic slowed down.

The 4.8km flyover, constructed at Rs 480 crore and opened to the public in 2017, is taken regularly by hundreds of commuters heading to residential and office hubs in sectors 18, 23, 25-29 and 60-62 to avoid the heavily encroached Maharaja Agrasen Marg below. Commuters from Indirapuram and Vaishali also use the flyover to commute between Greater Noida West and Delhi via DND Flyway and Noida Expressway.

Traffic department data indicates that nearly 1.5 lakh commuters use Elevated Road on weekdays, with traffic volume increasing during the morning and evening rush-hour commute. In March 2024, Noida Authority had spent Rs 14.6 crore to repair sections of the elevated road that had developed cracks and rough patches. On Tuesday, residents of nearby sectors asked why the repairs could not even hold for two years.

Tapasviratna Pankajkumar Lalwani Completes Uprooted Penance of 51 Fasts; Festive Atmosphere in the City

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Srirampur/Ahilyanagar: A golden chapter of difficult penance and spiritual practice of Jainism has been written in Srirampur city, situated on the historic land of Ahilyanagar district. Local resident and pious Shrivak, Tapasviratna Pankajkumar Dhanrajji Lalwani, has successfully completed the extremely difficult and arduous penance of 51 fasts (51 Days Fasting), bringing glory to Srirampur city as well as the entire district. Demonstrating self-purification, sense control, and unmatched devotion to the Lord, he completed this great spiritual practice on September 17, 2026. Rigorous Restraint of 51 Days Supported Only by Water: A Unique Example of Penance In Jain philosophy, penance is considered the supreme medium for the soul's purification (nirjara) and the destruction of karma. Without consuming even a single grain of food for 51 consecutive days, Pankajkumar Lalwani consumed only boiled water (prasukal) between sunrise and sunset.



Crossing physical boundaries and touching the pinnacle of spirituality, this rigorous penance has colored the entire city of Srirampur in hues of devotion and reverence. Religious Tradition of the Esteemed Lalwani Family Tapasvi Shri Pankajkumar Lalwani is the grandson of Srirampur's renowned industrialists, late Shri Kachardasji and Smt. Madanbai Lalwani, the son of late Shri Dhanrajji Lalwani and Smt. Rajanibai Lalwani, and the brother

of Nitin Kumar Lalwani. The Lalwani family is well-known for its religious values, generosity, and social service. Not only the family but the entire Jain community feels proud of this massive penance undertaken by their beloved son. Divine Guidance of Pious Sadhvi Vrund This historic spiritual practice was successfully completed under the sacred presence and auspicious blessings of Upapravartini Param Pujya Chandan Balaji Maharaj Saheb and Param Pujya Padmavati Maharaj Saheb, along with their monastic group (thane). The continuous spiritual guidance and righteous motivation of the revered Sadhvi Vrund kept the tapasvi's morale unwavering throughout the 51 days. Grand Felicitation Ceremony and Varghoda (Procession) Schedule To appreciate and felicitate this great penance of Tapasviratna Pankajkumar Lalwani, a grand religious festival has been organized in Srirampur. Grand Varghoda (Procession) of the Tapasvi: On September 17, 2026,

right at 8:00 AM, the grand procession of the tapasvi will commence from 'Lalwani Building' (Shivaji Cross Road, Srirampur). The tapasvi will be felicitated with drums, religious flags, and chants of praise to the Lord. Venue for Ceremony and Parana (Breaking the Fast): Passing through the main thoroughfares of the city, the procession will reach the 'Vardhaman Jain Shrivak Sangh' (Shivaji Road, Srirampur) at 9:30 AM. Here, a special religious assembly, felicitation ceremony, and the formal breaking of the fast (parana) will take place in the presence of the revered Gurus. Heartfelt Appeal for Attendance to the Entire Community The Lalwani family, Srirampur Jain Sangh, and the entire Jain community have appealed to all devout citizens, Shrivaks, Shrivikas, and enlightened residents of the Ahilyanagar district to attend in large numbers, appreciate the tapasvi, receive his darshan to bless their lives, and become witnesses to this historic moment.

Shree Baliyadev Yuvak Mandal Celebrates 19th Ganesh Mahotsav with Grandeur in Ahmedabad: President Pawan Makan Performs Maha Aarti with Family

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad: As the state celebrates Ganesh Chaturthi with deep reverence and enthusiasm, Ahmedabad witnessed a grand confluence of devotion, faith, and festive energy at the 19th Ganesh Mahotsav organized by Shree Baliyadev Yuvak Mandal. On this auspicious occasion, Mandal President Pawan Makan, accompanied by his family, performed the ceremonial Maha Aarti of Lord Ganesha, seeking divine blessings for health, peace, and prosperity. Speaking on the occasion, President Pawan Makan highlighted the journey of the annual festival, noting that with the boundless grace of Lord Ganesha and the collective dedication of the youth, this grand Ganesh Mahotsav has been organized successfully and uninterrupted for the past 19 years. He emphasized that the relentless hard work, unity, and selfless service of all members of Shree Baliyadev



Yuvak Mandal have made this festival more divine, engaging, and spiritually enriching each passing year. A defining feature of the mandal's celebration is its focus on creative and thematic pandal decorations alongside cultural presentations, and this year, the stunning idol of Lord Ganesha and the intricately designed



pandal captivated devotees from across the city. Beyond the youth mandal members, local residents also actively contributed both financially and through volunteer service, reflecting strong community camaraderie and spirit. Following the completion of the Maha Aarti, Pawan Makan offered heartfelt prayers for the

welfare of the nation and society, bowing before Vighnaharta Bappa to pray for the good health, longevity, happiness, and prosperity of all citizens, while hoping that Lord Ganesha eradicates all obstacles, hardships, and poverty to foster peace, unity, and brotherhood across the nation. The Maha Aarti witnessed a massive turnout of devotees, including women, children, and youth volunteers, where resounding chants of Ganpati Bappa Morya, Pudhchya Varshi Laukariya, accompanied by the rhythmic beats of traditional dhol-nagara and cymbals, created an electrifying devotional atmosphere across the neighborhood before the event concluded with the organized distribution of Mahaprasad to all attending devotees.

Bhachau Students Bring the Dream of 'Developed India' to Life Through Colours

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Rupesh Solanki – Bhachau, Kutch A drawing competition on the theme 'Developed India' was organised on 16 September 2026 at the Government Higher Secondary School, Bhachau, managed by Shri Leva Patidar Boarding. The competition was organised with the objective of encouraging creativity, artistic expression and awareness among students about the development of the nation. The students participated in the competition with great enthusiasm. The competition was conducted under the guidance of the school's Art Teacher, Shri Rupesh Solanki, and Principal, Shri Prakashkumar Champaklal Pandit. The students expressed their vision of a 'Developed India' on paper through various colours and creative artis-



tic expressions. The students displayed remarkable enthusiasm throughout the competition. While some students portrayed the development of modern India, others highlighted various as-

pects such as education, technology, cleanliness, environmental protection, self-reliance and national progress through their artwork. Such activities play an important role in developing stu-

dents' creativity, imagination and sense of national awareness. The artistic talent displayed by the students in expressing the vision of 'Developed India' through colours was truly commendable.

5 rescued baby orangutans stable, expert panel reviews health at Odisha zoo

Bhubaneswar(Agency).

A six-member team of experts on Tuesday examined the health of five baby orangutans being kept in quarantine at Odisha's Nandankanan Zoological Park, days after they were rescued from a forest in Balasore district. The review came after one of the infant primates developed a fever on Sunday and was put on medication,



officials said. The orangutans, a species native to the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra, were rescued on September 8, triggering an investigation into suspected wildlife trafficking. Zoo authorities said all five infants are now stable and under close observation. In a statement, Nandankanan Zoological Park said members of a technical committee constituted by the

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Odisha, visited the quarantine facility and assessed the health of all five orangutans. "After further examination and discussions tomorrow, the committee will submit its observations," the zoo said.

According to a health bulletin issued by the zoo, the body temperatures of the five infant orangutans ranged between 98 and 99 degrees Fahrenheit. "All five are apparently stable, with normal feed acceptance and improved activity," an official said. Zoo veterinarians are monitoring the animals continuously. Authorities have also made special arrangements for their care, including mosquito nets and a temperature-controlled room. Aditya Acharya, head of the Centre for Wildlife Health at the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, said elevated body temperature in orangutans is monitored in a manner similar to humans and treated accordingly. As per a diet chart prepared by experts, the animals are being fed milk every two hours, along with apple and banana fluids and boiled potatoes at regular intervals.

DMK leader's home raided in Rs 100-crore fraud case, supporters gather outside

The Central Crib Branch is probing allegations that over Rs 100 crore was collected from private schools by promising government approvals.

Chennai(Agency).

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Wednesday morning conducted a search at the residence of former Tamil Nadu school education minister and DMK leader Anbil Mahesh in Tiruchirappalli in connection with an alleged Rs 100-crore fraud involving private schools. The search at the DMK leader's residence is part of the CCB's investigation into allegations that large sums of money were collected from private school managements on promises of securing government approvals and clearances.

As the search continued, several DMK workers gathered outside the former minister's residence. The CCB had arrested another DMK functionary, BT Arasakumar, in June in connection with the case. Police have alleged that more than Rs 100 crore was collected from several school managements by promising assistance in obtaining approvals, including recognition and other statutory clearances. According to the allegations under investigation, Arasakumar operated an unregistered organisation called the Tamil Nadu Private Schools Association and



claimed that he could use his political and official connections to facilitate approvals for private schools. These included permanent recognition, grade upgrades and approvals from various government agencies.

According to reports, then school education minister Anbil Mahesh and senior officials of the School Education Department attended the launch of the association in December

2024. The CCB's investigation has since expanded, with a large number of complaints being received from private school managements. Following Arasakumar's arrest, the Tamil Nadu Police subsequently invoked the Goondas Act against him. The search at the DMK leader's residence in Tiruchirappalli was underway on Wednesday.

Case against Shiv Sena corporator for assaulting man over objectionable Facebook comment

Police have filed a case against Shiv Sena corporator Hemlata Singh after a man claimed she assaulted him over an objectionable Facebook comment in Maharashtra's Palghar district.

Palghar(Agency).

Police in Maharashtra's Palghar district have registered a case against Shiv Sena corporator Hemlata Singh for allegedly assaulting a man over an objectionable comment on Facebook, officials said on Tuesday. The case was filed at Tulinj police station, while Singh and other key suspects are absconding, police said.

Police also registered a cross-FIR in the matter and arrested Dharmendra Vishwakarma, the man who complained of the assault, and Manish Singh, who was described as an associate of the corporator. Hemlata Singh is a corporator of the Vasai-Virar City Municipal Corporation and represents ward number 18 in Nalasopara. According to police, the case stems from an objectionable comment posted on Facebook by Vishwakarma. In his complaint, he said a man named Arjun Dubey called him to a hotel.

When he reached there, Singh and her associate Amrish confronted him. The FIR said they pushed and slapped him and beat him with bamboo sticks. The FIR also alleged that during the assault,



Vishwakarma's gold chain was snatched and his smartphone, valued at about Rs 20,000, was stolen. Police said further investigation is under way. The incident comes days after another attack in Palghar in which a group assaulted staff at a private hospital over the treatment of an injured Govinda who had taken

part in Dahi Handi celebrations. Shiv Sena Palghar city chief Rahul Gharat was arrested in that case, which took place on the night of September 5 and 6, and another 14 people, including Shiv Sena MLA Rajendra Gavit's son Rohit, were arrested on Friday.

Earlier, on July 6, Shiv Sena corporator Ramesh Mhatre of the Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation in Thane district and his associates were accused of assaulting doctors and other staff at Shastri Nagar Hospital in Dombivli over an alleged delay in treatment. A case was registered against Mhatre and four others under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita on charges including assault, causing hurt, unlawful assembly, rioting, criminal intimidation, intentional insult, outraging the modesty of a woman, and obstructing public servants from discharging their duties.

Ajmer civic poll results spark horse-trading fears, Congress tightens watch

Ajmer(Agency).

The results of the Ajmer Municipal Corporation elections have set off a political tug-of-war over the formation of the civic board and the election of the next mayor, with fears of cross-voting and horse-trading prompting the Congress to put its newly elected councillors under tight watch. The Congress has moved its winning councillors into a guarded camp as the parties gear up for the mayoral election. Amid the heightened political activity, a video of Congress Ajmer city president Dr Rajkumar Jaipal addressing the newly elected councillors from inside the camp has surfaced on social media. In the video, Jaipal is seen warning the councillors to stay away from any inducements or exchange of money and maintain party discipline. "Money will be exchanged, envelopes will be distributed... you have to stay away from all that," Jaipal says in the video. He also reminds the councillors that discipline remains the party's top priority.

Jaipal goes on to instruct the councillors not to leave the camp until the voting day on September 21. He tells them that, regardless of who approaches them, they must remain inside the camp until the election. "You cannot go anywhere from today until the 21st. You should not use mobile phones or speak to anyone from outside. If there is any problem,

Congress has moved its newly elected Ajmer councillors into a guarded camp ahead of the mayoral election. A video of city president Dr Rajkumar Jaipal urging them to avoid inducements has intensified attention on cross-voting fears.



inform the organisation directly," he says. The video has sparked discussion on social media as political parties seek to secure their numbers ahead of the mayoral election. With the results throwing up a closely fought contest for control of the Ajmer civic body, the focus has now shifted to keeping councillors together and preventing cross-voting as the September 21 vote approaches.

60-year-old was raped, murdered in Mohali. DNA clues lead to serial killer

All three cases in which Monu Kumar (39) suffered conviction are connected not by eyewitness testimony or confession, but by DNA evidence.

Bengaluru(Agency).

A Chandigarh court on Tuesday sentenced cab driver Monu Kumar to life imprisonment again for the rape and murder of a 60-year-old woman, in what became the convict's third conviction on such charges. All three cases in which Monu Kumar (39) suffered conviction are connected not by eyewitness testimony or confession, but by DNA evidence. The 60-year-old had arrived in Chandigarh from her village in Uttar Pradesh for a religious pilgrimage a few months before she was brutally raped and murdered. She was an Alzheimer's



patient and was staying with her son in Mohali. On February 27, 2024, she left her home and never returned. The next morning, her body was found in a jungle area near Government School, Sector 54. She was strangled to death. Her body bore multiple blunt force injuries. The postmortem examination confirmed sexual assault followed by murder. An FIR was registered under Section 302 of the IPC. The accused was unknown. Police began their investigation.

On May 6, 2024, Monu Kumar was arrested. His clothes, discarded in a jungle area of village Dhanas, were recovered. His blood sample, collected on May 8, 2024, was sent to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) for comparative analysis against biological evidence collected from the 60-year-

old's body and clothing. The forensic examination report, completed by Dr D S Yadav, senior forensic scientist, on August 30, 2024, became the prosecution's most powerful witness that also eventually led to Monu Kumar's conviction. This arrest had then led police to solve two more gruesome murders that Monu had committed in the previous 15 years.

'Continue to miss her': Victim's son

Today, the 60-year-old woman's son spoke to The Indian Express of his mother's absence in terms of the everyday kindnesses that, once lost, become irreplaceable. "A mother's love is what is missed," her son said. "She used to make food and serve us with love, it felt good. I miss her dhal-chawal the most. She was calm and collected. She never scolded me. Everybody respected her and we continue to miss her."

The victim's son and relatives waited through investigation, arrest, forensic examination, chargesheet filing, and months-long court proceedings. For her family, the wait lasted two and a half years. Even while he stands convicted for three cases of rape and murder, the court did not consider it a "rarest of the rare case". "The case in hand cannot be classified as a rarest of rare case. Therefore, it would be difficult to hold that the convict is such a dangerous person that sparing his life would endanger the community," the order said. Monu was previously convicted on November 27, 2025 for the murder and rape of a 22-year-old MBA student who was found murdered on July 31, 2010. He was convicted for the second time on August 21 for the rape and murder of a 40-year-old woman who was found dead on January 12, 2022.

Prakash Badal's troubleshooter, backroom strategist: Who is BJP's latest 'Akali' import

Chandigarh(Agency).

The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police, which is probing the alleged smuggling of five baby orangutans into Balasore, is set to seek the assistance of counterparts in Assam, Mizoram and Maharashtra, where such primates. For decades, Major Bhupinder Singh Dhillon (78) worked quietly behind Parkash Singh Badal, helping him manage campaigns and rebels, and was his political secretary during his tenure as Chief Minister from 1997-2002. On Monday, the 78-year-old retired Army officer made a political journey of his own by joining the BJP. Dhillon, a cousin of the late Badal Sr, joined the BJP in the presence of Haryana Chief Minister Nayab



Singh Saini and Punjab BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillon. His son Amarveer Singh Badal also joined the party, a development that grabbed attention ahead of 2027 Assembly elections in Punjab, especially amid talks over possibility of a SAD-BJP alliance.

"I am proud to be a Badal. But now BJP's ideology is closer to my heart," said Major Bhupi, as he is popularly known in politically important Badal village, a part of Lambi constituency, earlier represented Badal Sr and now by Punjab's Agriculture minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian. Dhillon is Badal Sr's first cousin. Their fathers were brothers, a part of the joint family. His father, Gur Raj Singh, was a member of the first Rajya Sabha from 1952 to 1956 and, Dhillon says, was the first Akali MP in the Rajya Sabha.

'Teachers will only teach': Punjab teachers announce complete boycott of non-academic works

Ludhiana(Agency). After the Punjab government deployed hundreds of government school teachers to make new ration cards in several districts, teachers submitted memorandums addressed to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Deputy Commissioners in their respective districts, stating that if the non-academic duties were not abolished within a week, they would boycott it completely. The Samooch Adhyaapak Jatbandhiyan, an umbrella of teachers' unions, drafted the joint memorandum. Teachers said there was widespread resentment over non-academic assignments, specifically the ration card verification work.

A large number of teachers from several unions protested outside the Patiala DC office on Tuesday and raised slogans against the Punjab government and the district administration for issuing such orders. According to information, over 300 teachers from Patiala and over 1,000 from Ludhiana have so far been deployed on the ration card duty. The protest was called off only after the Patiala district administration scheduled a meeting of the protesting teachers with the Deputy Commissioner at 1:30 pm.

Vikram Dev, state president of the Democratic Teachers Front, said that the teachers demanded that the district administration should completely scrap non-academic duties disrupting students' education — such as ration card verification, health cards, stubble burning management, and the handling of various types of official correspondence — assigned to them.

They informed the DC that the Patiala SDM office issued letters on September 14, assigning an additional 337 teachers to the duty of verifying ration cards. A

large number of teachers were assigned duties for this task from specific schools: 62 teachers from Government Senior Secondary School (Civil Lines), 54 from Multipurpose School, 37 each from Model Town School and School of Eminence (Pheelkhana), 23 from PM SHRI School (Tripuri), and 16 each from New Power House Colony School and Old Police Line School. Additionally, a significant number of teachers from Government High Schools in Patiala Cantt, Anardana Chowk, Sanauri Gate and various other government schools in



the city have been summoned to work on the rectification of ration cards during the examination period, they said.

"The Punjab government, which ascended to power on the slogan of 'bringing health and education revolution' — contrary to its election guarantees — is actively undermining the public education system. Teachers are being increasingly burdened with non-academic tasks and duties — often more so than under previous administrations — leaving them occupied with everything except teaching, a situation that is causing the quality of education for the children of the common people to plummet to even lower levels," said the teachers in a statement.

Belief, practice and the many ways of seeing

As the world remembers the horrific Islamist terrorist strikes against the United States on 9/11 twenty-five years ago, we in India also remember how, in 1893, Swami Vivekananda addressed the World's Parliament of Religions on the same day. The two represent opposite ends of religion's role in our lives. While Vivekananda advocated pluralism and the end of fanaticism, the threat of religious extremism is still very much a concern in today's world. According to verifiable figures compiled by the Fondation pour l'innovation politique (Fondapol), close to a quarter million people have been killed by Islamist terrorism and violent extremism since September 11, 2001.

Given these facts, controversy over the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) monks' avoidance of women is rather unfortunate. It not only gives BAPS, but Hinduism itself, a bad name. Even though BAPS adherents and Swaminarayans in general are a totally peaceful sect, they do not restrict or curtail the liberty or dress of women in the manner in which many Muslim clerics, whether in India or elsewhere, do.

What exactly happened to trigger such a massive reaction? On September 6, BAPS inaugurated another grand temple at Bussy-Saint-Georges, Seine-et-Marne, near Paris. Prime Minister Narendra Modi did the honours, calling it a milestone in India-France relations. The temple is the first traditionally designed fully stone structure on the continent. Unfortunately, the day before the inauguration, on September 5, a visit to the Eiffel Tower by a group of BAPS monks later blew up into an unseemly controversy. To facilitate the visit of about 100 monks and BAPS functionaries, the Société d'Exploitation de la Tour Eiffel (SETE), which manages the monument, asked female employees to stay away or be replaced by male staffers. AI in sports video 2AI in sports video 2

The visit was arranged from 8:00-9:00 am, just before the Tower is opened to the public at 9:15 AM. That way, the monks would likely have avoided contact with regular visitors, who, of course, would have included women. The SETE female staffers were asked to stay away. In protest, some went on strike on Monday, September 8, bringing the issue into the limelight.

BAPS issued an apology, but a large coalition of Left-liberal groups, including members of the Indian diaspora who also oppose the RSS and other Hindu organisations, swung into action, calling out BAPS. French political parties and civil authorities also jumped into the fray. In India, journalists reporting on Muslim clerics in Kerala calling women to stay at home are themselves forced to apologise; abroad, not just BAPS, but many Hindu groups are lambasted for being patriarchal, anti-women and regressive. The double standards are too obvious to require extensive commentary. BAPS celibacy rules have, once again, come under public scrutiny. What most people don't realise is that BAPS is itself a breakaway sect founded in 1907 by Shastri Yagnapurushdas, or Shastriji Maharaj. The original Vadtal Diocese of the sampradaya, founded by Sahajananda Swami, or Swaminarayan himself, is run by householder or married acharyas, not celibate monks. Even the wives of the acharyas wield considerable spiritual authority. BAPS, by contrast, strictly enforces eight-fold vows of celibacy. The segregation of BAPS monks from women is facilitated by having several men around them when they travel.

These companions interact with women, shielding the monks from having to do so. Incidents such as the Paris outrage will only bring greater pressure on BAPS to reform. Just after independence, in 1948, members of the Ahmedabad Diocese of the Swaminarayans went to court to prevent lower-caste worshippers from entering their temples. They claimed they were not Hindus but a separate religious sect. Many Hindu groups have used this ruse to preserve their traditions or resist State interference. Nearly two decades later, the courts ruled that the Swaminarayans were indeed.

BRICS ticks the right boxes

India secures consensus on a comprehensive declaration despite divergent political positions

INDIA has every reason to be satisfied with the outcome of the BRICS 2026 summit in both form and content. At a time when diatribe has replaced dialogue in many international fora, India convened an 11-member grouping with sharply divergent political positions, sustained a dialogue and secured consensus on a comprehensive New Delhi Declaration — a 140-paragraph, roughly 45-page text. That is significant.

The Ministry of External Affairs deserves credit for enabling closure this time after the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting in May ended without a joint statement. The most delicate semantic task was to bridge the gulf between Iran and the UAE over the war in West Asia without naming any country. Tehran wanted an explicit reference to a "unilateral attack on Iran" as a violation of the UN Charter; the UAE wanted Iranian attacks on its sovereignty recognised.

The modus vivendi was to express "deep concern over the continued escalation of tensions in the Middle East" and make a call to exercise "maximum restraint" and avoid "actions that could further aggravate the situation." There was also a line that acknowledged Iran's position without naming the US: "serious concern over deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities under full IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) safeguards." Seeking textual consensus also led to extreme caution. "Hormuz" does not appear in the declaration at all, even as Brent crude crossed \$100 in the days before the summit on the back of the chokepoint crisis in the Strait of Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb.

Content is where India has a stronger cause for satisfaction. The Delhi Declaration strongly condemns terrorism in all forms and calls for "zero tolerance." It specifically denounces the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack; addresses the movement of terrorists, terror financing and safe havens; reaffirms that terrorism cannot be associated with any religion; and calls for accountability of those involved and their sponsors. A grouping that includes China, which has often blocked comparable language at the UN, this is not boilerplate — though similar wording had appeared in the 2025 Rio Declaration. Recalling the text with President Xi Jinping in Delhi matters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi pressed for UN Security Council reform and changes in the voting power, leadership and priorities of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to reflect economic realities. The declaration backs comprehensive UN reform and greater representation for India and Brazil, and it carries the Indian formulation that the Global South must move from a rule-taker to a rule-maker. Modi also proposed a continuity and implementation mechanism, including a troika, to follow up outcomes in a grouping that has no

permanent secretariat. That is a practical institutional push, even if the "10-point Reform Roadmap" was not adopted as a formal deliverable for China's 2027 chairmanship. Regarding energy and trade, amid a war that has disrupted supply chains, the declaration has acknowledged that fossil fuels will still play an important role for developing economies and opposed unilateral, punitive measures of the CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism) type. It voices serious concern over unilateral tariff and non-tariff measures that distort trade and are inconsistent with WTO rules — wording aimed at US tariffs and sanctions on Iran and Russia, without turning the document into an anti-Western manifesto. Apropos of finance, there was no BRICS currency bravado. Finance ministers discussed efficient cross-border payments and local currencies, while tacitly



recognising that a unified system needs a deeper trust framework than the present bilateral discord among some members. Empirically, BRICS trade has expanded dramatically through business practices and customs improvements rather than emotive de-dollarisation ultimatums. Since its inception two decades ago, the efficacy and credibility of BRICS have been determined by the India-China bilateral. That remains the abiding dialectical challenge. Both want to speak for the Global South and be seen as its trusted sherpa; each is wary of the other eroding its primacy and credibility. For India, this is not an abstraction. China continues to pose a security challenge. Galwan 2020 was the most recent big shock, and strategic cooperation between China and Pakistan has compounded it. Operation Sindoor was illustrative in this regard. At the politico-diplomatic level, Beijing does not accord Delhi peer status even as it seeks co-equivalence with Washington, though its comprehensive national power remains lower than that of the US. The paradox is familiar: China strives for bipolarity with Washington globally while seeking unipolarity in Asia and denying parity to India and Japan. That is the

geopolitical problem India navigates inside BRICS. It must be a credible member of a grouping in which China is the largest economy, even while contesting Beijing's denial of parity in Asia. The Modi-Xi bilateral on the sidelines captured that dialectic. It was President Xi's first visit to India in seven years and the first meeting between the two leaders on Indian soil after the Galwan clash. Both stressed a strategic and long-term view of relations and committed to seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question, proceeding from the political perspective of overall bilateral relations and the interests of the people of both nations.

In practical terms, this was a reaffirmation of restraint: differences after the Galwan incident would continue to be handled by existing military and diplomatic mechanisms.

No new disengagement was announced, and no new friction point was manufactured despite recent tactical growling. The signal is a stable Line of Actual Control. The reality, established since 2020 and not altered this week, is that India still operates a more constrained patrolling pattern than before the Galwan clash.

Inclusive and equitable growth is a cherished BRICS objective, and tariff wars have created new challenges. Delhi needs robust trade arrangements with major economies, including the US, the EU and China.

The security and strategic dissonance with Beijing is the harder policy problem, and Delhi is managing it from relative economic asymmetry. The trade deficit with China is \$116 billion, with high dependence on Chinese supplies of

pharmaceutical ingredients, rare-earth magnets and solar-chain inputs. Sustained investment and diversification remain perennial Indian challenges. The Xi-Modi meeting in Tianjin last year had already begun a bilateral thaw, in part because US tariff pressure pushed Delhi and Beijing toward hedging. The Delhi meeting consolidated that thaw; it did not dissolve the asymmetry.

So, the summit outcome is satisfying for India because it produced a comprehensive statement that condemned the Pahalgam attack, protected fossil-fuel policy space for developing economies, criticised unilateral trade measures without naming Washington and kept BRICS closer to a platform of partnership than a forum of protest. On the bilateral front, Delhi and Beijing found the wording to keep the grouping intact. The 20-year-old BRICS has survived because India and China have a working template to disagree without derailing the forum. The credibility of this grouping will continue to be a function of whether Beijing is willing to concede to Delhi what it demands from Washington: peer respect and equitable accommodation of interests.

Bigger BRICS test now: Turning Global South weight into influence

India's presidency secured the consensus it needed. Now comes the harder test: delivery at speed and scale

The New Delhi Declaration, adopted after marathon negotiations, is a diplomatic win for India — and a test of BRICS' evolving relevance. Despite differences over West Asia, members found common ground on restraint, civilian protection, sovereignty, diplomacy and nuclear safety. Importantly, the declaration reasserts BRICS' ambition to reshape global governance, amplify the Global South and deepen cooperation across finance, trade, technology and development. That sets the stage for the harder task: delivering results.

As BRICS expands and its economic and political weight grows, its credibility will increasingly depend on whether it can build institutions that deliver practical gains. The central question is whether an increasingly diverse grouping can turn collective weight into strategic capacity without demanding political uniformity from its members. That means moving faster on the architecture of a more resilient global economy. Cross-border payments, greater use of local currencies, development finance, investment platforms, insurance and financial safety nets are no longer abstract ideas. They

are responses to a world of unilateral sanctions, tariff shocks, supply-chain disruptions and financial volatility.



The challenge is to make these mechanisms interoperable, commercially viable and accessible enough to matter beyond government statements. Technology will be an

acid test. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's warning about the weaponisation of technology and critical minerals points to a wider contest over who controls the infrastructure of the next economy. BRICS has an opportunity to cooperate on artificial intelligence, semiconductors, critical minerals, cybersecurity, digital public infrastructure and technology standards. But it must avoid creating competing technological silos. The same logic applies to health, food and energy security. The grouping has the scale to build stronger pandemic surveillance, medical supply chains, agricultural cooperation and mechanisms to cushion commodity and energy shocks. These are areas where cooperation can produce tangible benefits for citizens while giving the Global South a greater stake in BRICS.

There is also a larger diplomatic task. BRICS cannot become effective by positioning itself merely against the West. Its influence will come from demonstrating that a more multipolar world.

Full text of PM Narendra Modi's address at the BRICS Business Forum 2026

The theme of India's BRICS Presidency is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on September 11, addressed the BRICS Business Forum 2026 held in New Delhi. Here is a full text of his address:

Leaders of the BRICS business community, Innovators and friends, Namaskar! A warm welcome to all of you to the BRICS Business Forum. This year, we are celebrating twenty years of BRICS. When the group was launched in 2006, it comprised only four countries. Today, including BRICS and its partners, we have a family of twenty-one countries. Today, the BRICS countries represent 50% of the world's population, 40% of global GDP, and more than 25% of global trade. Not only that, over these years, while global GDP has grown by around 2.5 times, the combined GDP of BRICS countries has grown by around 4.5 times. In other words, the economic strength of BRICS has grown at nearly twice the pace of the world economy. BRICS countries are also emerging as important centres for global innovation and solutions. From grassroots initiatives to frontier technologies, new possibilities for innovation are taking shape across our countries. The growing scale, speed, and optimism of BRICS are clearly visible among us. The Forum being held in India is the largest-ever BRICS Business Forum.

The theme of India's BRICS Presidency is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." Over the past twelve years, India has made this mantra the foundation of its economic and trade policy. When it comes to resilience, India has made its supply chains more diversified and reliable, from energy to technology. It is this very resilience that has enabled India, even amid global uncertainties, to offer the world confidence in growth and stability. We are rapidly expanding our roads, railways, ports, and airports. At the same time, we are building new capabilities in strategic sectors such as shipbuilding, semiconductors, quantum technology, critical minerals, and biotechnology. In these sectors, India is emerging as a hub of new opportunities for global businesses. Therefore, Make in India, Innovate with India, and Scale for the World. Friends,

Today, India is witnessing a start-up revolution. With more than 200,000 start-ups and over 120 unicorns, India is emerging as a hub for global solutions.

You will get a glimpse of this at the BRICS Bharat Innovates Expo. Our start-ups are transforming education and healthcare through AI, working on Green Hydrogen and Batteries, and breaking new frontiers in defence and space. Now, through BRICS as well, we must take these world-class innovations to global markets. Friends, Another distinctive feature of India's



innovation story is Innovation at Population Scale. India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has given new momentum to financial inclusion and digital transactions at population scale. Today, 50% of the world's real-time payments are powered by this technology. To build new solutions on this digital layer, we have provided industry and start-ups with an open ecosystem. We are proud that many countries are adopting India's world-

class ecosystem. Innovators from BRICS countries can also draw on this experience to develop new solutions for their own countries. Friends, Today, as trade barriers are increasing around the world, India is building economic bridges. Since 2014, we have entered into Free Trade Agreements with nearly 40 countries around the world. Our approach within BRICS is also the same, reduce barriers and expand opportunities for businesses.

Therefore, under our Presidency, we have established new cooperation networks in areas such as agriculture, healthcare, skills, and smart grids. To connect start-ups and SMEs with markets and finance, we have launched initiatives such as the BRICS Incubator Network, BRICS MSME Portal, and BRICS Startup Innovation Fund.

You can all benefit from these cooperation frameworks and further increase the exchange of investment and talent among our countries.

Friends, Global trade can move forward only when sea lanes are secure, supply routes remain open, and seafarers are safe. That is why India is a staunch advocate of freedom of navigation and the safety of seafarers.

The BRICS Women's Business Alliance is also an important part of our vision. We want women entrepreneurs to lead our growth story. We are very pleased that nearly 200 women business leaders participated in the meeting of this Alliance held in India.

As BRICS enters its third decade, I would urge the BRICS Business Council to consider ... can you prepare a report on removing the top 10 trade barriers among BRICS countries?

Can we support 100 BRICS startups every year to scale into other BRICS markets? Can we develop 1,000 new partnerships among our businesses? We should review our progress every year against these three benchmarks. Let us transform BRICS' ambition into action and our collective strength into global solutions. May BRICS move forward and help the world move forward as well.

Beauty

DIY amazing face masks

Winter requires special skin care routines. As part of our mission to bring you the best winter care secrets, we share with you our effective homemade face masks to brighten your skin this winter.

Strawberry and yogurt

The tiny seeds present on the outside layer of a strawberry, act as a great exfoliator for your skin.

Yogurt on the other hand, helps brighten and tone the skin. This face mask not only leaves your skin soft and glowing but also leaves back a sweet smell that lingers on for a bit. All you have to do is mash the strawberries in the yogurt and apply it to your face. Gently rub the mixture onto your skin and let it remain for about 15 minutes. You can now wash your face with warm water and dry it with a soft towel.

Sugar and oil

This is the easiest face mask to mix up because the ingredients are always easy to find. Mix together two spoons of sugar and two spoons of olive oil/canola oil. You could also add a few drops of essential oil to give it a

sweet scent if you want. Take this mixture in your hand and gently rub it on your face and leave it on for a few minutes. Rinse your face with warm water and you will be able to feel the difference on your skin.

All you have to do is raid your kitchen shelves and try these combinations for a glowing and radiant complexion with our DIY amazing facemasks.

Oatmeal and honey

Oatmeal is a known exfoliator and will make for an excellent face mask. Blend about a cup full of oatmeal in a mixer and reduce it to a coarse powder. When you remove it, drizzle some honey, a spoonful of yogurt and an egg white and stir to combine this mixture. Apply this mixture on your face and leave it on for 15 minutes. You can then wash this off with warm water. Honey has antioxidant properties that will protect your skin and oatmeal is good to calm your facial skin.



Go bright with Makeup



Bright makeup is in this season and many people are rocking the look.

If you haven't really warmed up to the idea yet, it may be time to get experimental with your makeup.

While clothes are much easier to experiment with, when it comes to makeup, one must exercise caution one wrong move and your entire look could go kaput. Here are a few tips that will help you get the look right.

-When it comes to makeup, the colour of your eye shadow and lips are what catch the eye first. Make sure that the two compliment each other.

-Keep it bright in only two areas of your face. Anything more than this might be OTT.

-There are a lot of different shades of eyeliners available in the market, pick the most commonly used ones like brown, blue, purple and grey which can be matched with most of your outfits.

-You can use two different shades of the same colour eyeliner at once by layering them. Use the darker colour closer to the eyelashes and the lighter one on the top.

-Nail colours are also a great way to brighten your look. So if bright makeup is not your thing, give your nails a dash of colourpop.

-Your makeup also depends on where you are going. If you are headed to a place that doesn't give much room for brightness, then just go red on the lips.



Post-party beauty Detox



Lifeless skin Constant application of make-up takes a toll on the skin, making it look dull and causing breakouts. It needs thorough, deep cleansing. Try a gentle cleanser that will remove dirt and oil without stripping the skin of its moisture. Use face masks twice a week: for flaky skin, use a hydrating mask and for blemishes, go for one that unclogs pores. To get that glow back, scrub your skin with an exfoliating cleanser and

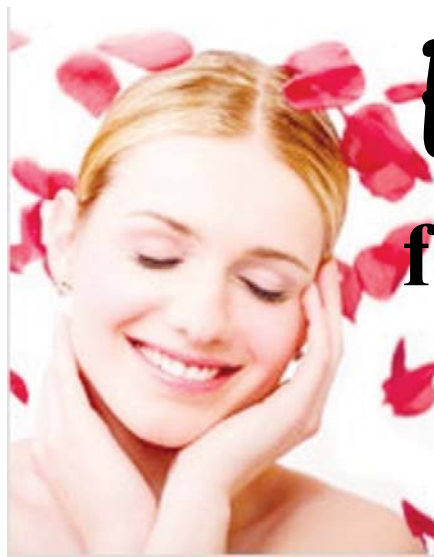
then moisturise it. Tired, puffy eyes To reduce puffiness around the eyes caused by lack of sleep and alcohol, drink plenty of water throughout the day and place herbal tea bags (the bags should be immersed in hot water for 2-3 minutes and then cooled) over closed eyes. Lacklustre hair If you've over-styled your hair with tools and products, your locks will get frizzy and out of control. Indulge in hot oil massages and hair masks.

Dull hair, lacklustre skin and puffy eyes - all that make-up, late-night partying and binge-drinking must have created havoc on your skin and hair. Here are some quick solutions to get back your natural beauty.

Avoid using hairstyling tools for a few days. Brittle nails Fancy party manicures and nail art make cuticles dry and brittle. To rejuvenate them, mix a teaspoon of olive oil to a few drops of lemon juice. Massage the mixture on your nails every night. Don't forget to wear gloves before going to sleep.

Bath salts for a glowing skin

Bath salts not only exfoliate your skin and relieve muscle tension, but also heal common problems such as eczema, psoriasis and rashes. They cleanse and brighten your skin as well.



skin's appearance.

Puffy skin and cellulite: Mineral or seaweed bath salts are your best bet.

They have negative ions, which pull in minerals and nutrients into your bloodstream and help flush toxins.

Pick the right one

Always pick a bath salt that is not lumpy. Says beauty expert Nikos Narkissos, "They should contain natural ingredients and nutrients. Blue and purple bath salts are soothing, while yellow and orange are energising.

Grain size also matters. For example, finer grains dissolve quickly and work well as scrubs and exfoliants."

Types of bath

The benefits

When used in their natural form, bath salts contain minerals and nutrients that keep your skin soft, smooth and supple.

Says beauty expert Farheen Shaikh, "Bath salts contain Magnesium, Sodium and Bromide. They get easily absorbed in your skin pores and purify it, thus improving its radiance, texture and tone."

A good relaxant

Bath salts ease muscular tension and help remove fatigue. They also remove toxins from the body and promote a feeling of well-being.

Choose the right one for your skin

Dry and flaky skin: Use a bath salt which will boost your skin's radiance and increase moisture. Almond or orange bath salts work the best for you.

Tired and dull skin:

Rosemary or peppermint

will provide a cooling sensation,

which will improve blood circulation and perk up your

skin's appearance.

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Benefits of Rose water

Generations of women have used rose water as part of their skin care regime. It isn't uncommon to hear grannies extolling its benefits and not without reason.



Rose water and rose oil are one of the oldest skin care and grooming products. It used to be added to baths as also to treat mild skin conditions. They are found in many cosmetic products these days.

Here are a few ways how

rosewater works wonders for you:

1. Since rose oil has anti-inflammatory properties, using rose water can help in reducing the redness from irritated or over-heated skin.

2. It is a great cleanser and aids in removing oil and

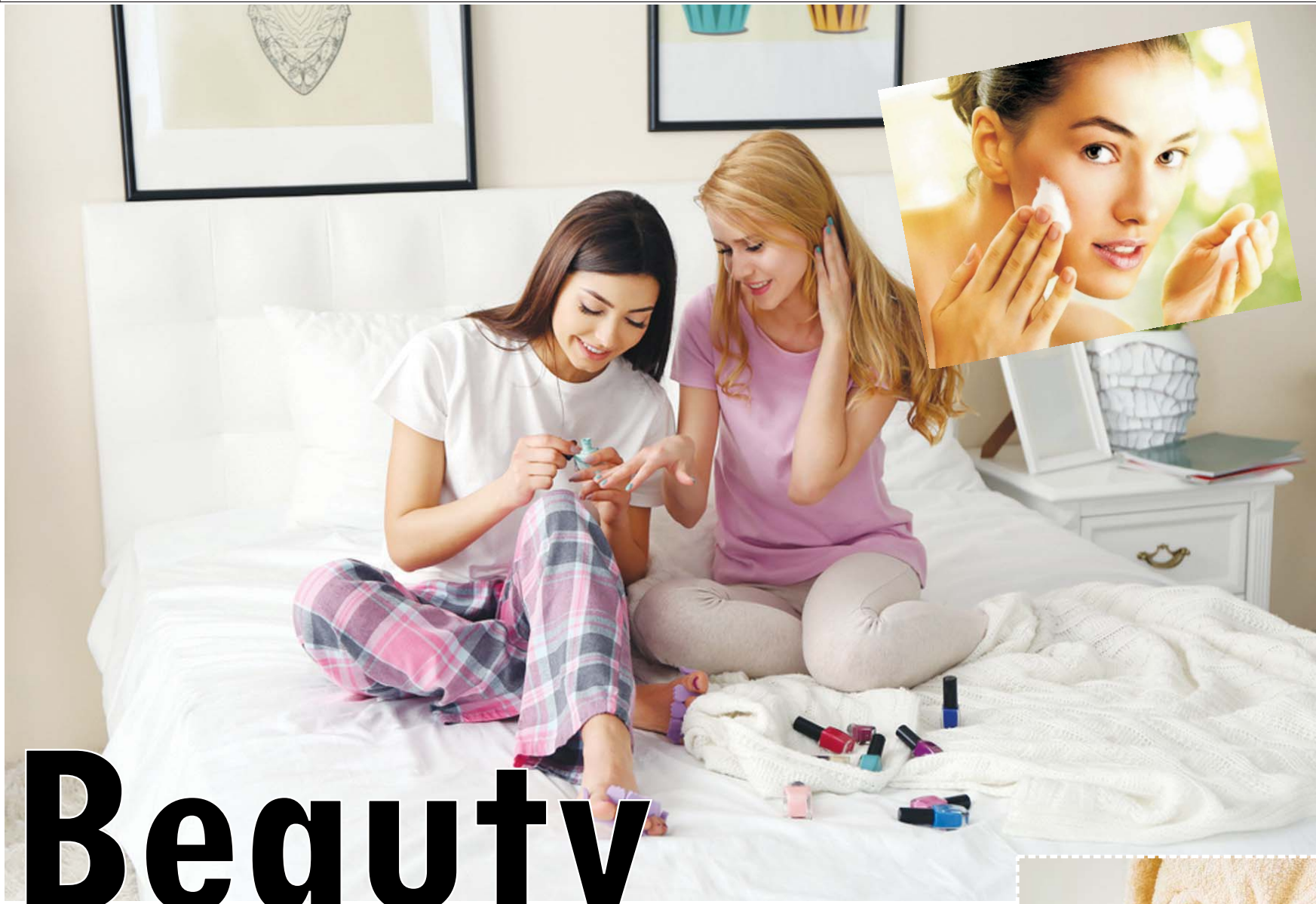
dirt accumulated in clogged pores. Thus preventing acne and pimples.

3. It has astringent like properties, which is why it is used after facials and clean ups to close open pores. Applying rose water after steaming tightens capillaries, reduces redness and blotchiness.

4. The aroma of roses is said to be a powerful mood enhancer. It rids you of feelings of anxiety and promotes emotional wellbeing, thereby making you look relaxed. Since it is de-stressing, it helps you sleep better which means you will wake up feeling fresh.

5. The best and easiest way to use it is to apply it at night. It helps clear all impurities that your face has collected through the day.





Beauty Rituals

from around the world

There is wisdom in those words. Beautiful skin, hair and nails do not have to be synonymous with lighter wallets and wasting hours on end. We bring you a compilation of some amazing beauty techniques from around the world. Not only are they intriguing, but also completely natural. From soothing a flaky

scalp to getting lustrous skin, there's a way to have it all.

Spanish circles

You surely must have tried cucumber slices to lighten dark circles around your eyes. And there's also a range of haemorrhoidal creams to treat under-eye circles. Weird as it sounds, it is

supposed to work like a dream! Not brave enough to try it? Then follow Spanish women and use very thin potato slices over your eyes. Keep them on for ten minutes. You will notice that they actually lighten the skin reducing the blueness of the veins under your eyes.

Kiss cellulite goodbye, the Brazilian way

Cellulite is every woman's despair and there seems to be no way to shooing it away. Here's a thing to learn from Brazilian women, who rub sand on their bodies. When it comes to cellulite, dry brushing is the best, natural and probably, the only way to getting rid of them. So, use sand to kiss cellulite goodbye.

Greek TLC for lips

Beauty regimens need not mean spending a bomb on products or devoting a lot of time to it (unless you are greatly inspired by



Cleopatra). Some of the most easily available things straight off your kitchen shelves can be used for beautifying your self. Greek and Italian women use olive oil to sooth and repair chapped lips. It is the best treatment to heal dry and irritated skin. It also conditions skin and lips while making it glow beautifully.

Chinese anti-ageing

Want skin that defies age-related problems? Sip on white tea like the Chinese do. It protects your skin from free radicals and you don't need to worry about Botox, fillers, collagen and the likes.

Australian dandruff cure

Suffering from dandruff? Add a few drops of eucalyptus oil or tea tree oil to your shampoo and kiss those flakes goodbye. This is a foolproof trick from down under to getting rid of dandruff. Be careful with the essential oils though. Massage your scalp with a few drops to see the change.

Scandinavian skincare

They aren't called the world's most beautiful women for nothing. Scandinavian women are credited with flawless skin and aging gracefully. Water plays an essential role in their skincare regime, drinking lots of spring water along with treating their face to it. Steaming your face while in the shower helps open the pores and unclog all the impurities lodged in them. You can also use a hot towel to cover your face for a few minutes for this purpose. Then splash your face with ice cold water. Cold water closes the pores and tightens the skin. It also helps eliminate puffiness. A good 20 splashes with cold water should do the trick.

Dominican way to stronger nails

So what is the secret to the super strong nails of women from the Dominican Republic? Garlic. It is the natural way to strengthen your nails and to ward off vampires! Want sturdy nails? Chop fresh garlic pods and add them to a bottle of clear nail polish. Leave them in there for seven to eight days. Paint your nails with this concoction. Although it will smell initially, it is a small price to pay to getting rid of brittle nails.

Spending too much on expensive shampoos, but not getting the desired results that you see in TV ads? It is mostly possible and very common, because we see overly exaggerated results on TV, since these ads are designed to attract customers.

Top 20 natural ways for great Hair

hair with lemon juice

After the final rinse, apply 1 tbsp lemon juice to your hair. Simply towel dry your hair and style as normal to get rid of dry hair.

Use protection before you jump into the pool Pools can do great damage to your hair as it contains harsh chemicals - says Dr Suttar. He says; prevent your hair from the pool damage by simply applying a little conditioner to your hair before you swim. This will protect your hair before it comes in contact with the pool water.

Treat sun damaged hair

Make a mixture of ½ cup honey, 1-2 tbsp olive oil and 1-2 tbsp of egg yolk. Apply this mixture on your hair for 20

minutes and then rinse with warm water. This treatment will help to replenish keratin protein bonds - says Dr. Suttar.

Tight is NO-NO

To prevent breakage due to brittle hair avoid using bands and do not tie your hair too tightly.

The proper brushing technique

Avoid using a comb with plastic bristles to prevent hair breakage from static electricity. The best way to brush your hair is by first brushing the ends to remove tangles and then take the long strokes from the roots of the hair to the ends. This technique will help proper spreading of natural hair oil and thus prevent breakage.

Moisturize your hair

Pour a little beer in your wet hair. Distribute evenly and massage your scalp with your fingers for 20 minutes. Then rinse it thoroughly to get rid of the beer smell. Do this procedure once a week for salon smooth hair. Dr. Suttar says- it is recommended that people with sinus and cold should avoid using this treatment. Trim your hair regularly. Get your hair trimmed at least every six weeks to eliminate dry, split ends.

Do not brush wet hair

Wet hair is three times weaker and thus more likely to break - says Dr. Suttar. He recommends, towel dry your hair first and then gently detangle your hair using a wide tooth comb.

Let your hair air-dry

Allow your hair to dry by itself instead of using a blow-dryer or hot rollers. Using this artificial mode of drying technique will make your hair more brittle and dry. If you have no time to let your hair air dry, then use blow-dryer sparingly and make sure you use a warm setting instead of a hot setting.

Good diet

Drink lots of water and eat a healthy diet of raw fruits and vegetables. The most effective home treatment for hair care is a healthy diet. You are what you eat, and what you put into your body will be reflected on the outside.



But, reality speaks a different story. Instead of spending on those branded shampoos and conditioners, Dr. Sandeep Suttar - Hair Restoration and Skin Rejuvenation surgeon at Hairrevive, Mumbai, shares some natural ways to get great hair. Follow these easy and simple steps to give that luster and shine to your hair, and flaunt your hair like the models do...

Egg treatment

Use the entire egg to condition your hair. If you have dry or brittle hair, use egg whites to moisturize your hair. Use ½ cup of any egg mixture (egg white, entire egg) and apply to clean, damp hair. Leave it for 20 minutes and rinse with cool water.

Cleanliness is important

The most important reason for hair fall is dandruff and itchy scalp. Therefore, maintain good cleanliness for beautiful and healthy hair.

Avoid hot water

Skip hot water showers, because hot water will make your hair dry and brittle as it strips protective oils from your hair - says Dr. Suttar. Thus, prefer a temperature which is just a bit warmer than your body temperature.

Bottle gourd treatment

Extract some bottle gourd juice and apply it into your hair. Keep this solution for half an hour and wash it off thoroughly.

For that shiny soft hair

Prepare a mixture of 1 cup of your daily conditioner and 2-3 tablespoons of honey. Apply this mixture evenly on your wet hair. Leave it for 30 minutes and wash it off thoroughly. This mixture will

close down your hair's cuticle and give your hair that amazing shine.

Baking soda therapy

Make a mixture of 3 tbsp. of baking soda and some water. Rinse your hair with this solution after shampooing. Let it set in at least 5 minutes before the final rinse. This

rapy will help to remove the excess shampoo and styling product from your hair.

For bouncy hair

Apply a one to one mixture of warm water and apple cider vinegar to your hair. Rinse it thoroughly after 5 minutes to get rid of the apple cider smell.

Don't wash your hair frequently

Wash your hair every 2-3 days, for proper regulation of natural hair oils. Washing your hair less often will also help regain your hair's natural body and luster.

Make your conditioner

For a protein packed conditioner, mix eggs and yogurt and rub it into your scalp. Leave on for five or 10 minutes, and then wash it off completely.

For strong hair

Use almond oil to treat dry and damaged hair. It is a very simple procedure, pour some almond oil in a bowl and heat it for 40 seconds. Then evenly distribute on your hair. Leave it for 30 minutes and then rinse normally with shampoo and conditioner using cold water.

Say bye-bye to dull



Rapido fined Rs 10 lakh for pressure tactics to increase ride fares, pre-ride tips

The consumer authority found Rapido's pre-ride payment prompts used dark patterns, pressured riders to pay more and made unsupported claims that higher payments improved their chances of getting a ride.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a Rs 10 lakh penalty on Rapido, for misleading advertisements, unfair trade practices, an unfair contract and the use of dark patterns to prompt riders to pay more before their rides were confirmed. The action against Roppen Transportation Services Private Limited, the company operating the ride-hailing platform, follows a sector-wide examination by the consumer watchdog of cab and bike-taxi aggregators operating in India, focusing on practices related to pre-ride tipping and dynamic pricing. During its examination, the CCPA found that the

Rapido app displayed prompts encouraging riders to increase the amount they were willing to pay while their booking was being processed. Among the messages displayed on the app were: "Higher the price, higher the chance of getting a ride." Another prompt said, "Captains aren't accepting at Rs 60. Try adding +10, +20, +30." According to the CCPA, Rapido's algorithm first quoted a fare to the rider. After the rider booked at that fare, the app prompted them to pay more, stating that drivers were not accepting the original price. The authority said this created a false impression that a rider's chances of getting a ride quickly depended on paying an additional amount. The CCPA said

that, once a rider had committed to a booking, there was limited scope for



negotiation. The prompts could create a sense of urgency and fear of losing the ride if the consumer declined to pay more, it added. The authority classified the practice as "Confirm Shaming", a dark

pattern identified under the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023.

According to the CCPA, prompting consumers to make an additional payment after they had accepted the initially displayed fare could place them under psychological pressure. This was particularly significant because the rider had already reached the booking stage and was relying on the platform to secure a ride, the authority said. A message suggesting that the chances of getting a ride were lower without an additional payment could therefore push the consumer towards paying more.

‘SET YOUR PRICE’ SLIDER UNDER SCRUTINY

The Consumer Protection Authority also examined Rapido's 'Set your price' feature and raised concerns over how its pricing options were presented. According to the authority, the slider used different colours to display options to increase or decrease the fare. When riders increased the price, the message 'Higher chance of getting a ride' appeared in green. When they tried to lower it, a warning appeared in red or orange. The CCPA also noted that the slider offered more space to increase the price, while providing comparatively less scope to reduce it. The authority classified this design as 'Interface Interference', another dark pattern, saying the interface influenced consumers towards choosing a higher amount.

CBI officer Seema Pahuja, who led RG Kar case, to oversee Disha Salian death probe

Delhi. (Agency)

Decorated CBI officer Seema Pahuja will oversee the agency's fresh investigation into the death of Disha Salian, the former manager of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput. Pahuja, 59, is currently posted as an SP with the CBI's Special Crime Unit in Delhi and has handled several high-profile cases. Salian, 28, died after falling from a high-rise building in Mumbai's Malad area on June 8, 2020. Her death came days before Rajput, who died on June 14. Mumbai Police had treated Salian's death as a suicide, while a Maharashtra SIT later found no foul play. Pahuja was part of the CBI investigations into the 2020 Hathras rape-murder case and the 2017 Unnao rape case, involving expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar. She also served as the investigating officer in the case of 2024 rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar hospital in Kolkata. Pahuja was also involved in the 2017 Gudiya rape-murder case in Shimla, in which a schoolgirl was raped and killed in Shimla's Kotkhai. The CBI investigation eventually led to the conviction of a woodcutter in the case. Pahuja received the gold medal for Best Investigating Officer in 2021 for her investigative work.

CBI TO HANDLE DISHA SALIAN DEATH CASE

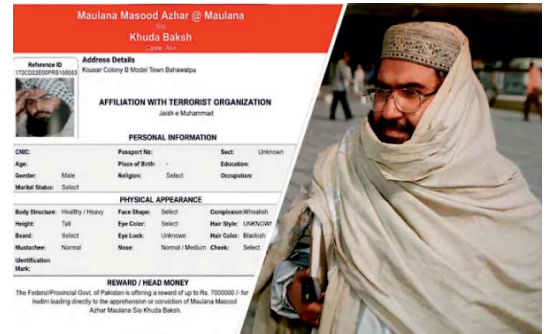
With the CBI now taking up the Disha Salian death case, Seema Pahuja will now oversee the investigation. The case was revived after Disha Salian's father, Satish Salian, approached the Bombay High Court alleging that his daughter had been raped and murdered and that evidence had been suppressed. The Bombay High Court on September 2 directed the CBI to register an FIR and conduct a fresh probe, citing discrepancies in the earlier investigation. The CBI registered an FIR on September 13 based on the complaint.

Phoney pre-FATF move: India slams Pakistan over Rs 20 lakh Masood Azhar bounty hike

Delhi. (Agency)

Pakistan's decision to increase the bounty on Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar is a "gimmick" and a "phoney announcement" that will have no consequence, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday, calling on Islamabad to take concrete action against the terror chief. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Pakistan's latest move was an attempt to "hoodwink" people and was nothing new "Such gimmicks and attempts at hoodwinking people by Pakistan are nothing new. We have seen similar gimmicks in the past as well," Jaiswal said. "For a state sponsor of terrorism to make such phoney announcements, we all know how hollow they are. Pakistan must take concrete action rather than make announcements that are ultimately of no consequence," he added.

PAKISTAN RAISES MASOOD AZHAR BOUNTY



Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has increased the bounty on Azhar by PKR 20 lakh, taking it from PKR 50 lakh to PKR 70 lakh in its latest list of most-wanted terrorists. The FIA had announced the PKR 50 lakh reward in 2021 for information leading to Azhar's arrest. Pakistan has maintained that the JeM chief is no longer in the country and is hiding in Afghanistan. However, Indian intelligence agencies believe Azhar is in Pakistan's Sindh province, with sources saying the assessment is based on technical analysis carried out over the past six months. Azhar is wanted in India in connection with several terror attacks, including the February 2019 Pulwama bombing that killed 40 CRPF personnel.

Cracks in BJP's core urban voter base? What Rajasthan local poll results reveal

Delhi. (Agency)

The BJP has won Rajasthan's urban local body elections, securing 4,179 of the 10,235 declared wards, against the Congress's 3,613. The BJP's seat share also rose from 35.7% in the previous election cycle (2019 to 2021) to 40.8%, while the Congress slipped from 40.7% to 35.3%. PM Narendra Modi called it "proof of the victory of truth over the echo of falsehood." However, the BJP's victory in the cities and towns in Rajasthan might be masking deeper trouble for the saffron party. The win also exposes discontent within sections of the BJP's traditionally loyal urban electorate. This was not the kind of sweeping civic victory that an incumbent government backed by a formidable

urban organisation would have expected. While the BJP's victory lies in its victories in a large number of wards and its lead over the Congress, the warning signs are



clearly visible in the municipal corporations in the districts of Bharatpur, Pali, Ajmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur and Alwar, where the party failed to secure a majority. All the seven corresponding Lok Sabha seats went to the BJP in the

2024 General Elections. Several of them are BJP strongholds and are associated with the party's most prominent leaders, including that of Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, state BJP president Madan Rathore, former CM and BJP national vice-president Vasundhara Raje and Union ministers Arjun Ram Meghwal, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Bhupender Yadav and Bhagirath Choudhary. Independents, meanwhile, won 2,273 wards, but their share remained virtually unchanged at 22.2%, compared with 22.4% in the 2019-21 election cycle. So, the poll results point not to an abandonment of the BJP by its traditionally loyal urban voter base, but to worrying cracks in it.

Suwendu Adhikari aide's mother Hasirani Rath gets BJP's Nandigram ticket, eyes 1.1 lakh margin

Delhi. (Agency)

The BJP on Tuesday announced Suwendu Adhikari, the mother of Chandranath Rath, a former aide of Suwendu Adhikari who was killed in May, as its candidate for the Nandigram bypoll. The party also nominated Sakharav Sarkar, its former Murshidabad district president, for the Rejinagar Assembly seat. Rath expressed gratitude to the party and told reporters that she was confident of victory, setting a target of winning the seat by a record 1.1 lakh votes. Rath said the Nandigram organisation and party leadership had supported her and would continue to do so. She expressed hope that the target would be achieved under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Recalling the BJP's

performance in Nandigram, Rath said that when the Trinamool Congress was strong in the constituency, Suwendu Adhikari had defeated the for mer Chief Minister by 1,956 votes. Rath said Adhikari won Nandigram by



around 10,000 votes in the 2026 elections. She added that had he not contested from two seats in 2026 and been able to devote more time to Nandigram, his victory margin would have been much higher.

Rath also spoke about the investigation involving her son, Chandranath Rath. She said the investigation was ongoing and that the family had "complete confidence" in the Chief Minister. Hasirani Rath's nomination gives the BJP's campaign in Nandigram an emotional dimension, while the Rejinagar choice reflects the party's preference for an organisationally experienced leader. The Nandigram bypoll was necessitated after Adhikari, who had won both Nandigram and Bhabanipur in the 2026 Assembly elections, chose to retain Bhabanipur and vacate Nandigram. Nandigram is set for a multi-cornered contest, with polling scheduled for October 6, the last date for nominations being September 16, and counting to be held on October 9.

India condemns Houthi strikes on Saudi Arabia, flags Bab-el-Mandeb navigation threat

Delhi. (Agency)

India has raised serious concerns over the growing threat to maritime navigation in the Red Sea after Iran-backed Houthis stepped up attacks on Saudi Arabia. The External Affairs Ministry on Tuesday said the attacks were "unacceptable" and cautioned that continued escalation could threaten freedom of navigation through the Bab-el-Mandeb, one of the world's most important maritime chokepoints. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar discussed the situation with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud during a meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS summit on Sunday. "The issue of the Houthis was also discussed.



As you know, recently there was an attack on Saudi Arabia which we have condemned. We are also deeply concerned with the escalation in the situation in the Red Sea region," Jaiswal said, as quoted by . India's warning comes as Saudi Arabia faces a growing wave of attacks, with Iran-aligned fighters targeting oil infrastructure, military sites and other major infrastructures across the kingdom. The escalation has raised concerns about the safety of shipping routes connecting the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea.

STRIKES DEEPEN FEARS OVER RED SEA SHIPPING

Jaiswal said India's concerns extend beyond the attacks themselves, particularly because of their potential impact on shipping and regional stability. "We have condemned the attack on the Saudi sovereign territory, including on civilian infrastructure and economic assets. I would say that such attacks undermine regional stability and threaten freedom of navigation through the Bab-el-Mandeb," he said.

Rs 11 product, Rs 325 MRP: Tukaram Mundhe flags huge hospital pricing gap

Tukaram Mundhe said hospital consumables can carry steep mark-ups long before reaching patients. He said weak monitoring leaves patients paying costs they cannot meaningfully assess.

Delhi. (Agency)

Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) chief Tukaram Mundhe has flagged huge margins on hospital products and medicines, saying patients could be paying hundreds or even thousands of per cent more than the trade price of products used during treatment, without knowing their actual cost. In a social media post, Mundhe, under whom a massive FDA crackdown is underway in the state, said the most expensive part of a hospital bill may never touch the hospital at all. "The most expensive part of a hospital bill may never touch the hospital at all. A patient admitted for care has no way of knowing whether the price on a medical

consumable reflects its actual cost or a markup fixed long before it ever reached the ward. That gap in information is, at its core, a public health issue," the IAS officer wrote. He cited findings from a survey of hospital consumables in Maharashtra, which found significant differences between the trade prices of certain products and their printed maximum retail prices (MRP), resulting in massive markups. According to the figures shared by Mundhe, an IV infusion set with a trade price of Rs 11.05 carried an MRP of Rs 325, representing a markup of 2,841 per cent. A syringe procured at Rs 6.75 had an MRP of Rs 57.20, while a catheter bought for Rs 29.41 carried an



often cannot compare prices, seek alternatives or question the price printed on a medical product. He said the MRP is often fixed upstream by manufacturers and distributors and can remain

disconnected from the trade price, creating what he described as an "unexplained margin". "The result is a system where the party bearing the cost has the least information to evaluate it," Mundhe, under whose remit drug pricing and medicine-related regulation fall as FDA Commissioner, said. The officer also pointed to what he described as a structural regulatory gap in medical consumable pricing. He said scheduled medicines are subject to price ceilings under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, while most medical devices and consumables are not subject to similar controls. He said this leaves both their pricing and the information available to patients "almost entirely unmonitored".

Rupee falls 30 paise to 95.84 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The rupee fell 3 paise to 95.91 against the US dollar in early trade on Wednesday, facing pressure from a strong American currency and outflow of foreign funds. Positive domestic equity markets, however, supported the local currency, even as crude oil prices remained elevated amid heightened tension in West Asia, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.89 against the US dollar and fell further to 95.91, trading 3 paise lower from its previous close. The rupee settled 34 paise lower at 95.88 against the American currency on Tuesday, after weakening by 113 paise or more than 1 per cent in the preceding five sessions since the closing level of 94.43 recorded on September 4.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.38, higher by 0.04 per cent. The higher dollar index was attributed to market expectations of a hike in interest rate by the US Federal Reserve, which will announce its monetary policy decision on Wednesday. Experts said that the Fed is likely to hike the funds rate for the first time in three years in an effort to rein in inflation triggered by higher oil prices.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 0.58 per cent but remained elevated at USD 108.12 per barrel in futures trade. According to analysts, global oil markets have been roiled by fresh tensions in West Asia after attacks from Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen against Saudi Arabia's shipping and infrastructure. Traders fear the escalating conflict could disrupt Saudi oil exports out of the Red Sea. On the domestic equities market front, Sensex climbed 240.75 points, or 0.33 per cent, to 74,244.57 in morning trade, while the Nifty gained 83.70 points, or 0.36 per cent to 23,202.30. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,977.86 crore on a net basis on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

Air India board meets in Mumbai amid leadership transition

New Delhi. (Agency)

Air India's board of directors held a meeting in Mumbai on Tuesday amid a leadership transition with former Ethiopian Airlines Group chief Tewolde Gebremariam expected to formally take charge later this month. Campbell Wilson, the MD and CEO of Air India, will be stepping down from his role this month. The board meeting was chaired by Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran. As per reports, various matters, including the salary structure of the incoming CEO, were discussed in the meeting. Sources said the board members also thanked Wilson for his contributions to the airline. It was not known whether the board also discussed fundraising plans and financials of the airline. As per reports, Air India is seeking around \$1.5 billion in fresh equity from its owners. While the Tata Group is believed to have approved a \$1.1 billion infusion, Singapore Airlines is expected to contribute based on its shareholding.

The loss-making Air India has been grappling with multiple challenges, including the fatal AI171 accident in June last year that killed 260 people as well as geopolitical disruptions, airspace closures, fuel price volatility and various operational issues. On September 7, incoming CEO and MD Tewolde Gebremariam, in his first address during a townhall, told the airline's staff that "we will Make Air India Great Again (MAGA)". He had also sought the support and cooperation of the airline's staff and called for minimising disruptions as he emphasised that operational excellence is about getting the basics right every day.

Govt steps up CBAM support for exporters; smaller players to get financial aid

New Delhi. (Agency)

Centre is taking several measures to ensure adequate preparedness of the Indian exporters for the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), with a special focus on building domestic capacity for emissions measurement, reporting and verification, and supporting smaller exporters in meeting the new requirements, confirmed the Ministry of Commerce on Tuesday. Additionally, sources from the government also confirmed that the small players will get more handholding including financial assistance if needed. "We will be handholding the exporters and all sorts of supports will be given to them and even financial assistance for smaller exporters under Export Promotion Mission," said a source from the Ministry aware of the matter. A key area of concern has been the availability of accurate emissions data, particularly for steel exports. The issue has been taken up with the Ministry of Steel and commerce ministries are working on a mechanism to account for embedded emissions generated by upstream producers. An inter-ministerial committee on export preparedness for EU CBAM has been formed under the chairmanship of additional secretary with other key ministries and departments, regulators and industry bodies to address compliance-related challenges faced by exporters as the EU's carbon regime gets implemented. Noel Tata, Jimmy Tata and Jehangir

Gold, silver surge up to 1% ahead of US Fed policy decision

Meanwhile, silver futures

(December) surged as much as 1.66

per cent or Rs 3,870 to hit an

intraday high of Rs 2,35,988.

Kolkata. (Agency)

Gold and silver prices traded up to 1 per cent higher on Wednesday amid softer crude oil prices and lower US bond yields, while investors awaited the US Federal Reserve's policy decision.

At around 10:45 am, gold futures (October) were trading at 1,51,598, an increase of 0.52 per cent or Rs 789. The yellow metal recorded an intraday high of Rs 1,52,100 so far, jumping nearly 1 per cent or Rs 1,291. While it touched an intraday low of Rs 1,51,450, still an increase of about half per cent. Meanwhile, silver futures (December) surged as much as 1.66 per cent or Rs 3,870 to hit an intraday high of Rs 2,35,988.



At the last count, the white metal was trading at 2,35,079, up Rs 2,961 or 1.28 per cent. It touched an intraday low of 2,34,540, a surge of 1.04 per cent or Rs 2,422. Analysts said MCX gold opened with a mild gap-up but remained capped

by its 50-day exponential moving average. The contract recovered from the Rs 1,50,700-1,50,000 support zone. Immediate resistance for gold is seen at Rs 1,54,000-1,54,700, with a break above that zone potentially

opening the way towards Rs 1,56,300-1,57,000. Support is placed at Rs 1,50,700-1,50,000, followed by Rs 1,48,000-1,47,300. MCX silver also opened higher and traded near Rs 2,35,000, recovering from the Rs 2,30,000 zone. Resistance is seen at Rs 2,39,000-2,40,000, followed by Rs 2,45,000-2,46,000, while support is placed at Rs 2,34,000-2,33,000 and Rs 2,30,000-2,29,000. In the international market, US gold futures for December delivery rose about 1 per cent to \$4,380 per ounce. The buying in gold supported by a decline in crude oil prices which eased pressure on the US dollar and Treasury yields. In addition, the Federal Reserve is widely expected to raise interest rates by 25 basis points, as per experts.

Moreover, geopolitical tensions also remained a key factor for bullion prices as the US-Iran conflict remains unresolved while reports of a Houthi drone being intercepted by Saudi Arabia and explosions on Iran's Qeshm Island added to market uncertainty.

Asian stocks mostly higher ahead of Fed's interest rate decision

Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 0.4% to

63,721.89, despite official data

showing that Japan recorded a fourth consecutive month of trade deficit in August.

HONG KONG. (Agency)

Asian shares were mostly higher Wednesday despite losses on Wall Street, as investors await the Federal Reserve's decision on interest rates, with high expectations of a rate hike. U.S. futures also edged higher. There is widespread expectation that the Fed will hike rates Wednesday for the first time in three years as inflation remains elevated in the U.S.

and above the Fed's target.

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South Korea's Kospi rose 1.3% to 6,711.62. Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged up 0.1% to 24,700.62. The Shanghai Composite index climbed 0.6% to 3,886.48. Artificial intelligence-related stocks remained

volatile following U.S. AI leaders' calls to slow development of the technology to ensure safety.

SoftBank Group, a key investor in OpenAI, dropped 1% after rising 7.5% the day before. Chip equipment manufacturer Tokyo Electron rose 1.4%, while Japanese memory maker Kioxia Holdings also lost 2.9%. South Korea's memory chipmaker SK Hynix climbed 2.9%. Samsung Electronics was up 1.9%. Taiwan's Taiex jumped 1.1%. Taiwan's leading AI chipmaker TSMC, or Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., rose 0.2%. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.3% to 8,694.20. India's Sensex gained 0.4%.

Oil prices stabilized early Wednesday after rising on Tuesday as tensions dragged.

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MUMBAI. (Agency)

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Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 99.38, higher by 0.04 per cent. The higher dollar index was attributed to market expectations of a hike in interest rate by the US Federal Reserve, which will announce its monetary policy decision on Wednesday. Experts said that the Fed is likely to hike the funds rate for the first time in three years in an effort to rein in inflation triggered by higher oil prices. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 0.58 per cent but remained elevated at USD 108.12 per barrel in futures trade.

According to analysts, global oil markets have been roiled by fresh tensions in West Asia after attacks from Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen against Saudi Arabia's shipping and infrastructure.

Sensex, Nifty open higher after hitting 5-month low; oil, Fed decision cap gains

New Delhi. (Agency)

Benchmark indices opened higher on Wednesday, rebounding after the Nifty 50 closed at a five-month low in the previous session. However, elevated crude oil prices, high US bond yields and caution ahead of the Federal Reserve's policy decision kept gains in check. The BSE Sensex opened at 74,249.31 and was at 74,208.8 at 9:36 am, up 205.01 points or 0.28% from the previous close. The Nifty 50 opened at 23,201.60 and was at 23,188.10, up 69.50 points or 0.30%. The opening rebound comes after the Sensex had fallen 777.94 points and the Nifty 50 declined 279.50 points on Tuesday. Both benchmarks are in oversold territory, and traders said a technical bounce cannot be ruled out from current levels.

The broader market was mixed at the open. Nifty 100 gained 0.18% and Nifty 200 rose 0.03%, while Nifty 500 slipped 0.14%.

Mid- and small-cap stocks continued to face selling



pressure. Nifty Midcap 50 fell 0.46%, Nifty Midcap 100 declined 0.55% and Nifty Smallcap 100 dropped 1.10%. India VIX, however, declined 0.91% to 13.31. IT, AUTO AND FMCG STOCKS SUPPORT MARKET Several heavyweight stocks were trading higher. M&M was the top Sensex gainer, rising 1.56%, followed by HCLTech, which gained 1.42%. Reliance Industries rose 1.19%, ITC gained 1.14% and SBI was up 0.99%. Hindustan Unilever rose 0.78%, while BEL, Adani Ports, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance and Kotak Mahindra Bank also traded in positive territory. On the losing side, IndiGo fell 1.27%, while Tata Steel declined 0.71%. Eternal fell 0.62%, TCS declined 0.57% and NTPC slipped 0.74%. Bharti Airtel fell 0.32% and HDFC Bank was down 0.10%. Nifty Auto gained 0.42%, while Nifty FMCG rose 0.91%. Nifty PSU Bank gained 0.58%, Nifty Private Bank rose 0.23% and Nifty Oil & Gas advanced 0.38%.

NSE IPO: Exchange earns huge revenue from F&O; is its earning under SEBI glare?

NSE is a global leader in F&O trade and the exchange generates a significant portion of its revenue from transaction charges, and options trading is a major contributor to this. If options volumes decline, NSE's transaction revenue could be pressured faster than those from other businesses. The government and Sebi want to curb F&O trading since common people, who don't understand anything of this risky game, are flocking to it for quick gains and losing money.

New Delhi

The bidding process of the mega NSE IPO is set to open tomorrow, September 17, 2026. NSE is not only a modern stock

exchange but also a global leader in derivatives trading. Its strongest business is from futures and options trading (F&O), which is coming under increasing regulatory pressure. The exchange generates a significant portion of its revenue from transaction charges, and options trading is the largest contributor to this. According to reports, transaction charges accounted for 78.6% of NSE's total operating revenue in FY26. Options alone contributed Rs 9,997 crore, or 60%, of operating revenue, while futures generated Rs 1,480 crore, or 9%. Overall, the futures and options segments contributed approximately 69% of operating revenue.

Risk for investors

Therefore, regulations related curb derivatives, which expose common people to excessive risk, pose one of the biggest risks for investors evaluating the NSE issue. If options volumes decline,

NSE's transaction earnings could be pressured faster than those of businesses whose revenue sources are more diversified.

What do the quarterly numbers say?

However, recent quarterly figures indicate that NSE's earnings haven't seen a significant decline yet. In the June quarter, the exchange reported revenue of Rs 4,560 crore and EBITDA of Rs 3,594 crore. Transaction charge revenue was Rs 3,623 crore, up from Rs 3,154 crore a year earlier. However, market share trends in options are being closely monitored. NSE's options premium-turnover market share fell to 68.48% in Q1, from 75% in FY26 and 97% in FY24.

Dependence on weekly options

NSE MD and CEO Ashish Chauhan has attempted to allay these fears. As the exchange prepares for its IPO, he stated that NSE's reliance on weekly options has significantly reduced. He also stated

that growth in other businesses will reduce the share of weekly options in the exchange's overall revenue. The exchange believes that while derivatives remain important, it is trying to de-risk its earnings base through other businesses.

Increasing SEBI surveillance

Regulatory pressure has been mounting for some time. Starting October 2024, SEBI has implemented several measures to curb speculative trading in equity derivatives. These include limiting weekly index expiries, increasing contract sizes, requiring advance deposit of option premiums, increasing risk margins on expiry days, and strengthening intraday monitoring of position limits.

Will retail investors suffer losses?

The reason for this tightening is the losses faced by retail investors. A recent SEBI study for FY26 found that 87.7% of individual traders trading in equity,

NEWS BOX

Mankhurd T Junction: Flyover pillar work may worsen Navi Mumbai-bound traffic after Ganapati

Mumbai(Agency).

Traffic movement at the Mankhurd T Junction, already a bottleneck for motorists travelling from the Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road towards Navi Mumbai, could face further disruption after the Ganapati festivities, with the BMC set to begin work on a crucial pillar of its under-construction flyover at the junction. The traffic police are yet to clear the proposed construction plan, with officials concerned that the pillar could further reduce the available carriageway and lead to longer queues on the Sion-Panvel Highway. Traffic heading from the Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road towards Navi Mumbai already slows and merges onto the Sion-Panvel Highway. On the opposite side of the junction, construction work has narrowed the carriageway for vehicles travelling from Navi Mumbai towards the Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road, slowing traffic towards the junction, especially during peak hours.

With another section of the flyover now set to be taken up at the T Junction, traffic police officials are discussing an alternative traffic arrangement with the BMC. “We are talking with the BMC and are finding an alternate route as Mankhurd T Junction is a bottleneck. We expect that construction of the pillar will begin after the festivities and are working out effective ways to manage the traffic,” a Traffic Police official said. For commuters, the concern is that the construction could add to delays at a junction where waiting times are already substantial.

“We are already waiting at the T Junction for quite some time — 30 minutes. If the pillar comes up at the same spot, it could add another traffic gridlock,” said advocate Shaikh Faiyaz Alam, a daily commuter. The pillar is part of the Rs 1,958-crore flyover project to ease traffic movement between the Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road and Navi Mumbai-Pune. The project comprises two vehicular arms of 1.47 km and 1.93 km — one to provide direct access to Navi Mumbai and Pune for vehicles travelling from the Ghatkopar side, and the other to connect traffic from Navi Mumbai to the existing Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road flyover.

He was hungry, then everything went blank: How cross-border search brought Nepali man home

Lucknow(Agency).

A 24-hour cross-border search involving police and social workers in India and Nepal reunited 41-year-old Nepali man Khadka Bahadur Som Bahadur Darji with his family in the neighbouring country, after he was found wandering the streets of Nagpur with little memory of how he had reached the city. Darji, a resident of Niskot in Nepal’s Myagdi district, had left home around August 9-10 without informing his family. He travelled to Delhi and then boarded a train to Tamil Nadu. During the journey, Darji remembered feeling hungry and then being helped with some dahi-bhaat (curd rice) by a co-passenger. He remembers nothing after that. “I ate dahi-bhaat. I do not remember anything after that,” Darji told those who later helped him. On August 12, Dhantoli Police found Darji wandering in Nagpur and brought him to the Aastha Shelter Centre. But tracing his family was difficult as he could provide only fragmented information — the language barrier further complicated search efforts.

As news of a flash flood in Nepal reached him, Darji became increasingly anxious about his family, repeatedly expressing his desire to return home. Shelter coordinator Tushar Hukre then approached Kunda Katekhaye Bidkar, Social Service Superintendent at the Regional Mental Hospital, Nagpur. Bidkar had earlier helped reunite patients with families across the border and began working with the limited details Darji could recall. She contacted police in the Darbang area of Myagdi and also sought help from Shaligram Tiwari, chairperson and chief adviser of the Mankamana Ekta Foundation in Thane. Tiwari spoke to Darji over a video call and tried to piece together details about his identity and family. The efforts started to show some results with assistance from former Nepal Police DIG Prakash Adhikari. Luckily, the authorities found his family and arranged a video call between Darji, his brother, and other relatives. On September 13, Darji’s relative Dipak Shahi arrived at the Aastha Shelter Centre to take Darji back home.

Gujarat reservoirs gain 3 per cent after 48-hr rain, remain 13 per cent below last year levels

The state's reservoirs gained 603 million cubic metres (MCM) of water in just two days of rain, even as the total storage remained in a deficit of 3,191 MCM compared with the reservoir statistics of last year.

Vadodara(Agency).

Four days after the Gujarat Assembly discussed the possible drought situation in the state, with Opposition parties demanding relief measures for farmers, there was a ray of hope. After the 48-hour rain since Sunday, water levels in the reservoirs of the state rose by over three per cent. Although the overall water reserve in the state was 13.88% lower than September last year’s figures, data from dams across Gujarat showed. The state’s reservoirs gained 603 million cubic metres (MCM) of water in just two days of rain, even as the total storage remained in a deficit of 3,191 MCM compared with the reservoir statistics of last year. As of Tuesday, Sardar Sarovar dam on the Narmada River was 95.42% full, 316 MCM over the last year’s figures; reservoirs in Saurashtra, however, remained less than half full. Waters of the Narmada feed a major part of the state, up to Saurashtra and Kutch. The figures of the Narmada Water Resources, Water Supply and Kalpsar departments on Tuesday showed that Gujarat’s 207 reservoirs, including Sardar Sarovar, were positioned at 78.41% storage as against 91.04% on September 15, 2025. This is a shortfall of 3191.45 MCM or 13.88%. On September 13, the 207 reservoirs held

19,200.30 MCM and, by September 15, the figure had risen to 19,803.37 MCM, an increase of 603.07 MCM or 3.14%. The number of completely filled reservoirs also rose from 17 to 23 in the period. The state saw a dry spell for over a month, with districts such as Kutch, Devbhoomi Dwarka and Jamnagar reporting a higher deficit.



Excluding Sardar Sarovar, the other 206 reservoirs gained 441.87 MCM, taking their storage from 10,334.40 MCM on September 13 to 10,776.27 MCM on September 15—an increase of 4.28% from an overall storage of 65.42% to 68.21%. But compared with September 15 last year, these reservoirs still carry a 24.56% deficit. The filling level has

correspondingly dropped from 90.42% to 68.21%.

South Gujarat fares better

The regional picture is sharply uneven as the rainfall has been surplus in South Gujarat, where the 13 reservoirs are 82.40% full, with 7,089.49 MCM in storage. The region gained 366.24 MCM, or 5.45% from the recent rain alone. Yet, South Gujarat is below its storage position of last year, with an 8.65% deficit in comparison. Its filling level has consequently fallen from about 90.21% last year. Notably, Valsad district reported a surplus rainfall of 47%, as of Tuesday, from the time the monsoon set in. Saurashtra has seen a much smaller recent gain. Concerns of drought in this region became the focus of a discussion in the state Assembly on September 11, the last day of the monsoon session. Saurashtra’s 141 reservoirs rose from 1,257.85 MCM on September 13 to 1,285.13 MCM on September 15, an increase of 27.28 MCM or 2.17%. The filling level moved from 48.59% to 49.65%. However, despite the small rise, Saurashtra’s storage remained 43.23% below last year’s levels. The region had a storage of 87.46% of the total capacity on September 15, 2025, while this year it has managed to see a filling of 49.65%.

‘Matrimonial dispute is not suicide abetment’: Railways employee gets bail

Vadodara(Agency).

A marriage that had fallen hopelessly apart, a young father who was desperate not to lose custody of his minor son, and a mediation hearing in Delhi which was just days away — this was the backdrop to the tragedy that unfolded in Gandhinagar in July last year.

A 32-year-old accountant who had worked in Bengaluru before moving to Gujarat and his five-year-old son were found hanging from a ceiling fan in the home of the dead man’s father. It was alleged that the man had murdered the child before killing himself. Six months later, in January this year, a case of abetment of suicide was registered against the wife at Gandhinagar’s Kalol Taluka police station on the complaint of the father of the dead man. As the police carried out some initial investigations, the woman, a 38-year-

old Railways employee, filed for anticipatory bail. It was alleged that the woman’s first husband too had died by suicide, lawyers in the case said. The woman’s application for



anticipatory bail was decided at the end of July, and she was taken into custody on August 4. On Monday (September 14), the Gujarat High Court gave her regular bail, noting that the investigation in the case had been

completed, a chargesheet had been filed, and there was nothing left to recover from her.

Justice Has Mukh D Suthar noted that the case against the woman rested primarily on her troubled matrimonial relationship.

A troubled marriage and custody battle in Delhi

The man and the five-year-old child were found dead on July 14, 2025. According to the prosecution, the husband had travelled from Delhi to Gujarat with the boy just days before the incident. His marriage had allegedly “deteriorated”, and he was in a custody battle with his wife over their son in court in Delhi.

The couple had wed in 2018, seven years previously. The husband used to work as an accountant in Bengaluru, but had moved to a job in Gandhinagar, where his father worked as a security guard.

Missing couple found dead in a field. Then UP cops notice what husband was wearing

Meanwhile, her husband’s body was found hanging from a tree and tied with a wire about a kilometre away. Chottu was found wearing his wife’s salwar, the police said.

Lucknow(Agency).

Bijnor police on Tuesday recovered the bodies of a missing couple from a field in Kotwali City area under mysterious circumstances. Their bodies were found a kilometre apart. The deceased have been identified as Chottu and his wife, Sushma, residents of Jalalpur. The two had been missing since Monday, and a missing person’s report was filed at the police station on the complaint of their son.

Police found the woman’s semi-naked body, bearing injury marks on the neck, on the banks of the Ganga river, about 50 metres from their field. Meanwhile, her husband’s body was found hanging from a tree and tied with a wire about a kilometre away. Chottu was found wearing his wife’s salwar, the police said. Police said preliminary inquiry suggests Chottu

allegedly strangled his wife to death before ending his own life. The motive behind the incident is yet to be ascertained. Superintendent of Police, Bijnor, Krishan Kumar said the bodies have been sent for a postmortem examination and that an investigation was ongoing. According to police, the couple had gone to their field on Monday morning, and when they did not return home by afternoon, their son went looking for them in the forest but could not find them.

Their son informed the police, which began a search with the help of local residents and forest officials. However, the search had to be called off due to rain on Monday night. The police subsequently recovered the bodies on Tuesday morning. A forensics team and a dog squad were also called in to examine the scene.



Mumbai never sleeps, but now it will walk better: Here’s what BMC plans for its roads

In the first phase, civic officials said, all illegal encroachments on these roads were removed. In the second phase, the existing footpath model will be redesigned to improve walkability.

Mumbai(Agency).

As part of the Mumbai civic body’s ongoing drive to reclaim footpaths by clearing illegal encroachments, civic authorities have planned to redesign the footpaths and peripheries of as many as 30 roads in the eastern suburbs to make them walkable. The 30 shortlisted roads fall under three administrative wards, covering Ghatkopar, Bhandup, Kanjurmarg, Nahur and Mulund areas, stretching across marketplaces, railway stations, schools and bus stops. In the first phase, civic officials said, all illegal encroachments on these roads were removed. In the second phase, the existing footpath model will be redesigned to improve walkability.

“In Mumbai’s suburbs, footpaths often consist of seamless stretches of culverts created by covering drains running underneath them. As a result, these footpaths are narrow and fail to provide adequate walking space for citizens,” Yogita Kolhe, Assistant Municipal Commissioner, told The Indian Express. Kolhe said that the BMC has involved urban planners who have drafted an integrated pedestrian design. “Under this new design, the existing



footpaths will be widened to ensure there is a minimum 2-meter width, and the surface will also be made uniform. Additionally, the junction areas, traffic islands around stations and junctions will also be widened and redesigned to make sure there is adequate walking space for citizens. The idea is to promote walkability as a last-

mile connectivity medium and provide uninterrupted walking space from railway stations or marketplaces either to their homes or to the nearest transit point like bus stations,” Kolhe said. After removing illegal encroachments from the roads, civic officials discovered that transformers, fire hydrants and licensed hawking stalls, like Aarey milk stores, along these roads were also hindering pedestrian movement, prompting them to involve urban planners to prepare a design to use the existing space.

“The basic idea is to remove the existing obstacles. At present, the road concretisation work is ongoing. The design will also integrate the new roads with new footpaths. Under the new plan, barricades will be raised to separate footpaths from roads, and markings will be implemented to prevent unauthorised parking,” an official from the civic roads department said. The design has been finalised, but work will begin in October after the monsoon rains begin to recede. The project will initially be implemented on these 30 roads, and later scaled up to all other administrative divisions in Mumbai.

84-year-old woman found murdered at Surat home



Surat(Agency).

An elderly woman was found murdered at her apartment in Surat’s Nanpura, police said on Tuesday. Except for her mobile phone, no cash or jewellery was reported to be missing from the house, they added. Amena Abedali Panwala (84) lived alone, her sister Durraiya Siraj Motiwala (70), who also lives in Nanpura, said in her complaint to the Athwalines police station.

In her complaint, Durraiya said her sister visited her every morning and returned to her house in the evening to sleep. After Amena did not visit her on Monday, and her phone went unanswered, Durraiya and a relative, Mustufa Motiwala, went to Amena’s house to find it locked from outside. On Monday evening, the two opened the door with a duplicate key and found Amena dead. The police said Amena was attacked on her head with a blunt object and choked to death. Her body was handed over to her relatives after post-mortem on Tuesday. Athwalines police inspector P H Bhati said, “We don’t know the motive behind the murder. Amena was wearing a gold chain around her neck when she was found. Cash and jewellery at her home were not missing either. But her mobile phone is. We suspect some personal vengeance may be the reason behind her murder.” He added, “Amena Motiwala had been living alone. Her husband died around 40 years ago. Her son, who was unmarried, died in 2017. Her younger sister Durraiya stays nearby. She and her children were looking after her.”

NEWS BOX

Accommodation no challenge: Sharath Kamal backs India athletes at Asian Games



New Delhi. (Agency)

India's deputy chef-de-mission A Sharath Kamal believes the accommodation arrangements at the Asian Games will not be a major hurdle for the country's athletes. With participants set to stay in containers, a cruise ship and hotels, Sharath feels the Indian contingent has been adequately prepared for the setup. India will have 501 athletes and 265 officials at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, with the contingent divided across different accommodation options. Speaking ahead of the Games, Sharath said the athletes had already been given an idea of what to expect and should adapt quickly. For the players, by the direction of the Sports Authority of India, we have had some containers built in various SAI campuses, where the athletes got an experience to stay in containers.

"And of course, cruise ships, we tried to replicate something like that," Sharath said. "But at the same time, players know what to expect. We have educated them very well. And I am pretty sure they will get accustomed quite quickly," he added.

Around 4,000 to 5,000 athletes will stay on the Costa Serena, a cruise liner docked at Nagoya Port, while around 2,000 athletes will be accommodated in converted shipping-container units at Garden Pier in Nagoya Bay. The remaining participants will stay in commercial hotels close to competition venues across Aichi prefecture, with some events taking place in Tokyo. ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS DRAW CONCERNS

The decision to use converted containers instead of a traditional athletes' village has attracted criticism from some participating nations. The South Korean contingent has raised concerns about the limited space in the rooms, while members of the Asian Cricket Council have also questioned aspects of the accommodation arrangements.

The goals will come back: Vinicius Jr vows to Real Madrid fans after Elche win



New Delhi. (Agency)

Vinicius Junior acknowledged his recent struggles in front of goal after Real Madrid's 3-2 win over Elche, admitting he needs to be more clinical. The Brazilian forward also assured supporters that his goals will return. Real Madrid were made to work for all three points at the Estadio Manuel Martinez Valero on Tuesday, with a late goal securing a 3-2 victory. Vinicius was among the scorers but endured a mixed outing, missing several chances during his 68 minutes on the pitch. "The goals will come back. I can't miss so many. Sunday there will be more. HALA MADRID," Vinicius wrote on social media after the match. The Brazilian's message came after a performance in which his finishing was one of the talking points. While he found the net, he also failed to convert a number of opportunities before being substituted. VINICIUS ACKNOWLEDGES FINISHING ISSUES

Vinicius has had a relatively quiet start to the 2026-27 campaign by his usual standards. He has recorded one goal and three assists from his first seven appearances across competitions, according to the context provided. His outing against Elche highlighted both sides of his game. The 26-year-old remained involved in Real Madrid's attack and scored, but his inability to make more of his chances left him frustrated. For a player who remains an important attacking option for Real Madrid, improving his efficiency in front of goal will be an obvious area of focus in the coming games. MOURINHO BACKS VINICIUS

Vinicius is also adapting to a new managerial setup at Real Madrid, with Jose Mourinho taking charge in August 2026.

Lionel Messi deserves Ballon d'Or 2026: Simeone picks Argentine over Mbappe, Yamal

Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone has backed Lionel Messi for the 2026 Ballon d'Or after Argentina's World Cup campaign. Messi remains among the leading contenders despite announcing his international retirement after the tournament.

PARIS. (Agency)

Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone has backed Lionel Messi to win the 2026

Ballon d'Or, putting the Argentina captain ahead of the other leading names in contention. Simeone believes Messi's performance at the 2026 World Cup gives him a strong case for the award.

Simeone was speaking ahead of Atletico Madrid's upcoming La Liga clash against Osasuna when he was asked about the Ballon d'Or race. The discussion had intensified after Lamine Yamal backed himself and Kylian Mbappe as the two best players in the world, but Simeone had a different choice. "Messi, without a doubt," Simeone told reporters. "After the World Cup he had, at the age he is, no doubt at all. Messi."

Simeone's argument centres on Messi's contribution to Argentina's run to the 2026 World Cup final. Argentina eventually finished runners-up after losing to Spain, but Messi remained a key figure for Lionel Scaloni's side throughout the tournament.

MESSI'S FINAL ARGENTINA CHAPTER



The World Cup was expected to mark the end of Messi's international career. The 39-year-old announced his retirement from Argentina duty on August 31, saying he felt it was time for a new generation to have its opportunity. However, Messi will have one more appearance in the Argentina shirt. He has been included in the squad for three upcoming friendlies, but the AFA has

confirmed that his farewell appearance will come against Benin on October 6 at the Monumental in Buenos Aires. Argentina will first face Bolivia in CÃrdoba on September 30 and Burkina Faso in Buenos Aires on October 3. Messi is set to feature only in the October 6 fixture, which will serve as his official farewell.

YAMAL, MBAPPE, DEMBELE AND OTHERS IN THE MIX

Simeone's backing comes in a Ballon d'Or race featuring several prominent contenders. Yamal has made his case after Spain's World Cup triumph, while Mbappe remains part of the conversation following another prolific campaign with Real Madrid. Ousmane Dembele is looking to retain the award after winning the 2025 Ballon d'Or, while Harry Kane and Jude Bellingham are also among the prominent names in contention. Messi, meanwhile, is seeking a ninth Ballon d'Or after winning his eighth in 2023.

Aryna Sabalenka cops hefty fine after racket abuse in US Open final

New Delhi. (Agency)

Aryna Sabalenka has been fined \$7,500 by the United States Tennis Association for her conduct during the US Open final, adding to the frustration of a disappointing end to her Grand Slam campaign. Sabalenka lost 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 to Elena Rybakina in the championship match on Saturday, September 12.

The fine stemmed from a code violation after Sabalenka hit a ball into the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd following a break in the opening set. Her frustration continued during the match, with the Belarusian also angrily hitting a ball towards the back of the court and narrowly missing a cameraman. After the defeat, Sabalenka smashed her racket several



Sabalenka, the two-time defending champion, was aiming to become only the third woman in the Open Era to win three

times while sitting at her bench before the trophy presentation. **SABALENKA FIGHTS BACK BUT RYBAKINA HOLDS FIRM**

consecutive US Open titles. She struggled to impose her usual aggressive game early on as Rybakina took the first set.

The world No.1 responded strongly in the second set, raising her intensity and eventually forcing a decider by winning it 7-5. However, Rybakina regained control in the third, breaking early and making the most of longer rallies as Sabalenka committed errors under pressure. Rybakina eventually closed out the third set to claim her first US Open title. Sabalenka had nevertheless enjoyed a strong US Open campaign, reaching the final without dropping a set before the championship match. Her run also extended her remarkable record at Flushing Meadows, where she had won 20 consecutive matches before the final. The defeat also extended a significant title drought.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi to play 3rd T20I vs AFG? Shreyas Iyer reveals India's plan

New Delhi. (Agency)

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi could be in line for a return to India's playing XI when they face Afghanistan in the third T20I on Thursday. With India already sealing the series, captain Shreyas Iyer has hinted that the team could use the final game to rotate the squad and give the bench players valuable match time. India took an unassailable 2-0 lead with a seven-wicket win in the second T20I in Delhi, chasing down Afghanistan's 159/8 in just 14.5 overs. Speaking after the match, Iyer stressed the importance of getting the players who have been waiting on the sidelines accustomed to the conditions. "Definitely, we want all of them to get used to the wicket and get some practice, so it will be a good opportunity to give a chance to the guys sitting out," Iyer said. That comment could pave the way for Sooryavanshi, who has

been left out of the XI since Sanju Samson returned to the side. The 15-year-old enjoyed a breakthrough tour of Zimbabwe, where he made his



international debut and was named Player of the Series, but has had to wait for another opportunity since Samson's return.

SOORYAVANSHI COULD RETURN Sooryavanshi and Samson are yet to feature together in an India XI. The teenager played all three matches in

Zimbabwe only after Samson was omitted, while Samson has occupied the opening slot since returning to the team. However, Samson's performance in the second T20I has complicated the equation. The wicketkeeper-batter responded to a disappointing first outing with a blistering 57 from 22 balls, smashing seven fours and four sixes as India raced to 82/0 in the Powerplay. His assault helped set up a comfortable chase and reminded the management of his ability to dominate in Indian conditions. Abhishek Sharma also struck a rapid 39 from 19 balls as the opening pair put India firmly in control before Rashid Khan broke the stand. Samson's knock was eventually ended by Rashid, but Ishan Kishan's unbeaten 38 took India across the line with 31 balls to spare. With the series already decided, India could still explore a combination featuring both Samson and Sooryavanshi.

Where Rs 702.86 crore went: Inside India's Asian Games build-up



New York. (Agency)

India's preparation for the Asian Games has become a sizeable government investment, but the more interesting story is not the Rs 702.86 crore headline. It is what that money says about how the country is trying to build a competitive sporting system. The Sports Ministry says Rs 702.86 crore has been spent on its Annual Calendar for Training and Competition, or ACTC, during the preparation period. The spending has covered everything from sending athletes to international competitions and running domestic training camps to buying equipment and hiring foreign experts. A further Rs 97.84 crore has been spent through the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, or TOPS, taking the reported spending under the two programmes to about Rs 800.7 crore. Laboratories (KRL) from September 24. The largest investment has been in getting athletes to compete internationally. Rs 251.4 crore, roughly 36 per cent of the ACTC expenditure, has gone towards international competition exposure. That tells a story in itself. Rather than treating the Asian Games as a competition that athletes prepare for in isolation, the government has spent heavily on putting them on the international circuit before they arrive in Japan.

BUYING EXPERIENCE

For an athlete, international exposure is more than a line on a travel bill. It means competing against stronger opponents, learning to deal with unfamiliar conditions and understanding what is required to perform when the margin between winning and losing is tiny. That is why the size of the allocation matters. India has spent more than twice as much on international competition exposure as it has on domestic training, which received Rs 118.3 crore.

James Rodriguez calls time on Colombia career after 15 years

Colombia icon James Rodriguez has called time on his international career after 15 years in the national team. From his unforgettable 2014 World Cup Golden Boot to his captaincy, the No. 10 leaves behind a defining legacy.

New Delhi. (Agency)

James Rodriguez has announced his retirement from international football after 15 years with Colombia, closing the chapter on a career that saw him become one of the country's most celebrated players. The former Real Madrid and Bayern Munich star leaves the national team as a World Cup Golden Boot winner and an enduring No. 10. Rodriguez made his final appearance for

Colombia at the 2026 FIFA World Cup, coming on in their round-of-16 defeat to Switzerland on penalties. Speaking in an emotional video shared on social media, the 35-year-old said the time had come to bring his international journey to an end. "Today, I want to talk to you from the heart. After many years, many games and joys, and difficult moments, it's time to close one of the most important chapters in my life: my journey with the Colombian national team," Rodriguez said. "Wearing this shirt was a dream, but also a huge responsibility. Every time I entered a court, I understood that I didn't play just for me. I played for my family, teammates, thousands of Colombians who dreamed of all of us." Rodriguez made his international debut against Bolivia in October 2011 and quickly established himself as a key figure. Across 131 appearances, he scored 31 goals and provided 43 assists, while also wearing the captain's armband and helping Colombia reach the 2024 Copa America final. 2014

WORLD CUP MADE HIM A STAR Rodriguez's career-defining tournament came in Brazil in 2014, when he scored six goals in five matches to claim the Golden Boot. His stunning volley against Uruguay in the round of 16 became one of the



defining goals of the tournament and helped earn him a move to Real Madrid.

He went on to play for Bayern Munich and several other clubs across Europe, the Middle East and the United States. Despite his changing club fortunes, Rodriguez remained an important presence for Colombia and featured at the 2018 and 2026

World Cups, with the team missing the 2022 edition. His final international campaign ended in disappointment as Colombia were knocked out by Switzerland on penalties. However, Rodriguez leaves with a record that places him among his country's most experienced players.

RODRIGUEZ LEAVES WITH NO REGRETS

Rodriguez said he was proud of everything he had achieved in Colombia colours and insisted he was leaving with a sense of fulfilment. "I'm leaving calmly because I gave everything. Thank you for every moment, thank you Colombia," he said. He will now continue his club career with Atletico Nacional after recently returning to Colombian football. The move marks a return home for Rodriguez, who last played club football in the country with Envigado in 2008. From his breakthrough in 2011 to his unforgettable World Cup in Brazil and his run to the 2024 Copa America final.

Divya Dutta

Feared She Would Get Stereotyped After Veer Zaara: 'I Did Have My Doubts'

Actress Divya Dutta, who is awaiting the release of his upcoming film 'Last Man in Tower', has shared that she did feel that she would get stereotyped after her role in the iconic 'Veer-Zaara'.

The actress spoke with IANS along with her co-actor in the film Manoj Bajpayee, and director Ben Rekhi during the promotions of the film in the Andheri West area of Mumbai.

Recollecting her stint in 'Veer-Zaara', she said, "It's every actor's dream to be in a Yash Chopra film. I've grown up on his movies. I've daydreamt that I will be in his movies. I think the universe conspires when you really want something and manifest it. When I did this, the way it came out, I wanted to be wearing the chiffon saris, but here I was playing Shabbo. I did have my doubts about doing a role like that". The film told the story of 2 star-crossed



lovers, from arch-nemesis neighbours, India and Pakistan. She told IANS, "I thought maybe I would become everybody's best friend after this film because it's a Yash Chopra film and you had these tags coming in. And then Adi came up to me, and said, 'There's a reason we asked you to do it'. And there was something that I felt, 'Hey, this is what you were wanting. Go ahead, enjoy it'. I did each moment right from learning the dialect to how she goes and with her body language, with everything, meeting all the co-actors".

"That was my first commercial success and the love that I got for the film to date is amazing. There was one person I didn't meet on the set who happens to be a very hot favourite", she added.

Disha Patani

Faces Backlash Over Deep-Cut Blouse At Ganpati Puja: 'Kriti Sanon Ko Troll Karne Walo Dekh Lo'

Disha Patani was trolled on social media after she arrived at the Ambani family's Ganpati celebrations on Ganesh Chaturthi 2026 in a red lehenga and deep-cut blouse. While the actor looked stunning in the traditional outfit, some social media users felt her choice of clothes was not appropriate for a religious celebration. Videos of her arrival have gone viral, with several users commenting on her outfit.

Disha wore a red ghagra with intricate embroidery, a matching blouse featuring a plunging neckline and a red dupatta draped over one shoulder. She completed her look with statement earrings, bangles and loose, flowing hair. The actor was seen posing for the cameras as she arrived for the celebrations.

However, her outfit quickly became the subject of online trolling. One user commented, "Kriti sanon ko troll krne walo zra yha bhi dekhlo", referring to the recent criticism faced by Kriti Sanon over her Raksha Bandhan advertisement. Another user wrote, "Everyone is in decent dress-up but she can never wear a fully covered dress." A third comment read, "Koi bhi festival ho ye ek type ka hi blouse pehnti hai (sic)".

Several others also questioned whether the outfit was suitable for the occasion. One user wrote, "At least she could have worn something nicer

today", while another commented, "Can this women for once wear decent clothes?" A user also wrote, "Isko koi dhang ke kapde dila do please!!!" Another comment said, "Ganpati celebration ke liye ayi h ya song perform krne".

Disha Patani, Kriti Sanon and the Raksha Bandhan ad controversy



Disha Patani's Ganpati celebrations trolling comes amid a similar controversy involving Kriti Sanon's Raksha Bandhan ad. In August 2026, Kriti faced criticism over an advertisement for jewellery brand GIVA, in which she wore an ivory bralette-style blouse with a cape and draped skirt. The campaign showed her celebrating Raksha Bandhan and tying a rakhi to a dog, with some social media users questioning whether the outfit and the portrayal were appropriate for the festival.

Disha Salian Death Case: What Happened On June 8, 2020 And Why Is CBI Investigating It Now?



Six years after Disha Salian passed away, her death case has returned to the spotlight. It has taken a fresh turn after the Bombay High Court recently ordered a CBI investigation, citing several discrepancies in the earlier probe. The Central Bureau of Investigation has now registered an FIR and begun its investigation into the circumstances surrounding Disha's death.

As the investigation continues, let's take a look at what happened in June 2020, what the earlier investigation found and why the CBI is investigating the Disha Salian death case now:

What Happened To Disha Salian On June 8, 2020?

Disha Salian was a celebrity manager who worked with personalities from the entertainment industry. She was also associated professionally with Sushant Singh Rajput before her death. Disha died in Mumbai in June 2020 after allegedly falling from a high-rise building in the Malad area. According to the earlier police investigation, there was no evidence of murder or other foul play.

However, the case took a shocking turn after Disha's father made some big claims. He sought a fresh investigation and alleged that his daughter had been sexually assaulted and murdered.

Why Did Bombay High Court Order A CBI Probe?

The Bombay High Court's recent September 2 order became the biggest turning point in the case. The court observed that the police investigation had "more questions than answers" and pointed to what it described as several glaring discrepancies. It also noted that the investigation under Section 174 of the CrPC had continued in two phases for almost six years, and said such a proceeding was not meant to continue for an "inordinately long period". Among the issues was the spot panchanama, which was conducted more than nine hours after the incident. The court noted that the delay in conducting the spot panchanama remained unexplained and raised "reasonable suspicion".

Picture Abhi Baaki Hai: How Hindi Cinema Taught India To Find Joy And Meaning



Kitne aadmi the?": And because this was not really a question but a warning, it stayed with the audience and continues to be repeated in comedy shows even now. In fact, Sholay's dialogues grew so popular after the film's release that Polydor (British record label) released them in the form of a long-playing record.

Around 1985, ten years after the film's release, audio cassettes of the dialogues were released and did massive business. I remember bus drivers playing them during long-distance journeys.

Be it a misty-eyed Rajesh Khanna saying, "Pushpa, I hate tears" to Sharmila Tagore in 'Amar Prem' or dispensing a life lesson, "Babu moshai, zindagi badi honi chahiye, lambi nahi" in 'Anand' or Mr Bachchan stating matter-of-factly, "Don ko pakadna mushkil hi nahi, namumkin hai," delicious one-liners have given Hindi cinema most of its resonance.

For me the ultimate one liner from the movies is, "Mere paas Ma Hai!" Because it sums up what matters most in life. Grounded values. And the love of family.

In fact, one of my favourite films 'Trishul' has a line that resonated with me during the days I was trying to make my mark in Mumbai. Where Vijay, the protagonist snaps and says that he came to a big city with nothing but his mother's blessings.

This is how well-written cinema becomes a part of our lives even without us knowing it. How many of us have said, "Mogambo Khush Hua!" during a moment of levity? Or repeated the 'Thoda khao..thoda phenko' line with laughter from 'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro around a cake? Or said, "Picture Abhi Baaki Hai" to ourselves after a setback? So many dialogues have become a part of our everyday conversations and for good reason. Cinema is not just entertainment. It is also an experience that mirrors life and no surprise then, life begins to mirror it in parts as well.

NEWS BOX

FBI thwarted Russian plot to kill a prominent dissident in Washington, authorities say

NEW YORK.(Agency)

The intelligence services of the Russian Federation are plotting to carry out targeted killings in the U.S. and in European nations supporting Ukraine, federal authorities said Tuesday in announcing they'd thwarted a plot to kill a prominent Russian dissident believed to be living in Washington, D.C.

Five people assumed to be living abroad were charged in the plot, according to an indictment unsealed in Manhattan federal court. It said a network of the Russian intelligence services has paid and tried to pay individuals in the United States and in other countries since 2024 to surveil and then kill Russian dissidents. The associates recruited by the network also have been solicited to carry out acts of terrorism against civilian and military infrastructure in European countries that are perceived to be aligned with Ukraine, the indictment said. James C. Barnacle Jr., head of New York's FBI office, said the agency disrupted the plans "through relentless work" as members of the intelligence services and their affiliates "conspired to intimidate, threaten, or murder people on U.S. soil and around the world." Darren B. Cox, head of the Washington, D.C., office of the FBI, in a release cited "extraordinary work by multiple FBI field offices, components, and partner agencies" and said they "moved quickly to disrupt the plot." According to the release, a network of people working for the Russian Federation's intelligence services had since at least 2024 conspired to conduct and had conducted attacks and murders around the world, including within the United States.

US House moves bill proposing 100 per cent tariffs on India, others over Russian crude oil imports

world.(Agency)

The US House of Representatives voted to advance a bill that would authorise President Donald Trump to impose 100 per cent tariffs on India and other countries for buying oil and gas from Russia and extend existing sanctions on Iran.

The Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 cleared a procedural hurdle in the House of Representatives on Tuesday evening after two Democratic lawmakers broke ranks with the party and voted in favour with the Republicans.

The resolution to advance the Russia sanctions bill and a slew of other legislations was approved by a 214-211 vote, shocking the House Democratic leadership. The bill is expected to come up for a final vote in the House on Wednesday.

Democratic Congressman Gregory Meeks, the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, on Monday opposed the Russia sanctions bill contending that it would grant President Trump unchecked authority to impose tariffs without any guardrails. Last month, the US Senate passed the bill with an overwhelming 86-11 majority. The bill seeks to impose sanctions not only on Russia's leadership and energy sector, but also on the "shadow fleet" of vessels that enable Moscow to evade sanctions on oil deliveries. The vote on the bill is taking place at a time when pro-Ukraine groups have stepped up efforts to lobby support for their cause. The Ukraine Action Summit, organised by the American Coalition for Ukraine, is underway here to lobby with US lawmakers for continued support of Kyiv. The US believes that Russia's crude oil trade is funding the war against Ukraine.

The Bill also seeks to authorise President Donald Trump to impose 100 per cent tariffs on Russia's top oil trading partners including China and India. The bill passed by the US Senate on August 7 does not name Russia's trading partners, but mentions five largest importers of oil and gas by volume. The bill has to be passed by the House of Representatives before it is sent to the President for signature.

US acknowledges for the first time that it has deployed weapons in space

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

The United States has confirmed for the first time that it has deployed weapons in space, a remarkable revelation after previous warnings about countries such as Russia possibly weaponizing a global frontier long agreed in treaties to be used for only peaceful purposes. Air Force Secretary Troy Meink said Monday that the U.S. has fielded "on-orbit space control weapons capable of defending the Joint Force against hostile adversary action." Meink did not detail what the weapons were, how they work or if they were targeting other objects in space or on Earth. The U.S. had warned two years ago that Russia was developing a new space-based, anti-satellite weapon, though the White House said the danger wasn't imminent at the time. But reports of the anti-satellite weapon reflected longstanding worries about space threats

from Russia and China, given that much U.S. infrastructure is dependent on satellite communications. The U.S. has also previously demonstrated its own abilities to shoot down satellites from Earth. In his remarks to the Air and Space Forces Association's Air, Space & Cyber Conference, Meink also said the Air Force was adding more autonomous systems to its capabilities and predicted the service would look "radically different" by 2032. For example, he foresaw one-way attack drones replacing artillery as the "primary killer." "We are increasing readiness against existing threats," he said.

The revelation comes as the Trump administration puts a growing focus on space. In 2019, during his first term, Trump created the Space Force as a separate military branch. In his second term, he has announced the "Golden Dome" missile defense system, which includes plans to put U.S. weapons in



space. Trump said last year that he expected the system would be "fully operational before the end of my term," which ends in January 2029, and have the capability of intercepting missiles "even if they are launched from space." Trump also has directed the Pentagon to pursue the space-based interceptors, in an executive order during the first week of his presidency. The Congressional Budget

Office estimated that just the space-based components of the Golden Dome could cost as much as \$542 billion over the next 20 years. The Biden administration announced in 2024 that Russia was developing a space-based nuclear weapon that could loiter in space for long durations, then release a burst that would take out satellites around it. That kicked off a renewed debate on the idea of weapons in space at the United

Nations. In April 2024, Russia vetoed a joint U.S.-Japanese resolution that would have called on all countries not to develop or deploy nuclear arms or other weapons of mass destruction in space, as banned under a 1967 international treaty that included the U.S. and Russia. The treaty also declared that outer space was a global commons that could be used for only peaceful purposes.

NBC news helicopter crashes and kills at least three in LA neighbourhood

LOS ANGELES.(Agency)

A local NBC news helicopter crashed in a Los Angeles neighborhood on Tuesday and burst into flames, killing at least three people while reporters were covering the nearby crash of an SUV and a city bus, officials said. Colleen Williams, an NBC4 Los Angeles anchor, confirmed during a live broadcast that the station's chopper went down just before 7 p.m. "We are going to take a couple of minutes to think about that, process it," she said, her voice shaking with emotion. Moments later their coverage abruptly cut off. The helicopter crashed near a storage building in the neighborhood of Chatsworth in the San Fernando Valley, as news crews

were covering the bus crash that left at least two people dead and six others injured, according to the Los Angeles Fire Department. At least one person killed in the helicopter



crash was outside in the parking lot next to the commercial building, Capt. Branden Silverman, a spokesperson for the Los Angeles Fire Department, said during a news

conference. It was unclear if the other two who were killed were on the ground or inside the aircraft. One person was taken to the hospital, but their condition was not

known. "We're trying to determine how many patients were inside the helicopter," said Silverman, who described the helicopter as "pretty well destroyed" and adding that officials would be sorting through the rubble to see how many victims were on board. At least four cars and two storage containers on the ground burned after the helicopter caught fire, which was quickly put out, according to officials. More than 50 firefighters responded to the helicopter crash, according to the fire department.

Saudi says Houthis target Mecca, warn of 'red line'

RIYADH.(Agency)

The Saudi-led coalition battling Yemen's Houthis accused the rebels on Wednesday of targeting Islam's holy city Mecca, sparking outrage across the Muslim world and deepening the conflict roiling the region. Fresh fighting between the Iran-backed Houthis and Saudi-backed Yemeni government has dragged in Riyadh, with the Houthis declaring a maritime blockade on the kingdom and targeting its ships in the Red Sea. Last week's lightning offensive saw the group seize control of the entirety of Yemen's Red Sea coast and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, a vital artery for Saudi oil exports as the wider Middle East war chokes off the Strait of Hormuz strategic shipping route. The Houthis swiftly rejected as a "lie" Riyadh's report that it shot down a drone from the rebels heading towards the Saudi city of Mecca, which attracts millions of pilgrims each year. "The claims

about targeting Mecca are a worn-out lie that has been used before and no longer fools anyone," Hazem al-Assad from the Houthis' politburo wrote on X. The Saudi coalition vowed retaliation, warning that the security of holy sites was a "red



line." "The security of the Two Holy Mosques and the pilgrims is a red line, and the Joint Forces Command of the Coalition will not hesitate to take the necessary and deterrent measures against the Terrorist Houthi Militia," the coalition said in a statement shared by spokesman Turki al-Maliki on X. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation -- a bloc of 57 Muslim countries -- condemned the

"heinous" attack. Saudi Arabia had issued brief alerts on Tuesday over possible attacks in Mecca and across swathes of the kingdom's south, which borders Yemen. The alerts, including the first one issued in Mecca since the Middle East war erupted in February, came a day after a wave of ballistic missile and drone attacks launched from Yemen wounded 13 people in the kingdom's south. Fighting flared in July when the Houthis, who have for years controlled swathes of northern Yemen, launched a large-scale offensive against Yemeni government forces.

The conflict in the Arabian Peninsula's poorest country has forced 82,000 people to flee their homes since the start of September, according to the United Nations. Yemen's permanent representative at the UN, Abdullah al-Saadi, said Yemenis were fighting to restore "national institutions across every inch of their land."

Kosovo's former president faces war crimes verdict

world.(Agency)

The long-awaited verdict in the war crimes trial of former Kosovo President Hashim Thaci and three senior ex-guerrilla leaders will be handed down in The Hague on Wednesday.

After a three-year trial, judges will decide whether the men, all former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) figures, bear criminal responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed by KLA members during the 1998-1999 independence war with Serbia. Prosecutors have requested 45-year prison sentences for each. Thaci and the other former high-ranking guerrillas, Jakup Krasniqi, Rexhep Selimi and Kadri Veseli, have all pleaded not guilty. "I expect to be acquitted of every charge," Thaci, the former KLA political leader, told a Kosovo outlet in late August. For many inside Kosovo, Thaci and the KLA are symbols of its independence movement.

After the war, Thaci remained a central political figure and was instrumental in its 2008 declaration of independence. Throughout the trial, images of the 58-year-old, who also served as prime minister, have regularly appeared on huge billboards around the country. "Our war was just, a war of liberation," Prime Minister Albin Kurti said ahead of the verdict. "We believe and hope," he added, "that the KLA leaders will return free to their country and to their families." On Saturday, tens of thousands gathered in the capital, Pristina, to call for their acquittal in the latest of several rallies since the trial began. "They should definitely be released because they fought for the freedom of Kosovo and did not commit any crimes. They are liberators," Shyhrete Kelmendi, a high school economics teacher, told AFP. Despite the seriousness of the charges, which include killings, torture, and other abuses allegedly committed by guerrillas, supporters of Thaci expect him and his co-accused to be released, with preparations for a possible return already underway. Countdown clocks have been set up in city squares, ticking down to the verdict due to be delivered at 0800 GMT in The Hague, while thousands are expected to gather to watch proceedings on a livestream. Kosovo police are preparing to secure large gatherings, while the US embassy in Pristina has advised its personnel "to avoid all unnecessary travel." The Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC), although based in the Netherlands and staffed by international judges, was established under Kosovo law specifically to prosecute alleged crimes committed by KLA members during the war. It is in the vicinity of the demonstrations.

French ex-minister Dati goes on trial in Renault-Nissan corruption case

PARIS.(Agency)

France's ex-culture minister Rachida Dati is to go on trial Wednesday on corruption charges linked to dealings with the Renault-Nissan group, just months after her bruising defeat in the Paris mayoral race. One of the most prominent figures on the French right, Dati, 60, will stand trial with the fugitive Carlos Ghosn, the disgraced former Renault-Nissan chief, who will be tried in absentia. Dati has been dogged by controversies for much of her political career. She resigned as culture minister in February to concentrate on the Paris mayoral race, but lost to Socialist rival Emmanuel Gregoire in March. In 2019, she was placed under investigation on suspicion of lobbying for Renault-Nissan between October 2009 and February 2013 when she was a member of the European parliament. She became an MEP after serving as justice minister between 2007 and 2009 under President Nicolas Sarkozy. In 2021, she was charged with corruption and influence peddling over her

dealings with Ghosn. She is accused of accepting 900,000 euros (around \$1 million) in lawyer's fees from a Netherlands-based subsidiary of Renault-Nissan. Dati, who is still mayor of the French capital's wealthy 7th district, denies the allegations. She faces up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to 450,000 euros, if convicted. She could also face a five-year ban on holding public office. Her legal team said Dati worked "exclusively" as a lawyer for the Netherlands-based subsidiary. "Unfounded allegations of influence peddling in the European Parliament stem from an artificial intellectual construct devised by the prosecution," her lawyers said. French prosecutors argue that a legal services contract signed in 2009 between Dati and Ghosn, under which the former minister was paid an annual fee of 300,000 euros, was used to disguise lobbying work. Investigators obtained the contract in 2019 during a search of Renault's headquarters following Ghosn's arrest in Japan, in a separate case.

EU chief hosts Canada's Carney in push to 'deepen' alliance

STRASBOURG.(Agency)

From investments in AI to energy supplies, a drive to strengthen EU-Canada ties shifts into gear Wednesday, as the bloc's chief lays out the coming year's priorities before European lawmakers -- and Canadian leader Mark Carney. European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen will call for boosting relations with Ottawa in a wide-ranging speech before the European Parliament in Strasbourg that Carney is attending as guest of honour -- before addressing the assembly himself the next day. The Canadian prime minister has been pursuing a "unique alliance" with the 27-nation bloc as both seek to reduce dependence on a hostile United States.

The first foreign head of government to attend the annual "State of the European Union" address, his visit is meant to act as a catalyst ahead of an EU-Canada summit in Montreal next month. "The world has been a bit tumultuous in the past little while," Canada's ambassador to the EU Jonathan Wilkinson told AFP. "It's an important time for us to reach across and to try to figure out

how we can mutually help each other." Buffeted by US tariffs and competition from China, Brussels and Ottawa are seeking to build on an already considerable level of cooperation.

The European Commission declined to



comment on the detail of discussions but a spokesman said the level of ambition was high and that von der Leyen would have something "positive and meaningful" to say on Wednesday. A free-trade agreement (CETA) that abolished almost all tariffs has been credited with boosting trade in goods and services by more than 80 percent since 2016. And this year Canada became the first

non-EU country to join the bloc's defence procurement programme. Yet there is room for improvement, observers say. Wilkinson said the two parties were looking at areas "where we have complementary capabilities and needs" and that are "strategically important" to "ensure our sovereignty", such as energy, artificial intelligence and critical minerals. Ottawa was hoping to get over the line a deal allowing the European Investment Bank (EIB) to put money behind Canadian critical minerals projects -- something that could help reduce dependency on China for raw materials essential for electronic goods such as batteries, he said. He cited a recent deal to ship Canadian liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Germany and Canadian AI firm Cohere's investments in the same European country as examples of deals that could inspire broader collaboration. "It's about actually accelerating that work," Wilkinson said in a phone interview. There are also some low-hanging fruit. Ten EU nations including France, Italy and Poland, are yet to ratify CETA in part due to opposition from local farmers.