mahanagarmetro.com
@mahanagar_metro @mahanagar_metro @mahanagar_metro

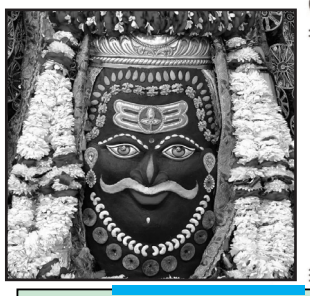
WEDNESDAY

MAHANAGAR METRO

VOICE OF THE CITY, PULSE OF THE NATION

AHEMDABAD/GUJRAT
Wednesday, October 14, 2026

MAHANAGAR METRO
For News Coverage, Press Releases & Advertisement Bookings, Please Contact Our Office
PAWAN MAKAN
+91-9638877700
mahanagarmetro7@gmail.com



Top Court Stays Defamation Case Trial Against Rahul Gandhi In PM Remarks Case

MYSURU. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed further proceedings in a defamation case before a trial court in Maharashtra involving Rahul Gandhi over his remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Aparesh Kumar Singh issued notices to the Maharashtra government and the complainant, MH Shrishrimal, seeking their responses in four weeks."Issue notice returnable in four weeks. Further proceedings before the trial court shall remain stayed," the bench ordered on a plea filed by Gandhi against a September 8 order of the Bombay High Court refusing to cancel summons to him.

Senior lawyer Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the Congress leader, referred to earlier decisions of the top court and said the law is settled in the matter.On September 8, the Bombay High Court refused to quash the summons issued to Gandhi in 2019 in the defamation case.It had dismissed Gandhi's petition against a Girgaum magistrate's order dated August 28, 2019, for a process against him on Shrishrimal's complaint.The high court, however, continued its 2021 order directing the magistrate to defer the hearing on the complaint for six weeks so that Gandhi could approach the Supreme Court.

'Aware of sting op, it's vital to identify those behind it': Former CM Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU. (Agency).

Former Chief Minister and Congress Working Committee member Siddaramaiah on Monday said that he is aware that a sting operation is being conducted. He further said that it is important to identify those behind it.

Siddaramaiah's statement comes after the alleged sting operation targeting him has emerged as a fresh flashpoint in Karnataka's ruling Congress, with the BJP and JDS stepping up their attacks on Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and demanding an investigation into the controversy.

With Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy on Monday insisting that the State Government cannot evade a probe by saying "time will tell", the controversy threatens to remain a political talking point in the run-up to the 2028 Assembly elections.

Political observers see the Opposition's emphasis on Siddaramaiah as an attempt to question Shivakumar's role, as alleged by Kumaraswamy, and potentially appeal to the former CM's support base. Within the Congress, some leaders believe Shivakumar's warning to ministers about possible sting operations has given the Opposition an opportunity to shape the narrative around alleged internal power struggles.Siddaramaiah has reportedly called for an investigation, while Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, considered a close associate of the former, has also been drawn into the controversy.

Yogi Adityanath in damage-control mode as UP BJP faces family ticket revolt

Yogi Adityanath has begun meeting disgruntled BJP leaders in Uttar Pradesh after Dharmendra Kashyap joined the Samajwadi Party. The outreach reflects concern over growing resentment over tickets for leaders' children ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

Lucknow(Agency).

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken charge of efforts to pacify disgruntled BJP leaders ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, with a series of meetings in recent days signalling the party's attempts at damage control.The Chief Minister is personally reaching out to these leaders, hearing their grievances and trying to prevent further discontent within the party.

Three sets of photographs that have emerged over the past few days have drawn attention to the unease within the BJP, particularly over the party's reluctance to accommodate the political ambitions of leaders' children.The immediate trigger was the exit of Dharmendra Kashyap, one of the BJP's prominent backward community leaders from Rohilkhand, who joined the Samajwadi Party (SP).Kashyap subsequently met SP chief Akhilesh Yadav along with his daughter, Kirti.The meeting was seen as a sign that he would seek an SP ticket for his daughter, triggering concern within the BJP that other disgruntled leaders could follow a similar path.

THE THREE PHOTOGRAPHS

After photographs of Akhilesh Yadav meeting Dharmendra Kashyap surfaced, images of three separate meetings involving Yogi Adityanath and disgruntled political figures emerged.The first showed the Chief Minister meeting former MP and minister Kaushal Kishore and his family, including his wife, Jai Devi, the BJP MLA from Malihabad, and their son, Vikas Kishore, who is the vice-president of the BJP's Scheduled Caste Morcha.



Kaushal Kishore reportedly wants a BJP ticket for his son from Malihabad, the seat currently represented by Jai Devi. He is also unhappy with the party's perceived lack of importance given to those who defeated him.The next photograph showed Yogi meeting former Union minister Rita Bahuguna Joshi. She had sought a ticket for her son ahead of the 2022 Assembly elections, but the BJP turned down the request.

A third photograph showed the Chief Minister meeting Gangacharan Rajput, the father of Brijbhushan Rajput, the BJP MLA from Charkhari in Mahoba district.

Brijbhushan Rajput has emerged as a vocal critic of the government and recently held state minister Swatantra Dev Singh hostage in his area.The Samajwadi Party is also seeking to draw closer to the MLA and his family, which is described as one of the largest and most influential political families in Bundelkhand, with influence among the Lodhi community.

Chhota Udepur's Agricultural Achievements Under the Spotlight as Farmers' Irrigation Concerns Raise Questions About Effective Implementation of Government Schemes

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Chhota Udepur, Gujarat: A significant gap between development claims and ground realities has come into focus in Gujarat's Chhota Udepur district. While the district has reportedly received national recognition for its work in irrigation and agricultural development under the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMD-DKY), concerns persist over water availability for farmers in several remote, predominantly tribal areas.The reported recognition has brought attention to the district's agricultural development initiatives, but questions remain about how effectively irrigation facilities are reaching rural communities. For farmers who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, access to a reliable water supply is essential for protecting crops, maintaining agricultural productivity and securing household incomes.In parts of Pavi Jetpur, Kawant, Sankheda, Bodeli and Naswadi talukas, farmers reportedly continue to face irrigation-related difficulties. In some areas, dependence on seasonal rainfall remains a major concern, particularly during periods when wells and borewells experience reduced water availability. Such conditions can create uncertainty for farmers, especially those who lack access to alternative irrigation sources.The situation raises an important question: To what extent have irrigation projects and agricultural development schemes improved water availability at the village level? While infrastructure development is an important step, its success ultimately depends on whether water reaches agricultural land consistently and in sufficient quantities.Concerns have also been raised about irrigation pipelines, incomplete canals and the effectiveness of water distribution networks. According to the concerns described in local accounts, farmers in remote locations may face difficulties receiving water from the Narmada and other irrigation projects, particularly where agricultural land lies at the tail end of distribution systems. These claims require verification through field inspections and official irrigation records.Water-storage infrastructure is another area that deserves attention. Check dams, ponds and small reservoirs can play an important role in conserving rainwater, supporting groundwater recharge and improving local water availability. However, the accumulation of silt, structural damage and inadequate maintenance can reduce their effectiveness. A detailed assessment of these structures would help determine whether they are functioning at their intended capacity.The issue is particularly significant for small and marginal farmers in tribal communities, whose agricultural activities may be highly vulnerable to fluctuations in water availability. When irrigation becomes uncertain, farmers may face difficulties in planning sowing schedules, maintaining crops and managing cultivation costs. Inadequate water supply can also increase the risk of reduced agricultural output and financial stress.The reported situation highlights the importance of evaluating government schemes through measurable outcomes rather than infrastructure claims alone. Authorities need to provide clear information on the increase in irrigated agricultural land, the number of villages receiving reliable water supplies, the operational status of irrigation networks and the actual benefits reaching farmers.It is also important to examine whether water distribution systems are functioning efficiently and whether complaints from farmers are being addressed in a timely manner. Transparent reporting, regular field inspections and consultations with local farming communities can help identify gaps and improve the implementation of irrigation projects.The district administration and relevant departments should clarify the basis of the reported national award, the specific achievements recognised and the data used to assess improvements in irrigation and agricultural infrastructure. A comparison of previous and current irrigation coverage, groundwater conditions and agricultural productivity would provide a clearer picture of the district's progress.National recognition can highlight development efforts, but the lasting success of agricultural schemes depends on their impact on the ground. For farmers in remote tribal villages, the availability of water is not simply an infrastructure issue; it is directly connected to crop security, income stability and their ability to sustain their livelihoods.The central question remains whether the reported improvements in irrigation infrastructure are translating into reliable water access for farmers across Chhota Udepur, including those living in the most remote areas.As concerns about irrigation access continue to draw attention, a transparent assessment of water distribution.



Odisha's Balanda villagers write to CM Majhi against 'polluting' firms, seek lasting solution

ROURKELA(Agency).

People in several villages of Balanda gram panchayat in Sundargarh district's Lathikata block have taken their allegations of pollution against five metal and chemical industrial units in their vicinity to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, seeking a lasting solution.The villagers accused the regional office of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) of inaction and sent a memorandum to the CM through the office of the Panposh sub-collector at Rourkela three days ago.

In the memorandum, the villagers have accused Kedia Carbon Pvt Ltd (KCPL), Pushpanjana Alloys Pvt Ltd (PAPL), Rourkela Sponge LLP, Jay Iron & Steel Ltd (JISL), and Salasar Casting Pvt Ltd (SCPL) of continuously causing air, water and soil pollution with flying coal and iron dust and discharge of industrial effluent.

Incidentally, after the villagers raised the issue in May, the OSPCB regional officer had conducted inspections and issued show cause notices to these five industrial units between June 23 and August 17.

"Months have gone by but no visible action has been taken yet to stop pollution," said Govind Kujur, a resident of Amtola village in the area. "We have repeatedly met the local pollution control authorities and also wrote to the OSPCB member secretary on September 16, but to no avail," he added.Another protesting villager, Pramod Lakra, said more than 15 villages in the vicinity of the industrial units were bearing the brunt of the air, soil and water pollution. "We want a lasting remedy," he said.



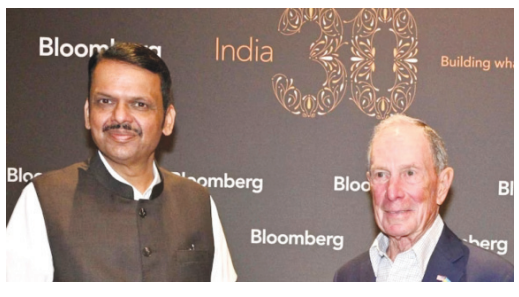
'30 Successful Years In India': Devendra Fadnavis Meets Bloomberg Co-Founder

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said it was nostalgic to recollect previous meetings with Michael Bloomberg.

Mumbai. (Agency).

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis welcomed three-time former New York mayor and co-founder of Bloomberg L.P., Michael Bloomberg on his visit to Mumbai.

"It was an absolute delight to welcome and meet Mr Michael Bloomberg in Mumbai, as Bloomberg celebrates 30 successful years in India! It was nostalgic to recollect our previous meetings in the US and Mumbai, when I had newly become the Chief Minister first time. Ongoing projects in collaboration with our government and Bloomberg Philanthropies on road safety, health data also got discussed," Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said.



"Wishing great success to the upcoming Bloomberg New Economy Forum 2026 being held at New Delhi, with an apt theme A World in Play: Defining the New Levers of Power,' Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said in a post on X."Congratulations to Mr Michael Bloomberg and entire team on this successful journey of 30 years in India and with India! Headquartered in Mumbai and an office in Pune makes it even more special for Maharashtra. It was lovely to have you in Mumbai!," Chief Minister Fadnavis added.Commenting on the meeting, Michael Bloomberg said, "I had a productive meeting with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis today about Bloomberg's 30 years in India, our growing partnership in Maharashtra, and Bloomberg Philanthropies's work to tackle important public health challenges and improve lives.

Ghaziabad to auction properties of 9 Rera defaulters to recover dues

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The district administration will auction properties of nine major Rera defaulters on Oct 16 and Nov 6 to recover outstanding dues.

The properties are in Indirapuram, Kaushambi and Vasundhara, officials said on Monday. The decision follows a review meeting at which district magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandar directed officials to initiate legal action against 62 defaulters. Mandar said properties of the identified defaulters have been attached for auction as part of the recovery proceedings.Properties linked to two defaulters will be auctioned on Oct 16: VXL Realtors Pvt Ltd's French Arc in Sector 14, Kaushambi, and Star MD Realcon Pvt Ltd's Shopprix Mall, H-1, Kaushambi.

On Nov 6, properties linked to seven defaulters will go under the hammer. These are Saamag Realty Pvt Ltd, Crescent Park Township, Shahpur Bamheta; Prateek Realtors (I) Pvt Ltd, Plot No. 4, BS 1, 4 and 5, Siddharth Vihar; Salvia Infra Pvt Ltd, CISF Road, Kanawani, Indirapuram; MKS Infra Pvt Ltd, CISF Road, Kanawani, Indirapuram; SKG Homes Pvt Ltd, Plot No. 13/GH-1, Sector 13, Vasundhara; Saya Homes, Saya Gold Avenue, Plot No. 10/1, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram; and Deepak Tyagi, 1/427, Shakti Khand, Indirapuram.The DM said officials are pursuing recovery action against all 62 identified defaulters. The auctions are meant to recover outstanding amounts through the sale of attached immovable properties, under legally prescribed enforcement measures.

From sacred dhams to Ram temple, Ramlilas in NCR go grand

Noida.(Agency)

From towering multi-layered stages inspired by sacred dhams to LED-lit sets, immersive sound effects and artistes from Rajasthan and other parts of the country, Ramlilas across Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad are blending spectacle with tradition. Unveiled on Sunday, the celebrations will run until Oct 21, drawing lakhs of visitors with mythological performances, food stalls, amusement rides and fireworks.As the festivities build up to Dussehra on Oct 20 and Bharat Milap the next day, organisers have also put security personnel, CCTV cameras and volunteers in place to manage crowds.The Shri Sanatan Dharma Ramlila Committee (SSDRC) will stage its over 40-year-old Ramlila tradition at Noida Stadium in Sector 21A, featuring TV and film artistes from Delhi and Mumbai. The celebrations began on Sunday with Ganesh Puja attended by GB Nagar MP Mahesh Sharma, Noida MLA Pankaj Singh and other dignitaries.This year, the stage features themes inspired by Kedarnath, Badrinath and Jagannath Puri, enhanced with 3D effects and LED lighting. The performances will also be screened on a 15ft-high and 20ft-wide screen."The Ramlila began in a small pandal near Sanatan Dharma Mandir in Sector 19, with temple volunteers, their families and around 40-50 residents organising the performances. Today, it has grown into a grand production with advanced lighting, LED screens and 3D sound systems," said TN Chaurasia, SSDRC president.

1 main road and 60 highrises along it, why rush hour traffic chokes Raj Nagar Extension

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Nearly two lakh residents from more than 60 societies in Raj Nagar Extension (RNE) depend almost entirely on a single main road, leaving it congested through the day. Vehicles travelling to and from Muradnagar, Modinagar, Meerut, Delhi and Noida funnel through the same stretch. People travelling to Hindon airport also take the same stretch. Hence, a journey that should take 10 minutes regularly stretches to 30-40 minutes, and often much longer, during morning and evening rush hours.

"After 8.30am, the stretch from Officer City red light to City Forest chokes up," a resident of Uninav Heights, Diskha Srivastava, said. "In the evening, after 6.30, the chaos shifts to the Red Carpet–Charms Castle section and the Raj Nagar Residency to River Heights roundabout. Office-goers regularly report late arrivals, and even ambulances frequently get stuck."

Narrow internal roads leading to the main road and high vehicle volumes cause bottlenecks at almost every junction. Poorly planned road infrastructure has worsened the situation. Several U-turns have been created without proper traffic studies or research.

U-turns appear to have been added mainly for the convenience of nearby malls. These disrupt the traffic instead of easing movement. Although roads near the U-turns were widened, electricity poles were never relocated. Cars and motorcycles have to squeeze past the poles, leaving the additional width unusable and creating new bottlenecks.Even on Sundays with temporary stalls and people pouring in for the weekly market, the internal roads come to a standstill. A resident, Saket Pathak, said, "We can't take our cars out for a drive. The accesses to the society garages virtually get blocked."Then there are the usual suspects—broken stretches, potholes, illegal parking and encroachments—that contribute to the chaotic picture. During monsoon, the roads turn even more hazardous. For the residents, a short trip feels like an ordeal that steals hours from their day.

BIKER COLLISION TRIGGERS VIOLENT CLASH BETWEEN TWO GROUPS, CREATING PANIC IN THE AREA

Mahanagar Metro Desk

SURAT: A minor dispute over a motorcycle collision escalated into a violent confrontation between two groups in Gujarat's Surat city, creating panic and tension in the Varachha area. The incident reportedly took place near Shiv Park in the Ghanshyamnagar locality, where a disagreement between embroidery workers turned into a physical altercation.According to the available information, the dispute began late at night when motorcycles collided while workers were travelling through the area. What started as an argument between a few individuals quickly escalated as members of both groups allegedly called their friends and associates to the spot. Within minutes, a crowd gathered near Shiv Park, and the situation turned violent.Minor Dispute Escalates Into Physical ClashThe argument reportedly intensified as both sides confronted each other. The confrontation allegedly involved physical assaults, with some individuals reportedly using sticks and their hands to attack members of the opposing group. The sudden violence caused commotion in the neighbourhood and raised concerns among local residents.People living in the surrounding residential area were reportedly alarmed by the incident. The gathering of people and the escalating confrontation disrupted the otherwise quiet surroundings, creating an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty.Elders Intervene Before Police ArriveAs the situation escalated, concerned residents reportedly contacted the police control room to inform authorities about the clash. Following the alert, Varachha police personnel and a PCR vehicle were reportedly dispatched to the location.However, before the police team could reach the spot, elders and other responsible members of the community intervened. They reportedly spoke to both groups, urged them to maintain peace and helped bring the confrontation under control.Their intervention prevented the dispute from escalating further, although the full details of the incident and whether any injuries occurred remain un



confirmed.Incident Raises Concerns Over Public SafetyThe incident has once again highlighted concerns about disputes turning violent over seemingly minor issues. A disagreement arising from a motorcycle collision can quickly escalate when tempers flare and additional people become in lkjvolved.

Transforms the Pain of Separation into Melody!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki, Bhachau, Kutch In the world of Indian music, some voices are not confined to the ears alone; they reach directly into the depths of the heart. Altaf Raja is one such distinctive voice. Through qawwali, ghazals, and emotionally moving songs of separation, he has carved out a special place in the hearts of music lovers. His singing beautifully blends the sweetness of love, the pain of separation, and the expressive elegance of poetry. Altaf Raja was born on 15 October 1967, in Nagpur, Maharashtra. He inherited his musical values and traditions from his family. As his parents were associated with qawwali, he grew up surrounded by music from an early age. These early influences gave a new direction to his musical journey. His popular album Tum To Thehre Pardesi,' released in 1997, brought him widespread recognition across the country. The song's lyrics and heartfelt rendition became immensely popular. He expressed the pain of love, the anguish of separation, and the sorrow of being apart from a loved one so beautifully that listeners developed a deep emotional connection with the song.Altaf Raja's distinctive quality lies in his abil



ity to do more than simply sing the words of a song. He brings the emotions hidden within those words to life through his voice. His singing reflects a beautiful combination of the traditional richness of qawwali, the subtle elegance of ghazals, and the simplicity of popular music.

MAHANAGAR METRO EXIT POLL PROVEN RIGHT!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

GANDHINAGAR (SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE): The official results of the Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation (GMC) elections have brought attention to the exit poll published by Mahanagar Metro on October 11, 2026. The newspaper's projections broadly matched the final seat distribution, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) retaining power with a commanding majority, the Congress winning five seats and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) failing to win a single seat.The comparison between the newspaper's exit poll and the reported election results highlights the accuracy of several of its key projections. However, the BJP's final tally exceeded the range predicted in the exit poll.EXIT POLL VS ACTUAL RESULTSAccording to the figures provided, Mahanagar Metro's exit poll projected the BJP to win between 32 and 36 seats. The party ultimately secured 38 seats, finishing above the predicted range.For the Congress, the newspaper anticipated approximately six seats, while the party won five. The exit poll also projected one seat for an independent candidate, which matched the reported result.The newspaper had further projected that the AAP would fail to open its account in Gandhinagar. The final results confirmed that the party did not win any seats.BJP RETAINS POWER WITH 38 SEATSAccording to the results cited in the report, elections were held for all 44 seats across 11 wards of the Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation. The BJP secured 38 seats, retaining control of the civic body with a substantial majority.The Congress won five seats, while one seat went to an independent candidate. he AAP failed to secure representation in the corporation.Compared with the 2021 municipal elections, when the BJP won 41 seats, the Congress secured two and the AAP won one, the latest reported results show a different distribution of opposition representation.

STF gets 12 terror-linked Instagram accounts removed, counsels 200 youths

GURGAON.(Agency)

Haryana STF identified 12 Instagram accounts allegedly being operated or used by terrorists to radicalise and influence youths, and got them removed from the platform. It also identified around 200 youths through social media who were being influenced by gangster and gun culture, and counselled them, as part of its efforts to check the spread of criminal and extremist influence online, sources said.Sources said the accounts were mostly linked to Pakistan-based gangster Shahzad Bhatti, who was declared a terrorist in Sept this year by Union home minister Amit Shah. According to STF, Bhatti is trying to radicalise Indian youth to initiate terror activities in India.Police are also monitoring content that can contribute to extremist influence among youths. "The removal of the 12 accounts identified as being used by terrorists for radicalisation is part of this parallel effort, while the counselling of around 200 youths is aimed at addressing their exposure to gangster and gun culture before it translates into criminal behaviour," an officer said.STF has also constituted a dedicated committee or social media monitoring team to analyse digital and social media content promoting gangsterism, firearms and violence. Inputs on such content and profiles have been shared with other states for coordinated action, police said. Agencies write to Instagram and submit a request informing the threat these accounts pose to the nation, seeking that they be removed permanently.The force's crackdown on online gangster culture follows a campaign last year in which it got 67 songs removed from digital platforms. It issued notices to intermediaries under Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act and Rule 3(1)(d) of the IT Intermediary Rules. The songs were identified on platforms including YouTube, JioSaavn, Amazon Music, Spotify and Gaana, and were found to glorify gangsters, firearms, intimidation, murder and hostility towards the justice system.

Cops & bomb squads rush to Noida schools after new hoax mail

Noida.Agency)

Panic prevailed at 12 schools on Monday morning after they received bomb threat emails. An extensive security operation ensued, with police, bomb disposal squads, dog squads and fire department teams deployed to inspect the premises. No suspicious object was found during the searches, providing relief to school authorities, students and parents. No arrest has been made yet, and the identity of the sender has not yet been established.

The schools that received the threats included Step by Step, Amity and Father Agnel, among others. The emails triggered anxiety across the affected schools, with authorities taking precautionary measures to ensure the safety of students and staff. Students were gathered at designated locations as the security checks were conducted. The possibility of children being sent home also added to the concerns of parents, many of whom contacted school administrations to seek updates on the situation.

DCP Saad Miya Khan said the police received information about the bomb threats at around 9.30am, following which immediate action was initiated. Police teams from the respective police stations rushed to the institutions and initiated precautionary checks. Security personnel searched classrooms, corridors and other parts of the school premises to rule out any potential threat.

Police are investigating whether the emails sent to the schools originated from a common source or whether different individuals were involved. Officials said the motive behind the threats would become clearer as the investigation progresses. The police are relying on technical evidence to trace the sender and determine whether the messages were intended to create panic or were linked to a specific threat. Investigators are examining the IP addresses and other available digital evidence. School authorities remained alert while security agencies inspected the premises. While the immediate threat appeared to have been ruled out, the police continued to investigate the origin and credibility of the emails.

Builders to get a week more for quarterly project reports

Noida.(Agency)

UP-Rera has extended the deadline for developers to submit their quarterly progress reports (QPRs) for the current quarter from Oct 15 to Oct 21, anticipating fresh project registrations during the festive season. The extension is intended to ease the transition to a newly introduced digital signature and submission process for certificates that must accompany the reports, an official said.

"Under new system, certificates shall be submitted directly; quarterly achievement against targets will be generated from this certified data rather than entered separately by the promoter, which will be fully digitised," he said.Earlier, promoters used to submit quarterly achievements against the physical and financial targets fixed at the time of registration, along with scanned copies of certificates issued by the architect, engineer and CA of the project.

Under Section 11 (1) of the UP Rera Act 2016, developers must upload QPRs of their projects within the stipulated time on the Rera website. The report must have details of the project's progress, which also include photographic proof. Failure to do so attracts a fine of Rs 2 lakh per project.The real estate regulator has also urged homebuyers to exercise caution while making payments for properties and deposit money only into the designated accounts of the developers. "The Authority has advised homebuyers to inform UP Rera if a builder or promoter asks them to deposit money into a bank account other than the designated account. Homebuyers can submit the relevant information through the dedicated link available on the UP Rera portal," the official said.UP Rera this month has approved 11 real estate projects in five districts. These projects involve an estimated investment of Rs 2,086.06 crore and will lead to the development of 1,873 residential and commercial units.Among the 11 approved



projects, GB Nagar leads in terms of investment. Two residential projects have been approved in the district. These two projects involve an estimated investment of around Rs 1,800 crore. A total of 1,398 residential units will be developed under these projects.In Ghaziabad, two residential projects with a valuation of Rs 106 crore have been approved. Two hundred and eleven residential units are proposed to be developed through these projects.

Punjab drug activist confronts medicine shop owner, shot dead on camera

Parwinder Singh Jhota had been campaigning against drug abuse in Mansa for a long time. He would shoot live videos while confronting those allegedly peddling drugs. This led to on-camera altercations.



Chandigarh (Agency).
An anti-drug activist from Punjab's Mansa was shot dead on camera on Tuesday morning, allegedly by a medicine shop owner. The murder of Parwinder Singh Jhota was captured in a Facebook Live video he was shooting. The video shows him confronting the medicine shop owner Ashwani Kumar and accusing him of selling synthetic drugs. Kumar is seen threatening Jhota with a pistol before opening fire. He is now on the run, police said.Jhota's associate was seriously injured in the firing and has been admitted to a hospital. Jhota had been campaigning against drug abuse in Mansa for a long time. He would shoot live videos while confronting those allegedly peddling drugs. This led to frequent on-camera altercations.In his last live video, Jhota is heard saying that Kumar, the man accused of murdering him, was hiding a weapon behind his back. He also narrated that an old man had just bought drugs from the shop. Then, gunshots rang out. A couple of days back, Jhota posted a video on social media in which he urged the CBI to visit Mansa and crack down on the rampant sale of synthetic drugs at medical shops.According to reports, the murder accused, Kumar, has several police cases against him.

Rs 20 lakh to quit: Why a doctor at Mumbai's Sion Hospital felt he couldn't walk away

Shivsharanappa Patil, 26, a first-year surgery resident at Mumbai's Sion Hospital who wanted to be a neurosurgeon, was found dead at the hospital on Saturday. His father says he worked past 1 am, feared his seniors, and worried about the Rs 20 lakh penalty for quitting.

Mumbai (Agency).
At 26, Shivsharanappa Patil was a first-year postgraduate resident in the surgery department at Sion Hospital, working towards his dream of becoming a neurosurgeon. A third-rank holder in his MBBS course, he had chosen Maharashtra for postgraduate training, hoping to build his career in the state.
On Saturday, Patil was found dead in a hospital bathroom after reportedly injecting himself with an anaesthetic drug. He had been on duty for nearly 11 hours, with his shift scheduled to continue until midnight."He would enthusiastically tell me about his daily achievements. 'Pappa, I got to perform a minor surgery today. Pappa, I got to do this today,'" his father, Mallikarjun Patil, a chemist from Yadgir district in Karnataka, told The Indian Express.
But Patil also spoke to his father about the workload and stress he faced at the hospital. According to Mallikarjun, his son felt intimidated by senior doctors and would rush to the hospital at odd hours whenever they messaged him, fearing that any delay would affect how they viewed him. He would leave without even brushing his teeth or showering, his father recalled. On some days, he began work at 8 am and returned home after 1 am.roke or a case similar to mine…Signs of exhaustion had emerged nearly three months earlier. In June, Patil allegedly fainted while taking rounds in the outpatient department (OPD), prompting his father to travel to Mumbai and stay with him for nearly a week. During the visit, Mallikarjun was concerned by the condition of the two-bedroom apartment his son shared with colleagues, where dirty laundry and unwashed dishes had accumulated."After cleaning the apartment with help from a friend, Mallikarjun urged his son to raise the issue of workload with the head of the surgery unit. He said his son refused, fearing it would affect his training.
"He would tell me, 'I won't be given any duties in the operation theatre (OT) if I raise any issues,'" Mallikarjun said.Mallikarjun even suggested that his son leave the course if the pressure became unbearable. But Patil was worried about the financial penalty for quitting. Under Maharashtra government rules, resident doctors who leave postgraduate seats on mental health grounds face a fine of Rs 20 lakh. Mallikarjun offered to sell the family's agricultural land in Deodar to arrange the money, but Patil declined.

IAS officer, 3 others booked for assaulting policemen at Bengaluru pub

The incident occurred when a police team was inspecting bars and restaurants within the Cubbon Park and Ashok Nagar police station limits.



Bengaluru (Agency).
An IAS officer from Andhra Pradesh and three others were booked for allegedly assaulting and threatening police personnel and obstructing them from discharging their duties during a late-night inspection at a Bengaluru pub on October 10.An FIR was registered against Vikas Marmat, an IAS officer serving as special officer of the Kuppam Area Development Authority, and three others, identified as Abhay Uday Singh, Nitish and Roshan, at the Cubbon Park police station.According to the complaint filed by Police Inspector Arun Salunke of the Central Crime Branch's (CCB) Special Enquiry Wing, he and his team were inspecting bars and restaurants within the Cubbon Park and Ashok Nagar police station limits on the directions of the Bengaluru City police commissioner.As per the FIR, around 1.30 am, the team reached Cavour Bar and Restaurant, which falls within the Cubbon Park police station limits, to check customers' identity cards and verify their ages. "Four individuals who came to the bar got into a fight over a trivial matter. They verbally abused the complainant and his fellow staff," the complaint states.The four men allegedly assaulted and threatened the police personnel and obstructed them from discharging their official duties, according to the FIR.
No police statement yet
Salunke reportedly sought medical treatment following the alleged assault before approaching the police station to file a complaint. The FIR states that he had been on duty throughout October 9 and submitted the complaint after receiving treatment and rest.
The police have registered a case under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections related to voluntarily causing hurt, criminal intimidation, assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharging duty, etc.The police are yet to clarify whether the accused were intoxicated at the time of the incident and are yet to issue a statement.

SPPU suspends two students over alleged moral policing at girls' hostel

Pune (Agency).
Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) has suspended two male students from its academic department and hostel after they allegedly confronted a female student for standing outside the girls' hostel with a male friend at around 10.30 pm. The university has also initiated the process of filing a police complaint against the two.
A student residing in the hostel told The Indian Express that the two men objected to the woman standing outside the hostel at night, entered the hostel premises and argued with female students."They objected to her standing outside the hostel at night. Boys are not allowed in the girls' hostel, but they still came inside and were fighting with the women there. They simply wanted to moral police that girl," she said.Following the incident, female students staged a protest on the university campus, demanding that the administration file a police complaint against the two men. The student said the woman involved in the incident did not want to file an individual complaint, fearing repercussions on her professional future.ncident and are yet to issue a statement.A statement issued by the SPPU Public Relations Office said the two students had attempted to intimidate a woman student by questioning her inappropriately outside the girls' hostel.



The statement said several female students subsequently met Vice-Chancellor Sharad Gosavi and submitted a representation demanding strict action."Accordingly, a complaint is being filed with the police by the university against the two students and the admission of both the students in the academic department and the hostel is being suspended with immediate effect," the statement said.The university has also appointed a high-level committee to investigate the incident and said strict action would be taken against those found responsible.Uttam Bhajnavale, Senior Police Inspector at Chaturshringi police station, said, "Some women students from the university had come to the police station early in the morning. However, the student concerned has not submitted a written complaint."

Bengaluru traffic: How a digital twin could cut travel time by 30%

Proposed by Bharat1.ai, the initiative would integrate mobility data across transport modes to identify congestion hotspots, improve connectivity and potentially support public-safety planning.

Bengaluru (Agency).
For a city where a 10-km journey takes an average of 36 minutes and nine seconds, traffic congestion is an everyday challenge. Bengaluru, ranked the world's second-most congested city in the 2025 TomTom Traffic Index, could get a digital twin to help authorities understand traffic patterns and test transport solutions virtually. Proposed by Bharat1.ai, the initiative would integrate mobility data across transport modes to identify congestion hotspots, improve connectivity and potentially support public-safety planning.
The proposal was presented on September



24 at the 3rd National Conference on Women's Safety and Security in Bengaluru.Commuters in Bengaluru, where the congestion level is 74.4 per cent, lost an estimated 168 hours to rush-hour traffic over the year."The initial focus would be on major roads and mobility corridors, rather than modelling the entire city at once. One of the proposed outputs is a digital hotspot map that identifies locations where congestion repeatedly occurs and allows authorities to compare possible interventions," Umakant Soni, co-founder of Bharat1.ai, told The Indian Express. He added that the longer-term target is to reduce travel time by about 30 per cent.The initiative seeks to bring together mobility data that is currently spread across multiple agencies and private platforms. The idea is to create a digital "twin" of Bengaluru — a computational model that can simulate how people and vehicles move across the city and help authorities understand how changes to the transport network could affect traffic and public safety.
It aims to build a shared picture of the city's mobility patterns by integrating data from two-wheelers, cars, buses, Metro services, and other transport systems. The objective is to address a key gap in urban planning – the absence of a unified, continuously updated understanding of how different modes of transport interact and how movement changes across locations and times of the day.
What would a digital twin of Bengaluru do?
Unlike a conventional digital map, which primarily shows roads and locations, a digital twin would attempt to model how the city functions. By analysing movement patterns across different transport networks, it could identify recurring bottlenecks, track congestion hotspots, and simulate the likely effects of proposed traffic-management measuresFor instance, if commuters exiting a Metro station routinely face long waits for buses, autorickshaws or cabs, the model could help authorities assess whether changes to feeder services or their frequency would improve connectivity. Similarly, proposals to relocate a bus stop, restrict a U-turn or modify a traffic restriction could be tested virtually to understand their likely effects before being implemented..

Red, pink, yellow and orange — Kolkata roads adorn new colours in BJP govt's first Puja celebrations

Kolkata(Agency).
From roads and intersections to flyovers and bridges – Kolkata is being adorned with colours of all hues and shades this Puja. Patches of black tarred roads now look like slices of rainbow, with red, pink, yellow and orange lanes, while the city's busy crossings have turned into floral motifs.The new BJP government in West Bengal is busy beautifying the Capital. Cabinet Minister Agnimitra Paul was seen on Sunday making alpona, the traditional art of painting the floors and walls with rice flour, at the busy Park Circus Crossing."This represents the road of love and brotherhood. This shows the trust people have in us after they brought us to power with a huge mandate," Paul, who is in charge of the Urban Development and Municipal Affairs departments, was heard saying after making the alpona at Park Circus Crossing.
Read| 108 idols, 64 lion statues, 1,000 pillars: How West Bengal is building a massive year-round landmark for Durga Puja



The artwork beneath the Park Circus connector is among the prominent elements of the beautification drive, which also covers Gariahat bridge and the Garia More junction. Paul said similar work had been undertaken at Red Road, while the ghats along the Hooghly were also being decorated ahead of the festival. "If time permits, we will also decorate the Rashbehari and Park Street crossings," she said.This is BJP government's first Durga Puja, and it is leaving no stone unturned to make it grand and colourful. On Mahalaya, which precedes the 10-day-long festival, the government had organised a mega event to mark the advent of Puja at the iconic Eden Gardens stadium. There were fireworks, laser shows, and cultural perforHowever, the Opposition Congress and the Left Front are not impressed with the government's beautification drive, calling it a waste of taxpayers' money and "misplaced priorities".
"They are doing drama with people's tax money.

Economic settlement not resolved: Mallika, Lakshmi

Vadodara (Agency).
Lakshmi Venu and Mallika Srinivasan have said the economic settlement within the Venu Srinivasan (VS) family remains unresolved, disputing suggestions that a division of assets has been completed.In a joint statement issued amid recent media reports, Lakshmi Venu and Mallika Srinivasan, daughter and wife of Venu Srinivasan, respectively, said no agreement on the division of economic interests had been concluded.They distinguished this from the broader TVS family partition, agreed upon in 2020 and implemented subsequently, which involved valuation, discussions and mutual consent. They said no comparable process had taken place within their family branch.
According to a statement by Venu Srinivasan, quoted by Republic TV: "This follows a statement by VS, reportedly accessed by Republic TV, in which he said: "The businesses and assets were mine, and I had the full liberty to deal with them as I deemed fit, keeping in mind the best interests of the family members as well as the businesses. I had always believed that the next generation should be given full ownership and control while they are young and have the energy and ideas to build their enterprises. It is with this intent that I carried out a separation between Lakshmi and Sudarshan."His statement also said: "Lakshmi was given to take forward and grow the SCL business, and Sudarshan was given to take forward and grow the motor business. The separation was always about ownership and control. The separation was on a fair basis at the time it was done, keeping several factors in mind, including the fact that Mallika Srinivasan, who controls TAFE, had made clear her intention to pass on ownership and control of TAFE to Lakshmi, who is already involved in its management as its vice-chairman. It was carried out openly, transparently, with the knowledge of and after careful consultation with my family."Lakshmi Venu and Mallika Srinivasan disputed the suggestion that the assets belonged exclusively to one individual who could decide their distribution unilaterally.

Gandhi and the grammar of moral protest

Why India's rulers and protesters alike need to rediscover the moral discipline of satyagraha.

What does the barricading of the national capital on October 10 show? The Indian State is as mighty as ever. No doubt, as was the colonial State. But does that mean that it is impervious to the moral force of satyagraha? In fact, every takhta palat, change of regime is backed by a moral force. Herein lies the difference between anarchy, violence or chaos and peaceful, principled protest, or, satyagraha.Insistence on truth is the precondition of every fight for justice, every resistance to oppression, every struggle against curtailment of liberty.The moot point, however, is whether either the government or those protesting against it recognise this difference. When invited to deliver the keynote address at the Eternal Gandhi Museum in Houston, Texas just after Gandhi Jayanti, I framed my remarks around three questions. Why is such a museum important? Why is Gandhi being cancelled in the country of his birth? And why does Gandhi persist not merely in India but overseas?

I argued in The Death and Afterlife of Mahatma Gandhi that Gandhi cannot be appropriated. Not by the Congress, not by the BJP, nor any other political party. Because Gandhi was not an ideologue but an exemplar. On the walls of the Houston museum are emblazoned Gandhi's 11 ashram vows, the ekadash vrata. I asked my audience how many had seriously attempted to practise even one.The first five were traditional Indian ethical disciplines: satya (truth), ahimsa (non-violence), brahmacharya (self-restraint), asteya (non-stealing) and aparigraha (non-possession). Significantly, Gandhi placed truth, not non-violence, first. The remaining six are sharira-shrama (bread labour), asvada (control of the palate), abhaya (fearlessness), sarva-dharma-samabhava (equal respect for religions), swadeshi (self-reliance) and asprishyata-nivarana (free from untouchability). I had myself tried to practise just one of these vows: truth. And found even that extraordinarily difficult. In fact, for me that one vow is sufficient, at least for this lifetime.

The point is simple. Gandhi cannot be reduced to a slogan, statue or ritual. To invoke him is to accept a demanding moral responsibility. Unless we are prepared, however imperfectly, to practise even a fraction of what he did.

This brings me to the grammar of protest.

In his celebrated Letter from a Birmingham Jail, Martin Luther King Jr, Gandhi's greatest twentieth-century American disciple, outlined four stages of non-violent resistance: fact-finding, negotiation, self-purification and direct action.Notice the sequence. Protest was not the first resort but the culmination of a painstaking moral and political process. Before confronting injustice, the protester had to establish the facts, exhaust negotiation avenues and, most importantly, prepare himself or herself to suffer without retaliation.

This is precisely what distinguishes satyagraha from ordinary agitation much less anarchic or violent disruption.Does the Cockroach Janta Party, or any contemporary protest movement, measure up to this exacting standard? Are its leaders prepared to submit themselves to the discipline of truth, non-violence and self-purification? Can they demonstrate not merely anger against the government but the moral authority to challenge it?These are not rhetorical questions. They go to the heart of Gandhi's continuing relevance.

For satyagraha offers civilised societies a third way between enforced submission and retaliatory counter-violence. Where the rule of law prevails, and where governments derive their legitimacy from the consent of the governed, citizens must retain the right to resist injustice peacefully.

Gandhi showed us the possibility of resistance without hatred, confrontation; without cruelty, courage; without aggression.Which brings me to the second question. Why has Gandhi become increasingly inconvenient in India, particularly since 2014?My answer may seem provocative. Gandhi is being deliberately diminished not because he is irrelevant, but precisely because he remains dangerous to those who wield power.

Not the Gandhi on currency notes, in official portraits, in cleanliness campaigns or in ceremonial tributes. That Gandhi is harmless enough. Indeed, he can be endlessly applauded.

A Nobel that's not so universal

The ecosystem within which the selection of the literature laureate takes place is framed by a bias

IT is the Nobel Prize week once again. A time for celebration. A time to honour the men and women who, through a lifetime of dogged work pursuing an idea, have gifted us with achievements that are for "the greatest benefit to humankind". This is the primary metric (as stated on the Nobel website) by which the laureates are assessed in the fields of physics, chemistry, physiology/medicine, literature and peace.

The economics prize was added in 1968, whereas the other five were instituted in 1901. Over a century after their inception, these prizes have acquired an iconic status that is seen as universal. The whole world waits for the announcements. They are seen not as the contribution to a distinct group, country, organisation or region but as a contribution to all of humanity. Nothing less.While physics, chemistry, physiology/medicine, economics and even peace have external metrics by which their contribution can be assessed, such is not the case with literature. While the judgments in the other five are regarded as largely objective — any independent observer would come to the same conclusion - literature, in contrast, is mostly subjective. Some may argue that a large dose of subjectivity is also true of the peace prize.This argument breaks down when we assess the 2026 laureate Navi Pillay's achievements. From a judge in South Africa to a member of the International Criminal Court and her difficult work in hostile environments documenting human rights violations in Rwanda, Myanmar and Gaza — all sites of genocide — Pillay's "commitment to universal legal principles and (her) … firm moral compass" (as stated by the Chair of the Norwegian Nobel committee, Jørgen Watne Frydnes) are metrics that people across the world have happily endorsed. She is a worthy recipient.

Such universal approval is less so in the case of the Nobel Prize for Literature. This year's laureate, Anne Carson, from Canada and Iceland, was awarded the prize for her "bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature," as the citation reads. The selection has elicited widespread applause but also produced some lingering doubts.Her work on Eros, on classical antiquity, on grief, loss and memory, and on language crossings is to be celebrated, and her additions to the stock of reflections on the human condition is to be appreciated. But the doubts still need addressing. Revisiting the 125-year history of the literature awards leaves one with the niggling feeling that something is not quite right. This is no reflection on the wonderful contribution of awardees such as Carson, but is more a comment on the cognitive ecosystem within which the laureate is seleced. Is it as universal as it is claimed to be?

To assess this claim of universality, if we were to group the 123 laureates in terms of the continents from which they come, what would we find? Such grouping makes the point that the little traditions of each country belong to the big tradition of the continent. For example, the French literary ecosystem is part of the Judeo-Christian tradition, while the Tamil belongs to the Indic tradition. Once these broad and loose groupings are made, the skewness of the award begins to take shape, like a ghost schooner coming



out of the mist.There are 123 laureates from 134 countries. Some, such as Carson, come from more than one country. Europe, both West and East (excluding Turkey), has 98 laureates. North America 14, South and Central America (including Mexico) 8, Asia 7, Africa 6 and Oceania (Australia) 1. If we take Scandinavia as a subset of Europe, just for fun, we will find 18 laureates, more than Asia and Africa together.If the prize in literature is given to a person who, according to Alfred Nobel's will, produces "the most outstanding work in an idealistic direction", it is difficult to believe that Asia, Africa and South America, all ancient civilisations with intense literary traditions and glorious epics — the shlokas (verses) in the Mahabharata have a total of 2,00,000 lines, about 10 times more than those in the Iliad and the Odyssey combined — are barren lands in terms of their literary production as compared to the European world since 1901.The argument here is not to accuse the Nobel Foundation of intentional bias. Over the years, the prize has been charged with being sexist, favouring their own, anointing writers who have soon faded into obscurity while others, who have been ignored, have gained global recognition. These are not the charges we are making here. Although we recognise the huge role played by the subjective world in the selection process, we are raising the larger question of epistemic asymmetry between the Global North and Global South.

The intentions of the Nobel committee members may be sincere, but the ecosystem within which they make their selection is framed by a bias. It privileges rubrics that have significance within the epistemic North, while those that are significant within the epistemology of the South are regarded as less significant. Arjuna's dilemma is less noticed than Agamemnon's indecision.

This is not an intentional bias but a systemic one. What the North considers significant or a "work in an idealistic direction" has, over time, resulted in the Global North overwhelmingly being the producers of such works. Ways of seeing develop and are presented as universal, whereas they are in effect quite parochial. However, because of epistemic power, the North's way of seeing becomes the universal way of seeing. It becomes hegemonic.If we were to aggregate the data in terms of North and South, it would look as follows: North (Europe, North America and Oceania) 113 laureates vs South (Asia, Africa and Latin America) 21. If these regions are seen in terms of the global population, it would be Global North 15% and Global South 85%.If these regions are culturally alive and have amazing creations of dance, music, sculpture, theatre, painting, mask-making, cinema, etc. — activities that express the cultural creativity of their societies — why then is their output in literature (including poetry) so lacking "in the idealistic direction"? Could it be that the Nobel process of identifying potential awardees — the request for nominations sent out by the committee to individuals and organisations, and the review of nominations received — is intrinsically flawed? Could it be that it is biased towards the cultural output of the Global North?This is a strong charge. We are talking about systemic bias, which refers to the epistemic frame within which the individuals and organisations that are asked are located. The alternative to this charge of bias is to accept that the huge cultural world of Asia, Africa and South America is poor in its production of literature that is "idealistic". How else can one interpret the statistics?

GST reforms mark a shift towards trust and compliance

Process reforms were long overdue. It is only appropriate that the system matures, adopts a more trust-based approach and makes compliance easier for businesses

The 57th GST Council meeting has advanced the reform process that began last year with simplification of the GST rate structure. This time, the focus was on process reforms, including simplifying the rules governing registration, returns and refunds. It took the government a year of deliberations to persuade states to agree to some bold, pro-business measures. A key shift is the recognition that most businesses are not out to exploit the system and that GST provisions must be decriminalised. Accordingly, the Council has curtailed GST officers' arrest powers and raised the prosecution threshold from ?1 crore to ?5 crore. The government appears to have realised that tax administration must rely more on compliance and trust than on punitive action.The real impact on businesses, however, will depend on process reforms, including automated registrations and amendments, invoice-level corrections and matching, faster refunds, and risk-based claim processing. The government says refunds, which previously took 21-35 days, will now be



processed within 17 days at most. Further, repeated checks at state transit points have long been a source of harassment for transporters. The Council has restricted the authority to stop vehicles to officers of Joint Commissioner rank and above and limited checks on consignments crossing multiple states to the points of origin and destination, addressing a long-standing demand of the transport sector.

The Council has also simplified return filing for businesses with an annual turnover of up to ?5 crore that sell directly to consumers. The optional scheme allows eligible businesses to file returns annually while paying taxes quarterly, and could benefit around 17 lakh small businesses. The definition of exports has also been expanded, giving Indian IT services exporters much-needed clarity on the tax treatment of revenue earned through foreign branches. While tax rates remain unchanged, the Council has decided to make rate-related changes only once a year, giving businesses greater predictability and certainty.

The GST regime will complete 10 years next year. It is only appropriate that the system matures, adopts a more trust-based approach and makes compliance easier for businesses. Process reforms were long overdue. The real test now is whether the Centre and states can implement these changes effectively and ensure that the shift towards trust is reflected in taxpayers' everyday dealings with the GST administration.

Faithline | Mischief and moksha

This notion of Hanuman's protective presence is cherished deeply among devotees. The fact of the matter is that they cannot but love his 'action hero' personality, the wise and gentle giant upheld as an ideal of humility and devotion

With October softness in the air, a couple of monkeys have taken to revisiting my balcony. They enjoy tearing leaves and eating flowers, which I, naturally, don't like at all. I have to tell myself sternly that they, too, are jiva-jantu looking for food, and that their natural habitat is steadily eroding, which is why they forage in human habitation, poor things. And it is Dussehra month, so perhaps they have been sent to test my epic commitment?Some people seem to get along well with monkeys. I don't think I'm in their happy number, although I love going to Vrindavan, despite the monkey menace being so strong that the only way to deal with it is to treat it as a game, a lila within the lila.

That puts you on a piquant epic footing. So I walk myopically down the kunj galis, the narrow lanes of Vrindavan, with my glasses off my nose because the monkeys there love to snatch at eye-crutches. You have to bribe them with a mango tetrapak to get them back; that's their established rate. I'm swathed in my most voluminous dupatta to hide my flowers and offerings on the way to the temple and the prasad on the way out.

Avoid eye contact with monkeys looking to mug you, wear your bag aslant, wear chappals you can shed easily at the temple door and walk purposefully, not like a goggle-eyed hick on his first visit to the big city. These rules are funnily similar to the instructions I got on my first visit to New York in the 1990s to avoid being mugged.So, Darwin had a point about evolution, you think, as you follow your nose to where the smell of roses grows stronger with every step. Inside the sanctum, well away from the monkeys prowling outside, you can make eye contact for as long as you like with Banke Bihariji, who lives to look at us, and whose priests ritually pull a curtain across every few minutes. They say it's to keep him on his pedestal; otherwise, he may jump off to dance in our midst, as he did before he took the road to Mathura and plunged us into Kaliyuga when his avatar ended. This vividly brings back the Marathi abhang, 'Namadeva kirtan kari, Premabhara naatse Panduranga', meaning, 'Whenever Namdev sings, Krishna lovingly dances'.

Though I'm wary of monkeys, I'm willing to believe that they have certain affinities with us. This is because of a true story from the 1920s. I heard it from the Carnatic violin duo Lalitha and Nandini about their guru Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer (1908-2003), the grand old man of Carnatic music whom Ustad Amjad Ali Khan described as a "fakir aadmi".Lalitha and Nandini, who played for the great Western violinist Yehudi Menuhin and passed Western classical music exams at Cambridge with honours, told me that their guru stayed in Thiruvarur, Tamil Nadu when he was a young man. This town is the birthplace of the three saintly Carnatic composers Thyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Shyama Shastri.

On the thinnai or sit-out of a little house across the street, an old lady would recite the Ramayana every morning with her eyes closed. A baby monkey would appear from nowhere, lie quietly on her lap and scamper off just before she opened her eyes.I wonder, did Kaliyuga overlook Thiruvarur? Or is it that Hanuman is believed to be a Nityasuri, meaning one who is free of karma for eternity and lives forever in our midst to encourage and save us? As he did for a sincere believer like Captain Smit Machchhar? So many across the country seem to know



the Hanuman Chalisa and value its significance as a kavach or protective shield for believers.This notion of Hanuman's protective presence is so cherished that you'll find people muttering 'Jai Bajrang Bali' as their flight takes off (I do, too) or before they do something daring in adventure sports. The fact of the matter is that we cannot but love the 'action hero' personality of Hanuman, the wise and gentle giant upheld as an ideal of humility and devotion despite being a superstar in his own right.

This is expressed in the Sanskrit verse 'Yatra yatra Raghunatha kirtanam tatra tatra krta-mastakanjalim/vashpavari paripurna lochanam Marutim namata rakshasa-antakam'. Which means, 'Wherever the glory of Rama is sung, there, with his hands clasped over his bowed head and eyes overflowing with tears, is Hanuman; I salute Hanuman who vanquishes demons'.

This belief is so deep that wherever the Ramayana is discoursed upon, the organisers place a draped wooden board on the stage for Hanuman, who is thought to be in attendance, though no one can tell in which guise. They say he won't actually sit there unless he's come invisibly, but just in case he does, we shan't be found wanting in respect and affection.Even invisibly, Hanuman inspires us through the verse, 'Buddhir balam yasho dhairyam nirbhayatvam arogata/ajatyam vaak patutvam cha Hanumat smaranat bhavet', meaning, 'By remembering Hanuman, I gain intelligence, strength, a good reputation, courage, fearlessness, good health; I avoid dullness, and become eloquent'.But to properly appreciate the beauty of Hanuman, whose original name was Sundara, the beautiful one, we must first understand the One he reveres—Sri Rama, whom he loved the moment he saw him. What does Rama represent if not good over evil, preservation over destruction?



First-gen Foodpreneurs pack old vada in New pav

Barring a Haldiram or a Bikanervala, most desi snacks and beverages have stayed in the unorganized sector, sold by vendors using ancient, unstandardized methods.

Several entrepreneurs are trying to change that by using global practices to sell Indian street food Green mangoes are hard. And no one knows this better than Neeraj Kakkar, co-founder of Paperboat.

Hector Beverages, the makers of Paperboat, has been selling its aam panna drink (green mango juice flavoured with roasted masalas) for a while. Green mangoes are notoriously hard to process because they are tough, and Kakkar says his team had to innovate extensively to make Paperboat's aam panna flavour taste like its fresh, home-made version.

"So our biggest challenge is today our biggest advantage. Nobody has done this kind of thing before and it is difficult to replicate," says Kakkar. Paperboat now boasts an array of 10 distinct beverages including jaljeera, golgappe, kokum and chilled rasam. Many more innovative products are under development including coconut water and the juice of purple carrots. The company, which opened its biggest factory in Mysuru a few months ago, works with agricultural universities and farmers across the country to figure out best practices, as they break new ground on products.

Across the country , entrepreneurs are picking up traditional Indian food and beverage products to challenge Western imports like colas and burgers. In some cases they are reimagining the products and offering innovative variants. Mr & Mrs Idli and Idli Factory offer exotic stuff like Idli Manchurian, Kanchivaram Idli and Punjabi Idli. Faaso's, with funding from Sequoia and Lightbox, and Kaati Zone do a variety of Indian rolls, including Cheesy Corn Salsa and Chicken Mushroom.

In other cases, they are using technology to make the products at scale and sell them around the country , the way McDon ald's and KFC do. Ammi's Biryani, with funding from Saif Partners, is doing that with biryani, as is the Hyderabad-based chain Paradise which is opening outlets in cities like Bengaluru at a fast clip. At Paradise, the self-service counter is clearly modelled after the McDonald's and Burger Kings of the world, with combos and packages and easy-to-select options.Similarly, Jumboking pioneered the organized vada pav business, and was quickly followed by Goli Vada Pav, which has received funds from Ventureast.

Dheeraj Gupta of Mumbai initially dabbled in the Indian mithai (sweet) market. But the technology needed to keep sweets fresh was expensive and since the venture wasn't very profitable, Gupta was finding the going difficult. He looked at India's streets and realized how disorganized the vada pav business was. "Vada pav was the largest selling snack in Mumbai but no one had thought of organizing that segment," he says. He borrowed Rs 2 lakh from his father and founded Jumboking. The venture is about to open its 100th store and is present across the top eight cities in the country. The company charges a 30% premium on vada pavs compared to the street pavs. It also focussed on the bread size, weight and size of the patty and eliminated wastage. The patties needed instant quick freezing at minus 18 degrees centigrade, and with hygiene a priority for Gupta, he invested in the required technology.

Hygiene is a big focus for most, because for many middle class Indians today, that's the concern they have about food offerings from the unorganized segment. "Tea is available in all corners of this country but our focus is the white collar corporate employee in the top seven cities who are conscious about cleanliness and consistency," says Amuleek Singh Bijral, founder of Chai Point.

Most tea joints in India end up being smoking joints, which discourages nonsmoking customers. Chai Point does not allow smoking and so enjoys a broader clientele. The average price of a glass of tea at Chai Point is less than Rs 20, less than a fourth of the price at leading cafe chains, and is designed to drive volumes.The company's 50 outlets sells more than three million glasses a month.

Hygiene, comfort and innovation is also the focus of Chennai's Idli Factory. "My biggest driver is to create food for travelling, which means comfort food that is well-packaged and easy to carry," says R U Srinivas. The company's flagship product is its 'Madras bars' which are idlis shaped like bars coated with powders such as milagai podi, garlic podi and curry leaf podi. Srinivas researched and tested 300 different batters before arriving at the best combination of rices and dal to create idlis that would remain soft and fresh even after they are cold.

Arvind Singhal, chairman and MD of retail consultancy Technopak, says native food offers great opportunity in terms of revenue. "Indian food has long been neglected," he says, and appreciates startups like Chaayos and Chai Point that have leveraged Indian tea rather than going after coffee, like many others.

Singhal also notes that many Indian startups in this space fail because they complicate their menus by adding too many different items. Keeping it simple helps with handling the supply chain, quality assurance and faster service across all outlets, and in keeping prices low.

Bijral of Chai Point agrees. While expanding his food variety option looks enticing - currently it contributes 25% of topline - Bijral wants to reduce it to 20% and focus even more on tea. "Let others sell food," he says. Idli Factory also has a skeletal menu, and Srinivas intends to keep it that way. So does Jumboking's Gupta, who notes that multinational food chains too stick to a narrow menu but offer different versions of that menu. "Once this mindset (to complicate menus) changes, it will benefit a lot of entrepreneurs," he says.

But that strategy could have its limitations too. When Mohan Kumar, partner with Norwest Venture Partners, received a request from a food startup for investment, he analysed a number of companies in the space. He found that some 25 companies in the space had touched revenues of Rs 200-300 crore, but then stopped growing. "Probably there aren't enough categories to scale up and these companies tend to get acquired by bigger ones. Big Indian players like ITC and Marico understand the market well. Some of the MNC competition too could catch up," he says.

Jacob Kurian, partner at private equity fund New Silk Route, which has invested in Bengaluru-based Vasudev Adigas, a south Indian food retail chain, feels that Indian food businesses tend not to grow beyond the local area as the promoters tend to be contented at a certain size. One exception, he notes, is Haldiram. "The skill set needed to grow till Rs 200 crore and to grow beyond that are different," he says.

Kurian also notes that unlike the earlier family-owned Indian businesses, those like



Paperboat and Chai Point are not family businesses and don't have legacy issues. "Let these guys reach around Rs 200 crore and then we will see," he says. That could happen if the brands can go into smaller towns or even global. Paperboat's Kakkar is not sure if his drinks can be as popular as Coke in small towns. But he notes with some satisfaction: "Cola sales are declining globally."

4 not-so-known uses of Peanut butter



While, we all know the health benefits of peanut butter and the fact that it makes for a yummy breakfast, not many of us know about its unusual uses.

Removes foul smell This one's especially for those homemakers who spend a lot of time in the kitchen. Peanut butter is very effective in removing the smell of fish from your hands and as well as utensils. Simply, rub some peanut butter on to your hands after washing them as well as spread some of the utensils and keep them for a while to get rid of the smell.

To clean leather Cleaning leather furniture is one of the most challenging things we do, since maintaining them is a tedious task. But, using peanut butter will solve a great deal of your problem. Rub it in a gentle circular motion on the surface and wipe away with a clean cloth. Mix it with some scented oil to mask the smell of peanut butter.

To fix scratched CDs With pen drives and portable hard drives, a lot of our old storage methods have been rendered useless. Hence, if you find any of your old CDs getting scratched and damaged, peanut butter can fix the problem. Rub some peanut butter gently on the scratched CDs and wipe it off with a dry cloth to see the magic.

For scratch-free furniture Our home furniture is subject to a lot of scratches and damage due to daily use. If you do not want the pain of polishing your furniture after every scratch, just apply peanut butter directly on the scratched areas and wipe it off with a dry cloth after a while, and see the scratches disappear.

Recipe: Coconut Flavoured Alu Vadi

Also known as Patra, Alu Vadi is a popular preparation by the Maharashtrian community. While, some people steam and shallow fry the rolls, some just add a mild tempering of sesame and mustard seeds.

You can also add a dash to freshness to this dish by adding some thick coconut milk to recipe as well as some freshly grated coconut over it and make it even yummier. This dish is a perfect tea time snack, light on the stomach and extremely delectable.

Ingredients

Alu leaves-7-8 nos.
Besan (gram flour) - 100gms
Chilli powder-2 tsp
Coriander powder- 2 tsp
Tamarind pulp- 2 tsp
A pinch of finely chopped Coriander leaves
Salt as per taste
Oil-2 tsp
1 cup of grated coconut



Method: - Mix all the ingredients together — gram flour, chilli powder, coriander powder and tamarind pulp.

- Put in on the leaves and roll it.
- Heat oil in the pan.
- Add clove, cinnamon, pepper.
- Cut the aloo roll and put it in the pan and put coconut milk over it.
- Keep for 20-25 minutes on a slow flame.
- Boil it till the milk dries.
- Serve it with grated coconut and finely chopped coriander leaves spread over it.
- Also, garnish it with some freshly grated coconut.



Recipe: Barley risotto with lamb & mushroom

Rich with tender lamb and meaty mushrooms, this barley risotto will have you in wonders!

Preparation time: 15 minutes.
Cooking time: 1 hour 15 minutes.
Serves: 4
Ingredients:
500g boneless leg of lamb, trimmed of visible fat and cut into ½ - pieces
Salt to taste
1/2tsp fresh ground black pepper
1 cup chopped yellow onion
250g sliced Button mushrooms
3 cloves garlic, minced
fresh rosemary, divided
1 cup pearl barley, rinsed
3 cups chicken broth
½ cup balsamic vinegar
50g Parmesan cheese, grated
2tsp lemon zest
3 cups baby spinach
2tbsp refined vegetable oil
Method:
Season lamb with salt and pepper and set aside for 15-20 minutes.

Heat a large nonstick skillet on medium and add the oil. Sear the lamb, turning once for 1 to 2 minute per side or until just brown. Remove. To the same pan, add onion and mushrooms and saute, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 5 minutes. Reduce heat to medium -low. Add garlic and 1 tbsp rosemary and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Stir the lamb, barley and broth into the pan. Cover and cook on low for2 hours or until the barley is tender and liquid is absorbed.
Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, bring vinegar to a boil on medium - high heat. Boil steadily for 5 minute, until reduce by about two-thirds. Transfer to small bowl and set a side at room temperature until ready to serve. Add parmesan to the pan and stir until melted.
Stir in remaining 1tsp rosemary and lemon zest. Fold in spinach until just wilted. Spoon onto serving dishes and drizzle with balsamic reduction, evenly.

Healthy salad recipes: Oriental pear salad

Pears fight cancer, lower cholesterol, give you instant energy and are an excellent source of fibre.
So if you are bored of eating them raw, try tossing them in a salad! Distinctly oriental in flavour and appearance, this crisp and crunchy salad with pears is tasty and interesting. We also have a choice of two different dressings to toss in, just before serving it.
Ingredients
1-3/4 ounces (about 1/4 pkg.) Uncooked rice sticks (Maifun)
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1 quart shredded iceberg lettuce
1 fresh pear, cored and sliced
1 cup cooked shredded chicken
1/2 cup each diagonally sliced green onion and sliced green pepper
1 tablespoon toasted sesame seeds (optional)
Sesame Oil Dressing or Hoisin Dressing
Method
Break rice sticks into 3- or 4-inch lengths. Heat oil to 375° to 400° F; fry rice sticks until white and fluffy. Turn once to fry pieces evenly. (Entire process takes less than 1/2 minute.) Drain on paper towels. Toss rice sticks with remaining ingredients.
Serve with choice of dressing.
Sesame Oil Dressing: Combine 1/4 cup each vinegar and sesame oil, 1 tbsp soy sauce 1 tsp each salt and sugar; mix well. Makes about 1/2 cup.
Hoisin Dressing: Combine 2 tbsp catsup, 1 tbsp each Hoisin sauce, salad oil, sugar and vinegar and 1/2 tsp salt; mix well. Makes about 1/3 cup.



Unwind, chef Style

Cooking is therapeutic. But when it becomes a chore, it can add stress to your life. We ask professionals in the kitchen, who survive the pressure-cooker environment of top-notch restaurants, to give us their 'calmsutra'; in other words, spool out their secrets of de-stressing. It has worked for them it will for you.

Calmsutra: A good read with a good snack
"My idea of unwinding after work is to grab a great book to read. I am an avid reader and have a great collection of books of various genres - fiction, autobiographies, classics and poems. But on a bad day, what works best for me is a jog, followed by a glass of freshlysqueezed juice and a multi-grain ham, cheese and tomato sandwich. Nothing beats stress like a workout, and then a little treat." - Chef Sandeep Pande

Calmsutra: Thai curry and rewind
"After service time in the kitchen, food is the last thing you would like to touch and see. But then, as I walk out, I realise that all I need is a bowl of rice with Thai or Goan curry. I love a bit of coconut milk in my food, and a slight hint of spice, which reminds me of my childhood when my Goan maid would make this curry whenever I was feeling low. It works even today!" - Chef Mikhail Shahani

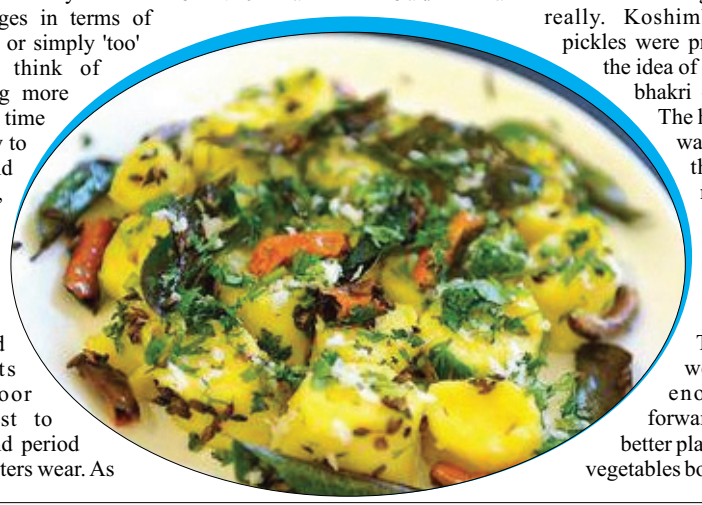


Calmsutra: Cooking with kids
"I have never been a fast food fan but thanks to my kids, it's a fast food dish that taught me to de-stress. It's called Dosa Pizza and is made of dosa batter and coconut chutney. My kids taught me how to make this Indo-Italian dish and christened it 'Appa Pizza'. It is hugely relieving because it has no recipe, no right and wrong way of doing things, and helps you spend a fun time with your family, friends and team." - Chef Girish Kumar
Calmsutra: A book and risotto
"Kitchen life is very stressful but the sheer energy is what makes it so addictive. Yet, there are days when the din gets to you, and you need to scoot out. Books, meditation and my favourite chicken and mushroom risotto are all I need to get me up and about. What works is its simplicity and the aroma. Watching the chicken and mushroom simmer in vegetable stock and wine is in itself therapeutic. The garnish of mascarpone cheese and Grana Padano (the semi-aged hard Italian cheese) only ensures I am up to any challenge - including pandering to an extremely irate guest's demands." - Chef Kshama Prabhum
Calmsutra: A cup of chamomile tea
"The pre-opening days of a restaurant can be really hectic because, at that time, you are not just cooking, sampling or hiring people, you are also the operations head. I walk out for a breather, come back and make a nice cup of chamomile tea. It soothes my frayed nerves instantly. I avoid any conflicting conversations during this time. Once I feel my nerves settling down, I go into the kitchen to whip up an easy dessert, share it and then get back to the grind." - Chef Amey Marathe
Calmsutra: Salad with bare hands
"A bowl of watermelon and organic feta salad is my go-to buddy when things get off-hand. The first advantage is that the ingredients are fresh. And while it's hard to explain how a salad can immediately send me into a meditative mode after a very hard day in the kitchen, it works every time. My bet is its aroma. It puts you at ease, and then using your bare hands to toss it up is a pleasure. At the end of all the fun, you have a healthy meal that perks you up." - Chef Rahul Kulkarni

Restaurant review: Shabree (Maharashtrian)



Strangely enough, good thali joints are few and far between, in Pune. Decor They are either tasty but a bit rough on the edges in terms of decor and service or simply 'too' family style to think of spending anything more than simple eating time there. I was happy to learn that my old favorite Shabree, off FC road now has a branch near Market Yard in Gultekdi. Personally I prefer the old model with its indoor - outdoor simplicity, honest to goodness food and period style dress the waiters wear. As long as the food is good, I don't think this style dates at all. The new model is on the main road in an annexe next to Golden Emerald. It looks like any of the smarter veg restaurants from the outside and I must say I like the new beaten style thali sets. It is clean and reasonably well decorated in an 'Indo Foreign stores' sort of way. Washrooms are clean and thankfully separated from the main dining hall by a door. There is a waiting room as well as space outside and on holidays you may even need to wait in a queue to get in. The place attracts a lot of families from the nearby area so be prepared for some amount of noise.



Food For `300 the lunch and dinner menus change daily. The food is neither oily nor packed with masala. In fact, I would say that it is exceedingly simple and could do with some sprucing up in terms of recipes and fresh vegetables. The dishes are no longer purely Maharashtrian Gujju dishes have crept in. We had an excellent mutter karanji and very good khandvi which they call surali vadi. The sukkha batata bhaji was lack lustre as was the shev rassa and purnachi amti. There was peas again in the usal and 'kadi chawal' to finish off. Nothing to write home about really. Koshimbir, chutneys and pickles were pretty standard. I like the idea of serving both kinds of bhakri — jowar and bajra. The highlight of my lunch was the puranpoli and the shrikhand both made in-house. As is the case with most thalis, there is a sukhi bhaji, amti, rassa bhaji, rice, usal and farsan everyday. The spices for me were not distinctive enough and I look forward to a meal which is better planned with more fresh vegetables both wet and dry.

Restaurant Review: Seasonal Tastes

Light, open and airy, complete with a high ceiling, Seasonal Tastes, the 24-hour dining facility at The Westin Chennai, gives you a sense of well-being every time you enter.

Decor
It is soothingly done up in subtle colours: white, lilac, blue, green etc, offset by light wood. I, of course, choose the window table, and look out at the greenery and the gurgling water bodies through the tall glass wall.
Food
Here's my chance to go completely healthy, I thought, as I went through the menu and its many interesting options. Several are vegetarian, I noted. Dishes containing pork can be spotted, thanks to a tiny pink sign. My taste buds craved Bubbalicious, Westin's Sunday brunch.
Those live counters looked so inviting with their global food — Indian, Thai, Chinese, Japanese, Grills, Continental, Moroccan and lots more. Our starters came to our table, and we had a wide variety, including paneer tikka, tandoori fish, chicken along with a choice of chutneys. And some crisp-around-the-edges with stringy cheese, thin crust pizza. Succulent meat, I must say. It was moist and tender, yet perfectly charred, to give that smoky charcoal-y taste one expects from the tandoor.
The salads were bursting with life, begging to be eaten, while the limited sushi was nice. What I did enjoy, though, was the pasta. Getting it right is an art. You've got to know when to stop. The chef has mastered the technique of not going overboard. Each Sunday sees the chef bringing out new, innovative food, a feast for the eyes and the taste buds.
They have a separate section for kids on the menu too — their food is placed in their play area, on low counters. Someone watches over them so they can eat and get their fun in peace while their parents are kept out of the way. Desserts could spoil you for choice. The cold stone ice cream had me experimenting with flavours and toppings. Liquid Nitrogen-dipped chocolate could have me addicted to their cold crispness encasing soft gooeyness on the inside.



Out of sight, out of mind? Jantar Mantar goes off protest map, Oppn cries foul

The CJP and the opposition have cried foul after the Delhi Police de-notified Jantar Mantar as a designated venue for protests. It has led to allegations that the move was aimed at making it harder for citizens to take their protests to the seat of power.

Newdelhi. (Agency)

Out of sight, out of mind. With Jantar Mantar no longer on Delhi's protest map, the opposition has questioned whether the government's move aimed to make it harder for citizens to take their protests to the seat of power. Just a stone's throw from Parliament, Jantar Mantar offered a platform where even a small protest could grab attention. The three alternatives proposed by the government - Ramlila Maidan, Burari Ground and CBD Ground - are not only farther from Parliament, but also come with their own set of challenges.

The order by Delhi Police, which is under the Home Ministry, comes amid a charged political moment. Over the past week, central Delhi has been gripped by massive protests by the opposition and the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. A Jantar Mantar 2.0 call by the CJP on October 10 saw an unprecedented crackdown. Two days later, the narrow stretch of road, the OG protest hub for over two decades, was denotified as a designated site for agitations.

OPPN CRIES FOUL OVER JANTAR MANTAR MOVE

The three new venues are far from the corridors of power. The opposition has raised a pertinent question. Why should protesters go to the outskirts of Delhi to voice their anger with central Delhi? This was flagged by Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav."The BJP is deeply rattled and scared. It wants to keep people away from places where those in power sit, to shield itself from public anger," Yadav tweeted.Akhilesh asserted that a space should have been allotted for protests on Lok Kalyan Marg itself. "That would have also helped justify the name. When the message reaches the highest seat of power directly, a solution would follow immediately," he said.AAP's Delhi chief and former minister Saurabh Bhardwaj said the move only revealed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were "scared of Gen Z". Congress MP Jairam Ramesh quipped that for Modi and Shah, it is only a "matter of Demokursi".CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke underlined that the move would not silence dissent, but instead turn the entire country into Jantar Mantar."Tomorrow, PM Modi will denotify democracy itself. The dictator's problem was never the protest site. It was the very idea of people protesting," Dipke tweeted."Why not declare Mt Everest as the designated protest site?" tweeted CJP co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka.On the other hand, the Delhi Police has argued that frequent protests at Jantar Mantar not only paralyse central Delhi - the seat of power - but also affect businesses and traders.For the opposition, the issue is not merely about the change of venue, but whether dissent itself is being pushed to the margins.



Nod to two sewage treatment projects

Delhi. (Agency)

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) recently approved the Delhi Jal Board's (DJB's) two sewage treatment projects in the national capital, cumulatively worth `924 crore, senior officials aware of the matter have revealed.The two projects, set to add 49 million gallons per day (MGD) of treatment capacity at Rohini and Pappankalan, are part of DJB's three-pronged action plan for improving sewage management in the city, officials aware of the matter said.The first component of the plan involves upgrading the 37 existing sewage treatment plants (STPs). While work on 28 of them has been completed, more is to be done on nine. The second one involves setting up 29 decentralised STPs (DSTPs) in outer areas to cater to unauthorised colonies and villages without sewer networks.

Meanwhile, the third component involves constructing STPs to tap and treat sewage flowing through drains. The DJB has so far planned 13 such projects, with another three to four likely to be added.

The NMCG funding comes into this third component, with the Rohini and Pappankalan projects forming part of this programme, the official said. However, the approval details also state that a portion of the untreated sewage in the Pappankalan catchment requires separate treatment schemes, proposed to be managed differently. The proposed 35 MGD Rohini waste water treatment plant (WWTP) has an estimated cost of `642.43 crore and will be built within the existing 25 MGD plant premises on around 7.5 hectares of DJB land.It will cater to Kirari, Begumpur, Budh Vihar, Raja Vihar and Shahabad, with sewerage network and pumping station works already under implementation. The plant is expected to intercept sewage from 21 drains and sub-drains in its catchment, reducing untreated discharge into the Supplementary Drain and the Yamuna.

Video testimony of Google and Bumble officials okayed in Walkar murder case

Delhi. (Agency)

A Delhi court has allowed the prosecution to record through video conferencing the testimony of four foreign-based nodal officers of WhatsApp, Google and Bumble in the Shraddha Walkar murder case, saying that securing their physical presence would entail undue delay and exorbitant expense.Additional Sessions Judge Hargurvarinder Singh Jaggi passed the order on an application filed by the prosecution seeking permission to examine the witnesses through video conferencing under the Electronic Evidence and Video Conferencing Rules, 2025.

In the order dated October 9, the court said, "Having considered the application and given that the above-



named witnesses reside abroad, securing their physical attendance before this Court would entail undue delay and exorbitant expense. In the interest of an expeditious trial and justice, the application moved by the prosecution is allowed."The four witnesses include Adrian Silvera, nodal officer of WhatsApp LLC and Meta Platforms Inc; Shelby Smith and Arti Sheth, nodal officers of Google LLC and Gmail, respectively; and Luke Mitsi, nodal officer and law enforcement operations manager of Bumble Group.

The court noted that the witnesses, who are based in the US and the UK, were required to tender evidence by way of affidavits and allowing their testimony via video confer[illegible].

Supreme Court seeks IB inputs on Hawara plea to shift from Tihar to Punjab

Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Delhi government to seek inputs from the Intelligence Bureau on a plea by Jagtar Singh Hawara, convicted in the Beant Singh murder case, seeking his transfer from Tihar jail to any prison in Punjab.A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and P B Varale said the issue was sensitive and observed that it was not in a position to go against the advice of the state government. Hawara, described in court as a Babbar Khalsa terrorist, is serving life imprisonment in the 1995 case linked to the killing of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh.Appearing for the Delhi government, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati told the court that Hawara had been involved in a



jailbreak and that his death sentence in the murder case was later commuted to life imprisonment. Opposing the transfer plea, she said shifting him could increase the chances of his escape and referred to a Ministry of Home Affairs advisory on the transfer of high-risk prisoners.Bhati also referred to an affidavit filed by the Punjab government and said the law and order situation in Punjab would be affected if Hawara was transferred there. She told the court that Hawara had also been convicted in a case involving the digging of a tunnel in Chandigarh jail.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for Hawara, said the then chief minister was assassinated 31 years ago when Hawara was 21. He told the court, "My mother is very old, 82 years old and in serious condition. He is seeking transfer to Punjab high security prison and not going to be released," and added that Hawara had an unblemished record in jail.

Delhi Police seeks extension of CAPF deployment till Oct 20 amid fresh protest concerns

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi Police has sought an extension of the deployment of 273 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in the capital until October 20, citing the possibility of protests by the Cockroach Janta Party and other organisations, sources said on Tuesday.In a letter to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, police requested that the deployment, which was scheduled to end on Monday, be extended to maintain law and order and deal with any potential situation.

"A total of 301 CAPF companies had been approved for deployment in Delhi, including 221 companies cleared on October 6 and another 80 on October 8," a source said.

Of the additional 80 companies, 28 had not reported to Delhi Police as of Monday, the sources said.

Police have flagged the possibility of demonstrations at several sensitive



locations, including Jantar Mantar, the Election Commission, Parliament House and India Gate, the sources said.

Demonstrations by the Bhim Army, student organisations and other political groups are also among the concerns cited by police.In recent days, protests have been held in different parts of Delhi against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

Over the weekend, the capital was placed under heavy security, with a massive deployment of personnel, the closure of 45 metro stations and intensive checks at the city's border points. Thousands of protesters, including.

Held for assaulting CJP protesters, Hindu outfit leader garlanded after release

Delhi. (Agency)

Two days after four members of a right-wing outfit were arrested for allegedly assaulting students during the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest in Delhi, one of them, Ravinder Govinda, was seen being welcomed with garlands after his release on Tuesday. A video has gone viral showing Hindu Raksha Dal members garlanding Govinda after he was granted bail in less than 48 hours.

Govinda and three of his aides were arrested on October 10 after a viral video showed them assaulting young students and pushing and hitting women near DDU Marg in central Delhi during the CJP agitation. The CJP had given the Jantar Mantar 2.0 call to protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged SIR irregularities. However, an unprecedented security clampdown and over 3,000 detentions took the wind out of the protest.

HOW THE CLASH BROKE OUT ON OCTOBER 10?

The incident happened as CJP protesters were attempting to march towards the heavily barricaded Jantar Mantar. The footage of the assault was widely circulated by the Indian Youth Congress, the AISA and the CJP.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi also tweeted a photo of a protester in a black T-shirt being assaulted by the Hindu Raksha Dal members. "Amit Shah's Delhi Police has itself descended to thuggery. It is giving free rein and encouragement to the real goons of RSS-BJP to unleash violence against women and youth," Gandhi tweeted.The identity of the protester seen in the black T-shirt became another flashpoint. While several social media accounts claimed the protester was a girl, Govinda told India Today that the person was a boy. He also accused Rahul Gandhi of spreading misinformation.Narrating the sequence of events, Govinda claimed he acted in self-defence. The 35-year-old claimed that he was travelling with his aides to the Jhandewalan Temple when his car was surrounded by CJP members near Connaught Place.

In no time, Govinda claimed, they started kicking the vehicle and also abused them. He claimed that it could have been due to the saffron flag on the vehicle and the 'Jai Shri Ram' slogan written on it.Govinda said he feared that he and his aides could be lynched if they stepped out of the car.

Sex-for-marks row: Sacked by JNU, Congress MP claims witch hunt by 'khap panchayat'

Delhi. (Agency)

Congress MP Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, who was dismissed from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) following an internal enquiry into sexual harassment allegations, has rejected the charges and termed his removal a witch hunt by a "khap panchayat."Akoijam, who was a professor at JNU's Centre for the Study of Social Systems under the School of Social Sciences, was dismissed with immediate effect on October 9. The university's Internal Complaints Committee found the allegations to be substantiated.While the BJP has accused Akoijam of "sex for marks", the Congress MP told reporters on Tuesday that the allegation did not figure in the original complaint.

"They alleged that I asked for sex in exchange for marks. Is that even mentioned in the leaked allegations? It is not there in [illegible] the complaint," he said.Questioning the number and eligibility of the complainants, Akoijam said, "They are saying 11. There are 15 of them out of 97 students, including boys. Can boys be complainants under the POSH Act? This is a complete mockery of a system established to protect people and ensure gender justice."While further rejecting the allegations, Akoijam accused the university of harassment and said that it had disregarded established procedures, while also claiming that he was not given an opportunity to respond to the committee's findings.The Congress MP said the university's handling of the matter would be challenged in court, where, he claimed, its alleged disregard for "norms, rules and regulations" would come under scrutiny.

He also questioned the merits of the allegations against him, saying that a closer examination of the case would expose what he des[illegible] the



shortcomings in the harassment charges.The sacked professor's remarks came a day after Delhi Police registered a case against him based on a complaint lodged by the JNU administration.

According to reports, at least 11 women students filed sexual harassment complaints against Akoijam in May.The complainants alleged that he invited students to his campus residence under the pretext of meetings or gatherings and attempted to sexually harass them. Some also accused him of making obscene and inappropriate remarks in class.Meanwhile, a delegation of BJP women MPs is expected to meet President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday, according to sources.

Also on Monday, the BJP's women's wing marched towards the Congress headquarters, demanding action against Akoijam. The protesters burnt effigies of Akoijam and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, questioning the latter's claims of championing women's rights and "smash the patriarchy."They also criticised his silnce on the issue, asking when he would speak up for women's dig[illegible] responsibility.

Proposed steel policy seeks AI-supported framework for early detection of sub-standard steel imports

NEW DELHI

The draft steel policy seeks to put in place an AI-powered governance framework and advanced data analytics to ensure early detection of abnormal import trends and boost the competitiveness of the domestic steel industry.According to the draft National Steel Policy Vision 2047, a three-pronged strategy centred around quality assurance, fair trade and domestic capability should be adopted to reduce avoidable import dependence, strengthen India's steel ecosystem and enhance the competitiveness, resilience and long-term growth of both the steel industry and downstream manufacturing sectors.The proposed policy seeks to build a roadmap for the Indian steel industry until 2047.The government has proposed a new policy as the earlier National Steel Policy 2017 needed a relook considering the current challenges and requirements of the steel sector.

Emerging priorities like artificial intelligence, machine learning and technical upgrades require greater focus.Besides scaling up the country's steel-making capacity to 604 million tonnes (MT), raw material security and technology upgrades, the new policy has laid a special emphasis on checking sub-standard imports to support domestic industry.

According to the draft, the imports of sub-standard or non-conforming steel, sudden import surges and possible circumvention of trade measures pose significant challenges for domestic producers.

These concerns require a robust import governance framework based on testing, certification, traceability and real-time import monitoring supported by advanced analytics for early detection of abnormal import trends, said the draft of the policy that has been brought for stakeholder consultation.

Rupee jumps 82 paise to 94, 96 against US dollar in early trade

Kolkata. (Agency)

The rupee appreciated 82 paise to 94. 96 against US dollar in early trade on Tuesday, supported by various RBI measures aimed at reducing immediate dollar demand and curbing excessive positions in the foreign exchange market.

Forex traders said measures including a dedicated dollar window for oil marketing companies through designated banks and higher costs for certain foreign exchange hedging transactions, are expected to reduce dollar demand in the spot market and curb speculative positions against the rupee.At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.53, then gained ground to touch 94. 96, registering a gain of 82 paise over its previous close.On Monday, the rupee appreciated 93 paise, logging its steepest single-day gain in more than six months, to close at 95.78 against the US dollar."With the RBI's measures supporting the rupee, we expect USD/INR to move towards 95.00 â 94. 80 range in the near term," CR Forex Advisors MD Amit Pabari said.The RBI on Saturday tightened rules governing forex derivatives trades to curtail speculative bets against the rupee and asked banks to create a 20 per cent reserve for dollar purchases of over USD 2 million.In another set of measures announced on Saturday on the derivatives front, the RBI said authorised dealers (AD) should not permit users to rebook any foreign exchange derivative contract involving the INR, whether deliverable or non-deliverable, which has been cancelled.

India's GDP to growth at 7% in 2026, says IMF; raises forecast from 6.4%

Kolkata. (Agency)

IMF (International Monetary Fund) has projected the Indian economy to expand at 7% instead of 6.4% in 2026. IMF has attributed the upward revision in GDP estimate to "stronger-than-expected momentum, supported by resilient domestic demand and robust services activity" according to the IMF. The rate of growth projected by the multi-lateral agency in July was 6.4%. Significantly, only a week ago, RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra said that the rate of GDO growth would reach 7.1% this FY27.

"India stands out with upward revisions, reflecting sustained momentum and growing evidence of stronger growth potential supported by favourable demographic dynamics, a large and expanding domestic market, and continued structural reforms," the IMF said in an update to its flagship World Economic Outlook report.

Despite higher crude oil prices

The remarkable thing about the growth in GDP estimates is that it has come against he backdrop of relentless rise in higher global prices of crude oil, thanks to the US-Iran war. According to the petroleum ministry data, the average crude oil price Indian refiners are paying now has reached $127/barrel. This is the highest level since the outbreak of the West Asia crisis in late February.

IMF growth forecast for China and Russia

The IMF has turned a bit more optimistic about some major economies. According to its forecasts, Germany is expected to grow by 1.3% in 2026. This is a hike by 70 basis points made in July. UK's GDP growth forecast has been hiked from 1% made earlier to 1.3%. The developed economies are projected to grow by 2.1% in 2026, while the estimate in July indicted a rate of 1.7%.

Gold below Rs 1.5 lakh: Should you buy now or wait for a bigger fall

Planning to buy gold for a wedding or festive occasion? Prices have eased, but with global cues keeping the market on edge, buyers face a familiar dilemma: buy now or wait for a better deal?

NEW DELHI

The festive season is here, and with the wedding season also underway, many families are looking to buy gold for jewellery, gifts and investment. The recent movement in gold prices below the Rs 1.5 lakh mark on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) may offer some relief to buyers, but the big question is whether prices will fall further or start climbing again.

At 1 pm on Tuesday, MCX gold was trading at Rs 1,49,621 per 10 grams, up 0.05%. MCX silver was priced at Rs 2,22,950 per kg, rising 0.03%.

While the gains were modest, gold prices remain sensitive to developments in the global economy, particularly US inflation data and expectations of interest rate changes by the Federal Reserve. These factors could determine whether buyers get another opportunity to purchase gold at lower levels or need to prepare for a fresh rise.Gold prices have been influenced by changing expectations around US interest rates, geopolitical tensions and movements in crude oil prices. Investors are closely watching the upcoming US inflation data for clues about the Federal Reserve's next move.Dr Renisha Chainani, Chief Research Officer at Augmont, said gold and silver prices remained supported as oil prices eased, although the market's main focus was on the upcoming US inflation reading and what it could mean



for interest rates.Traders are weighing the likelihood of interest rate changes in the US. According to Chainani, market expectations reflected a 19% chance of a rate hike in October and an 85% probability of an increase in December, based on the CME FedWatch tool.

The relationship between gold and interest rates is important for buyers to understand. Gold does not pay interest, unlike certain bonds and deposits. When interest rates rise, investors may prefer assets that offer returns, reducing the appeal of gold.Geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have also pushed crude oil prices higher at times, raising concerns about inflation. While gold is often considered a hedge against inflation and uncertainty, higher interest rate expectations can weigh on its price.

WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO GOLD PRICES NEXT?

The next major trigger for gold could be the US Consumer Price Index (CPI) data. A higher-than-expected reading, particularly for core inflation, could strengthen expectations of an interest rate hike and put pressure on gold prices.

UPI fee on merchant transactions above Rs 2,000 to be implemented after Diwali

NEW DELHI

The implementation of Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on select Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions has been deferred until after Diwali, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said on Tuesday, confirming earlier reports that the rollout could be postponed to avoid disruption during the festive season.The UPI and Services Steering Committee decided that MDR on select person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions would be implemented immediately after Diwali. The exact date will be announced separately, according to an NPCI release dated October 13"UPI and Services Steering Committee today decided that, keeping in mind the festive season, Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on select Person-to-Merchant (P2M) UPI transactions, shall be implemented immediately



post Diwali at a date to be notified separately," said NPCI in its release.The decision comes after reports that NPCI was considering requests from merchant bodies, fintech firms and payment companies to delay the proposed charges, which were earlier scheduled to take effect from October 15.

WHY UPI MDR ROLLOUT WAS DELAYED

A report earlier said NPCI was weighing a postponement of the implementation until January 2027 amid concerns over the impact on merchants and consumers during the festive shopping season.

The industry had raised concerns over confusion around the proposed charges, including which transactions would attract MDR and whether different rates would apply across categories.The proposed framework includes a 0.4% MDR on select UPI transactions above Rs 2,000. Under this rate, a transaction of Rs 10,000 would attract a charge of Rs 40.MDR is a fee paid by merchants for accepting digital payments.

Kolte-Patil Developers Q2 sales bookings rise 52 per cent to record Rs 1,019 crore

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Kolte-Patil Developers Ltd on Tuesday reported a 52 per cent growth in sales bookings to Rs 1,019 crore in the July-September quarter on better demand for its housing projects.Its sales bookings stood at Rs 670 crore in the year-ago period.In a regulatory filing, the company reported its highest-ever quarterly sales of Rs 1,019 crore in the July-September period of 2026-27 fiscal, up 52 per cent year-on-year.For the first half of this fiscal, sales bookings reached a record Rs 1,636 crore, up 27 per cent from Rs 1,286 crore in the year-ago period.



Hrishikesh Parandekar, Chief Executive Officer, Kolte-Patil Developers, said, "Our robust performance in Q2 and H1 FY27, with record quarterly and half-yearly sales and strong collections, reflects the resilience of our business."The company saw strong sales in new projects and also sustained sales across its ongoing projects, he added.

"While demand has softened in the near term across the broader market, particularly in Pune, we have continued to deliver strong business momentum," Parandekar said.

The long-term fundamentals of India's residential real estate market remain favourable, driven by urbanisation, rising aspirations and an increasing preference for quality housing, he observed.

Tata Trusts gets extension till Oct 19 to reply to governance complaint

NEW DELHI

Tata Trusts has received an extension till October 19 to respond to complaint filed by Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh against it, according to a report on Tuesday. IANS report-- citing media sources-- reported that extension was granted by the Charity Commissioner. However, as per the original timeline, the Trusts was to respond by October 12.Earlier in October, senior trustees of Sir Dorabji Tata Trust accused fellow trustees Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh of undermining board resolutions and breaching fiduciary duties by publicly supporting listing of Tata Sons, reports said.

The letter was signed by SDTT trustees Noel N Tata, Darius J Khambata, Neville N Tata and Bhaskar Bhat, marking escalation in internal differences within Tata Trusts over future ownership and listing status of Tata Sons, they said.Trustees said keeping Tata Sons unlisted had been settled position of Trusts and company for years.Tata Sons board had unanimously



resolved in March 2024 to retain company's unlisted status, while trustees of SDTT and Sir Ratan Tata Trust unanimously reiterated position in July 2025 and agreed to engage with Reserve Bank of India on matter.Trustees said July 2025 resolutions had not been rescinded and criticised Srinivasan and Singh for not seeking reconsideration of those decisions or bringing changed views on potential listing before trustees for collective deliberation.

Their public statements supporting listing undermined Trusts' resolutions and could also affect Tata Sons' pending application with RBI, according to trustees.They also referred to September 28 proposal to merge Tata Electronics Systems Solutions Pvt Ltd and Tata Consulting Engineers with Tata Sons as one possible route to help company avoid RBI's principal business criteria for NBFCs while retaining unlisted status, the reports showed.

Food inflation at 7.74%: Which items are burning a bigger hole in your pocket

The festive season is meant to bring cheer, but rising grocery bills could leave families with less to spend on celebrations. From kitchen essentials to everyday vegetables, here's what is making household budgets tighter.

Kolkata. (Agency)

A trip to the vegetable market can be enough to upset a household budget. Onions, ginger and garlic are kitchen staples, but when their prices rise sharply, families have little choice but to spend more or change what they buy. With food inflation climbing to 7.74% in September, 2026, managing everyday expenses could become more difficult for Indian households, particularly at a time when festive shopping is also adding to their bills.Data released by the government showed that food inflation, measured by the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), stood at 7.74% in September. Overall retail inflation, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), was 5.54% during the month.

The rise in food prices matters because groceries are not an expense that most families can simply put off. Whether it is vegetables for daily meals, cooking ingredients or essential food items, households have to find room for them in their monthly budgets. And with the festive season bringing additional expenses, the pressure on household finances could become more noticeable.

ONIONS, GINGER AND GARLIC PUSH UP KITCHEN COSTS

Onions emerged as one of the biggest sources of food price pressure in September. Inflation in onion prices more than doubled from 48.78% in August to 108.09% in September.Ginger prices rose by 62.85%, although this was lower than the 73.82% inflation recorded in August. Garlic inflation, on the other hand, accelerated from 43.60% to 54.62%. Lemon prices also became significantly more expensive, with inflation rising from 15.15% in August to 36.41% in September.These are not items that most Indian households can



easily avoid. Onions, ginger and garlic are used in everyday cooking, while lemons are a common addition to meals and drinks. When their prices rise sharply, families may buy smaller quantities, change their menus or look for alternatives, but the increase can still show up in the monthly grocery bill.

Nirav Karkera, Head of Research and Fund Manager at W by Groww, said food and supply pressures were the main drivers of the latest inflation reading.

"Onion, which carries meaningful weight in the basket, has seen a steep rise in prices. This accounts for a meaningful share of headline inflation," he said.Karkera also pointed to rising freight and eating-out costs as channels through which supply pressures can spread to other parts of the economy.

NOT EVERY FOOD ITEM IS BECOMING MORE EXPENSIVE

The picture, however, is not the same across all food items. Some vegetables have become cheaper compared with their prices a year ago, offering limited relief to household budgets.Potato prices recorded inflation of -11.50% in September, compared with -13.15% in August.

NEWS BOX

Hotfix plastic waste catches fire at two locations in Puna

Surat(Agency).
Plastic waste dumped in the open by hotfix units caught fire at two locations in the city's Puna area early Monday, prompting a swift response from Surat Fire and Emergency Services (SFES). No casualties or property damage were reported.
SFES control room received a call around 4.13am about a fire near Archana School in Puna. Firefighters were immediately dispatched to the spot and the fire was extinguished before it could spread to nearby properties.The firefighting team spotted another fire approximately 500 metres away, near a creek. They soon launched a second operation to extinguish the flames at the second location.Officials said the fires involved waste generated from thin plastic sheets used in the hotfix process to apply rhinestones to fabric. Once used, these sheets are discarded, generating tonnes of plastic waste daily. The material is highly inflammable and can catch fire and burn rapidly.Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) had been collecting such waste from hotfix units for the past few years, despite the plastic falling under a prohibited category. However, the collection process has been discontinued over the past few months. Following the halt, unit owners have allegedly started dumping the waste in open spaces at various locations across the city."It is suspected that some people are setting the waste on fire after dumping it. It being a highly inflammable plastic, it immediately catches fire and burns within minutes," a fire official said.

Revanth accuses Modi Govt of getting 20 cr votes deleted

Hyderabad (Agency).
Chief minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday alleged that Narendra Modi govt at the Centre was afraid of losing the next election and had given chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar the task of removing 20 crore anti-Modi and anti-BJP votes via the special intensive revision (SIR).The NDA govt led by Modi is trying to divide the country into two classes of people — one who were rich and had voting rights, and another who were poor and included adivasis, Dalits, Girijans and minorities without voting rights, he alleged.
"There is a danger of this second category of people who are not in favour of Modi and BJP being reduced to second-class citizens. The BJP is snatching their votes with the intention of winning the next election and remaining in power. The trio of Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah and CEC Gyanesh Kumar is indulging in 'vote chori 'under the guise of SIR," Revanth alleged, addressing reporters at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi.Revanth, along with TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, ministers, MPs, MLCs, MLAs, Congress district presidents and corporation chairpersons from Telangana, also participated in a march from Barakhamba to Supreme Court, along with Rahul Gandhi and other AICC and INDIA alliance leaders, demanding Gyanesh Kumar's resignation.

On the run for 3 years, Morena massacre accused arrested in Gurugram by Ahmedabad cybercrime police

Ahmedabad (Agency).
More than three years after six people were killed in a family feud in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district, one of the accused was arrested in Gurugram by the Ahmedabad crime branch. Ramu Singh Tomar, 37, had moved across several states, including Gujarat, after committing the crime, crime branch officers said. A reward of Rs 30,000 had been announced for information leading to his arrest.The killings took place in May 2023 in Lepa village, when members of one group allegedly opened fire on another family during a wedding gathering in the village. Three men and three women were mercilessly gunned down in full public view.A video of the crime, shot on a cellphone by a local, rapidly spread on social mediaAccording to the crime branch, the killings were the result of a long-running dispute over land and a cycle of revenge.
In 2013, Birbhan Singh Munsisingh Tomar and Sobaran Singh Munsisingh Tomar, relatives of Ramu Singh, were allegedly murdered in connection with the dispute. Police said Ramu Singh and his family later sought an opportunity to avenge their deaths by targeting Ranjit Singh Munne Singh Tomar and his family..A case was registered at Sihauniya police station in Morena under sections related to murder, attempt to murder, rioting, criminal intimidation and offences under the Arms Act. Nine people were named as accused.

Four decades of support: Dist Limb Fitting Centre in Ernakulam offers solace for those with limited mobility

KOCHI (Agency).
Established in 1987, the District Limb fitting Centre at General Hospital, Ernakulam, has helped thousands of people regain mobility and lead better lives through affordable prosthetic and orthotic appliances. From artificial limbs to specially designed footwear, the centre has been a source of support for people living with physical disabilities. However, the facility is yet to expand its services to include prosthetic hands.
Earlier this year, a Palakkad native girl, who lost her right hand to medical negligence, was provided with a prosthetic hand for which Chief Minister V D Satheesan ensured financial assistance. While the technology to develop a prosthetic hand remains beneficial for many, the facility is still not adopted in the district limb fitting centres across Kerala, forcing common people to turn to private facilities paying huge money.
The District Limb Fitting Centre here acts as a consultation facility and production unit when it comes to prosthetics. "In the outpatient consultation facility here, we assess the requirements of each person and guide them to the technicians and leather workers who make the footwear. Some need shoes to correct issues with the leg while some need artificial leg/limbs following amputation.
Assistance for those with disc problems, neck



issues etc are also being provided here. With diabetes cases on the rise, many approach us for artificial legs, toes etc as such parts were amputated following diabetes," said Dr Sindhu M, senior consultant, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation department of the hospital. What makes the centre more important is the fact that such prosthetics are available here in an affordable range considering the fact that a majority of patients who depend on government hospitals are below poverty line."Prosthetic legs which can cost over `1 lakh in private hospitals, are provided with subsidised prices here. We also give them training on how to use the artificial fittings to their body," Sindhu shared. The centre annually provides 330 orthotic appliances (for teeth, jaws etc), 30 prosthetics, and 420 leather works (mainly shoes) in addition to the repair works.
According to Dr Prebhudas R, Superintendent of General Hospital, "we have been receiving many enquiries from people for prosthetic hands and also for other cosmetic needs. If we can upgrade to the latest technology in prosthetic hands, it will definitely help many people, as the process costs a fortune for the common man when done in private institutions."Currently, the prosthetic hand fixing facility is available only in Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College, among the government hospitals in the state. Specialised institutions like NIPMR (National Institute for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation) and Composite Regional Centre, Kozhikode, are present, but for those with limited mobility regional centres with advanced facilities serve the purpose.

Karnataka High Court quashes state government's SC/ST quota hike

The reservation for other backward classes (OBCs) was retained at 32%, but still the total quota exceeded the permissible 50%.

BENGALURU(Agency).
In a major setback to the state government, the Karnataka High Court on Monday struck down Sections 3 and 4 of the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 2022, through which the reservation for persons from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) was increased from 15% to 17% and from 3% to 7% respectively.
The reservation for other backward classes (OBCs) was retained at 32%, but still the total quota exceeded the permissible 50%. "Section 3, insofar as it takes the aggregate reservation beyond the ceiling of 50%, is struck down as it violates Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution.
Section 4 is also struck down as unconstitutional, as it violates Articles 14 and 16," a division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice K S Hemalekha said.
The Bench passed the order, allowing a batch of petitions including a PIL filed by Mahendra Kumar Mitra and others questioning the width of the power of the state to provide reservation within the scheme of the equal protection and equal opportunity clauses - Article 14, 15 and 16 of the Constitution. The Act came into force on January 12, 2023.
Not permissible for K'taka to exceed 50% quota ceiling, says HC
Referring to several judgments of the apex court, including Indra Sawhney case, the High Court noted that notwithstanding the state's legislative competence to enact the Act, it was mandatory for the state government to consult the National Commissions for SCs and STs. Merely writing a letter after enacting the Act cannot be considered consultation as required under Articles 338 (9) and 338A(9) of the Constitution..The letters dated December 10, 2025 and January 20, 2026 were written by the state to the Commissions nearly three years after the Act was enacted and after its validity had been called into question before the court. Consultation, to be meaningful and effective, must precede the decision, it observed.
Stating that the rule that reservation would not exceed 50% stood obliterated, the state government contended that Articles 245 and 246 empower the state legislature to enact the impugned Act and the said power is not affected by Articles 338(9) and 338A.The court said there is no dispute that the state legislature has the legislative competence to enact the Act, but it is erroneous to suggest that the power under Articles 245 and 246 is not circumscribed by the other provisions of the Constitution, which require consultation with Commissions on all major policy matters affecting SC/STs, and it cannot be disregarded, the court added.The state contended that over 90% of the population in the state is SC/ST and OBCs, and the reservation should be the percentage of that population. But the court said that accepting this contention would be destructive of the principle of equality enshrined under the Constitution.

Keralam Assembly: Opposition stages walkout alleging 'crisis' in State's health sector

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (Agency).
The Opposition LDF staged a walkout from the Assembly on Tuesday, alleging that the state's health sector was in crisis under the four-month-long UDF government's rule. Seeking to raise the issue through an adjournment motion, the LDF cited shortages of medicines, deaths allegedly caused by medical negligence, and the arbitrary dismissal of health staff as evidence of the crisis.
CPM MLA K V Sumesh, who gave notice for the adjournment motion, said the health sector was "on a ventilator" and accused Health Minister K Muraleedharan of adopting a "dismissive attitude" towards the issue. He also alleged that even medicines for lifestyle diseases were unavailable in government hospitals.Muraleedharan launched a sharp counterattack, asserting that hospitals had adequate medicine stocks, except for the medicine needed to cure the uneasiness of the LDF, which had lost power. The remark triggered brief protests from the Opposition benches.The minister attributed the shortage to the failure of the previous LDF government to undertake the procurement usually carried out in March, citing the Model Code of Conduct in force for the elections. On the death of a woman in Kozhikode following post-operative complications, Muraleedharan said an expert committee would submit its report on the incident within a week.He also rejected the allegation that a large number of health staff had been dismissed. However, he acknowledged that the contracts of some National Health Mission employees had not been renewed following a performance audit conducted by the mission. The minister attributed the rise in fever cases to the growing reliance on government hospitals.
Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan, who led the LDF walkout after the adjournment motion was disallowed.

'Eat Biryani, but from a Hindu's shop': Posters in Bengal before Durga Puja

The Opposition, however, has slammed the posters and targeted the ruling BJP, saying this cannot be allowed in a secular country.

KOLKATA (Agency).
As West Bengal preps for Durga Puja, hundreds of posters have appeared in north Bengal's Siliguri, appealing to people to eat Biryani and buy Puja items only from Hindu traders. The posters have yet again stoked the conversation on Bengalis eating non-vegetarian food in the festive season.Leaders of Hindu Jagran Manch, an organisation that has claimed responsibility for the posters, said they are not against any community, but want Hindu traders to benefit in the festival season. The Opposition, however, has slammed the posters and targeted the ruling BJP, saying this cannot be allowed in a secular country.
Some of the messages on the posters read, "No one is stopping you from eating Biryani, but eat it from a Hindu shop", "buy meat from a Hindu shop" and "listen to the seller's name before paying by QR code". Other messages call upon "Hindus of all castes to unite" and "build a society without addiction or drugs".
"We will obviously eat non-vegetarian food during Puja, as is our tradition. But we are appealing to people to eat Biryani from Hindu shops. We have also appealed to them to buy Puja items like flowers from Hindu shops. We are not against any community, but we think Hindu traders should benefit from Durga Puja," Prasanta Sarkar, a leader of the Manch, told The Indian Express from Siliguri.There is a huge economy surrounding Durga Puja. Why should Hindus not benefit from their Puja? We have also held meetings with some Puja committees in South Bengal and appealed to allow only Hindu shop and stall owners near Puja pandals," said Nilanjan Panda, a



Manch leader from Sonarpur in South Bengal.
Hindu Jagran Manch is a Hindu nationalist organisation affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), BJP's ideological parent. Founded in 1980, it became active in Bengal around 2008.
The move has drawn strong criticism from the Opposition. Md Salim, CPM state secretary and former MP, told The Indian Express, "This is part of a well-planned othering, of pushing away a community and creating division. It is aimed at economic ostracism. Years back, bullcarts in Jaipur municipality where drivers were predominantly Muslims were banned. I also heard that BJP gave a diktat that tongas in Lalbag in Murshidabad should be discontinued."Krishanu Mitra, who represents the Mamata Trinamool Congress, criticised the move. "In no secular country can this be allowed. Police should take action against such people. If such outfits are so concerned for Hindus, they should talk to the state government and central government and reduce petrol prices for Hindus. Now they have a double engine government (in Bengal and Delhi).

After metros, monorails and pod taxis, Mumbai region may get an 'elevated bus'

The proposed 3.1-km system, drawing on models from Japan, would run from the Virar high-speed rail station to Metro Line 13 at Nalasopara. A draft plan is due by early November, but the route and technology aren't final.

Mumbai (Agency).
Passengers getting off the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train at Virar could one day board a driverless "elevated automated bus" to the Metro. The Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation (VVCMC) is considering an Automated Guideway Transit (AGT) system to link the upcoming high-speed rail station to Metro Line 13.After Metros, monorails and the proposed pod taxi, it would be yet another mode of transport for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. The proposed 3.1-km elevated corridor would run from Sahakar Nagar in Virar East, near the bullet train station, to the Metro station in Nalasopara, crossing the suburban railwaytracks on the way.The AGT is still at the proposal stage. It is among the ideas in a local area development plan for the 463-hectare area around the Virar station. The VVCMC is preparing the plan with its consultant, Tandon Urban Solutions Pvt Ltd (TUSPL), and a team from Japan that includes the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which is involved in funding the bullet train project. The draft plan is expected to be ready by early November, after which it will be submitted to the Maharashtra government for approval.
Why Virar needs it
"As a part of the development of the area falling under the influence of the bullet train station, one of the necessities is to connect it with a local metro station," said VVCMC Commissioner Prithviraj B P."As Virar is a largely residential neighbourhood, we expect people to use the bullet train to travel to their workplace. A direct connection with the Metro would help them get close to their homes through public transport."
What is an AGT?
Unlike a conventional Metro, the AGT would use automated, driverless vehicles running on wheels along a dedicated guideway. Its planners describe it as an "elevated automated bus". It is expected to be smaller and cheaper to build than a Metro, with an initial capacity of around 50 to 70 passengers per vehicle or



trainset.The choice is driven by cost and space constraints in the densely populated area. The AGT's guideway and supporting structures are expected to be narrower than those required for a Metro. Avani Shikhare, architect and urban planner with TUSPL, said the system would draw on AGT models operating in Japan.The AGT is one of many transit modes that will be available at the Virar bullet train station, including buses. It will run on a small track of around 3.1km and have a limited capacity of 50 to 60, perhaps 70. And while the end nodes will connect the bullet train and the Metro, there may be one of two stops in between," said Prithviraj.
The route
The proposed alignment would connect the bullet train station in Virar East with the underground section of Metro Line 13 at Nalasopara. A connection serving the suburban railway network at Nalasopara, which is to have an interchange between the Metro and railways, is also being examined."As the AGT will cross over the railway tracks, from east to west, it may have a connection with the railway station. Nalasopara station on the Western line will be the closest link, although the extended platform on Virar station will only be around 500m away," Shikhare said.
What could change
Officials are also considering extending the corridor to around 17 km towards the Virar coast. Shikhare said capacity could be increased by adding more vehicles or coaches, potentially taking it to 400 passengers or more. The route, capacity and technology have not been finalised.

NEWS BOX

2036 Olympics: How South Korea, Qatar, Munich, South Africa, Türkiye, Hungary compare with Ahmedabad's bid

PUDUCHERRY. (Agency)

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has confirmed seven interested parties for the 2036 Summer Olympics: India, Germany, Qatar, South Korea, South Africa, Türkiye and Hungary. With the process currently at the dialogue stage, the bids will be shortlisted in March 2027, preferred hosts will be identified in December 2028, and the host will be announced in mid-2029.

Germany's candidate is Munich; South Korea's project is associated with Jeonju and Jeonbuk, as well as Seoul; Qatar's is centred on Doha; and South Africa is considering a multi-city or nationwide model. Hungary has designated Budapest as its central venue, while Türkiye is planning to host the 2036 Summer Olympics in Istanbul and India in Ahmedabad.

South Korea

South Korea is no stranger to hosting the Olympics. Seoul hosted the 1988 Summer Olympics, a landmark event in the country's emergence on the international stage. PyeongChang hosted the 2018 Winter Olympics, giving the country experience of hosting both the Summer and Winter Games.



What is South Korea's 2036 project?The domestic selection process produced a significant change in direction. The Korean Sport & Olympic Committee selected Jeonbuk (North Jeolla Province), with Jeonju as its focal city, as the country's domestic candidate. The wider discussion has also involved Seoul, which has its own infrastructure and Olympic legacy.

Jeonbuk has been pushing an Olympic plan that uses venues across the province and other Korean cities, while Seoul's supporters have argued that its existing facilities and transport infrastructure make it a more credible option.The regional approach could distribute the benefits of the Games beyond the capital.

Ronaldo's Al-Nassr match delayed by an hour after missile threat in Saudi Arabia

Cristiano Ronaldo scored as Al-Nassr beat Uzbekistan's Neftchi Fergana 3-1 in their AFC Champions League Elite fixture in Riyadh on Monday. The match was delayed by an hour after Saudi Arabia's Civil Defence issued a safety warning amid missile threats in the region.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr were forced to wait an hour before kicking off their AFC Champions League Elite fixture against Uzbekistan's Neftchi Fergana on Monday after a security alert in Riyadh.Saudi Arabia's Civil Defence issued a safety warning around 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the match, amid missile attacks claimed by Yemen-based Houthi rebels in recent days. The Saudi-led coalition said it had intercepted and destroyed two ballistic missiles launched towards Riyadh on Monday, while at least three explosions were heard in the city that evening.ions were heard in the city that evening.The alert disrupted preparations at Al-Awwal Park, where the teams had been due to begin their continental campaign. A sparse crowd remained in the stands as the players waited for the situation to be resolved. Saudi Arabia's Civil Defence subsequently announced that the danger had passed, allowing the fixture to proceed after the hour-long delay.The match went ahead against a tense security backdrop, with the incident drawing attention away from the action on the pitch before kick-off. Al-Nassr eventually overcame the interruption to register a 3-1 victory, with Ronaldo scoring before half-time.

RONALDO SCORES AS AL-NASSR WIN



Angelo Gabriel opened the scoring for Al-Nassr in the 33rd minute with a deflected strike. Ronaldo then doubled the hosts' lead nine minutes later, finishing a move involving two of his teammates.Sadio Mane delivered a looping cross from the left, and Aiman Yahya directed the ball into Ronaldo's path with his chest. The 41-year-old Portuguese forward struck on the turn, sending the ball into the bottom corner to give Al-Nassr a two-goal cushion before the break.Neftchi Fergana responded six minutes into the second half, with Alisher Odilov pulling one back to give the visitors a route back into the contest. However, their task became more difficult when Ikromjon Alibaev was sent off in the 65th minute for a foul on Mohamed Simakan.

Al-Nassr made their numerical advantage count late in the game, sealing the 3-1 win in the 78th minute when Neftchi defender Anvarjon Gofurov scored an own goal.

The result gave Al-Nassr a positive outcome on a night when the security alert had threatened to overshadow the fixture.

CSK CEO hopeful of MS Dhoni's IPL return despite missing entirety of last season

Indore. (Agency)

NChennai Super Kings CEO Kasi Viswanathan believes that there is more cricket left in the legendary MS Dhoni. The CSK talisman, now 45 years of age, did not play a single match in the Indian Premier League earlier this year due to multiple injury concerns. However, the team CEO feels that Dhoni will try his best to play one last season for the Chennai-based team.Asked about Dhoni's status in the CSK side ahead of the upcoming IPL auction, Kasi told the local media in Chennai that the decision to play or not to play was one that the franchise left entirely to the former India captain. He added that the process had been the same for some time, with Dhoni informing the team of his decision when he arrives in Chennai.

"It's a question you need to ask him. I also have to ask him. He informs us of his decision when he arrives in Chennai. I have a feeling that the chances of him continuing to play for CSK are there. He is



still a player, you know," Kasi Viswanathan said.

Dhoni did not feature in a single match in IPL 2026, a season that many had expected to be his farewell campaign. The veteran wicketkeeper-batter remained with the team for most of the tournament, however, participating in training sessions and offering support from the dugout as CSK struggled through a difficult transition.DHONI STILL AN IMPORTANT PRESENCE AT CSK

Amid criticism, former CSK head coach Stephen Fleming had defended Dhoni's non-playing role towards the end of the season, stressing that the former captain remained an important presence for a team undergoing significant changes.

Following CSK's final home game at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Fleming said Dhoni's experience had been particularly valuable for the younger players in the squad."MS has been around a lot this year, which has been really important for the team, for a lot of the young players, and for continuity," Fleming said"So, he's been a big part of it. He hasn't played, but he's still had a big influence on the team."

R Sridhar warns India's fielding woes could worsen in chilly New Zealand

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's fielding problems could face another stern examination on their upcoming tour of New Zealand, with former fielding coach R Sridhar warning that the unfamiliar weather conditions could compound an already worrying trend. While India have developed clear identities with the bat and ball, their inconsistency in the field has become a persistent concern, and the challenge of adapting to New Zealand's chilly, windy spring could leave little room for further mistakes.The contrast in conditions will be significant. India has experienced unusually warm weather in October, with El Nino conditions developing in the equatorial Pacific and influencing global weather patterns.

New Zealand, meanwhile, will be moving through spring, when temperatures can remain



low, winds can pick up and conditions can change rapidly. For Indian players accustomed to warmer conditions, adjusting to the cold could prove particularly important when attempting difficult catches or fielding close to the batter."I think our fielders will have to adapt. As you know, we've had a very hot October in India this year, thanks to El Nino, the super El Nino. So, there's going to be quite a bit of adaptation required from our fielders, bowlers and batters," Sridhar said in a virtual press conference organised by Sony Sports Network.\

WINDY WELLINGTON, CHILLY CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand's conditions can be particularly demanding for fielders, with Wellington known for its strong winds and Christchurch capable of producing chilly mornings and evenings during spring.

Rahul Dravid's son Anvay smashes 41-ball 85 in U-19 match against Aaryavir Sehwag's Delhi



INDORE. (Agency)

Rahul Dravid's son Anvay Dravid shone with the bat for Karnataka in their clash against Delhi in the ongoing Vinoo Mankad Trophy on Monday, October 12. Anvay slammed a sensational knock of 85 runs off just 41 balls to help his side thrash Delhi by 198 runs in the game.The game featured sons of two India legends. While Anvay was representing Karnataka, former India opener Virender Sehwag's elder son Aaryavir Sehwag was leading Delhi in the match. Both Aaryavir and Anvay were recently named in India's U19 one-day squad.In the match played at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA VDCA Cricket Stadium in Vizag, Karnataka rode on centuries from opener Nitish Arya, Dhruv Krishnan and a cracking 41-ball 85 from captain Anvay to post a mammoth total of 418/4 on the board in 50 overs.

Arya top-scored with 111 off 109 balls, while Krishnan smashed a quickfire 103 off just 51 deliveries. Anvay looked in destructive touch as he smashed an unbeaten 85 off just 41 balls, studded with seven sixes and five fours. The onslaught from the Karnataka batters propelled the team past the 400-run mark, batting first.

Aaryavir Sehwag fails to inspire Delhi to victoryIn pursuit of the mammoth target of 419 runs, Delhi were skittled out for 220 runs as skipper Aaryavir failed to inspire his side to victory. Aaryavir opened the innings with Arnav Bugga and could only manage 32 off 35 balls.Bugga was dismissed cheaply on 6 while no.3 Garv Kumar also fell cheaply on 6 off 11 balls. Wicket-keeper batter Abhiraj Gagan Singh top-scored for Delhi with his 59 off 66 balls, however, it was far from enough as Delhi were bowled out for 220 runs in just

Coventry overrun Newcastle in sparkling second half for back-to-back Premier League wins

COVENTRY. (Agency)

Teenager Sidiki Cherif scored one and made one as Coventry overcame a dishevelled Newcastle 4-1 and earned successive Premier League wins on Monday.The win was a real boost for Coventry, which had lost its first four games of the season but edged past Nottingham Forest in the final league match before the international break.

The victory also marked its first in the Premier League in 25 years after the Midlands club returned to the top division in the summer."It is so hard to win but we played like the team we want to be tonight," coach Frank Lampard said. "A team where you look at them and see spirit and energy. We know we are going to have to suffer a lot in games this season but the work ethic of the boys and the belief mean



you get what you deserve."Cherif was brought down just four minutes into the game and Jack Rudoni made no mistake from the spot.ewcastle controlled most of the first half without troubling the Coventry goal but it was a different story in the second period as the home side won the game with some clinical finishing.Cherif made it 2-0 with a low shot from the edge of the box three minutes into the second period, and although Sven Botman reduced the deficit with a stunning strike in the 70th Ellis Simms restored the two-goal advantage nine minutes from time.

Stephen Mfuni, the 18-year-old center half on loan from Manchester City, scored his first professional goal in the 86th to cap a dream night for Coventry and lift Lampard's men into 14th spot.

Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar flown to London for urgent surgery, government to cover cost

Murali Sreeshankar is set to undergo ligament reconstruction surgery on his right ankle. Union Minister Suresh Gopi confirmed that the central government will bear the entire cost of the procedure and fund

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Season two of the Archery Premier League (APL) in Hyderabad could not have come at a better time. Just after Indian archers made history at the Asian Games by winning five gold medals in Japan, the league, filled with top-class players, has been gaining attention. Director and chairman of the league, Anil Kamineni, cannot be more happier than he is today with how the league is performing on all metrics.But this time last-year the story was completely different as Kamineni and his team set out to attract more people into the sport. A first in the world of archery, season one of APL featured 48 archers in six eight-member teams. Top international stars like 2024 gold medallist Elia Canales and World No 1 Ella Gibson also participated. The key objective was to set a base for the forthcoming season.

"The results of these recent Asian Games have shown that we are all going in the right direction as far as archery in India is concerned. And APL is also one of the reasons why it has helped us," he told this daily. While acknowledging the contribution of the Archery Association of India and the coaches, Kamineni believed competition against top-level archers and a reduced shot clock in the inaugural season has helped them do away with pressure. "Our objective was to make sure that they don't feel the pressure. Being with these international archers for so many days, training and shooting with them has helped them. And then easing the pressure by getting used to the 15-second shot clock has helped them too. So these two things have



helped our archers very much and they also feel the same way," he explained.The 15-second shot clock is something that archers have taken a liking to. This season, sudden-death rounds have brought excitement among fans and archers. Kamineni said that the league will keep exploring for ideas. "We are always thinking on how to make the league more exciting to the audience and tougher for the archers also. There are slight tweaks in the shootouts and teams get to name substitutes for each round," he said.

Kamineni also said that potential sponsors are in the waiting and expected more from next season. "Sponsors were decided much earlier than the Asian Games. But after it concluded, a lot of them have shown interest. I'm sure that having seen what our archers are doing and how it's becoming popular, I expect more sponsors in the coming season," he said.While Kamineni acknowledged the surge in TV viewership from last year, he stressed on the importance of popularising the sport by bringing children from remote and tribal areas to the stadium. "That is the most important thing. Even our anthem says 'Aao Banaye Archery Ko Mahan' (Come, let's make archery great). We hope they get inspired from it and down the line as we go.



Radhikka Madan

Recalls Facing Body-Shaming, Says She Was Called 'Too Fat': 'Heroine Kaise Banegi Ye?'

Bollywood actress Radhikka Madan recently opened up about the pressure women face to look a certain way and how constant comments about her body affected her own health. Extending her support to Katrina Kaif, who recently faced criticism over her postpartum weight, Radhikka spoke about her personal experiences with body-shaming and the unrealistic expectations placed on women in the entertainment industry. She recalled how her weight became a subject of discussion at a time when she was working on multiple films. The experience eventually forced her to rethink her priorities and understand that trying to please everyone was taking a toll on her well-being.

Radhikka Madan Recalls Being Judged For Her Weight

In a conversation with Hindustan Times, Radhikka revealed that her weight changed significantly while preparing for different film roles. She gained around 15 kilos for her 2018 film Pataakha and later worked towards losing that weight while shooting for Shiddat and Angrezi Medium."I had gained 15 kgs for Pataakha, and I was losing that weight through Shiddat and Angrezi Medium. I was told that I was 'too fat. Heroine kaise banegi ye'," she recalled.Radhikka said she continued losing weight while working on back-to-back projects until she became extremely thin. The process began affecting her health, so she decided to take a break.



"I kept losing weight and shooting back-to-back, and fully became like bones. It started affecting my health, so I took a break," she said.Radhikka shared how difficult it was to meet expectations that kept changing. When she weighed more, she was criticised for being too fat. After losing weight, she was told she was too thin.

'I Started Focusing On Feeling Healthy', Says Radhikka

The constant criticism eventually led Radhikka to question why she was putting herself through so much pressure to satisfy others. She realised that no matter how much her appearance changed, there would always be someone ready to criticise it. That understanding helped her shift her focus from achieving a particular body size to taking care of her health.

"I asked myself why am I trying to please people when they will never be happy? So, I started focusing on feeling healthy rather than chasing a particular body size. Once you do that, others' opinions don't affect you as you become wiser. You don't know what insecurity they [critiques] are coming from. But I have that security of knowing that now, I am chasing health," she said.

Richa Chadha

Shares 'Make-Up Hack' For CJP Protesters To Avoid Facial Recognition, Says 'Carry Pepper Spray'

Richa Chadha has weighed in on the ongoing protests against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, sharing a make-up tutorial that she said could help demonstrators avoid facial recognition cameras. The actress posted the clip on X on Sunday, October 11, while claiming that protesters were being filmed without their consent.

The demonstrations are being held over alleged irregularities linked to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, with protesters demanding Gyanesh Kumar's resignation. Amid heightened security and detentions reported from Delhi, Richa urged those joining the protests to remain cautious, peaceful and prepared.



Richa Chadha Shares Surveillance 'Tutorial' For Protesters

Sharing the video on X, Richa wrote, "Dear protestors, since you're being filmed without your consent, try using make-up to dodge surveillance/facial recognition cameras. Here's a tutorial."She followed it up with a message asking protesters to look after themselves while participating in the demonstrations.

"Be safe, stay hydrated, stay strong. Girls, carry pepper spray. BULLIES ARE ALWAYS COWARDS, don't forget. Stay peaceful, don't be silent, don't be violent," she wrote.The actress' post came as protests continued over allegations surrounding the SIR exercise. The allegations remain contested, while demonstrators have continued to press for accountability from the Election Commission.

Actress Had Earlier Asked Delhi Residents To Join Protests

This was not the first time Richa had shared a make-up tutorial in connection with the demonstrations.Ahead of Saturday's protest, she had posted another message encouraging people living in Delhi to turn up in large numbers despite restrictions affecting movement into central parts of the city.

"So many restrictions on the border and locomotives etc, means baahar wale people can't come into the central part. But those who live in the city should go in large numbers. Carry water. Wear a mask, cap, shades… walk. (They're counting on you NOT showing up. Prove them wrong). Ooh ! Don't miss.



Aamir Khan's Niece Zayn Marie Shares Bruise Video After CJP Protest Detention In Mumbai



Aamir Khan's niece Zayn Marie Khan has shared a video showing bruises on her body after she was detained during a protest at Mumbai's August Kranti Maidan on October 10. Actor Imran Khan and his girlfriend Lekha Washington were also taken into custody during the demonstration and released several hours later.The protest was held in support of the Cockroach Janta Party's demand for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in voter-list revisions.Zayn's video, posted on Instagram following her release, has now brought fresh attention to what happened during the police action at the protest.

Zayn Marie Khan Shows Bruises After Detention

In the video, Zayn can be seen showing visible marks on her body following her detention at August Kranti Maidan.The footage began circulating online soon afterwards, prompting questions about the circumstances surrounding the police action against demonstrators.The exact circumstances in which Zayn sustained the bruises have not been independently established. She also did not provide a detailed account in the video explaining when or how the marks occurred.

Her post, however, has added another point of focus to the controversy surrounding the detentions in Mumbai.Imran Khan And Lekha Washington Were Also DetainedNDTV reported that Imran, Lekha and Zayn were detained by Mumbai Police during the protest and released several hours later.

The Indian Express also reported on their detention and subsequent release, with footage emerging from the site showing the trio being taken into a police van.After they were released, Lekha shared an account of their experience on social media. She claimed that arranging transport home became difficult and alleged that cab drivers were being threatened.

Amitabh Bachchan Birthday: Shatrughan Sinha Wishes Big B, Calls Him Source Of Inspiration For Gen Z



Actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha extended warm wishes to megastar Amitabh Bachchan on his 84th birthday.

He described him as a national icon and a source of inspiration, particularly for the younger generation, including Gen Z. Taking to social media, Shatrughan Sinha shared a heartfelt birthday message for his friend and fellow actor, wishing him happiness, good health and a long life. "Many happy returns of the day, for our favorite friend, national icon @SrBachchan a source of inspiration to all, especially younger generation Gen Z. Wishing you happiness, good health & a very very long healthy life. God Bless! #BirthdayWishes," he wrote.Shatrughan Sinha also shared a couple of throwback pictures featuring Amitabh Bachchan. In the first photograph, the two actors are seen sharing a light-hearted moment. The next picture captures them seated alongside veteran actor Dharmendra, with Amitabh Bachchan holding Dharmendra's hand as Shatrughan sits between them. In the final photograph, Amitabh Bachchan is seen posing with Shatrughan Sinha's family, including his wife and daughter Sonakshi Sinha, at the launch of Shatrughan Sinha's book.

Amitabh Bachchan and Shatrughan Sinha have shared screen space in several iconic Bollywood films, including "Naseeb," "Shaan," and "Dostana."

Amitabh Bachchan, fondly known as the Shahenshah of Bollywood, remains one of Indian cinema's most celebrated actors. Over the years, he has earned widespread recognition for his versatile performances and remarkable contribution to the film industry.From his iconic roles in films such as 'Zanjeer,' 'Deewaar,' and 'Sholay' to his performances in more recent projects, Amitabh has continued to remain a prominent figure in Indian cinema. Beyond films, the actor has also won audiences over through his television appearances, particularly as the host of the popular quiz show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati.'

NEWS BOX

Ranjeev Puri eyes to be Michigan's first Indian-American House Speaker

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Indian-origin Michigan lawmaker Ranjeev Puri is eyeing the Speaker of the state house post in the November 3 elections.The 42-year-old Puri became the first Sikh American elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 2020, a first in the state's history.Born to Punjabi immigrants, Puri was appointed Democratic Party leader in the Republican-controlled 110-member House of Representatives in 2025.Michigan has a Democratic Governor in Gretchen Whitmer, but a Republican-controlled House with Matt Hall as the Speaker.

Democrats hope to flip the House in the November 3 elections and pave the way for Puri to become the first-ever Indian-American Speaker."Michigan Dems are on the move. We are about to flip the state house and make Ranjeev Puri THE FIRST Indian American State House Speaker in the country," said Haley Stevens, the US Congresswoman from the state, while campaigning for the elections.Stevens, who is set to retire from the US Congress this year after an unsuccessful bid to win the Democratic nomination for US Senate elections.Puri has worked on President Barack Obama's campaigns in 2008 and 2012.He later earned his MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and returned to Michigan, where he worked in the automotive industry.In his third term as member of the state House, Puri was appointed as the leader of the democratic party in the House in 2025.In the November 3 elections, Puri is pitted against Allison Kay Fuller of the Republican party.

Beachgoers Stranded In Cliffside Cave Rescued By Coastguard Teams In UK



world.(Agency)

Four men were rescued by coastguard officials after they became trapped in a cave near the coast in the United Kingdom. The rescue operation took place at Thornwick Bay in North Yorkshire, England, after the men struggled to swim in difficult water conditions, reported People.The Bridlington Coastguard Rescue Team said in a press release on Saturday, October 10, that it had received a report about four men struggling in the water.

When rescue officials arrived, they found that one man had reached the shore, another was still in the water, and the remaining two had taken shelter inside a cave.

Check Out The Post Here:

The Bridlington Coastguard, Filey Coastguard Rescue Team and Flamborough RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) worked together to rescue the men.The RNLI and Coastguard teams rescued the swimmer from the water. He was then transferred by cable to a rescue helicopter, which took him to emergency personnel waiting on land.Meanwhile, the officer in charge was checking the safest way to reach the two men inside the cave. The Coastguard team explained that the overhanging cliffs made it impossible to rescue them from the air.

The team then sent a cliff rescue team. A technician descended to within five metres, or about 16.4 feet, of the two men to assess the situation.

Government that works': Third parties, independents fight midterms and the US system

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Three's a crowd in US elections where in next month's midterms assorted outliers ranging from Libertarians to Greens will try vainly to break the Democratic-Republican grip on the system.Hundreds of third-party candidates are standing in the November 3 contest for the House of Representatives and Senate. But to the growing frustration of voters wanting to disrupt the status quo they have no chance of beating the Democrats and Republicans."Why am I standing? I ask myself that every morning," admits Tim Sharman, who is running as an independent for Virginia's 8th District seat in the House."I don't feel I belong in the Democratic Party, nor in the Republican Party. So I thought, let's have a go at shaking it up."I come with a business background, so I believe in solutions and collaboration across the spectrum."Sharman, 62, spent $40,000 on his push to gather the 1,000 verified signatures required to get on the ballot for the midterms.He relies on friends for logistical support in his one-man campaign under the slogan "Government that works. Politics that doesn't get in the way.""Actually running for office has been fun and engaging," he said."If you met me in a bar a year ago, I'd have opinions, but when you have to think through policy positions, it's a lot harder because there's always trade-offs, which has been an interesting exercise." Thune, R-S.D., told reporters.".Drift from main parties?A record high 45 percent of US adults identified as independent in a Gallup survey released this year, pointing to growing dissatisfaction at the Republican and Democratic parties that have had a stranglehold on power since the 1850s.Young people are much less likely to identify with either of the main two parties, the survey found, citing 56 percent of Gen Z-ers saying they were independent.For Dianne Blais, standing for Congress as a Green Party candidate is



not about winning but about continuing her work as a volunteer that ranges from serving in school positions to fostering children."I'm so unhappy and upset about what's happening in this country, and this is one thing I know how to do," said Blais, who has run for the Greens before.

She first joined the party to promote rail transport to ease road congestion, and now describes herself as primarily a peace activist, criticizing both Democratic former president Joe Biden and Republican President Donald Trump for failing to halt wars worldwide.

I just hope to educate a few people," she said.Blais cites Green candidate Ralph Nader, who won three percent of the national vote in 2000, as a major inspiration for the third-party movement -- though Ross Perot pulled in a huge 19 percent as an independent in 1992.

"The way the system is, there's just no winning when you're a third party," she said.US elections are almost all winner-take-all contests, meaning a party that wins 15 percent or more of the vote nationwide can end up with nothing, and no Libertarian or Green has ever been elected to Congress.

Ahead of Israel vote, desert town becomes frontline against ultra-Orthodox expansion

ARAD.(Agency)

Noam Cohen was driving to a bar on a Saturday two years ago with his wife and friends in his hometown of Arad, in southern Israel, when a group of ultra-Orthodox Jewish boys began shouting at passing cars.The drivers were guilty of violating the Sabbath, the Jewish day of rest. The boys also insulted the women in the group, including Cohen's wife."That's where I started to lose my temper," Cohen told AFP. "It touched me personally."The incident pushed Cohen to join a growing protest movement of secular residents, who say the expanding ultra-Orthodox population is reshaping the character of their hometown."It's no longer the same city I grew up in," resident Einat Jupiter said.As Israelis prepare to vote in parliamentary elections on October 27, tensions in Arad, where people took to the streets to demonstrate several times this year, have become a microcosm of a



broader national debate.An especially sore point is how Israel exempts religious students from military service, at a time that forces are stretched following three years of war.

"What's happening in Arad can reflect the future of the entire State of Israel," Cohen said. The ultra-Orthodox "simply have more children", he said. "You can't fight against that."

Ultra-Orthodox Jews account for more than 14 percent of Israel's population. Their share is projected to reach roughly one-quarter by mid-century. Their growing demographic weight, driven by a fertility rate of 6.5 children per woman, has translated into political influence.Two ultra-Orthodox parties support Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's governing coalition and have long wielded significant leverage over issues ranging from the military service exemption to budget allocations.

Who Are Houthis And Why Are They Attacking Saudi Arabia

Riyadh.(Agency)

Iran-backed Houthis have said they launched a new ballistic missile strike on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport, while Saudi Arabia investigates how its air defences failed to intercept a barrage of attacks from Yemeni rebels. Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said that the rebel group targeted the Riyadh airport with a ballistic missile, claiming the missile "accurately hit" the target, according to a report by the Xinhua News Agency. Houthis also claimed to have launched a drone attack on King Khalid Air Base in Khamis Mushait, southwestern Saudi Arabia, and said it scored a direct hit.



Meanwhile, the Saudi-led military coalition fighting the Houthis said that its forces intercepted a ballistic missile fired by the Iran-backed group at the capital, Riyadh. "Interception and destruction of a ballistic missile launched by the terrorist Houthi militia towards Riyadh," Major General Turki al-Malki, a spokesman for the coalition, wrote on X.A Saudi official, speaking on condition of anonymity, also told the Associated Press that it is probing the recent attack, intending to find out why air defence systems did not provide earlier warning of the strikes in which the Houthi missiles and drones flew over 1,000 kilometres to reach Riyadh.The incident, one of a string of Houthi attacks on Saudi airports since last week, has exposed vulnerabilities in Saudi Arabia's defence system and signalled a dangerous inflection point in an expanding Middle East conflict that began more than seven months ago when the US and Israel launched their war against Iran.It also raises questions about who the Houthis are and why Saudi authorities are increasingly struggling to fight them.

Who Are the Houthis: The Origin

The Houthis are a military, political and religious movement that rules over most of northwest Yemen and has disrupted global trade and energy markets with attacks on cargo ships and tankers in the Red Sea. The group emerged in far north Yemen in the 1990s as a revival movement for the Zaydi sect of Shi'ite Islam, which had once ruled Yemen but whose northern heartland had become impoverished and marginalised.

Trump says he is 'looking at' firing US envoy to Greece after mounting reports of improper conduct

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump said Monday he is "looking at" firing the American Ambassador to Greece Kimberly Guilfoyle after a series of reports alleging she has engaged in improper and possibly illegal conduct before and during her tenure in Athens."Well, we're looking at it," Trump told reporters at the White House. "We're not happy."His comments came a day after The Associated Press, citing a senior US official, reported that Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio are "extremely pissed off" by Guilfoyle's reported conduct and will likely decide on her future this week.

In a series of stories dating to late last month, The Wall Street Journal has reported questionable conduct by Guilfoyle, including making an alleged threat to a host country official, accepting improper gifts and services and offering to use her influence inside the administration in return for the payment of a large credit card bill.Guilfoyle has not addressed the reports directly, but in a statement released late Sunday, her lawyers denied she had done anything wrong and claimed that the money she was seeking from the Trump donor was payment for services — public appearances and speaking engagements that predate her ambassadorial nomination — that had not been paid.The lawyers, David Schwartz and Jesse Binnall, also rejected allegations of impropriety related to Guilfoyle's travel on private planes, saying that before every such trip she "sought, obtained and followed State Department guidance and followed the Department's travel regulations," they said.

"Ambassador Guilfoyle has served, and will continue to serve, with integrity, honor and distinction. We are evaluating all available legal remedies to collect this debt and any other potential causes of action," the lawyers said.After defending Guilfoyle following the first report, Rubio has declined to comment publicly on the growing allegations. On Wednesday, Rubio said: "Our ambassador has been a strong ambassador here."

But after another report appeared late Wednesday, Rubio on Thursday before leaving Athens berated journalists for asking about the allegations, saying he didn't know if they were true and that he would not respond if he could not confirm them.You guys walk around thinking that because some source told you something and you reported it, it's the gospel. It's not the gospel. It's not the gospel for me. That's not the way we do things," Rubio said at the foot of his plane as Guilfoyle, who was there to see him depart, looked on.

Machete-Wielding Men Brawl At UK Station As Passengers Watch In Horror

Police closed the station and launched a manhunt for the three men. They have also urged witnesses to come forward with information.

world.(Agency)

Chaotic scenes unfolded at Worthing railway station in West Sussex on Sunday after three young men attacked each other with knives. The disturbing footage of the incident has appeared on social media and has gone viral. It was recorded by a



passenger from inside a train carriage and shows two men attacking the third individual. One of those men wielded a machete-style blade; the men lunged and slashed at each other on the platform while the passengers looked at them in horror.British Transport Police later closed the station and searched for the three men, according to Sussex News.The police were called at 6.30 pm (local time) and the three brawling men had fled by that time, the outlet further said.

Two of the men were dressed in black and are seen wildly swinging their weapons in the viral video. As the train starts moving, the third man wearing a grey tracksuit runs from the other two men.It is unclear if any of the men were injured in the incident."Officers conducted a thorough search of the area with Sussex Police colleagues, however no one was found. Enquiries are ongoing," a British Transport Police spokesperson said.They have now asked people to any witness or anyone with information to come forward."Anyone who witnessed the incident or has information that could help officers and has yet to speak to police should text BTP on 61016, or call 0800 40 50 40, using the reference 543 of 11 October," a police release said.The closure of the station led to disruption of railway services as trains were diverted to East and West Worthing.

Trump takes out political frustrations on Zelenskyy and Ukraine. Here's why

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

With the US president's surprise deal on Russian diesel and his call for Volodymyr Zelenskyy to step down, Donald Trump appears to be redirecting the frustrations of his increasingly difficult midterm campaign.

It would not be the first time Trump has heaped criticism on his Ukrainian counterpart, who endured a memorably stormy on-camera meeting in the Oval Office in February 2025.But back then, the US president was riding the momentum of a thunderous return to power. Now, he faces a much more uncertain political position.

The vast majority of polls predict Trump's Republicans will lose control of Congress in the midterm legislative elections on November 3, as Americans grow more dissatisfied with rising prices, particularly at the gas pump.In an opinion survey published October 1, The Associated Press and University of Chicago found that 65 percent of US adults blame the White House for the high cost of living, especially Trump's tariff policies and his new war against Iran.The threat of Americans voting with their pocketbook helps explain Trump's Friday announcement that he will lift certain sanctions to allow Russian diesel imports, supposedly to ease prices.Trump has said his goal is to reduce pressure on the sectors that backed him in large numbers in 2024, such as agriculture, livestock farming and road transport.

"President Trump, despite his claim to the



contrary, I think, is acutely aware that the American public is holding him responsible for the significant rise in prices, including for diesel," Garret Martin, a professor of international relations at American University, told AFP."He knows that he only has a few weeks to try and change the narrative about these rising costs. So I think that's the main factor for this timing."

That aligns with British Defense Secretary Wes Streeting's assessment during a Sunday interview with Sky News."Let's be candid about this, midterms are coming up. Cost of living is an issue. And no doubt President Trump is feeling the same pressure that lots of leaders are facing in terms of wanting to ease cost of living pressures, energy prices," Streeting said.

Shift the blame'

Members of the president's own party have protested the Russia move, which backtracks on a law that Trump himself signed to tighten restrictions against Moscow.The 80-year-old Republican has also repeatedly condemned Ukrainian attacks on Russian refineries, snapping at reporters on Saturday that Zelenskyy "better damn well stop" the strikes.By contrast, Trump has not commented on the intensification in recent months of Russian strikes against Ukrainian territory, which have caused a surge in civilian casualties.Again Capital analyst John Kilduff told AFP that Trump's strategy is in part "to shift the blame and responsibility for the high prices for diesel fuel at the pump to the attacks by Ukraine and Russia, rather than the fact that there's little refined products getting out of the Strait of Hormuz right now."