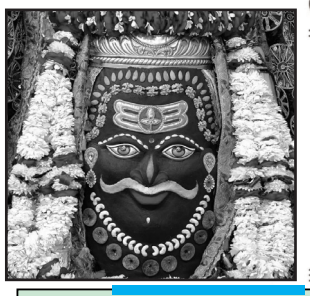
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AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi moves SC challenging SIR

New Delhi. (Agency)

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday moved the Supreme Court challenging the manner in which the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is being conducted.The top court agreed to hear the plea along with other pending petitions on the issue.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and 10 prominent opposition leaders have also moved the top court against the alleged malpractices in SIR and other related processes.

Advocate Nizamuddin Pasha, appearing for Owaisi, urged a bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi to list the petition alongside similar matters scheduled to be heard by the apex court on Thursday.

Referring to the petition, Pasha told the bench that the matter concerned the manner in which the SIR exercise was being conducted.

Responding to the request, the CJI-led bench indicated that it would examine the matter and the reference to similar petitions.Pasha submitted that the relevant cases had been identified in the memo accompanying his request for listing.

Owaisi's petition comes amid a series of legal challenges to the SIR process and voter deletions allegedly resulting from the revision.

Bengaluru CCB detains two over alleged defamatory post targeting Siddaramaiah

Karnataka. (Agency).

Central Crime Branch (CCB) of Bengaluru police has detained two people for questioning over an alleged defamatory social media post targeting former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, police sources said on Wednesday.Siddaramaiah had on Tuesday obtained an injunction restraining media outlets, including social media platforms, from circulating and disseminating defamatory content related to an



alleged sting operation.The Congress leader had also lodged a complaint with the Bengaluru city police seeking action against those spreading 'false propaganda'.Based on a complaint by the former CM, a case was registered at a Cyber Crime Police Station.

In this regard, two people were picked up and taken to an unknown destination for interrogation. Their names have not been revealed as the investigation was underway, sources said.The issue was much talked about in the political circle as BJP leader R Ashoka and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy termed it a 'sting operation' against Siddaramaiah.Congress MLA K N Rajanna has not ruled.

"Boundary Has To Be Stable":

S Jaishankar Sets Out India's Stand On China Ties

Speaking in a conversation with John Micklethwait, Editor-in-Chief of the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in Delhi, Jaishankar said India and China have no agreed border and that the issue has persisted for decades.

New Delhi(Agency).

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said peace and tranquillity in the border areas were essential to normalising India-China relations, stressing that any disturbance along the border would have consequences.

Speaking in a conversation with John Micklethwait, Editor-in-Chief of the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in Delhi, Jaishankar said India and China have no agreed border and that the issue has persisted for decades."We don't have an agreed border between India and China. This is not a new issue; it's been going on for multiple decades... From 1975 till 2020, a good 45 years, no blood was shed on that border. The last time there were fatalities was in 1975. In this period, India-China relations did grow," he said.

He said the situation changed in 2020, when a series of border issues culminated in a clash that resulted in the deaths of soldiers on both sides.

"Then in 2020, when we were in the midst of the COVID lockdown, we had a series of border issues, and it culminated in a clash in which a number of soldiers were killed on either side," Jaishankar said."For us, what it represented was a very profound departure from the situation that was prevailing since 1975. If the peace and tranquillity in the border areas are disturbed, then the relationship will have consequences.



Those consequences were very visible for the next five years until we were able to restore the peace and tranquillity. It took four years of negotiations," he added.

Emphasising India's position on normalising ties with China, Jaishankar said the boundary situation had to remain stable for broader bilateral relations to progress."The point we make to the Chinese is: 'If you want a normal relationship, if the rest of the relationship is to move, it's common sense. It's a no-brainer that the boundary has to be stable, that we need peace and tranquillity in the border areas.' As the border areas are settling down, they have settled down to a great extent since 2024; the relationship is commensurately moving towards normalcy," he said.

On whether India would consider allowing greater Chinese investment if an early harvest agreement were reached, the External Affairs Minister said discussions on the possibilities were ongoing, while clarifying that investment and market access policies would be addressed separately from the boundary issue."It's an active conversation. We are now looking at those possibilities, and we have to see where we go. But we are not insisting that you have to solve the boundary issue in order to do business. What we are saying is: the bar is lower. The bar is: please maintain peace and tranquillity. I wouldn't link the early harvest to anything other than the boundary question resolution. Anything we do on any policy we have on business, market access issues, etc., on investment, will be dealt.

WHO WILL QUESTION THE POWERFUL? REPORTED PURTI–ALLANA INVESTMENT LINKS RAISE AC COUNTABILITY QUESTIONS

Mahanagar Metro Desk

A major political controversy has drawn attention to the reported financial relationships between Purti Power and Sugar Limited, a company associated with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and his family, and companies linked to the Allana Group, a prominent name in India's meat-processing and export industry. The issue has once again brought the debate over cow protection, political accountability, corporate investments, and alleged double standards in public life into focus.The controversy raises a fundamental question: Is cow protection a principle that should apply equally to everyone, irrespective of political power and economic influence, or has the issue increasingly become a tool for political mobilisation?While political leaders frequently make strong statements about the protection of cows and cattle, the financial dealings of companies associated with influential figures can also attract public scrutiny. The reported investment connections involving businesses associated with the Purti Group and the Allana Group have therefore become a subject of political discussion.However, the precise nature and extent of these relationships must be established through original corporate filings and reliable documentary evidence. Financial investment in a company does not, by itself, establish that its investors or associates are directly involved in every business activity undertaken by that company.THE PURTI–ALLANA CONNECTION: WHAT IS AT THE CENTRE OF THE CONTROVERSY?Purti Power and Sugar Limited has previously attracted public attention because of its association with Nitin Gadkari and his family. Separately, the Allana Group has established a significant presence in India's meat-processing and export sector, including the export of buffalo meat.The controversy centres on claims that companies associated with the Allana Group invested substantial sums in businesses linked to the Purti Group. These reported financial connections have prompted questions about the relationship between corporate investments, political influence, and the public positions adopted by political leaders on issues related to cow protection.The key issue is not simply whether two businesses have a financial relationship. It is whether the details of that relationship have been accurately represented, what the relevant corporate records establish, and whether any conflict of interest or inconsistency in public messaging can be demonstrated.For a responsible assessment, the amounts invested, the



names of the investing companies, the dates of the transactions, the ownership structures, and the relevant shareholding disclosures must be examined individually.It is also important to distinguish between beef derived from cows and buffalo meat. India's meat-export industry includes buffalo meat, and references to beef exports should not automatically be interpreted as proof of cow-meat exports. Accurate terminology is essential when reporting an issue with significant religious and political implications.COW PROTECTION IN POLITICS: A PRINCIPLE OR A SELECTIVE CAMPAIGN?In India, cow protection is a deeply sensitive issue that frequently features in political speeches, election campaigns, public demonstrations, and social debates. For many people, Gau Mata represents religious faith, cultural identity, and an important part of their traditions.At the same time, controversies have repeatedly emerged over allegations that certain groups use the issue to target individuals, interfere with commercial activities, or take the law into their own hands. Such allegations require independent investigation, and any unlawful conduct should be addressed through the legal system.Against this background, questions surrounding the financial relationships of companies associated with prominent political figures have become particularly contentious.If a political leader or a company associated with that leader has documented financial dealings with businesses operating in the meat-processing and export industry, should the public not be entitled to a clear explanation of the nature of those dealings?Should the same standards of scrutiny apply to influential leaders that are applied to ordinary citizens?And if cow protection is presented as a matter of principle, should that principle not be applied consistently, regardless of political affiliation, economic power, or personal influence?These questions are central to the debate over accountability and consistency in public life.WHY ARE THE SO-CALLED COW PROTECTORS NOT ASKING QUESTIONS?One of the most contentious aspects of this controversy concerns.

Bhagwant Mann's Aide Manjit Singh Sidhu Joins Congress Ahead Of Punjab Polls

Chandigarh(Agency).

Manjit Singh Sidhu, former Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, joined the Congress in Chandigarh on Tuesday. Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) president Pargat Singh welcomed



him into the party at Punjab Congress Bhawan.

Sidhu's entry into the Congress carries political weight given his long association with Mann and his role in shaping the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) media and communication strategy in Punjab. Having worked closely with the Chief Minister for years, he was among the key figures involved in managing the party's media operations and monitoring its political messaging.His switch comes as parties begin preparing for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections. For the Congress, it brings in a leader with first-hand experience of AAP's organisational functioning, media management and communication strategy. For the ruling party, the departure of a former close aide of Mann is likely to draw attention to changing political equations ahead of the contest. Before entering politics, Sidhu was a journalist who worked with several Punjabi newspapers and held editorial positions. He joined AAP in 2014, when the party was expanding its presence in Punjab, and gradually became an important part of its state-level political and media machinery. He later became a member of the party's state.

She has lost hearing: Rahul Gandhi accuses cops of beating youngsters at protest

New Delhi. (Agency).

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday accused Delhi Police of brutally assaulting Youth Congress workers, who were detained during protests against alleged irregularities in electoral rolls, claiming that a woman student had lost hearing in one ear after being repeatedly struck by police personnel.At a press conference attended by Congress youth workers who alleged police brutality in Delhi, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi highlighted the case of Athira, a Delhi University student from Kerala, who claimed police personnel assaulted her inside a bus after detaining her during Tuesday's protest.

"Athira from Kerala has lost her hearing in one ear. She is deaf in



one ear because she was struck on that ear. She can no longer hear. Last time I showed you a boy who was blinded. Now, she is deaf in one ear," Rahul Gandhi said.Athira alleged that there were no female police personnel on the bus when protesters were detained."Yesterday, when they detained us, there were no female police officers on the bus. So, I simply asked, 'Where is the lady police officer or lady constable?' If they want to detain us, having at least one female constable present is mandatory," she said.

She claimed the bus subsequently moved and stopped outside the Connaught Place police station, where police personnel repeatedly struck her on the cheek."Because of this, I have an injury to my eye and damage to my ear," she alleged.Another NSUI woman worker also accused Delhi Police of assaulting.

Rahul Gandhi accused Delhi Police of brutally assaulting Youth Congress workers during protests against electoral roll revision, alleging at a press conference that a Kerala student had lost hearing in one ear, while other protesters claimed they were beaten with lathis and kicked in their private parts during detention.

Lost in fair, cops reunite 2 kids with families

Noida.(Agency)

Police have reunited two children who went missing at a fair at Noida Stadium with their families. Four-year-old Shivay, son of Rahul Mishra, a resident of Khoda in Ghaziabad, was traced and handed over to his father. Ishika (9), who became separated from her mother Renu, was also reunited with her.

In the first incident, Shivay got separated from his family while visiting the fair. His family members became distressed after realising that the child was missing and alerted the police. Police personnel posted at the spot launched a search operation, and a team found Shivay crying near the giant wheel around an hour after he went missing.In the second case, Ishika was similarly separated from her mother while visiting the fair. The police team quickly traced the girl and reunited her with her mother.Police also helped another visitor, Muskan, find her mobile phone after she lost it at the fair. Cops recovered the missing phone within 30 minutes and handed it back to her.To strengthen security and keep a watch on suspicious activities, police personnel have also been deployed in plain clothes at the fair.

MCG to use drones to map squatters around ponds

GURGAON.(Agency)

With encroachments emerging as a hurdle in pond development, MCG has directed officials to conduct drone surveys to demarcate pond boundaries and identify problem areas. The civic body has found that 60 of the 113 ponds under its jurisdiction are yet to be developed.MCG had identified 140 ponds within municipal limits, of which 113 are owned by it. Currently, work has been completed on 32 ponds, 21 ponds are being developed and the remaining 60 await work.MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya reviewed the work being carried out by the horticulture wing on Tuesday and set a Dec 2027 deadline for developing 30 ponds and a Dec 2028 deadline for the remaining 30.

Dahiya directed officials to address encroachment-related problems and use drone surveys to establish the boundaries of the ponds, which will help the civic body identify and resolve hurdles before development is taken up. The development is part of the city's larger water conservation effort since pond restoration will help preserve traditional sources and improve rainwater management.Dahiya added that MCG was also focusing on expanding green spaces while conserving natural resources and maximising their usage. "Efforts are underway to revive ponds, develop rainwater harvesting structures, and use treated wastewater for park irrigation. These measures are aimed at conserving water, improving the urban environment and making Gurgaon a cleaner and greener city," he said.

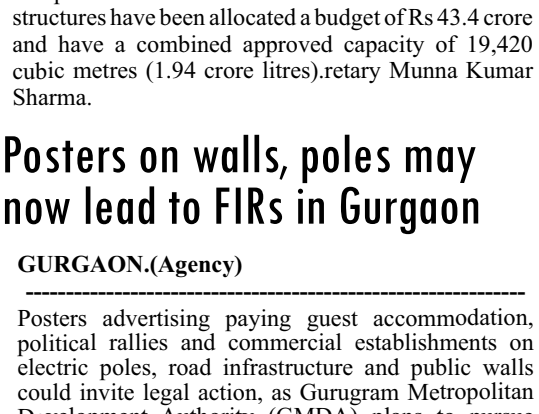
MCG has also approved 277 modular rainwater harvesting structures, of which 145 have been completed and 81 are under construction. The structures have been allocated a budget of Rs 43.4 crore and have a combined approved capacity of 19,420 cubic metres (1.94 crore litres).retary Munna Kumar Sharma.

Posters on walls, poles may now lead to FIRs in Gurgaon

GURGAON.(Agency)

Posters advertising paying guest accommodation, political rallies and commercial establishments on electric poles, road infrastructure and public walls could invite legal action, as Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) plans to pursue cases of defacement of public property. The authority will seek daily diary reports and registration of FIRs wherever warranted under the Haryana Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 1989.

These posters, banners and advertisements are frequently found pasted on walls, electric poles, road infrastructure and signboards across the city. People often do not seek permission from the civic body before putting up such posters. They create visual clutter and lead to the unauthorised use of civic infrastructure for publicity.The authority has now directed its field teams to identify instances of defacement and take action against those responsible. Complaints and instances of violations will be taken up with local police stations."Unauthorised posters pasted on public infrastructure affect both the utility and the aesthetic appearance of these assets. We often



find promotional material pasted on pillars, barriers and other infrastructure, including freshly painted surfaces, damaging the work that has been done," an official said. "The directions apply to everyone, including political groups, PG accommodation operators, coaching centres and commercial establishments."The authority said it would also conduct regular inspections and removal drives to prevent public infrastructure from being repeatedly used for unauthorised publicity. The drives are intended to check the practice of using public spaces for promotional activities without the necessary permission, with violators liable to face legal proceedings as per the law.

15,045 COMPLAINTS IN SIX MONTHS EXPOSE AHMED ABAD RAILWAY'S PASSENGER SERVICE CRISIS

Mahanagar Metro Desk

PAKKO GUJARAT NEWS | AHMEDABAD Railway Station, one of Gujarat's major railway hubs and among the country's busiest rail junctions, is facing serious questions over the quality of passenger amenities and the functioning of the railway administration. While the government continues to promote ambitious infrastructure projects, including bullet trains and modern railway stations, passengers continue to report problems with basic facilities during their journeys. According to figures cited in a recent report, a staggering 15,045 complaints were registered through the Rail Madad app and portal in just six months, bringing the issue of passenger inconvenience and service quality into sharp focus.DIRTY COACHES, FAULTY ACs AND FANS: PASSENGERS LEFT TO SUFFER-The large number of complaints reportedly points towards persistent problems involving essential railway services. From unhygienic coaches to malfunctioning electrical equipment, passengers are raising concerns over facilities that should be available as a basic part of their journey.Poor Coach Cleanliness: Passengers have complained about dirty railway coaches, overflowing dustbins and unhygienic toilets. Such conditions can make long-distance journeys uncomfortable and raise serious questions about the implementation of railway cleanliness standards. For passengers travelling for several hours, maintaining proper hygiene is not a luxury but a fundamental necessity.Malfunctioning ACs and Fans: Air-conditioning systems reportedly stop working during journeys, while non-functional fans leave passengers sweating and struggling to travel comfortably. Such problems become particularly distressing during hot and humid weather. Passengers expect prompt assistance when essential equipment stops functioning, but delays in resolving complaints can make the situation even more difficult.Inadequate Coach Maintenance: Complaints concerning damaged windows, broken seats and other



maintenance-related issues have also raised concerns about the condition of railway coaches. Passengers expect railway authorities to conduct regular inspections and ensure that defects are repaired before they become a source of inconvenience or potential safety risks.The situation raises an important question: when passengers pay the prescribed railway fares, why do they continue to face difficulties?

The Loneliness of Modern Man Amid a Crowd of Relationships

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki, Bhachau, Kutch

In today's world, people have countless individuals to talk to, thousands of contacts on their mobile phones, and innumerable friends on social media. Yet, they often feel the absence of even one person who will truly listen to what lies within their hearts. This is one of the greatest paradoxes of modern life.There was a time when family members would gather in the courtyard as evening approached. They would share the day's experiences, and the sound of laughter would fill the home with life. Today, everyone is absorbed in their own mobile world. Even people living under the same roof are gradually becoming strangers to one another. The exchange of messages has increased, but the sharing of emotions has diminished.Loneliness does not always mean



being physically alone. Sometimes, a person may be surrounded by people and yet be breaking apart from within. Such a person needs understanding more than advice and someone who can read the pain hidden in their eyes rather than merely ask questions.We often congratulate others on their success without making an effort to understand the struggles behind it. We see a smile on someone's face and assume that the person is happy. However, behind that smile may lie countless unfulfilled desires and silent sorrows.Keeping relationships alive does not require expensive gifts; it requires a little time, honest conversation, and genuine affection. A simple, heartfelt question—"How are you, really?"—can sometimes ease the burden weighing on someone's heart.It is good to achieve success, accumulate wealth, and earn recognition in the race of life. However, if we lose our humanity and the warmth of our relationships along the way, even the joy of success remains incomplete.

Spine Health Is a Lifelong Commitment, Not Just Pain Treatment

Mahanagar Metro Desk

World Spine Day is observed annually to raise awareness about spinal health, prevent spinal disorders, and encourage people to adopt healthy movement habits throughout life. The 2026 theme, "Spine Health for Life," highlights the importance of protecting spinal health through regular physical activity, appropriate posture, ergonomic practices, and timely professional intervention. The campaign calls for collective participation from physiotherapists, rehabilitation experts, occupational therapists, public-health professionals, researchers, patients, educational institutions, governments, and the general public. The World Spine Day campaign is supported by international organizations working across musculoskeletal health, including the Global Alliance for Musculoskeletal Health, the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, EUROSPINE, and relevant professional networks. Explaining the day's significance, Dr. Amit M. Patel (Ph.D.), Professor and P.G. Guide (Musculoskeletal Sciences), who is also a committee member with international health organisations, stated that spinal health is fundamental to mobility, functional independence, and quality of life. The spine supports the body, facilitates movement, and protects the spinal cord. However, prolonged sitting, physical inactivity, repetitive occupational activities, inappropriate lifting techniques, and inadequate physical conditioning may contribute to spinal discomfort and disability. Back and neck pain can affect people across different age groups, making prevention and early intervention essential public-health priorities. "Spine health should not be limited to treating pain after it develops. It requires a lifelong commitment to movement, physical fitness, and ergonomic awareness" Dr. Patel explained. He emphasised that maintaining an active lifestyle, taking regular movement breaks during prolonged sitting, strengthening the trunk and hip muscles, and gradually increasing physical activity can support spinal function. Rather than focusing on a single ideal posture, individuals



should be encouraged to change positions regularly and develop movement habits suited to their daily activities. Physiotherapy plays a central role in promoting spinal health, assessment, rehabilitation, and preventing recurrent musculoskeletal problems.

Traffic police adds 5 challan windows to cut queues, deploys 107 riders to curb violations

GURGAON.(Agency)

Motorists visiting the traffic police office in Sector 28 to pay traffic challans will no longer have to depend on a single payment window. The police have expanded the facility from one to six to reduce queues and waiting time. The move comes alongside the deployment of 107 traffic riders across the city with the cops stepping up enforcement against violations such as wrong-side driving, illegal parking and improper lane changes that contribute to congestion on busy roads.The traffic riders have been asked to intensify monitoring of violations, photograph offenders and issue challans on the spot or send e-challans, wherever applicable. The enforcement drive is expected to focus on busy stretches and congestion-prone areas, including Udyog Vihar, Civil Lines, MG Road, Rajiv Chowk and Old Railway Road, besides markets and other traffic hotspots."The increased deployment of riders is intended to help traffic personnel respond to violations on the ground and keep traffic moving, particularly at congestion-prone stretches," police spokesperson Sandeep Turan said.In a separate enforcement action, traffic police impounded a truck Tuesday after finding 242 pending challans against it, carrying a cumulative penalty of Rs 35,43,800. According to police, assistant sub-inspector Prashant, zonal officer at Bilaspur Chowk, intercepted the vehicle during routine checking on Oct 13.Police impounded the vehicle. The action is part of a wider drive against vehicle owners who have failed to clear traffic penalties for extended periods," a traffic police officer said, adding that motorists should keep essential documents, including valid insurance and pollution-under-control (PUC) certificates, updated and available.Kickstarting a rigorous campaign on Oct 12, traffic police issued 3,044 challans for various violations, including 266 for wrong-side driving, 220 for wrong parking, 163 for lane-change violations and 117 for dangerous driving.

Yamuna floodplain in Noida bears dangerous levels of nitrate contamination

Noida.(Agency)

Groundwater in Yamuna floodplains of Noida is contaminated with dangerous levels of nitrate. In at least two samples of the underground water tested by Central Ground Water Board in 2025, these levels were almost double the permissible limits. According to Bureau of Indian Standards, the permissible limit of nitrate in drinking water is 45 mg/L, whereas the water samples in Choroli, Jewar and Dadri in the same block tested at 95.4 mg/L and 74 mg/L for nitrates, indicating that the water is not at all safe for consumption or any other usage.

Data released by the Lucknow office of CGWB reveals that nitrate levels have often breached the safe limits in different parts of the district over the years. Responding to an RTI application filed by environmentalist Amit Gupta, the CGWB office has released the report of tests conducted at 13 sites in GB Nagar during 2025, while the study for the current year is in progress.According to the data released for the years 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, the tests were conducted at different numbers of sites in the district–the maximum being 13–and only twice–in the years 2023 and 2025–were samples tested from all these sites. At both the sites where the nitrate levels breached safe limits in the 2025 study, even higher concentrations were reported during the 2023 study, and they were found to be 160 in Choroli, Jewar and 72 in Dadri.According to BIS, higher levels of nitrate in drinking water can result in methaemoglobinaemia (Blue Baby Syndrome), and there is no relaxation in terms of the permissible limit and acceptable limit. "When a chemical compound is considered highly potent to cause damage to human health, no relaxation is given in terms of permissible limit," said one of the officials of BIS. While a range of 0.1 to 0.3 mg/L for manganese and 0.3 to 1.0 mg/L for iron is permissible–in the case of nitrates and



chromium, this limit is fixed at 45 and 0.05 mg/L of water.Higher levels of nitrate in underground water can be linked to sewage and industrial chemicals leaching into the underground water through rivers, which carry a huge load of effluents. Gupta said that he also suspected the role of chemical fertilisers and pesticides being used in an unmindful way. "I sought to know from CGWB about their study on agrochemicals and pesticides but the board confirmed that no study is conducted considering the agrochemicals and pesticides by the Lucknow office of CGWB," he said.

NEWS BOX

Rs 2.87 crore scammed with fake bait of foreign visa: Surat man stays in jail

Vadodara (Agency).
Canada, Albania and Finland were among the destinations that were allegedly promised to people who sought visas and overseas work permits. But the promise was part of an alleged Rs 2.87 crore fraud involving multiple mobile phone numbers and identities, social media contacts, and payments that were routed through 'Angadia' courier channels. The Gujarat High Court has denied bail to a 25-year-old man from Surat who is accused of masterminding the alleged fraud. The HC described the alleged scam as a serious white-collar offence. Justice Hasmukh D Suthar last week rejected an application by accused Ankit seeking regular bail in the case. Ankit, who has used the aliases Akshit, Raj, Rocky Patel, and Ashok Patel, has been in custody since March 23. The case was registered at Pal police station in Surat under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS) and the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act). Counsel for defence argued that Ankit had been "falsely implicated", and pointed to the absence of a conventional banking trail showing transactions.

Amid LPG crisis, raids conducted in Lucknow; 24 FIRs registered, 6 arrested for black marketing

LUCKNOW (Agency).
Amid the LPG crisis, Uttar Pradesh's Food and Civil Supplies Department conducted raids at 1,483 locations here and arrested six people in an operation to check black marketing of cooking gas cylinders, according to an official statement. The raids were conducted on Friday, along with the district administration.
As part of the operation, 24 FIRs were registered, said the statement issued by the Uttar Pradesh government late on Friday night. In line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's instructions, the Food and Civil Supplies Department and the district administration are continuously monitoring the supply system of LPG cylinders and conducting inspections and raids across the state so that no shortage or irregularity occurs anywhere, it said. In this regard, Chief Secretary S P Goyal has issued instructions to all district magistrates to take all necessary steps to maintain the availability of petrol, diesel and LPG cylinders. Uttar Pradesh is the first state to initiate swift and strict action against black marketing. Under this drive, enforcement teams at the district level conducted inspections and raids at a total of 1,483 locations on Friday, the statement said.
During this operation, four FIRs were registered against LPG distributors and 20 against other individuals involved in the black marketing of LPG gas. Six persons were arrested from the spot and prosecution was initiated against 19 individuals, it said.
Through 4,108 LPG gas distributors operating in the state, delivery of LPG cylinders has been ensured to consumers according to their bookings.

Hyderabad's disaster response agency clears lakes, drains to reduce flood risk

HYDERABAD (Agency).
The HYDRAA has intensified lake maintenance works across Hyderabad to ensure the unimpeded flow of rainwater into water bodies and reduce the risk of urban flooding during heavy rainfall. The agency has deployed its Monsoon Response Teams and Disaster Response Force teams to clear drains, remove accumulated silt and waste, inspect lake inlets and outlets, and remove obstructions along connecting channels. While the teams remain prepared to respond to flooding during the monsoon, HYDRAA is using dry spells to focus on lake conservation and cleanliness.
The works include removing water hyacinth, clearing weeds and thorny bushes along lake boundaries, and improving access to lake surroundings.
Bathukamma ahead
With the Dasara festival season underway, HYDRAA has prioritised lakes where people gather to celebrate Bathukamma. Teams are clearing garbage and other waste from water bodies and removing unwanted vegetation from their surroundings.
The lakes being covered include Lingam Cheruvu and Doolapally Lake in Quthbullapur, Gopi Cheruvu in Lingampally, Gurnath Cheruvu and Maisamma Kunta in Miyapur, Bathukamma Kunta and Mansoorabad Lake in Hayathnagar, and Saroornagar Lake.
Apart from removing accumulated waste, the teams are undertaking desilting wherever necessary and clearing water hyacinth covering the water surface.

From bank accounts to hawala: CBI traces Rs 2-crore trail to IAS officer's son

The investigators also seek to trace the entire chain of the Rs 2-crore cash transaction on January 22, 2026, identify those involved in arranging the money, and determine whether Goyal had arranged cash for any other public servant.

Chandigarh(Agency).
Amid the ongoing investigation into the Rs 504-crore IDFC First Bank fraud case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Chandigarh-based businessman Mohit Goyal for allegedly facilitating the arrangement and routing of Rs 2 crore in cash to the son of Haryana IAS officer R K Singh on January 22 through a hawala channel. Goyal, owner of M/s Chandigarh Mega Store, was arrested on Monday. The CBI has alleged that Singh conspired with bankers and other accused to illegally misappropriate funds belonging to the Panchkula Municipal Corporation and Kalka Municipal Council. The officer was arrested in June and subsequently suspended.
According to the CBI, the investigation found that Goyal knew M/s RS Traders and M/s CAPCO Fintech Services belonged to Ribhav Rishi, the IDFC First Bank branch manager who helped open Goyal's store account. Investigators alleged that Rishi played a central role in facilitating the diversion of government funds through fraudulent banking transactions and shell companies. Between October 11, 2023, and January 28, 2026, the accused firms allegedly transferred Rs 59.50 crore to Goyal and his firms, Chandigarh Mega Store and Bhagwati Agencies. The CBI further alleged that Goyal received Rs 59.50 crore through banking transactions, returned Rs 14.05 crore through banking channels, and handed back the remaining Rs 45.45 crore in cash. On January



22, 2026, Goyal allegedly arranged Rs 2 crore in cash through his store and contacts on Rishi's instructions. The money was routed through a hawala channel and allegedly reached the IAS officer Singh's son in Delhi that evening. Investigators alleged that the money originated from government funds siphoned off from the Municipal Council, Kalka, and reached the officer's son within 48 hours.Explaining Goyal's alleged role, the CBI stated: "The siphoned government money of MC (Municipal Council) Kalka thus reached a public servant within 48 hours, in cash generated through him and his network". The CBI further alleged that Goyal allowed the syndicate to use the bank account of his firm, Chandigarh Mega Store, and signed blank cheques whenever instructed. Of the Rs 58.68 crore received by his firm from the accused entities, Goyal allegedly transferred around Rs 54.04 crore to various individuals and jewellers on Rishi's instructions, without purchasing any goods or jewellery from them. According to the CBI, the recipients included Sawan Jewellers (Rs 5.99 crore), M B Gold (Rs 4.59 crore), Sham Jeweller (Rs 3.62 crore), Nitin Singla and Anita Enterprises (Rs 2.79 crore), Vintage Home (Rs 2.29 crore), and Bharat Distributor and Jatin Bansal (Rs 1.05 crore). When Goyal was produced before a court on Monday, the CBI sought three days of custody to ascertain how the Rs 45.45 crore allegedly returned in cash was handled, including the dates of the transactions, the persons who collected the money, and those from whom he arranged the cash.

Notice, reply & Masjid demolition in 3-4 days: High Court seeks Kutch Collector's response

Vadodara (Agency).
A show-cause notice, a reply and an encroachment order issued in quick succession preceded the June 21 demolition of Mohamadi Masjid in Kutch district. The Gujarat High Court has now sought the Kutch Collector's response to a petition alleging that the authorities acted before the mosque's managing body had a fair opportunity to challenge the encroachment proceedings.
Justice Niral R Mehta on Tuesday directed the District Collector, Kutch, to file an affidavit by October 19 and listed the case for further consideration on October 22. The High Court was hearing a petition, filed by Mohamadi Masjid Jamat through its trustee and mutawalli, Sidhik Tejmal Sama, challenging the action taken by the authorities and seeking a declaration that the demolition was illegal, arbitrary and unconstitutional.
According to the petitioner, the Mamlatdar, Bhuj (Rural), issued a show-cause notice on June 18 under Section 61 of the Gujarat Land



Revenue Code, alleging encroachment on government land. The notice was received on June 19 at 1 pm, leaving the managing body only two days to submit its response and supporting evidence, the petition states. The petitioner says it submitted a reply on June 20. However, an order dated June 19 had already declared, among other things, that the mosque was encroaching on government land. The mosque was demolished on June 21, before the managing body could effectively challenge the order, according to the petition. The sequence of events forms the crux of the contention before the HC as the petitioner has challenged the lack of time to challenge the notice.
The petition seeks quashing of the Mamlatdar's order and a declaration that the demolition violated constitutional protections and binding directions of the Supreme Court. It has also sought restoration of the mosque, compensation for the demolition and departmental, disciplinary and other legal action against the officials responsible.

Behind drugs, phone supply in Ludhiana jails, a well oiled nexus of jail staff, guards, inmates

Four FIRs name 22 accused, including jail superintendents, security guards and warder; drugs and mobile phones allegedly supplied in exchange for cash and online payments.

Ludhiana(Agency).
A series of recent FIRs have exposed an alleged nexus wherein prison staff have been found allegedly accepting money from prisoners or their families to allow inmates to smuggle drugs, mobile phones and other prohibited items into Ludhiana Central Jail and Borstal Jail.
In four such cases, 22 people have been booked, including 17 inmates, two jail superintendents, two security guards and a warder. The cases point to alleged collusion at multiple levels, with inmates' statements, recoveries of contraband and mobile phones, and an alleged admission by a contractual jail guard forming part of the investigation. Inquiry reports have also been submitted to the Punjab ADGP (Prisons). At Borstal Jail, which houses inmates aged 18 to 21, statements by four prisoners led police to book assistant superintendent Harminder Singh and warder Baljit Singh for allegedly supplying drugs, mobile phones and other prohibited items in exchange for money. The FIR, registered on September 15 at Division Number 7 police station, named inmates Jatin, Sahil,



Abhishek and Lovepreet along with the two officials under Section 48(iii) of the Punjab Prisons and Correctional Services Act.
In an inquiry report cited in the FIR, Borstal Jail Deputy Superintendent Jagjit Singh said the four inmates had disclosed that Harminder and Baljit "supplied them with phones, drugs and other banned items and took money in return". "They would provide phones to inmates during night hours and using those phones, inmates clicked their photos and sent them to their accomplices outside to make them viral so that the jail's image and reputation could be tarnished," says the inquiry report as cited in the FIR.

Rs 15 lakh per acre land sold for Rs 3 crore per acre: ED flags Punjab cricket body land deal, seeks FIR

Chandigarh (Agency).
Two real-estate developers bought agricultural land in a village in Punjab's Amritsar at around Rs 15 lakh an acre between August and November 2025 and sold the same the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) in February 2026 for nearly Rs 3 crore an acre — a nearly 20-fold jump in a few months, it has been learnt. Subsequent land transactions between the same developers in the village, however, were recorded at Rs 31 lakh to Rs 33 lakh an acre in July 2026. The transactions involving 19.5 acres, purchased by the PCA for a proposed sports facility, have now come under the scanner of investigating agencies with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) recommending the Punjab Police to register an FIR and probe the land deals.
"It is apparent that land acquired by the PCA was purchased by various individuals/entities shortly before and thereafter sold to PCA within a few months at multiple times their purchase price and that cognizable offences, including criminal conspiracy and cheating have been committed," the ED wrote to Mohali Senior Superintendent of Police Varun Sharma. "The information is being shared under Section 66(2) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for registration of an FIR, under appropriate sections…," the ED wrote.
The Indian Express analysed multiple sale deeds and subsequent mutations relating to the 19.5 acres in Bhalla village, as cited by the ED in its October 12 communication to the Mohali SSP. The same transaction details had earlier been obtained under the Right to Information Act by RTI activist Rajiv Vashisth. The sequence of events raises questions about the timing of the purchases and the sharp escalation in the price paid by the PCA. On August 2, 2025, the PCA's apex committee met to discuss the purchase of land for a stadium in Amritsar. Five days later, on August 7, Future Homes bought 19.5 acres in Bhalla village from Kashmir Singh for Rs 2.95 crore (sale deed No. 1085). On August 20, the PCA issued an advertisement seeking land for a stadium. On September 4, AGM Heights purchased 5.7 acres from Angrej Singh for Rs 86 lakh (sale deed No. 1221).



On November 28, the company bought another two acres from Satwinder Singh and Sahibjeet Singh for a total of Rs 50 lakh (sale deed No. 1761). On February 16, 2026, AGM Heights and Future Homes sold 19.5 acres of land to the PCA for Rs 58.22 crore through two sale deeds (Nos. 2324 and 2325). Four subsequent transactions between the two developers in Bhalla village on July 6 and 7 recorded prices ranging from Rs 31 lakh to Rs 33 lakh an acre. Former first-class Ranji cricketer Rakesh Handa moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court, alleging irregularities in the land purchase by the PCA management. His petition raised questions over the purchase of 18.5 acres in Bathinda and 19.5 acres in Amritsar. He also alleged that mandatory approvals from the PCA Governing Body or its Annual General Meeting had not been obtained for these purchases. On August 18, 2026, the High Court issued notices to the ED and the PCA management, seeking their response. On Tuesday, the matter came up for hearing again, and the ED submitted its preliminary investigation report. PCA president Amarjit Singh Mehta said the land had been purchased following the advertisement issued by the association in August 2025 and that any interested landowner could have approached it.

Pakistani child brides of the Thar Express hope for a brighter future for their children in India

Ahmedabad (Agency).
"People used to look upon us with suspicion. They say we have come from Pakistan and could be terrorists. Nobody would rent us a house and we spent many rainy days without a roof over our heads," said 31-year-old Rajnandini alias Saavi, a single mother of three children, who came to India in 2008 in a group of 50-60 people from Karachi, Pakistan.
Rajnandini not only got her citizenship certificate on Tuesday but also a shoutout from Gujarat Deputy CM Harsh Sanghavi from the stage during an event in Ahmedabad where 158 refugees were given citizenship certificates. Those who received the certificates comprised 126 beneficiaries under the



Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and 32 registered through the district collector's office, an official release said. An amendment in the CAA empowered collectors to grant citizenship in seven states and Union Territories.
Rajnandini said that after her husband Rajendra alias Babur died of COVID-19 during the pandemic, many people advised her to return to Pakistan because she has no other relatives in India. Her parents, eight sisters and three brothers live in the Chanesar Goth locality of East Karachi in Sindh province. But she refused, continued to raise her children while working as a seamstress and has now received Indian citizenship. "I never thought of going back to Pakistan. Because however bad things appear to be here, there are worse things across the border… I don't want to ruin the lives of my children by going back to Karachi," she said.

When Women First Found Their Voice

At the turn of the 20th century, a silent gender revolution was brewing in India—one that has sadly gone largely unnoticed by historians, sociologists, and feminists. India had its first brush with recording technology imported from Europe and America, through multi-national firms such as The Gramophone Company. European recording agents, with no knowledge of India's languages or music, were sent in as 'experts' to gather as many commercially viable recordings of 'natives.' Singing in high-pitched voices for foreigners in the absence of microphones during the era of acoustic recording and limiting one's presentation of an expansive art-form like Indian classical music to a mere three-minute capsule (which is all that an early shellac disc could hold) were creative challenges that unsettled most artists.

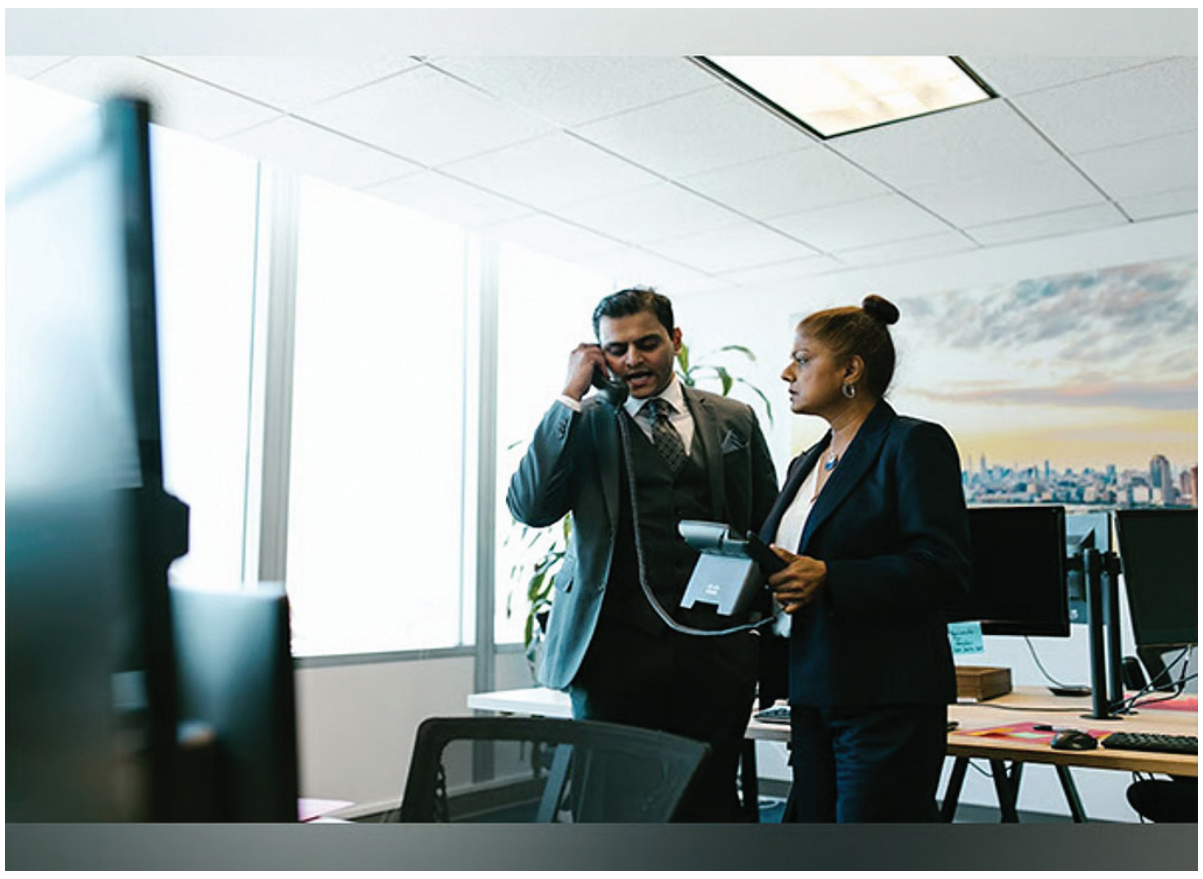
Yet, across India, while men largely stayed away, women stepped forward. Braving these challenges, they adapted their art to this new technology and its limitations, even negotiating commercial and copyright terms with European agents. Many of them came from tawaif and devadasi communities. In early recording expeditions of The Gramophone Company—in 1902, 1904-05, and 1906-07—women's recordings accounted for 80.95 per cent, 83.51 per cent, and 85.36 per cent respectively of the total recorded catalogue of Indian classical music.While some information on the North Indian women pioneers, including the celebrated Gauhar Jaan, are well-known, the southern counterparts are largely forgotten. Among the earliest recorded superstars of South India was Salem Godavari, who lived in (then) Madras' devadasi stronghold—Thambuchetty Street. Negotiating with the French Pathé Company that secured Godavari initially for 16 titles for Rs 300, she got herself a whopping raise to Rs 900 at the end of just two days! Her Carnatic music recordings sold widely and like her fellow-women artistes, she made a fortune. But by the time of her death in 1911, she had willed her property away to the famed Pachaiyappa College, Society for Protection of Children, Annanda Samajam, Salem College, Vedic School attached to Salem Theosophical Society, and for temple cars and a rest house for pilgrims at a Shiva Temple in her hometown Salem. Would these institutions even know of Godavari or her munificence today, one wonders.Another prolifically recorded artiste was Dhanakoti Ammal of Kanchipuram, who had family ties with the prima donna of Carnatic music Veenai Dhanammal. She had a wide repertoire of Tamil songs and knew several Ramayana kritis of Arunachala Kavirayar. It is said that at one of her concerts, an intemperate young zamindar once rudely addressed her by her first name, ordering her to sing a song from the Ramayana, causing angst to everyone including her. But she quickly composed herself and broke into song: 'Yaaru Da nee Korange?' (Who are you, O! Monkey!). While the repartee seemed apt for the rude man, this was actually a Ramayana song where Ravana questioned Hanuman on his first visit to Lanka. Her presence of mind and wit turned an insult into a joke, at the ill-mannered zamindar's expense. The erotic padams and javalis that women like Dhanakoti recorded are a treasure trove of a forgotten chapter of Carnatic music.

One of the more popular recorded artistes was Bangalore Nagarathnamma (1878-1952), daughter of the devadasi Puttulakshmi in Mysore. Their patron's insult of the young girl made the mother vow to made Nagarathnamma a star. By the time she was 15, she had been feted by the Mysore ruler Chamarajendra Wodeyar X. Her recordings in chaste Sanskrit and erotic Telugu padams were widely consumed. But in 1910, she courted a huge public scandal by publishing the 18th century erotic love-poem Radhika Santhvanamu (Appeasement of Radhika) of courtesan Muddupalani of Thanjavur.

The bold storyline, the inherent woman's voice and articulation of female sexual needs, drew loud social and moral protests. Legal cases followed. She was called a prostitute and adulteress who had shamelessly put out intimate scenes for commercial gains.

Do a Good Job, But Not Too Good a Job

Not doing too good a job is the kind of language associated with slackers, the unmotivated, and the directionless. It is definitely not going to be anyone's LinkedIn post any time soon



I was in Paris last weekend to give a lecture at INSEAD. My trip coincided with the Pope's visit so most roads were cordoned off and it was almost impossible to find buses or cabs. This meant walking across the city from one adventure to the next. The weather was great and being without a predetermined plan in Paris isn't the worst idea.

Around midnight on Saturday, I stumbled into a restaurant called Fitzgerald. For a brief moment, I thought of doing the responsible thing and heading back to my hotel. Thankfully, better sense prevailed. The most popular item on the menu was "a la Montaigne", named after one of my favourite philosophers. I was alone so I thought it best to enjoy "a la Montaigne" with my Kindle highlights of his essay Of Husbanding Your Will, in which Montaigne looks back on his years as mayor of Bordeaux. Its advice, in modern office language, is to do a good job, but not too good a job.For anyone who takes their work seriously, this is blasphemous. Not doing too good a job is the kind of language associated with slackers, the unmotivated, and the directionless. It is definitely not going to be anyone's LinkedIn post any time soon. This raises the question: was Montaigne really asking us to do a good enough job to not get fired and coast along?

In 1581, while travelling in Italy, Montaigne learnt that Bordeaux had elected him mayor. He tried to decline. Henri III then wrote to him in person, telling him to take up the post. Montaigne relented but set strict norms around what to expect from him. His father had held the same office, and Montaigne remembered him in old age, agitated by public business, neglecting his home, his health, and very nearly his life. Montaigne would be sorry, he told them, to let their affairs take hold of him that way. His principle was plain: Il faut se prêter a autrui et ne se donner qu'a soi-même. Lend yourself to others, and give yourself only to yourself. Most professions, he wrote, are a kind of theatre. We should play our part properly while remembering that it is a borrowed role. Le maire et Montaigne ont toujours été deux. The mayor and Montaigne were always two separate people.Montaigne was mayor during the Wars of Religion, when Catholics and Protestants were killing each other. He had seen strong beliefs turn neighbours into enemies. A mayor who treats every city dispute as a personal attack makes poor decisions, and a city at war needed a mayor who could stay calm.

Some critics called his time as mayor unremarkable. Montaigne replied that a city kept calm through a civil war gives people little to remark on. The graver charge came in 1585. Plague reached Bordeaux in the final weeks of his second term, and Montaigne chose to remain outside the city. Critics have held it against him ever since, claiming that distance from one's work can harden into distance from one's duty.

Even so, the advice holds up. Montaigne took the job seriously and kept enough distance to see it clearly. He protested unfair taxes on Bordeaux, hosted Henri of Navarre at his château to keep talks between Catholics and Protestants alive, and worked with the king's governor to secure the city's defences when the Catholic League plotted to seize Bordeaux.

None of this means Montaigne was an ideal mayor or that his principles should be emulated by all of us. His essay is simply a useful reminder that suffering or sacrificing for work is not a form of virtue. Even extreme workaholics can learn a ton from Montaigne if they take his advice seriously, not literally.Essentially, he argues that a healthy distance between what we work on and who we are is helpful. If what we work on and who we are are the same, Montaigne suggests that objectivity, happiness, and composure become elusive. For some, the gamble is worth it. For others, it is not.

Fight malpractice, but don't risk patient care

While concerns are legitimate, a CM's remarks warrant careful consideration. Generalisations that cast doubt on medical interventions risk undermining trust between doctors and patients

Keralam Chief Minister V D Satheesan's call to avoid unnecessary clinical investigations and angioplasty procedures driven by commercial interests has brought a pressing concern in Indian healthcare into focus. He alleged that financial incentives can influence medical decisions, with patients often pressured into expensive procedures without adequate time to reflect or seek second opinion. His remarks echo growing public anxiety over rising medical costs and commercialisation. Though the medical community remains divided over his criticism, there is broad agreement that medical ethics must be upheld and emergency care never be compromised.

While these concerns are legitimate, a CM's remarks warrant careful consideration. Generalisations that cast doubt on medical interventions risk undermining trust between doctors and patients. Cardiovascular diseases remain the leading cause of death in India, with diabetes, obesity and hypertension increasing the risks. Estimates suggest that roughly four Indians suffer a heart attack every minute. The country's cardiovascular mortality rate



stands at about 274 deaths per lakh people, above the global average. India reportedly records 4.5-6 lakh angioplasties annually, with the number growing by around 6 percent a year. These figures underline the urgent need to strengthen medical infrastructure rather than fuel suspicion about life-saving procedures.

At the same time, investigations and interventions driven by financial motives, not clinical necessity, expose patients to avoidable expenses and medical risks. Such malpractice must be identified and punished. But isolated instances of wrongdoing should not discredit the entire profession. When clinically indicated, angioplasty can save lives. Fear of unnecessary procedures must not discourage patients from seeking medical attention or delay treatment when every second counts. Patients must receive clear information about their condition, treatment options, risks and alternatives, and participate in decisions about their care. In medical emergencies, informed decisions must be made swiftly to ensure that life-saving treatment is not delayed.

The erosion of public trust in healthcare that this debate highlights calls for urgent corrective action. Doctors and hospitals must ensure that every intervention is evidence-based and that treatment decisions are transparent. Public discussion must distinguish between elective interventions and emergency care, where delays can have serious consequences. Governments must strengthen regulation and take firm action against proven malpractice. Satheesan's remarks have brought an important issue into public debate.

The diesel pact, double standards and the price of strategic partnership

The Trump-Putin diesel pact vindicates India's position, which has consistently been that its energy choices must reflect the welfare of its 1.4 billion citizens and the requirements of its economy.

On October 9, President Donald Trump announced an agreement with President Vladimir Putin for Russian diesel supplies to the US and global markets. Trump said Russia would supply more than 300,000 tonnes immediately, 500,000 tonnes in November and further shipments that could bring the announced total to roughly 4.8 million tonnes. The US Treasury promptly issued a general licence permitting specified transactions involving Russian diesel valid for six months. Trump's justification on Truth Social was straightforward: "Lower prices for Americans … is my greatest priority."

Coming days before Washington's own deadline of taking steps against buyers of Russian energy, the announcement exposes an uncomfortable double standard in US foreign policy: Washington has threatened punitive tariffs against major buyers of Russian energy, yet has made an exception for it's own purchases when domestic diesel prices became a concern.Three weeks earlier, on September 18, Trump had signed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act (SRIA) into law. Among other measures, it authorises the President to impose tariffs of up to 100% on goods from countries among the five largest importers of Russian origin crude oil or natural gas, as well as measures against certain facilitators of sanctions evasion. India, as a major buyer of Russian crude, could be affected. October 18 is the deadline for Trump to take the initial implementation steps prescribed by SRIA, though the precise application of the tariff provisions depends on the Act and Presidential decisions. The diesel pact, announced just nine days before that deadline, puts Washington's own energy calculations under the spotlight.India has earlier faced punitive US tariffs for buying Russian oil, including an additional 25% levy imposed in August that took the overall tariff burden on Indian goods to 50%, alongside threats of further secondary tariffs. Washington's argument has been that Russian energy helps sustain Moscow's war effort. Yet when domestic fuel prices became a pressing concern, the US turned to Russian diesel and issued a licence to permit the imports. The circumstances may differ, but the underlying question of national interest is the same.The Trump-Putin diesel pact vindicates India's position, which has consistently been that its energy choices must reflect the welfare of its 1.4 billion citizens and the requirements of its economy. Trump's justification mirrors the logic India has invoked for its Russian crude purchases: affordable fuel is a legitimate domestic priority. If the US can weigh energy security against its wider objectives, India has the same right to do so. The principle either cuts both ways, or neither.

The pact exposes the limits of Washington's campaign to use secondary tariffs to shape other countries' energy choices. SRIA remains in force, and the US may still impose tariffs on India and other countries within its scope. The diesel licence does not repeal SRIA or dismantle the wider sanctions regime. It does, however, reveal the discretion with which restrictions can be applied when American interests demand it. A policy that demands sacrifice from others while reserving exceptions for oneself undermines its own credibility. Any move to penalise India for buying Russian energy will now face an obvious question: why should Washington enjoy an exemption it denies others?

SRIA embodies the illogic of forced trade: deploying tariffs, financial leverage and economic coercion to shape the commercial decisions of sovereign states. Every country pursues its national interests. The question is whether Washington can compel others to accept constraints it relaxes for itself. India's energy security cannot be subordinated to another country's domestic political pressures, still less to a standard that Washington does not apply to itself.The diesel pact could ease price



pressures in some markets, although the additional volumes may have only a limited effect on global prices. India should welcome any genuine easing of supply constraints. As a major energy importer, it has a direct interest in affordable fuel. Diesel underpins freight, agriculture and small industry, and its cost affects prices across the economy. Yet, the significance of the pact lies less in its immediate market impact than in what it reveals about the relationship between energy security and sanctions policy.The implications extend to the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership of 2020. Washington has treated its own need for affordable energy as sufficient reason to adjust policy, while questioning India's equivalent calculations. That discrepancy belongs squarely in bilateral discussions. A genuine strategic partnership must accommodate differences over commercial choices without turning them into tests of loyalty. Strategic cooperation loses credibility when economic pressure becomes a means of demanding compliance on issues where national interests diverge.

The timing, with US midterm elections approaching on November 3, also highlights the importance of domestic political pressures. High fuel prices affect voters directly, giving the Trump administration an incentive to demonstrate that it is acting. The precise weight of electoral considerations in the decision is difficult to establish, but the broader lesson is clear: US policy, like that of other major powers, is shaped by domestic imperatives and can change when those imperatives change. India must plan accordingly rather than mistake strategic rhetoric for a guarantee of consistency.This is not the first time Washington's decisions have imposed costs on India. In 2019, the withdrawal of waivers for Iranian crude forced Indian refiners to reconfigure their supplies. More recently, changes to the US exemption for India's Chabahar engagement with Iran complicated a port project in which New Delhi had invested for years. These cases arose under different circumstances, but they illustrate how American decisions can disrupt Indian economic and strategic initiatives. The diesel pact reinforces the need to account for such uncertainty.

Everyday Habits that could be ruining your Skin



There are some habits we indulge in unknowingly, and frequently, that can become extremely harmful for our skin health. Trying to treat your skin with information researched online, or taking cues from your friends could be detrimental and land you with some major skin problems. Here's looking at some skin-sins that experts say, you should avoid..

Buying over-the-counter medicines

Using over-the-counter medicines, without having complete knowledge of them, can cause damage to your skin. Dermatologist Dr Shefali Trasi Nerurkar says, "Every individual has a different skin type. Hence, any treatment cannot be standardised. It's commonly observed that if a patient is given a treatment for any skin condition and if their relative suffers from a similar problem, they tend to use those medicines without consulting the doctor. Such cases have damaged many patients' skin."



Going by the bran value of cosmetics

Another common mistake most women make is using wrong cosmetics, solely relying upon their brand value. Just because you watch an advertisement that promises to do away with wrinkles in a few weeks, you should not dab it all over face and wait for the miracle to happen. "Before using the cosmetic on any part of the fact, check it by doing a patch test on the hand or behind the ears," says Dr Trasi.

Scrubbing skin to become fairer

According to Dr Trasi, rubbing and excessively scrubbing the skin, trying to make it fairer, is a myth. Instead, it becomes darker by these methods.

Using Steam at home to clean your face

Dermatologist Dr Apratim Goel says, "Skin needs steaming to open the pores, but it needs to be done at a certain temperature. Moreover, the skin has to be prepped for that, or else it may not only burn the face, but can also dehydrate your skin."

Using hot water to wash your face

Using extremely hot water for bath and washing your face with it can be damaging. Dr Trasi says, "Hot water removes all the oils present in the skin and as a result, the natural moisturisation is lost with it."

Waxing your face

Excessive facial hair can be a big problem for some women and sometimes, local salons suggest waxing to get rid of it. Experts warn that this can be harmful. Waxing tugs at the delicate facial skin and could lead to early wrinkles. Dr Goel says, "Waxing your face to get rid of excessive hair is a blunder, but still most of us have done it at some point in our life. Of course, if the hair is thick, laser hair removal is the best, but one could go for bleaching too. Waxing is traumatic to hair follicles and can lead to infection and inflammation. This can result in scars which are difficult to treat."

Using a razor on face: There are women, who have excessive hair on their sideburns and they resort to drastic measures like using razor on their face to get rid of it.

Cosmetologist Dr Rashmi Shetty says, "Whenever you shave, the new hair that grows is darker and thicker than before." She explains that natural hair on a woman's face is light and fine because they are at a resting phase. "However, after a woman shaves the hair on her face, it changes and now, is at a growing phase. A good alternative to reduce excessive facial hair is laser removal treatment. This technique not only helps in hair removal, but reduces its growth in six to eight sittings. However, if your facial hair is fine and matches your skin colour, then do not get tempted to go in for a laser treatment as it may not help at all and lead to paradoxical growth and excess hair."

Haircare mistakes you should avoid

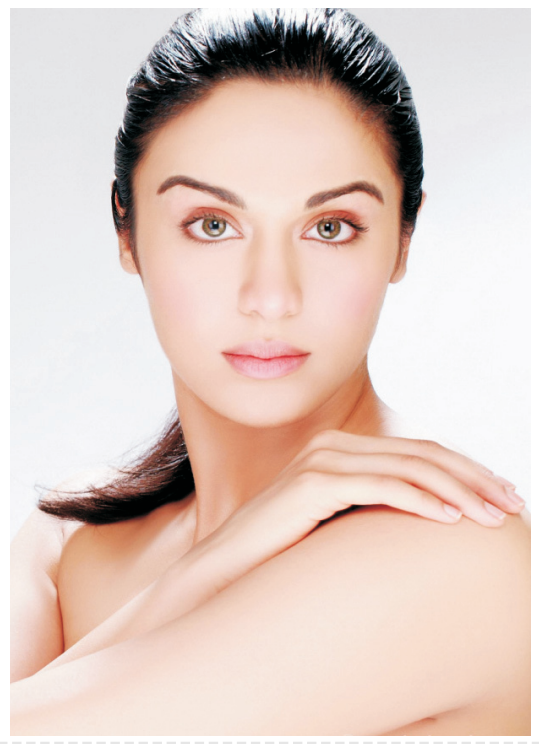
- Tying your hair tightly can lead to hair loss (tractional alopecia). Hence, keep your hair loosely tied. - Avoid combing hair too frequently. It can cause hair breakage. - Frequently oiling of hair may not remove or treat dandruff. In fact, it is likely to increase it.

DIY guide for a gel eyeliner

Method - Take the tweezer and scrape off the black eyeshadow into an empty bowl. - Take a spoonful of petroleum jelly and mix it well with the scraped eyeshadow using a spatula. - Now keep alternating between the eye shadow and petroleum jelly, till you have a considerable amount in the bottle. - Once you have the consistency that you require, store the bottle in the refrigerator.

What you need

A black eyeshadow - Petroleum jelly - A spatula - Tweezer - A small empty bottle



5 things girls with wavy hair struggale with

Being an Indian, you are obviously used to wavy hair, as it is the most common hair type in our country.



Although it doesn't seem that much an issue to many, only girls with wavy hair know what they have to go through on a daily basis. Here are five most common struggles every wavy hair girl goes through.

Too many bad hair days

You are just used to your hair looking horrible; its not that long after you had a hair wash, but the next day after a hair wash feels like a disaster. Even a few drops of water or a strong wind can make it a mess.

Letting it dry on its own is like taking a huge risk

You never take the risk of letting them dry on their own; you always make sure you either blow dry it or tie ti into a bun to take a certain shape, than go frizzy and all over the place.

You can never experiment with bangs and bob

So what if you have a playground-size forehead or are feeling extremely uncomfortable to manage you long hair during summers, you have no choice but to keep it as it is; since no other fancy hairstyle like a fringe, bangs or bob will ever suit your hair type.

There are several occasions when you had to stay in because of your hair

Its never your clothes or non-waxed legs that have stopped you from going out, it is your silly way hair that have ended up looking disgusting after a long day at work or travel. You can never bank on them to make you look good on a day when your face or body doesn't feel like.

Any new hairstyle or treatment ends up looking the same

Just a hair wash, and all the moolah you spent on getting that new haircut from that plush salon, will go the drains. No matter how stylish the hair cut or style is or how good a hair spa or conditioning treatment is, you hair ends up looking the same.





Taking right care for your teeth is essential not only to keep them in good health but also to keep them bright and shiny. And there are only few simple do's and dont's that can give you a bright smile.

Do's and dont's for shiny white Teeth

Maintaining shiny white teeth is simpler than you think. Read on to know how

Don't:

Avoid baking soda as much as you can. While it might be good for many things, it starts to remove the enamel from the teeth resulting in yellowness.

Avoid fruits and other foods that have dark color pigmentation. Food items like soy sauce, marinara sauce etc have dark pigmentation that can stain your teeth.

Avoid drinking those much marketed energy drinks. They are not as good as they tell you, especially for your teeth. The acids they contain have eroding effects which can remove the whitening from your teeth.

Do's:

Keep your toothbrush updated. Replacing your toothbrush every three months is a good idea. Or any time you feel your brush looks worn-out, make sure you get a new one. Get a good quality toothbrush.

Keep your tongue clean. Cleaning your tongue is not only about having fresh breath, but also keeping away bacteria that can cause discoloration.

Eating fruits is a good idea for retaining the whiteness of your teeth. It is said that eating fruits helps in cleaning the teeth and also keep them healthy.

Rinse your teeth every time after eating citrus fruits like lemon, oranges and limes as they contain acid that erodes enamel.



Tips to reduce Hair breakage this winter





If you thought your precious locks were safe in the three-odd winter months, think again.

Dry and brittle hair, flaky scalp and sticky tresses are common occurrences this time of the year, all thanks to the cold spell. Bidisha Dip, a trichologist, says, "Hair is vulnerable to damage because of changes in the environment. Loss of moisture, exposure to dry air and not giving due importance to a haircare regimen are some of the reasons why you end up with damaged hair." Some simple tricks and a little TLC will ensure your locks don't lose their lustre this season.

Condition More Than You Shampoo

Even if you are hard-pressed for time, make sure you condition at least once every alternate day because it's dry hair that breaks easily . Alaynna Angami, a beautician, says, "Avoid shampooing your hair every day because the chemical ingredients will only do more damage in this weather. Instead, use an intensive conditioner regularly. Cold weather absorbs all the moisture in the hair. So, when you are choosing products, look for those that can retain it. You can also use leave-in conditioners."

Massage Your Scalp And Oil Your Ends

While a good scalp massage will help you cleanse flakes and dandruff, oiling your strands will control split ends and boost volume. Bidisha says, "A good massage boosts blood flow to scalp and encourages hair growth. Use oils that are thick and viscous, like castor, olive, jojoba or almond."

Sleep On Silk

Wrap your hair in a silk or satin scarf when you hit the sack. Divya Raj, a primary teacher, says, "Satin can actually prevent friction between the hair and pillowcase. So, I braid my daughter's hair till the ends and wrap it in a silk scarf. The hair fall has visibly reduced."



Trim Once In Six Weeks

At least in the cold climes, it's advisable to trim the ends of your hair once in six months. Alaynna adds, "We suggest people to come in for a trim once in 10 weeks. But during this season, it's recommended to go for a trimming session once in six weeks because it's a great way to keep the ends from splitting."

Protect Hair From Heat

Avoid using heat on hair And that includes hot water, curling irons, straightener, even hair dryers. While hot water dries the tresses, hot air sucks away all the moisture.

Don't Leave Your Hair Wet

Towel dry your locks before stepping out of home. Stepping out of home in the cold with wet hair not only breaks them, but also gives you a cold!

Keep Your Tresses Covered

Style your hair such that the ends are a l w a y s tucked in.Preferably, twist them into buns so that the strands are h i d d e n from cold.This helps in reducing loss of moisture.Gauri S, a sales executive, says, "I wear a soft scarf when I'm stepping out. If I'm wearing woollen, then I'm doubly sure that my hair doesn't come in contact with the material. Because wool is rough, it can cause a lot of damage to delicate hair strands."



5 inside-the-mouth facial for stress-free skin

While facials and spas for rejuvenation are the norm, high-tech facials are the new beauty buzzword for women in the city.

With the promise of no-redness, no skin damage and no downtime, these super facials, which they're often referred to as, are gaining quite a fan-following off late.

The buccal technique

What makes this facial different is the fact that it is done inside the mouth. It consists of massaging facial musculature like the upper lip, cheek and jaw area, often the stress zones. Says Dr Radhika Khona, a cosmetic dermatologist, "It is one of the most effective facials as the massage is done from within your month, where the actual pressure points and muscles that determine the shape and structure of the face lie."

Benefits Tones the facial muscles Improves blood flow and hence promotes oxygenation of the skin cells Results in contoured and plumped-up skin

Duration

A 60-minute intense technique that focusses on the deeper pressure points and lymphatic massage movements around the jaws and gum.

Triple action facial

This facial works on all the three layers of skin — epidermis, dermis and the subcutaneous tissue — by combining three high-tech procedures of diamo microdermabrasion, acoustic wave therapy and infrared laser in a single session. "This facial affects the deeper layers of the skin and helps in the release of skin-firming collagen, which makes the treatment quite beneficial," says dermatologist Dr Nihar Mistry.

Benefits Works miraculously on blemishes Soothes slack skin Helps get rid of premature signs of aging like fine lines and wrinkles Duration A one-hour procedure involving exfoliation procedure before the treatment; it is done with a diamond tip to peel off rigid dead skin cells

Photo facial

As the name suggests, the facial involves the use of a bright burst of BBL (broadband light) that penetrates through the skin. By utilising specific light parameters, this procedure helps improve the tone, texture and elasticity of the skin with no downtime. Dermatologist Dr Geeta Oberoi says, "This facial not just rejuvenates your face, but your neck and decolletage. Being a mechanical procedure, it is painless and can be done on any skin type. It specifically works on lines and wrinkles."

Benefits n

Reduces hyper pigmentation, excessive sun-damage, wrinkles, age spots and other signs of ageing

Helps the skin get rid of acne and birthmarks Stimulates collagen in the skin Makes the skin youthful

Duration

A 60-minute treatment, the skin will have to be free of any sunscreen, cream or make-up before the procedure. Men need to shave at least five hours before undergoing this facial.

Oxygen facial

A simple procedure that introduces hyperbaric or a pure form of oxygen at high pressure directly into the skin's pores using an airbrush. The oxygen used in this facial is usually treated with a number of skin-beneficial supplements like vitamins. Dr Geeta says, "Since it involves introducing oxygen into the skin, it acts as a healing tool to improve the appearance and texture of the skin. A small dose of nourishing serum is also added to penetrate through deep layers of the skin and thus open the skin channels so that the serum soaks into it."

Benefits n

Improves blood circulation Rejuvenates the skin, makes it blemish-free Helps get a clearer complexion

Duration The procedure is quick and painless and needs exfoliation before it begins. It does not involve using chemical peels. It simply oxygenates the skin for a more healing and soothing effect. Unlike other facials, one can resume normal activities as well as apply make-up soon after the procedure.

A-lift facial

It involves using nano current technology (small electric currents). These currents synchronise with the natural frequency of our body, which then help to combat ageing by working at the cellular level. Skin specialist Netra Prabhu says, "Small measures of current are used for this facial, as they perfectly sync with our skin wavelength. Although high tech, this facial causes absolutely no harm and has no side-effects at all."

Benefits n

A visible improvement in skin texture, muscle tone, deep lines and wrinkles Makes the skin firm and lifts it Enhances the radiance by improving the blood circulation

Duration

In just a 55-minute session, it works to recharge the cells of the skin by boosting the ATP levels (adenosine triphosphate), triggering the rejuvenation process quickly.



Here's how to trim your own Fringe

Having a fringe gives your hairstyle that edge and takes years off your face.

But one inconvenience that comes with having a fringe is the need to get it trimmed every now and then, especially if your hairdresser charges a bomb to do it. However, with the right equipment and a little practice, you can trim your own fringe. Here's how...

1. Get the right equipment: Don't make the mistake of using nail or kitchen scissors to trim your fringe. You'll need haircutting shears, along with a comb.

2. Style your hair first: Style your hair and your fringe as you



normally would so that you trim your fringe to suit your hairstyle.

3. Separate your fringe from the rest of your hair: Do this by clipping up all your hair, except for your fringe. This way, you won't cut into the rest of your hair by accident.

4. Start the actual trim: Pull your fringe down in front of your face and make sure it's even. Insert the comb under your fringe and pull it down till where you want to cut your fringe. Then, position your scissors in such a way that they're pointing upwards, perpendicular to the line of your fringe. Cut into your fringe, starting in the centre, and working your way outwards till you reach the middle of your eyebrows. Work on the outer sides of your fringe by inserting your comb under those areas and holding your scissors at a 45-degree angle and then start to trim.



5. Check to see if your fringe is even: Move your fringe around with your fingertips to check whether it's even and is the way you want it to be.

TIPS

- Do not wet your fringe when you're trimming it. This is because wet hair is longer than dry hair, which means you could end up cutting your fringe too short when it's wet.
- Do not cut straight across your fringe as this will give it a more severe and less natural look.

For Delhi voters facing SIR notices, relief comes knocking on the door

As the Election Commission speeds up the disposal of SIR notices in Delhi, BLOs are collecting documents at voters' doorsteps and some cases are being cleared without formal hearings. But for many residents, proving eligibility still remains a challenge.

Newdelhi. (Agency)

Mohammad Suhail rides his scooter through the narrow lanes of Sarai Kale Khan village in South East Delhi, stops outside house number T 112 and calls out, "Nasir bhai". He knows these lanes well. He grew up here.

This time, the booth level officer (BLO) is here to collect documents that could determine whether Nasir's name stays on Delhi's electoral roll. Nasir, who works odd jobs at construction sites, has received a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) notice because his name could not be linked to the 2002 electoral roll, when the last SIR was conducted. This, despite having a voter ID and living at the same address with his wife, Khatoun, for years. As Suhail had called ahead, Khatoun was ready with photocopies of everything she could think of – an electricity bill, bank passbook, Aadhaar card, ration card and more. She hands over the papers, and Suhail clicks a photograph of her with the notice before leaving on his scooter. Nasir is away at work. He can afford to do so – he does not have to make a trip to the election office and appear for a hearing. Most importantly, he does not lose a day's wages. Once Suhail uploads the documents on his app, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), if satisfied, will approve Nasir's inclusion in the final electoral roll. The doorstep visits by BLOs reflect a series of measures the Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced recently to speed up the disposal of SIR notices. These include automatic resolution of cases involving logical discrepancies and reduced scrutiny of documents. Earlier, electors had to appear at a designated time at the local election office with documents to establish their eligibility. At its September 26 meeting – the first since The Indian Express reported on September 23 on the deep divide within the ECI – the poll panel simplified the process, directing BLOs to collect documents from electors at home instead.But door-to-door visits are not always easy. Another BLO in the Jangpura Assembly constituency, which includes Sarai Kale Khan, said that confusing house and street numbers as well as a high number of rented rooms, which are often not numbered, make locating voters difficult. "I still call people to a central location because going to every house is very tough," he said, sitting inside the village's familiar Shiv Mandir. Of the 116 electors marked for notices under his charge, 48 were flagged for "logical discrepancies", while 68 could not be mapped to the previous SIR roll. Such discrepancies arise when the ECI's software finds mismatches while linking a voter to a parent or grandparent on the earlier roll. Since October 2, all his 48 cases have shown as "resolved" on his system, sparing him the task of collecting documents. The reason: The ECI has updated its portal (ECINet/ERONET) to allow EROs to dispose of cases and mark electors as eligible without a formal hearing. Since September 30, just a letter by BLOs saying they were satisfied with the elector's details suffices, said sources. The ERO did not confirm whether the nearly 15,000 logical discrepancy cases in the constituency had been resolved.



'Ramlila Maidan booking rules for festivities not reasonable': HC says frame policy every year

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi High Court has directed authorities concerned to frame "comprehensive" policies every year on allotment of Ramlila Maidan for festivals, saying that with the current first-come, first-serve rule was not reasonable. Delhi Police has designated the ground as a protest site, although no detailed SOP has been issued. The order was issued by Justice Amit Mahajan last week and made public on Monday. The court was hearing a plea by Rays of New Beginning Foundation, an NGO, whose application to conduct Dussehra festivities on the ground was rejected by government authorities on the ground that it had already been allotted to another party.

The NGO pointed out that as per a Delhi Development Authority's policy dated September 1, societies that had booked the site in the past will be given preference. The NGO had organised festivities at the ground in 2023 and 2024. Meanwhile, the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) submitted that in case of multiple applicants, it decides allotment on a first-come, first-serve basis.

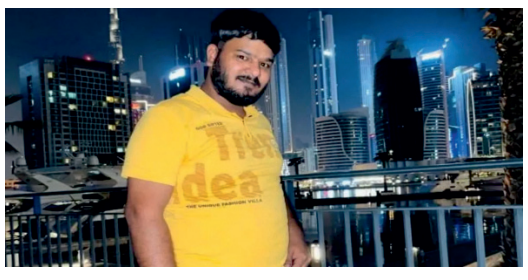
Justice Mahajan said, "At first sight, the expression 'first-come, first-serve' seems to embody an objective rule, that is, an applicant who approaches the authority first would obtain priority. However, merely because a policy is mechanically ascertainable does not translate to mean that the same is also constitutionally reasonable and in consonance with public policy. The determinacy of a criterion and its inherent rationality are two distinct questions. Consequently, the policy of first-come, first-serve does not find favour with this court…" The court reasoned that such a policy "creates an unequal race for information", and the first to come cannot mean that they bear the strongest claim to a public facility.

Man killed in Delhi bar brawl after beer-spill on manager's wife

Delhi. (Agency)

A group of friends had gathered for a drink at a nightclub in North Delhi's Inderlok when one of them accidentally spilled beer on the wife of the club's manager. An argument followed, and within minutes, the night of drinking and dancing turned violent.

The owner, manager, and bouncers allegedly attacked the group, punching and kicking them around 3 am on October 11, police said. As some scrambled for the exit, others were trapped inside. Among them was 29-year-old Daljit, who became unconscious. When his two



friends carried him out, they too were allegedly assaulted. According to the police, the accused then bundled all three into an autorickshaw and told them to throw Daljit into a drain. Hours later, Daljit, a cab driver, was dead. Five people – three bouncers, the manager and his wife, whose birthday was being celebrated – were arrested on Monday. DCP (North) Niharika Bhatt identified them as Dilawar, Sharvan Kumar, Sunny alias Gaurav, Vikas Balyan and Harshita, Sunny's wife. The incident took place at Tor House nightclub near Ashok Park Metro station under the Sarai Rohilla police station area, said police. Daljit, a resident of JJ clusters in Raghuvir Nagar and the sole breadwinner of his family, is survived by his wife Pooja and an eight-year-old son.

Police said the Inderlok police post in-charge has been sent to District Lines for dereliction of duty after the club was found operating until the early hours of the morning.

Delhi Police cite 'repeated' violations as two CJP leaders are sent to Tihar

Delhi. (Agency)

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das allegedly made repeated attempts to disturb public peace and violate the law, said the Delhi Police after the two were arrested on Wednesday for entering the now-denotified Jantar Mantar protest area allegedly without permission on Tuesday.

They have been sent to five-days of judicial custody to Tihar jail.

How 14 CJP members snuck into Jantar Mantar

On Tuesday, a group of 14 — including leaders Ranka, Das and Ajinkya Shinde — allegedly came through a narrow lane behind the Janata Dal (United) office, climbed over a locked iron gate and got into the protest site, where they unfurled the Tricolour and raised slogans before being detained, sources in the police said.

Police claimed CJP members had allegedly conducted a reconnaissance



of the area on Monday night to identify a way into the site, which was heavily barricaded and guarded. "On October 13, Saurav Das, Ashutosh Ranka, Ajinkya Shinde and 11 other members of CJP reached Jantar Mantar, which has been denotified as designated protest site, by trespassing through private premises," said the police statement. A police officer claimed that when police officers tried to stop the group, they jostled them to enter the protest site, and obstructed police personnel in their duties.

2 cases lodged

Two separate cases were registered against the group. One was at Connaught Place police station under sections of disobedience of an order given by a public servant, house trespass, and criminal conspiracy. The second was registered at Parliament Street. "In view of their alleged repeated attempts to disturb public peace and violate the law, Ashutosh Ranka, Saurav Das and Ajinkya Shinde were arrested under the relevant preventive provisions of law.

CJP's Saurav Das, Ashutosh Ranka get 5 days in jail for entering Jantar Mantar

Delhi Police will produce Ashutosh Ranka, Saurav Das, and Ajinkya Shinde before the Special Executive Magistrate Court at Mandir Marg on Wednesday.

Delhi. (Agency)

Cockroach Janta Party leaders Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das, who entered the now-denotified Jantar Mantar protest area allegedly without permission on Tuesday, have been arrested and sent to five days of judicial custody. They have been sent to Tihar jail. The Delhi Police produced them before the Special Executive Magistrate Court at Mandir Marg on Wednesday morning after placing them under them preventive arrest.

Preventive arrest gives police the power to detain a person without a warrant to stop a cognizable offence or a breach of peace from happening. CJP leader Ajinkya Shinde, who was also arrested along with Shinde Ranka and Das, said, "You may know that Ashutosh, Saurav Das and I, along with volunteers from CJP, went to Jantar Mantar. We simply waved the Indian national flag and raised the



slogan of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'. For this, the dictatorial Modi-Shah government has sent Saurav and Ashutosh to jail for five days. Today was Ashutosh's birthday, and on his birthday, he has been sent to jail for raising the slogan of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and waving the Tricolour." Shinde was released after a bail bond of Rs 5,000 on the condition that for one year, he would not participate in activity that would breach peace. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke said: "Ashu [Ranka] and Saurav [Das] have been sent to 5 days judicial custody. Their fault? Unfurling tricolour at Jantar Mantar.Show some guts, @narendramodi. If you're so determined to crush dissent, have the courage to officially declare an Emergency instead of hiding behind these cowardly tactics."

Relief for Gurugram's licensed plotted colonies, Supreme Court halts sealing drive for 2 weeks

Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday halted sealing drives in Gurugram's licensed plotted colonies for two weeks, granting relief to at least 29 property owners challenging the Town Planning department's authority to seal their properties after the areas were brought within municipal limits. A bench of Justice P S Narasimha and Justice Alok Aradhe will hear the matter next on November 3 to examine the jurisdictional dispute involving the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) and the Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG).

Residents from licensed plotted colonies, including DLF Phases I, II and III and Sushant Lok I, had approached the SC after the Punjab and Haryana High Court, in a September 7 interim order, rejected their preliminary objections to the DTCP's jurisdiction.

The HC had held that bringing a licensed colony within municipal limits does not extinguish the department's powers under the Haryana Development and Regulation of



Urban Areas Act, 1975. The Act, it observed, was "designed, from its commencement, to operate inside municipal limits". "Municipalization neither creates that jurisdiction, nor extinguishes it. The license is the source, and it subsists," the HC had said.

Rejecting the residents' claims, the HC had said that arguments regarding the transfer of powers to municipal authorities are "bereft of any merit". It noted that "had the legislature intended to transfer to the municipal authorities, the enforcement of the Act of 1975 in licensed colonies, nothing would have been easier than to say so". In their plea, filed through advocate Aditya Singh, the residents argued that the DTCP has no authority to issue showcause notices or seal their properties following a 2008 government notification expanding the MCG's boundaries.

Aadhaar now mandatory to avail Delhi government's power subsidy

The Delhi government has made Aadhaar-based identification mandatory for consumers claiming electricity subsidies as beneficiary numbers hit 55 lakh and allocation reached Rs 4,037 crore.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi government has made Aadhaar-based identification compulsory for consumers seeking benefits under its electricity subsidy scheme. The move comes as the number of beneficiaries continues to grow, adding to the subsidy burden on the exchequer, reported news agency PTI. Official figures show that the government's allocation for electricity subsidies had reached Rs 4,037.63 crore by February 2026. It has earmarked Rs 3,500 crore for the scheme in the current financial year, 2026-27. Delhi's power consumer base has expanded by nearly 40 per cent over the past decade and now exceeds 73 lakh, the agency reported.

In 2024-25, about 52.3 lakh domestic consumers-or nearly 84 per cent of the city's 73 lakh domestic consumers-received the subsidy. The share increased to 87 per cent, covering 55 lakh consumers, in 2025-26, according to official data cited by . Under the scheme, households consuming up to 200 units of electricity a month receive power free of cost. Consumers using between 201 and 400 units are eligible for a 50 per cent subsidy, subject to a monthly ceiling of Rs 800.

A recent notification from the Power Department said the scheme is implemented in different parts of Delhi through BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL), Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL), the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and



Military Engineer Services (MES).

The government said it "deems it fit" to verify the identity of a beneficiary as a condition for receiving the subsidy. Eligible consumers will therefore be required to provide proof that they possess a valid Aadhaar number.

Invoking Section 7 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, the Delhi Lieutenant Governor notified that individuals seeking the subsidy must submit their Aadhaar number through the designated web portal or by any other method specified by the government. Consumers who have not enrolled for Aadhaar in Delhi will need to apply for it. They may submit the required information using their 14-digit Enrolment ID number to claim the subsidy, the notification said. The government said Aadhaar-based verification helps establish beneficiaries' identities securely and allows them to access subsidies, benefits and services more conveniently. It also reduces the need to submit multiple identity documents while simplifying procedures and improving transparency and efficiency.

Gold rates dipped : Check Prices in Delhi, Mumbai, and other cities

New Delhi. (Agency)

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he yellow metal experienced a decline on Wednesday, currently standing at Rs 14,826 per gram for 24-carat purity on October 14, 2026. Rates for 22K and 18K gold are Rs 13,590 per gram and Rs 11,119 per gram, respectively.

Gold rates dipped by Rs 103 for 24K purity, Rs 95 for 22K purity, and Rs 78 for 18K purity in comparison to October 13, 2026.Domestic gold is experiencing correction as the world awaits US consumer price index data due later in the day to better understand the trajectory of the Federal Reserve's monetary policy. The interest rate hike usually have an adverse effect on gold, thus weighing it down. On the other hand, geopolitical tensions have increased safe-haven demand, further strengthening the dollar as investors seek safety in dollar-denominated assets.

Gold experienced volatility in the previous weeks due to inflation concerns and continued expectations of the Federal Reserve raising interest rates further. However, the latest report suggests lower chances of a rate hike during the October meeting after Federal Reserve policymakers indicated that "There is no need for urgency" following softer US data.Oil prices rose 0.8 per cent to $106.58 per barrel amid supply fears due to the conflict between the Houthis and Saudi even as prospects of diesel flow from Russia remain. The development came after US President Donald Trump shared on social media that he had decided to buy diesel from Russia to ease elevated energy costs ahead of the November midterm elections.

WPI inflation rises to 11.39% in September on rise in prices of food, fuel, manufactured items

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's wholesale price-based inflation rose to 11.39 per cent in September, compared to 9.92 per cent in August, on rising prices of food, manufactured items, and fuel and power, government data showed on Wednesday. Inflation in the food index rose to 8.66 per cent in September from 7.05 per cent in August.In manufactured items, WPI inflation was at a series high of 9.76 per cent, higher than 8.37 per cent in August.

In the fuel and power basket, Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation was 25.85 per cent in September, compared to 22.93 per cent in the



previous month.Across groups, mineral oils (containing petroleum products), food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, coal and lignite, manufacture of basic metals, chemicals and chemical products, textiles, rubber and plastic products and electrical equipments have been drivers of WPI inflation in September 2026, the Commerce and Industry ministry said while releasing the WPI data.The WPI has been on an upward trajectory since the beginning of this fiscal year as the West Asia war and the resultant blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, through which the majority of crude oil is imported into India, pushed up global crude and fertiliser costs with a spillover effect on food and commodity prices.

India-Mauritius tax treaty anti-abuse rule comes into force

Kolkata. (Agency)

The government has brought into force a new rule under the India-Mauritius tax treaty that allows tax authorities to deny tax benefits if an arrangement was set up mainly to take advantage of the treaty.

The Finance Ministry notified the 2024 protocol amending the double taxation agreement between India and Mauritius in the Gazette of India on October 13. The protocol came into force on August 10, 2026, after both countries completed the necessary formalities.The new rule, called the Principal Purpose Test, allows tax authorities to deny treaty benefits if one of the main reasons for a transaction or arrangement was to secure tax advantages. However, the benefit can still be granted if doing so is consistent with the purpose of the relevant treaty provisions.The rule is intended to prevent companies and investors from using Mauritius as a route to claim tax benefits in India when their arrangements do not meet the treaty's objectives.The protocol also changes the agreement's preamble to make it clear that the treaty aims to prevent double taxation without creating opportunities for tax avoidance or cases where income escapes taxation. It specifically seeks to curb arrangements through which residents of other countries indirectly claim benefits under the India-Mauritius treaty.

The new provisions apply from August 10, regardless of when the tax is levied or the financial year to which it relates. The protocol does not expressly exempt investments or arrangements made before that date.

India-US ties 'very good' despite trade deal stalemate, says Piyush Goyal

Piyush Goyal said India-US ties remain very good despite stalled trade negotiations. His remarks underscored continued cooperation amid tariff, immigration and diplomatic frictions.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday described India-US relations as "very good" despite prolonged negotiations over a bilateral trade deal, US tariffs and other differences that have strained ties between the two countries.

Speaking at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in New Delhi, Goyal said he did not see a problem in the relationship at present and stressed that cooperation between the two countries remained important across several sectors."I don't see any problem as we speak," Goyal said, responding to a question on whether India's relationship with the US would improve under a different administration.

"The relationship with the US that India enjoys is very substantive, is very consequential for the world, being two large democracies," he said.His remarks come as India and the US have struggled to reach an agreement on a trade deal despite prolonged negotiations. US tariffs have added to the strain, while differences over other issues have complicated efforts to improve ties.Goyal sought to underline that the broader relationship remained strong despite these challenges, saying it would improve irrespective of changes in political thinking in either country.

TRADE DEAL TALKS REMAIN A CHALLENGE

India and the US have held multiple rounds of negotiations to reach a trade agreement, but have yet to conclude a



deal. The prolonged discussions have kept trade relations in focus, particularly as businesses await greater clarity on market access and tariffs.While Goyal did not hint at a breakthrough in the negotiations, his comments indicated that New Delhi continues to view its relationship with Washington as important beyond the immediate trade discussions.The two countries continue to engage on several fronts, including defence, technology supply chains, goods and services, the minister said."The United States and India continue to have a very close relationship, and we continue to engage with them on so many tracks," he said.The challenge for both sides remains to manage differences over trade while maintaining cooperation in other areas.

TRUMP'S REMARKS ADDED TO STRAIN

Relations have also faced friction following US President Donald Trump's claim that he helped mediate an end to armed clashes between India and Pakistan last year. The claim irritated New Delhi, according to Bloomberg's report on Goyal's remarks.

Crude oil nears $110 as Saudi attacks and Hormuz risks stoke supply fears

New Delhi. (Agency)

Crude oil prices are edging towards $110 a barrel as fresh attacks on Saudi Arabia and concerns over oil shipments through the Middle East raise fears of further supply disruptions. Brent crude was trading at $106.58 a barrel on Wednesday, October 14, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude stood at $94.94The latest rise comes as Yemen's Houthi rebels step up attacks on Saudi targets, including an administrative building of Saudi Aramco in Dhahran. The attack caused a limited fire, raising concerns about the security of energy infrastructure in one of the world's biggest oil-producing countries..The market is also watching developments around the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for global oil shipments. Attacks on vessels and uncertainty over the movement of tankers through the region have added to concerns about the availability and cost of crude oil.



WHY CRUDE OIL PRICES ARE RISING AGAIN

Fresh attacks on Saudi Arabia raise supply fearsSaudi Arabia is a major oil producer, and any threat to its energy infrastructure can unsettle global markets. The latest attacks by Houthi rebels have raised concerns that the conflict could spread further and affect oil production, storage or transportation.On Tuesday, October 13, a suspected Houthi strike targeted a Saudi Aramco administrative building in Dhahran, causing a limited fire. The development added to market concerns over the security of Saudi energy infrastructure.The concern is not limited to actual supply losses. Traders also factor in the possibility that further attacks could disrupt production or exports, pushing prices higher before the full impact on supply becomes clear.The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important oil transit routes. Continued uncertainty over shipping through the waterway has made oil markets more sensitive to fresh attacks and military escalation in the region.

NRI tax rules explained: When do Indians living abroad have to pay income tax in India

New Delhi. (Agency)

As conversations surrounding the removal of the long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax and the securities transaction tax (STT) are doing the rounds, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has hinted at a discussion to get investors' views on the matter.

The finance minister says that there is a lot of discussion on the issue among Indian as well as foreign investors, and that it is healthy to have such a debate..Particularly following the SBI research suggesting the scrapping of the LTCG tax, investors are highlighting the need to reduce the burden while registering gains on shares and eligible equity-oriented mutual funds.Meanwhile, STT is also said to be coupled with LTCG to increase the burden on investors, which, as they suggest, may hinder returns and hurt market competitiveness.

Indians living abroad are also liable to pay taxes based on their tax residency. Non-Resident Indians may have to pay LTCG tax if they have property or any other applicable asset in the country and qualify for tax residency in India.Let's understand who qualifies for taxation while living overseas.Non-Resident Indians are subject to Indian income tax solely on the income earned or accrued in India. No income earned in the foreign country of residence is subject to Indian taxation.

However, Section 115G of the Income Tax Act, 1961, specifies that an NRI is exempt from filing income tax returns if the total income earned in India consists only of investment income or long-term capital gains, subject to TDS. The Income Tax Act, 2025, retains the conditions concerning tax residency, liability, and other requirements.Being subject to Indian income tax depends on a person's tax residency status, which depends on factors including the period of stay in India and total income. Two major situations under Section 6 and 6(1) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, determine the status of one's residency:

--A 182-day stay in India during a financial year

– A 60-day stay in India during a financial year, along with a stay of at least 365 days during the preceding four financial yearsThere is a distinction for employees leaving India for employment purposes or as part of the crew of an Indian merchant ship: the test of residency is a 182-day period of stay in India. For them, the latter condition for tax residency does not apply.

Sensex, Nifty open flat as crude oil and FII outflows weigh

New Delhi. (Agency)

Stock markets opened on a volatile note on Wednesday, with the Sensex and Nifty giving up early gains to trade marginally lower as rising crude oil prices and sustained foreign investor outflows weighed on sentiment. Investors also remained focused on corporate earnings following Tuesday's sharp rally led by information technology stocks.

The BSE Sensex was trading at 73,002.54, down 31.24 points or 0.04%, at around 9:27 am. The index opened at 73,049.76, after closing at 73,033.78 in the previous session, and moved between 72,894.41 and 73,178.98 in early trade.ecause their wages exceeded the earlier limit.The Nifty 50 was down 23.15 points, or 0.10%, at 22,698.80 around 9:28 am. It opened at 22,715.75 and moved between 22,663.80 and 22,752.30.The opening session was choppy, with the benchmarks initially trading higher before slipping into negative territory. The muted start followed a rally of around 1.6% in both indices on Tuesday.IT STOCKS LEAD, BROADER MARKETS MIXED

Information technology stocks continued to support the market, with TCS rising 2.25%, Infosys gaining 1.74%, HCLTech advancing 1.68% and Tech Mahindra trading 0.35% higher.

Among other gainers, Kotak Mahindra Bank rose 0.95%, BEL gained 0.61% and Asian Paints advanced 0.47%.However, selling pressure was visible across several heavyweight stocks. Bajaj Finance fell 1.30%, Eternal declined 0.95%, Sun Pharma dropped 0.91% and Bajaj Finserv lost 0.90%. Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, Adani Ports and Axis Bank were also trading lower.The broader market was largely weak. The Nifty 100, Nifty 200 and Nifty 500 indices were marginally lower, while the Nifty Midcap 50, Midcap 100 and Smallcap 100 were also in the red.

IT AND FMCG HOLD UP, FINANCIALS UNDER PRESSURE

Sectoral performance was mixed, with the Nifty IT index rising 1.43%, while the Nifty FMCG index gained 0.16%. The Nifty MidSmall IT & Telecom index was also up 0.49%.On the other hand, the Nifty Financial Services 25/50 index fell 0.64%, while the Nifty PSU Bank index declined 0.73%. Pharma, healthcare, auto, realty and consumer durables stocks were also under pressure.India VIX, the maket's volatility gauge, rose 2.99% to 14.54, indicating an increase in expected market volatility.

CRUDE OIL, FOREIGN OUTFLOWS IN FOCUS

Rising crude oil prices and continued foreign investor selling remain key concerns for domestic equities. Brent crude was trading around $106-$107 a barrel, according to the market commentary.

Bank of Baroda to defend $15 billion lawsuit by NMC Health founder BR Shetty

In a stock exchange notification on Wednesday, Bank of Baroda said it would take all necessary steps to protect its interests if and when it was served with the lawsuit.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Bank of Baroda has said it will firmly defend its interests after BR Shetty, the UAE-based businessman who founded NMC Health, filed a $15 billion lawsuit against the lender and 25 other defendants in the Bombay High Court. Shetty has alleged that bank officials helped facilitate fraud linked to the collapse of the healthcare group, reported Reuters.The lawsuit centres on Bank of Baroda's lending to NMC Health and its affiliated entities in the UAE. The lender said it had not yet been served with the suit and could not comment on allegations that had not been tested in court.

WHAT HAS BANK OF BARODA SAID?

In a stock exchange notification on Wednesday, Bank of Baroda said it would take all necessary steps to protect its interests if and when it was served with the lawsuit."The Bank has not been served with such a suit and cannot comment on the contents of pleadings which are untested in court. If and when the Bank is served, the Bank will defend the suit firmly and take all steps necessary to protect its interests," mentioned the stock exchange filing.The bank also said it was pursuing recovery and enforcement proceedings in India and the UAE against Shetty over outstanding dues of Rs 28 billion ($294.57 million). It added that it had obtained several decrees against him, according to the report.The lender said it would not face any immediate liability unless an order was passed, or it was required to make a provision for potential damages.

WHAT IS THE $15 BILLION CASE



ABOUT?

Shetty has accused Bank of Baroda and several current and former employees of helping facilitate fraud that contributed to the collapse of NMC Health, according to a court filing reviewed by Reuters.The allegations include enabling round-tripping transactions, ignoring repeated anti-money laundering warnings and accepting documents bearing forged signatures.Shetty is seking $5 billion in direct damages, another $5 billion in consequential damages and an additional $5 billion for reputational harm, the report mentioned.NMC Health was once the largest private healthcare provider in the Gulf region. The company was placed under administration in 2020 following months of financial mismanagement.It subsequently disclosed debts of $6.6 billion, significantly higher than earlier estimates of $2.1 billion.The latest lawsuit comes three months after Bank of Baroda agreed to pay $600 million to settle claims brought by NMC's administrators, according to the report.

NEWS BOX

Hyderabad: RPF cop saves man from getting crushed by train at Kacheguda Railway Station

HYDERABAD (Agency).
Railway Protection Force (RPF) constable Reena Kumari rescued a passenger who slipped while attempting to board a moving train with his daughter at Kacheguda Railway Station on Monday evening.
According to an RPF officer, who did not wish to be named, Reena was on duty when she noticed the passenger losing his footing while boarding the train. She immediately pulled him to safety before he could fall into the gap between the platform and the moving train. The passenger had arrived at the station with his wife and two children to board the Mahbubnagar–Visakhapatnam Express (12862).
As the train was moving, the man lifted his nine-year-old daughter and handed her to a passenger inside the train. The girl managed to board with the other passenger's assistance. When the man attempted to board, he slipped and fell, prompting Reena to pull him away from the train. His wife and son were on the platform when the incident took place. The loco pilot stopped the train, and the family subsequently continued their journey on the same train. Officials said they had not collected the passengers' details.

Bengaluru: 439 trees face the axe for two infra projects

BENGALURU (Agency).
As many as 439 trees have been identified for removal in Bengaluru for two infrastructure projects — strengthening the power transmission network at the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited's (KPTCL) Hoodi substation and widening and resurfacing roads at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka. This is apart from the 1,128 trees that will be affected for the Hebbal short tunnel project.
Of the 439 trees, 340 are located within the premises of the existing 400/220 kV Hoodi substation, while the remaining 99 have been identified for road works and associated infrastructure at Air Force Station Yelahanka, according to an official memorandum and public notice issued by the GBA. At Hoodi, the tree officer and Deputy Conservator of Forest Expert Committee (TEC) has given conditional approval for felling 321 trees and also granted permission for translocation of 16 trees. The officer has declined to remove three trees, citing that they do not affect the upcoming project.
The authorities have stipulated compensatory planting at a ratio of 10 saplings to be planted for every tree felled or translocated. The saplings must be planted in accordance with prescribed forestry practices and maintained for at least five years, and it has been mandated that photographs and proper documentation of the planting must also be submitted. The trees proposed for removal in the Air Force station include Sandal, Neem, Ashoka, Tamarind, Jack Fruit, Mango, Gulmohar, Jacaranda, Silver Oak and Black Berry, as per the public notice dated October 7. GBA has given ten days' time for the public to submit their objections.

'Karnataka can lead in green AI with responsible energy use': KDEM CEO

BENGALURU (Agency).
Karnataka is well positioned to demonstrate a model for green artificial intelligence, but the rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data centre infrastructure must be balanced with responsible energy use and climate considerations, said Sanjeev Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), at the AI for Climate Tech Summit 2026 on Tuesday. The summit, organised by Climate Collective Foundation as part of Bangalore Climate Data Week, examined how AI can deliver measurable climate benefits while accounting for its environmental footprint. Gupta highlighted that the state is well positioned to demonstrate a model for green AI as it is supported by its strong technology ecosystem and clean energy base. "We are always there to support such global initiatives which not only makes our ecosystem stronger domestically but also on the global innovation map," Gupta added.
Discussions covered AI applications in weather and flood forecasting, energy optimisation, freight electrification, manufacturing, mobility, agriculture and urban resilience. Speakers stressed that solutions needed to move beyond experimentation and demonstrate operational value and measurable outcomes before they could be adopted at scale. Jui Joshi, a member of CCF's founding team, highlighted AI's potential to strengthen climate resilience in agriculture and water security. She said founders needed ecosystem support beyond capital and pointed to CCF's portfolio of 410 women-led startups.

Mumbai Police takes lessons from Delhi cops on handling protest videos

Senior officers cite Delhi Police's social media strategy as an example of how to present the force's side of the story

Mumbai (Agency).
The Mumbai Police top brass has asked officers handling protests to remain mindful of how their actions are perceived by the public. Officers were given examples of steps taken by the Delhi Police that could be emulated, including using social media accounts to post videos showing what personnel go through while handling protests.
Videos posted by the Delhi Police's X handle over the past week show women constables appearing dehydrated and on the verge of fainting, personnel being manhandled by crowds and having their shoulder straps torn, and protesters speaking aggressively to them. Other videos show police personnel providing first aid, food and medicines to protesters at detention centres.
The Delhi Police had also recorded important moments, including when Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke was informed that his grandmother had passed away. Dipke was detained in Delhi on Saturday, after saying he would lead protests demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged arbitrary deletions of voters during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.
Sources said that during protests in Mumbai, several YouTubers and people from alternative media outlets filmed the police



handling crowds. "It was believed that in several of these videos, the police are shown in a poor light which creates the impression that they are insensitive towards protestors. However, the amount of strain and physical exertion that the police have to go through never comes forth," a senior inspector from central Mumbai said.
An official said the top brass had pointed out that, to ensure the "other side" was also seen, the Delhi Police had started uploading videos of its personnel facing difficult situations while handling protests. "Also, when Dipke's grandmother passed away, the Delhi police shot a video showing that the police had provided him the option of taking him home or making a phone call so that no allegations could be made later on," the official said. Dipke later posted on X that the Delhi Police had not released the complete video, which he said showed that they had denied him permission to speak to his lawyer. "In this light, at a recent meeting, senior officers told the policemen from across the city to be alert to how their actions are perceived and gave some examples used by Delhi police," the source said. Mumbai has also seen multiple protests in recent days, including one at August Kranti Maidan in south Mumbai on Saturday, followed by protests outside Shivaji Park on Sunday and Monday.
A large section of the Mumbai Police has been deployed over the past few weeks for the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, the Mount Mary festival and Navratri, in addition to protests.

Exploring Dasara traditions: Heritage walks bring B'luru's cultural legacy to life

Bengaluru (Agency).
Dolls arranged on stepped platforms, homes opening doors to visitors, temples decked up for the season and sweets shared among guests, Dasara in namma ooru unfolds through traditions that are often unknown to the city's busy streets. This Navaratri, heritage walks through neighbourhoods such as Malleswaram and Basavanagudi invite participants to explore the communities that keep these celebrations alive.
The Dasara edit
Vidya Neelakantan, co-founder of Unhurried, says its Dasara experience in Malleswaram combines the neighbourhood's history with the festival's traditions. The walk includes visits to temples where holy displays are arranged, as well as homes where families have kept the traditions alive for years. "Usually, our heritage walks talk about history, culture, traditions, the people who lived there, migration and how the neighbourhood was formed," she explains. During the Dasara edition, the focus extends to the evolution of



the festival, the significance of the dolls and the stories associated with individual figurines. Participants will visit the Gangamma Devi and [Vasavi] Kanyaka Parameswari temples, where golu is displayed during the season and experience the tradition inside Kannada and Tamil-speaking households. Customs such as haldi kumkum and vethalai paaku are part of the experience. The walk also explores Malleswaram's development from the early 20th century and the communities that have contributed to its cultural identity. For details, visit _unhurried on Instagram.
A doll's tale
Basavanagudi offers another window into the festival through Gully Tours' Dasara doll walk. Founder Vinay Parameshwarappa says the neighbourhood's historical links with the Mysuru royal family made it a natural choice for the experience. Basavanagudi and Malleswaram were among Bengaluru's early planned neighbourhoods, developed during the Mysuru kingdom's rule. The walk draws on this history to explore Dasara's cultural significance, with a visit to one of the city's largest doll collections, featuring nearly 5,000 dolls. The walk gives visitors an opportunity to see the collection up close, understand the traditions behind it, while interacting with the people who maintain it. The tour includes local food because culinary traditions are closely tied to festivals and community life. Participants will sample festive sweets along the route, although Parameshwarappa is keeping the selection a surprise. "Come with an open mind," he says, describing the walk as a cultural exploration.

IV vitamin drips: A glow-up or just hype?

Hyderabad (Agency).
With festive celebrations going on in full swing, the pursuit of glowing skin and renewed energy is driving interest in intravenous (IV) vitamin drips. Marketed as quick fixes for dull skin, fatigue and dehydration, these infusions promise to deliver vitamins, minerals and antioxidants directly into the bloodstream. But do they live up to their claims, or are consumers paying a premium for benefits that remain largely unproven?
The appeal is easy to understand, particularly among younger people looking to achieve a refreshed appearance before festive celebrations. However, medical experts caution that faster nutrient delivery does not automatically translate into better health or visible cosmetic benefits.
"Unlike oral supplements, which are absorbed through the digestive system, intravenous administration bypasses the gut and provides immediate delivery into circulation. However, faster delivery does not necessarily mean better health benefits," says Dr Venkat Nani Kumar B, senior consultant in internal medicine at Apollo Hospitals, Jubilee Hills.
For people without nutritional deficiencies, the evidence supporting IV vitamin drips for improving skin health, boosting energy or combating fatigue remains limited. While correcting a documented deficiency can help relieve associated symptoms, additional nutrients do not necessarily offer further benefits when the body's requirements are already met.
Dr Naresh Gundapuneni, consultant general physician and diabetologist at Renova Hospitals, Kompally, Secunderabad, emphasises that IV therapy has a legitimate medical role, but its use as a cosmetic or wellness shortcut is a different matter.
"IV fluids are medically useful for selected cases of significant dehydration or when oral intake is inadequate, while vitamin infusions may be appropriate for specific deficiencies or medical conditions. However, tiredness and dull skin can result from inadequate sleep, anaemia, hormonal problems or other underlying illnesses.

2.5-metre slip nearly cost Mumbai airport metro Rs 250 crore. A fix is near

Mumbai (Agency).
A design gap that threatened to force the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) to tear down and rebuild nearly 1km of Metro Line 7A's elevated viaduct, undoing around Rs 250 crore of work, is close to being resolved.
Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), which runs the city's airport, has found that the extra 2.5 metres of height needed for the line's overhead electric (OHE) wires will not obstruct flight paths, a senior MMRDA official said. Final written clearance from the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is still awaited.Work on the affected stretch had nearly stopped since early 2025. It has now resumed.
What went wrong
The elevated viaduct and ramp in Vile Parle East fall within the airport's funnel zone, the area under the flight path where structures face strict height limits. At the planning stage, MMRDA's consultant, Systra, did not account for the additional 2.5 metres needed for the OHE. That left the design short of the height clearance granted by the AAI. The shortfall came to light in early 2025, and construction on the section came to a near standstill. As The Indian Express reported in August, the problem threatened to force MMRDA to rebuild parts of the elevated section, including the nearly 1km viaduct.



How it's being fixed
"In the last month, the issue has neared resolution," the MMRDA official said. "MIAL conducted a survey of the site and, along with the new Instrument Landing System, called ILS2, found that the extra height needed for the OHE would not come in the path of flights." According to the official, MIAL has sent its report and recommendations to the AAI. The AAI is expected to submit its own report and reflect the changes in the height-clearance no-objection certificates (NOCs). MMRDA hasn't received written permission yet, but officials are confident it will come through.
A source said MMRDA Metropolitan Commissioner Sanjay Mukherjee had met Gautam Adani, whose group holds a major stake in MIAL through Adani Airport Holdings Limited, to seek approval for the additional height. MIAL officials declined to comment, saying it was a regular issue. Pulla Hezekiah, Regional Executive Director (Western Region) at the AAI, said he would look into it. The construction halt has been lifted. Work was underway at the Airport Colony station when visited.

UP man told family he'd be home for Diwali. Then drone struck his ship in Oman

Lucknow (Agency).
On Sunday morning, 21-year-old Preeti Singh received a message from her elder brother, Amit, 25, asking her to check whether his salary had been credited to his bank account. She checked, it had not. She tried calling her brother but his phone was unreachable and her message went undelivered.Worried, the family in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar contacted the shipping agent, company officials and Amit's colleagues and finally learnt the news — a drone had struck the commercial vessel, MT PETRO DOLPHIN, on which Amit was working at Sohar Anchorage in Oman.Amit and another crew member, Veer Bahadur Yadav, 26, from UP's Deoria, have been missing since the incident.
Just a day earlier, Amit had told his family he would be home for Diwali. "He spoke to his mother, Poonam Devi, on Saturday, telling her he would return home this month to celebrate the festival with us," said Amit's uncle, Rajendra Singh, who is also in the Merchant Navy. "We are desperately hoping for good news and his safe return."
First time at sea
Amit, who is unmarried, went to sea for the first time in January this year after completing a General Purpose (GP) Rating course. He joined the vessel as an Able Seaman. "He had always wanted to join the merchant navy… like several members of our family who are in the profession," said Ravindra.
He said that when Preeti told him that Amit's phone was unreachable, he sent a message but it went undelivered, prompting him to reach out to people in Oman for information. "I was told that the vessel had been stationed at Sohar Anchorage for several days. On Sunday, all 12 crew members — 11 Indians and one Bangladeshi national — had been called aboard for maintenance work," he said.
"Later, 10 crew members left the vessel to eat food. Amit and Veer Bahadur stayed back, telling the others that they would join them shortly. Then the drone struck."Amit, from Gopalpur village, was unmarried. He was the only son of farmer Dev Prakash



Singh and Poonam. In Deoria's Badka village, Veer's elder brother, Mantu Yadav, said he was posted as a wiper and had joined the ship about five months ago.
"This was his first assignment. The last time he spoke to us was on Saturday evening," said Mantu Yadav, who works in Dubai and returned to India recently.
Veer was the youngest of four siblings.
"The shipping company has informed me by email that efforts are being made to trace him. We are also requesting the government and other authorities for help," said Mantu Yadav.
India condemns attacks
Sunday's incident is the latest in a series of attacks on commercial vessels since the West Asia war broke out. On Monday, India condemned attacks on two ships with Indians on board in the Strait of Hormuz. "We condemn the attacks on commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz region on 11 October 2026. MT PETRO DOLPHIN was reportedly struck by a drone, with two of the 11 Indian seafarers onboard reported missing. MT VALTHERA, a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker, was struck by an unknown projectile, resulting in a fire onboard. All 11 Indian seafarers onboard MT VALTHERA are reported to be safe," it said.

NEWS BOX

Lisandro Martinez slams Man United board after Atletico loss: Does he have a point

PUDUCHERRY. (Agency)

Manchester United's defeat to Atletico Madrid has opened up another debate at Old Trafford, this time over the people running the club rather than just those on the pitch. United centre-back Lisandro Martinez has publicly questioned the hierarchy's recruitment, but his comments have also drawn criticism from former United players who believe he risked unsettling the dressing room at a difficult time.

United lost 2-0 in Madrid on Tuesday, extending their winless run to five matches. Having finished third in the Premier League



last season, they returned to the Champions League but spent their summer transfer budget largely on midfield, leaving questions over support for Benjamin Sesko and competition for Luke Shaw.

Martinez addressed the issue in his post-match interview with Amazon Prime, calling for greater investment from football director Jason Wilcox."Really poor. Really poor..."We did a fantastic season last season and now we expect more from the top, more players to compete because many teams bring many players as well. Atletico have an amazing team and they deserve to win today," Martinez said."I expect more [investment]. 100%. I expect more from our technical director [Jason Wilcox]. I have to be honest, as players we have to do more, but it is also important when you make a strong squad to be ready for this kind of night," he added.Martinez was not the only United player to express frustration.

Amad Diallo posted "F**king disgrace" on social media after the defeat. He did not specify what or whom he was referring to, so the post cannot be taken as a confirmed criticism of the board.

Shikhar Dhawan threatens legal action over unauthorised World T20 Continent Cup listing



New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan has denied agreeing to play in the inaugural World T20 Continent Cup after finding his name listed among the participants without his authorisation. The left-handed batter has warned of legal action against the organisers, raising questions over how his name was included in the tournament announcement.Dhawan was announced as part of the Asia Warriors squad for the competition, which is scheduled to be held in Hong Kong in December. The team was also advertised to feature Pakistan's Iftikhar Ahmed and Sohail Tanvir.The former India opener took to social media to clarify his position, asking fans and media organisations not to rely on announcements about his participation that he had not approved."I have come across my name as a participant in the World T20 Continent Cup. My name has been used by the organisers without my knowledge or permission, and my team will be taking the appropriate legal steps to address this," Dhawan wrote on X."I request the media and my fans to not report or rely on any unauthorised announcements. Thank you for your continued love and support."

ORGANISERS CONFIRM DHAWAN'S WITHDRAWAL

Following Dhawan's statement, the tournament organisers confirmed that he would not be part of the Asia Warriors squad. They attributed his absence to "scheduling conflicts and certain technical considerations", but did not elaborate on the circumstances surrounding his initial inclusion or his denial of participation.

The development has cast a shadow over the announcement of the tournament's squads, with Dhawan having been promoted as one of the headline names for the Asia Warriors.

Farewell or missed chance Sreejesh questions India's Asian Champions Trophy squad

India are set to play their third major tournament in around three months, with the Asian Champions Trophy following the World Cup and Asian Games. PR Sreejesh has questioned the workload on senior players and urged the team to use the competition to test its bench strength and prepare for LA 2028.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India goalkeeper PR Sreejesh has questioned India's decision to field its established players at the Asian Champions Trophy after their Asian Games gold medal triumph. He believes the tournament presents an opportunity to test the team's bench strength and prepare younger players for the challenges ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.The Asian Champions Trophy will be India's third major tournament in roughly three months, following the World Cup and the Asian Games. With only around two weeks between the World Cup and the Asian Games, followed by a gap of just three weeks before the Asian Champions Trophy, Sreejesh has questioned whether the squad needs another demanding campaign with its key players."We've won Asian Games gold, yet we're back with our best players for the Asian Champions Trophy. Is this tournament really worth the risk of exhausting our key players when bigger challenges lie ahead?" Sreejesh wrote in a post on X."Even Pakistan isn't participating! Why not rest our stars, test our bench strength, and give young players a real opportunity to prove themselves?" he added.He also questioned whether the team's approach was driven by long-term planning or the pursuit of another trophy, while raising concerns about the chief coach's position and the possibility of senior



players approaching the end of their international careers."Do we have a genuine second line-up, or are we simply afraid to test it? Or is another trophy the perfect way for the chief coach to secure another two years in the hot seat? We are 8th in the world ranking. Are we building a team for the future, or protecting positions in the present?" he added.

FOUR SENIORS AND THE FAREWELL QUESTION

Sreejesh's remarks about a possible farewell tournament come amid reports that Mandeep Singh, Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh and Nilakanta Sharma could be playing their final matches for India during the Asian Champions Trophy as Hockey India looks to refresh the squad ahead of the Olympics."Or, as the rumour goes, is this tournament a platform for some big names to say goodbye? If that's the real plan, then I genuinely appreciate it! Legends deserve a proper farewell!" Sreejesh wrote.However, reports have suggested that the four players were caught off guard by the news and had not been consulted. Their reported desire to continue representing India has added another layer to the questions surrounding the team's transition.

INDIA'S TRANSITION AHEAD OF LA 2028

India have made some room for fresh faces in the squad.

Beyond Indian cricket's glamour: Hitesh Walunj and the grind nobody sees

New Delhi. (Agency)

Hitesh Walunj was padded up and taking throwdowns near the sight screen at the Air Force Complex Ground in Palam, Delhi, as the day's play wound down on Tuesday. Out in the middle, Maharashtra were having a tricky final session against Services, losing five wickets for 66 runs in their second innings.The 33-year-old left-arm spinner had already done his bit with the ball, five wickets that had given Maharashtra a 106-run first-innings lead in their Ranji Trophy Elite opener. But the pitch was getting trickier with every session, and a 10 or 20 from him on the final day could matter.

He was not going to wait for the game to come to him.The instinct to keep working comes naturally to Walunj. He knows a five-wicket haul in the opening match of a season is a good start, not a guarantee. He has been here before, on the fringes of a Maharashtra side that has never been short of competition for places, with seasons in which wickets came in a rush and were followed by another long wait. At 33, he is still working towards the next opportunityHis is the story of a man who



chose cricket over the security of a regular job, and kept making that choice when nothing suggested the game would reward him.

A DREAM DEFERRED

Walunj started playing cricket at 14, but the road to the Ranji Trophy was anything but straight. He did not come through Maharashtra's age-group system. His state debut came directly in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, the domestic T20 competition, in 2018-19, when he was 26.

The Ranji Trophy cap, the one that mattered most to him, took another five years."I had to wait 16 years just to play Ranji Trophy cricket, which is a dream for everyone," Walunj tells IndiaToday.in in Palam."I haven't played just one specific age group; I directly made my Syed Mushtaq Ali debut at the age of 26 in the 2018-19 season. After that, I had a three-year break, and then I made my Ranji Trophy debut at 30."

CHOOSING THE UNCERTAIN

The wait was not only about selection. It raised a bigger question: what would he do with his life if cricket did not work out? Walunj had completed his B.Com, and his parents, like many in a middle-class household.

Bumrah or bust: Is India's pace attack too dependent on one man?

New Delhi. (Agency)

When it comes to Jasprit Bumrah, the Indian cricket team almost has a cheat code at its disposal. On a flat track, with the ball flying around or against a set batter looking to take the attack to the opposition, Bumrah has repeatedly found a way to turn the game on its head. His variations, precision and ability to outthink batters have made him India's ultimate trump card across formats.But there is a catch. What happens when that trump card is missing?Bumrah's absence has often left a



gaping hole in India's bowling attack, with the team struggling to find the same control and cutting edge without its premier fast bowler. The recent ODI series against the West Indies offered another reminder of that vulnerability, as India's pacers struggled to contain the opposition. Gurnoor Brar, Auqib Nabi and the other seamers found it difficult to keep the scoring in check, exposing the challenge of defending totals without a bowler of Bumrah's calibre.The problem was equally apparent in the second T20I against the West Indies, when India failed to defend a mammoth total of 250. For all their firepower with the bat, India's bowlers could not deliver when it mattered most.And the numbers suggest that this is more than just a bad day at the office.

In T20Is this year, Bumrah has picked up 23 wickets in 17 matches, making him India's leading wicket-taker.

UCL wrap: Atletico douse United, Bayern held by Vikings as Barcelona hit comeback win

COVENTRY. (Agency)

European football's heavyweights endured a difficult night in the UEFA Champions League on Tuesday, with Manchester United losing to Atletico Madrid, Bayern Munich dropping points in Norway and Inter Milan suffering a shock home defeat. Barcelona recovered from an early setback to beat Galatasaray, while Arsenal and Villarreal also picked up important victories.Atletico made an early statement against Manchester United, scoring inside the opening minute before Ademola Lookman sealed a 2-0 win late in the second half. United's task became harder when Leny Yoro was sent off,



leaving the visitors with little chance of mounting a comeback.Bayern Munich had a more eventful evening against Viking Stavanger. The Norwegian side went two goals ahead before Harry Kane led a Bayern fightback, but Michael Olise's dismissal shifted the momentum again. Herman Johan Haugen scored late to earn Viking a 3-3 draw.

Inter, meanwhile, endured the biggest shock of the night. Club Brugge scored four times at San Siro, with Nicolo Tresoldi's hat-trick helping the Belgian side claim a 4-3 victory despite a late push from the hosts. The result stood out on a night when several established European sides were made to work hard for pointsBarcelona recovered from going behind to beat Galatasaray 4-1 in Istanbul, while Arsenal scored three times in seven second-half minutes to defeat Lille 3-0. Villarreal also came from behind to beat Napoli, and RB Leipzig, Sporting CP and Sabah Baku collected wins elsewhere.

India vs West Indies T20I free passes sold for Rs 6,000, HCA member among 4 arrested

Hyderabad Police have arrested four people, including a Hyderabad Cricket Association member, for allegedly selling complimentary passes for the India-West Indies fourth T20I at inflated prices. The probe has also raised questions about the distribution of tickets marked "NOT FOR SALE".

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Hyderabad Police have arrested a member of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) and three others for allegedly black-marketing complimentary tickets for the fourth India-West Indies T20I. The police seized 11 match passes marked "NOT FOR SALE" ahead of Wednesday's match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Uppal.The accused have been identified as HCA member Satish Chandra Srivastava, his son Akarshit Srivastava, Avinash Darak and Mohit Somani. The case came to light after Goshamahal Police received information about the alleged sale of tickets near SD Mall in Begum Bazar on October 12.



INDIA VS WEST INDIES, 4TH T20I: PREVIEW

A police team led by Assistant Sub-Inspector V Janardhan Naik apprehended Darak and Somani at around 9 pm. Besides the cricket passes, officers seized eight passes for a Navratri Dandiya event, Rs 5,000 in cash, mobile phones and a two-wheeler.

TICKETS ALLEGEDLY SOLD FOR RS 6,000

According to the police, Darak and Somani allegedly disclosed during questioning that they had obtained the complimentary tickets from Akarshit and were advertising them on WhatsApp and Instagram at inflated prices.Goshamahal Inspector B Sravan Kumar said the tickets were allegedly being sold for Rs 3,500 to Rs 6,000 each, depending on the pavilion. Akarshit allegedly procured the passes from his father, an HCA member, before handing them to Darak for sale with Somani's assistance.The inspector also said the accused had allegedly sold around nine complimentary tickets. Police will write to the HCA to establish how many passes were issued to Satish Chandra Srivastava.

POLICE WARN FANS AGAINST BLACK-MARKETING

The four accused were arrested on October 13 and remanded to judicial custody. Police registered a case under Sections 112(1) and 318(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 21(gg) of the City Police Act. The investigation is ongoing.

Police have urged fans to purchase match tickets only through authorised channels and report suspected black-marketing.



Tamannaah Bhatia

Marks First Day Of Navratri With 5-Hour Mata Ki Chowki, Mrunal Thakur Joins

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia marked the first day of Navratri by attending a 'Mata Ki Chowki'. She even treated the netizens to some glimpses from the devotional evening, where she was seen fully immersed in the music and stories about "Maa".The photos and videos showed Tamannaah participating in the aarti and enjoying the bhajans. One of the clips published by Tamannaah also shows actress Mrunal Thakur. Tamannaah's parents were also present at the 'Mata Ki Chowki'.

Tamannaah wrote on her IG, "Through soaring bhajans, stories of Maa and a vivid journey through the mountains to Vaishno Devi, @preetypathania15 makes you experience devotion, not just hear it. With every song, every story and every beat, you can almost feel the climb, the sacred paths unfolding and the pilgrimage carrying you



deeper within (sic)."Talking about her experience, she added that being immersed in music and prayer made her introspect, along with creating a sense of calm."There's something beautiful about this duality. The music rises, the energy moves through the room, and the atmosphere pulses with devotion – yet, somewhere within, a deep stillness begins to unfold. All that sound and movement draw you inward, guiding you back to your centre, back to yourself. Five hours of music, prayer and surrender that felt like a single, timeless moment. Jai Mata Di," the post further read.

Earlier, Tamannaah revealed how she had a spiritual experience while shooting for the Chhath song from her movie, 'The Vvaan'.

"I have always held a deep reverence for Chhath Puja. Before we started shooting for the song, I spent time studying and understanding the significance of the ritual and how it is performed in Bihar and Patna. Honestly, I was stunned to learn the power it holds. The strong connection I felt with Chhathi Maiyya is something I cannot put in words. I found myself feeling deeply connected to her," she shared.

Madhuri Dixit

Reveals Why She Chose Heart Surgeon Dr Shriram Nene As Her Husband: 'He Mends Hearts'

Bollywood superstar Madhuri Dixit revealed the reason behind her decision to marry cardiovascular surgeon Dr. Shriram Nene.The actress offered a witty response to actress Sonali Bendre's observation about the heartbreak her wedding caused among her fans.

The conversation took place on the grand premiere episode of the quiz reality show, Kon Honar Crorepati, where Sonali joined host Madhuri on the hot seat. Recalling the actor's wedding, Sonali said, "When you got married… a lot of people were heartbroken."Madhuri, who married Dr. Shriram Nene in 1999, responded with a laugh and said, "That's why I married someone who mends hearts!" Speaking in Marathi, the actor jokingly explained that she chose someone who treats hearts, referring to her husband's profession as a cardiovascular surgeon.



Madhuri's marriage to Dr. Nene, who was based in the United States when they met, marked her departure from Bollywood at the peak of her career. The couple have since built a life together and have two sons, Arin and Ryan.

After spending a few years in the USA, the actress returned to India to resume her career in Bollywood. Madhuri marked her return to Bollywood after a hiatus with Aaja Nachle in 2007. She went on to feature in films such as Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani, in which she appeared in the popular song 'Ghagra', Dedh Ishqiya and Gulaab Gang.

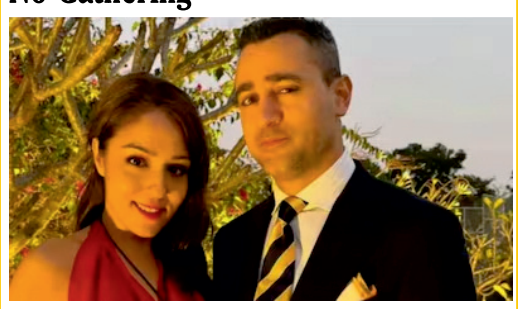
She later appeared in Total Dhamaal and Kalank, followed by the Marathi film Bucket List, Maja Ma, and Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3. The actor also ventured into the digital space with The Fame Game, in which she played a celebrated actor whose disappearance sets off a series of revelations. She then featured in Mrs. Deshpande, taking on a darker role as a convicted serial killer.

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Imran Khan's GF Lekha Washington Clarifies They Went To Enquire About Detained Friends: 'There Was No Gathering'



Bollywood actor Imran Khan's girlfriend Lekha Washington has shared her account of what happened when she, Imran, his mother Nuzhat Khan, his cousin Zayn Marie Khan reached Mumbai's August Kranti Maidan on Saturday, October 10. Lekha shared a statement on Instagram, stating that they had gone to enquire about their detained friends and clarifying that they were present as individuals, not as part of any organisation.For the unversed, Imran, best known for films such as Jaane Tu… Ya Jaane Na and I Hate Luv Storys, was detained in Mumbai along with Lekha and Zayn on October 10. They were released hours later.

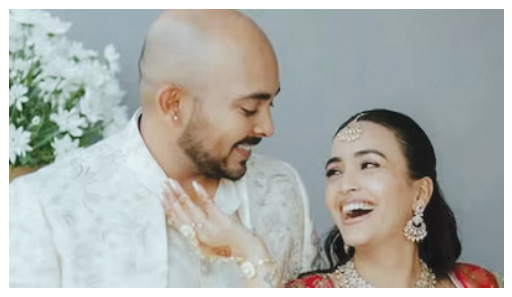
Why Did Imran Khan And Lekha Washington Go To August Kranti Maidan?

According to Lekha Washington, the group reached August Kranti Maidan at around 5 pm to ask about their friends who had been detained. "On Saturday around 5pm, Zayn Marie, Nuzhat (Imran's mother), my partner Imran, myself and others walked towards August Kranti maidan to ask about friends of ours who had been detained," she wrote on Instagram.

Lekha claimed there was no gathering taking place when they arrived. She said police barricades had been put up on all sides and a considerable number of media personnel were present. According to her account, the media surrounded Imran and began asking him questions. The 'Jaane Tu…Ya Jaane Na' actor responded by saying that the group had no demands, did not belong to an organisation and was present as a group of individuals.

"Before he could even finish his sentence, with the weight of the media from one side, loud, incessant whistle blowing disrupted everything," she added."A stream of uniformed persons grabbed both Zayn and me, bruising us. They forced us all into the vehicle and then drove us around for a couple of hours. Subsequent to that, they did not allow us to take public transport," she alleged.

Prithvi Shaw, Akriti Agarwal Back Together After Calling Off Engagement; She Says 'I Was Misguided'



Weeks after announcing that she and cricketer Prithvi Shaw had called off their engagement, actor and influencer Akriti Agarwal has now confirmed that the couple has reconciled. In a fresh statement shared on Instagram, Akriti said the two have spoken openly about their differences and have decided to give their relationship another chance.Akriti also addressed her role in the earlier split, saying that opinions from people close to her had influenced how she looked at Prithvi and their relationship. The development comes less than a month after she publicly announced their separation in September. The couple had got engaged earlier this year.

Akriti Agarwal Says She Was 'Misguided'

Akriti titled her new Instagram statement "A personal clarification" and spoke directly about what led her to call off the engagement.

"When I called off our engagement, I let the opinions of people close to me — who seemed to know our relationship better than we did — influence how I saw my fiancé and our relationship. I feel I was misguided, and I made a decision without giving us the honest conversation we deserved," she wrote.She did not name the people whose opinions had influenced her decision.Akriti also took responsibility for how things unfolded, adding, "I take responsibility for that decision and the hurt it caused."

'We Have Chosen To Be Together Again'

Akriti then confirmed that she and Prithvi had worked through the situation privately before deciding to reconcile."We have since spoken openly, understood each other and chosen to be together again," her statement read.

She added, "Together, we are enough for each other, and we don't need anyone else."Akriti said that she now wants decisions about their future to remain between the two of them rather than being influenced by outside voices.

"This time, I want our future to be guided by our own understanding, trust and love," she wrote, before ending the note with, "Please respect our decision as we begin again."

NEWS BOX

India rejects 'unsubstantiated reference' in UN Special Rapporteur's report on indigenous land rights

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

India has rejected what it described as an "unsubstantiated reference" in a report by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, defending its constitutional safeguards and legal framework for protecting the rights of Scheduled Tribes.Anuj Swarup, First Secretary at India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, delivered India's response at the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly's Third Committee.The objection concerns a report issued in August 2025, which questioned whether India's constitutional provisions for Scheduled Tribes provide substantive, rights-based protections or primarily serve administrative purposes.

Rejecting this assessment, India highlighted its existing legal mechanisms for recognising tribal rights, particularly those relating to land and forests. It maintained that the country's legal and constitutional framework provides safeguards for tribal communities and supports their social and economic development.In its defence, India cited data on title claims under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, which recognises the rights of eligible forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers over forest land and resources.

The legislation provides a framework for recognising individual and community forest rights, including rights over land under occupation and access to forest resources. India cited the Act's implementation to counter the suggestion that tribal protections are merely administrative rather than grounded in legal rights.India also underscored its constitutional safeguards and welfare programmes aimed at improving the living conditions of Scheduled Tribes and other disadvantaged communities.

Pope Leo XIV diagnosed with lung cancer after surgery to remove part of right lung

ROME.(Agency)

Pope Leo XIV underwent surgery Tuesday that confirmed that he has lung cancer, and doctors removed the lower lobe of his right lung, the Vatican said.nd transferred them to a rescue helicopter.Tests confirmed a diagnosis of lung adenocarcinoma, the Vatican said in a medical bulletin after the surgery. It said the diagnosis had been suspected by preoperative tests and was confirmed during surgery.

The statement made no mention of treatment going forward, and the Vatican said doctors were not currently speaking of chemotherapy or other therapies pending the results of other tests. The Vatican press office noted the medical statement spoke of the "radical" removal of the lobe as an indication that doctors removed all suspect tissue in hopes of removing any lingering traces of the cancer.

Leo's lymph nodes also would have been removed and tested, to determine if the cancer had spread, and there was no word yet on those test results."Adenocarcinoma is the most common (type of lung cancer), also with the most favorable prognosis," said Dr. Stephen Liu, a lung cancer expert at Georgetown's Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. "While we know the diagnosis we now need to know the stage.""We now need to know how big it is, how many spots in the lung are involved. Is it just one nodule, or more than one, and the lymph nodes, are they cancerous?" Liu said.If the cancer has spread, more tests will be needed to determine what kind of therapy to pursue, he said. Options include chemotherapy, a combination of chemotherapy and immunotherapy or targeted therapy, which involves oral pills for specific cancers.

More than just football: How scandal-tainted City led Manchester's rebirth

MANCHESTER.(Agency)

Standing behind the counter of his fish-and-chip shop near the Etihad Stadium, Sailish Parekh says the transformation of east Manchester over the past two decades has been remarkable.Manchester City "has not only just been a football club for the area. It's a bit of a saviour, to be honest," he told AFP.Before City -- now embroiled in the biggest financial scandal to hit football's cash-rich Premier League -- moved to the area it was "very deprived" with high rates of unemployment, he said.

Since the club's takeover by deep-pocketed Abu Dhabi investors in 2008, long-neglected districts between the stadium and the city centre have become symbols of the northern city's rebirth.Decades of decline linked to deindustrialisation have been reversed.

In neighbourhoods such as Ancoats and New Islington, red-brick warehouses still stand as reminders of Manchester's industrial past.But many disused mills and factories have given way to apartment blocks, trendy cafes and co-working spaces.Software engineer Simon Martin, 44, who lives in Ancoats, recounted how a cab driver told him he would have hesitated once to pick him up, when the area was riddled with crime.Today, Martin praises the "really nice community" with "more young families moving in", although soaring rents have pushed out some lower-income residents.The transformation reflects the influence of Manchester City and its owner, Abu Dhabi United Group (ADUG), controlled by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, a member of the United Arab Emirates royal family.The Emirati investors have not just turned City into one of Europe's dominant football clubs.They have also poured money into property development, building homes and commercial spaces on council-owned land leased under favourable terms.The partnership is centred on Manchester Life, a property company created jointly between ADUG and the council in 2014, but it has drawn criticism over transparency and profit distribution.In a



2024 study, University of Sheffield researchers argued the arrangement primarily enabled the ADUG group to lock in rising land values.

'Our Eiffel Tower'

The city council rejects the criticism, saying it secured "the best overall deal" at a time when investors were scarce after the 2007-2008 global financial crisis.

According to the council, the partnership delivered around 1,500 homes and nearly 2,800 square metres (30,100 square feet) of commercial space.The debate has resurfaced after the Premier League announced last week that an independent commission had found the club guilty on more than 100 charges of breaking financial rules.It has been accused of artificially inflating revenues and reduced reported costs by more than £900 million ($1.2 billion) between 2009 and 2018.

No sanction has yet been announced but City could face substantial points deductions, a fine or even xpulsion from the Premier League. It could also face compensation claims from other clubs.

City insists it has done nothing wrong.

With both Manchester City and rivals Manchester United having huge international draw, football is one of the city's defining assets.

'A sun as black as my lungs': How corruption crucified a polluted Albanian city

ELBASAN.(Agency)

For several days this summer the Albanian city of Elbasan choked in a dense cloud of stinging smoke coming from the direction of its notorious steelworks.Environmental inspectors who rushed to two fires discovered 318 tonnes of toxic industrial dust that had been stored for months in a chrome factory, AlbChrome, with no transfer contracts for its treatment or safe disposal.The site, owned by the Turkish group Yildirim, was temporarily shut.

It is the latest in a litany of disasters to befall one of the most benighted industrial cities in Europe, repeatedly blanketed in lethal smoke from similar blazes.The people of Elbasan have been the victims of environmental crimes since Chairman Mao's China helped Albania's then communist dictator Enver Hoxha plonk down the sprawling "Steel of the Party" complex of 500 factories on their fertile valley in the 1970s.The country's third largest city has also become a symbol of the corruption that has dogged Albania's painful transition to capitalism, with Albanians paying with their health for



recurring scandals.

An incinerator scheme to help clean up the ecological catastrophe turned out to be a vast multi-million-dollar scam that included a "ghost" incinerator for the capital Tirana that was never built. Its tentacles reached into the heart of the Albanian government, with top officials including an environment minister jailed for graft. The country's former deputy prime minister is on the run.

The Elbasan incinerator operated for only a few months, with waste piling up without being treated.

Envirnment agency officials are also accused by anti-corruption prosecutors of being involved in trafficking toxic waste from Elbasan.mption to budget allocations.

EU dream at stake

A days-long fire in July 2025 at a waste dump next to homes outside Elbasan led to concentrations of toxic furans, dioxins, methane and volatile organic compounds "more than seven times" above safety limits, said Professor Besnik Baraj of Albania's Academy of Sciences."I almost died from a severe (asthma) attack," said local Fatmira Serjani, recalling the "terrible nights and crushing mornings", her voice breaking between gasps of her inhaler.

Judge extends order blocking Trump from banning CNN, MS NOW and Politico reporters from White House

World.(Agency)

A federal judge on Tuesday extended an order blocking President Donald Trump's administration from banning reporters for three news outlets from the White House, a pivotal operational development for the organizations as the extraordinary case — pitting the president against the media that cover him — makes its way through the legal system.

In a victory for media organizations at a time when tension between the White House and journalists is high, U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly ruled that CNN, MS NOW and Politico are likely to succeed in their constitutional free speech and due process claims.

"Still," he added in his late-night order, "no one should interpret the Court's decision to suggest that President Trump's concerns about accuracy and fairness in the media's reporting are unfounded, or that the government is powerless when its true aim is to protect national security when classified information is unlawfully disclosed."But Kelly agreed with the plaintiffs that the national security arguments came after the fact and were unsupported by the administration.The judge also wrote that without a preliminary injunction the outlets "are likely to suffer irreparable harm, and that the balance of the equities and the public interest tip in their favor."An email to the Justice Department, which is arguing the case on behalf of the administration, was not immediately returned. The White House also did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment.Theodore Boutrous Jr., attorney for the three media organizations, hailed the judge's ruling.When the President issued his 'ban on the free press,' he blatantly and explicitly violated due process and the First Amendment," Boutrous said in a statement. "The harm this ban did to our clients, the First Amendment, and the public as a whole is profound. The Court was right to enjoin the White House from enforcing this 'unconstitutional ban on the free press' for the foreseeable future."

Judge says no warning given before banishment

Kelly, who was nominated to the bench by Trump, previously ordered the White House to restore the reporters' "hard pass" press credentials while he weighed their claims. With that temporary order expiring Tuesday, the judge issued a preliminary injunction that preserves the status quo indefinitely while the case is pending.

Deluge by design: Thailand's villages flooded to protect capital Bangkok

AYUTTHAYA.(Agency)

Stilt houses in villages north of Bangkok are no longer high enough to stay dry as Thai authorities deliberately flood riverside communities to spare the capitalInside the home of Kamonchanok Sathaphonamonwut, raised more than three metres (10 feet) above the ground in Ayutthaya province, her family of three sleeps on makeshift platforms and cannot use the waterlogged toilet.

Her village has been flooded six years in a row, pushing some to move away, while others have raised their houses higher."Our area simply cannot cope with this much water anymore," the 34-year-old told AFP, wading through her soaked home. But while authorities prioritise protecting Bangkok and other business hubs from floods, "when it comes to our residential communities, they neglect us", she said.Thailand experiences flooding every year during the monsoon season, and scientists say human-made climate change has made heavy rain and floods more frequent and severe.After devastating floods in 2011, the government expanded embankments, water gates and other infrastructure to direct water away from Bangkok, the historic city of Ayutthaya and industrial zones along the Chao Phraya River, which flows through the capital.

The defences have largely kept commercial centres safe, but residents of other areas have been left to fend for themselves.Around 20 kilometres (12 miles) from Ayutthaya's centuries-old temple ruins, a UNESCO heritage site, residents say floods that once reached their knees now rise above their heads in some areas and can take several months to recede.Office worker Kamonchanok has been forced to commute by boat, and hoist her household appliances and other belongings above the waterline. "All we can do is deal with the consequences," she said..

Cruel' but effective

Thai irrigation department spokesman Thanet Somboon said climate change, low-lying geography and recently built embankments that altered the natural flow of the Chao Phraya have contributed.

Greta Thunberg backs French high school protests over run-down schools

Some French pupils say they see parallels between their protests and the "Cockroach" youth movement challenging the government in India and youth-led demonstrations a year ago in Morocco that also demanded better schools and hospitals.

SAINT-DENIS.(Agency)

Greta Thunberg on Tuesday threw her high-profile support behind high school protesters rattling the government in France, saying "the whole world is watching with awe."She joined and applauded hundreds of teenagers who demonstrated boisterously outside a school north of Paris under the watchful eye of police. The surprise appearance by the 23-year-old climate activist, along with another day of marches in the French capital and elsewhere, suggested that high school students' push for more resources for run-down schools is far from running out of steam.That's despite mass arrests, mounting injuries and fatigue from more than three weeks of blockading schools and demonstrating.Police used clouds of tear gas, water cannons and repeated charges to disperse protesters Tuesday when violence erupted on the fringes of the Paris marches. The Interior Ministry estimated that 161,500 people marched in demonstrations across the country, including 41,500 in Paris.



Outside the Paul Éluard high school in Saint-Denis, where staff and students have long complained of dilapidated facilities and even rat infestations, Thunberg said French pupils are "fighting back, reclaiming their future that has been taken away from them" and are inspiring young people in other countries."The international community sees these students and they're leading by example," she said to The Associated Press. "This generation is one that has been growing up with a sense of hopelessness for the future, when we can see our future and our rights taken from us," she said.

'Crucial to us': Seeing pivotal election, Israelis fly from around world to vote

JERUSALEM.(Agency)

Liran Naaman said he spent 800 euros (nearly $900) to fly from Amsterdam, where he has lived for the past 11 years, to his native Israel, all to vote in the October 27 election.

He has returned to vote in every election except during the Covid-19 pandemic, and believes this time his participation matters more than ever. "The way that our government is conducting itself is harming me personally and the rest of the Israelis abroad," the project manager told AFP.

The election is widely seen as areferendum on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his hard-right government after nearly three years of war in Gaza, Iran and Lebanon. Polls show a tight race.Israel is one of a handful of democracies that does not allow citizens to vote if they are abroad. The influx of overseas voters has alarmed Netanyahu's bloc, mindful of how tens of thousands of Israelis, disgruntled during his latest tenure, have left the country.More than 50,000 Israelis are expected to travel home to cast their ballots, according to the Aid Coalition, a US-based NGO that advocates for Israeli democracy.

For Slvie Lidgi, a dual French-Israeli national, the country stands at a crossroads between "two opposing visions of the world: either the Torah (Bible) as a constitution, or a liberal democracy"."That's why I'm going to vote," the Parisian pensioner told AFP, noting that the last time she cast a ballot in Israel was



in 1973.Since then, she had felt it inappropriate to vote while living abroad. "But this year, it's really different," she said. "It's about values."

'Crucial time' for Israel

The relationship between religion and state is also a decisive factor for Tami Giniger, a startup consultant who will fly home from Bangkok to vote."This is a crucial time... for defining what is Israeli, what is Judaism, how these things work together," she said.

"I do love that (Israel) is a Jewish state. But I don't think that it needs to be fanatic," she added.The Aid Coalition has launched a non-partisan initiative, called Fly & Vote, to assist Israelis abroad who want to return for the election. The programme provides information on the location of polling stations and identification requirements.It also helps arrange travel by purchasing seats on commercial flights and reselling them, and in some cases has chartered aircraft.Likud, Netanyahu's party, filed a petition with Israel's Central Elections Committee in early September, accusing the initiative of electoral bribery.Aid Coalition president Jonathan Barsade told AFP the accusation had "no foundation whatsoever" and that the NGO does not provide financial incentives.

A settlement reached last week requires the NGO to stop selling additional flights as part of the programme, while allowing previously purchased tickets to remain valid.