

Gyanesh Kumar shouldn't resign under Opposition pressure: NDA ally Athawale

Mumbai (Agency)

Union Minister Ramdas Athawale on Sunday said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar should not resign under Opposition pressure over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, and argued that opposing transparent electoral rolls amounts to opposing the democratic system itself.

Athawale said the Election Commission was working impartially and should be allowed to carry out the exercise to ensure transparent elections. He also claimed there were no differences among the election commissioners.

"The Election Commission is a constitutionally independent body. Demanding the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner and opposing transparent electoral rolls is an opposition to the democratic system itself," said the RPI (A) chief, whose party is a constituent of the BJP-led NDA. He said Kumar should not resign under the Opposition's pressure.

Punjab Women Panel Seeks Reports In Rape, Student Death Cases In Universities



Punjab . (Agency)

The Punjab State Women Commission has taken suo motu notice of two separate incidents involving women students at Lovely Professional University (LPU) and Chitkara University. The cases include allegations of rape at LPU and the reported suicide of a student at Chitkara University.

Punjab State Women Commission Chairperson Raj Lalli Gill said the Commission has sought detailed reports from the concerned district administrations, including the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs). According to the notice, the Commission has taken suo motu cognisance of the incidents reported at both universities and has asked the district administrations to submit detailed reports.

In the LPU case, allegations of rape have triggered protests by students against the university management. The protesting students have questioned why, according to them, no immediate action was taken by the management after it allegedly became aware of the incident.

The Commission is expected to examine the circumstances surrounding the allegations, the response of the university authorities, and the action taken by the police and district administration. In the Chitkara University case, involving a girl student who was reportedly missing and later found dead in an apparent suicide, the Commission will examine the circumstances surrounding the incident. It is also expected to seek details about the concerns and issues reportedly faced by students and whether these were brought to the notice of the university management and addressed appropriately.

When will you address inflation? Congress slams PM over festive-season price hikes



New Delhi (Agency)

Congress on Monday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over rising prices and looming appliance hikes. The attack sharpens the inflation debate as households brace for higher festive-

On what legal basis, who earns? SC asks government to explain UPI MDR charge

The court asked the authorities to explain the legal basis for charging MDR on UPI transactions. It also sought clarity on the role of the RBI and NPCI under the new framework.

New Delhi (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Monday sought clarity from the Centre, RBI and NPCI on the legal basis for imposing a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on certain UPI transactions. The court also asked who would earn from the charges and how the money would be distributed.

The matter came up during a plea challenging the Centre's decision to impose MDR on specified UPI person-to-merchant transactions above Rs 2,000. The petitioner sought a stay on the implementation of the charges, but the Supreme Court declined to grant an immediate stay.

SC ASKS GOVERNMENT TO EXPLAIN LEGAL BASIS

Karjan. Pachiyapura Road Sparks Public Anger, Villagers Stage Unique Protest

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Karjan: Strong public anger has erupted in Pachiyapura village of Karjan taluka over the extremely poor condition of the Nareshwar–Palej Road. Frustrated by what they describe as prolonged administrative inaction, local villagers staged an unusual protest by observing a symbolic “road death anniversary” to highlight the condition of the damaged road and demand immediate repairs. The protest was aimed at drawing attention to the deteriorating road infrastructure and what villagers describe as repeated failure by the administration to address their complaints. Residents expressed anger over the continued neglect of the road and questioned why repeated representations have allegedly failed to produce any visible improvement. 15 Days After ‘Besanu’, No Improvement in Road Condition According to local residents, around 15 days ago they had organised a symbolic “Besanu”, or mourning gathering, to protest against the poor condition of the road and alleged administrative negligence. Despite that protest, villagers claim that there has been no significant improvement and that the road remains in the same damaged condition. With their earlier protest allegedly failing to attract effective administrative action, residents once again took to the road and organised

the symbolic “road death anniversary” protest. The unusual form of protest was intended to send a message to the administration that the condition of the road has become a serious issue for people living in the area and those travelling through the route. Villagers Raise Allegations of Illegal Sand Mining During the protest, local residents also raised serious allegations concerning illegal sand mining activities in and around the Narmada riverbed. Villagers levelled allegations against Karjan MLA Akshay Patel, claiming that illegal sand mining is allegedly continuing under political protection, directly or indirectly. They alleged that large-scale sand extraction is taking place from the Narmada riverbed and that significant royalty revenue is allegedly being lost. These allegations are claims made by local residents and have not been independently established. A response from the concerned political representative and the relevant government departments would be important to verify the allegations. Questions Raised Over Mining and Mineral Department Residents also questioned the functioning of the Mining and Mineral Department, alleging that despite repeated complaints regarding illegal sand mining, effective action has not been taken. According to the villagers, written complaints have been submitted to the authorities on several occasions,

but they claim that no substantial preventive or legal action has followed. Residents further alleged that corruption and illegal payments are allowing such activities to continue. They also levelled serious allegations against the Karjan taluka police, claiming that officials are allegedly aware of the activities but have failed to take effective action. These allegations against government officials and police personnel are serious and require verification through official records, investigation and responses from the concerned authorities. Complaints Allegedly Made to the Chief Minister Villagers said that the issue had also been brought to the attention of the state government through a written complaint to the Chief Minister. Despite this, residents claim that no meaningful legal or preventive action has been taken so far. According to the protesters, the continued presence of alleged illegal mining activities has created a perception among residents that those involved are operating without sufficient fear of enforcement. Road Condition and Mining Issue Become Linked Public Concerns For residents of Pachiyapura and nearby villages, the damaged Nareshwar–Palej Road and alleged illegal mining have now become two major issues of public concern. The condition of the road has affected daily movement, while vil-



lagers say heavy vehicles associated with mining activities could further contribute to deterioration of roads. The protesters are demanding that the authorities investigate both the condition of the road and allegations regarding illegal sand extraction. They are also seeking accountability from the departments responsible for road maintenance, mining regulation and law enforcement. Villagers Warn of Protest in Gandhinagar Residents have now indicated that they are prepared to escalate the matter if immediate action is not taken. The protesters have warned that if the Nareshwar–Palej Road is not repaired soon and effective action is not taken against those allegedly involved in illegal sand mining, they may launch a larger protest in Gandhinagar in the coming days. The “road death anniversary” protest has once again brought the condition of the Pachiyapura road into focus. The administration’s response, the findings of any inspection and the action taken on the mining-related allegations will now be closely watched by local residents.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar presses for Rahul Gandhi's apology over SIR dissent row

Kerala BJP chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar renewed his demand that Rahul Gandhi apologise to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Election Commission over his remarks on the dissent between election commissioners over the SIR exercise.

Thiruvananthapuram (Agency).

Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Monday reiterated what he called an “offer” to Chief Minister VD Satheesan, saying Rahul Gandhi should apologise to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Election Commission or “be prepared to be called out as frauds”. In posts on Facebook and X, Chandrasekhar repeated the position he had taken a day earlier after Satheesan criticised his remarks against the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

The exchange also followed Satheesan's criticism of Chandrasekhar's response to reported differences of opinion within the Election Commission (EC) over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of

electoral rolls. On X, Chandrasekhar wrote, “Here's my offer to CM @vdsatheesan. If you don't take up my offer but persist in using lies, unkept promises, corruption, and



app easement as your political strategy, be prepared to be called out as frauds. Every time.” Chandrasekhar, the MLA from Nemom, had first made the “offer” after

Satheesan condemned some of his remarks against Rahul Gandhi and said personal and abusive comments against the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha did not amount to political criticism. Responding to Satheesan, Chandrasekhar said he seldom made personal attacks on political opponents but was “compelled” to do so in Rahul Gandhi's case. He also criticised Rahul Gandhi over his remarks against the Prime Minister and the Election Commission, saying those remarks should be condemned.

He had said, “If you get Rahul to apologise for calling our PM Narendra Modi a ‘deshdrohi’ and have him apologise to the Election Commission for lying, then I promise to stop referring to Rahul Gandhi as a fraud.”

Milk more important: BJP flags dairy crisis as Vijay promises gold for babies

Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay launched a gold ring scheme for newborns in Madurai. The rollout drew BJP criticism, with Tamilisai Soundararajan saying children need quality milk more urgently than gold.

Madurai (Agency).

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday launched a gold ring scheme for newborns in Madurai, but the initiative has already drawn criticism from the BJP over the reported shortage of milk in the state.

BJP leader Tamilisai Soundararajan hit out at the state government over the scheme, saying that children need milk more than gold. An electoral promise, Vijay unveiled the “Thaimaaman Thanga Modhiram” scheme at the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai.

The welfare initiative is aimed at honouring motherhood, promoting women's health and encouraging institutional births by attracting more families to public healthcare. The scheme will provide 22-carat gold rings to eligible newborns. The state government has earmarked an annual outlay of Rs 755.83 crore for the programme and has already procured 1.28 lakh gold rings for its initial rollout. It will cover eligible babies born in state-run hospitals to native mothers on or after June 22, 2026. Vijay is scheduled to present the gold rings to beneficiaries at the Rajaji Government Hospital during the statewide launch of the scheme.



BJP FLAGS MILK CRISIS
In her attack, BJP's Tamilisai Soundararajan also questioned when the reported shortage of quality milk would be addressed. “Children need milk... We are going to give gold jewellery; when are we going to fix the shortage of quality milk?” she said, adding that the need for quality milk was greater than gold for children.

After recent crashes, Gurgaon cops warn bikers against traffic violations

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Police on Sunday held a road-safety meeting with around 60 bikers and warned that those found violating traffic rules would face legal action. The interaction focused on speeding, lane discipline and other risky riding practices. The meeting was held at cafes near Gwal Pahari police post. Police said a large number of motorcycle riders, particularly members of biking groups, visit the city on weekends for morning rides. Officials used the interaction to sensitise them about following speed limits, maintaining lane discipline and avoiding sudden or dangerous manoeuvres. Officials also stressed the need to consider the safety of pedestrians and other motorists while riding. "During the interaction, police told the riders that completing a ride safely depended on responsible and alert riding rather than speed," an officer added. The meeting was attended by DCP (east and traffic) Sandeep Kumar, ACP (DLF) Vishnu Prasad and DLF Phase-I SHO Manoj Kumar. The participating riders came from Gurgaon, Delhi, Noida, Faridabad and other areas. Police urged members of biking groups to spread awareness about traffic rules among fellow riders and lead by example by following road-safety norms themselves. The meeting was part of the police's efforts to promote safer riding and address traffic violations and accidents involving two-wheelers. Officials said violations would invite legal action and advised riders to prioritise safety over speed. Police also emphasised that road safety involved not only following traffic rules but also taking responsibility for the safety of other road users. Biking groups were urged to encourage members to avoid excessive speeding and dangerous riding practices.

2 years on, power pole in middle of road in Gurgaon puts commuters' safety at risk

Gurgaon.(Agency)

IA high-tension electricity pole standing in the middle of the road dividing sectors 102 and 102A has become a safety hazard for motorists and narrowed the three-lane carriageway to two lanes at the spot. Residents said the pole has remained on the carriageway for over two years despite repeated complaints to GMDA, DHBVN and HVPNL. They alleged that accidents have occurred at the location and motorists often have to swerve or change lanes abruptly to avoid the obstruction. The problem becomes more hazardous during winter, when fog and poor visibility make the pole difficult to spot, residents added. With the foggy season approaching, residents have urged the authorities to complete the shifting work before visibility deteriorates. "The pole poses a serious safety hazard and puts commuters at risk of accidents. Despite repeated requests, no action has been taken so far. With winter approaching, the authorities should remove it without any further delay in the interest of public safety," said Alka Malhotra, a resident of Adani Oyster, Sector 102A. Residents said motorists unfamiliar with the stretch could be particularly vulnerable, as the pole is located within the carriageway and may be difficult to spot in low-visibility conditions. They said its presence also creates a bottleneck for traffic heading towards Dwarka Expressway. "Despite several road accidents reported at this location in the last two years, the pole has not yet been shifted. It seems like road safety is not the priority of authorities," said Parag Anand, a resident of Joyville, Sector 102.

Drains choked, water flows back to flood roads in Shalimar Garden

Noida.(Agency)

Residents of Shalimar Garden Extension-1 in Sahibabad, particularly around Himsagar Enclave, have complained of a long-standing drainage problem that causes waterlogging and backflow of dirty water onto roads even after light showers. Foul-smelling drain water spills onto the streets and remains stagnant for days, raising health concerns.

According to residents, water levels on the street reach up to 1-1.5 feet some days, severely threatening the foundations of residential buildings and causing widespread dampness. The accumulation of contaminated water also creates a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes, raising fears of infectious diseases. Shop owners in the area have also complained that the waterlogging affects the businesses, with water seeping into ground-floor shops, damaging goods and vehicles parked along the streets. Commuters also face inconvenience on this stretch.

"The ongoing waterlogging has made it especially difficult for vulnerable community members, including women, children, and the elderly, to navigate the area safely," said Pradeep Gupta, a resident of Shalimar Garden. Repeated complaints to municipal officials and local leaders have led to no solutions on the ground, with only temporary measures having been taken so far, which have been shown to be insufficient in the long run. In a letter addressed to the GMC, residents have called for a permanent drainage solution, including regular maintenance and efficient water management systems. "The community hopes for a swift response to alleviate the ongoing crisis and restore safety and quality of life in the area," said Gupta, who demanded sustainable solutions for the neighbourhood's well-being. During the inspection, she assessed the sanitation situation and directed officials to ensure regular waste collection and improve overall cleanliness.

The Loneliness Behind the Shine of the Stars: What Does Vinod Kambli's Story Teach Us?

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki, Bhachau, Kutch: In the world of cricket, there are occasionally players who, through their extraordinary talent, do more than just score runs—they earn a permanent place in the hearts of millions of fans. Vinod Kambli is one such talented name in Indian cricket. Having begun his crick- eting journey alongside his childhood friend and legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, Kam- bli established a distinctive identity for himself in international cricket. But how ruthless can the

passage of time be! Sometimes, a name that once echoed amid the roar of stadiums is one day heard in the silence and solitude of life—and that reality can deeply shake the human heart. According to the news clipping provided, it has been reported that Vinod Kambli is staying in an old-age home, and concerns have been expressed about his health. The report also mentions statistics from his international cricket career. Kambli scored 1,084 runs in 17 Test matches and 2,477 runs in 104 One-Day International matches. These figures from his



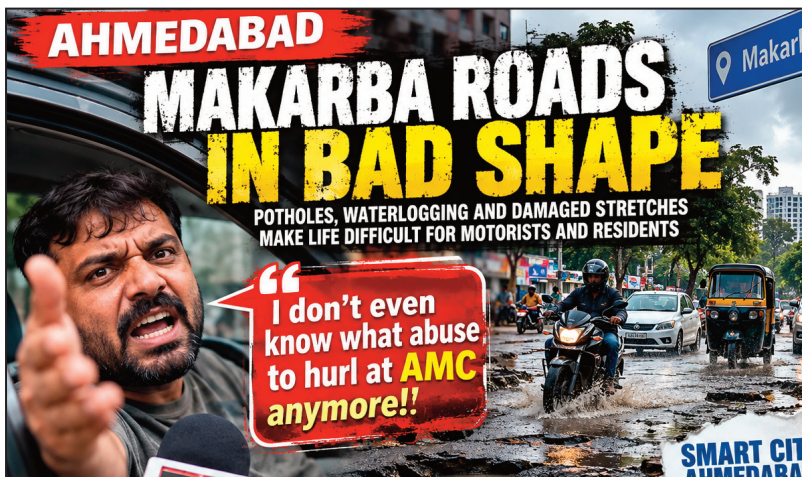
career reflect a time when his name was held in high regard in the cricketing world. But life is not merely a collection of statistics representing success. Life is

also about relationships, emotions, companionship and compassion. Vinod Kambli's story raises an important question before us—can a person's success remain with them until the final stage of life? Perhaps the answer is "No." Wealth, fame, applause and recognition may make certain phases of life beautiful, but in old age, what a person needs most is the presence of their own people. They need a hand that rests reassuringly on their shoulder during difficult times and says, "Do not worry, I am with you."

Potholes, Waterlogging and Damaged Roads: Makarba Motorists Demand Permanent Repairs as Questions Mount Over the Quality of Civic Road Maintenance

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad: Serious questions are being raised over the condition of roads in Makarba, where motorists and local residents are facing increasing difficulties due to potholes, damaged surfaces and waterlogging. The deteriorating condition of the roads has triggered visible anger among vehicle drivers, with one motorist expressing his frustration directly on camera. In an angry reaction, the motorist said, "I don't even know what abuse to hurl at AMC anymore!" The strong statement reflects the frustration being expressed by motorists over the condition of the roads. For people who regularly travel through Makarba, damaged stretches and potholes have become a daily problem. Drivers are being forced to slow down, change lanes repeatedly and remain extremely cautious while navigating the affected stretches. The problem becomes more serious during rainfall. Water accumulating on damaged roads can cover potholes and make their depth difficult to judge. A pothole that may appear relatively small from a distance can become a serious hazard when it is filled with water. This creates additional risks for two-wheeler riders, pedestrians and smaller vehicles. Local residents have also



raised concerns about the impact of poor road conditions on vehicles. Repeated movement through potholes and uneven surfaces can lead to complaints involving tyres, suspension systems and other vehicle components. For people travelling through the area every day, such problems can also translate into additional maintenance expenses. The condition of the roads has therefore become more than just an inconvenience for motorists. It has turned into a question of road safety, maintenance and civic accountability. The major problems being reported by motorists include large potholes, uneven road surfaces, difficulty in driving, complaints of damage to vehicle components, water-filled potholes during rainfall and in-

creased risk for two-wheeler riders and pedestrians. The situation has also raised questions about the ground reality behind Ahmedabad's Smart City image. Ahmedabad is frequently projected as a modern and rapidly developing city, but residents argue that development should also be reflected in basic civic infrastructure such as safe and properly maintained roads. The condition of Makarba's roads has consequently become a local talking point. Residents want to know whether road repairs are being carried out only as temporary measures or whether the civic administration is examining the underlying reasons for repeated damage. Questions have also been raised about roads that reportedly deteriorate again after

repair work. If a road is repaired but develops potholes again within a relatively short period, residents naturally want to know about the quality of the work, the material used, drainage arrangements and responsibility for maintenance. However, these concerns and allegations require verification through official records and the response of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. The civic body's explanation regarding the present condition of the roads, previous repair work, maintenance schedules and any proposed corrective measures will be important. For tax-paying citizens, the expectation is straightforward: roads should be safe, usable and properly maintained. Residents contribute to the city through various taxes and civic charges, and they expect essential infrastructure to function accordingly. Residents and motorists in Makarba are demanding an immediate inspection of the affected stretches. They want the potholes to be repaired properly and, wherever the condition of the road requires it, quality resurfacing to be undertaken rather than repeated temporary patchwork. They are also seeking a long-term solution so that the same stretches do not repeatedly return to their present condition after every repair cycle.

Ghaziabad plans elevated road, railway underpass in green mobility push before winter pollution

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) will utilise urban infrastructure development funds and the central govt's Urban Challenge Fund for two projects meant to form green mobility corridors, aimed at curbing dust and vehicular emissions ahead of the winter pollution season. The move follows a winter action plan drawn up by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB), which has identified nine pollution hotspots in the city, up from seven last year. These are Sahibabad, Raj Nagar Extension, Loni, Bhopra-Delhi Border, Siddharth Vihar/Kanawani Pushta Road, Vijay Nagar and South Side GT Road, Lal Kuan, Indirapuram, and Vasundhara/Vaishali. The UPPCB report, titled 'Plan to Tackle Air Pollution during the Ensuing Winter Season 2026-27', found that the city's average PM10 concentration rose from 137 micrograms per cubic metre in 2025 to 205 micrograms per cubic metre in 2026 between Jan and Aug. Average PM2.5 levels across the four monitoring stations rose from 67 to 82 micrograms per cubic metre over the same period. "Under urban infrastructure development, GDA has Rs



272 crore in its coffers from FY 2025-26, and by the end of the current fiscal year, the development authority is expected to raise this to Rs 322 crore. Two projects—the GT Road elevated road and a railway underpass between Ghaziabad railway station and ALH crossing, which have emerged as major traffic bottlenecks—will be funded from the infrastructure development fund," said a GDA official. The 2km, four-lane elevated road from Ramlila Maidan in Ghantaghar to Bhatia Mod is expected to decongest busy stretches including Bhatia Mod, Chaudhary Mod and Ghantaghar, and ease traffic on GT Road towards Aligarh.

The plans are being prepared by IIT Roorkee. "The estimated cost of the project has been pegged at Rs 200 crore and will be partly taken up under the Urban Challenge Fund and urban infrastructure development," the official said. Under the Urban Challenge Fund, 25% of the financing comes from Centre, 25% from the state govt or urban local body, and the remaining 50% is raised through market-based financing. Officials said GDA's share will come from urban infrastructure development funds and Rs 50 crore has been set aside for the project. For the second project, a railway underpass, Rs 12 crore will be

utilised from the urban infrastructure development fund. "The site is between Ghaziabad station and ALH crossing, where railway crossings on the busy Delhi-Howrah route presently cause traffic bottlenecks. The area is notorious for traffic jams, which contribute to vehicular pollution. As per a study, the area witnesses a traffic volume of 2,293 passenger car units. We had proposed an underpass, which has been approved by the railways, and based on its assessment, we plan to spend Rs 12 crore from the fund for its construction," the official said. The infrastructure push comes alongside a separate electric vehicle drive. Following chief minister's call to encourage EV adoption and cut vehicular pollution across NCR districts, Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation made 25 EV charging stations operational across the city on Friday. The corporation is also installing 100 more EV charging stations at 20 locations, among them Rajendra Nagar, Bus Adda, Sai Upvan, RNE, CR, Hindon Crematorium, Akbarpur-Behrampur, Diamond Flyover, Patel Nagar, GT Road, Govindpuram, Swarnjayantipuram, Taj Highway, Vivekanand ROB, Ret Mandi and Raj Nagar.

Violence over sexual assault claim in LPU, university denies incident

Following the violence, LPU suspended classes for 10 days with effect from September 28.

Jalandhar (Agency).

Students of Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Punjab's Phagwara staged a violent protest early on Sunday, damaging property, vandalising shops, setting vehicles on fire and blocking a national highway, alleging that a girl student had been sexually assaulted by an "outsider" on campus. The university denied the allegation, describing it as "baseless and fabricated rumours".



Following the violence, LPU suspended classes for 10 days with effect from September 28. In a communication to students, the university said mid-term examinations had also been postponed until further notice. It advised those staying on campus to remain inside their hostels or places of residence, avoid unnecessary movement and refrain from participation in the ongoing unrest.

Senior police officers told The Indian Express that an FIR had been registered

against an unidentified person on charges of rape, but they were unable to substantiate the allegation in preliminary investigations conducted at the location cited by the protesting students. "The three girls present in the hostel room where the sexual assault is alleged to have occurred denied that any such incident took place," an officer said. The police also formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by SP (Phagwara) Major Singh and comprising a DSP, a woman police inspector and student representatives, to probe the matter further. Spoke to several students at the protest site, but none could identify the alleged victim.

The unrest came barely 24 hours after Chitkara University in Patiala, around 140 km away, witnessed a protest by students who allegedly set a police vehicle afire over unverified claims of "hearing girls' screams from the hostel".

At LPU, the unrest began around 2 am after claims of an alleged sexual assault in a girls' hostel were shared by the students on social media groups. The students alleged that an "outsider working as a plumber" had entered a girl's room and sexually assaulted her three days ago, and that the warden had taken no action when the matter was reported.

Farmers question BBC land monetisation plan in Bengaluru

It alleged that the model effectively treated land acquired from farmers as a means of generating revenue and questioned the use of compulsory acquisition for commercial purposes.

BENGALURU (Agency).

Farmers and landowners affected by the proposed Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC) have urged Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy to intervene, alleging that BDA is acquiring farmers' land not only for the road but also for commercial development and loan repayment.



The PRR Raitha Haagu Niveshanadarara Sangha, in a letter to Kumaraswamy on Sunday, cited BDA documents to allege that the 100-metre-wide corridor was being reduced to 65 metres, with the remaining 35 metres, spread across about 44km, proposed to be developed as commercial sites. The association said a BDA letter dated

October 6, 2025, referring to proposals by BBC Chairman LK Atheeq, identified value capture financing and transit-oriented development as repayment mechanisms for the project loan. It also proposed to acquire another 50 to 100 acres at road junctions, compensating farmers and auctioning the developed land for commercial uses

such as petrol bunks, hotels, restaurants, malls and IT parks. The association said the Cabinet approved the proposal on October 16, 2025, followed by a government order the next day, approving the 65-metre road and 35-metre commercial belt in the masterplan, along with betterment tax provisions. It alleged that the model effectively treated land acquired from

farmers as a means of generating revenue and questioned the use of compulsory acquisition for commercial purposes. The association also raised concerns over the Rs 27,000-crore project borrowing, saying the state had guaranteed the loan and would bear interest, while repayment would depend on land auctions, taxes and cess.

'I don't feel safe': Punjab university students leave campus after unrest

Those staying back at LPU have been advised to remain indoors as authorities focus on campus security.

Phagwara (Agency).

After authorities at Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Phagwara, Punjab, suspended classes for 10 days following Sunday's violent unrest, students began leaving campus Monday, with groups seen boarding auto-rickshaws and other local transport to reach the bus stand and railway station.

Early Sunday, students at LPU took to the streets in a violent protest following allegations that a female student had been sexually assaulted on campus by a person described as an "outsider."

The unrest reportedly involved damage to university property, vandalism of nearby shops, vehicles being set ablaze, and the blocking of a national highway. The university, however, rejected the allegation, calling it "baseless and fabricated rumours."

'Worried about people coming from outside' For several girls, particularly those from outside Punjab, the decision to leave was driven less by the students who took part in Sunday's protest than by their concern over outsiders entering the university amid the turmoil. A student from the Northeast, who was waiting for her uncle to take her home, said she had initially considered staying back but changed her mind after Sunday's developments.

"I could have stayed in the hostel, but after what happened yesterday, I don't feel safe. I am not scared of the students who were protesting. I am worried about people coming from outside and taking advantage of the situation," she said. She said her uncle was coming to pick her up because she did not want to leave the hostel alone. "The university should ensure that outsiders are not allowed to enter the campus. They are not concerned about the safety of the students," she said.

Other students leaving the LPU campus also raised similar concerns, saying the presence of outsiders during Sunday's unrest heightened their apprehension.

LPU officials have also expressed concern about outsiders entering during the unrest and said the presence of people not connected with the student community was a security issue. The university has maintained that students who do not wish to travel home can continue staying in the hostels, but they have been advised to remain inside and avoid unnecessary movement.

Outsider detained

Concerns about outsiders have also coincided with police action during the unrest.

"An outsider was detained after being found with a walkie-talkie and a weapon," a police source said. Further details about the person and the circumstances of the detention were



not immediately available. Meanwhile, security has been substantially reinforced at the university. More than 2,000 police personnel have been deployed on and around the campus, and authorities conducted a flag march as they worked to restore confidence among students and their families.

Satinder Singh, Commissioner, Jalandhar Police, said police teams inspected the hostel facilities after reports of disturbances and found nothing. Singh said traffic movement in the area had also resumed and the situation was returning to normal. He added that the

remaining issues would be addressed through discussions with students and appealed to parents not to be alarmed by reports circulating about the university.

The police deployment is expected to continue as authorities focus on maintaining law and order, securing the campus and preventing unauthorised movement into the university. Gaurav Yadav, Director General of Police, Punjab is scheduled to visit LPU Monday and is expected to address the media on the situation and the security arrangements.

'Why is government with companies, and not us?': Farmers booked over burning of PM effigy

Ahmedabad (Agency).

More than a week after the Gujarat Police booked 21 protesting farmers here after effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were burnt by them on the PM's birthday on September 17, no notices have gone out or any further action taken. But, anger over the issue behind the protests



simmers. On Friday, more than 9,000 farmers held a dharna at the Morbi Collectorate, joined by their counterparts from other districts. The latest round of protests has been sparked by notices served to all landowners who either have transmission towers or line corridors of a 765 kV Halvad Transmission

Line and an 800 kV Transmission Line passing through or over their fields. The notices, served on September 23, asked them to appear within two days before a Market Rate Committee (MRC) at the

Collectorate, to nominate the valuer for their land, or the government would do it for them. For the farmer leaders, this fit a pattern they have been protesting against since July: of the State forcing their hand to take part in the compensation process for the transmission lines, on a percentage decided by it. The protest has brought work on laying the powerlines to a halt. They also claim that many of the 21 booked on September 17 were not even present at the site where the effigies were burnt.

Why, within 4 days, this ex-ED officer has quit Amritpal's party

Says Constitution of India supreme, questions stance of some leaders of the pro-Khalistan outfit

Chandigarh (Agency).

Former Enforcement Directorate deputy director Niranjn Singh on Sunday "disassociated" himself from the Akali Dal Waris Punjab De citing "non-negotiable differences" on some issues, four days after he joined the jailed Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh-led party. "I disassociate myself from the Akali Dal Waris Punjab De. I had given my support on the issue of drug menace in Punjab, high corruption, gangsters,



extortion and involvement of police personnel in drug trafficking but there are differences on some issues which are non-negotiable.

The conduct of persons in public life has to be within the Constitution of India," Niranjn Singh said in a post on his Facebook page. Niranjn Singh, who had in the past often accused the traditional parties in Punjab of inaction on drug smugglers, joined the Akali Dal WPD on September 23 in the presence of party leaders including Dakhla MLA Manpreet Singh Ayali, and Amritpal's father Tarsem Singh. With an eye on the Panthic votes of

the beleaguered Shiromani Akali Dal, the Akali Dal WPD is looking to expand its political base in Punjab and plans to contest all 117 seats in the Assembly polls due early next year. Though yet to be registered as a political party, the outfit, which has often advocated the demand for Khalistan, has already announced several candidates fielding gangster-turned activist Lakhbir Singh Sidhana, alias Lakha Sidhana, from Maur, Mandeep Singh Sidhu, the brother of the late actor Deep Sidhu, from Talwandi Sabo, Papalpreet Singh, a close associate of Amritpal, from Majitha, and Satwant Singh, son of Kehar Singh who was executed for his role in the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, from Bassi Pathana.

Speaking to , Niranjn Singh said that while he would not like to pinpoint any individual as the reason for him leaving the party, "the Constitution of India was supreme" for him. "Whatever has to be done, it has to be within the limits of the Constitution, which is supreme. That is simply non-negotiable," he said. Asked if he left the outfit due to its pro-Khalistan stand, he said: "The conduct of people who communicate publicly on party's behalf has to be crystal clear. It is not about their top leadership... I still feel they are secular people."

It is about the utterances of some of their supporters which is not appropriate. It has to be within the Constitutional values".

Rain fury leaves 56 dead in three days in UP, flood-like situation in several districts

Lucknow (Agency).

At least 56 people were killed and 46 others injured in Uttar Pradesh in the last three days as heavy rain lashed the state, leading to large-scale inundation and waterlogging in several districts. According to the Met Department, the state recorded 775 per cent above normal rainfall in the last 60 hours, causing heavy damage to houses and crops.

Sitapur reported the highest number of rain and storm-related deaths at seven, followed by Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich and Balrampur with five each. Ayodhya and Gorakhpur reported four deaths each, according to the Relief Commissioner's office. Also, 1021 houses were damaged in this period, it said, adding Relief Commissioner

Hrishikesh Bhaskar Yashod on Sunday reviewed the relief and rescue operations with district magistrates and additional



district magistrates of the affected districts. "Between September 25 and the morning of September 27, the state received 66.5 mm of rainfall against the normal 7.6 mm for the

period," the Relief Commissioner said. As many as 56 of the state's 75 districts recorded excessive rainfall, with Farrukhabad recording 7,385 per cent above normal, followed by Kannauj (5,664 per cent), Shahjahanpur (4,408 per cent), Hamirpur (4,240 per cent) and Mahoba (4,100 per cent). Heavy rain also lashed Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, Bareilly and several other parts of the state, accompanied by strong winds reaching 30-40 kmph. Damage to houses was reported most extensively in Hardoi, where 272 houses were affected, followed by Sitapur (108), Chandauli (75), Auraiya (60), Gonda (54), Hamirpur (51), Shahjahanpur (47) and Bahraich (44).

As BDA's Open House turns 100, residents give it a big thumbs up

BENGALURU (Agency). Ahead of its 100th Open House meeting (OHM) scheduled to be held on October 1, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has announced that its citizen grievance redressal mechanism has recorded 7,410 grievances, of which 4,759 have been resolved.

The first OHM was held on July 3, 2025. Since then, the meetings have provided city residents a direct platform to place their grievances before BDA officials. According to the zone-wise data available

with the BDA, as of September 26, the North Zone recorded the highest number of grievances at 2,435, followed by the West with 2,547, South with 1,550 and East with 878. The data shows 4,759 grievances as having been resolved, resulting in an overall reported resolution rate of 68%.

The system provides a tentative timeframe of seven days for urgent grievances, 30 days for general grievances and 100 days for Open House grievances for redressal. Under a three-opportunity mechanism, the grievances not resolved in the first two are

required to be resolved or formally disposed of in the third OHM.

Vivek Sandal, a beneficiary of the OHMs said, "My brother-in-law and I had been approaching the BDA for nearly three years to get an absolute sale deed for his property. After approaching the Open House system, the entire process was completed in three days, with officials from the caseworker level to senior officers helping us. The transparency, cooperation and follow-up were a huge transformation from our earlier experience."

Why is Gyanesh Kumar in such tearing hurry?

This week, it was reported that two of the three members of the Election Commission had objected on record at least 14 times in 10 months to decisions Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar had taken without their knowledge. We, in the Congress, are not surprised by the Indian Express report. Rather, we told you so. We did not tell you explicitly that there is dissent internally in the Election Commission. But we told you that there is something eerily fishy and suspect with the commission. It is so dubious that two of their own could bear it no longer. Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi told you in February 2025—when the voter list of Maharashtra suddenly swelled up by 40 lakh in just five months and, miraculously, all these new voters seemed to have voted for the BJP alliance—that this defies arithmetic and something is fishy. He even showed specific cases of constituencies such as Shirdi and Kamthi where tens of thousands of previously non-resident voters suddenly showed up on polling day with their IDs to vote for the BJP. We wrote six times to the EC asking for machine-readable voter lists of Maharashtra to be able to analyse and compare them. We only received abuse in return. We plodded alone. A large team of data analysts combed through by hand a seven-foot pile of voter lists of just one Assembly constituency—Mahadevapura in Bengaluru. We found more than one lakh suspicious voters, with 80 voters registered in one house and 60 in one ‘brewery’. The BJP won this constituency by 1,14,046 votes and, with this lead, won the overall Bangalore Central Lok Sabha seat. Rahul Gandhi demonstrated this in August 2025. The Election Commission was still nonchalant. Undeterred, in September 2025, Rahul Gandhi brought in actual voters from a rural constituency called Aland in Karnataka all the way to Delhi to narrate personal experiences of how a BJP worker had impersonated an Election Commission official and attempted to delete more than 6,000 Congress voters from the rolls. He was caught and a criminal investigation is under way, but the commission has refused to cooperate and share details of who logged into the voter software to delete these records. Then, in November 2025, Rahul Gandhi showed over 25 lakh dubious voters in the Haryana voter rolls—including a Brazilian model whose face was registered with 22 different voter IDs! The BJP won Haryana, surprising all pollsters and even some of its own ministers. The Election Commission’s answer to all this was not an investigation, but a plot to wipe the fingerprints of the crime. This operation was even given an ironic title—SIR, Special Intensive Revision, starting with Bihar. After this SIR, Bihar’s voter rolls shrunk by 26 lakh from the 2024 Lok Sabha election. But shockingly, 66 lakh more people voted in the state election. Let that sink in—fewer voters registered on the rolls, but bizarrely, more voters came out to vote in the Bihar state election vis-à-vis the Lok Sabha election. Lo and behold, the BJP won Bihar defying expectations. The secret sauce is an arcanelly-named Form 6 and a voter database software. That gives full control to the Election Commission of India to add and shift voters at will. Technically, all adult citizens have the right to enrol as a voter by filling Form 6. After the youth backlash and sensing that Gen Z has moved away from the BJP, obedient servant Gyanesh Kumar changed the Registration of Electors Rules to ask for details of an applicant’s parents and grandparents. Just to make it difficult for first-time voters to enrol since they are not going to vote for the BJP. So, what’s the latest brouhaha? Exactly this. The two dutiful Election Commissioners objected to this change in Form 6 rules, but they were ignored anyways by Gyanesh Kumar. Next, they objected to “centralisation” of the electoral roll database software, with all other commission officials denied access so that it can be operated secretly.

Churning and change

The Great Game: Amarinder Singh’s angst is matched by Cockroach Janta Party’s outburst

THE old order is constantly a-changing, yielding place to the new, but in the last 24 hours it has seemed as if both the old and young are expressing their frustration with the powers-that-be. The first, the patriarch of Punjab politics, 84-year-old former chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh, told The Tribune that as CM from 2017-2021, he brought up the matter of cross-border drones bringing in drugs with both PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah; that when his pleas went unheard, he concluded that “Delhi doesn’t understand Punjab.” Singh went on to add that the BJP had never consulted him on matters of both policy and politics in the state and that he had gained nothing by joining it. The senior politician’s angst is matched by the young Cockroach Janta Party’s angry outburst at its press conference in Delhi on Thursday, demanding the scalp of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar (“Gyanesh, it’s done bro!”), within 48 hours, in the wake of revelations in the Indian Express that the CEC did nothing about the exclusion of voters on EC software despite being allegedly aware. The key question that arises from both sets of remarks is about the limits to political ambition — and whether age should have anything to do with it. Can you, for example, disregard the roar of an ageing lion to your peril, knowing he may still have one last shikar up his sleeve? Should the BJP be more considerate of Amarinder’s criticism of his own party and thereby his capacity to damage it in Punjab, in the run-up to this important Assembly polls, or have they already consigned him to the King Lear line-up? Equally, can you ignore the prattling of an outfit that’s not even a political party, keenly aware that the last time you came down heavily on the CJP protest you had to pay with the head of your own Education Minister?

It’s important to separate the noise from the silence that has followed the Indian Express story, although it’s clear the state is gathering itself in. As the 48-hour CJP deadline for the resignation of the CEC approaches, the barricades are back at Jantar Mantar. Gyanesh Kumar has cancelled his visits to Meerut and Varanasi. Not just the Opposition, even BJP allies like Chirag Paswan and Upendra Kushwaha are now beginning to push back and demand the CEC “dispel the misgivings in the minds of the people.” Remember that Paswan had asked questions about Amit Shah’s decision to impose the uniform civil code in all BJP-run states, and had demurred over Bihar. Certainly, the country is divided down the middle. The CJP

has been carefully expanding its ambit since the July protest in Delhi — we can’t seem to take our eyes off CJP videos exposing the decay in government schools in their #SchoolThikKaro campaign, while Abhijit Dipke, himself a Dalit, seeks to place the national attention on mental health issues after the death of a student in IIT Bombay, across caste, class and gender.

Certainly, the rise and rise of the CJP has forced the media to do its job, both in quizzing the ruling party and the Opposition. The question that asks itself is why haven’t any of the traditional political parties — except for AAP, which has put a lot of effort into its Schools of Eminence



project in Punjab, not with unmixed results, but at least it has tried — bothered to pay attention to the all-important subject of education, except when they were setting up private universities and colluding with the political elite to transfer resources at cheap rates to those universities? If you were going to shed crocodile tears for the young, at least pretend that their future affects you too.

The CJP is not a political party and doesn’t pretend to call itself one, but it’s showing the mirror to us all. Look this is happening in your own backyard, how come you haven’t noticed before? The truth is that we have noticed, but that we are either far too complicit, or too cynical or simply don’t care enough. Still, the impact of the alleged dysfunction at the heart of the Election Commission is bound to have repercussions as elections near — besides Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Goa and Uttarakhand

are going to the polls in February. Tiny Goa has been in the eye of the storm in the Indian Express leaks, which detailed how 97 voters could not get themselves on the rolls despite official attempts being made to do so. There are two views how this is going to unfold. The more charitable one gives credit to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, arguing that his “vote chori” campaign has led the argument for some time, and that if distrust in the neutrality of the Election Commission creeps in, his party will be the primary beneficiary. The second view hints at the tides swirling within the BJP and the RSS and how the Election Commission revelations will impact the positions of top party leaders. Certainly if the BJP juggernaut is dented in any of the states going to the polls, it will affect the fortunes of those jockeying for the affections of those at the top.

According to the latter view, Rahul Gandhi can hold as many rallies as he wants in cities like Indore, but when change comes, it will come from within the BJP. Not that the BJP can insulate itself from tremors from the ground — who, for example, ordered the use of pellet guns on unarmed students during the CJP protest in July? We don’t know the answer to that, but when it comes, it is certain to trigger an avalanche that will disturb the party’s power structure. For the time being, the party’s power structure seems pretty strong and confident. In the last Assembly election cycle, it spent Rs 529 crore, outspending every other party — Rs 286.99 crore in West Bengal alone — while the Congress spent Rs 42.08 crore. The BJP’s continuing access to funds remains remarkable. Question is, if this incredible strength will also give its leadership the wisdom to listen to dissenting voices within, like that of Amarinder Singh of Punjab, or would they rather consign him to the Margdarshak Mandal already stacked with senior BJP folks. Problem is, even the Mandal isn’t safe from the prying eyes of the outside world anymore — none other than former deputy PM and architect of the Ram Mandir LK Advani has himself received a letter from the venerable Election Commission asking him to prove his credentials in the ongoing special intensive revision exercise.

Step up planning for super El Niño forming

The IMD has linked the event to below-normal monsoon rainfall in parts of the country, excess rain in some others, an increase in prolonged dry spells and delayed onset of monsoon

The Climate Impact Lab at the University of Chicago has projected that the super El Niño building up could cause as many as 4,51,000 heat-related deaths across the world by next year. It has identified India as the fourth-most impacted country that may witness as many as 15,800 deaths. This El Niño, which is expected to intensify near the end of the year, is the strongest ever recorded. The study says the countries projected to see the largest fatalities could face the worst in the latter half of the forecast period—between December 2026 and February 2027. Whereas El Niño is triggered when surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean rise 0.5°C above normal, the more destructive super El Niño features an exceptional 2°C increase. This causes extreme disruptions across the planet, including severe droughts and floods, intense heat waves and massive crop losses. Enhanced glacial melt can result in catastrophes like the August flash floods near the Nepal-Tibet border that claimed thousands



of lives. The study is a red alert for India. The warming of central and eastern Pacific Ocean disrupts standard trade winds, lowering moisture transport towards the Indian subcontinent and weakening India’s crucial monsoon system. The Indian Meteorological Department has linked this super El Niño to below-normal monsoon rainfall in

parts of the country, excess rain in some others, an increase in prolonged dry spells and delayed onset of monsoon that have affected kharif crops like rice and maize, and made groundwater recharge uneven. This is in addition to the higher likelihood of landslides like the ones that have struck West Sikkim’s Rimbi village and Kerala’s Idukki and Malappuram districts this month. This calls for immediately incentivising more drought-resilient crops that need less water; taking up district-level planning with advisories from the IMD and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research; closer monitoring of regional soil and irrigation conditions; paying close attention to micro-irrigation, grid optimisation and power-mix management; and, for the longer term, choosing a closely-guarded approach to infrastructure development in eco-sensitive areas. Local heat action plans need to be updated and gaps filled at the level of municipalities and panchayats.

The morning we stopped reading

Given our shrinking attention spans, many would rather scroll than read. King Abdullah II of Jordan warned at the UN this week that attention today determines which wars remain visible.

Much has been made of the Kerala Chief Minister V D Satheesan’s reading habits. I, too, have expressed respect for his bibliophilic dispensation. But surely, the man stands out only because no other politician seems to read? Is a book to the leader the same as the cross to the devil? Indeed, are we living in the morning after reading has stopped? Vladimir Nabokov asked the question in his 1962 novel, Pale Fire. The novel comprises a poem of 999 lines by one John Shade, followed by a line-by-line explanation of it by the equally fictional Charles Kinbote. Kinbote wonders what would happen if we woke one morning and found ourselves “utterly unable to read”. By this, he implies the forfeiture of the ability to enter another mind. Empathy. Reading demands time and focus. An active task. Scrolling, on the other hand, is passive. It is reading as seeing; an ocular activity relatively divorced from the intellect. If this will have an evolutionary effect on our cognitive structure, then what it might really entail is a colder human. Which in turn means lesser interest in fellow-human beings because self-interest demands it. We look at words all day. We read messages, captions, comments, headlines, subtitles, posts, notifications and articles. We may spend hours moving our eyes across language. We therefore come away with the comforting feeling that we are still a reading people. But reading requires you to be tethered. It makes you stay with a sentence you do not understand, a character you dislike, an argument you resist. It allows another intelligence to enter and rearrange the thoughts in your head. And the world looks a little different. You are looking at the same thing from another point of view. A transference of sorts has happened. Empathy, perhaps.

King Abdullah II of Jordan, addressing the United Nations earlier this week, put a number on the change. Citing a study, he said that average screen attention had fallen from two-and-a-half minutes in 2004 to 47 seconds today. Attention, he said, had become a scarce asset and a geopolitical one. It determines which wars remain visible, which are allowed to become background noise.

Indian politicians are ‘anpadh’ or illiterate. Their aversion to reading is not because they have not been to school, though that too is a possibility. But because they are strangers to the idea of reading. They are representative of the populations they lead. And they are products of the same attention economy. The politician who must respond instantly to every outrage is living inside the same machinery as the citizen who scrolls past pathologically.

Perhaps one of the most empathetic leaders of India was Jawaharlal Nehru. His prison years produced a great record of reading. He moved through history, literature and philosophy, making notes and arguing with what he read. Information was not merely an escape from himself.

Václav Havel, imprisoned by the Communists for four years for his human rights work, did something similar in another register. His Letters to Olga, written from prison, became meditations on responsibility, freedom and existence. Ernesto ‘Che’ Guevara was an obsessive reader, too. His reading ranged

from Marx and Lenin to Kafka, Camus, Sartre and poetry. None of this proves that reading makes a person good. Nehru made his mistakes. He was a revolutionary who believed in armed struggle. Havel was not a saint. Reading is not a moral vaccine. All a book does is that it



makes you live, however briefly, inside somebody else’s consciousness. The historian gives the enemy a past. The novelist gives a stranger a face. The poet formulates a new way of speech.

Scrolling offers the spike. The brown sugar of the brain. It

is not the enemy of information. It gives us too much of it, and it arrives without the time required to establish relationships between one fact and another. In reading, a paragraph modifies the paragraph before it. A character you disliked on page 20 acquires a different meaning on page 200. Scrolling is built to prevent this kind of organic association. And, disturbingly, the machine that reads for us also is the one that reads us. Scrolling is an act of surveillance. The arrival of AI complicates the act of reading further. Why read a 500-page book when a machine can tell you its argument in 500 words? You see what’s happening? The essence is yours without the experience of it. A kind of porn. This distinction will become increasingly important as AI becomes better at consuming the world’s books, newspapers, archives and arguments on our behalf. The machine will be able to give us the answer before we have had the experience that makes the answer meaningful.

What’s the world of Crime and Punishment without the psychological trauma and inner talk of the murdering hero, Raskolnikov? This is the opposite of the miracle Nabokov’s very literary theme. The book’s miracle was that a few black marks authored by Shade could become another person’s—Kinbote’s—consciousness. It was about the occult of language. Scrolling aborts the affective aspects of reading. It turns us into what we dread: venting machines. The morning we stop reading may not look like the end of reading, the end of the world as we know it. It may look exactly like this morning. Some apocalypses grow on you.

Everyone commits mistakes, but to learn from them and move on is something professionals should work towards.

Messed up at work? Bounce back!



To err is human...Nonetheless, when it comes to committing an error at work, perspectives often change. At work, if you make a big mistake, you instantaneously come under the scanner of everyone around you. When you mess up at the workplace, it is fatal for your reputation and relationship, not only with your managers, but also with the co-workers. Most of the times, it seems that if you have committed such a huge mistake, you are unlikely to recover from it. However, it is only partially true. You will not be able to recover, if and only if you do not make an effort towards the same.

Remember, the organisation is not looking to fire you for committing the

mistake. Had it been the case, you wouldn't be sitting in your cubicle now. Therefore, if you are still able to retain your job after having messed up at work, it is a strong signal that the organisation has given you another chance, and you can make the most of it by working really hard and making up for that error! Lynette Dsilva, HR director, Amdocs India, gives an insight into how one can start working towards the goal of making up for that error. "The two key elements to keep in mind here are ownership and communication. Employees need to take ownership for what they are working on and this involves careful planning to get the desired output. Occasional misstep is where being transparent in your communication is

helpful," says Dsilva.

Talking about that mistake to your managers might seem to be the most difficult task, but that is something that one should not refrain from. Monica Malhotra Kandhari, senior director, MBD Group, stresses on the importance of talking it out with the managers to get their feedback. "Be sincere in redressal. Bad situations, in many cases, can be reversed or the effect minimised. However, an arrogant or insincere approach will only alienate you further. Also, be willing to take feedback from your seniors. They will help you analyse where you went wrong. This will help you immensely in staying away from such a mistake in future and will also send

out a positive signal to the management that you have accepted your mistake and are willing to improve the situation," asserts Kandhari.

Equally important are apologising and amending once you have acknowledged the mistake before your seniors. Shanthi Sundar, sr director and head HR India, Pegasystems Inc, talks about the importance of the two at the workplace when you are looking to rebuild your credibility. "If there are colleagues who have been affected by the mistake, talk to them and apologise. This can be very difficult at times, but if you have the right intent and genuinely believe in making up, this would seem like any other workrelated conversation.

It goes without saying that you need to rectify the situation. It is equally important to talk to your colleagues and managers about how you intend to avoid making this mistake in the future, and make them understand how you are committed to help them." Next comes building your lost trust. The best way to ensure this is to work really hard at the workplace and show it to your managers that you intend well and are willing to learn from your mistakes. Be ready to work extra and display a sincere approach towards work. Remember, an employee who learns from his mistakes is always a boss's delight. A mistake once is a learning, but to repeat it again would be foolish. So learn from it and move on towards a better and more credible future, professionally.

How to manage the millennial Workforce

The millennial workforce looks for flexibility and wishes to connect to a larger purpose. The key is to manage them well.



The millennials in India who are accounting for over half the work force, are more educated than the previous generation with high expectations. We are living in a country which is proud to have diversity, and coming from different culture and states, most of us have family backgrounds wherein the grandparents are not well educated, but have great family values, while parents are better educated.

Now, we have come to the mammoth task of managing millennials in our country with diversity. Therefore, we have to be thoughtful about how we manage the millennials, as it is expected that when the economy turns around, the voluntary turnover is likely to increase, hence, the employer has to take care about the millennials. Only 18% of millennials think they have a future in the field they are presently working in, hence, employers will be forced to go to the market to recruit new talent.

The three key expectations of the millennial workforce are good work-life balance, training and development and 20% of them seek to move up the corporate ladder faster.

Millennials have a "cando" attitude about tasks at work and look for

feedback about how they are doing, frequently. They want a variety of tasks and expect that they will accomplish every one of them.

For them, boring is bad. They seek ever-changing tasks within their work. What's happening next is their mantra. Don't bore them, ignore them, or trivialise their contribution.

It is a thinking generation which believes in self-analysis, planning and prepping. They believe in respect more than monetary rewards, and wish for their work to be seen and spoken about by their seniors and peers.

Being born in the Internet age helps them dream big. It's a misconception that they are not rebellious and want to fight with the system.

Millennials want flexibility

They work well with clear instructions and concrete targets. Give them the freedom to have a flexible work schedule. Does it matter if they work from home or a coffee shop or wherever, if that's where they are most productive at? Set deadlines and if they meet them, don't worry so much about their tactics and the time they clock in and out. Get the 'deal' right: It's important for

employers to explain not only what they are offering a potential employee, but also what they expect in return. Think creatively about reward strategies and what motivates the millennials.

Millennial employees stand out for being skilled with technology. Not only are they adept at using technology, but they prefer it. No other generation has grown up steeped in technology like the millennials, and so what is seen as optional or gadgetry for older generations is natural and required for millennials.

Technology isn't novel

It's always been there. And just as older generations leapt for new technology because it was something they were not used to, millennials may crave a sans-technology approach in communication. Remember, people and connections are important to them.

Millennials have grown up in a "maker-centric" age in which creating something is of utmost importance. They are used to having answers and information at their fingertips as well, and a simple online search can provide them with complex answers to just about any question. The speed at which they can find answers, feeds into their need to be creative. Remember, they grew up in a fast-paced information age, and their attention span might be shorter.

Millennials are concerned about giving back to the community. Millennials want to feel that they are doing something to help others. They want to work for a company that has a reputation for caring about people and important causes, or, at the very least, allows them to be active in supporting those causes themselves.

Millennials view work as a key aspect of life, not a separate activity that needs to be "balanced". For that reason, they place a strong emphasis on finding work that's personally fulfilling. They want work to be able to afford the opportunity to make new friends, learn new skills, and connect to a larger purpose. That sense of purpose is a key factor in their job satisfaction.

Ultimately, millennials want to feel that their work and their place in your business has some meaning.

The concept of 'flex' involves having core benefits, which may be statutory or defined.

Every CEO wants to build a highly agile organisation, which can adapt to different circumstances. And, every employee aspires to be a part of an organisation that can understand their life stage needs and provide the 'flex', which enables them to integrate work-life. Hence, the days of onsize-fits-all is over. Flex in schedules and pay structure elements is not adequate. The concept of 'flex' involves having core benefits, which may be statutory or defined as those that are applicable to all and flex benefits, which would be selected as per each employee's choice. Flex needs to be a part of the organisational total reward philosophy and should be aligned to the employee value proposition - a statement of why the total work experience at its organisation is superior to that at other companies. As per WorldatWork a global association, total rewards leverages five elements to attract, retain and motivate talent - compensation, benefits, worklife, performance and recognition and development and career opportunities.

Issuing a policy is only the beginning but if it is not imbibed in the organisational culture, it has minimal impact. Organisations may have dialled down policies

for those who need a temporary phase of reduced work responsibilities due to personal needs or part-time employment policies but these may not get widely utilised if they aren't communicated or encouraged by the organisational culture. Regardless of how well-designed a company's approach to 'flex' is, if managers aren't on board and don't have the skills and attitudes to manage effectively, it will flounder. It's as simple as that.

Multi-generational organisations are a reality. Each generation has its own distinct set of values, view of authority, orientation to the world, a sense of loyalty, and expectations from the work environment. Though we may

Understanding the needs of Employees



say that the differences between these generations are hyped, there are clear perceived differences between the employee benefit needs of a 28-year-old employee and one who is approaching retirement. In urban cities, the youth may want to get on the housing ladder and any support the organisation can provide is

highly appreciated. When the benefit is understood and utilised well, employees naturally become its advocates, which in turn becomes a positive feedback that spreads across the organisation. On the other hand, older employees may

be more concerned about the cost of medical care, given the growing healthcare costs.

Choice makes the employee experience fulfilling. By giving employees choice and implementing a self-service benefits portal with a user-friendly website supported by rigorous communication strategy, an organisation is able to increase the perceived value of its offerings. When organisations take time to explain their offerings to employees, it is a strong gesture of care.





Here's how to create a

Positive image at Work

Adopting the right approach towards your work life such as paying attention to your attitude, dressing style and your approach towards work can help attract a number of positive benefits. These can pave the way for building a solid professional life by helping you attract your superiors' attention, maintaining a healthy relationship with your immediate colleagues and coming across as a dependable employee. Here are a few things you should incorporate in your daily work life to create a positive image at your workplace.

Fit in

Every organisation has a different work culture. When you join a firm, try and understand its work culture and priorities. It is equally important to understand your job profile and what the organisation expects from you.

"It is a good idea to be cautious of the conversation that you make with your co-workers. Do not intrude into your colleague's personal space. Compliment your colleagues and team mates for their achievements. Refrain from gossiping at

work, it will most likely back fire someday. Avoid using a commanding tone while you communicate. Instead of commanding while you manage a team, ask your peers for their opinion on a particular subject. This goes a long way in building a strong team," says Sheena Agarwal, Director, Urbanista Image Consulting LLP.

Dress well

It is essential to pay attention to how you dress at work. Groom yourself and

maintain a neat appearance keeping your job profile in mind. While dressing up casually at work may be acceptable at times, one needs to understand that they cannot dress casually while attending a meeting or presenting to a client. Another thing to keep in mind is that you are comfortable in the clothes you wear. This will help avoid distractions.

"Grooming is important to the extent of being neat, tidy and professional. One doesn't need to wear expensive clothes, perfumes, makeup, etc, to be well groomed.

Presenting yourself well at the workplace can help you boost your career.

At the same time, one cannot sport an unkempt, dishevelled look or that which is unbecoming of the workplace culture," says Saba Adil, Head, HR, AEGON Life Insurance.

Pay attention to your body language

While we don't pay attention to our posture at work, it is important to understand that a professional's posture says a lot about his attitude. A professional with a straight posture suggests that they are attentive and enthusiastic about their work. On the other hand, being sloppy or sitting with your hands crossed suggests that you are rigid and are not open to suggestions.

Value time

Whether it means meeting deadlines or reaching on time at work, being punctual is crucial. Making sure that you meet your deadlines will not only help you develop a stress-free work atmosphere, but also displays your commitment towards your work. Additionally, maintaining a record of

the assignments you have completed will make you look organised.

"Everyone likes employees who complete their assignments on time. Maintaining a punctual work schedule helps the team coordinate better and meet deadlines. Focusing on the projects at hand will also ensure that you don't get involved in office politics and gossips, thus keeping you at bay from a negative work environment," says Arun Bala, COO of Invenio Business Solutions.

Be open to criticism

Everything that your colleagues say is not always negative or to pull you down. At times, your peers' advice can be beneficial to you. Do not take every critical evaluation personally. Instead, trust that your colleagues have the intent of helping you execute and accomplish your tasks better.

Be respectful, approachable and focused while at work. Bear in mind your organisation's expectations from you and conduct yourself accordingly.

What to do when you have more than one boss

Sometimes, circumstances conspire to turn you into a 'shared resource' where you have to dance to the tunes of not one, but two or more bosses!

So how do you walk the tight rope and emerge victorious? Dealing with one boss can be a challenge. But imagine dealing with two bosses, neither of whom is willing to cut you some slack in view of your multiple duties. You confront conflicting deadlines, confused priorities and dual expectations. In all the chaos, it seems impossible for you to ever take a break or get a breather. But it is possible to navigate this quagmire and many have done it before with success. Anil Salvi, group head, HR, JM Financial Institutional Securities Ltd was placed in such a dilemma early on in his career. "At my first job itself, I was a shared resource between two bosses and had faced a lot of challenges as both bosses used to wonder for whom I was working more. Since I was a beginner, one of the ways that I used to adopt was to be brutally honest about my challenges with both of them and most of the times, they understood. And



there was the first lesson of the career that honesty works and it works well. Till date after 25 years of my career, that stint remains the most cherished one," he says. If your strategy is to let both your bosses remain in blissful ignorance about the other, you may be charting dangerous territory. It may not be pleasant to turn down a plum opportunity, but if it clashes with a commitment you've already made to your other boss, honesty really would be the best policy.

Being extremely organised is your bet as a shared resource. "It is the toughest position to be in since every manager wants full attention and contribution from the individual. The best thing for the individual to do is to set the objectives and role expectations with every manager they report to. Maintain a list of things to do and follow up whenever required. Let the others managers know if there are any priorities that you are working on, which could potentially delay theirs. It is key that a constant review and discussion is done with all managers to course correct if there are any gaps in their expectations," advises Mukund Menon, director HR and communications, HR and communications, International Paper India.

Salvi warns against showing one boss in bad light to the other in order to gain sympathy. "Being very honest is the most critical part as that would give you credibility. Being solution-oriented would be the next thing as at the end of the day, you are responsible for yourself, so you would need to take that initiative. Third, never ever play one boss against another as remember that they are

your bosses and you never know when they would share notes and also simply, it is not a right thing to do. Fourth, when you can't find a solution pertaining to the bosses, don't be ashamed to approach them and seek their help in finding one."

Of course, the above tips assume that all managers concerned are willing to make allowances for the employee. In some cases, bosses behave as though the other boss doesn't exist at all and all 8.5 hours of the employee are theirs to command. Menon agrees, "Most of the bosses are not empathetic. Everyone has their own priorities and there is competition for attention as people suffer from the 'first service syndrome'. The best thing is to let the other bosses know on a constant basis how you are managing the issues and deliverables and build rapport and trust. It is mutual respect and honesty that brings it together. The key is to manage each person's ego. Additionally, having an informal chat will also help."

A Thiru, president corporate HR, JK Organisation lays the onus of empathy at the bosses' doors, "Bosses are expected to be empathetic in such a situation. If they are not, it is their problem and not that of the shared resource as long as the shared resource does his/her best under the prevailing situation and stays tuned to the purpose (serving the external customer better/faster) than responding (wasting time) based on organisational hierarchy."

As Salvi says, continue to work hard and smart for the bosses as you are learning twice as much, compared to others who have a single boss.



Complaints filed against Minister Parvesh Singh, AAP MLA Jarnail Singh as both sides hurl allegations

Sahib Singh, the 22-year-old man who was allegedly slapped by the Minister, also filed a complaint against BJP leader Parvesh Sahib Singh, claiming that he was threatened and abused.

Delhi. (Agency)

Amid a row over a purported video showing Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh slapping a man during a road inspection, two complaints were submitted on Sunday to the Tilak Nagar Police Station, alleging that Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Tilak Nagar MLA Jarnail Singh and his aides repeatedly threatened, intimidated and obstructed government officials and workers at the Outer Ring Road construction site in Vikaspuri over the past four days. On the other hand, Sahib Singh, the 22-year-old man who was allegedly slapped by the Minister, also filed a complaint against BJP leader Parvesh Sahib Singh, claiming that he was threatened and abused. Allegations against AAP MLA

In his response to the purported clips related to the incident being circulated online, the Delhi Minister claimed that the AAP MLA had been pushing PWD officials to make him meet the road contractor and get some commission from him. "The engineer is filing a complaint against him," the Minister said. An Assistant Engineer with the PWD Janakpuri sub-division alleged in his complaint that on the night of September 24, between around 11:08 pm and midnight, the AAP leader arrived at the site with his associates, "many of whom were fully drunk," and hurled abuses at the personnel deployed at the site, officials told. The MLA and his associates then allegedly pressured the contractor's engineer for an "illegal monetary share" in the work. Another complaint from C P Arora Private Limited, the firm executing the road strengthening work, states that Singh arrived on September 24 with "40-50 goons", demanding the work be shifted to another location near Gurudwara Guru Nanak Sahib Ji, and later that staff and PWD officials were asked to arrange

Rs 50 lakh to settle the matter or the machinery would be set on fire. "The next day, they forcefully broke the newly paved road and the available videos clearly establish the damage caused to government property, warranting a

interference and undue pressure regarding illegal demands.

On Sunday, the complaint further alleges, the AAP leader arrived with an "unruly mob of around 50 people," shouted that he was the area's MLA, and warned the engineer of "serious consequences," including a threat to have him transferred, if his directions were not followed. The MLA and mob allegedly used pieces of the broken road to throw debris at the Minister's car. The complaint seeks an FIR for obstruction of public duty, criminal intimidation, damage to public property, and attacking government officials. The firm goes on to claim that the Minister and locals were allegedly manhandled and the AAP MLA threw a stone at the Minister's car.

The company further stated that the development work was awarded through due process and was not being carried out on the MLA's instructions.



case to be registered against him under the relevant legal provisions," the complaint from the PWD engineer further alleges, adding that the MLA has continuously indulged in acts of

BLOs continue home visits to verify documents

Delhi. (Agency)

Booth level officers (BLOs) have started visiting residences of electors in the national capital who have been issued notices for discrepancies, including in name and mapping, as part of the Election Commission's outreach during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

A senior EC official said on Sunday that door-to-door visits by BLOs would continue until all notices are disposed of. Notices are issued to electors included in draft rolls for shortcomings in their enumeration forms. Around 33 lakh voters have been issued notices in Delhi, including for minor or superficial discrepancies, triggering criticism of the Election Commission (EC), which on Saturday announced measures including additional time for filing claims, home visits by election officials and help desks for those facing notices.

The EC said people would have to appear for hearings before Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) or Assistant Electoral Registration Officers only in exceptional cases, preferably online. Authorised family members can also attend on an elector's behalf.

Following a meeting attended by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Dr S S Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, the poll panel said BLOs would conduct home visits to collect and upload documents on its unified ECINet portal for unmapped persons or those with logical discrepancies.

It also directed District Election Officers to create adequate help desks and hold special camps for people living in night shelters, labourers, poor people and homeless persons. In view of a request from Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi, the period for filing claims and objections has been extended till October 30. Accordingly, disposal of notices and claims and objections has been extended till November 30.

After rape, residents seek safer parks

Delhi. (Agency)

The gang-rape of a 17-year-old girl at Aastha Kunj Park in southeast Delhi's Kalkaji area has highlighted safety and maintenance concerns at the sprawling 142-acre green space and other Delhi Development Authority (DDA) parks, with residents and Resident Welfare Associations flagging poor lighting, damaged boundary walls and inadequate security.

Residents said DDA parks remain poorly lit in the evening and damaged walls make it difficult to monitor movement. "One of the biggest issues is that these are huge parks, which are under DDA, but there is no proper ownership. If the DDA is unable to properly upkeep these parks, it should let locals come together and form neighbourhood park safety committees, with members from RWAs, police officials and others," said



Ruby Makhija, secretary of Navjiwan RWA. Makhija also said park timings should be clearly displayed and authorities should ensure illumination. The survivor, was allegedly gang-raped by three men posing as police personnel at the park on Monday, prompting scrutiny of security arrangements.

"Aastha Kunj was once our go-to spot every morning and evening. My son and I used to regularly go there for walks and jogging, but the situation has completely deteriorated now," said another resident of East of Kailash. "DDA can and should be held accountable for the condition and management of the public environment under its control."

The DDA said additional security guards had been deployed during the night shift and patrolling was being carried out. Bike patrols with torches and safety equipment were being undertaken, while additional lighting was being provided at identified dark spots. Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, who heads the DDA, has directed a safety audit of all DDA parks by next week.

Cameras missing, lights out: What police found in Delhi's vulnerable parks

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi Police has flagged gaps in CCTV coverage and lighting at several vulnerable parks and green spaces across the Capital following the alleged gangrape of a 17-year-old girl at Aastha Kunj Park in South Delhi, seeking additional cameras and lights and raising concerns over poor maintenance and access controls.

An on-ground assessment of vulnerable locations found surveillance and lighting gaps at parks in North and South Delhi, including the Hauz Rani forest area, Bonta Park and Qudsia Bagh. Police have sought additional CCTV cameras, lights and other measures from civic and government agencies. In the Hauz Rani forest area in South Delhi, there is

currently no CCTV coverage. Delhi Police has written to the authorities concerned seeking installation of 32 cameras under the Safe City project. Lights in the forest area have started



functioning following the recent incident, but police found that only about 70% of the lights are currently working, a senior police officer said. "We have also called for pruning of

trees at certain stretches, saying overgrown foliage prevents existing lights from adequately illuminating parts of the area," a senior police officer said.

The assessment, sources said, also flagged concerns over the closing time of the forest area. "Although it is officially open until 8 pm, people are often found staying beyond the permitted hours despite being asked by police personnel to leave," a senior police officer said. At Hauz Rani Idgah, beside Max Hospital, the park locally known as Jamun Wala Park has neither CCTV cameras nor lights. "Police have raised the issue with the authorities concerned and sought adequate CCTV coverage as well as measures to ensure proper manning of the park," a source said.

Delhi's new liquor policy rollout likely, prices may surge before festive season

Delhi. (Agency)

Liquor prices in the Capital may increase in the coming months as the Delhi government is planning to raise excise duty and retail margin to boost revenue under the new excise policy, which is ready and is likely to be notified in October.

"The final draft of the new excise policy is ready," said a senior Delhi government official. Last week, however, Delhi Excise Commissioner Ravi Jha was transferred to Arunachal Pradesh. "Once a new officer is appointed, the final draft proposal will be sent to the Delhi Cabinet and Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu for final nod. Once the approval comes, the government plans to notify it in October ahead of the peak festival season," the official added.

The official said, "Even as the entry of private players is unlikely, raising the fixed retail margin and excise duty are among the key objectives. This will be a major change as currently there are



only government-run liquor shops in the city. The retailers do not get much revenue due to fixed margins. With this key change, the shops are expected to be upgraded and draw more customers."

More premium liquor stores

Delhi is also expected to see an increase in the number of premium liquor stores. Explaining further, another government official said, "Currently, the retail margin cap is fixed at Rs 50 on Indian Made Foreign Liquor and Rs 100 on foreign liquor on a per bottle basis.

The liquor shops in Delhi do not keep premium imported liquors that cost above Rs 1,000 due to a fixed margin, which eventually pushes the customers to neighbouring cities such as Gurugram, Faridabad where shops operate without a fixed margin. For instance, let's say the price of Black Label in Delhi is Rs 3,500 but you will get the same brand for a lesser price like Rs 2,400 in Gurgaon. This can be addressed once the fixed margins are removed."

'Pulled out portion of road by hand, Delhi Minister got angry': AAP MLA on slap row

Delhi. (Agency)

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Tilak Nagar MLA Jarnail Singh on Sunday night doubled down on attack on Delhi Public Works Department Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh hours after a purported video of the Minister slapping one of AAP leader's aide was widely circulated on social media. He claimed that the Minister got angry when he pulled out a portion of a road the MLA had been complaining about with his hands.

He rejected the allegations that Sahib Singh, the 22-year-old man who has alleged assault by the Delhi minister and works with the AAP leader's social media team, abused the Minister. "He is my team member, and neither he nor I abused any member of Parvesh Sahib Singh's family. How can the Minister slap someone without provocation? The entire incident has been recorded on camera. If it can be heard anywhere that I was abusing anyone, I am ready to face the law," he told.

The incident happened when the PWD



Minister was out for a road inspection visit in West Delhi. Jarnail Singh told The Indian Express that at 1.15 pm, he received a call from Parvesh Sahib Singh, who said that he was visiting the road whose poor-quality construction Singh had been complaining about. "He (Parvesh) came without any prior intimation, but his team members were all prepared. They wanted to put on some sort of show off and planned to leave immediately, as I had been challenging the government for the past few days to come and inspect the poor-quality road. But when I removed a portion of the road with my hands, he got agitated and slapped the man who was recording the video," Singh said. In response to the allegations by Public Works Department officials that he had been harassing them over the road development work and "wanted a commission", the AAP MLA claimed that the complaints filed with the police were false. "This Minister is doing this to save himself from the law," he said.

MCD accumulates over Rs 80 crore in unpaid licence fees, contract dues in last 3 years

The disclosure comes as the civic body undertakes an overhaul of its parking infrastructure

Delhi. (Agency)

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has accumulated over Rs 80 crore in unpaid licence fees and contract dues from parking operators over the last three years, while also holding earnest money deposits and advance security amounts worth nearly Rs 109 crore, as per latest data.

The figures were disclosed in response to a short-notice question raised by BJP councillor and Standing Committee member Hem Chand Goel during a committee meeting at the Civic Centre on Thursday. The MCD said persistent defaults by parking contractors had led to the issuance of default notices, forfeiture of security deposits and cancellation of contracts. The disclosure comes as the civic body

undertakes an overhaul of its parking infrastructure. Of the 374 parking sites currently operational across zones including Civil Lines, Rohini, Karol Bagh and City-SP Zone, 25 contracts have expired and have been included in the re-tendering process. Renewal or re-tendering of another 155 sites remains pending at various stages, the MCD said. Data submitted by the civic body covered 463 parking facilities, of which 433 were surface parking sites and 30 multi-level or mechanical parking facilities. The data entailed detailed revenue collections over the past three financial years. Parking revenue stood at Rs 179.45 crore in 2023-24, rising to Rs 186.05 crore in 2024-25, before falling sharply to Rs 137.17 crore in 2025-26. Total revenue from the

parking facilities was Rs 253.93 crore, Rs 275.74 crore and Rs 265.58 crore during the three years, respectively. While overall revenue peaked during 2024-25, a decline in parking revenue



was noted in 2025-26 due to contract transitions and disputes involving defaulting operators, according to the civic body's response. As part of its

plans to ease traffic pressure and increase municipal revenue, the MCD also plans to develop and allocate 83 new parking sites in high-density and commercial areas. Tenders for 34 sites have already been issued, while bidding for the remaining sites is expected to be completed by November.

The civic body said commercial nodes and high-density traffic corridors had been identified for the new facilities. It is also undertaking physical verification of parking sites and developing a Geographical Information System (GIS)-based digital database of existing and newly tendered locations, aimed at improving monitoring and curbing unauthorised parking operations.

Rupee falls 20 paise to 95.95 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The rupee depreciated 20 paise to 95.95 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday, as the greenback strengthened further and foreign fund outflows continued unabated amid the ongoing West Asia conflict.Forex traders said elevated global crude oil prices put further pressure on the local unit.At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.89 against the American currency and lost further ground to touch 95.95 against the American currency, registering a loss of 20 paise from its previous closing level. On Friday, the rupee appreciated 24 paise to close at 95.75 against the US dollar.Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, traded at 101.11, up 0.15 per cent.Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, were trading higher by 2.31 per cent at USD 106.81 per barrel in futures trade. "Despite the Brent oil for November series being higher due to US President Donald Trump rejecting the peace proposal from Iran, the rupee is set to open at around 95.80 and is expected to remain in the range of 95.50 to 96.00 with the RBI continuing to hold the 96.00 of the range," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said. Bhansali said Brent remained firmly elevated above the USD 100 mark, continuing to pose an underlying threat to India's import bill and foreign exchange reserves.

Sensex tanks 730 points amid surging crude oil prices, geopolitical uncertainties

New Delhi. (Agency)

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled in early trade on Monday amid surging crude oil prices, geopolitical uncertainties and a weak trend in Asian markets.Foreign fund outflows also hit investors' sentiment during the initial trading. The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 730 points to 73,170.12 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 231.50 points to 22,908.95. All the 30 Sensex firms were trading lower. Bajaj Finance, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro and Bharat Electronics were the major laggards.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 2.27 per cent higher at USD 106.7 per barrel."Indian equity markets are likely to remain cautious as renewed geopolitical uncertainty and a rebound in crude oil prices weigh on investor sentiment. The rejection by US President Donald Trump of Iran's proposal to resolve the conflict and reopen the Strait of Hormuz has revived concerns over prolonged supply disruptions, making oil prices the dominant factor for global markets," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said.In Asian markets, South Korea's KOSPI, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index traded lower, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index quoted higher. US markets ended in positive territory on Friday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,693.93 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.On Friday, the Sensex climbed 315.20 points, or 0.43 per cent, to settle at 73,895.74. The Nifty was up 77.40 points, or 0.34 per cent, to end at 23,140.50.

Three stocks with upside potential up to 54%: Check target price set by major brokerages

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The Indian stock market continued its decline for the seventh consecutive week, its longest losing streak since 2020. High crude oil prices and continued foreign fund outflows have made investors cautious. Brokerages are seeing potential in several stocks. Recent reports from Jefferies, Kotak Institutional Equities, and Ambit Capital have highlighted companies like Vishal Mega Mart, Suzlon, and SBI Life Insurance. Let's have a closer look at these stocks. Vishal Mega Mart target price Friday's closing price: ₹103.40According to reports, US-based major brokerage Jefferies has maintained a buy rating on Vishal Mega Mart and assigned a target price of ₹160. This means the stock is expected to rise by approximately 54% based on the price indicated in the brokerage report. According to the brokerage report, Vishal Mega Mart currently operates 833 stores and sees potential for a much larger store network. Management is targeting double-digit same-store sales growth in FY27. The company is also testing smaller stores in cities with a population of 40,000-50,000 in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. According to Jefferies, this format could eventually expand Vishal Mega Mart's long-term store opportunity to approximately 4,000 outlets. SBI Life Insurance target price Friday's closing price: ₹1,746.70 Kotak Institutional Equities has a buy rating on SBI Life Insurance with a fair value of ₹2550, which implies an upside of approximately 45% based on the reported valuation. According to the brokerage report, SBI Life's overall commission rate in FY26 was 10.6%, which is lower than many private sector competitors.

Housing sales rise in Q3 despite price increase, geopolitical headwinds

MUMBAI. (Agency)

Housing sales in India registered growth in the third quarter of calendar year 2026 (Q3 2026) despite a sharp increase in property prices in the backdrop of ongoing geopolitical uncertainty. According to real estate consultant Anarock, housing sales across the top 7 cities increased by 3% annually, with approximately 1,00,220 units sold in Q3 2026 against 97,080 units back in Q3 2025. The total sales value in this period also rose by 2% from Rs 1.52 lakh crore in Q3 2025 to Rs 1.55 lakh crore in Q3 2026. The growth in sales was led by Mumbai Metropolitan Market, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, as the remaining four major markets - National Capital Region (NCR), Pune, Chennai and Kolkata-registered a decline in sales. MMR recorded the highest sales of approx. 31,750 units (up 5%), followed by

Bengaluru with approx. 16,670 units (up 12%) in the reported quarter. Together, these two cities accounted for 48% of the total sales across the top 7 cities in Q3 2026. At 15%, Hyderabad, with 11,305 units, saw the highest yearly jump in housing sales. Meanwhile, new housing supply in the top 7 cities rose 18%. City-wise, MMR topped new supply with approx. 37,500 units launched in the quarter, followed by Hyderabad with approx. 18,950 units. Interestingly, while most cities saw new supply decline annually, Hyderabad, MMR and Bengaluru (21,670 units) saw new supply increase by 120%, 27% and 17%, respectively.Average residential prices in the top cities collectively rose by 7% in Q3 2026 against Q3 2025. NCR saw the highest (12%) annual growth, followed

by Bengaluru with an 8% yearly rise. On a quarterly basis, average prices in the top 7 cities rose by just 1%.



"The upcoming estive season is expected to boost residential demand, building on the momentum seen in Q3," said Anuj Puri, Chairman -ANAROCK Group. He added, "While buyers will likely stay

selective due to higher prices and increasing affordability concerns, the combination of festive sentiment, stable borrowing costs and a healthy new launch pipeline should support sales. Demand is resilient, but we expect more measured growth - well-priced, well-located projects that align with the current demand profile will outperform others this festive season."Among major cities, Pune saw approx. 15,690 units sold in Q3 2026, a 6% decrease over Q3 2025. NCR saw approx. 13,765 units sold in Q3 2026, a 1% decline on a yearly basis. Kolkata saw approx. 3,980 units sold in Q3 2026, a decline of 4% over the corresponding quarter in 2025. Chennai saw approx. 5,395 units sold during the quarter, a 10% decline year over year.

EPF wage ceiling raised to Rs 25,000: Why new wage rules matter

New Delhi. (Agency)

The increase in the wage ceiling for mandatory coverage under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 a month is a welcome development. As per the estimate of the Central Government, the revision, effective from September 17, 2026, is expected to bring more than 51 lakh additional employees within mandatory EPF coverage—a significant step towards extending social-security protection to a wider section of the workforce.All the more welcome when read alongside the new definition of wages. The change is significant not merely because Rs 25,000 is a larger figure. It has to be understood together with

another major development that preceded it: the introduction of a common statutory definition of "wages" under the new labour codes. The four labour codes, including the Code on Social Security, 2020, came into force on November 21, 2025. The new framework introduced a broadly uniform concept of wages for social-security purposes. THE CEILING AND THE DEFINITION OF WAGES ARE DIFFERENT QUESTIONS This distinction is central to understanding the reform. The wage ceiling determines, broadly speaking, the reach of compulsory membership. Under the earlier Rs 15,000 ceiling, an employee entering employment at wages above that figure could

remain outside mandatory coverage, subject to the applicable provisions. With the threshold now raised to Rs 25,000, employees in the Rs 15,000-Rs 25,000 wage band who were previously excluded can be brought within the compulsory framework.The definition of wages, on the other hand, determines what components of remuneration enter the statutory wage base. WIDER DEFINITION Under the labour-code framework, wages include basic pay, dearness allowance and retaining allowance. Certain items, including house-rent allowance, conveyance allowance, overtime allowance and specified other payments, are excluded. But there is an important qualification: where the specified.

Why was the 3-day bank strike deferred? What bank customers need to know now

Kolkata. (Agency)

The three-day nationwide bank strike scheduled from September 28 to 30 has been deferred after the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) reached an understanding late on Sunday, September 27. The key reason for the deferment was the decision to immediately set up a high-level committee of the IBA and UFBU to discuss the demand for declaring all remaining Saturdays as holidays.The UFBU, an umbrella body of nine bank employee and officer unions, announced the decision in a circular issued on September 27 after a meeting with the IBA at 9.30 pm. The circular, titled "UNDERSTANDING REACHED WITH IBA – OUR STRIKE ACTION AND AGITATION DEFERRED", said the two sides had reached an understanding on the key issues that had led to the proposed strike.The union body said the high-level committee would look at the issue of declaring the remaining Saturdays as holidays, explore possible alternatives and consult all stakeholders, including



customers.The circular said, "A high-level committee of IBA and UFBU will be formed immediately to deliberate on the issue of declaring the remaining Saturdays as holidays. This committee will explore, all possible alternatives; discuss with all stakeholders, and work out a solution acceptable to all stakeholders and, more importantly, the customers."This was the main development that led the unions to defer the strike. FIVE-DAY BANKING WEEK DEMAND TO BE DISCUSSED The demand for a five-day banking week has been at the centre of the unions' agitation. At present, bank branches are generally closed on Sundays and the second and fourth Saturdays of every month. The unions have been demanding that all Saturdays be declared holidays.The latest understanding does not mean that the five-day banking week has been approved. Instead, the issue will now be taken up by the newly formed IBA-UFBU committee. The committee will also examine possible alternatives and discuss the matter with stakeholders before working out a solution.

Sensex tumbles 1,000 points: Why markets are falling despite strong growth

Indian markets came under heavy selling pressure, with the Sensex falling 1,000 points despite strong economic growth. So, what is weighing on investor sentiment?

New Delhi. (Agency)

The economy remains resilient, but investors on Dalal Street continue to feel the painful pinch of growing geopolitical tensions and elevated crude oil prices. To make matters worse, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have once again started pulling money out of Indian equities. The combined developments continued to take a toll on investors on Monday, when the Sensex fell more than 1,000 points and the Nifty slipped below 22,900 as Dalal Street was engulfed by a sea of red.It's important to note that today's sell-off did not come out of

nowhere. Markets had already been under pressure for weeks, with the benchmark indices extending a losing streak that has now stretched to seven consecutive weeks. The Sensex has tumbled nearly 15% so far this year, while the Nifty has tanked around 13%. The damage has also spread beyond the headline indices.As many as 18 of the 50 Nifty stocks are now trading more than 20% below their respective 52-week highs, with combined market capitalisation erosion in these stocks of around Rs 31.35 lakh crore.So, why are Indian stocks falling when the economy continues to grow at a healthy pace? India's GDP grew 7.8% in the April-June quarter of FY27, beating economists' expectations as well as the RBI's 7% projection. Growth was supported by private investment, consumption and manufacturing.Yet the stock market has been moving in the opposite direction.

As Dr V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Limited, puts it, "Two apparently contradictory trends - in the economy and markets - deserve



attention. The economy is resilient and corporate earnings are improving, but the market is steadily going down. This is a case of external headwinds overpowering domestic tailwinds." That, in many ways, explains what is happening on Dalal Street. ECONOMY STRONG. SO WHY ARE STOCKS FALLING?

A strong GDP number does not automatically translate into a rising stock market.Stocks are priced on expectations of future earnings, interest rates, liquidity and the return investors can earn elsewhere. And right now, several of those variables are moving against Indian equities.The biggest concern on Dalal Street right now is crude oil. Brent Crude has climbed above \$107 a barrel amid uncertainty over the US-Iran conflict and concerns around the Strait of Hormuz.India imports around 85% of its crude oil requirements. Higher crude prices mean a bigger import bill, greater pressure on the rupee and a potential rise in inflation. If elevated oil prices persist, they could also squeeze corporate margins and complicate the interest-rate outlook. Vijayakumar points to exactly this problem. "Brent crude at \$106 and the US 10-year yield at 5.2% are strong headwinds that are weighing on markets," he said.

NEWS BOX

Honking now a habit than safety response in Bengaluru: Study

BENGALURU(Agency). Honking on Bengaluru's roads appears to have become more of a habit than a safety response, with only around 30% of the respondents saying that honking was related to an alert for danger or to highlight incorrect driving. In contrast, more than half of them attributed it to habitual behaviour, including reflex honking at traffic signals, impatience, frustration and aggressive driving behaviour.

According to the 'No Honking Survey' by Beautiful Bharat, a citizen volunteer group, as part of its 'Let's Hear the Birds Chirp Again' campaign timed on World Deaf Day on Sunday, an overwhelming 97% of the 259 respondents agreed that excessive honking is a very big problem in Bengaluru. The report said that a similar number also agreed that there is a lot of scope for commuters to cut down on the frequency of honking.

Environment and Sustainability Changemaker and Founder of Beautiful Bharat, Odette Katrak said, "The Bengaluru of the past gave us the sound of birds chirping, whereas today all we hear is honking. This was the theme from 2016, and 10 years later, honking has only gotten worse."

Four more held in Rs 9.24 cr R&B funds scam in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR(Agency). A day after two persons posted in the office of the superintending engineer (SE), Roads and Buildings (R&B) Division-I, Bhubaneswar, were arrested in connection with embezzling Rs 9.24 crore government funds, Vigilance on Sunday apprehended four other staff of the department for their alleged involvement in the case.

The accused are peons Dipak Kumar Routray and Laxman Biswal, and two private data entry operators Rajib Lochan Senapati and Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra. Officials of the anti-corruption agency said the four were working under section officer Banalata Mohanty and junior assistant Bibhudutta Nayak, who were attached to the establishment section at the office of SE, R&B Division-I, Bhubaneswar. They were arrested on Saturday.

Investigation revealed the four had received huge amount of the embezzled funds in their personal accounts. Routray and Biswal had received Rs 32.47 lakh and Rs 16.21 lakh respectively, while Senapati received Rs 28.28 lakh and Mohapatra Rs 35.69 lakh, Vigilance officials said. They said Mohanty and Nayak in conspiracy with their associates fraudulently generated fake sanction orders and bills from financial year 2022-23 to 2025-26.

These bills pertained to provisional gratuity, under-utilised leave salary in the names of retired employees and fake claims against the office contingency fund. These fraudulent bills were illegally and unauthorisedly processed through integrated financial management system (IFMS) to siphon off the government money, the officials said.

BJP Worker Shot Dead In West Bengal's Birbhum

BJP worker Chandan Bhalla was shot dead in Birbhum West Bengal, police investigate the incident.

Bolpur(Agency). A booth-level BJP worker was allegedly shot dead in Trishulapatty locality of West Bengal's Birbhum on Sunday evening, police said. The man who died has been identified as Chandan Bhalla (46).

SP Vidit Raj Bhundesh said prima facie the man appeared to have been shot dead. "The exact cause of the death can be ascertained after the post-mortem is completed," he



said. Further investigation is underway to trace the culprits, police said.

According to family members, Bhalla had received a phone call from an unidentified person following which he left home.

Shyamapada Mondal, president of the BJP's Bolpur organisational district, said Bhalla was an "old and active worker" of the party.

"It is very unfortunate that our party worker has been shot dead. We want the police administration to act within 24 hours," Mondal said.

A face from a skull: How a cop's AI app is helping identify the unidentified

Ratnagiri SP Nitin Bagate's RAIDS has helped identify 37 unidentified bodies and generated leads in missing person and long pending criminal cases

Mumbai(Agency). For police, finding an unidentified body is often only the beginning of a difficult investigation. When the face has decomposed, been burnt or mutilated, or only skeletal remains are recovered, establishing who the victim was can become a dead end, leaving both the investigation and the family of a missing person without answers.

An Artificial Intelligence platform developed under the leadership of Ratnagiri Superintendent of Police Nitin Bagate is being used to address that problem. The RAIDS (Rapid AI Driven Investigation and Detection System) application has helped police identify 37 unidentified bodies, including severely decomposed and skeletal remains, besides generating leads in missing person cases and helping trace long absconding accused.

The system uses AI assisted facial reconstruction to generate possible facial

appearances from damaged photographs, witness sketches, partial images and skeletal references. From a single reconstruction, it can generate up to 108 scientifically guided variations, increasing the chances that investigators, relatives or members of the



public will recognise the person.

The application has two specialised modules. Dev Drishti generates controlled variations of a known face using forensic prompts and identity lock constraints, while Dev Roop Rekha reconstructs faces from witness

sketches, degraded photographs, partial images and skeletal references.

An idea born from unidentified bodies

The idea took shape from Bagate's experience in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri, two coastal districts where police frequently encounter bodies washed ashore. Prolonged exposure to seawater can destroy facial features, while bodies recovered from forest areas are often decomposed or reduced to skeletal remains.

Bagate, who was Additional SP in Sindhudurg from 2021 to 2023, said the difficulty of identifying such bodies often affected the investigation itself. "Unless the identity of a body is established, the chances of solving the crime are significantly reduced. Several such cases remained unsolved. When I took charge as Superintendent of Police in Ratnagiri, I decided to develop an AI based application that could assist police in identifying unidentified bodies, particularly in cases where the remains were decomposed or skeletal," he said.

Two men die after suspected gas leak near public toilet in Mumbai

Police suspect the men were exposed to gas emitted by a small-scale industrial unit near the toilet.

Mumbai(Agency). Two men died after allegedly being exposed to a strong chemical smell inside a public toilet at Goregaon East in Mumbai in the early hours of Sunday, officials said. According to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials, the incident occurred near the Parsi Panchayat Gate, close to Mrunaltaai Bridge in Ram Mandir (East). BMC officials identified the men as Prabhakar Dhanivar, 24, and Bhavin Desai, 18. Both men were taken to Trauma Care Hospital around midnight and declared dead at 3.49 am, according to doctors there. Locals alerted the authorities after noticing a strong chemical



odour coming from the public toilet and reported that two people had suffered suffocation. The Vanrai police have registered

an accidental death report and await the post-mortem analysis to establish the exact cause of death. "Prima facie, it looks like gas emitted by a small-scale industrial unit near the toilet might have come in contact with the two individuals," a police officer said. BMC officials said the incident was reported to the authorities at around 8.30 am, following which teams from the fire brigade, police, 108 ambulance services, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, and the BMC ward staff were mobilised and sent to the spot. Officials were also expected to examine the toilet premises and ascertain the source of the smell. A detailed inquiry is likely to establish the sequence of events and the cause of death.

To protect pomegranate yield, farmers use CCTV shield – solar powered, with night vision

The shift marks a move from the traditional 'rakhan', in which farmers and villagers take turns to patrol orchards at night, to a more technology-driven form of crop protection.

Pune(Agency). Last year, when the pomegranates from orchards in Pune, Solpaur, Anshik and Ahilyanagar had turned red and heavy with the promise of a lucrative harvest, thieves seemed to know it too. They entered farms under the cover of darkness, picked the choicest fruit – prime quality Bhagwa variety pomegranates – and had disappeared with tons of produce that farmers had spent months nurturing.

This year, the farmers are not taking any chances. As the pomegranate crop in parts of Pune and neighbouring districts entered its harvest window starting June this year, farmers from the affected areas were ready

by installing CCTV cameras in their fields – some with night vision and some solar powered – not necessarily for the entire year, but specifically for those few weeks when the fruit is ripe and ready to be plucked.

The shift marks a move from the traditional 'rakhan', in which farmers and villagers take turns to patrol orchards at night, to a more technology-driven form of crop protection. The increasing availability of relatively affordable cameras that can transmit live feeds to mobile phones has made it possible for farmers to keep an eye on their fields from their homes.



For Sandeep Yelbhar, who witnessed a series of pomegranate thefts at his farm and in neighbouring areas last year, the camera

has effectively become a night watchman that does not need to sit in the orchard.

"Last year, there was theft at my farm and a series of them in the surrounding areas. When the pomegranates came to the stage where they were ready for harvest, I installed two CCTV cameras on my farm this year. This is the period when the risk of theft is highest. The cameras are connected to my mobile phone and also have motion detection. If there is any suspicious movement in front of the camera, my phone gives an alarm. Every two-three hours, either I or someone from my family wakes up and checks the camera feed to see if everything is alright," Yelbhar said.

Tear Gas, Lathi Charge In Protesters vs Cops Over Ujjain Mosque Removal

The road-widening initiative forms part of the broader infrastructure overhaul being undertaken in Ujjain to accommodate the massive influx of pilgrims expected during the Simhashta Mela in 2028

Bhopal(Agency). There was a showdown between cops and a large group of people in Ujjain on Monday at the spot where a portion of the Shahi Masjid is proposed to be demolished as part of a road-widening project, showed videos from the scene. Police used tear gas shells to control the restive crowd as stones were thrown at the security personnel, showed videos. Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel are also present at the spot.

The road-widening initiative forms part of the broader infrastructure overhaul being undertaken in Ujjain to accommodate the massive influx of pilgrims expected during the Simhashta Mela in 2028. 272 structures have been marked for demolition. The Shahi Masjid, described by community members as a centuries-old Waqf property (with some accounts dating it to around

1390), is proposed for partial demolition affecting portions of the prayer hall, a minaret, and related structures. The Madhya Pradesh High Court in Indore had earlier dismissed petitions challenging the Ujjain Municipal Corporation's notices, citing public interest and traffic needs for the upcoming Simhashta. A further hearing related to the matter was scheduled for Monday at the Indore High Court. Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi has objected to the demolition of the Masjid Complex and called on the state government to respect sentiments. "The administrative efforts to demolish the Ujjain Shahi Masjid under the pretext of road widening should be a bit more sensitive. Demolishing a 600-year-old heritage site just for road widening and development in the name of progress is the

height of hatred. It has come to my notice that when the matter is pending in court, what message does the administration intend to send by repeatedly laying siege to



the masjid?" the Congress MP said. "Thousands of youth in Ujjain are continuously raising their voices on this issue. My request to the Ujjain administration is to respect public

sentiments and acquire the necessary land for road widening from the other side. Demolishing such a historically significant heritage site cannot be considered a normal event under any circumstances," the MP added.

Ujjain Municipal Corporation Chairperson Kalawati Yadav explained the scale of preparations underway for the upcoming religious gathering, as it is one of the biggest spiritual gatherings that happens once every 12 years. "In 2028, Ujjain will host the Simhashta Mela, one of the world's largest spiritual gatherings, held every 12 years on the banks of the Shipra River. Extensive preparations are underway, including around 29 kilometres of new ghats, a diversion project, dams and other infrastructure works to improve the city.

Residents protest against Vijayanagar tree poisoning

BENGALURU(Agency). A recently reported incident of tree poisoning at Vijayanagar has sparked an outrage among local residents regarding the safety of plants and trees, with a rising concern about similar activities across Bengaluru, including Kengeri, Indiranagar, Malleshwaram, Jayanagar and JP Nagar. The affected tree was on 7th Main Road, 3rd Cross Road, Vijayanagar. An FIR has been filed against local resident Rajendra Kumar and his brothers Vinendra Kumar and Jitendra Kumar for poisoning the tree, said Sudarshan G.K., deputy conservator of forest (DCF), Greater Bengaluru Authority.

While walking through the street, Sonesh K. Shet, the founder of Team Social Spotlight, noticed



the yellowing and falling of leaves from the tree. Worried that it was not the season for leaves dropping, he inspected the tree and noticed holes drilled into the trunk with chemicals dripping out. "Previously, the tree had a twin, which was killed using the same procedure three years ago, and an attempt to kill this tree as well was made recently," said Sonesh. He reported the incident to the Range Forest Officer on September 11. Initially the roots of the trees were drenched, and the chemicals were flushed out from the drilled holes, and first aid was performed to neutralise the toxins. Later environmental conservationist Vijay Nishanth, also known as 'Tree Doctor', treated the tree. His experience of treating around 70-80 such cases across Bengaluru has brought some hope for the survival of the tree. "The tree is in a better condition with a 50-50 chance of survival. The recovery is not that easy, and the health status of the tree can be measured only after one or two months.

NEWS BOX

Frame hit costs India women's 25m pistol medal at Asian Games. What is it?



New Delhi. (Agency)

India's shooting campaign at the Asian Games suffered another setback on Monday, September 28, with the defending champions finishing fifth in the women's 25m pistol team event. Manu Bhaker, Esha Singh and Rahi Sarnobat finished with 1727 points, eight points behind silver medallists South Korea and seven behind bronze medallists Chinese Taipei, after China won gold with 1743. India had been in contention for a medal before a disastrous rapid series from Sarnobat changed the complexion of the competition. Sarnobat registered a frame hit during the crucial stage of the competition, resulting in a score of zero for that shot. India subsequently appealed the decision, believing the shot had not been properly registered by the scoring technology. The appeal, however, was rejected by the Asian Games authorities, who upheld the original decision.

WHAT IS A FRAME HIT?

A frame hit occurs when a shot hits the frame surrounding the scoring area rather than the target itself, resulting in no score.

Asian Games Live: September 28 Updates

In a high-pressure competition such as the Asian Games, a frame hit can prove particularly costly because every shot matters in a team event where the combined scores of three shooters determine the final standings. In Sarnobat's case, India believed the zero could have been the result of a technical issue with the scoring system. The matter was reviewed, but the authorities concluded that Sarnobat had fired before properly settling on the target and upheld the frame-hit call. One of the shooting coaches explained to India Today that such an error can happen under pressure, particularly when a shooter is unable to settle properly before taking the shot. The zero came at a crucial point for India, who had been in the hunt for a podium finish.

India vs Afghanistan: When and where to watch Asian Games cricket quarterfinal



NAGOYA. (Agency)

India begin their bid to defend the men's cricket gold medal at the Asian Games 2026 when they face Afghanistan in the quarter-finals at the Korogi Sports Park in Nisshin on Monday, September 28. Shreyas Iyer's side received a direct entry into the last eight based on India's position among Asia's top-ranked T20I teams, while Afghanistan had to fight through the group stage. India head into the knockout stage with a strong squad featuring several established T20 names. Abhishek Sharma will be one of the biggest threats at the top of the order after his explosive recent performances, while Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma give India plenty of batting depth. Captain Shreyas Iyer will be expected to anchor the middle order and lead a side packed with experience. The bowling attack also has considerable firepower. Jasprit Bumrah brings experience and control with the new ball and at the death, while Arshdeep Singh offers another left-arm pace option. Axar Patel, Washington Sundar and Ravi Bishnoi give India multiple spin options, which could become particularly important if the pitch offers assistance. It remains to be seen whether Vaibhav Sooryavanshi gets an opportunity after being benched for the three-match T20I series against Afghanistan and the solitary T20I against Japan.

HOW AFGHANISTAN REACHED THE QUARTERFINAL

Afghanistan were placed in Group A alongside Japan and Nepal. They began their campaign with a convincing 48-run win over hosts Japan, posting 129 for 6 before bowling Japan out for 81. Arab Gul Momand was the star with the ball, taking 4 for 8, while Nangeyalia Kharote claimed 3 for 19. Afghanistan then lost to Nepal by five wickets, leaving the group qualification race dependent on the final Nepal-Japan match.

Akshaj Shenoy: India's League of Legends captain faces tough odds Asian Games

Asian Games 2026: Akshaj Shenoy has been playing against the odds his entire life. Now, as India's League of Legends captain, he faces his biggest challenge yet. Chasing India's first esports medal.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Akshaj Shenoy has been playing against the odds his entire life. At 24, he will captain India's team at the Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya. But the real fight started long before this tournament. It started when he was a kid in Kochi with a shared PC and a game nobody in India cared about. It

continued when he had to hop between foreign servers because India did not have one. It persisted when his relatives mocked what he was doing, when society said this was not a real career, and when the infrastructure did not exist. Now he faces the odds again. India's group at the Asian Games is brutal. The toughest possible draw. South Korea will be there. Chinese Taipei will be there. Teams that have been building professional ecosystems for 15 years while India is just starting to believe esports was real. But here is what matters: if India wins, it will be the country's first esports medal at the Asian Games. That is what he is playing for. I wanted to prove something," Akshaj said in an exclusive interview with India Today.

KOCHI, THE PC, THE GAME

Akshaj grew up fighting his cousins for time on a shared PC. When they left, the machine was his. As most 90s kids would relate, most high-end games would not run on it. Too demanding. League of Legends

would. He downloaded it after seeing some videos on YouTube, started playing for fun, and that was it for ten years. Just a hobby for a kid with time to kill.



As he was building his skills in the game, he hopped servers looking for competition. North America. Europe. Japan. The ping made everything unplayable. The connection was terrible. The equipment was wrong. But he kept playing anyways. One day while playing on the Japanese server, he found a fellow Indian player.

"Why are you playing here?" the stranger asked. That one conversation led him to the Indian League of Legends community. It was small. Real tournaments existed, but barely. Real players existed, but they were scattered across the country. By 11th grade, Akshaj had a plan. He identified the best player in every role. Then he approached them all. Stop playing separately. Form a super team. See where that goes.

They said yes. His experience there gave him insights into leadership. Not because there was a pathway or a system. Simply because he liked the game and wanted to build something from it.

THE PATTERN REPEATS

The team competing at this edition of the Asian Games came together over many years. Three players stayed with him from India's 2022 team, which finished fifth in Hangzhou. Ahmed Shahid joined them. They won domestic tournaments. They beat Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern teams on multiple occasions.

I'm hurting: PV Sindhu slams organisers in scathing post after Asian Games heartbreak

New Delhi. (Agency)

PV Sindhu has hit out at the Asian Games organisers after her quarter-final exit in women's singles, saying the punishing schedule had taken a toll and questioning the absence of video review during her defeat to China's Chen Yufei. Sindhu lost 21-11, 18-21, 10-21 to the World No. 4 on Sunday after taking the opening game comfortably. The Indian was locked at 18-18 in the second game before Chen won three straight points to take control of the contest, eventually forcing a decider and winning it 21-10. Sindhu said those three points have continued to play on her mind. "My Asian Games campaign is over, and I'm hurting. Three points from closing out that quarterfinal. I keep coming back to those three points," Sindhu wrote in a social media post.

ASIAN GAMES IN SHAMBLES

The former world champion also

suggested that the absence of a video review system had added to her frustration. Sindhu played her quarter-final on Court 4, where video referral was



not available, with the system being used only on Courts 1 and 2 at the Asian Games. She felt some of the close line calls could have gone her way and potentially changed the momentum of the second

game. The scheduling had also left Sindhu with little time to recover between matches. She played three singles matches in roughly 24 hours, with her third-round contest against Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki ending around 1:30 am on Sunday before she returned to the court for her quarter-final against Chen less than 12 hours later. "Three matches in 18 hours. Back at 3 a.m., out again at 8:30 a.m. It took a toll," Sindhu wrote. The demanding schedule had affected other singles players as well. Unnati Hooda also played three matches in roughly 26 hours before losing to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in the quarter-finals. I'M HURTING: PV SINDHU The compressed schedule had also drawn criticism from other players at the Asian Games. China's women's doubles World No. 1 Tan Ning said.

Former WWE wrestler Benjamin Satterley 'Pac' dies aged 40

MANCHESTER. (Agency)

Professional wrestler Benjamin Satterley, better known as 'Pac' in All Elite Wrestling and 'Neville' during his time in WWE, has passed away at the age of 40. All Elite Wrestling confirmed his death on Sunday night. The promotion did not reveal the cause of death or share information about the circumstances surrounding his passing.

"All Elite Wrestling is saddened to announce the passing of Benjamin Satterley, aka Pac. A native of Newcastle upon Tyne, England, Satterley began his wrestling career in 2004 and went on to perform for wrestling organizations all over the world, captivating fans with innovative high-flying moves and incredible in-ring ability," AEW said in a statement. Pac signed with All Elite Wrestling in 2019 and held multiple AEW Championships and competed in some of the most memorable matches in AEW

history," it added. Satterley's death came shortly after his final appearance in the ring. He wrestled at AEW All Out in Chicago on September 26, facing Andrade El Idolo for the AEW National



Championship. Andrade retained the title after countering Pac's Brutalizer submission into a pin. At present, no official information has been released regarding the cause of Satterley's death.

Who was Benjamin Satterley?

Satterley was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, England, on August 22, 1986. He started his wrestling career in 2004 and established himself on the British independent circuit before taking his career overseas, most notably competing in Japan for Dragon Gate.

He then signed with WWE in 2012 and was introduced to NXT fans as Adrian Neville. He became one of the prominent performers during its early years, clinching the NXT Tag Team Championship and later the NXT Championship. His reign as NXT champion lasted 286 days, from February to December 2014. He earned the nickname of 'The Man Gravity Forgot' for his brilliant high-flying style and became a fan favourite for his signature move 'The Red Arrow', which is a spectacular 450° splash performed from the top rope.

Lovlina's next fight is for Asian Games gold, but the journey matters more



New Delhi. (Agency)

The silver medal in Glasgow did not leave Lovlina Borgohain with regrets alone. It left her with questions. What could she have done earlier? Which openings did she miss? Where did her rhythm slip? And what would it take to make sure those small moments went her way the next time? At 28, Borgohain knows that a boxing career is rarely defined by one result. Tokyo gave her the joy of an Olympic breakthrough. Paris left her with the pain of disappointment. Glasgow brought her a first Commonwealth Games medal, but the silver after a defeat to Australia's Emma-Sue Greentree left her with unfinished business. Each tournament has changed her in a different way. Each setback has forced her to look more closely at the boxer she is becoming. Now, as she prepares for another Asian Games campaign in the 75kg category, Borgohain carries the experience of a career that has already taken her to Olympic, World Championships, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games podiums. The medals have come. So have the difficult questions. The hunger, however, remains. Her most recent lesson came in Glasgow, where Borgohain won her first Commonwealth Games medal but had to settle for silver after losing to Greentree in the final. Rather than allow the defeat to linger, she went back to the fight, studied the moments she could have handled differently and turned the loss into part of her preparation. Now, with just eight boxers in the 75kg draw, Borgohain is one victory away from securing another Asian Games medal. She opens against South Korea's Suyeon Seong and could meet reigning 70kg world champion Natalya Bogdanova of Kazakhstan or Uzbekistan's world bronze medallist Aziza Zokirova in the semifinal.

In Virat Kohli we trust: Shubman Gill leaves batter alone as India begin World Cup prep

CHENNAI. (Agency)

India captain Shubman Gill is more than happy to leave Virat Kohli alone as India begin their preparation for the ODI World Cup 2027. Kohli, on Sunday, September 27, put up another staggering performance, hitting yet another ODI century against West Indies. Kohli smashed an unbeaten 139 off just 88 balls, helping India chase down 296 runs in just 41.4 overs. The hundred, Kohli's fourth in the last 11 innings, was yet another proof of the legend, perhaps enjoying his finest batting form in his ODI career. The batter has recently unlocked his ODI batting, where instead of playing the long game, he shows aggression from the very start of his innings. Kohli's sensational form more or less confirms him for the ODI World Cup spot. Reacting to Kohli's knock after the game, Shubman said Kohli has won enough

games for India to let him do his thing and the team trusted him to do exactly that.

"Someone like him, who has won so many games for the country. Who has done it over and over again, you just let him play however he wants to play on the day because when he plays well, he can win matches for you," Shubman said after India's win in the 1st ODI against West Indies.

IN VIRAT KOHLI WE TRUST

Gill's comments underline the kind of freedom India can afford to give Kohli when he is in this kind of form. With the veteran batter continuing to produce match-winning performances, India's captain is happy to let him decide how he wants to approach his innings. And Kohli knows that his batting has changed. "I've got a challenge at this stage of my career to kind



of up the ante and play a gear or two higher, and yeah, that was exciting for me to work on," Kohli said after his century. The 37-year-old said the challenge of finding another version of himself at this stage of his

career had been a motivating factor. "Again, it excites you when you have to unlock a new version at this stage of your career, which will eventually help any team that you play for, be it playing for India or in the IPL." That new version was on full display in Thiruvananthapuram.

Kohli took 40 balls to reach his fifty before accelerating dramatically. He finished unbeaten on 139 from 88 balls, hitting 10 fours and nine sixes, as India completed a comfortable chase of 296. His 151-run partnership with Gill was the foundation of the chase. Gill made 110 from 108 balls, but it was Kohli who provided the explosive finish, taking the game away from West Indies in the latter stages.

The Vvaan Box Office Day 2: Sidharth Malhotra

Tamannaah Bhatia

Film Crosses Rs 19 Crore In India

The Vvaan Box Office Collection Day 2: Sidharth Malhotra and Tamannaah Bhatia's The Vvaan: Force of the Forrest released on September 25, 2026. The film opened with a ₹8 crore net collection at the India box office. On the second day, it witnessed a considerable jump.

The Vvaan Box Office Collection

After opening with Rs 8 crore on Friday, The Vvaan managed to improve its numbers on Saturday. The film brought in an estimated Rs 11 crore net from India on Day 2, marking a 37.5 per cent rise from its opening-day earnings. Its India net collection has now climbed to around Rs 19 crore, while the gross stands at approximately Rs 22.60 crore.

The Sidharth Malhotra and Tamannaah Bhatia-led film also added to its tally from international markets. The supernatural thriller earned around Rs 1.25 crore overseas on Saturday, taking its overseas gross to Rs 2.25 crore so far. Combining its India and overseas earnings, The Vvaan has recorded an estimated worldwide gross of Rs 24.85 crore.

What Happens In The Vvaan?

The Vvaan follows Rishi, played by Sidharth Malhotra, a rational and city-bred man who travels to his ancestral village in Bihar with his wife M a m t a (T a m a n n a a h Bhatia).

The couple arrives with a straightforward plan — to sell the land Rishi has inherited. But things soon take a strange turn when he learns about a forest that villagers are strictly forbidden from entering after sunset. Rishi doesn't take the warning seriously and sees the belief as nothing more than superstition. He even supports Deepak (Sunil Grover), who wants to clear a section of the forest to improve connectivity for the village.

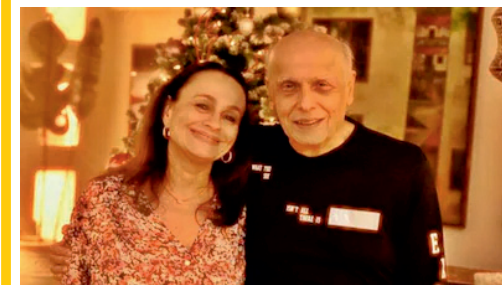
However, everything changes when Rishi enters the forbidden forest one night and accidentally breaks an ancient seal. His actions unleash a supernatural force linked to the long-standing legend of the Van Devi. As unusual incidents begin to unfold, Rishi is forced to question everything he has always believed in. What starts as a simple trip to sell ancestral property soon turns into a search for answers about the forest, the Van Devi and the secrets that have remained hidden for generations.

The Vvaan Review

News18 Showsha gave The Vvaan a 3-star rating. "The Vvaan has an interesting idea at its core and deserves credit for attempting to bring Indian folklore and fantasy together. It is entertaining in parts, with smart dialogues, some genuinely funny moments and committed performances from its cast. However, an inconsistent screenplay, forced humour and unnecessary songs prevent it from becoming a consistently engaging experience," a part of our review reads.



'Your Wife Needs To Work?': Soni Razdan On Work Drying Up After Marriage To Mahesh Bhatt



Soni Razdan has worked in several top films of Bollywood and television shows. While she was receiving several projects after her marriage to Mahesh Bhatt, she abruptly stepped away from films. Now, in a recent interview, Soni recalled how everything was working fine, but suddenly the work stopped as soon as she got married.

Speaking to Zoom, Soni revealed, "I was already working when I got married. So that work continued, but then after that, nothing happened. Just zero. It's like everything went away." "Your wife needs to work? She's married, isn't she?" people told Mahesh Bhatt after they got married, the actress revealed, but this was an alien concept for Soni Razdan. "It was such an alien concept to me. I didn't come from that thought process, that mind. In those days, a lot of people did," she said.

Talking about the patriarchy in the industry while she was working, the actor said, "It's all about the male gaze and some skewed notion of what a desirable woman actually is."

The actress went on to question people's requirements from women and said, "Why does she also have to be desirable in the first place? I get it. You're in films. People are going to watch you for two and a half hours. You better have something to show, something that they would want to look at. But that doesn't mean you can't have a relationship."

About Soni Razdan's recent film

Soni Razdan is currently seen in Om Ka Hari. The movie focuses on the complicated relationship between a father and son. Hari believes he doesn't have much time left and wants to spend his final days in Varanasi, while Om struggles to understand the father he has spent years arguing with. Their journey brings out old differences, family tensions and plenty of emotions along the way. The film stars Anshuman Jha and Raghubir Yadav in the titular roles and was released theatrically on September 18, 2026. Directed by Harish Vyas, the film also stars Samta Sudiksha and Ayesha Kapur in key roles and brings to the screen one of the oldest rivalries known to mankind: Father vs Son.

Ranbir Kapoor Holds Wife Alia Bhatt Close In New Photos After 'Awkward' Premiere Videos



Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's recent public appearances have once again caught social media's attention. At the screening of Alia's production Don't Be Shy, many users commented on their body language. Some felt Ranbir looked disinterested while posing with his wife and did not seem keen on looking at her or standing close to her. Others pointed out that Alia seemed to be making an effort to bring him closer for the photos.

The latest photos from a dinner with Love & War director Sanjay Leela Bhansali and co-star Vicky Kaushal, however, have given people something else to talk about. In the group photo, Ranbir is seen with his arms around Alia. In another photo, he is standing behind her and holding her as they make their way towards their car. His protective body language has led some social media users to say that Ranbir has now shut down the earlier trolling.

Some users also said Ranbir does not need to prove his love for Alia through every public appearance. Others, however, continued to analyse the new pictures. A few pointed out that Alia looked visibly surprised when Ranbir put his arms around her for the photo before she looked at him and smiled.

One user commented, "Alia nearly died of happiness. She probably dreams of Ranbir being this clingy in front of the paparazzi". Another wrote, "The way ranbir kapoor protecting her wife with paps Woww such a cute couple." Another wrote, "Sometimes he ignore alia and sometimes he pprotect which one is real ?!" Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt got married on April 14, 2022, in an intimate ceremony at their Bandra home, Vastu, attended by close family and friends. They welcomed their first child, daughter Raha, on November 6, 2022. Alia later revealed that the name Raha was chosen by her grandmother, Neetu Kapoor. The couple has largely kept Raha away from the public eye and has been careful about sharing her pictures.

Kriti Sanon

Shares Hard-Hitting Note On Daughter's Day Amid Sexual Assault Cases: 'Let That Sink In...'

Actor Kriti Sanon used Daughter's Day to draw attention to the fear and precautions women have been forced to build into their everyday lives. In a strongly worded Instagram post, the actor asked people to imagine their daughters walking home alone at night, being followed by men, or being left without a phone before reaching home. Her post comes amid a series of disturbing cases involving women and minors reported across Bihar and Delhi over the past week, including allegations of molestation, sexual assault and gang rape.

Kriti Sanon's Daughter's Day Post

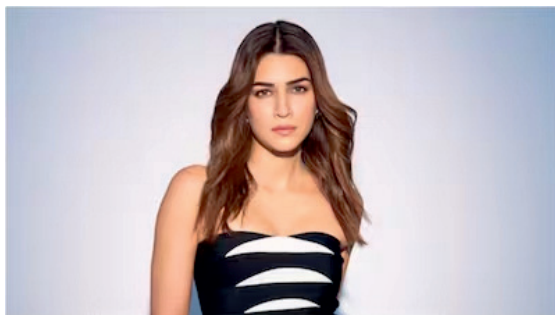
Kriti shared a three-slide post on Instagram on Sunday. The first slide began with a question: "Imagine your daughter calling you saying, 'I think I'm being followed by some men.'" She then asked people to imagine their daughter walking home alone at night while "constantly looking over her shoulder", or her phone dying before she reaches home.

"Now let that sink in..." the post read. In the second slide, Kriti wrote about sharing live locations, carrying pepper spray, booking a cab instead of walking and calling someone simply to feel safer. "We have forced her to make this her lifestyle," she wrote. She then described the freedom she believes women should be able to have — walking home alone at night, sitting in a park after dark, wearing whatever they want, taking public transport without

fear and existing in public spaces without constantly calculating the risk of being assaulted. "That is the day we should celebrate Daughter's Day," she added.

In the final slide, Kriti addressed daughters who have called home to say, "I've reached."

"May you one day live in a world where you don't have to...♥️" she wrote, adding, "That is the world our daughters deserve! And that is the world



we owe them!"

A Spate Of Cases In Bihar, Delhi

Kriti's post comes amid a series of disturbing cases involving women and minors reported across Bihar and Delhi in recent days. In Bihar, a teenage girl in Samastipur was allegedly assaulted and molested by a group of men after they saw her with a boy; a video of the incident later surfaced online, following which four people were arrested.



NEWS BOX

Israel says killed October 7 attacker filmed abducting couple

JERUSALEM.(Agency)

Israeli forces have killed a Palestinian militant who was filmed abducting a couple at a music festival during Hamas's deadly attack on October 7, 2023, the military said on Sunday. Video footage widely circulated in the aftermath of the attack showed militants abducting Noa Argamani and her boyfriend Avinatan Or at the Nova music festival. Argamani was rescued in June 2024 during an Israeli operation in the central Gaza Strip, while Or was released by Hamas last October as part of a ceasefire deal. Israeli forces "struck in the Nuseirat area and eliminated the terrorist Saher Nidal Latfi Sakr, a terrorist operative affiliated with global jihadist organisations operating in the Gaza Strip," the Israeli military said in a statement on Sunday. Sakr drove the motorcycle used to abduct Argamani and Or, according to the statement. Hamas and allied factions killed at least 370 people and took 44 hostages at the Nova festival on October 7, 2023, according to Israeli figures.

Trump says Iran war will be won 'very soon', does not rule out strikes before midterms

TRENTON.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump has said he expects the conflict with Iran to be won "very soon", while declining to rule out the possibility of renewed American military strikes before the US midterm elections. Speaking to Fox News on the sidelines of the PGA Tour Presidents Cup on Sunday (local time), Trump said the primary US objective was to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. He also said the end of the conflict would lead to a sharp fall in global oil prices. "I think what's going to happen is we're going to win this war very soon, and as soon as we win it, the oil will go down, way down to what it was before the war," Trump said. Asked whether the US could carry out further military strikes before the midterm elections, Trump declined to rule out the possibility. "I don't want to say that. I don't want to say that. I mean, it's possible, but I just don't want to say that," he said. "And the key is, Iran will not have a nuclear weapon," Trump said, adding that nuclear deterrence was "key to the whole thing." On whether the US was making progress through military action or economic sanctions under what he



called "Operation Economic Outcast", Trump said Washington was succeeding on both fronts. "I think both. I think we'll win it both ways. We've already won it really from a military standpoint," he said, adding, "But that doesn't mean we've stopped that." Trump also claimed that Iran's economy had been severely damaged by US pressure. "We're certainly winning it very big. If you look at their economy, it's gone. They have no economy," he said. He claimed that Iran was facing soaring inflation and a collapse in the value of its currency. "The value of their money is, as they say, valueless. We have inflation. They have inflation now of close to 300%. I heard 318% as of this morning. 300, meaning their money is shot, their economy is shot, their military is shot. They're in trouble."

5 men arrested near UK air base used by US in Iran war on suspicion of preparing a terrorist act

The arrests come at a time of heightened tensions around the threat from hostile states to the U.K., with Russia and Iran among those that have used proxies to commit crimes on their behalf on British soil.

LONDON.(Agency)

U.K. police said that five men arrested in the early hours of Sunday near an air base used by the United States during its war against Iran are being held on suspicion of preparing a terrorist act that appeared to

involve three trucks. London's Metropolitan Police, which takes the lead on potential terrorist activities, said police received a call at 12:45 a.m. related to the three suspicious vehicles that appeared to be traveling toward RAF Fairford, a U.K.-owned base that is operated by the U.S. under an agreement dating back to the Cold War. The base is home to US bombers striking Iran. The arrests come at a time of heightened tensions around the threat from hostile states to the U.K., with Russia and Iran among those that have used proxies to commit crimes on their behalf on British soil. In March, officials said the number of national security cases involving activity by hostile states including Iran increased 50% in the six months to December 2025. Fairford has been used by American bombers for strictly limited strikes against Iranian missile sites under an agreement with

former British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who voiced opposition to the war after it was launched by the U.S. and Israel



on Feb. 28. Authorities are investigating a link between the Fairford arrests and Iran as one possibility. Iran has previously indicated that a base used to attack its territory is a legitimate target.

U.S. President Donald Trump praised those who were involved in making the

arrests. "It was an amazing job. We had them under investigation. They were looking to do big damage to our fort. And working with the British worked out great," he told reporters in Chicago on Sunday. "We had them under view for a long time and we got them."

Police feared an explosion

The five men were initially arrested on suspicion of committing offenses under the Explosives Act in the Whelford area, which backs onto RAF Fairford, which hosts the headquarters of the U.S. Air Force's 501st Combat Support Wing and the 420th Air Base Squadron.

Aerial footage from Sky News appeared to show a bomb disposal robot roaming between three white trucks. The rear doors of two of the vans were open and large black items could be seen scattered around. The robot appeared to be working toward getting access to the third truck.

Police gave no details as to the nationality of those arrested.

Araghchi: Iran seeks peace but is prepared for 'apocalyptic war'

wold.(Agency)

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran remains open to diplomacy but is also fully prepared for what he described as an "apocalyptic war" if the United States launches new attacks.

Speaking on NBC's Meet the Press and in a post on X, Araghchi said he and President Masoud Pezeshkian traveled to New York to pursue peace rather than war. He stressed that Tehran would continue seeking a diplomatic solution while remaining prepared to respond to military aggression. The remarks come amid stalled US-Iran negotiations. Reports say the United States rejected a recent Iranian proposal involving the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz within seven days in exchange for an end to hostilities and the release of

frozen Iranian assets. US President Donald Trump has said further



indirect talks are expected, with Qatar continuing to relay messages between Washington and Tehran.

Trump also expressed confidence that the conflict with Iran will be won "very soon," while acknowledging that fresh military strikes ahead of the US midterm elections are "possible." Speaking to Fox News on the

sidelines of the PGA Tour Presidents Cup on Sunday (local time), Trump said that an end to the confrontation would cause global oil prices to fall sharply, reiterating that denying Tehran a nuclear weapon is the primary American objective. "I think what's going to happen is we're going to win this war very soon, and as soon as we win it, the oil will go down, way down to what it was before the war," Trump told Fox News. When asked specifically whether military strikes could resume before the upcoming midterm elections, Trump declined to take the option off the table. "I don't want to say that. I don't want to say that. I mean, it's possible, but I just don't want to say that," Trump said. Emphasising the core focus of US policy, he added, "And the key is, Iran will not have a nuclear weapon."

Anthropic CEO Amodei to dine with Trump at White House

The meeting comes after months of open conflict between the artificial intelligence startup and the Trump administration.

world.(Agency)

President Donald Trump said he will have a late dinner Sunday night with Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, the top AI executive who has cautioned about the technology's breakneck pace of development even as the president warns against slowing it. The meeting comes after months of open conflict between the artificial intelligence startup and the Trump administration. The private dinner is the first one-on-one meeting between the two men, according to US media

including Axios, which first reported the dinner plan. As he arrived at Joint Base Andrews near Washington after attending a golf tournament in Chicago, Trump joked about putting in a long day and having a late meal with Amodei. "And tonight, I'm having dinner with the head of Anthropic, so these are long days, but I seem to be able to handle it. Right?", Trump told reporters. So now I'm having dinner with Dario from, as you know, very highly respected, from Anthropic," Trump said. The invitation comes two days after a federal appeals court upheld the Pentagon's decision to classify Anthropic as a supply chain risk, which prohibits the United States military from using its models. The startup had been punished with sanctions by the Trump administration after refusing in February to allow its models to be used for fully autonomous weapons

or domestic mass surveillance.

Trump also badmouthed Amodei, saying he was trying to be "a perfect little angel" after the Anthropic chief called for a pause in AI development.

Amodei was absent Thursday at the state dinner for Chinese President Xi Jinping attended by AI industry leaders, including Amodei rival Sam Altman of OpenAI. Despite mounting calls to slow down AI development due to the risk of losing human control of the technology, Trump insists the sector's major players — OpenAI, Anthropic, Google, and Meta — cannot afford to slow down for fear that China will gain the upper hand. Asked Sunday by Fox News about the numerous security incidents caused by advanced AI models, the president dismissed these concerns, saying "I'm not worried about it." Trump and Mike Johnson, the speaker of the House of Representatives,

Two dead, 14 missing after avalanche strikes Nepal's Himlung Peak

UNITED NATIONS.(Agency)

At least two people have been killed and 14 remain missing after an avalanche at Nepal's Himlung peak, an official said on Monday, as rescuers resumed their search. The avalanche swept through the base camp of the 7,126-metre (23,345-foot) peak near the Chinese border early on Sunday, burying tents under deep snow. "Two bodies were found as rescuers worked until 6:00 pm last night," Tul Singh Gurung, president of the Nepal National Mountain Guide Association, told AFP. "The search continues for 14 expedition workers who are still missing." A team of eight mountain guides is involved in the search operation, he added. Mountaineer Mingma G Sherpa, who is leading the rescue team, said challenging weather conditions were hampering their efforts.

"We could have saved lives but due to bad weather, we reached the accident site only in the evening (on Sunday)," he wrote on Facebook.

Sherpa said the deceased were both guides, while the 14 missing were kitchen staff working at the expedition camp. Organisers initially reported that at



least 10 people were missing.

It was the latest natural disaster to hit Nepal in recent weeks. The Himalayan nation is rebuilding from a devastating glacial flood on August 26 that killed more than 1,400 people and left over 6,000 missing. And heavy rain since Thursday has triggered other floods and landslides, killing at least 21 people, according to the national disaster agency.

Home to eight of the world's 14 highest peaks, Nepal relies heavily on mountaineering and trekking tourism.

Russian strikes kill eight in Ukraine, including children

world.(Agency)

Russian strikes killed eight people across Ukraine on Sunday, a day after Moscow vowed to pursue the war, authorities said Sunday. President Volodymyr Zelensky said that Russia had fired about 3,900 drones, aerial bombs and other missiles at Ukraine over the past week. Russia has stepped up attacks on Kyiv, with Ukraine charging that Moscow is deliberately hitting civilian targets as the country braces for another tough winter. Interior Minister Ivan Vyhivskiy announced that Russian strikes hit a children's centre in the northern city of Sumy, killing three people including a 16-year-old girl. Zelensky said three people had been killed in night-time strikes on the southern Zaporizhzhia region and a Russian drone strike had killed one man in Kyiv. Authorities in the Odesa region said a "massive strike" on the south of the Black Sea region had killed one more person. Kyiv mayor Vitaly Klitchko said a woman and two 16-year-olds had been wounded and

hospitalised in the capital. "The enemy continues to relentlessly attack the Kyiv region with strike drones," the city's administration said. "Sixteen sites have been damaged," including 12 houses, a warehouse and production facility, it added. Russian strikes in the Odesa region damaged housing, a shop, a hotel, a medical building and a grain warehouse, said regional head Oleg Kiper. Targeting 'civilian infrastructure' - "This past week, the Russians launched more than 2,200 attack drones against Ukraine, as well as around 1,650 aerial bombs and 38 missiles of various types, a significant number of them ballistic missiles," Zelensky posted on social media. The latest strikes had targeted two kindergartens, two schools, housing "and other civilian infrastructure" in various parts of the country, he added. "If Russia were truly preparing for any real steps toward de-escalation -- as it claims, particularly to American negotiators -- this wave of 'shaded' terror would not be happening."

Israel Revokes Dutch Diplomats' Status In West Bank Over Sanctions

Tel Aviv.(Agency)

Israel's foreign minister said on Sunday that the diplomatic accreditation of Dutch officials based in the occupied West Bank would be revoked, after the Netherlands began enforcing sanctions on goods from Israeli settlements. The diplomats have seven days to hand over Israeli-issued diplomatic papers, Foreign Minister Gideon Saar posted on X. "After this period, the diplomatic privileges and immunities granted to them by the State of Israel will expire," he added.

Saarsaid the move came after the Dutch government started enforcing a ban on goods imported from Israeli settlements in the Golan Heights, the West Bank and east Jerusalem. Israel conquered the territories during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and has occupied them ever since. Settlements built there are illegal under international law.

Also Read: Israel Closes British Consulate Over West Bank Settlement Sanctions Dutch authorities announced this month that they would begin enforcing a ban on settlement



goods from September 22 and that it applied to personal baggage as well as commercial shipments. "In recent days, Dutch and Israeli media reported that passengers arriving from Israel at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport had their luggage searched for banned goods.

The US ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, a strong supporter of settlers, posted on X that "There were some people from Netherlands in our church this morning who are flying back tomorrow and have to

check their souvenirs to make sure they aren't from Judea/Samaria-possible 6 yr prison term." Judea and Samaria is the biblical name for the West Bank that is still used by the Israeli government. The Dutch ban followed coordinated action by 12 Western countries, including Britain and France, to sanction goods from Israeli settlements at the start of the month. Excluding east Jerusalem, around 500,000 Israeli settlers live in the West Bank, which is home to three million Palestinians.