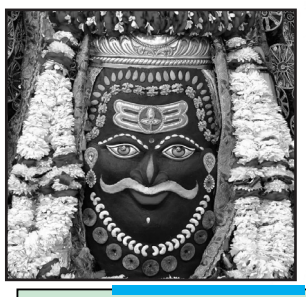
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MONDAY

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AHEMDABAD/GUJRAT
Monday, October 12, 2026



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Bypoll a victory in defeat for DMK: Former CM Stalin

CHENNAI. (Agency)

DMK president M K Stalin on Saturday described the Assembly bypoll results as a "victory in defeat" for the party and a "defeat in victory" for the TVK.

Addressing media persons after paying floral tributes to the statue and portrait of 'Murasoli' Selvam at the Murasoli office in Kodambakkam on the death anniversary of the party mouthpiece's editor.Stalin to a question on the bypoll results said he had already issued a statement on the outcome. "If I have to sum up the election results in one phrase, it is a victory in defeat for the DMK and a defeat in victory for the TVK."

Meanwhile, I Paranthamen, who lost the Madurantakam bypoll as the DMK's candidate, said the votes he secured in the constituency demonstrated the strength of the party's standalone vote bank, arguing that it has retained its core support despite changes in its alliance.

Referring to claims that the DMK's electoral victories depended on the votes contributed by its alliance partners, he told media persons that the performance of the party, which had secured 29% of the votes polled in the recently-concluded bypoll as compared to 30% in the April election, shows that its own vote bank accounted for the bulk of the support.

Parliamentary panel indicts NTA; hope 'arrogant' Modi govt takes it seriously: Congress

New Delhi. (Agency).

The Congress on Sunday said a parliamentary standing committee report has catalogued the "grave incompetence and malpractice" in the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the Ministry of Education, and hoped that the Modi government "sheds its arrogance for the limited time it has remaining" and takes the report seriously.The Congress also said the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education's report, titled "Reforms and Strengthening of the National Testing Agency (NTA)", has highlighted that the Ministry of Education made the "blatantly false" claim to the panel "that no paper leak" occurred in an exam conducted by the NTA since its formation in 2017.In a statement, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education under the chairmanship of Rajya Sabha MP Mukul Wasnik "catalogues the grave incompetence and malpractice in the NTA and the Ministry of Education".

Sharing the statement on X, Ramesh said, "GyaneshGate is dominating the news now but three months ago it was NTAgate that had launched the youth protest movement. Here is our statement on the NTA based on the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education that has just been submitted to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha."

PM launches Chennai Metro stretch worth Rs 4,900 crore, takes ride with CM Vijay

The inauguration was part of PM Modi's Chennai visit, during which development projects worth more than Rs 13,000 crore are being inaugurated across transport, highways, ports, petroleum and education. He was accompanied by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay for many of these events.

Chennai. (Agency).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the 15-km Poonamallee Bypass-Vadapalani stretch of Chennai Metro Rail Phase II, built at a cost of around Rs 4,900 crore, and took a train ride with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay.Modi and Vijay flagged off the new Metro services in the presence of Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar. The Prime Minister also bought a ticket and briefly interacted with an employee at the ticket counter before boarding the train with Vijay and other officials.The newly inaugurated section is part of Corridor 4 of Phase II and features 11 elevated stations. The stretch is expected to improve connectivity between Chennai's western suburbs and the city centre, while reducing travel time for daily commuters.

CHENNAI METRO'S NEW STRETCH: KEY FEATURES

The newly opened section features a 3.7-km double-decker structure and advanced signalling systems designed to support driverless train operations.The 11 stations on the stretch are Poonamallee Bypass, Poonamallee Bus Stand, Poonamallee Government Hospital, Karayanchavadi, Kumananchavadi, Kattupakkam, Iyappanthangal,



Thelliyaragaram, Porur Bypass, Porur Junction and Vadapalani.

According to Chennai Metro Rail, passenger services on the stretch will begin at 4 pm on Sunday and operate in both directions until 9 pm.From October 12, regular services will run between 7 am and 9 pm. The last trains will depart at 9 pm from both terminals, Poonamallee Bypass Metro and Vadapalani Metro on Corridor 4.

PM MODI OFFERS PRAYERS AT IIT-MADRAS TEMPLE

During his visit, Modi also offered prayers at the Sri Jalakanteswara Swamy temple on the IIT-Madras campus, accompanied by Vijay and Governor Arlekar.

Traditional music was played to welcome the Prime Minister. Priests explained the significance of a Srichakra at a sub-shrine dedicated to Lord Krishna and Lord Rama, where Modi offered flowers as part of the worship.The centuries-old Lord Shiva temple on the campus was refurbished after the establishment of the premier educational institution.

PM'S CHENNAI VISIT, PROJECTS WORTH RS 13,000 CRORE

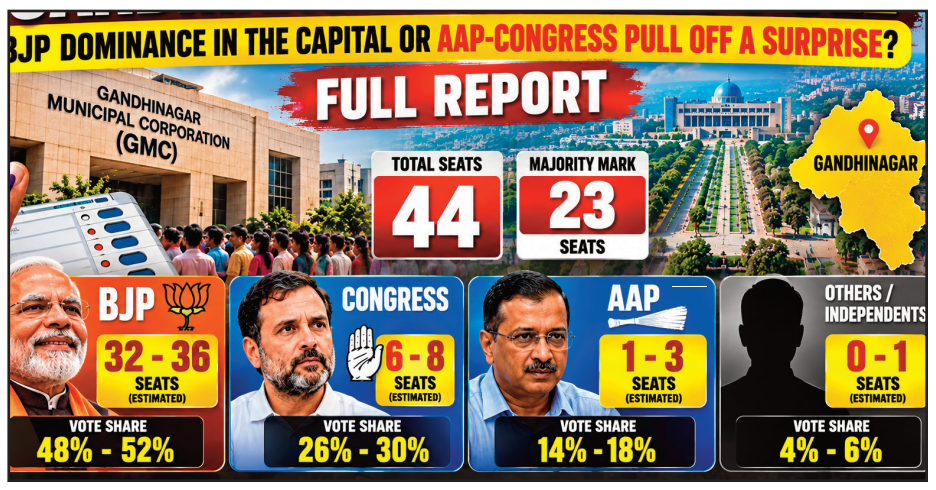
PM Modi arrived in Chennai around 11 am on Sunday to lay the foundation stones for several projects and dedicate others worth more than Rs 13,000 crore.

GANDHINAGAR GMC EXIT POLL:

BJP PROJECTED TO SECURE A CLEAR MAJORITY WITH 32–36 SEATS AS CONGRESS AND AAP FACE A TOUGH THREE-CORNERED CONTEST IN GUJARAT'S CAPITAL

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad: Gandhinagar: Following the completion of voting for the 44 seats of the Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation (GMC), attention has shifted to the anticipated election results. The contest between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Indian National Congress (INC) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has drawn attention to the political equations in Gujarat's capital. According to the exit poll estimates provided, the BJP is projected to secure a clear majority, while Congress and AAP are expected to win fewer seats.The election is being closely watched because Gandhinagar is the state capital and the municipal corporation plays an important role in local civic administration. The projected figures provide an estimate of the possible distribution of seats among the political parties. However, the actual outcome will be known only after the official counting of votes.Exit Poll: Estimated Seat Projections for 44 SeatsThe Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation has a total of 44 seats. A party needs at least 23 seats to cross the majority mark and establish control of the corporation.According to the estimates provided, the projected seat distribution is as follows:Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): 32 to 36 seatsIndian National Congress (INC): 6 to 8 seatsAam Aadmi Party (AAP): 1 to 3 seatsOthers/Independents: 0 to 1 seatIf the projections prove accurate, the BJP would cross the majority mark of 23 seats. Congress and AAP are projected to secure a smaller share of the seats, while the performance of independent candidates could also influence the final composition of the corporation.These figures remain estimates and should not be interpreted as official election results.Estimated Vote Share: How the Parties Could PerformThe supplied exit poll figures also provide estimates of the vote share of the major political parties. The projected percentages are:BJP: 48% to 52%Congress: 26% to 30%Aam Aadmi Party (AAP): 14% to 18%Others: 4% to 6%The estimated vote share offers another perspective on the contest. However, the percentage of votes received by a party does not necessarily correspond directly to the number of seats it wins. In municipal elections, the distribution of votes across individual wards and the margins between candidates play an important role in determining the final seat tally.Key Election Figures and Voting DetailsAccording to the information provided, the Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation election involved 11 wards and a total of 44



seats, with four seats allocated to each ward. The estimated voter turnout has been placed at 56.5%, while more than 200 candidates are reported to have contested the election.The turnout figure provides an indication of electoral participation. However, without verified ward-wise turnout figures and official counting data, it is not possible to determine how participation affected the performance of individual parties.Why Is the BJP Projected to Cross the Majority Mark?The supplied analysis attributes the BJP's projected performance to its organisational network, development-related messaging and support among sections of the electorate, including government employees. The party's established political presence in Gujarat and its campaign in the state capital are also relevant factors in understanding the contest.The exit poll estimates place the BJP well above the majority mark of 23 seats. If the projections are accurate, the party would have sufficient numbers to control the municipal corporation without depending on the support of other parties.Nevertheless, these are projected figures, and the reasons behind voter preferences cannot be established solely from an exit poll. A more detailed assessment would require official results, ward-wise voting patterns and reliable information about the survey methodology.Congress Faces Competition in a Three-Cornered ContestCongress is projected to win between 6 and 8 seats.

Punjab CM Mann slams Delhi Police of having 'Taliban-like' attitude and violating Gurudwara sancity

The Delhi Police said the video was circulated with "malicious intent" on social media and added that it would initiate legal action.

CHANDIGARH (Agency).

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann condemned the alleged entry of Delhi Police personnel into Gurdwara Bangla Sahib in the national capital yesterday accusing them of having a "Taliban-like attitude" and violating the sanctity of the shrine.

Drawing parallels between the alleged incident of Delhi Police yesterday entering with the Bangla Sahib Gurdwara wearing shoes and dragged the protesters out and the storming the Golden Temple during the Operation Blue Star.The Aam Aadmi Party has asked Akal Takht (Highest temporal body of Sikhs) Jathedar Giani Kuldip Singh Gargaj to take up the matter of alleged disrespect shown by the Delhi Police personnel towards Sikh religious practices with the Union Government, as it amounted to the desecration of the gurdwara.In a post on X, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann wrote, "I strongly condemn in the harshest terms the BJP's police forcibly entering Gurdwara Sri Bangla Sahib in Delhi yesterday. History bears witness that the Guru's abode always keeps its doors open to provide shelter to the needy. If the youth of this country protesting yesterday had



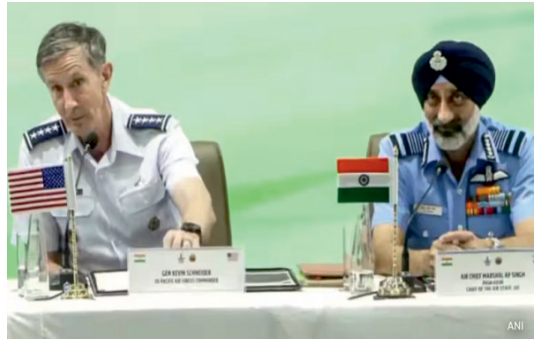
entered there, the principle of the Guru's house is that the sevadars would grant them shelter."

"The BJP's Delhi police, with their Taliban-like attitude, entered Gurdwara Sahib bareheaded and wearing boots on their feet, and the dignity .

US Commander By His Side, Air Force Chief Says "They Don't Let Us Near" F-35 Jets

New Delhi. (Agency).

Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh has taken a swipe at the United States' F-35 programme, telling a top American commander that US personnel don't even let Indian officials near the stealth jet.The IAF chief's remarks came while sharing the stage with General Kevin Schneider, Commander of US Pacific Air Forces, at a press conference on the sidelines of the concluding ceremony of the multinational air exercise Tarang Shakti-2026 in Jodhpur on Saturday."Your people don't even let us go near the aircraft, and you are talking about selling it to us," Air Chief Marshal Singh told reporters when asked if the US had made any official offer to sell F-35 fifth-generation fighter jets to India.



Six US F-35 Lightning II fighter jets were in India for their first-ever participation in Exercise Tarang Shakti.

Air Chief Marshal Singh then said that his remark was a joke and should not be taken "seriously".

He said that this was how countries protect sensitive military technologies, noting that there were things even India did not share with the US.

"Not My Decision": US Commander

General Schneider said decisions on sharing F-35 information were not his to make."There are programme-level security classification guides that determine what we are able.

Six US F-35 Lightning II fighter jets were in India for their first-ever participation in Exercise Tarang Shakti.

Delhi woman who stole newborn from Noida hospital wanted to help childless sister

Noida.(Agency)

A 26-year-old woman and her brother were arrested Saturday for allegedly stealing a three-day-old girl from a maternity hospital in Sector 110 on Friday so they could hand the infant to their sister, who had been unable to conceive despite nine years of marriage. Police said the accused, Upasana (26), allegedly planned to steal an infant after her sister faced taunts over being childless.Police arrested Upasana and her brother Kapil, residents of Karawal Nagar in Delhi, and recovered a scooter they used to flee from the hospital. The baby was found in Delhi on Friday night, about 10 hours after she was taken, and returned to her family.ACP Diksha Singh said Upasana had rented a room in Bhangel around nine days before the crime, allegedly as part of her preparations. The case was registered on a complaint by the baby's father, Gautam Nandan, a cab driver.Gautam lives in rented accommodation in Bhangel with his wife Sapna and his parents. Sapna was admitted to the hospital on Oct 6 and delivered the child through a caesarean section. Around 8 am on Friday, the couple went to consult a doctor and left the newborn with her maternal grandmother Raksha Devi. Upasana, who was at the hospital, allegedly offered to look after the baby and then took her away.

Nearly 300 put under preventive detention as Noida tightens border checks

Noida.(Agency)

Nearly 300 people were put under preventive detention ahead of a protest against the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Saturday, even as police intensified checks near Chilla border and UP Gate. Additional personnel were posted at all district borders adjoining Delhi, and several vehicles believed to be heading for the protest were turned back after their occupants were questioned.Police also continued preventive action against leaders and activists suspected of planning to attend. More than two dozen people were detained at their homes on Saturday, while around 300 people, among them members of several political parties and farmers' groups, were detained at their homes on Friday."With prohibitory orders under BNSS Section 163 in force in Noida, we intensified checking at border points and deployed additional personnel at key locations. Security was stepped up at important malls and crowded public places to maintain law and order and prevent any untoward incident. No one was arrested or held," additional commissioner of police (law and order) Rajeev Narayan Mishra said. Police also monitored social media posts and warned against circulating old videos and misleading content that could trigger rumours or disturb public order.At Chilla, DND and Kalindi Kunj borders, police and paramilitary personnel checked vehicles heading for Delhi throughout the day. Three companies of the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) were deployed in Noida, while water tankers and a fire brigade vehicle stood by to deal with any law-and-order situation.The arrangements were in place from 9 pm on Friday, with surveillance stepped up from early Saturday to prevent protesters from travelling to Delhi in groups. Young commuters were asked where they were going and where they came from, while cabbies were also quizzed about their destinations. Rahul, who was travelling by cab from Noida to Connaught Place, was stopped by police. When asked why he was heading to Delhi despite the restrictions, he said, "My office is open.

Month-long Ganga canal closure to hit water supply to 20 lakh homes in Ghaziabad and Noida

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

More than 20 lakh people in Ghaziabad and Noida who depend on Ganga water are likely to be affected when the irrigation department shuts Upper Ganga Canal for annual desilting from Oct 21 to Nov 25. In the city, Ganga water is supplied to trans-Hindon areas like Indirapuram, Vaishali, Kaushambi, Vasundhara, Siddharth Vihar, Pratap Vihar and delta colonies like Surya Nagar."The annual desiltation exercise takes place between Vijaya Dashami and Diwali every year. This year, it will be done from Oct 21 to Nov 25," an official from the irrigation department said. "After every monsoon, silt deposition in the Upper Ganga Canal exceeds 10,000 particles per minute. This inhibits the flow of water and so 195 km of the canal from Haridwar to Dasna needs to be desilted."

"This year we will also carry out additional work at Chhota Haridwar in Muradnagar where we plan to raise the canal floor by 50 cm along the bathing ghat to prevent incidents of drowning," he added.UP Jal Nigam operates three water treatment plants supplied by the canal.UP Jal Nigam operates three water treatment plants: two at 120 MLD each and one producing 240 MLD of water. From one 120 MLD plant, GMC's share is 60%, while the rest is allocated to Noida.In another 120 MLD plant, 80% of the water is for Noida and 20% for UP Housing Board. From the 240 MLD plant, 75% is allocated to Noida and the rest to the housing board.GMC has 372 MLD of water at its disposal, including Ganga water supply, while the demand is around 419 MLD. About 35% of the water is lost during supply due to leakages in the pipe network.

A GMC official said, "To augment water supply in the affected areas, we have 70 big and 36 small borewells in the Vasundhara zone. In Indirapuram, we will supply water through 26 borewells. In areas where the water supply network is not there, we will deploy 64 water tankers to supply water."

Karjan Congress Launches Signature Campaign Over Bad Roads and Illegal Mining Allegations

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Vadodara: Public anger is reportedly mounting in Karjan taluka of Vadodara district over the deteriorating condition of roads and alleged high-handedness by illegal mining operators. Amid growing frustration among residents over large potholes and clouds of dust on local roads, Karjan Congress has launched a signature campaign to raise public concerns and press the administration to take action. The campaign aims to bring together local residents and draw the attention of the authorities to the problems affecting the region.Overloaded Vehicles and Unregulated Sand Mining Blamed for Road DamageAccording to local residents, excessive and allegedly illegal sand extraction from rivers and streams has become a major concern in the taluka. Overloaded dumpers and trucks transporting sand throughout the day and night are reportedly damaging roads built at considerable public expense. Residents claim that several roads have deteriorated rapidly, developing dangerous potholes that increase the risk of road accidents. They also allege that such conditions have contributed to accidents resulting in fatalities and serious injuries.Questions Raised Over Police and Traffic EnforcementSerious questions are being raised over the alleged lack of effective action by senior police officials, district traffic police and the Mines and Minerals Department. According to local sources, allegations of a purported "monthly extortion system" and alleged arrangements between mining operators, overloaded vehicle owners and officials have raised concerns about enforcement. However, these allegations have not been independently verified. Residents are demanding strict monitoring of overloaded vehicles and transparent action against anyone found violating the law.Signature Campaign Seeks Government InterventionIn response to the alleged administrative negligence, Karjan Congress has taken its campaign directly to the public. Signatures are being collected in villages and at prominent public locations to document residents' grievances. The collected signatures are expected to be submitted to senior administrative officials and the state government, seeking urgent intervention.



When the Windows of a House Are Open

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki, Bhachau, Kutch In today's world, houses are becoming bigger, facilities are increasing, and living standards are improving. Yet, somewhere along the way, the distance between people's hearts is also growing. Fresh air may enter through the windows of our homes, but it is time to reflect on whether the fresh breeze of affection still flows through our relationships.There was a time when family members would gather in the courtyard as evening approached. They would share the events of the day, listen to the experiences of their elders, and naturally pass on the values of life to their children. Today, even family members living under the same roof are often occupied with their own separate worlds. Some are lost in their mobile phones, others are burdened by work-related stress, while some are searching for someone who will genuinely listen to their feelings.True happiness does not lie in expensive furniture, attractive curtains, or modern conveniences; it resides in the love, trust, and warmth shared among family members. When there is space for every material possession in a house but no time to listen to one another, it reflects an abundance of comforts rather than a richness of happiness.



Security tightened in Sonipat, Bahadurgarh ahead of CJP protest; several leaders detained

SONIPAT/BAHADURGARH. (Agency)

Security was tightened across Sonipat and Bahadurgarh on Friday ahead of a protest called by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. Police personnel were deployed at major roads, border points, railway stations and toll plazas, while vehicles heading towards the national capital were subjected to intensive checks.In Sonipat, security arrangements were strengthened at the Kundli-Singhu border, where water cannons, riot-control vehicles, tear gas equipment, fire tenders and ambulances were stationed to deal with any eventuality. Police personnel checked private vehicles and passenger buses, questioned travellers about their destinations and examined documents before allowing them to proceed towards Delhi.Congress workers who reached Sonipat railway station to stage a protest were detained by police. A heavy police presence was maintained on the premises. In Ganaur, farmer leader Virender Pehal and several others were also reportedly detained in connection with the proposed demonstration.Security was also intensified at the Sonipat-Murthal toll plaza, where additional personnel, a crane and a bus were deployed. Police monitored highways and alternative routes leading to Delhi to prevent any disruption and maintain law and order.In Bahadurgarh, police established checkpoints at Tikri border, Jharoda border, the Urban Extension Road (UER), Rohad toll plaza and routes leading to Delhi through Kanonda. Vehicles and buses were stopped for inspection, while passengers were questioned about their travel plans.



CCTV cameras were used to strengthen surveillance, and a contingent of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was also deployed at the border. Police personnel remained stationed at checkpoints from morning until late evening, keeping a close watch on traffic movement and sensitive locations.Meanwhile, INLD leaders Mohit Rathi Zila Parishad, Ramniwas Saini and advocate Vipin were reportedly placed under house arrest in the morning. They were expected to travel to Jantar Mantar with their supporters to participate.

Five attack businessman near Bestech Altura Society, smash car windows with rods

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A businessman was attacked near Bestech Altura Society in Sector 79 by five men and his car windows were smashed with iron rods.Police have ruled out road rage and are probing the incident as a case of personal enmity. An investigation has been launched to identify the attackers and establish the circumstances behind the assault.The incident took place around 9pm on Thursday, when Manish Kumar, a resident of Shikohpur village, was returning home from his office in Naurangpur village. Kumar told police that the five men were in a Brezza car. They followed his Scorpio for some time and intercepted it near the society.

Four of the five accused got out while the fifth remained in the driver's seat, according to Kumar's complaint. They then allegedly launched a sudden attack on his SUV, smashing its front and side windows and attempting to pull him out of the vehicle. Kumar escaped injury during the assault.The attackers fled after they saw another car approaching the area. While leaving, they threatened to kill him if they saw him again, Kumar told police. The five men then drove towards the Naurangpur crusher zone.Kumar, who runs an earthmoving business, said he had been trying to identify the attackers on his own before approaching Bar Gurjar police post on Friday to lodge a formal complaint.Police said an emergency response vehicle alerted them to the incident on Thursday night. Assistant sub-inspector Pardeep Kumar reached the spot and met the complainant, who initially said he suspected certain individuals but would submit a detailed complaint after making further inquiries.Based on Kumar's complaint, an FIR was registered against five unidentified men on Friday under sections 190 (unlawful assembly), 191(3) (rioting while armed with a deadly weapon), 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 126(2) (wrongful restraint), 351(3) (criminal intimidation involving threats of death .

Job joining dates, client meetings, family gatherings hit as railways cancel multiple trains ahead of CJP protest in Delhi

Ghaziabad.Agency)

The puja was planned and the tickets were in hand. Then, with barely a day's notice, the Tejas Rajdhani Express that Sashi Shekhar Mishra's elderly parents were to board from Patna was cancelled.Across the NCR, job joinings, client meetings and family gatherings have been put on hold after Indian Railways cancelled and rescheduled train services ahead of a protest in Delhi on Saturday by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP). The railways cited anticipated severe road congestion around New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin stations for the disruption of services. A statement issued by ministry of railways said trains leaving their originating stations after 2 pm on Friday and due at either station between 4 am and 2 pm on Saturday will be cancelled.The affected services include Rajdhani, Tejas Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains, along with several mail, express and suburban services. A Northern Railway notice lists trains linking Delhi with Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and other regions among the ones affected.For passengers and their relatives, the announcement came too late to plan around."My elderly parents who live in Patna had planned to visit us in Noida on Saturday. We had puja planned on Pitru Paksha. They had made all arrangements to board Rajendra Nagar Terminal-New Delhi Tejas Rajdhani Express at 7.10 pm from Patna railway station but now we hear that it has been cancelled. The announcement was so abrupt that at this point we can't even make alternative arrangements," said Mishra, who lives in Noida Sector 79.Abhishek Jha, a chartered accountant, was due in Noida's Sector 82 for an important meeting with a foreign client. His usual train, the Lucknow Mail, is among those cancelled. "I am yet to inform my client about it as I am still figuring out how to attend the meeting on time," he said.

'Do not join CJP protest': 30 cops in plainclothes reach Dhruv Rathee's Gurgaon home; how drama unfolded

GURGAON(Agency)

YouTuber Dhruv Rathee, who came to India to join Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, was detained from his home in Sector 56 on Saturday morning after he refused to "heed police warnings" against attending the demonstration for which there was no permission.



Police said prohibitory orders were in force in Delhi, where protesters planned to assemble at Jantar Mantar over alleged electoral roll irregularities.

Around 30 policemen in plainclothes reached Rathee's home in Kendriya Vihar around 7.30am and took him into custody. He was subsequently taken to the crime branch office in Sector 39, where he remained in detention till late on Saturday evening.A police officer said Rathee had been warned against joining the demonstration because permission had not been granted for it and restrictions were in force under Section 163 of the BNSS.

"Police initially tried to explain to Dhruv Rathee that he should not join the CJP protest as it did not have permission. He did not agree and continued posting on social media that he would attend the demonstration. We detained him in the morning as he was heading to join an unauthorised protest," the officer said.

The action, police said, was preventive and intended at averting any untoward incident. Such detention can last up to 24 hours, an officer said. A police team remained near Kendriya Vihar even after Rathee was taken away.Other than Rathee, several Congress and Aam Aadmi Party functionaries, along with members of other political outfits, were allegedly placed under house arrest to prevent them from travelling to Jantar Mantar.

NEWS BOX

As campus unrest spreads, political sparring intensifies in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR (Agency).
With nomination of rejections stirring protests across campuses, the students wings of BJD and Congress on Saturday accused the BJP government of selectively cancelling elections in institutions where the ABVP is facing the prospect of defeat.Spokesperson of BJD Lenin Mohanty alleged that the BJP government is afraid of students and Gen Z and is resorting to 'vote chori' and 'candidate chori'. "The BJP's student wing is struggling in colleges and universities and thus the administrations are being forced to nominate office-bearers instead of allowing a fair electoral process," he alleged.BCJD president Ipshita Sahoo alleged that elections were being cancelled in colleges where their candidates had a strong chance of winning and cited Nabarangpur and Nayagarh colleges as an example.Sahoo alleged that the candidate list after nomination process was scheduled to be published after 5 pm across campuses but was released only after 9 pm at Utkal, Rama Devi and Ravenshaw.

Vijayawada's Indrakeeladri all set for Devi Navaratri fete

VIJAYAWADA (Agency).
The stage is set for the annual Dasara festivities at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamyvarla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada from October 11 to 20. The temple authorities have made elaborate arrangements in coordination with government departments to facilitate darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga for lakhs of devotees expected during the ten-day festival.
The festivities will begin on Sunday with traditional rituals and special alankarams and culminate on Vijayadasami, October 20, with Hamsa Vahana Teppotsavam in which Goddess Kanaka Durga and Lord Malleswara Swamy will be taken on a swan-shaped boat in the Krishna River.Temple Executive Officer VK Seena Naik told TNIE that arrangements have been planned to ensure convenient darshan for ordinary devotees. Around 20 lakh pilgrims are expected, prompting focus on queue management and other necessities.In a measure to prioritise ordinary devotees, the temple has withdrawn Rs 100, Rs 300 and Rs 500 darshan tickets. Devotees in queues will be provided free darshan, while Rs 1,000 special darshan will operate in slots between 9 am and 5 pm.Tickets can be booked through Mana Mitra WhatsApp service at 9552300009 and the temple's official portal. He said the temple will be open for darshan from 8 am to 11 pm on the opening day after morning rituals. From October 12 to 20, darshan will be between 4 am and 11 pm, subject to breaks for rituals.
Queue lines extending about 1.65 km from the Lord Vinayaka Swamy temple can accommodate around 8,500 devotees. Three holding areas with 70 compartments can accommodate another 18,000. "More than 5,000 police personnel are expected to work in three shifts round the clock. We have arranged drinking water at 54 locations, 370 toilets and 600 shower facilities. Free footwear stands and luggage storage will be available," the EO said.

Mysuru gears up for grand Dasara fete amid drought

MYSURU(Agency).
The curtains will rise on Sunday for the world-famous Mysuru Dasara, a spectacular confluence of art, culture, heritage, devotion and valour.Despite the prevailing drought and distress among farmers due to deficient rainfall and crop loss, the 'Cultural City' is gearing up to celebrate the state festival in all its grandeur. The entire 'Palace City' has been illuminated, transforming Mysuru into a dazzling spectacle.Elaborate arrangements have been made at the Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hills, where Sri Abhinava Gavisiddeshwara Swamiji of Gavimath, Koppal, will inaugurate the festivities on Sunday during the auspicious Dhanur Lagna between 11.50 am and 12.13 pm.A series of cultural and traditional events will follow, keeping the city vibrant for the next 11 days. This year's Dasara is particularly significant as it marks DK Shivakumar's first edition of the festival as chief minister. Taking a keen interest in the celebrations, he has mobilised the government machinery to ensure the smooth conduct of the festivities.The drought has done little to diminish the grandeur of Dasara, with the city decked up in elaborate decorations and a diverse range of cultural programmes lined up for visitors.
Meanwhile, despite opposition from environmental activists and sections of the public, the traditional coastal buffalo race, Kambala, will be held during Dasara for the first time. Around 150 to 160 pairs of buffaloes are expected to participate in the event scheduled for October 18 and 19.
A 145-metre-long track has been set up near Satagalli on the Outer Ring Road to host the two-day event, for which an estimated Rs 8 crore has being spent.

Rs 25,000 fine from Monday: BMC goes after construction waste trucks as Mumbai's air worsens

Mumbai (Agency).
With the city's air quality deteriorating after the withdrawal of the monsoon, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is set to tighten enforcement against construction and demolition (C&D) waste violations. From Monday, the civic body will levy a penalty of Rs 25,000 on vehicles transporting C&D waste without an active Vehicle Tracking and Monitoring System (VTMS).The BMC will also impose a similar penalty on construction sites that are not registered on its Mumbai Debris Control and Tracking System (MDCTS), launched in August. Inspections are set to begin on Monday. Mumbai generates more than 8,000 tonnes of C&D waste every day, but the BMC has treatment capacity for only about 1,200 tonnes a day at its facilities in Dahisar and Shilphata. In the absence of adequate treatment facilities, debris is often dumped illegally on roads, vacant plots, drains, creeks, water bodies and mangroves"A penalty of Rs 25,000 per vehicle per instance will be imposed on vehicles transporting C&D waste or excavation material without an active authorised/empanelled VTMS device, in addition to any other action permissible under the prevailing rules and regulations," a senior official said.According to senior officials, a circular has been issued across all



26 wards directing officials to impose the penalties for violations. The BMC launched the MDCTS portal on August 24 to track C&D waste from the site where it is generated to an authorised unloading or processing facility. The system also tracks vehicles carrying debris, allowing the civic body to detect route deviations and illegal dumping.The BMC has mandated contractors working on construction sites, government agencies and private developers to register on the portal and submit a detailed C&D waste management plan. It has also made a GPS-based VTMS mandatory for vehicles transporting C&D waste, enabling officials to track their movement and check whether they follow approved routes and reach designated dumping sites.Data obtained from the BMC shows that between August and October 9, the civic body received 220 registrations on the MDCTS portal. Of these, 109 were from builders and developers, 44 from transporters, 19 from BMC contractors, 17 from external buyers seeking to purchase debris and soil, 15 from corporate entities.

Show us the safety audit: Airlines push back on Adani plan to move 265 Mumbai flights to NMIA

Mumbai (Agency).
Airlines at Mumbai airport have asked its operator to hand over the structural safety audits on Terminal 1 before they agree to shift 265 weekly international departures to Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) from October 25.
In a letter to Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) on Friday, the Airline Operators Committee (AOC) sought six additions to the agenda of a stakeholder meeting on October 13: the consultant reports MIAL has cited on T1's safety, a presentation on the redevelopment plan, the status of T2's expansion, monthly capacity data for both terminals in 2026, the alternatives MIAL considered, and a review of slot-allocation compliance if capacity is cut.Both airports are run by the Adani group, NMIA directly and Mumbai through MIAL. The letter follows the civil aviation ministry's decision to defer MIAL's plan to cut 265 of T2's 770 weekly international departures, across 46 airlines, to



make room for domestic flights displaced by T1's partial rebuilding.MIAL had planned to begin demolishing and rebuilding the northern section of Terminal 1B in January 2027. Ahead of the work, it wrote to airlines asking them to either move certain flights to NMIA, about 50 km away, or temporarily discontinue them from October 25. MIAL has maintained that the arrangement is necessary and that timings can be restored once T1's redevelopment adds capacity.The airlines back the redevelopment. What they question is the need to send a third of the airport's international departures to Navi Mumbai. They have asked MIAL to show the independent consultants' reports it has cited for its concerns over T1's structural safety, and to present the redevelopment plan in detail.
They have also asked what became of T2's expansion, which was expected to add about five million passengers a year to its capacity. The AOC wants MIAL to explain the expansion's current status, scope and timeline.
The committee has sought month-by-month figures for 2026 on actual capacity use at both terminals against their declared capacity.

Two drown, 2 missing at Pakala Beach in Andhra's Prakasam district

ONGOLE (Agency).
Two youths drowned and two others went missing after strong waves swept away seven youths who went for a holy dip at Pakala Beach of Prakasam district on Saturday. Local fishermen and Marine Police personnel rescued the remaining three youths, who are undergoing treatment at hospitals.
Prakasam District Collector P Rajababu and Superintendent of Police (SP) V Harshavardhan Raju, visited the spot and gathered details from the affected families and Marine Police personnel. The Collector said around 70 people from Sri Rangapuram village of



Markapuram district had visited Pakala beach on Saturday afternoon to take a holy dip after performing traditional Goddess Poleramma Utsavam.
A sudden, strong wave swept seven youths into the sea while they were bathing. Hearing the cries of others, local fishermen and Marine Police personnel rescued five of them.
The authorities identified the deceased as Paladugu Teja Babu, 20, and Battula Mahesh Babu, 22. They identified the missing youths as Devalla Narayana and Devalla Vishnu. The three rescued youths, Manoj Kumar, Mahesh Teja and Narasimha, are undergoing treatment at Ongole GGH, Kandukuru Kota Reddy Hospital and Ongole Ramesh Hospitals. Search is on to trace the missing youths.

Policemen reach Rohtak village to detain protester, villagers take them hostage

The confrontation began around 6 am when a team from Shivaji Colony police station, led by Station House Officer Rakesh Kumar, reached the residence of Jai Dev Dagar, a Zila Parishad member.

Chandigarh(Agency).
A police team's attempt to detain a Zila Parishad member to prevent him from attending a protest in Delhi triggered a hours-long stand-off with villagers in Haryana's Kabulpur on Saturday, with hundreds of residents instead "detaining the officers" and refusing to let them leave until they or a senior explained their actions in writing.The confrontation began around 6 am when a team from Shivaji Colony police station, led by Station House Officer Rakesh Kumar, reached the residence of Jai Dev Dagar, a Zila Parishad member. According to Dagar, the police intended to detain him to prevent him from travelling to Jantar Mantar in Delhi for a protest organised by the CJP.Dagar made a few phone calls and within minutes, hundreds of villagers gathered outside his residence. They confronted the police personnel and insisted that a senior officer from Rohtak arrive to explain the proposed detention. The villagers then refused to let the police team leave, turning the attempted detention into a stand-off that lasted until around 1 pm.Videos of the confrontation



went viral on social media. The impasse ended after the police personnel handed the villagers a handwritten note explaining the reason for their visit. Signed by members of the team, the note referred to prohibitory orders imposed by the Rohtak district administration and stated that Dagar had announced plans to attend the Delhi protest. It added that the police had visited his residence to detain him under relevant provisions of law.Dagar, however, maintained that attending the demonstration was an exercise of his democratic rights. He said he was not affiliated with any political party but believed in standing up for justice.

'Lone ranger' atop bus, elderly inside them: 100 detained at Ahmedabad protest over SIR

Ahmedabad (Agency).
ON SATURDAY evening – just 24 hours before the beginning of Navratri – the Ahmedabad Police deployed around 250 personnel on Ashram Road where several activists, social workers and students protested against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar in solidarity with the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) agitation in Delhi.At least 100 people, including 86-year old author-activist Prakash N Shah, were detained. The activists were picked up at the site or on the way and taken to various police stations including at Ellisbridge, Vasna and Vejalpur a few minutes after the protest began at 6:30 pm outside the MJ Library. This is the same place that had seen a much larger CJP protest on July 20 on the issue of NEET and other exam paper leaks across the country that led to the resignation of senior BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan as Union Education Minister.
In spite of the police saturating the area, cordoning off the inside roads that had caused groups to splinter off the last time, protesters, often in small groups, kept turning up till 8 pm and the police had to cover an area of over 100 metres on Ashram Road, one of the major arteries of Ahmedabad City, to nab protesters and put them in patrol vehicles and buses.
A singular event that captured the attention of not just the police, but also commuters driving home was a protester clad in black, who, while the police were busy shoving other protesters inside a bus, climbed atop it and began shouting slogans. Senior police officers asked personnel to climb up behind him and they managed to get him back down and detained him.
The protesters faced a hard time gathering at the site that had been made public in advance, as several activists and even local opposition leaders were allegedly placed under detention well in advance on Saturday, apart from those who had been detained in their homes and various police stations on Thursday and Friday, to stop them from travelling to Delhi and participate in the protest at Jantar Mantar.DCP (Zone-7) Shivam Varma



confirmed to The Indian Express that the protest had not received police permission. The permission application was in the name of sarpanch Satyesha Leuva, a national vice president of the Students Federation of India (SFI), who was allegedly detained at the home of a relative on Thursday itself and accompanied by police personnel when she travelled to Ahmedabad to give her statement regarding the protest permission at Ellisbridge police station on Friday. She was detained at Vasna police station from the protest site on Saturday.
While they were detained at various police stations, some of the protesters alleged that several Instagram handles including those linked to the Students Youth Collective of Ahmedabad (SYCA) as well as those of several activists had been "banned in India".There were several elderly people also who joined the protest and were detained by the police. Activist Swati Goswami, one of the organisers of the protest, claimed, "This would have been the biggest urban protest had 100 vehicles and a large number of cops not dismantled the jan andolan before we all could gather. An 87-year-old man is among those detained with us."

Operation Epic Fury is an epic failure at home and in Hormuz

Speaking before the United Nations General Assembly in New York last month, US President Donald Trump laid bare the existential crossroads facing Washington's seven-month campaign against Iran. Framing the conflict as a choice between signing a post-midterm diplomatic deal or initiating total annihilation, his rhetoric underscored a troubling reality: Operation Epic Fury, launched jointly with Israel in late February 2026, has been an Epic Failure. Far from delivering the swift, decisive outcome intended, it has created a humiliating stalemate, with global ramifications for the US's uncertain place in the world and domestic implications for the ruling party in the US. What Washington planned as a high-intensity decapitation effort targeting Tehran's ballistic missile infrastructure and naval assets has instead evolved into a grinding, multipolar war of attrition.

The US now finds itself caught between an unwinnable air campaign and an unpalatable political compromise, while the global economy buckles under the fallout.

The core vulnerability in the American war effort stems from a fundamental operational mismatch. Unwilling to commit ground troops to a costly land occupation, a step the administration remains reluctant to contemplate for understandable domestic reasons, the US military relies on air dominance and standoff strikes, whose limitations are all too apparent. While stationary infrastructure and conventional naval installations in Iran have been degraded, airpower alone cannot eliminate Iran's distributed, deeply buried, and asymmetric capabilities.Tehran has also successfully broadened the theatre of operations far beyond its own borders. Houthi forces in Yemen have effectively choked commercial transit through the Bab al-Mandab, turning the Southern Red Sea into an operational hazard zone, while Iranian-aligned Shia militias in Iraq have executed drone and missile strikes against critical regional energy infrastructure, including Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline.When Saudi leaders requested US air defence coverage to shield these vital supply routes, Washington demurred, constrained by a need to preserve its own dwindling supply of precision-guided munitions.

This refusal highlights a growing operational crisis within the Pentagon. Seven months of near-continuous combat sorties and high-rate missile defence interceptions have severely drawn down US and allied inventories of long-range precision strike systems, exposing the severe limitations of the Western defence industrial base.

The economic fallout of this strategic impasse extends far beyond West Asia. With transit through the Strait of Hormuz severely restricted and regional pipelines damaged, benchmark crude oil prices have again surged past $100, having hit a recent high of $114 five months ago. This sustained energy shock has reintroduced severe inflationary pressures into the world's economies, squeezing consumers and creating significant political headwinds ahead of the US midterm elections.For global markets, the ongoing hostilities have triggered a profound supply-side energy shock. With the physical blockade of Hormuz choking off roughly 20 percent of global petroleum transit and liquefied natural gas shipments, elevated crude prices have spiked shipping freight costs, doubled energy transit insurance premiums, and forced global central banks to abruptly halt planned interest rate cuts to combat reignited inflationary pressures. Few major nations bear this macroeconomic strain more acutely than India. Highly exposed due to our dependence on foreign energy to fulfil over 85 percent of crude-oil requirements, India faces a sharp widening of its current account deficit (where every $10 surge in crude prices expands the trade deficit by roughly 0.5 percent of GDP) alongside persistent downward pressure on the Indian rupee, which has hit historic lows beyond ?95 to a US dollar.

Action stations on a war footing

India needs to strengthen emergency response operations at the district level

IN the Army, there is an expression we often hear: "Koi ladai nahin lagi hai." There is no war on; why the hurry? Yet, over a lifetime in intelligence, operations, planning, command and strategic affairs, I believed the opposite. For me, we were always at war — not literally, but institutionally. Something could always become a crisis. Preparedness could never begin after the crisis announced itself. Much of this is practised by soldiers on the ground.In every command appointment, during contingencies, I followed one rule for subordinates: inform me at the first instance. Do not wait for the complete picture. Staff and subordinate commanders continued doing what they were trained to do. I would monitor, offer advice, discuss options or intervene when necessary. The commander should not lose opening minutes while someone assembles a tidier picture.

I could be woken at any hour of the night. I had instructed my communicators to give me half a minute before putting my communication through. Warm water was always beside my bed. Those seconds allowed me to gather my thoughts and clear my throat. In a crisis, a commander's voice must convey composure and authority. Preparedness is ultimately a collection of habits created when there is no crisis.The 26/11 Mumbai attacks remain an enduring reminder that information, even when available in fragments and over time, does not automatically induce preventive action. Possessing information is different from converting it into preparedness. Between detection and response lie interpretation, dissemination, decision, orders, mobilisation and execution. Every transition is a potential point of failure.This is starker in disaster management (I spent six years at the National Disaster Management Authority). Warning time is brutally short. A satellite may spot an abnormality; radars detect extreme precipitation; a river gauge shows a dangerous rise; a scientific agency issues an accurate warning. Yet none of these, by themselves, saves a life.I saw the importance of this first-hand during the Silkyara tunnel collapse in November 2023. Prime Minister Narendra Modi grasped the gravity of the situation early and directed that every resource required be made available without delay. We worked passionately to deliver success. In my media interactions, I have often said thatI treated the rescue operation as a war.Technical information must first be converted into comprehensible language. The person on the ground needs no scientific dissertation. He needs answers to five questions: What is likely to happen? Where? When? Who is at risk? What must be done now?

That conversion — from technical information to operational instruction — is a neglected function in emergency management. It must be accurate but rapid. Information in a fast-moving emergency is perishable. Warning time is an operational resource; every avoidable delay consumes it. A technically perfect warning that spends too long moving through institutional channels can arrive as an explanation of what has already happened.Then comes dissemination. Technology offers cell broadcasts, SMS, messaging platforms, television, radio, social media, sirens, public address systems, satellite communications and government as well as police networks. But issuing a message is not the same as communicating it.The State must employ every available means, with redundancy, to reach the maximum number of people. Not everyone will receive a warning. Phones may be switched off, networks fail, people are asleep. Language and literacy matter. Remote communities may lack connectivity, while some citizens will ignore advice. The test is whether every effort was made to reach as many people as possible — and whether the message was understandable and actionable.This is why I remain concerned about emergency response operations at the district level. India has around 750 district disaster management authorities, yet permanent professional operations rooms are still far from universal in practice. In a disaster, this is an operational deficiency. A classic example of success was provided by the Gujarat government in June 2023, when 32 million messages were communicated in anticipation of Cyclone Biparjoy; not one life was lost.Where does the first warning arrive? Who monitors the channel at 2 am? Who acknowledges it and informs the District Magistrate? Who converts it into executable orders? Who alerts the police, fire services, hospitals, SDRF (State Disaster Response Force) units, engineers and local administrations? Who orders evacuation, identifies shelters, arranges transport and confirms that action has begun? Who maintains the operational picture? Who tells citizens that help is on its way?An operations room is not necessarily a room with screens and telephones. It is the nervous system of response. It requires trained people, updated contact directories, standard operating procedures, communications redundancy, resource visibility, decision matrices, logs and the habit of functioning together. A command centre activated only when disaster strikes is of limited value. Relationships and reflexes have to be built beforehand.



The sequence should become instinctive: receive, understand, simplify, decide, disseminate, mobilise, confirm, update and reassure. Communication cannot cease after the warning. People caught in a disaster need to know what is happening, what they should do and whether assistance is coming. In an information vacuum, rumour travels faster than relief.

The same principle applies to national security. Cyberattacks, terror incidents, military contingencies and failures of critical infrastructure may look different, but all test the distance between knowledge and action. India has invested in its capacity to know: satellites, sensors, radars, surveillance systems, intelligence networks, meteorological capabilities and digital communications. The next challenge is ensuring that the institutional machinery beneath these technologies is optimally responsive.The first minutes of a crisis are not the time to construct command relationships, search for telephone numbers, interpret unfamiliar technical terminology or debate authority. They are the time to execute what institutions have already thought through and rehearsed.

"Koi ladai nahin lagi hai" should therefore never become an argument against preparedness. It should be the reason for it. When no fire is burning and no war is on, there is time to check the alarm, test communications, rehearse the response and ensure that everyone knows what to do.

Tepid support for R&D, red tape come in way of India's Nobel quest

The world rightly celebrates the achievements. We in India do, too—but with a nagging question at the back of our minds. Why, after C V Raman's Nobel for physics in 1930, have we not been able to produce a single winner in the basic sciences?

It's fascinating to note the pathbreaking achievements of scientists when Nobel Prizes are announced every year. Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel won the coveted honour in physiology this year for discovering the use of light in turning on specific brain cells, which can help treat diseases. In physics, Francis Louis Halzen was awarded for his work on neutrinos, the so-called ghost particles that help us see the universe in a different light. In chemistry, Henri Boris Kagan and Kenso Soai won for their work on mirror molecules that may go a long way in manufacturing medicines.

The world rightly celebrates such achievements. We in India do, too—but with a nagging question at the back of our minds. Why, after C V Raman's Nobel for physics in 1930, have we not been able to produce a single winner in the basic sciences? It's surely not for the lack of brilliant scientists. Over a century, several Indians came within a whisker of Nobel glory—Homi Bhabha, Satyen Bose, Meghnad Saha, G N Ramachandran and C V Seshadri among them.To what extent do we celebrate their work?



How many know that Indian scientists co-pioneered the quest for detecting neutrinos at the Kolar gold fields in 1965? India even sought to set up a neutrino observatory in 2001, which finally got the green light in 2015. But the project has not moved an inch over red tape linked to unanswered ecological questions. It encapsulates a major hurdle such research faces in India.

Another factor is that the country spends less than 1 percent of GDP on research and development, about a third of what China does. Most of those meagre funds go to premier institutes, while state universities—where four out of every five Indians are educated—are starved. Lack of autonomy in hiring comes in the way of keeping bright minds in the country. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation's target corpus of `50,000 crore looks impressive, till we realise that the Centre proposes to fund only 28 percent of it and the private share is growing at a snail's pace.Apart from funding and unfettering research, we also need to inculcate scientific temper in schools, which can be spurred by celebrating our scientists. More science museums can also seed a cultural shift. Otherwise, we will be left with chest-thumping about a glorious past.

K Parasaran at 100 | An advocate and a gentleman

☛The central bank has cracked the whip to mop up excess liquidity and tame price pressures. Though lending rates are likely to jump quickly, deposit rates may be sluggish to respond

When a century is captured through K Parasaran's rich intellectual life and unwavering moral compass, India's legal history witnesses a rare convergence of span and substance. As he steps into his centenary year on October 9, the scholar-jurist embodies a rare institution by himself.A polymath non-pareil, Parasaran belongs in the league of extraordinary personalities in post-independence India whose lives and contributions will remain eternally cherished. The distinguished jurist epitomises a rare combination of constitutional scholarship, courtroom advocacy, scholarly wisdom, professional discipline and personal simplicity with remarkable continuity and integrity. A person for whom honours went searching proved that there was substantive meaning in the breadth of his jurisprudential contribution and in the example he continues to set for generations of lawyers.Parasaran's journey post 1947 is singular for its accomplishment as well as enduring relevance. Born into a socio-cultural milieu that saw a display of legal excellence with the larger Anglosphere in the backdrop during the last days of the Raj, his ascent to the top echelons of legal practice was a transcendence enabled by remarkable abilities and personal values.



Perhaps the most distinctive feature of Parasaran's intellectual personality is the coexistence of two apparently distant worlds: the sophisticated architecture of modern constitutional law and the timeless vocabulary of India's civilisational wisdom.On his centenary, memory also takes us back to Parasaran's father Keshava Iyengar, a doyen of the old Madras Bar whose voice was heard in the halls of the then Federal Court of India in New Delhi. The Delhi continuum manifested when Parasaran succeeded Lal Narayan Sinha as the sixth Attorney General of India in 1983.Though his career peaked in the national capital, Parasaran once thought he would be confined within two Chennai neighbourhoods. During several landmark cases throughout the 1980s and 90s, his practice was a bundle of legal advice, client counselling, contextual analysis and a highly-developed form of persuasiveness that made his submissions difficult to reject. Of particular interest was his entry into the portals of public memory through the First Judges case in 1981, which marked his ascent to a glittering career that made his janmabhoomi proud.As a sought-after Senior Counsel in the late 1990s and early 2000s, he witnessed transformational changes in the country's legal system. From 2010 onwards, his appearances remained focused on high-voltage litigations till 2018, when he was briefed to appear in the Ram Janmabhoomi case.

An act of destiny, he has often remarked that this case was probably the reason why he was given several positions in the earlier part of his career that added up to a stature considerable enough to appear in this once-in-a-century case. This inherent humility, which he has often invoked, elevated him in the pantheon of public opinion.

The persona behind his stature as a jurist was someone who nurtured friendships and observed utter simplicity, which led to him being popularly referred to as the 'Pitamaha of the Indian Bar'.

Parasaran's corpus of legal and cultural wisdom is an open-source library that has supported all scenarios; his advice comes with a personal charm charged by his intuitive intellect. He has zealously protected and fostered his varied, longstanding relationships—in this, he represents associational life as the thematic core of Indian societal imagination.

For a person who never indulged in self-promotion, it was providence that showered opportunities on Parasaran. After a meeting with him, one always returns with a sense of renewed optimism even in the face of adversity. His adaptability and keen curiosity about the changing legal profession have strengthened his relevance in this age of arbitration and interaction of global jurisdictions.

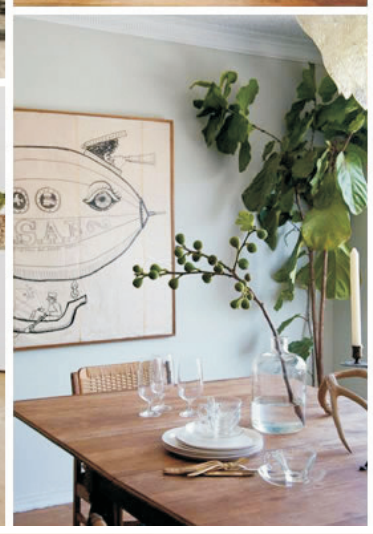
The legal engine is always in the perpetual motion of evolving jurisprudence. As Parasaran enters his centenary year, India celebrates not only his distinguished legal career, but also the enduring legacy of a jurist whose statesmanship illuminated courts, whose scholarship enriched jurisprudence and whose life showed that professional excellence and personal righteousness need never be separated.As one of the few who still represents a generation of icons that India once produced, Parasaran's career is a culmination of continuities. Ever observant with a knack of drawing apt analogies, his cross-references from the East and the West symbolise a sense of composite wisdom.Today, K Parasaran is an ageless icon for a young India that is in search of a modern identity without severing its civilisational roots. Shatamanam bhavati, Shriman Parasaran!

Best ways to decorate your space with Plants













Here are few ways to decorate your house with plants. You can keep small potted plants on bedside tables on either side of the bed. Use your old crockery set for planting to decorate your kitchen, living room, and even bathrooms.

Plants look just adorable and keeping them indoors not only brings life to the entire place but they also improve the air quality by reducing toxins existing in the atmosphere so make sure you are decorating your abode with plants nicely.

Myna Batavia, Founder of Green Carpet, and Preeti Narula, Founder of Living Balconies, list down ways to decorate your house with plants.

* Your living room is the best place to be decorated with a lot of greenery. Potted plants are the best choice to be kept in the living room. These pots are available in different sizes and colours to suit your requirements. Ensure that they are visible over the furniture kept in the living room.

* The dining area should be graced with plants such as money plants, bamboo plants, and ferns in glass bottles and vases.

* Embellish your bedroom with indoor plants such as Sansevieria which increases oxygen levels at night to have a sound sleep. You can keep small potted plants on bedside tables on either side of the bed.

* In the open space or balconies, install a shelf or hanging flower boxes along the railings to make it look attractive from outside. Also planter in sync with wall colours and embellishing the place with animal artefacts will increase the beauty quotient of these areas.

* Also just to fill in the empty area of your apartment, you can try keeping big plants in colourful pots.

* Decorate your living space with indoor plants as they make any area feel bright, lively, calm and beautiful.

* Place your plants on shelves or wooden pallets to create a mini indoor garden.

* One can also hang indoor plants like Chinese money plant, Staghorn ferns, snake plants and weeping fig in the balcony.

* Use your old crockery set for planting to decorate your kitchen, living room, and even bathrooms.

* Make your own terrarium with succulents to create a decorative piece in your kid's room or dining table.

At home with Ultra Violet







Complex and contemplative in equal parts, ultra violet is often associated with mindfulness practices. A reason why you are likely to spot purple-toned lighting in meditative spaces. The colour is said to fill people with energy and positivity and inspire connection. Why not embrace the hue to bring some happiness and tranquility into your home?

UV ways

Decor expert Astha Khetan says that ultra violet adds a certain depth to a space. Whether you are using a statement pillow, painting, accent wall, a few sprigs of lilac or a vintage rug - a simple touch of the magical hue is all you need to transform your space. Her advice: "The easiest way to start decorating with a new colour is to take baby steps and not go overboard."

Ultra violet, with its bold and vivid blue, is a perfect match with raw materials such as concrete and natural wood. For statement corners, try ultra violet in different combinations; with sage green, lemon yellow, or vermillion. "In small spaces, avoid using ultra violet vertically like in curtains and walls. Use in small accessories on floor and below eye level," suggests decor expert Vaishnavi Pratima. In large spaces, experiment with walls in ultra violet juxtaposed against contrasting furniture.

— Additional inputs from decor expert Anuja Joshi

How to go UV?

Pick jewel tones for a strong visual punch. But the idea is to make an impact without being garish

Make sure your colours stay sophisticated by choosing shades from the same family that are not all too bright

Mix dark and romantic purple with other super-saturated dark colours and rich fabrics like velvet

Use flowers like pansies, iris, phlox, hydrangea, petunia, verbenas, freesia, and columbin

Use vases made in violet assortment

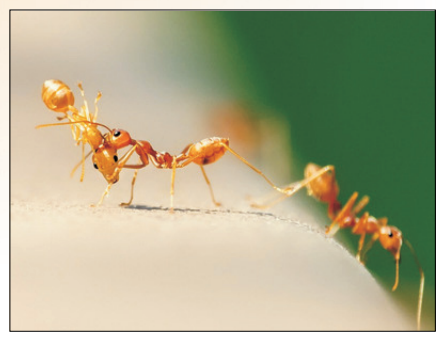
A tricky hue for homes, if you play it right UV can be the pop of colour that your house needs.

Violet can be used in dining couture too. Think a white table with UV napkins.

Bring in violet accessories like candle stands, lampshades, vases to add a splash of colour



5 cheap and easy ways to get rid of ants



Even though they are tiny, ants are irritating and create lot of destruction with their presence in the house. Their long trail leads to a burrow into the ground or kitchen counter-tops and then there is no way you can get rid of them. They march in hundreds and aim at your favourite food left open making you run for its life. They appear in numbers from nowhere and attack at the eatables left unattended. Did you know that some of the queen ants can give birth to millions of babies. Whoa! Doesn't that sound scary?

Though killing ants is not a great idea but you can definitely avoid their excursion to your home. Here are few easy hacks that will solve the purpose and are also not expensive methods. Take a look:

Vinegar

Vinegar is the king of all home remedies and you must have it stocked up all the time at your home. Mix white vinegar and water in equal quantities and wipe down your kitchen counter-tops, cupboards and places where you generally spot ants. Keep repeating throughout the day. Ants hate the smell of vinegar and the solution also removes their scent trails.

Borax

You can mix Borax and sugar and place the mixture where ants can find it. But be careful if you have little kids and pets at home, the mixture can be toxic. Borax damages the digestive systems and outer skeletons of ants resulting in death.

Citrus peels

Leave citrus peels like cucumber peels in the areas known to ants. These peels are toxic to the types of fungi that ants feed on, so ants do their best to avoid them. You can also use the citrus peels of lemon and oranges.

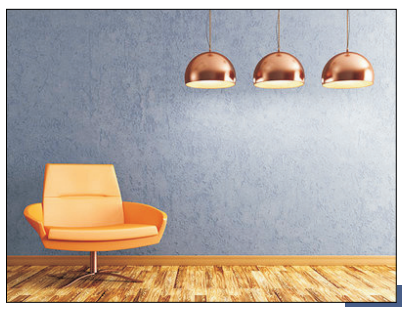
Flour

Ants repel flour and hence you can sprinkle some of it at the back of the kitchen shelves and the entry-points of the ants. Yes, it is true!

Salt

Sprinkle salt across the door frame or on their path and see the difference. Ants will be discouraged from crossing the barrier created.

Five decor trends that are making a comeback



If you are someone who is fond of warm, comforting and old-fashioned styles, especially when it comes to doing up your home, its definitely time for you to rejoice. The upcoming year, 2018 is expected to see some old, overdone and overused decor styles making a comeback with a vengeance and once more, to grab its position in the limelight.

Though trends and style are ever-changing and ever-evolving concepts, many will agree that the bottom line will continue to be the same always — any kind of decor works only when it can make a house feel like home.

Here's looking at a few dated trends that are expected to be a hit next season...

Metal and more

Using brass in fixtures, table lamps and furniture accents has been around forever, and this trend is surely not going anywhere soon. So pick up stylish chandeliers, floor lamps in shiny golden metal and usher in some bling at home. Adding small doses of brassy goodness to your home can actually bring in a dash of festivity.

Choosing monochrome

The sheer sophistication of monochrome will always ensure that it never goes out of style. The statement a stark black and white decor can make is unparalleled and will appeal to you if you are a follower of the minimalist style. This decor trend is holding on to its position at the top for a long time presumably.

Extra-large luxe

The luxury of space might not really be for many Mumbaikars who are cooped up in studio apartments; however, big and extra-large furniture is sure to take up space in the top hottest decor trends list for the coming year. If not all, opting for at least one statement x-large piece of furniture could help you be in vogue.

Golds and greens

The avocado green was a big hit in the 70s. Home decor professionals say that this colour is all set to take up center stage once more. You could choose to use it on walls or furnishings, all the while balancing it with golds. Bright golds and yellows can make your home look brighter and warmer all the while adding a certain fresh charm to the room.

Framed forever

Displaying a cluster of pictures all over one wall has been done to death. But the fact that filling a wall with pictures that matter to you will never really go out of style. Gallery walls are expected to make a comeback next year, say experts.



Gardening can make old people stay more Healthy

Indulging in gardening may not only keep older adults active but also boost their health and mental well-being, finds a study.

The findings showed that older women who spend more than three hours on household chores a day and got less or more than seven hours of sleep a night, were less likely to be in good health.

However, the researchers found that the similar criteria had no effect on the health of elderly men.

It is because older women spent more time doing repititive housework like cleaning and cooking, while men spent time in gardening and maintenance work, which is mentally very stimulating, the Daily Mail reported.

"The difference in the sexes' health is probably to do with the type of housework women tend to do, which is a lot more repetitive and routine work, like cleaning and cooking. While this probably has some limited health benefits, it is not very physically active, is not really exercise and is not very stimulating mentally, which relates to physical health," Nicholas Adjei, researcher at the Leibniz Institute for Prevention Research and Epidemiology in Germany, was quoted as saying by the paper.

"Men did much more active household chores, such as gardening and maintenance. The physical exertion is good for the health, with gardening involving digging, mowing and carrying soil. We think gardening and fixing things may also be more enjoyable than cleaning," Adjei added.

For the study, researchers looked at more than 36,000 pensioners, who reported about their daily activities and general health. Healthiness was calculated based on participants' answers to a questionnaire, in which they rated their health on a five-point scale from "poor" to "very good".

The results showed that even taking away sleep, which can impact people's health, men appear healthier when doing jobs around the house.



Lighting makes all the Difference





Most conventional lighting is directed downwards, but uplighters can diffuse light, creating a more subtle effect, without glare or dazzle. If you don't want lighting to be confined solely to the perimeter of the room, use free-standing lamps. Floor lamps also called as standard lamps are available as uplighters, down lighters or spotlights, in both modern and traditional styles. There is an even greater variety of table lamps available. Some have touch-sensitive bases, which allow you to adjust the light level and save energy.

How to get maximum effect

Use down lit lamps, which cast a shadow on the floor, and keep the ceiling dark or use uplighters to reflect light of the ceiling and light up the whole room. For a feeling of space use wall sconces that don't take up much space and can be the same colour as the wall to blend in. For practical reasons some rooms like the kitchen and living room may have several lights. For easy control on all the lights use a lighting circuit so that you can turn them off in one go, and switch them on individually. However with a little know-how you can easily get maximum lighting effect in every single room:

Kitchen:

Separately highlight work areas with halogen downlighters or clip on lights for a clean, clear beam over areas such as the sink and islands. If your kitchen is also a dining room, for an occasional touch of ambient lighting choose a functional chandelier or pendant light on dimmers for your main light.

Dining room:

Take care to avoid or reduce lighting glare to fall on the eyes of the diner. Ensure downlighters are aimed straight onto the table surface. Place chandeliers where they create sparkle as opposed to distracting light. Wall sconces placed above eye-level can be very effective too.

TV room:

Do you watch TV in the dark? Apparently it's not good as it strains the eyes. To reduce the effect, position a light near the TV in such a way that it needs to shade from the viewer's eyes and shouldn't reflect on the screen. Do this and you'll still be able to view in relative darkness but with less strain on your eyes.

Bathroom:

To avoid splashes, ceiling downlighters are most practical. For a relaxing candle light effect have these on a dimmer but remember the safety of children and older folk who need to see clearly when they bathe.

Outside:

Don't forget about your garden or outside porch. Light up your porch or door to make it welcoming and safe. Place lights below walls and plants you wish to feature. You could even light your garden path.

Bedroom:

Don't have downlighters above the bed as they create glare. Instead try a wall sconce slightly above your head and over your shoulder to avoid shadows. Or have a table lamp placed slightly behind you.

Wardrobes:



To find clothes quickly, light up the wardrobe interior for a clear view.

Shop around, you might see something you never knew existed. These days there are lots of lighting shops offering different looks. From Italian lighting to art nouveau and art deco reproduction, hand-forged iron, iron chandeliers, candle holder designs, glass shades, period lighting, strobe, halogen and different shaped light bulbs. Get the proportions right. The lamp base and shade fittings should be in propo rtion with the room. Small lamps could look odd in a large room. With lampshades, pick colours that suit your soft furnishings, curtains and carpets. They should be in contrast with the walls, instead of being the same colour or they might just get lost in the ambience. Use a downlighter over a vase of flowers. Highlight architectural features. Recessed downlighters can look great in built-in shelves or alcoves.



Get creative, go ahead and bring warmth, drama and sheer elegance to your home with lighting techniques.

India's packed Sunday: anti-CEC protests, court hearings and Navratri events

Sunday's national diary brings anti-CEC protests, court hearings, political briefings and festival events into focus. The packed schedule highlights how law, politics and public life are converging across states.

Newdelhi. (Agency)

A packed national news schedule on Sunday includes protests linked to the anti-CEC campaign, political developments and party briefings, along with key hearings in the Supreme Court and developments in the National Capital Region.Across the states, the focus will range from Navratri-related events and political activity in Uttar Pradesh to civic polls in Gujarat, students' union election updates in Odisha, the opening of Mysuru Dasara in Karnataka and the Prime Minister's events in Tamil Nadu.On the legal front, a special Supreme Court bench is scheduled to hear pleas seeking initiation of contempt proceedings against authorities for the alleged blatant violation of the court's direction to ensure there is no complete prohibition on metro and train services. Supreme Court judge Justice J B Pardiwala is also set to speak at the valedictory session of the national consultation at the top court to review the implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act. In NCR, stories are expected around the CJP protest, while AAP chief Arvind



Kejriwal is scheduled to hold a press conference.

In the North, the first day of Sharadiya Navratri is expected to draw a sea of devotees outside temples in Uttar Pradesh, with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath scheduled to offer prayers at a Devi temple in Balrampur and perform rituals at the Gorakhnath Mutt in Gorakhpur. On Jai Prakash Narayan's birth anniversary, heavy security and barricading are in place outside the JP International Centre in Lucknow, while Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav is expected to take a swipe at the BJP government.

In Babu Patti, villagers are hopeful Amitabh Bachchan will fulfil his promise of a functional library after recently mentioning his ancestral village on Kaun Banega Crorepati. Ayodhya is also in focus as the BJP and the SP trade barbs after Adityanath said he was ready to contest the 2027 Uttar Pradesh poll from the temple town if Akhilesh Yadav does the same.Elsewhere in the region, Haryana Chief Minister Saini is scheduled to pay obeisance at the Mata Mansa Devi temple in Panchkula on the first day of Navratri, and a state cabinet meeting is due in Chandigarh.

In Punjab, Pargat Singh is set to take charge as the state Congress chief in Chandigarh, with Sachin Pilot expected to attend. Rajasthan will see Navratri-related coverage, while Jaipur's Jhalana and Amagarh leopard safaris remain in focus as frequent leopard sightings continue to draw more tourists and push up visitor numbers. In Uttarakhand, the Kumaon administration is preparing to implement a plan to decongest roads around Kainchi Dham.

In the West, Goa unit members of the CJP are set to hold a protest in Panaji at 4.30 pm, demanding the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar. Polling is under way in the Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation elections and in the Okha and Thara municipalities in Gujarat. In Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav is scheduled to inaugurate the government's Sandipani School in Narsinghpur district at 11.30 am, while Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai will chair a state cabinet meeting in Raipur at 12 pm. In Maharashtra, the last rites of CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke's grandmother are to be held in Hingoli.

Tahir Hussain let mob use his building: Delhi Court

Delhi. (Agency)

A city court on Saturday held that expelled AAP leader Tahir Hussain had allowed a mob to use his building as a vantage point to pelt stones at people and properties during the February 2020 northeast Delhi riots, convicting him of abetment to rioting.This is the second conviction of Hussain in a case related to the riots. On July 31, another city court had sentenced the former AAP councillor and four co-convicts to life imprisonment for the murder of Intelligence Bureau officer Ankit Sharma.

Additional Sessions Judge Parveen Singh had then convicted Hussain under Section 147 (rioting) read with Section 109 (abetment) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in the case registered at Dayalpur police station.

He was acquitted of the serious charges, including Sections 148 (rioting while armed with a deadly weapon), 380 (stealing from a residential house), 427 (mischief causing damage), 435, 436 (mischief by fire or explosive) and 450 (trespass to commit an offence punishable with life imprisonment) of the IPC, read with Section 109.In its 53-page judgement, the court said the prosecution had proved beyond reasonable doubt that on February 24, 2020, between 2 pm and 3 pm, a mob gathered on the terrace of Hussain's house on Main Karawal Nagar Road and used the height to pelt stones at passers-by and nearby properties.

"Hussain allowed the mob to use his building as a vantage point from which it committed a riot and pelted stones upon the public and properties," the court said. It relied on the testimonies of four public witnesses, who deposed that a large crowd had gathered outside Hussain's house and a mob on its terrace was pelting stones. None of them placed Hussain among the rioters, which the court said indicated they bore no malice or bias against him.

"Don't Breach Peace For 1 Year": CJP's Abhijeet Dipke, 2 Others Released By Court

Delhi. (Agency)

Abhijeet Dipke, Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka of the satirical political group Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), who were put under preventive arrest this morning since their detention on Saturday from inside an aircraft after landing in Delhi, have been released by a local court. They were released on the condition that they will not do anything that would be considered a "breach of peace" for one year, sources said.The three CJP leaders were taken to the court of the executive magistrate in Delhi Cantonment this morning. The preventive arrests happened on the second day of the planned protest against CEC Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the voter roll cleanup exercise Special Intensive Revision (SIR).Yesterday, over 3,000 protesters including politicians were detained and released later at night. The police created an unprecedented security ring around the national capital to prevent chaos at central Delhi's Jantar Mantar, forcing the protesters to break into several small gatherings across the city.

YouTube activist Dhruv Rathee, who's also a supporter of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and a fierce critic of the NDA government, was among those who were released late on Saturday night.A big development today is expected to be the special sitting of the Supreme Court to hear a contempt petition against the blanket closure of Delhi metro stations and train services on Saturday. The metro is running this morning, though there is a huge security presence in all the exit and entry gates. There are buses parked nearby to take away detained people.A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana had on Friday directed that there should be no complete stoppage of metro services ahead of the protest planned for Saturday.Those who are running the CJP have said street protests would continue until accountability was fixed over the alleged deletion and manipulation of 13 crore votes. They alleged an "undeclared emergency" has been imposed in the national capital to prevent people from gathering peacefully.The CJP, created by Dipke, a Boston University graduate who returned to India to lead the protest over NEET paper leaks that would cost Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan his post, has the backing of Opposition parties across the country.

No barricades unless warranted, metro to run normally: SC to govt amid CJP stir

Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Sunday directed authorities to remove barricades across Delhi and ensure the normal functioning of metro and railway services, pushing back against sweeping restrictions imposed during Saturday's protests against the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). The court said the free movement of people and traffic must be permitted, subject to public order and traffic requirements, and warned against illegal detentions of peaceful, unarmed protesters.



Issuing interim directions, a two-judge bench of Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said metro and railway facilities must remain operational unless restrictions become necessary to maintain public order. The bench also directed authorities to ensure that internet services remain undisturbed in accordance with the law and that people are allowed to move freely across the national capital.The court further directed authorities to review the requirement for barricades forthwith, keeping in mind law and order and traffic conditions. It also ordered the removal of boards referring to Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) from areas around the Supreme Court, if not already done, to ensure there is no apprehension about access to justice or movement into and out of the Supreme Court and other courts.The directions came during an extraordinary Sunday hearing convened after Saturday's events in Delhi, when police detained hundred of protesters and restrictions were imposed on public movement, including the closure of Metro stations. The bench said the directions were interim in nature and listed the matter for further hearing on Tuesday.

Train Services In Delhi Resume A Day After Cancellations Due To CJP Protest

Delhi. (Agency)

Northern Railway has announced that all train services will operate as per their normal schedule on October 11, following cancellations and rescheduling of several trains on October 9-10 after the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) announced a protest against CEC Gyanesh Kumar in Delhi.



Indian Railways had decided to cancel Mail and Express trains scheduled to arrive at New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway stations between 4 am and 2 pm on October 10, sources said.The decision applied to trains departing from their originating stations after 2 pm on October 9 and scheduled to reach either of the two stations during the specified period. The move followed intelligence inputs and traffic advisories indicating severe road congestion around the railway stations during the proposed protest.

Meanwhile, several trains operating between Indore and Delhi were cancelled, while the Rajdhani Express and August Kranti Express were rescheduled to run five hours late on Saturday due to operational reasons, Ratlam Division Public Relations Officer Mukesh Kumar said.

Speaking to ANI, Kumar said, "Due to operational reasons, certain trains originating from Indore and Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (DA) in the Ratlam Division, as well as trains passing through other stations in the division, have been cancelled or rescheduled for October 9. Specifically, three trains associated with the Indore area—Train No. 20155 (Dr Ambedkar Nagar–Indore), 09309 (Indore–New Delhi Special) and 12415 (Indore–New Delhi Express)—have been cancelled. Additionally, the Yuva Express to Delhi has also been cancelled."

"Two other trains, the 12951 Rajdhani Express and the 12953 August Kranti Express, scheduled to depart from Mumbai Central today, October 9, have been rescheduled .

Delhi protest: Pulse stops at heart of city as security rules

Delhi. (Agency)

The heart of the city was deserted, with barricades and security personnel turning it into a fortress. Jantar Mantar was sealed, and so were all routes leading to it. The designated spot to dissent on Saturday was everything except what it is supposed to be.Scattered protesters, buses parked askew on streets, and detentions after detentions turned an ordinary weekend into a day of uncertainty for residents and commuters. Familiar routes were difficult to navigate, with barricades at every intersection, and thorough checking at every red signal replayed old memories of the Covid-19 lockdown. Critics called it a state of emergency.Empty streets of bustling areas wasn't a familiar scene. Connaught Place was closed with shutters that obeyed the police warning; tourists didn't find their way to India Gate, and the otherwise crowded market areas were deserted.

The crackdown was affecting areas far beyond the designated protest site. The city's ordinary routines appeared to take a back seat due to the strong security arrangements. Traders lost business particularly with the festive and wedding season approaching, few missed their flights and some could hardly make it to the hospital to meet their loved ones.However, Gen Z took to the streets in small groups, fearless of the siege. The denial of the authorities and their show of strength did little to dampen the spirit of the protesters. Some protesters began arriving early, while others were reportedly seen moving around areas near Jantar Mantar from midnight, ahead of the proposed agitation.For the police, this meant maintaining a heightened presence around the protest site and its approaches. For the rest of the city, it meant dealing with the consequences of a security operation that extended across every route.Commuters attempting to find alternative routes, visitors trying to contact family members and people relying on digital services to book transport or make payments, the loss of connectivity added another complication. In a city increasingly dependent on smartphones for navigation, communication and everyday transactions, the interruption although temporary had a grave consequence.The capital has survived several invasions, changes in regime, political disorder and thrones that is loyal to none.

Kapil Sibal says he's tired of approaching SC, court vows to win back his faith

The Supreme Court vowed to restore Kapil Sibal's faith in the institution after the senior advocate said at a press conference a day earlier that he was tired of approaching the court and questioned whether there was any point in doing so.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Sunday said it was determined to restore senior advocate Kapil Sibal's faith in the institution, responding to his remarks a day earlier that he was tired of approaching the court over alleged electoral-roll irregularities and had begun questioning whether there was any point in doing so.The remarks came during an extraordinary special hearing on the Delhi Police curbs imposed ahead of the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest at Jantar Mantar on Saturday, where several protesters were detained amid demands for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation."We are here to RESTORE the faith of Mr Sibal in this institution... whose confidence has been one of the surest weapons in our arsenal," the bench said.A day earlier, Sibal, a Rajya Sabha MP, had questioned the restrictions imposed on protesters and expressed frustration over repeatedly approaching the Supreme Court on alleged voter-list irregularities without seeing the desired relief.

TIRED OF GOING TO SC: SIBAL

Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, Sibal said he was tired of repeatedly approaching the Supreme Court over concerns surrounding the electoral process."We are tired of going to the Supreme Court. I feel that I have in my mind that there is no point in me going there," he said, clarifying that he was expressing his personal view.

Asked whether he was unhappy with the Chief Justice of India, Sibal said the



issue was not about personal satisfaction but about the responsibility of lawyers to fight for people's rights.We are lawyers. We are not talking about happiness or unhappiness. We have to fight for the people," he said.Sibal questioned the use of prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to restrict demonstrations, arguing that peaceful protests should not be treated as a threat to public order."If a person or a community wants to protest peacefully, then who is in danger? The society is not in danger. It seems that the government is in danger," he said.He also questioned the detention of people travelling to Delhi by train or air before they could reach the protest venue, citing instances in Karnataka and West Bengal."If a youth gets on a train, will you arrest him? On what basis will you arrest him? What kind of law is this," Sibal asked.He further questioned the lack of clarity over the whereabouts of detained protesters.

IPO rush continues: Jio, Zetwerk among cos set to tap primary market in Oct

New Delhi (Agency)

Other companies expected to launch their maiden public offerings this month include Fusion CX, HD Fire Protect, Tonbo Imaging, Bonfiglioli Transmissions, Sahajanand Medical Technologies, Paras Healthcare, NDR InvIT Trust, Gujarat Victory Forgings and SFC Environmental Technologies, according to merchant bankers.

The proposed offerings span sectors such as technology, healthcare, renewable energy, defence and precision manufacturing, reflecting continued interest in businesses with long-term growth prospects.The companies plan to raise funds through a combination of fresh equity issues and offers for sale (OFS), with proceeds from fresh issues intended to finance business expansion, capital expenditure, debt repayment, working capital requirements and general corporate purposes."India's primary market momentum continues into the second half with a robust pipeline. While secondary-market volatility and geopolitical developments may induce selective launch windows, the underlying appetite for quality paper remains structural," Neha Agarwal, Managing Director and Head of Equity Capital Markets at JM Financial Ltd, said.

She said institutional demand for primary issuances remained supported by deep domestic liquidity pools and selective foreign capital, even as foreign institutional investor flows in the secondary market fluctuated.JM Financial secured the top spot in terms of IPO deal volume managed in the first half of FY27, with 22 issues, according to the Prime Database league table for H1FY27.Among the upcoming offerings, Jio Platforms, the telecom and digital services arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, is scheduled to open its IPO for subscription on October 21 and close it on October 23, sources said. The offering is expected to be India's largest IPO to date.HD Fire Protect, a manufacturer of fire protection equipment and systems, has fixed a price band of ₹258-271 per share for its ₹712-crore IPO.The issue, entirely an OFS by promoters, is scheduled to open on October 13 and close on October 15.

Govt releases draft National Steel Policy 2047, targets 604 MT capacity

New Delhi. (Agency)

The government has released a new steel policy to boost India's crude steel capacity to 604 million tonnes by 2047, enhance industry competitiveness and address key import challenges.According to the draft National Steel Policy 2047, finished steel demand will rise to 505 MT by 2047, per capita consumption to 302 kg and steel exports to 45 MT.

Raw materials account for around 65-70 per cent of steelmaking costs.While India is largely self-sufficient in iron ore, it imports nearly 92 per cent of its coking coal requirement.The policy seeks to reduce import dependence through domestic mining, washery expansion, asset acquisition, long-term supply arrangements, and AI-based optimisation of coal blends.Other raw materials important for the steel sector, like Manganese, Limestone etc., will also remain in policy focus to ensure long-term resource sustainability.The secondary steel sector, comprising around 2,550 units and nearly 47 per cent of crude steel production capacity, will receive support for enhanced raw material access, technology improvement, skill development and safety.Decarbonisation is one of the key pillars of the policy. The steel sector contributes about 10-12 per cent of India's CO_2 emissions, with an average emission intensity of 2.54 tonnes of CO_2 per tonne of crude steel (tCO_2/tcs), significantly above the global average of 1.92 tCO_2/tcs.NSP Vision 2047 outlines a phased transition to achieve Net Zero by 2070 through improved energy efficiency, renewable electricity, greater scrap utilisation and use of hydrogen.

Rising input costs to weigh on FMCG margins despite demand recovery in Q2

New Delhi. (Agency)

A sharp rise in crude oil and its derivative products used in packaging, along with a persistent inflationary trend in various commodities and deficit rainfall, has increased cost pressures across companies depending on their product mix, pricing power and cost-saving measures.

A report from brokerage ICICI Direct said higher crude and crude-derivative prices, coupled with increases in other key input costs, are likely to affect earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) margins of most home and personal care companies.

"Spike in the crude oil/crude derivative prices coupled with increase in the other key input prices will have impact on the EBITDA margins of most of the home care and personal care companies under coverage," it said.While revenue growth is expected to remain in double digits for several leading FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods) players, operating profit growth could lag sales expansion as companies absorb part of the cost inflation, it said."We expect Q2FY27 performance for most FMCG companies to be a mixed bag, with revenue growth expected to be in double digits while EBITDA growth will be lower compared to revenue growth due to a spike in commodity prices. Lesser rainfall in most parts of India is likely to affect the farm output and would.

Power, water, jobs: Google on India data centre concerns

New Delhi. (Agency)

Construction of a massive Google data centre in the Indian city of Visakhapatnam has been met with resistance from residents who fear the impact on the environment and their lives.But the tech giant says its "gigawatt-scale" AI facility in southern Andhra Pradesh state -- part of a $15 billion investment -- will use air cooling systems, and not water from an area already facing shortages.Alexander Smith, Google's head of infrastructure and energy for the Asia-Pacific region, answered AFP's questions about the project:

How do you view the concerns?

Smith said Google takes questions raised by the public seriously."Independent environmental assessments -- covering grid stability, power supply, water risk, ecology, acoustics and more -- are conducted 12 to 24 months before a project begins," he said."If there is insufficient power in a location, or if operating a data centre would mean taking power away from a community, Google will either find ways to develop more power, or it will not build there."

The data centre -- Google's biggest "AI hub" outside the United States -- is set to become operational in 2028.It is one of several huge new tech sites planned in Visakhapatnam, but activists are demanding a moratorium on new data centres across Andhra Pradesh until there is more evidence of their impact on the environment and local community.Smith called the project "a multi-decade commitment" that carries "an obligation to be a good neighbour"."That means the watershed, the grid and the communities around our facilities must be better off for our being here."



What are its water and power needs?

As AI use accelerates, construction of power-hungry data centres is booming worldwide, especially in Asia.Critics say they will add demand to electricity grids still heavily reliant on planet-warming fossil fuels, and place new pressure on often-stretched local water supplies to cool down hot servers.Google's water assessment for Visakhapatnam "pointed to pressure on the local watershed", Smith said."That finding shaped our choice of cooling configuration from the outset," with "advanced air cooling" chosen instead of water cooling."For the freshwater consumed by non-cooling facility needs, Google is committed to replenishing 120 percent of the volume we consume across our operations by 2030," he added.Google does not disclose site-level capacity figures for power.But the US giant "fully funds the cost of required power infrastructure upgrades".

"We are planning to invest in new clean energy projects -- built above and beyond what regulations require -- in Visakhapatnam," Smith said.

Why did Google choose Visakhapatnam?

A Finnish authority recently ordered work to halt on two Google data centre sites pending mandatory environmental assessments, and worried residents have also mounted protests in Visakhapatnam.

To select global sites, Google looks for "proximity to customers and users, access to talent, potential for new clean energy and opportunities to establish mutually beneficial partnerships with local communities", Smith said."Visakhapatnam is one of the few places where all of these come together."

'Struggling with water scarcity': Google faces backlash over data centre in Vizag

VISHAKAPATNAM. (Agency)

Handcuffs encircle Google's logo on one campaign poster, while another warns that people "cannot drink data", as opposition mounts to the tech giant's planned AI mega-facility in India.Excavators have swung into action, clearing forest and farmland on the southeast coast for the $15 billion construction of Google's largest data centre outside the United States.The project at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, a port often called Vizag, is championed by India as a cornerstone of its technological ambitions.But many residents fear the data centre -- one of several huge new tech sites in Vizag -- will strain water and power resources, damage the environment and bring too few jobs in return.

Farmer Chandala Sadamma told AFP that when she sees the red-earth scars where her plot of mango and cashew trees once stood, "I feel like crying". She was paid more than $82,000 for the two-acre (0.8-hectare) stretch of land, but the transaction left a bitter taste."Some company came and, without showing any respect, they took the land and we accepted it," the 50-year-old said.Vizag is a landing point for submarine internet cables linking the country to Singapore, so for India, the location of the 600-acre site -- more than 340 football pitches -- is ideal.The "AI Hub investment is a multi-decade commitment" carrying "an obligation to be a good neighbour", said Alexander Smith, Google's head of infrastructure and energy for Asia-Pacific."The watershed, the grid and the communities around our facilities must be better off for our being here."The Andhra Pradesh government told AFP that in addition to financial.



Slew of RBI steps to rescue the rupee

MUMBAI. (Agency)

With the rupee sniffing at 97 a dollar, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Saturday announced as slew of measures in a desperate bid to stem the freefall of the national currency.It drastically slashed the forex derivative positions a bank can hold in the net open position to just $5 million from the already curbed $100 million, to curb speculation.The central bank also barred authorised dealers from rebooking cancelled rupee-linked derivative contracts and introduced a 20% cash reserve requirement for large transactions to strengthen market discipline. That apart, it also opened a special dollar window for oil importers.On Friday, it had raised the minimum daily



maintenance requirement for the cash reserve ratio (CRR) from 90% to 99% of the prescribed requirement, effective October 16.

This was the first time since July 2013 that the RBI had increased the daily CRR requirement following pressure on the rupee, which has already lost more than 7% this year after the US Fed began tightening.The measures comes amid evolving conditions in the forex market and are aimed at ensuring its orderly functioning, the central bank said.

Under the revised norms, authorised dealers will not be permitted to allow users to rebook any foreign exchange derivative contract involving the rupee, whether deliverable or non-deliverable, if it was cancelled with an authorised dealer after issuance of the directions. Rollover of contracts on maturity will continue to be permitted, subject to existing regulatory requirements.The RBI also tightened documentation requirements to prevent the same underlying exposure from being hedged through multiple authorised dealers.

OMCs get spl window

The RBI created a special window for oil marketing companies (OMCs) to take the dollar demand away from the spot market. Three state-run OMCs are one of the biggest consumers for the dollar

Repo Rate: RBI could opt for a total hike of 75-100 basis points; know impact on your EMI

Kolkata. (Agency)

The RBI MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) has just raised the Repo Rate by 25 basis points. Another rate hike appears likely in December. IN fact, the rate hiking cycle could extend to 75 to 100 basis points, say experts. The focus of RBI is now on rein in inflation which is being stoked by two great forces — the rising crude oil prices and the food prices under the influence of lower rainfall and continuing El Nino effect. RBI has also changed it stance from neutral to “calibrated tightening”. If the Repo Rate is indeed raised by another 75-100 basis points, all categories of borrowers including those with home loans, car loans, and other debts would face the heat. Also, depositors could benefit as banks are bound to hike deposit rates too.



How much hike?

According to reports, the RBI may gradually raise interest rates in response to inflationary pressures. The possibility of a larger-than-expected hike in December 2026 has not been ruled out. However, this decision will depend on economic conditions, including inflation data for September and October. Expert agencies such as SBI Research has already said that the RBI ought to raise the Repo Rate by another 25 points in December, While BofA Securities has predicted a total rise of 100 basis points (including the one on October 7).

How can inflation drive up interest rates?

Key factors behind rising inflation include high crude oil prices, global tensions, and an increase in food prices. If crude oil prices remain around $100 per barrel for an extended period, transportation and production costs could rise. Indian importers are buying crude oil in October at even higher prices compared to that in September.

Sweep-in vs regular FD: Is there any difference? Check the key ones

In a sweep-in FD, funds above the savings account limit can automatically be transferred to an FD and returned to the account when needed. In a regular FD, a lump sum is deposited for a fixed period. Interest rates, withdrawal fees, and premature closure rules may differ between the two.

Kolkata. (Agency)

If you want to earn higher interest rates than a savings account offers you, but still want to retain the flexibility to withdraw funds when needed, a sweep-in FD may be suitable for you. On the other hand, a regular FD is an option for those who want to keep their money deposited for a fixed period. Both offer the opportunity to earn interest, but the rules for withdrawal, interest calculation, and premature closure may differ. Therefore, before investing, it is important to understand the difference between sweep-in FD and regular FD and which option may be right for you.

What is sweep-in FD?

With a sweep-in FD, any savings account balance above a certain threshold is automatically transferred to an FD. This allows the excess funds to earn interest at the FD rate. Furthermore, when the savings account runs out of funds for a payment, the funds can be withdrawn from the FD, subject to bank regulations. The advantage of this is that it can be easier to access the money when needed, while earning interest on the additional amount. However, the amount that can be withdrawn and the interest rate impact depend on the bank’s terms.

What is a regular FD?

In a regular FD, you deposit a lump sum for a fixed period. Returns are based on the chosen period and the bank’s applicable interest rate. If you need to withdraw funds before maturity, premature closure rules may apply, which could result in reduced interest or a penalty.



Key differences between sweep-in FD and regular FD

Way of depositing: With a sweep-in FD, any amount above the threshold limit in your savings account can automatically be transferred to an FD. With a regular FD, you deposit a lump sum and choose the tenure of your choice.Facility to withdraw money: With a sweep-in FD, funds can be returned to the account if the savings account balance falls short, as per the bank’s rules. With a regular FD, premature withdrawal or FD closure may be required to withdraw funds before maturity.Interest and returns: With a sweep-in FD, the amount transferred into the FD earns the applicable FD rate for the relevant period. However, withdrawals may impact the interest earned. Regular FDs earn interest based on the chosen period, but premature closure may result in a reduced interest rate.

Fees and other terms: Sweep-in FDs may be subject to minimum balance requirements and service charges. Even with regular FDs, premature closure rules and penalties vary depending on the bank and type of FD. Not all banks have the same fees or rules.

NEWS BOX

Relief for railway passengers as work on lifts, escalators expedited at Tambaram station

CHENNAI(Agency).
Installation work on nine lifts and 10 escalators have been expedited at Tambaram railway station following a TNIE report highlighting the difficulties faced by passengers, particularly the elderly and persons with disabilities, due to the lack of lifts or escalators on six platforms at Tambaram railway station. The station is one of Chennai's three major NSG-1 category stations, which sees a daily footfall of 1.78 lakh passengers.In an official communication on Saturday, the Chennai Division of Southern Railway said that two lifts each at the western and eastern entrances, and one lift each connecting platforms 1-2, 3-4, and 9-10, would be opened for public use shortly. Work on two more lifts, one connecting platforms 5-6 and the other connecting platforms 7-8, is being expedited, with both expected to be opened by the end of November.Five escalators — two at the western entrance, two connecting platforms 3 and 4, and one connecting platforms 9 and 10. These are expected to be opened by mid-November.

Nomination rejections spark campus protests, 3 more colleges closed in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR(Agency).
With the student union elections closing in, tension continued to spread across campuses over various issues including rejection of nomination papers in several colleges, even as three more institutions were shut indefinitely following unrest.The Model Degree College in Nabarangpur district was closed sine die following unrest on the campus after the cancellation of the student union election there. The polls were reportedly called off because eligible candidates were unavailable. Leaders of the Biju Chhatra Janata Dal (BCJD) alleged that two of their candidates had been elected unopposed as president and general secretary, but college authorities refused to recognise the results.In the same district, a dispute over the election at Umerkote College led to a clash between two groups of non-students, leaving two persons critically injured. One of them was allegedly stabbed and was shifted to Visakhapatnam after his condition worsened.
On the other hand, protests erupted at several colleges following publication of final candidate lists, with students alleging arbitrary rejection of nominations and political interference in the election process. Owing to student unrest and fear of violence, sine die was declared at two other colleges in Deogarh and Gop.At Nimapara Autonomous College in Puri district, tension prevailed after around 39 of the 53 nominations were reportedly rejected. Agitating students and local leaders locked the main gate of the college and staged a sit-in, demanding a fair and transparent election process. The All India Students' Federation (AISF) and BCJD leaders along with aspiring candidates joined the protest.

Colleges, firms cannot collect caste info: Madras HC

MADURAI (Agency).
The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court recently held that private educational institutions and firms in the state cannot mandatorily collect caste details in application forms.A bench of justices CV Karthikeyan and R Sakthivel gave the direction on a PIL petition filed by N Vikraman of Virudhunagar district. Vikraman alleged that many private colleges require applicants to disclose their caste and community details for enrolment, though there is no statutory requirement for such disclosure.Claiming that compulsory collection of the details may lead to discrimination in selection and admission processes, he requested the court to prohibit the institutions and companies from collecting those details.

'None can mandatorily collect caste details'

When the case was heard by the above bench recently, the judges noted that the same issue came up for consideration before the Principal Seat in 2016 and the court had disposed off the said matter in view of a GO passed by the school education department in 2000.The said GO permitted parents to not mention their caste or religion in their kids' school certificates by enabling them to state 'No Religion, No Caste' against those columns.However, Vikraman's counsel still apprehended that if the caste is not mentioned, the candidate would be discriminated. Following this, the bench disposed off the plea by issuing a direction that no private educational institution or private employer within TN can mandatorily collect caste details.

Karnataka facing hardship as Maharashtra misuses Bhima waters: Activist

KALABURAGI(Agency).
Northern districts of Karnataka – Kalaburagi, Yadgir and Vijayapur and some parts of Raichur – frequently face either droughts or floods because of misutilisation of Bhima River waters by Maharashtra.But at the same time, Karnataka too has not built required infrastructure to utilise excess water. It has also not prevailed upon the Central government to issue a gazette notification on the Bachawat Award for Krishna water utilisation or approach the Supreme Court to direct Maharashtra to implement the Bachawat Award.The Justice Bachawat Tribunal, which was constituted to solve the water crises of Krishna River including the major tributary Bhima River, passed its award on May 27, 1976, allocating 95 tmcft of water to Maharashtra, 15 tmcft to Karnataka and 6 tmcft to undivided Andhra Pradesh.But Maharashtra either does not release any water or very little whenever there is normal rainfall in the catchment of Bhima River, causing a drought in the four districts of Karnataka. If there is heavy rain, the state releases excess water, causing floods.It is alleged that the Karnataka and Central government have not yet found a solution because of lack of initiative by public representatives of this region. Farmers also said that while Kannada activists launch strong protests for Cauvery



waters, they never put pressure on Karnataka or Central governments for Bhima waters.
Panchappa Kalaburagi, who has been spearheading the agitation of farmers of the four districts – especially those in Vijayapura district, for the past four decades and is instrumental in getting the Bachawat Award, told that though Maharashtra has been allocated 95 tmcft of water from Bhima, it is using over 150 tmcft by executing irrigation projects without permission from necessary authorities, besides diverting Bhima waters to Sina river.Panchappa said Bhima river water agitating committees are being formed in all taluks through which the river flows to mount pressure on the government to make sure that Karnataka gets its fair share of water regularly. Led by him, farmers filed a Public Interest Litigation in the Supreme Court in 2002 seeking its intervention. Though the apex court issued a directive authorising Karnataka to use 15 tmcft of water, a gazette notification has still not been issued.Recently, during his visit to Kalaburagi, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said he will discuss the issue with the Maharashtra government shortly.

Mismatches in 2 answer keys exposed KPSC chairman role in Karnataka job scam: ED

Bengaluru (Agency).
A breakthrough in an investigation by the Enforcement Directorate into money laundering through corrupt practices at the Karnataka Public Service Commission — resulting in the arrest of chairman Shivashankarappa Sahukar and member B V Geetha on October 6 — was triggered by the KPSC's publication of correct answers for an exam to recruit veterinary doctors.
The ED investigations into a scam in the recruitment of veterinary doctors for 400 vacancies in the Karnataka government identified a group of six students – who received answers in advance for an entrance exam from the KPSC officials in return for bribes – by analysing two sets of correct answers published by the KPSC itself after the January 2026 entrance exams.
A comparison of the copies of Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) sheets (the answer sheets) in the possession of suspected candidates with



an initial list of correct answers that were published by the KPSC, a week after the entrance exams on January 9, revealed that around six candidates got all the first 80 answers correct in the exam, sources said.
The Enforcement Directorate's (ED) investigation into the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) veterinary recruitment scam found that six candidates allegedly received answer keys before the January 9, 2026, entrance exam in exchange for bribes. Investigators compared candidates' Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) sheets with two answer keys published by the Karnataka Public Service Commission, identifying discrepancies that pointed to a suspected leak involving senior officers.The agency had arrested KPSC chairman Shivashankarappa Sahukar and member B V Geetha on October 6.A comparison of the copies of OMR sheets (the answer sheets) in the possession of suspected candidates with an initial list of correct answers revealed.

Mental harassment I faced, opportunities I lost, cannot be compensated: PhD scholar wins 17-year-long legal battle

Chandigarh(Agency).
At 31, Dr Sonika Gupta appeared before an interview panel for the post of Assistant Professor in Agricultural Economics at Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry in 2009, armed with a PhD degree and a higher academic score than the candidate who was eventually selected. Seventeen years later, the Himachal Pradesh High Court has directed the university to appoint her against a vacant unreserved post, with consequential service benefits, including seniority, pay fixation and continuity of service.After a long legal course, the court's October 8 order brought relief to Gupta, now 48, but she says the years lost to the dispute and the opportunities she missed cannot be compensated."The mental harassment I faced, and the opportunities I lost cannot be compensated," Gupta told The Indian Express. "The post was advertised in 2008. When I appeared for the interview in 2009, I was married, and my daughter was one-and-a-half years old. Since then, so much has changed. My colleagues and classmates have progressed in their careers, with many becoming professors, settling abroad, etc. Those 17 years cannot be brought back," she said.A native of Ghumarwin in Bilaspur district, Gupta completed her PhD in Agricultural Economics from Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur, in 2007.The university advertised the post in 2008, and three candidates were shortlisted for an interview held in 2009.Gupta said the prescribed eligibility criteria required a PhD in Agricultural Economics, with relaxation up to a master's degree. She said she was the only PhD holder among the candidates and had the highest overall score, yet she was



denied the appointment.
According to the university's evaluation records, Gupta secured 65.77 marks against 49.38 obtained by the selected candidate, who is now an Associate Professor and head of the department. The difference between their scores was 16.39 marks."Now I am the mother of three children. My eldest daughter, Vadika Thakur, who was a toddler when this dispute began, is pursuing a Bachelor of Management Studies (BMS) at a government institute in Punjab. My younger daughter, Ridhima Thakur, is in Class XI, while my son, Varun Dev Thakur, is in Class III," Gupta said.
Gupta, who is working on an agriculture-related project in an outsourced capacity, said the appointment dispute not only affected her professional prospects, but also the course of her life. Recalling the financial implications of the delay, Gupta said the post carried an initial pay scale of Rs 8,000, with the monthly salary amounting to around Rs 25,000 at the time.Gupta credited her husband, Parmod Thakur, for standing by her throughout the legal battle.

Church vandalised in West Bengal's Nadia amid protest over alleged conversions

Kolkata(Agency).
A Catholic church in West Bengal's Nadia district was allegedly vandalised on Friday evening after a group of people gathered outside the premises claiming religious conversions were taking place there.
The incident at St Louis Catholic Church in Jalalkhali, Krishnanagar, occurred amid recent allegations of attacks on prayer meetings and Christian congregations in different parts of the state. The Indian Express has reported similar incidents in North 24 Parganas, Howrah, Purba Bardhaman and Purba Medinipur districts.
"A complaint has been received and an investigation is on," a senior police official at the Krishnanagar police directorate said."We had a four-day prayer meeting programme and took permission from the police. However, on Friday evening, some people gathered outside the church and, using loudspeakers, claimed that conversions were going on," Father Vincent George of St Louis Catholic Church said, speaking to Express over the phone. "Around 6 pm, people pelted stones, entered the church premises, vandalised the makeshift gates, and the glass cover of statues," he added.

A blockade and a scuffle

Following the alleged vandalism, Christian community leaders attempted to block the road in front of the church, leading to a scuffle with the protesters. Meanwhile, the police rushed to the spot and controlled the situation. Later a complaint was lodged at the Kotwali police station. "We have stopped our programme," Father George said. "We don't want such incidents to be repeated."Christian community leader Herod Mullick, the founder of Bangiya Christiya Pariseba (Bengal Christian Council), said such incidents were happening frequently in



different parts of the state. "We call upon the administration and local authorities to launch an immediate, impartial investigation, maintain law and order, and swiftly apprehend and book all the miscreants responsible for this act," he added.

VHP alleges conversions

Arindam Kar, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, secretary, North Kolkata, alleged that religious conversions were taking place in several parts of the state. "It is not only in Krishnanagar…conversions with the lure of money and miracles are being carried out. Such conversions are common in Nadia, Howrah, North and South 24 Parganas," he said.Kar alleged that such groups enjoyed "protection from the former ruling party (Trinamool Congress)". "Now there is no protection, so people are protesting against such initiatives," he added.

Unrest rocks NSCB college, Deogarh college shut

SAMBALPUR (Agency).
Unrest prevailed at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (NSCB) College here on Saturday over allegations of irregularities in the campus polls with a section of students accusing the authorities of favouring a particular group and resorting to selection instead of election.The discontent intensified on Friday after the final list of candidates was published, triggering protests by a section of students backed by the BJD who alleged that the college authorities deliberately excluded aspirants opposed to the group supported by the ruling BJP.The protesting students alleged that despite clear directions for holding elections, the college authorities were selecting candidates at their discretion. They further accused the officials in charge of the election process of deliberately striking off the names of opposition candidates to favour the group backed by the BJP.However, college principal Pradeep Kumar Haripal dismissed the allegations and said the election process was conducted in accordance with the prescribed rules. "We have been given a set of criteria. Though a total of 44 candidates had filed nominations for various posts, 39 of them were found ineligible," he said.Haripal also refuted the allegation of favouritism to a particular group of students. He said, "We are unaware of which student is affiliated to which political party. The list has been scrutinised solely on the basis of the guidelines issued by the government."
On the day, Rengali MLA of BJD Sudarshan Haripal and the party's Sambalpur unit president Rohit Pujari visited the protest site and extended support to the agitating students.Meanwhile, the Deogarh College was closed sine-die on Saturday evening amid apprehensions of student unrest following rejection of nomination papers of several candidates contesting the campus elections.The unrest erupted after nomination papers filed by six aspirants for various posts were rejected during scrutiny, leaving only five candidates in the fray.

NEWS BOX

Vinicius apologises after red card vs Villarreal: Could Real Madrid star miss El Clasico?

New Delhi. (Agency)

Vinicius Junior has apologised to his teammates and Real Madrid fans after a straight red card overshadowed their 1-0 LaLiga win over Villarreal on Saturday. The Brazilian's dismissal has intensified scrutiny of his difficult start to the season and left him facing a nervous wait over whether he could miss El Clasico against Barcelona on October 25.Vinicius came off the bench in the 52nd minute and thought he had doubled Madrid's lead after Yan Diomande's opener. However, VAR spotted him pulling Nathan Saliba's hair during the build-up, leading referee Isidro Diaz de Mera to disallow the goal and show him a straight red card.He later shared a fan account's montage of challenges against him, accompanied by a complaint about being repeatedly booked. The apology, therefore, did not end the controversy surrounding his reaction.

WHAT IS GOING WRONG WITH VINICIUS?

The dismissal came amid a dip in form that has extended beyond Madrid. Vinicius was left out of Jose Mourinho's starting XI against Villarreal for the first time this season, having been substituted increasingly early in recent matches. He had managed only one goal in nine appearances across competitions.His struggles were also evident during Brazil's recent friendlies against Australia and India. Vinicius scored from the penalty spot in Brazil's 4-2 win over Australia, but had acknowledged his lack of goals for the national team.“I played several matches without scoring any goal with the national team, and I felt the importance of returning to scoring,” he said after that win.

Against India in Kolkata, Brazil won 4-0, but Vinicius struggled to make a decisive impact. India's high defensive line repeatedly caught him offside, limiting the space he needs to use his pace and take on defenders. His quality is unquestionable, but the recent performances suggest he is short of the rhythm and confidence that make him such a dangerous attacker.

COULD HE MISS EL CLASICO?

Spanish football regulations classify hair-pulling as violent conduct, which can carry a suspension of one to three matches when no injury is caused. Vinicius is therefore at risk of missing the October 25 clash at Camp Nou, although the final punishment will depend on the disciplinary committee's ruling.

A teddy lover, foodie and milkman: India's new-gen wrestlers beyond the medals

India's wrestling contingent returned with six medals from the 2026 Asian Games, its best haul since 1962. Antim Panghal, Nitesh Siwach, Sujeet Kalkal and Aman Sehrawat lead the new generation, with the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics firmly in their sights.

New Delhi. (Agency)

As I made my way to the launch of the sixth season of the Pro Wrestling League on Friday, October 9, finding a story was going to be a challenge. As journalists, we are always searching for that one angle, the thread that brings a story together. But with India's Asian Games wrestling contingent also being felicitated at the venue, one question kept coming back to me: what do you write about athletes whose stories have already been told so many times? The Asian Games had been a moment of celebration for Indian wrestling. The contingent returned with six medals, including two gold, two silver and two bronze, to deliver India's best performance at the Games since Jakarta in 1962. Much of the attention was on Aman Sehrawat, Antim Panghal, Sujeet Kalkal and Nitesh Siwach. Each had a story of resilience, setbacks and comebacks. But with their medal-winning exploits already making headlines, I found myself returning to the same question: what was left to discover about these wrestlers?



Aman's gold medal offered redemption after the disappointment of his disqualification from the 2025 World Wrestling Championships. Sujeet's remarkable comeback in the final was the sort of performance that lends itself to sporting folklore. Antim continued to make her mark in the 53kg category, even as comparisons with Vinesh Phogat followed her. Nitesh, meanwhile, became a central figure in India's historic Greco-Roman wrestling campaign. His journey as a milkman's son added another dimension to his achievement. Nitesh became the first Indian since 1962 to reach a Greco-Roman wrestling final at the Asian Games.Their stories had already been told, their triumphs celebrated. I needed to look beyond the familiar narratives to understand what these wrestlers wanted the world to know about them now.What else could be written or said about these athletes?At the event, journalists seemed to be asking the same questions. How did it feel? What was your diet? How did you celebrate? What did your parents say? What are your expectations for the LA Olympics?The questions were familiar, and so were the answers. The repeated rounds of interviews began to feel like another bout, one that was slowly draining the wrestlers.A tired and worn-out Antim joked that, after attending multiple events and facing journalists, the gruelling routine of training seemed like the better option."When I came back from Japan, my coach said, 'you have one week of rest. You have to train a little less and go out and enjoy yourself. Travel wherever you want to go and attend events and things like that.' So I thought, yes, okay, that's good. Now I will go out and travel a little. But now I feel like I should have continued training. Training is even better.

New Zealand unveil special ODI jersey to mark 100 years of sporting ties with India

New Delhi. (Agency)

New Zealand have unveiled a special ODI jersey featuring Indian and Maori artwork to celebrate 100 years of sporting ties with India. The Black Caps will wear the limited-edition shirt during the five-match ODI series against India, starting November 4.The jersey, named 'Kotahitanga', features lotus flowers, mandala art and traditional Maori patterns, bringing together elements of both cultures. New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said the shirt was designed to recognise the long-standing sporting relationship between the two countries. Three artists, Ben Thomason, Shiv Narandas and Jai Pancha, worked on the design, each bringing different cultural influences to the jersey. Narandas and Pancha chose three Indian motifs for the shirt. These include the lotus, India's national flower, an ogee pattern commonly seen in Indian architecture, and the mandala, whose symmetrical structure complements traditional Maori designs.Thomason added kowhaiwhai, a form of traditional Maori scrollwork, along with haehae lines. The artwork pays tribute to those who have contributed to sporting ties between New Zealand and India over the years.



NEW ZEALAND CRICKET PRAISES JERSEY DESIGN

NZC Chief Marketing and Commercial Officer Glenn Critchley praised the artists for bringing the two cultures together in the design."We're absolutely wrapped with the design. The artists have created a beautiful balance between a distinct Maori design and a distinct Indian design that speaks to the bond between our nations," Critchley said. "Sport underpins the unity between New Zealand and India and we hope this shirt will be a collector's item treasured by New Zealand and Indian cricket fans for years to come."

For Narandas, whose family comes from India, working on the jersey was particularly special."This shirt feels like a journey of our life here. I hope that everyone can feel the energy that's been put into this project and they can wear the shirt with pride," he said.

Arunachal Pradesh forfeit Ranji Trophy opener after state cricket body crisis



New Delhi. (Agency)

Arunachal Pradesh have forfeited their Ranji Trophy Plate Group opener against Nagaland, which was scheduled to begin on Sunday in Ahmedabad, amid an administrative crisis in the state cricket association stemming from a dispute between two warring factions and a case pending before the Itanagar bench of the Gauhati High Court.

The forfeiture comes after Arunachal Pradesh failed to field their Under-19 team for a Vinoo Mankad Trophy match against Sikkim in Bhubaneswar on Thursday, with the ongoing dispute leaving the association without a functioning authority to take decisions on team selection.The association held its elections in September, with Nabam Vivek elected as president. However, multiple district associations subsequently approached the Gauhati High Court, alleging irregularities in the polls.The High Court has reserved its order in the matter, preventing the BCCI from intervening and constituting an independent selection panel, as it did in the case of Bihar.”

There is a stay order from the court and the BCCI cannot step in. There is no one running the state body. Until the court gives the clearance, we cannot do anything," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia had told PTI.Arunachal Pradesh had finished at the bottom of the Plate Group standings last season, losing all five of their matches.Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Sikkim are the other teams in the Plate Group alongside Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is like me, says Virender Sehwag on fearless batting approach



New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India opener Virender Sehwag sees a reflection of his own batting philosophy in Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, with the 15-year-old making headlines for his aggressive approach. Sehwag believes the youngster's ability to attack from the first ball could serve him well as he looks to establish himself in the Indian team.Speaking at the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry's annual session on Saturday, Sehwag compared Sooryavanshi's mindset to his own and stressed that performance, rather than age, should determine a player's place in top-flight cricket.“Sooryavanshi is in his prime, and his thinking is somewhat similar to mine, that of hitting right from the first ball. Now, it is about when he gets the opportunity and how many matches he plays for India,” Sehwag said.“Look, if you are playing in an age-category, it makes sense. If it’s Under-19, your age should be under 19. But once you play the IPL or play for India, age doesn’t matter. A 38-or 40-year-old (Virat) Kohli is playing, and a 15-year-old (Vaibhav) Sooryavanshi is also playing. Then, performance matters,” he added.Sehwag finished his international career with 17,253 runs across formats and was known for taking the attack to bowlers from the outset. Sooryavanshi has shown a similar willingness to go after the bowling, but opportunities in India's senior side have been limited as the team management continues to assess the teenager's development.

WILL SOORYAVANSHI PLAY IND VS WI 3RD T20I?

Sooryavanshi has missed India's first two T20Is against the West Indies, with the team retaining Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma as its opening pair. India won the first match by eight wickets and kept the same XI for the second, leaving the youngster waiting for his chance.

Hockey India turmoil: Gold medals mask a growing administrative crisis

New Delhi. (Agency)

With processes and systems in seeming disarray, administrators at loggerheads, and even the sports ministry trying to unravel the imbroglio, the primary reason why Hockey India exists remains unchanged: the players continue to do what they are paid and trained to do - play, win, and bring back silverware.It is hardly the ideal environment for high-performance sport. Yet, across age groups, the senior men’s and women’s teams have delivered while standing in the eye of a storm. They return to a federation led by an indifferent President who largely is absent from tournament sidings and missing from the airport tarmac when teams return with Asian Games gold.In his place stands a Secretary General operating under a dense cloud of criticism. Accused of securing a fourth consecutive term as Jharkhand Hockey chief in violation of constitutional caps and facing allegations of high-handedness from a former national women’s captain, he remains the visible face of the executive board at venues, handing out congratulations.

At the Delhi airport, it was two-time World Cupper and selection committee chairman RP Singh who waited inside the terminal building to receive the men’s squad after their gold-medal run.“For the first time, we won back-to-back Asian Games gold, and the players deserved a grand welcome,” RP said matter-of-factly.A day earlier in Bengaluru, RP was there again, greeting the women’s team after their historic podium finish, their first Asian Games gold in 44 years. Highlighting the milestone, he added, “The girls have performed exceptionally well, and what impressed us most was how they handled pressure and delivered as a team. Their achievement, India’s first Asian Games women’s hockey gold since 1982, also secured direct qualification for the Los Angeles Olympics.”



A PRESIDENT DISTANT FROM THE PITCH

Inside the federation, President Dilip Tirkey, the legendary 2004 Olympic captain brought in to symbolize player-led governance, spends his time lobbying central ministers, government officials, and corporate sponsors to protect his position and salvage a struggling Hockey India League (HIL).Nothing wrong with that, most would argue.

When paper planes stopped football: Rayo Vallecano vs Athletic abandoned after protests

Rayo Vallecano's home match against Athletic Bilbao was abandoned after supporters twice threw paper planes and rubber balls on to the pitch. The protest, aimed at president Raul Martin Presa, sharpened attention on the club's stadium and management troubles.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Rayo Vallecano’s first home game of the LaLiga season ended in chaos on Saturday after supporters threw paper planes and rubber balls on to the pitch during their match against Athletic Bilbao. The referee abandoned the contest after fans resumed the protest following a 15-minute suspension, with the score still 0-0.The disruption began around the 13th minute, when supporters chanted for club president Raul Martin Presa to leave and threw objects on to the pitch. Play was halted while staff cleared the debris and the stadium announcer appealed for calm. However, the protest resumed after the restart, leaving the referee with little choice but to call off the match.The incident came amid mounting frustration over the club’s management and facilities. Rayo’s Estadio de Vallecas had been temporarily closed following an audit that raised health and safety concerns, including a potential risk of Legionnaires’ disease. Supporters have increasingly blamed Presa for the club’s problems, turning Saturday’s match into another flashpoint in their strained relationship.



WHY DID RAYO FANS PROTEST?

The stadium closure has intensified longstanding complaints about the condition of Rayo’s facilities. Players have previously raised concerns about the pitch and training ground, while reports of inadequate cleaning and a lack of hot water have added to the criticism. Fans have also faced long queues at the ticket office, with Rayo reportedly the only club in Spain’s top flight without a ticketing website.The unrest has also affected the club’s matchday arrangements. Rayo were forced to move their first three home fixtures to Leganes, disrupting their return to their own stadium. Presa, meanwhile, has accused regional authorities of targeting the club, even as supporters continue to demand improvements in how it is run.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Athletic Bilbao said it would contact supporters who travelled to the match to arrange refunds following the abandonment. The immediate focus will be on the consequences of the disruption and whether the fixture can be rescheduled, while the incident is likely to intensify scrutiny of Rayo’s ongoing problems.The controversy comes after a landmark season for Rayo, who reached the UEFA Conference League final before losing 1-0 to Crystal Palace. Their domestic campaign has been less convincing, with the Madrid side sitting 13th in LaLiga after recording two wins in their first seven matches. Saturday’s scenes have now added another difficult chapter to an increasingly turbulent season.



Mrunal Thakur

Backs Katrina Kaif, Kriti Sanon Amid Online Trolling: 'It's Their Life, It's Their Choice'

Katrina Kaif faced online trolling and body-shaming recently over her postpartum weight gain following the birth of her son. Kriti Sanon, meanwhile, was criticised for her outfit in jewellery brand GIVA's Raksha Bandhan advertisement, with some social media users questioning its suitability for the traditional festival. Amid the backlash against both actresses, Mrunal Thakur came out in their support. In a recent interview, she called out the criticism and urged people to remember Katrina and Kriti's contributions to the film industry and their business ventures rather than judge their personal choices.

Mrunal Thakur supports Katrina Kaif and Kriti Sanon

While speaking to PTI recently, Mrunal Thakur spoke out against the public scrutiny celebrities often face over their appearance and clothing choices, defending her industry colleagues against online criticism. She said, "It's their life; it's their choice, and everyone has a right to enjoy their phase of their life. And who are we? People who are judging all these iconic women, do we forget how amazing work (they have done) and the contribution towards the industry and business both of these women?"She went on to add, "Be it Kriti and Katrina, they are running a business not just in India but everywhere in UK and all. I think people should not comment on anyone else. People are crazy; what else to say." Mrunal further pointed out that women are constantly subjected to judgement, adding that men, too, face scrutiny over various aspects of their lives.



Recently, Katrina, too, seemingly reacted to ongoing trolling about her weight. While speaking at an event in London, she said, "I think we really need to be careful of letting narrative on social media affect our self-worth and value because there are so many opinions out there. If we're going to start to cater to all of them, it really hampers your ability to make choices for yourself. Personally, for me, every time that I faced critics or comments, if I let that dictate my actions, I think I would have been paralysed with fear and unable to move ahead in my life. There are times the world is going to celebrate you and other times, you really have to be your own biggest cheerleader."

Meanwhile, jewellery brand GIVA withdrew its Raksha Bandhan advertisement featuring Kriti Sanon after it faced backlash over her outfit and the portrayal of the festival. However, Kriti stood by her choice and responded to the criticism on social media, emphasising that a woman's respect for her culture should not be judged by her clothes. She also stressed that the essence of festivals lies in the emotions and traditions associated with them, rather than what one wears.

Neeti Mohan

Talks Chori Chori's '90s Nostalgia: 'We Were Just Feeling It And Vibing'



Neeti Mohan has spent more than a decade doing something deceptively difficult in Hindi film music: sounding recognisably like herself without ever sounding the same. From the youthful rush of Ishq Wala Love and Jiya Re to the intimacy of Meri Jaan, the ache of Aasma Aasma and now the soft nostalgia of Chori Chori, she has built a career by treating her voice less like a signature and more like an instrument that can keep changing shape.

That instinct, she says, is deliberate. "I want to change like a chameleon," Neeti tells News18 Showsha, describing adaptability as one of her biggest strengths as a vocalist. It also explains why she refuses to draw hard lines between playback and independent music. For her, the song still comes first, whether she is surrendering to a composer's vision, producing her own music, figuring out the business of releases or trying to disappear into a character behind the microphone.

In an exclusive conversation with News18 Showsha, Neeti opens up about finding the right balance between nostalgia and modernity in Chori Chori, "acting behind the mic" for songs like Aasma Aasma and Dhanam Dhanam, why she still makes musical decisions "from the heart" despite turning producer, and how life has come full circle from standing in an audition queue for Popstars to now judging young singers on a reality-show panel.

When I was recording the song, I was just feeling the lyrics and the tune. I think that's what is most important at the time of recording: to be absolutely honest to the song and just bring feels and vibes. The song is composed and produced



in a way that brings out the nostalgia, and that's why you feel it. But we were just feeling it and vibing with it.

think we were just trying to follow the tune and also use Indian inflections like gamaka and meen, because it's a very Indian tune. There are very old tunes like Bole Re Papi Hara and Piya Bawari. So I was just focusing on how to sing that tune in today's world.

Tanishaa Mukerji Accuses Paparazzi Of 'Poking' Jaya Bachchan, Says 'Don't Trouble Her'



Actress Tanishaa Mukerji has a request for the paparazzi covering the ongoing Durga Puja celebrations. The actress recently, while addressing the media, asked photographers and reporters not to trouble veteran actress Jaya Bachchan at the upcoming event of Durga Pooja. She also pointed out that some members of the paparazzi deliberately provoke the veteran actress during public appearances.Speaking to the media at an event related to Durga Puja, Tanishaa said, "I have been seeing you have been troubling her a lot," quipped Tanishaa.

"I see some of your reporters go and on purpose poke her. So I request, don't do that at our Durga Pooja." She also made a light-hearted appeal to the photographers, saying, "Don't trouble our Jaya aunty, okay?"Tanishaa's remarks come amid the festivities, during which large crowds gather at the pandals to seek blessings and celebrate the festival.She also urged members of the media and the public to exercise caution, avoid pushing and look out for one another amid the rush, and emphasised on the importance of basic courtesy and humanity.

For the uninitiated, Durga Puja holds a special place in the Mukerji family's festive traditions. Kajol and Tanishaa Mukerji are often seen attending the annual celebrations at Mumbai's North Bombay Sarbojanin Durga Puja pandal, which has strong ties to the family.Rani Mukerji, who belongs to the extended Mukerji family, is also regular at the festivities.Jaya Bachchan has also been a familiar face at the celebrations over the years, and is often seen sharing warm moments with Kajol and the Mukerji family.Talking about Jaya Bachchan's equation with the paparazzi, her interactions with them have frequently attracted attention, with the actress often expressing her annoyance over being photographed or approached in public without consideration for her personal space.She has often been seen objecting to paparazzi by shouting at them and making comments while they attempt to capture pictures.

'I'm Grateful Our Paths Crossed': Aneet Padda Remembers Shakti Shalini Co-Star Nana Patekar In Heartfelt Note



Actress Aneet Padda paid an emotional tribute to her Shakti Shalini co-star, veteran actor Nana Patekar, following his demise at the age of 75. Remembering her time with the late actor, Aneet reflected on how observing his approach to acting, his honesty and his simplicity left a lasting impression on her. Nana passed away on October 8, 2026, after suffering a cardiac arrest at his residence in Dona Paula, Goa. He was rushed to Manipal Hospital, where doctors declared him dead at around 5:20 am. His death marked the end of a career spanning several decades, with his upcoming film Shakti Shalini set to be among his final screen appearances.

Aneet Padda remembers Nana Patekar

Recalling her first meeting with Nana Patekar, Aneet Padda admitted that she was nearly speechless while sitting across from the veteran actor. She described him as someone who was honest, unfiltered and unapologetically himself, adding that the experience of meeting him left her overwhelmed. She wrote on her Instagram stories, "The first time I met Nana Patekar sir, I barely spoke. I think I was just taking it all in. To sit across from someone so honest, so unfiltered, so unapologetically himself was an experience in itself. He was someone who lived life on his own terms, chose simplicity over the noise of fame, and reminded you what it truly meant to be an actor. Listening to him speak, watching him work, and simply being around him was a lesson I will always carry with me."

Aneet also expressed gratitude for having crossed paths with the veteran actor early in her career and later getting the opportunity to share screen space with him, describing the experience as one she would always cherish. She further wrote, "To have met him so early in my journey, and then to work with him, is something I'll always be grateful for. I learnt so much just by observing him, and looking back, I realise how precious those moments were. That one of his last films was with me still leaves me without words. It feels surreal. I'm grateful our paths crossed, even if only for a short while, and I'll carry it for the rest of my life. Rest in peace, Sir."

NEWS BOX

Man named Hitler Mussolini elected mayor in Peru, draws global attention

World.(Agency)

Despite winning an election to represent a district of fewer than 1,000 people, a Peruvian politician has attracted international attention because his name combines the forenames of two of history's most notorious fascist dictators — Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

Hitler Mussolini SimeÃ³n Flores, 45, won the mayoral election in Queropalca, a remote Andean district in Peru's Hunuco department, by a narrow margin, contesting on the ticket of the centre-left Ahora NaciÃ³n party.Flores secured 229 votes, accounting for 34.5 per cent of the 663 valid ballots cast, according to election results. His closest rival, Gaspar Benilde Osorio Zambrano of the right-wing Popular Renewal Peru party, received 204 votes, giving Flores a lead of just 25 votes.Queropalca, located in the province of Lauricocha, has an estimated population of just over 730, according to official data from 2024.

The district lies around 360 km (224 miles) from the capital, Lima.His unusual name has turned an otherwise low-profile local election into a subject of international curiosity. Peruvian outlet Peru21 described his candidacy as striking because his forenames are shared with "two of the most well-known figures of 20th-Century European totalitarian regimes".

NOT THE FIRST PERUVIAN POLITICIAN NAMED HITLER

Flores is not the first politician in Peru to attract attention because of a name associated with the Nazi dictator.

Captain Smit Machchhar to get Israel civilian heroism award after flight ordeal

Jerusalem.(Agency)

Israeli President Isaac Herzog has invited Captain Smit Machchhar to Israel to honour him with the Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism after he was injured while trying to stop his co-pilot from allegedly attempting to hijack a flydubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv, his office said on Saturday.Machchhar, an Indian national, was hurt during the mid-air incident on September 30. The aircraft, carrying 174 passengers and six crew members, was diverted to Tabuk in Saudi Arabia. Despite being seriously injured, he managed to open the cockpit door, allowing passengers and crew to overpower the co-pilot and avert a possible catastrophe. All passengers reached Israel safely later that day.

"Once Captain Machchhar regains strength, it will be my honour to award him, on behalf of the people of Israel, the State of Israel's Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism," a statement from the President's office quoted Herzog as saying. The honour for Machchhar would be a rare distinction for a non-Israeli.

Herzog announced the decision earlier this week at a ceremony honouring six Israeli citizens who were on board the flight with the same award.In a letter dated October 4, Herzog expressed "deep gratitude" for Machchhar's "exceptional courage and determination" in steering the flydubai aircraft to safety and averting a "catastrophe". "While the unfolding of events reads like a thriller, one can only imagine the true sense of terror and grave urgency that overwhelmed the cockpit as you struggled midair for your very being," he wrote. The letter did not mention the President's intention to confer the award on him.

4 dead, 6,70,000 without power as Hurricane Isaias batters southeast US

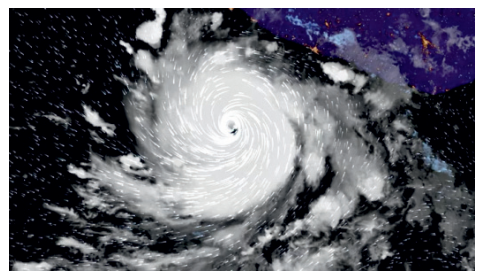
- Hurricane Isaias struck Florida and swept across the US Southeast, leaving four people dead and widespread outages. Even as the storm weakened, officials warned of flooding, tornadoes and prolonged disruption to power and transport.

World.(Agency)

Four people died after Hurricane Isaias made landfall early on Saturday, and about 670,000 residents in Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi were still without power as the storm weakened to a post-tropical cyclone, according to local authorities and electricity monitoring services.

Two of the deaths resulted from trees falling on homes, according to local media and authorities.Authorities in Florida had received no search and rescue requests shortly after landfall in a sign of limited impact, Governor Ron DeSantis said. But hazardous conditions remained and storm surges, flash flooding, damaging winds and a risk of tornadoes across parts of the US Southeast were expected, the National Hurricane Center said.The tornado threat is expected to continue on Saturday across parts of the Florida Panhandle, Georgia and the Carolinas, the NHC said.In Florida, power restoration was marked as a priority, authorities said, while highways, bridges and airports were reopening, and teams were assessing the damage.

"They're going to make assessments this morning, and I think that'll give us a good sense about the future for the rapidity of the power restoration," DeSantis told a press conference in Tallahassee. Some



16,000 utility linemen had prepared to respond to the storm, he said.

About 420,000 customers in Florida, 190,000 in Alabama, 43,000 in Georgia and 17,000 in Mississippi had no power as of midday Saturday, according to tracking firm PowerOutage.us.A separate storm on the Pacific Ocean, Rachel, was moving toward the coast of northern Baja California on Saturday, bringing wind gusts and increased tides, which left another 7,000 people without power in California.Alabama's emergency management agency said the downed trees and power lines made travel hazardous in Houston County, which is under a flash flood warning."Due to the impacts of Hurricane Isaias, all Houston County roads are closed until further notice," it posted on X.

A category 2 hurricane when it hit Florida's coast and the first of the 2026 Atlantic season, Isaias is expected to produce gusty winds well inland before weakening below gale force later on Saturday, the NHC said.On Saturday, oil and gas producer Shell SHEL.L said it was beginning to redeploy personnel to its Mars, Olympus, Ursa, Vito and Appomattox assets in the Gulf, whileChevron CVX.

Atlantic or Pacific to be renamed Trump Ocean? US President floats idea

World.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump has floated the idea of renaming either the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean as 'Trump Ocean' or 'Ocean of the Americas,' extending his push to put an American imprint on geographical names.

Trump made the remarks during a campaign rally in Clarksville, Tennessee, on Saturday, October 10, while speaking ahead of the November 3 midterm elections."We need a river. We need an ocean," Trump told the crowd, suggesting that either of the two oceans could be given a new name. "We call it 'Trump Ocean' or 'Ocean of the Americas,' something like that," he said, drawing laughter and applause, The Washington Post reported.Trump's comments came after he referred to his earlier decisions to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America and Lake Ontario as Lake America.

According to The Washington Post, the US President also suggested that he wanted an ocean and a major river to be renamed before leaving office."Before I get out, I think we should have an ocean. And we need a great river," Trump said, according to the newspaper.



A report by Fox News suggests that Trump floated the idea during a wide-ranging rally that combined campaign appeals with remarks on the economy, foreign policy and his administration's domestic agenda. Musician Kid Rock opened the rally before Trump addressed the crowd.

TRUMP'S EARLIER RENAMING MOVES

Trump renamed the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America last year, a move that sparked diplomatic tensions with Mexico and a dispute with the Associated Press over the use of the new name.

The news agency refused to adopt the name universally, prompting a legal battle with the administration over access to presidential events, The Washington Post reported.

In August, Trump also renamed Lake Ontario, which lies between the US state of New York and Canada, as Lake America. The move came amid tensions with Canadian leaders over trade and tariffs, the newspaper said.The President has also floated the idea of renaming the US state of New Mexico as 'New America'. Last month, he suggested the change, although he later said it would be up to the state's residents to decide whether to pursue it.

Three Indian survivors of Black Sea cargo ship attack leave for home

London.(Agency)

Three Indian nationals rescued from the Turkish-owned cargo vessel MV Royad Mammadov after it was attacked in the Black Sea earlier this week have left for India, the Indian Embassy in Bucharest said on Saturday.The mission said the three men — Sahil Sandhu, Ashwini Kumar and Harman Singh — departed for India on Saturday after receiving support from the embassy. The vessel, carrying corn from Ukraine's Izmail port to Ravenna in Italy, was struck on Monday while sailing in the Black Sea outside Romania's territorial waters.

In a statement, the embassy said, "Three Indian nationals, Shri Sahil Sandhu, Shri Ashwini Kumar and Shri Harman Singh, departed for India today (Saturday)." It added, "The Embassy provided all necessary support and assistance to facilitate their return. We express our sincere gratitude to the Romanian authorities, Constana County Hospital, and the Romanian rescue teams for their invaluable assistance, cooperation and support."Two foreign seafarers were killed in the attack and several crew members were injured. All three Indian nationals survived. One of them was injured and received medical treatment in Romania. The nationality of those killed was not immediately known.

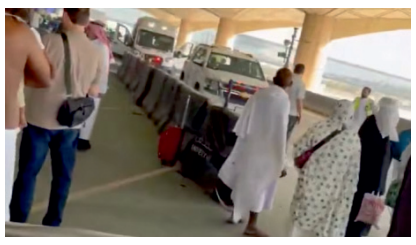
The embassy had said on October 7 that its representative visited the three Indian nationals rescued on October 6 from the vessel in the Black Sea. Two were accommodated in a hotel, while the third was undergoing treatment at the County Hospital in Constanta. The mission had said all three were in stable condition. It also said it had facilitated essential items, including mobile phones, through the shipping company's local agent, while arranging Indian food through a local Indian restaurant. The embassy said it remained in close contact with the concerned authorities and continued to extend all necessary support.

According to the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026, India has emerged as the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers, contributing 311,936 maritime professionals to the global shipping industry. The report estimates that India now accounts for 12.16 per cent of the global seafaring workforce, behind only the Philippines and ahead of China, the Russian Federation and Indonesia. The latest development in Romania marks the return home of the three Indian survivors after the Black Sea attack.

12 dead, 300 injured in Houthi strike on Riyadh airport; Trump calls it terrible

World.(Agency)

A third attack on Riyadh's international airport in a week killed at least 12 people and injured 309 on Saturday, Saudi authorities said, as Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for the strike, marking a major escalation in their campaign against the kingdom.The Saudi civil aviation authority said the dead included four Saudi nationals, two people from Bangladesh and one each from the United States, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Sudan and Egypt. Hospitals were overwhelmed with casualties arriving by ambulance and helicopter, with some of the injured in critical



condition, people briefed on the matter said.The attack came without warning, and Saudi Arabia's threat warning system did not issue an alert. The two earlier attacks on King Khalid International Airport this week killed four people and heavily damaged a Saudi commercial aircraft parked on the tarmac.Reacting to reports of the latest attack, Trump called it "terrible" and described the Saudis as "good fighters", while saying Washington was weighing its options.When asked whether Washington planned to join Saudi Arabia's strikes on the Houthis, the US President said, "We may. We're going to look at it. We just found out about the recent attack, so we'll make a decision. We move very quickly."

Man mauled to death by tiger after jumping into enclosure at UK wildlife park

World.(Agency)

A man was killed after entering a tiger enclosure at Yorkshire Wildlife Park in England and being attacked by the animal, South Yorkshire Police said on Saturday.

Police said they received reports at 1.35 pm that a man had entered the enclosure at the wildlife park near Doncaster. The attack resulted in serious injuries, and the man was pronounced dead at the scene despite efforts by medical personnel."Emergency services attended and sadly, despite the best efforts of medical personnel, the man was pronounced dead at the scene," South Yorkshire Police said in a statement.

"The man's family is aware and is being supported by specialist officers. Our thoughts are with them at this distressing time," the force said.

NO WIDER RISK TO PUBLIC: COPS

Addressing rumours about the tiger's condition, police said the animal was uninjured and remained inside the enclosure after the incident.

"Regarding rumours surrounding the condition of the tiger, the animal was uninjured and remained in the enclosure following the incident and there is no wider risk to the public," the force said.Police also acknowledged videos of the incident circulating online and urged people not to share the footage.

"We are aware of videos circulating online and we would encourage people not to share this distressing footage," the force said.

WILDLIFE PARK CLOSED AFTER INCIDENT

Yorkshire Wildlife Park was evacuated



following the incident and will remain closed until Sunday.The park said its emergency response procedures had been activated immediately and emergency services had attended the scene. It is working with the authorities to establish what happened."The safety and wellbeing of our visitors, staff and animals remain our highest priority," the wildlife park said in a statement on its website.

Christa Pike, who survived botched execution, back in prison after hospital stay

- Christa Pike, sentenced to death for a 1995 murder, awoke 'angry and confused' in the hospital this week with a long recuperation ahead after surviving the attempted execution on September 30, her lawyers said on Wednesday.

World.(Agency)

Death row inmate Christa Pike was released from a US hospital on Saturday and sent back to prison where she will continue receiving medical care following her botched execution attempt in Tennessee, her attorneys said.

Pike was discharged from a local hospital and is now at the Debra K Johnson Rehabilitation Center, where she has been housed for more than 30 years, said attorneys Stephen Ferrell and Luke Ihnen from Federal Defender Services of Eastern Tennessee, and Randy Spivey and Kelly Gleason from the Tennessee Office of the Post Conviction Defender in a joint release.Pike, sentenced to



death for a 1995 murder, awoke "angry and confused" in the hospital this week with a long recuperation ahead after surviving the attempted execution on September 30, her lawyers said on Wednesday. They previously believed she could be brain-dead.Pike, 50, had been taken from the execution chamber to a Nashville hospital, unconscious, critically ill and with severe arm injuries after two injections failed to kill her at the Riverbend Maximum Security Institution.A Tennessee judge this week ordered state officials to preserve all evidence related to their failed attempt to execute her, a development one of her lawyers called the "first of many steps to preserve and enforce her constitutional rights."Tennessee Governor Bill Lee suspended all executions for the rest of the year while investigators look into the botched execution .