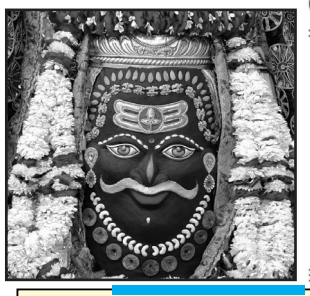
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TUESDAY

MAHANAGAR METRO

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AHEMDABAD/GUJRAT
Tuesday, October 20, 2026



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Why Siddaramaiah quiet despite sting operation by own party: Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy

HASSAN. (Agency).

Union Minister for Steel HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday said he expresses his sympathies for former chief minister Siddaramaiah for maintaining silence despite facing a humiliation over the sting operation.

Unfortunately, he commented, leaders from his own party are tarnishing Siddaramaiah's image. "But, I am yet to understand why Siddaramaiah has remained quiet despite a major political conspiracy hatched against him," he wondered.

He alleged that Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Home Minister Priyank Kharge played a vital role in the sting operation and got Siddaramaiah removed as chief minister, besides tarnishing his image.

Congress might have got uprooted long ago had Siddaramaiah not been in the party. The party is sustaining itself in the state only because of Siddaramaiah, he added.He said CM DK Shivakuamr allegedly hatched a conspiracy to take over the NICE company and the recent statements of the CM substantiate that the he is backing NICE MD over the issue.

Vijay's TVK got 99% of its Rs 13.3 crore donations from two ministers

Chennai (Agency).

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay's TVK party has declared receiving Rs 13.3 crore in voluntary contributions from four donors during the financial year 2025–26, with ministers Aadhav Arjuna and RV Ranjithkumar accounting for 99 per cent of the funds, according to figures submitted to the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The figures revealed that Sports and Public Works Minister Arjuna contributed Rs 8.2 crore, while Ranjith donated Rs 5 crore Arjuna's contribution makes him the party's biggest donor, accounting for more than 60 per cent of the total contributions TVK reported for the financial year.The figures also show two additional donations of Rs 5 lakh each.Snow Sho, located in Lions Town, Thoothukudi, made its contribution through a demand draft. Another Rs 5 lakh was donated by Snow Exports & Imports, which is registered at the same address, also via demand draft.

Meanwhile, the ECI figures also show that the AIADMK reported voluntary contributions of around Rs 161.35 crore during FY 2025–26.The DMK reported contributions of around Rs 191.19 crore, with Tiger Associates emerging as its biggest donor with Rs 125 crore.Kolkata-based lottery firm Tiger Associates is linked to lottery magnate Santiago Martin through a common business associate.

Its designated partner, Subbayan Nagarajan, is a long-time associate of Martin, and corporate records show that the two are partners in another firm.

Action committee seeking justice for Jhota's murder objects to HM Amit Shah's visit

The committee said it would not allow Shah to address the gathering, arguing that drugs had entered Punjab from Gujarat and other BJP-ruled states.

CHANDIGARH(Agency).

The Insaaf Action Committee, which is seeking justice for slain anti-drug activist Parminder Singh Jhota, has opposed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's proposed visit to the bereaved family in Mansa on Tuesday, while Jhota's father, Bhim Singh, has welcomed it.The committee said it would not allow Shah to address the gathering, arguing that drugs had entered Punjab from Gujarat and other BJP-ruled states. It questioned how the Union Home Minister could address an anti-drug protest when BJP-led governments had failed to curb the menace in their own states.

The committee also accused the BJP of exploiting public sympathy over Jhota's death to further its electoral ambitions in Punjab. It cited paper leaks and the alleged mistreatment of farmers as failures of the government.The committee's stand has sparked differences among protesters. Some questioned the opposition to Shah's visit, pointing out that leaders of other parties, including Punjab BJP president Kewal Singh Dhillon, had already addressed the gathering.

Rajwinder Singh Rana, a leftist leader from Mansa, said the committee would ask Bhim to stay away from the meeting. Accompanied by other committee members, Rana said the drug menace was prevalent across states and was not confined to Punjab.



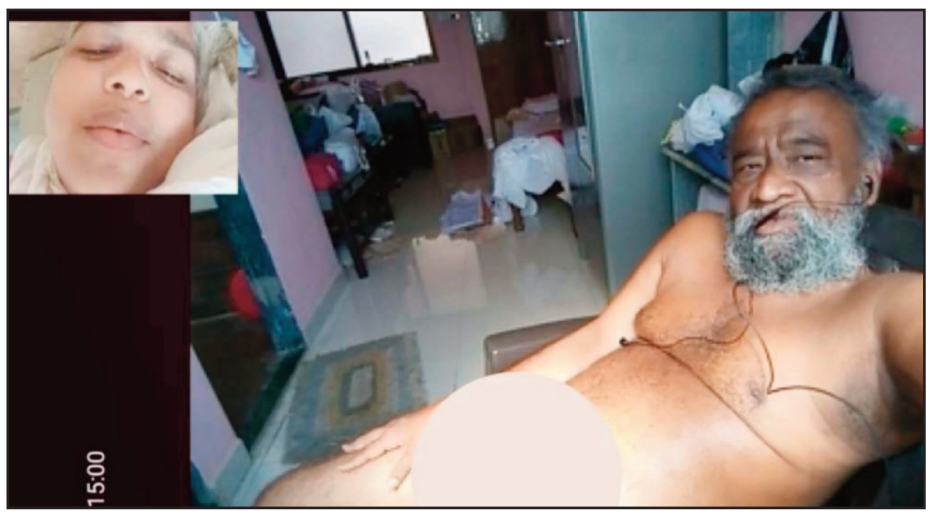
"BJP-led governments have failed to curb the drug menace in states where the party is in power. The BJP leadership is trying to exploit Jhota's tragic death for its electoral ambitions in Punjab," he said.Sources said Shah was expected to visit Jhota's family but had no plans to address the protest.Welcoming the proposed visit, Jhota's father said Shah had already promised strict action. "We will submit our demands in writing too, but he has already taken suo motu action," he said.Bhim also levelled allegations against a retired DSP and questioned why the incumbent DSP had not reached the spot when the incident occurred. He said he would ask Shah to order an inquiry into the retired officer's conduct and properties.

The father added that he would approach the Governor, seeking the resignation of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the DGP.The protesters have barred AAP leaders and others from entering the protest site.The committee has also urged people not to donate money in the name of the agitation without first consulting Jhota's family. Its members said they had no information about funds reportedly being raised through a GoFundMe campaign abroad or other platforms."We had heard that around 1.6 lakh Australian dollars had been raised through the campaign, but no one has contacted us so far. We don't have a bank account or QR code to collect funds. Anyone wishing to contribute should first speak to the family. Contributions can also be made to the committee managing.

JAIN MONK SAGARCHANDRASAGAR CONTROVERSY: VIRAL IMAGES, FORENSIC CLAIMS AND PROPOSED LEGAL ACTION

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Gandhinagar/Ahmedabad: A controversy involving Jain monk Sagar Chandrasagar has intensified following the circulation of alleged objectionable photographs and screenshots purportedly showing an inappropriate video call with a female Jain nun. Mahanagar Metro News has raised questions about the authenticity of the material, the forensic findings reportedly obtained in the case, and the documents allegedly submitted in response to the controversy.Claims of Digital Manipulation Under Scrutiny-According to the claims made in the submitted material, reports from private laboratories allegedly stated that the controversial images had been edited, morphed or digitally manipulated. The news organisation says it initially exercised caution after receiving these documents.However, the organisation subsequently claims that members of the Jain community and other concerned individuals challenged the authenticity of those reports and urged a further examination of the evidence.Alleged Government Forensic FindingsMahanagar Metro News claims that the disputed photographs and video-call screenshots were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) in Gandhinagar for examination. According to the news organisation, the laboratory's findings indicated that the images had not undergone digital editing or morphing.The organisation has also alleged that the private laboratory reports submitted earlier were misleading.However, the original FSL report, its precise findings, and the complete forensic documentation have not been independently verified for this article. The authenticity of the images and the allegations concerning the reports should therefore not be treated as conclusively established without examining the original documents and obtaining responses from the parties concerned.Concerns Raised Over Religious AccountabilityThe controversy has prompted questions about accountability, ethical conduct and the responsibility of religious figures to uphold the principles they represent. Some individuals cited in the news organisation's account have called for action against those accused of misconduct.The allegations have also raised concerns about the protection of female ascetics and the need for transparent procedures to address complaints of inappropriate conduct or exploitation within religious institutions.Any allegations of sexual misconduct or exploitation must be investigated through appropriate legal and institutional procedures. The rights, dignity and reputation of all individuals involved must be protected while the facts are established.Mahanagar Metro News Announces Proposed Legal ActionMahanagar Metro News has stated that it intends to initiate legal proceedings against monk Sagar Chandrasagar over what it alleges were misleading documents submitted to the news organisation. The organisation has indicated that it plans to approach the police and seek the registration of a First Information Report (FIR).The filing of an FIR, the commencement of an investigation and the establishment of criminal liability are separate legal steps. The status of any complaint or FIR in this matter has not been independently confirmed.Further Developments AwaitedMahanagar Metro News has announced that it intends to publish further material concerning the controversy in an upcoming edition. The matter remains subject to verification of the alleged forensic findings, examination of the relevant evidence and responses from the individuals concerned.Editorial Note: The allegations in this report have not been independently established. Publication of the original forensic report, confirmation from the relevant authorities, and a response from Sagar Chandrasagar or his representatives would be necessary before presenting the disputed claims as verified facts. The presumption of innocence and the privacy of any potentially affected individuals must be respected.



Tiger Shroff shooting: 2 arrested, juvenile detained from Rajasthan's Kota

New Delhi(Agency).

Two men have been arrested, and a juvenile detained in Rajasthan's Kota in connection with the firing at Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff's car in Mumbai. The accused have been identified as the 17-year-old minor and Rehan, both from Haryana; and Hrithik Kumar from Bihar.A joint team of the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) Rajasthan and Kota City Police, acting on inputs from Mumbai Police, arrested the three men from the Railway Colony area. The accused arrived in Kota aboard the Pune-Jaipur Superfast Express at around 10.15 am.Two other people have also been detained in connection with the shooting, including one from the Maharashtra-Gujarat border today.Earlier in the day, the Mumbai Police had registered an attempt to-murder case against the three accused. The FIR was initially registered by Juhu Police but has now been transferred to the Mumbai Crime Branch.

The case has been registered under Sections 109(1) (attempt to murder) and 3(5) (acts done by several persons in furtherance of a common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, along with relevant provisions of the Arms Act.

As the 36-year-old actor was leaving after playing a football match in the city's Juhu



area on Sunday evening, the accused fired multiple shots at his BMW sedan. While Shroff escaped unhurt, his driver, Firdaus, and an autorickshaw driver, identified as Chauhan, were injured.The actor, who was seated on the side of the vehicle, shifted towards.

Muslim women suffer most: Himanta Sarma renews push for UCC across India

Himanta Biswa Sarma called for nationwide implementation of the Uniform Civil Code. He said its absence disproportionately affects Muslim women and leaves concerns such as polygamy unresolved.

Assam (Agency).

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has called for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) to be implemented across India, arguing that Muslim women suffer the most in its absence, news agency Press Trust of India reported.Sarma said a common law was needed to address issues such as polygamy. He made the remarks during a visit to Uttar Pradesh's Basti district on Sunday.

According to PTI, Sarma told reporters, "The UCC has already been notified in Assam and should be implemented nationwide." He added, "Muslim women suffer the most in its absence."The Assam Chief Minister was in Basti to visit the residence of BJP national general secretary Harish Dwivedi in Teliyajot village and offer condolences to his family following the death of Dwivedi's mother.Responding to criticism of the BJP by the Congress and other opposition parties amid protests against the SIR and calls for a "regime change", Sarma said, "Power comes through votes, not through strong-arm tactics."



He added, "Those who believe that a change of government can be brought about through intimidation should look at Bangladesh and Nepal." He claimed that only 5,000 to 10,000 people had taken part in the protest in Delhi, PTI reported.

Commenting on the stampede at a Durga Puja pandal in Kolkata, Sarma expressed grief and said the government had taken immediate note of the incident and arranged treatment for those injured. He said necessary measures were also being taken to prevent similar incidents.Sarma had travelled by road from Ayodhya to Dwivedi's residence.

SUV rams into cycle in Faridabad, man trapped under it, injured

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 35-year-old man was trapped under a Maruti Suzuki Grand Vitara after the SUV allegedly hit him outside his house in Faridabad's Sector 85 on Thursday night. The driver allegedly moved the vehicle back and forth several times before fleeing, leaving the injured man pinned underneath.
A video of the incident surfaced on Sunday, showing the victim's family crying as his wife desperately pushed the car in an attempt to free her husband.
Neighbours eventually gathered at the spot and helped rescue him by moving the vehicle.
The victim, Sanjeev Kumar, a mason from Bihar's Munger district, lives in Faridabad's BPTP in Sector 85 with his wife and three children. "He was returning from work on his bicycle on the night of Oct 15 and had stopped outside his house when the SUV, allegedly driven by Lalit Mishra, another Sector 85 resident, hit him," a police officer said.
Sanjeev was dragged under the vehicle on impact. His wife, Pushpa Devi, alleged that the driver got out of the car, saw her husband trapped underneath and fled without helping him.

FIR against 2 X users for false posts claiming Dhruv Rathee arrested

Noida.(Agency)

An FIR was registered against two X users and other unidentified accounts for falsely claiming that YouTuber Dhruv Rathee had been arrested by Noida police, saying the posts risked disturbing public order.
The posts appeared on Oct 16. Rathee had travelled to India to join the protest demanding the resignation of chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. He was detained from his Gurgaon home on Oct 10, ahead of the planned demonstration, after police said he had not heeded warnings against attending a protest for which permission had not been granted.
After the latest X posts, cops in Noida clarified that Rathee had not been arrested by them.
The FIR names Abhishek Kumar (@Abhishek060722), whose post claimed Rathee had been arrested over videos allegedly disrespecting Hindu gods and urging Army and police to revolt against the govt. It also alleged that the "politician behind the action was too powerful.

Car chased us, tried to stop us at gunpoint': Producer of Udaipur Files alleges threat on way to Noida

Noida.(Agency)

Film producer Amit Jani has alleged that unidentified miscreants chased his Defender SUV and attempted to stop it at gunpoint while he was returning to Noida from Jammu after visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine.
According to Jani, the incident took place near Sonipat in Haryana at around 8.28 pm.
He alleged that a white car overtook his vehicle, flashed its high beams and signalled his driver to stop.
Anticipating danger amid what he described as continuing threats from Haryana, Jani instructed his driver to speed away.In his statement, Jani alleged that the white car continued to pursue them at high speed before pulling alongside their SUV. He claimed that the driver of the other car then pulled out a weapon."I instructed the driver to speed away.

Most stilt+4 approvals in Gurgaon-Manesar came before July 2024, Haryana tells HC, calls petitioner's 30,000 claim wrong

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) has told Punjab and Haryana high court that over 60% of the 15,447 stilt-plus-four-floor (S+4) building plans approved in Gurgaon-Manesar's licensed colonies were cleared before July 2, 2024, when the state issued fresh instructions on such buildings.
The department disputed petitioner Sunil Singh's claim that nearly 30,000 approvals came after that date. It said the figure was arrived at by deducting an assumed 5,000 earlier approvals from a cumulative total of about 35,000, without any source. That total, it added, includes 2,997 permissions from Panchkula, which do not relate to the PIL.
In an affidavit filed in CM 432-CWPIL of 2026 in CWP-PIL 212 of 2024, DTCP Director General Dr J Ganesan opposed Singh's plea to stop further S+4 construction and halt the issuance of occupation certificates (OCs). The department said all such buildings could not be treated as violations and construction stopped across the board. It sought dismissal of the application with heavy costs, alleging misrepresentation of facts and misleading the court.The high court's interim order of April 2, 2026, marks the end of the period covered by the department's breakdown, not the introduction of the 2024 rules. According to the affidavit, 9,625 plans (62.3%) were approved up to July 1, 2024, under policies issued in March and September 2019 and provisions of the Haryana Building Code, 2017. Another 5,822 plans (37.7%) were approved between July 2, 2024, and April 2, 2026. OCs have been issued for 8,602 buildings.Singh had cited a departmental letter dated May 4, 2026, to claim that around 35,000 permissions had been granted under the S+4 system, nearly 30,000 of them after the July 2024 instructions. DTCP said the letter did not state that this many approvals were granted under the new policy; it gave cumulative figures across agencies and cities.



Under clause 8 of the July 2, 2024, instructions, the building plan approval and OC are deemed withdrawn if the stilt parking area is fully or partially enclosed. The department said violations are dealt with case by case under Section 10 of the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975.The department said it maintains records of approved plans and OCs but not the current construction status of every plot. Under a standard operating procedure of Nov 16, 2022, architects are authorised to issue OCs for independent residential plots under self-certification, after which the records are submitted to the district town planner. DTCP said it has no record of pending OC applications with architects.Rejecting Singh's contention that no procedure exists for augmenting infrastructure, the department said a standard operating procedure was framed by the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) under the 2024 instructions and was enclosed with the May 4 letter that the petitioner himself annexed. It provides for sector-wise capacity audits of water supply, sewerage, power and roads, and a separate bank account for funds collected.

A Tragic Farewell to a Life...

Mahanagar Metro Desk
Author: Rupesh Solanki, Bhachau, Kutch Some incidents do not remain mere news stories; instead, they leave countless questions deep within the human heart. The tragic news of Vishwarajsinh Gohil's death in Bhavnagar has also left many hearts deeply shaken. The sudden end of a young person's life is not merely a loss for one family; it is an incident that compels us to reflect on relationships, communication, and human sensitivity.Marriage marks the beginning of a relationship between two individuals. This bond grows stronger through love, trust, understanding, and mutual respect. However, when disagreements, allegations, and legal disputes arise within the same relationship, life can become difficult. Reports have emerged about disputes in Vishwarajsinh's married life. There have also been reports that he expressed his anguish through a final video. However, the complete facts surrounding the incident and the truth behind the allegations can be established only after an impartial investigation.This incident encourages us to reflect on an important question: Are opportunities for communication gradually disappearing amid conflicts in relationships? Do we rush to make accusations against others rather than listen to their side of the story? Differences of opinion can arise in any relationship, but patience, understanding, and compassion are essential to prevent disagreements from turning into emotional divisions.We cannot always judge how much pain a person is experiencing internally simply by looking at their face. Even someone who appears normal on the outside may be struggling with countless thoughts and personal challenges. Therefore, families, friends, and society have a responsibility to ensure that people going through difficult times do not feel alone. We should listen to them, offer appropriate guidance, and encourage them to seek help from mental health professionals whenever necessary.Rather than blaming either party in this incident, what matters most is that the truth emerges, an impartial investigation is conducted, and the legal process proceeds appropriately. Laws that protect women from domestic violence are important. At the same time, every complaint must be investigated fairly and justly. Justice should be determined not by allegations or emotions, but by facts and evidence.The emptiness left in the lives of Vishwarajsinh's family members following his death is difficult to express in words. When a person departs from this world, countless dreams, hopes, and memories remain behind. For a family, enduring such grief can be extraordinarily difficult. During such times, expressing sympathy, respecting the family's privacy, and refraining from spreading unverified information are also important social responsibilities.The tragic passing of Vishwarajsinh reminds us that keeping communication alive in relationships, maintaining a humane approach during difficult circumstances, and preserving hope in life are all essential.



Lawrence Bishnoi has a new rival: Bambiha gang

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A rivalry with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang has allegedly fuelled the revival of a parallel criminal network operating in the name of slain gangster Devender Bambiha, officers of Haryana STF said.
The network has allegedly brought together old associates, family members and recruits, with some key operatives coordinating activities from abroad. Its targets include toll operators, hotel owners, property dealers, bar operators, liquor contractors, car showroom owners and financiers across Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Delhi-NCR.
During a bail hearing for Neetu (25), wife of Gaurav alias Gori, an associate of gangster Kaushal Chaudhary, the prosecution detailed the gang's alleged modus operandi and organisational structure. In an order dated Oct 14, sessions judge Narender Sura granted her bail.According to the agency, those allegedly involved in the network include Himanshu Bhau and Sahil Ritholi of Rohtak, Bibi Kadyan, Neeraj Pandit of Faridpur in Faridabad, and Chaudhary of Gurgaon, who was recently sentenced to life imprisonment in a murder case. Saurabh Gadoli, Chand Ram alias Chande and Amit Dagar are named among the trusted associates. The prosecution cited criminal cases against several of them.
The prosecution alleged that the gang uses intermediaries to make threat calls to businessmen and collect money. Those who refuse to pay despite repeated calls are targeted, with shots fired at their shops or offices. To intensify the pressure, the gang allegedly circulates videos of shootings, CCTV footage and media coverage of the incidents. The money is then distributed among gang members and their families.Investigators cited extortion-related firing incidents at Matru Ram Halwai and a Mahindra showroom in Hisar, and at a mobile shop in Palwal. They also referred to the murder of financier Manjeet.
The agency said young people active on social media are lured with promises of money and opportunities abroad, then allegedly used as sleeper cells for shootings, weapons trafficking and drug smuggling.

3 relatives held for abetment after 5 of family found dead at home

Noida.(Agency)

Three persons were arrested for abetment to suicide after five members of a family, including three children, were found dead at their home in Greater Noida's Rabupura on Saturday. Police said four audio recordings recovered from a phone in the house pointed to a property dispute within the family.



The five who were found dead – frothing at the mouth – were Mahesh, his wife Lalita (35) and their children Laddu (11), Mishti (7) and Sakshat (3). On Sunday, police arrested Mahesh's sisters Sunita (45) and Sapna (32), and Sunita's husband Shekhar (50), all residents of Delhi. They were arrested on charges of abetment to suicide.
According to Rabupura SHO Shyambabu Shukla, Sunita allegedly influenced their mother to have the family house transferred in her name in 2025, leaving Mahesh upset. Their mother lived in the same Rabupura house with Mahesh."Four audio recordings, each around two minutes long, were recovered from Mahesh's phone. In one, he can be heard blaming Sunita, Shekhar and Sapna for the extreme step. He did not blame his mother, who lived with them," Shukla said.The recordings, sent from one phone to another, helped establish the family dispute and led to the arrests, police said.The sequence of events on Friday night is also central to the probe. Police examined CCTV footage near the house and found that Lalita had gone to a local fair with two children and some neighbours, while Mahesh stayed home with their son. She returned at 10.04pm.
Police suspect that after she came back, Lalita prepared noodles for the family and Mahesh may have mixed a poisonous substance into it. The family ate and went to sleep, but none woke up the next morning. Used utensils were found in the house.The deaths came to light around 8am on Saturday, when a boy from the neighbourhood went to call the school-going children for an examination. When nobody answered to repeated knocks on the door, the child climbed over the boundary wall and opened the gate. The child's mother then entered and found the family unresponsive.) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.Mahesh and one child were on a cot. Lalita and the other two children were on a bed, with one child clinging to her lap. All five, police said, were frothing at the mouth, with no visible injuries.Police said the main gate was bolted from inside and CCTV checks showed no outsider entering the house. However, autopsies did not establish the cause of death. Viscera samples were preserved for forensic analysis.

Farmers give consent, New Noida land acquisition set to begin soon

Noida.(Agency)

Land acquisition for New Noida is set to begin soon, with 281 farmers agreeing to give up their plots through mutual consent. Noida Authority has finalised acquisition rates and will now initiate the process for the Dadri-Noida-Ghaziabad Investment Region (DNGIR), a proposed urban development spread across nearly 20,000 hectares.Noida Authority CEO Krishna Karunesh reviewed the project at a meeting and asked officials to begin the process at the earliest. "The rates for land acquisition in New Noida have already been determined. A meeting with villagers and gram pradhans was held last week. So far, 281 farmers have submitted consent forms to give their land through mutual agreement," he said.The acquisition will take place in four phases. The Authority plans to acquire 3,165 hectares by 2027, another 3,798 hectares by 2032, 5,908 hectares by 2037 and 8,230 hectares by 2041.Compensation will vary by phase. Farmers in the first two phases will receive rates based on those of Greater Noida Authority, along with developed plots measuring 6% of their acquired land. In the final two phases, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) rates will apply, along with 7% developed plots.Greater Noida Authority recently raised its compensation rate from Rs 4,125 to Rs 6,415 per sqm, while YEIDA increased its rate from Rs 4,300 to Rs 4,558 per sqm. Noida Authority will set up three new work circles — 11, 12 and 14 — to oversee the project.
Officials also reviewed the 5.5km Chilla elevated road linking Mayur Vihar with Mahamaya flyover. Nearly 60% of the project is complete, and it is expected to open by July next year. Officials were told to ensure that the road's merging point with the Noida Expressway near Mahamaya Flyover does not become a traffic bottleneck.The Authority is also planning a 1.4km elevated link from the Chilla road's endpoint near Mahamaya Flyover to Yamuna Pushta Road. Its detailed project report is ready, and a tender is expected within two weeks.
Separately, the Authority and irrigation department are repairing and upgrading an 11.2km stretch of Yamuna Pushta Road between Okhla Barrage and Sector 135. Earthwork, levelling and widening are underway, with officials directed to complete the work at the earliest.With pollution expected to worsen in the coming months, Karunesh also ordered all roads to be resurfaced by Oct 31 to curb dust. The Authority will install air quality index display monitors at various locations to provide live pollution updates.

Festive joy dims as veggie prices go up in Telangana

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

Amid festive season, rising vegetable prices are squeezing household budgets across Telangana, prompting consumers to cut back on purchases.

Tomatoes that sold for around Rs 20 per kg at roadside markets in Hyderabad two weeks ago now cost Rs 50, while supermarkets charge around Rs 60. Tomato prices have risen by around 150% at roadside markets and 71% in supermarkets, driven by heat, water shortages, crop damage, and lower market arrivals.Onion prices have also surged, reaching Rs 65-70 per kg in early October, up from around 30 a month earlier. At Hyderabad's Rythu Bazaars, onions sold for Rs 45-50 per kg on September 12, while street vendors charged around 60. Quick-commerce platforms quoted Rs 60-70 per kg.Wholesale prices at Malakpet market rose to Rs 45,000-52,000 per quintal, against Rs 18,000-20,000 in July."The rise in onion prices was linked to lower supplies from Maharashtra and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, both important sources for Telangana. Rain damage in these regions affected availability, while some farmers in Kurnool.

Bus shortage & inadequate crowd management anger Sabarimala devotees

PATHANAMTHITTA.(Agency)

Thousands of devotees had a harrowing time after inadequate crowd management measures and insufficient transport facilities left them stranded for hours at Sabarimala on Sunday, the opening day of darshan for the Thulam month at the hill shrine.

Irked by a shortage of buses, a large number of pilgrims blocked the road in protest even as the officials attributed the disruption to ongoing road repair work along the Nilackal-Pampa stretch and the failure to deploy sufficient KSRTC buses to meet the surge in demand. With the rituals falling on a weekend, routes to the shrine saw an unprecedented rush of devotees. Traffic congestion ended up crippling movement of pilgrims along the Nilackal-Pampa route. A vehicle carrying children from Pandalam Palace, who had travelled to Sabarimala to participate in the melshanthi selection process, was also stuck in traffic for hours. The congestion extended up to Attathodu, while an accident along the route further aggravated the situation. Those returning after darshan also faced prolonged waits for buses.

In view of the situation, the Temple Ritual Protection Committee, a devotee organisation, convened an emergency review meeting and held discussions with authorities to address the hardships faced by devotees.

429 assistant professor posts to be filled in Telangana universities

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

The Telangana government has given permission to fill 429 vacant assistant professor posts in the state universities under the Higher Education department through direct recruitment in the first phase. According to GO Ms No 142 issued by the Finance department on Sunday, the vacancies will be filled in seven state universities. Osmania University accounts for the highest number of vacancies at 252, followed by Kakatiya University and Satavahana University with 49 posts each, and Palamuru University with 45 posts. Dr BR Ambedkar Open University and Suravaram Pratap Reddy Telugu University have 16 vacancies each, while Telangana University has two vacant posts.The government has directed the Telangana Council of Higher Education and the registrars of the respective universities to initiate the recruitment process immediately. The universities must adhere to the applicable recruitment rules, reservation provisions, roster points and other statutory requirements while issuing notifications. The recruitment will follow the uniform guidelines issued by the government, stated in the GO.

Imran Khan Leave India Notice: Bombay High Court to hear actor's plea on October 26

Pune.(Agency)

The Bombay High Court has agreed to hear actor Imran Khan's plea on October 26 against the Leave India Notice (LIN) issued by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), asking him to leave India by October 28 after he took part in a protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in Mumbai on October 10.The plea was moved before a bench of Chief Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi and Justice Advait M Sethna on Monday, seeking urgent hearing in the Imran Khan Leave India Notice case.

The Leave India Notice was issued on October 14 for an alleged violation of the Immigration and Foreigners Act (IFA), 2025, by joining the protest.Senior advocate Venkatesh Dhond, representing Imran Khan, argued that the actor has been living in India since he was 2 years old and was issued a LIN without any show-cause notice or a hearing because "he attempted to attend a protest where he was stopped halfway through and he went back."



"We are placing it on October 26. They (respondents) will get time to take instructions. Are there any criminal antecedents? Join or add state government as party since this is a local matter," the bench said.

"He has no police record. My request is since he has to leave the country by 28th, October 26th might be cutting it very fine or close. I am requesting the matter be heard day after tomorrow or Friday," Dhond said. "October 26 will be fine," the bench said.

Imran Khan had approached the court through advocates Zulfiquar Memon, Parvez Memon, and Chirag Naik of MZM Legal, challenging the 'Leave India Notice' as "unconstitutional, manifestly arbitrary and disproportionate".Pending disposal of his writ petition, he sought direction from the court to quash and set aside the notice, along with an "immediate stay" on its operation and implementation.

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya had filed a complaint alleging that Imran Khan, the US citizen and OCI cardholder, had violated the law. Following an FIR, the FRRO issued the LIN on October 14.The actor claimed the authority merely acted "at the behest of and on the timetable of a political functionary who holds office under the IFA".Meanwhile, the FRRO on Saturday issued a show-cause notice (SCN) to actor Imran Khan, stating that his registration as an OCI cardholder may be liable to cancellation under Section 7D(e) of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Rs 25,000 aid for couples: What is behind this Maharashtra district's mass wedding drive?

Farmers, sugarcane harvesters, and agricultural workers in Beed can now register through local Anganwadi workers to participate in government-backed mass weddings scheduled between November and December.

Nagpur.(Agency)

The Beed district administration in Maharashtra has announced a mass wedding initiative for drought-hit rural families to help reduce the financial burden of marriage ceremonies. The weddings will be organised in three phases on November 25-26, November 14-15, and December 30-31, with eligible couples set to receive government assistance of up to Rs 25,000.Beed District Collector Vivek Johnson announced the initiative in an Instagram post on Saturday, saying the programme aims to help farmers, agricultural labourers and sugarcane harvester families avoid heavy wedding expenses amid the drought.

"The state government has declared drought across the entire Beed district. Considering the situation, and to ease the financial burden on farmer families during their children's marriages, the district administration has decided to organise mass weddings," Johnson said.

The initiative is being undertaken under the guidance of G Sreekanth, Divisional Commissioner of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. The district administration is coordinating with various government departments to extend financial assistance of up to Rs 25,000 to eligible couples through schemes such as Kanyadaan and Shubhamangal.

Eligibility criteria

The assistance aims to support eligible beneficiaries from communities included in the schemes, such as scheduled castes, neo-Buddhists, denotified tribes, nomadic tribes, other backward classes, and special backward categories. Additionally, families of farmers and agricultural labourers are also eligible for this initiative, provided they meet the relevant eligibility criteria.Johnson said the administration wants to ensure financial constraints do not add to the difficulties rural families face during the drought. He urged eligible couples to register for the initiative and use the assistance available through government schemes.



"To participate in the mass wedding initiative, eligible couples can approach their local Anganwadi workers and register themselves. They can also select the chairpersonship of the additional collector. At the taluka level, committees headed by the respective tehsildars will oversee the arrangements. These taluka committees will include block development officers (BDOs) and child development project officers (CDPOs) from the Women and Child Development Department."Participating in mass weddings is not just a way to save money but also reflects a commitment to society," Johnson said.

YSRCP skips Punganur polls, seeks Andhra High Court's intervention

TIRUPATI.(Agency)

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has failed to file nominations for the Punganur Municipality elections, with former minister and senior party leader Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy announcing that the party would stay away from the polls, citing alleged obstruction and violence during the nomination process.He said he had approached the Andhra Pradesh High Court seeking directions to facilitate the filing of nominations and had also requested permission for the party to file them in Punganur on Monday as a special case.According to



Punganur municipal election officials, only the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) candidate, Nayeem Taj, filed a nomination for the chairperson's post.

The YSRCP did not file nominations for either the chairperson's post or any of the 36 ward councillor seats, according to the figures provided by the returning officers.Speaking to the media, Peddireddy alleged that YSRCP candidates were being prevented from filing nominations in Punganur, Pulivendula, Rayachoti and Rajampet. He alleged that the ruling coalition was attempting to secure uncontested victories in constituencies where the YSRCP expected to perform well.

Drought in Karnataka hits animal, poultry nutrition, scientists scramble to find solutions

Bengaluru.(Agency)

The impact of drought in Karnataka is deeper and more worrisome than what is visible on the surface.While the focus has largely been on drought's adverse impact on agrarian communities, an expert assessment has revealed that it has a worse impact on farm animals and poultry -- considered a buffer for farmers in absorbing losses and stress.



This revelation has led experts from Bengaluru-based Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP) to intensify work on addressing nutrition aspects among farm animals and poultry across Karnataka.The assessment by ICAR-NIANP scientists in 226 of 240 taluks has found that prevailing drought conditions induced water scarcity, heat stress, malnutrition and starvation, abnormal eating habits, and threatened disease outbreaks among farm animals and poultry.During the assessment, researchers found that drought impacted milk quality, resulting in reduced solid fat content and vitamin levels. They noted a dip in soil.

Gunmen open fire, attack Pune businessman with machete near airport

Pune.(Agency)

Two bike-borne men opened fired at shipping businessman Rana Dilip Suryavanshi and attacked with a sharp weapon near Baramati airport in Pune district on Sunday evening, Pune rural police said. Police said that Suryavanshi did not sustain bullet injury but sustained an injury inflicted by a sharp weapon and was being treated at a hospital.

According to Pune rural police, the incident took place around 7.30 pm near Baramati Airport. "Initial probe suggests that Suryavanshi was visiting a location near Baramati airport when two men came and one of them opened fire at him. The suspects also attacked him with a machete. He has not sustained bullet injury but has sustained an injury due to machete. He is being treated at a hospital and is out of danger." said an officer from Pune Rural police.After the incident, senior police officers visited the location. A case of attempt to murder was being registered at Baramati taluka police station.



Police were yet to identify the suspects at the time of filing the report. Sources said that Suryavanshi was accompanied by security guards. Suryavanshi is proprietor of Rana Shipping Company.

Symbiosis professor in Nagpur put on leave over messages to students, alleged religious pressure

The action came after the VHP took a student's complaint about alleged inappropriate messages to the college and police. A university committee is now investigating.

Nagpur.(Agency)

A professor at Symbiosis Law School's Nagpur campus has been placed on leave pending an inquiry into allegations that he sent inappropriate messages to female students and urged them to follow Islam and read the Quran.

The university has set up a high-level committee to investigate the allegations, including claims about his conduct at his previous workplace, Symbiosis Law School in Hyderabad. No FIR had been registered till Sunday, police said.A student's father approached the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) after his daughter showed him messages allegedly sent by the professor, VHP members told The Indian Express. The organisation then raised the issue with the college administration and met the Nagpur Police Commissioner.

A university official said the administration had taken cognisance of the complaint and set up the committee to investigate and recommend action."The concerned professor is now on leave and will not attend the campus until the inquiry is complete and its findings are available," the official said, adding that the committee would also examine the allegations from Hyderabad. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 5) Nityanand Jha, around 15-17 people from various organisations gathered at the university at about 11.30 am on Saturday. Police facilitated talks between the protesters and the administration, after which the professor was placed on leave.At around 6.45 pm, another group of 15-20 people arrived at the campus with the complainant and her father. The



inquiry committee was meanwhile holding an open-house discussion with around 100-120 students.Police then facilitated a meeting between the administration and a delegation of six or seven people, including the complainant. The committee assured them that the allegations would be examined and action taken within a stipulated time. bThe administration and police later briefed students on the developments. No law-and-order problem was reported, Jha said.

'Babita Singh Reporting' and a rising tide one cannot silence

Last weekend, after an exhausting day, my mom and I sought comfort in the familiar digital rabbit hole — binge watching. The candidate for our redemption — no review read, no opinion formed — was the latest OTT offering, 'Babita Singh Reporting'.Babita Singh aka Baby is a teacher-turned-cop in Madhya Pradesh. While on a visit to her hometown, her childhood friend Bansi is allegedly murdered, and she finds herself compelled to investigate. The story could have just been a crime thriller, but this is precisely where its brilliance lay.Having already lent strength to the acclaimed Malayalam drama 'The Great Indian Kitchen', Nimisha Sajayan returns as a closet feminist in her role as Baby. She sees, she endures, sometimes she speaks. But she knows.Right at the beginning, we are compelled to make a choice: to recognise the micro-aggressions that reek of patriarchy, or to pull over the veneer of normalcy to explain what Baby endures. After all, do we not watch cinema to forget the ills that plague us?An alpha male chasing a girl is not just considered acceptable, but called love. A male actor courting a female actor half his age is never frowned upon, for we attach expiry dates on women, a privilege male actors are bereft of. We cheer cinema that calls out social ills too, but label it social messaging, arguing the veracity of the tenets in our own homes, for vices reside outside our peripheries. We cheer cinema we should sneer at otherwise, but cinema is an escape and an excuse.And this is the excuse 'Babita Singh Reporting' allows us, for the patriarchy is woven so deftly that you recognise it only when it invokes muscle memory.Trapped in the quagmire of a no-leave desk posting, Baby jumps into quicksand when she accepts a false accusation, only as it will allow her leave to visit her in-laws. She, and us, are reminded subtly how getting leave is important for her familial obligations. Her husband graciously offers that she quit her police job once his shop loan is repaid. This is a familiar trope: a woman's job is within the home, and if the husband can bring the bread, who needs her to add the butter? More so, as Baby lands up as a cop on an ex-gratia post. She sees, silently.Baby endures. She reaches Rewa, to her husband's mother and sister politely reminding her of her underactive thyroid, and how it affects her appearance and chances of conception. A particularly poignant scene, where Baby is shown pasting make-up for a family function, stands out. Nimisha brilliantly captures the weight of patriarchy, where the much chastised 'lipa pothi' is not a choice, but an imposition.These moments are easy to blink by, for we notice only what we feel. This also is not about Baby being a victim, and we are quickly reminded as to how patriarchy is a generational construct. The same household that bruises Baby is also bleeding; her sister-in-law is reeling under similar patriarchal expectations and taunts from her in-laws. But of all generational bonds that bind us, patriarchal bondages are the toughest to break. We pass them on like the plague.

Baby speaks with empathy, loud enough for us to hear but soft enough for us to ignore. When she tells her colleague that she cannot understand what it is to be married, she likens it to how Baby cannot understand what it is to slog for a government job. When Baby's husband mocks her in front of his cousins, hinting at her need to lose weight to be able to conceive, she is quick to quip, much to the chagrin of her husband.And she is not the only survivor of this patriarchal violence. We learn how Bansi, her friend, committed suicide succumbing to the burden of patriarchy, which heavier on a few genders crushes us all under its generational weight.

The tale of two birthdays

Both celebrated their birthdays within six days of each other, that too last month. Both crossed the ruling party's Margdarshak Mandal (Guiding Committee) threshold of three score years and fifteen. Plus one.

What's in a birthday—or in this case a couple? That too birthdays past, in this case, quite recently. I will explain the deeper significance in the end but first let's understand whose birthdays we are discussing.

I can tell you that they are counted among India's two most powerful men. Both celebrated their birthdays within six days of each other, that too last month. I am sure you've guessed by now, but here's another hint. Both crossed the ruling party's Margdarshak Mandal (Guiding Committee) threshold of three score years and fifteen. Plus one.That, after all, is only a notional not constitutional rite of passage for the BJP, therefore I consider is pointless to dwell on it. Instead, I want, rather, to reflect on the stark contrast between these two birthday celebrations. What, indeed, does that contrast tells us about contemporary India?Yes, one of them is our prime minister, whose seventy-sixth birthday was on September 17.I have, in my earlier writings, called Narendra Modi India's "Millennium Man." Given all his achievements and contributions to the nation, Modi will be remembered as India's greatest leader since Mahatma Gandhi. All the easier, you might think, now that Gandhi is so systematically reviled.Comparisons, as they say, are odious.Butanotherbirthdayof an eminent personage almost comes to mind immediately.He too crossed the same magic milestone, that toojust a week prior. I am, of course, referring to Mohan Bhagwat, the Sarsanghachalak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

Bhagwat turned 76 on 9/11. Ominous or auspicious? I would say the latter. Because unlike RSS haters and baiters, he is so much closer to Swami Vivekanandathan the Al Qaeda terrorists at the opposite end of the religious spectrum.As Bhagwat himself said in his centennial outreach interaction in London in September, the motivation of RSS was "shuddha, sattvik prem" not hatred as RSS critics accuse it of. Vivekananda, too, one might remember, called for the end of religious fanaticism and violence in his famous Chicago address on that day in the 1893 Parliament of World Religions.

But the reason for the comparison is that Bhagwat's birthday went almost unmarked and unheralded. Ironically, it was Modi published a homage in major newspapers else the nation may not even have noticed.

Modi's on the other hand, following closely after on September 17, was celebrated with fervor or, some would say, sycophancy. Top Cabinet members, starting with Defence Minister and long-timer supporter, Rajnath Singh, sang paeans to the great man. So fulsome was Singh's tribute that one wiseacre remarked that the Defence Minister turned into Deference Minister for the occasion.A whole host programmes and commemorations followed: lamps were lit, there were special prayers, havans, temple rituals, processions, motorcycle rallies, blood-donation camps, cleanliness drives, tree-planting ceremonies, exhibitions, not to mention elaborate publiccelebrations. The Prime Minister's photograph even received ritual attention in some places.A month-long Seva Sankalp Abhiyanmobilised the BJP's formidable organisational machinery.Accompanying these festivities was a nationwide publicity campaign celebrating 25 years of the yashasvi Prime Minister's service in constitutional office, beginning with his assumption of the Gujarat chief



ministership in October 2001. Newspapers and magazines carried adulatory accounts of his extraordinary accomplishments. Even the Union Cabinet adopted a resolution celebrating his quarter-century in government.Well deserved, of course, then why this disquiet?

Mohan Bhagwat himself hinted at it.

The day after, on September 18, 2026, addressing the Yuva Dharma Sansad in Ujjain, Bhagwat warned against ahankar (arrogance) and the illusion of absolute power: "A person who acts out of ahankar (arrogance) believing that everything is under their control because of the ego, carries the misconception in mind that everything should happen according to their own will. But that is not so." Was this a slanting reference to Modi? After all, the RSS doesn't believe in vyakti puja, the worship of individuals. Individuals come and go, but it is the Sangathan that must prevail.Perhaps, Bhagwat did not refer to Modi at all. But couldallthe pomp and circumstance of the latter's birthday, this ostentation, expensive and coordinated, have happened with approval from the very top?Was the PM was succumbing to seductive power of his own cult?

Why should we be so uncharitable, even suspicious? Moreover,Modi admirers protest, isn't he doing it for the party? After all, larger-than-life promotions and projections win elections. From Indira Gandhi to J. Jayalalithaa.Right? Then let us put this hypothesis to the test. If Modi's personality cult alone won elections, then the 2024 results should have been charso par--400 plus. But, personality cults by themselves do not win elections. Nor do ideologies or propaganda. Else, shouldn't the setback of 2024 must also be laid at his doorstep?

Today, what we see instead is a government that though it seems electorally formidable is no longer invulnerable. The ruling party appears to be misfiring on several fronts: unemployment and economic anxieties, foreign-policy complications, youth unrest resulting in the resignation of the former education minister, controversies surrounding the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, strictures on the Chief Election Commissioner, and the growing North-South divide—to mention a few.These problems demand serious attention, consultation, institutional competence, and, above all, a willingness to listen. Not deflection, whether via foreign tours and awards, nor the endless rehearsals of the accomplishments of the last twenty-five years.What seems to be the response instead? Too often, a tendency to delegitimate dissent while ratcheting up the personality cult of the great leader.To double down on stamping out all protests while and ratcheting up the personality cult of the longest-serving prime minister may not be the best way forward.Proverbially speaking, shootthe messenger to escape or avoid dealing with the message. As if attacking Rahul Gandhi or Cockroach Janata Party will make the issues they raise go away.But who will drive home the message that this strategy is not quite working?The difficulty is that well-wishers who offer honest advice are often the first to be discredited or discarded. As a result, the leader hears increasingly less of what he needs to know and more of what he wishes to hear.That is when political power becomes particularly dangerous, not necessarily to its opponents, but to itself. If history is to be believed, the isolation of a great man in his own echo chamber is often the prelude to a fall.The Modi saga, even the Modi myth,isquite secure in Indian history.Why, then,is there a driver need to overhype it? Shouldn't constructive criticism, so crucial to improvement, indeed, to democracy itself.

Karnataka must focus on drought, not sting operations

While the Supreme Court is seized of the matter, the Press Council of India has shared guidelines for journalists to follow while on the job during protests

The Congress government in Karnataka is embroiled in a controversy over sting operations, diverting attention from drought and agrarian distress caused by a 32 percent deficit in south-west monsoon rainfall, with several farmers dying by suicide amid major crop losses.Last week, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar cautioned his Cabinet colleagues about sting operations allegedly planned to target them, destabilise the government and tarnish the party's image. Claiming to know those behind the operations, Shivakumar hinted at the opposition, triggering political mudslinging, with Union minister and JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy and state BJP president B Y Vijayendra demanding a CBI probe or a formal police case.After being targeted by allegedly fake social media campaigns, former CM Siddaramaiah lodged a complaint with the Bengaluru police commissioner and secured a court order restricting the video's circulation. Two JD(S) social media workers were detained by the Central Crime Branch for questioning, while Kumaraswamy staged a dharna outside the police commissioner's office on Thursday,



alleging failure to nab the real kingpin.

This political drama unfolded even as 226 of the state's 240 taluks remained drought-hit, crop losses were estimated at over ₹46,324 crore this year, and farmer suicides over the past three years totalled 2,809. Independent assessments have repeatedly linked rainfall deficits to farm distress deaths.Yet, the priority accorded to sting operations at a Cabinet meeting at such a juncture exposes the skewed priorities of the Shivakumar-led government, which aims to retain power in the 2028 Assembly polls with a larger majority. The state government announced an input subsidy of ₹2,500, which farmers' groups have termed inadequate. Visits to drought-hit taluks by ministers, MLAs and officials remain conspicuously absent, while the government's focus remains on protecting the party's image.Both the ruling dispensation and the opposition would do well to heed Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee chief B K Hariprasad's comment: "If we indulge in such mudslinging… everyone is in it. As they say in Hindi, 'Hamam mein sab nange hain' (Everyone is naked in the bathhouse). It is not a good development in politics." For the sake of lakhs of distressed farming families, Karnataka's political class must turn its attention to the crisis that demands it most.

No Jantar Mantar, no Central Park – when restrictions become fundamental, rights a favour

With US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in India, Delhi needs to objectively assess the way ahead in India-US ties

The government thwarted attempts of the CJP and several other groups of protesters and activists from holding a big 'Lehra do Tiranga' rally at Central Park in Connaught Place, Delhi, with the CJP's top leadership being detained ahead of the rally. The stakes are high for the Modi government. It must shift headlines away from the continuing protests rocking the capital if it wants to retain control of the narrative, writes Editor-in-Chief Jyoti Malhotra in her weekly column, The Great Game , titled How to unfurl the Tiranga. Is the person who wants to unfurl the Tricolour, for example, a good or not-so-good person? The moral dilemma is upon us. To be or not to be anti-national is no longer the question, she writes.A right to protest at a place you cannot reach is a right on paper. It resembles a theatre ticket when the doors are locked, writes Supreme Court senior advocate Sanjay Hegde in his Edit article, A democracy needs its kopagriha. Drawing an analogy with Valmiki's kopagriha in the Ramayana, where Kaikeyi expressed her anger to Raja Dashratha against making Lord Rama king, Hegde writes that Delhi has its own kopagriha; it is called Jantar Mantar. The designated place stays open, but the road leading to it is shut. When a police commissioner shuts a dozen Metro stations to stop a few hundred people, he inverts that order, treating the restriction as fundamental and the right as a favour, he writes.US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is visiting India from October 18 to 22 to discuss bilateral ties, trade, regional security and energy cooperation. His itinerary includes Gujarat's Jamnagar and Mumbai, but not Delhi. Given the turbulence and setbacks in India-US ties, Delhi needs to make an objective and prudent assessment of the way ahead, writes C Uday Bhaskar, director of the Society for Policy Studies, in his Edit article, India must stay engaged with the US.The critical policy approach for India is to revisit the central



assumption that has guided bilateral relationship since 2005: India and the US have corresponding security objectives vis-a-vis China, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. That assumption is no longer valid, he writes. India describes itself as a "resident power" in the Indo-Pacific, seeking freedom of strategic action without a bloc mentality. The US increasingly wants bloc discipline when it suits its interests, while retaining flexibility in its dealings with Beijing. Rubio's visit is more than a review — it will be a reality check on the trajectory of the troubled India-US relationship, Bhaskar argues.

Meanwhile, China has responded strongly to India's move to standardise the names of 28 places in Ladakh. It is an irony that Beijing has opposed India's move even as it has long pursued similar measures itself. As per China's playbook, what it does is right, while similar actions by others are wrong, writes former Ambassador to China Gautam Bambawale in his Edit article, Chinese duplicity to the fore. Rather than flexing its muscles and attempting to exhibit its comprehensive national power, China should adopt a practical, solution-finding approach to lay the foundation for a more straightforward relationship between the two neighbours, he writes.On another front involving China, Afghanistan's de facto authorities have inaugurated a 121-km unpaved transit route connecting Badakhshan with China's Xinjiang bypassing Pakistan. Efforts to promote a Pakistan-proof gateway via the Wakhan Corridor face challenges, including Beijing's security concerns, writes former Ambassador to Afghanistan Jayant Prasad in his Edit article, Afghan route to China faces hurdles. By preventing overland transit for Afghan goods destined for third countries, Pakistan thwarted Afghan aspirations, Prasad writes. That explains why Afghanistan is keen to promote the alternative Pakistan-proof transit routes through Chabahar Port and the Wakhan Corridor.The Nobel prizes have acquired an iconic status that is seen as universal benchmarks of excellence. While the judgments in the other five categories are regarded as largely objective, the literature prize is more subjective, writes Peter Ronald deSouza, former director of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, in his Edit article, A Nobel that's not so universal.

he selection of Anne Carson, from Canada and Iceland, for the Nobel Prize in Literature has drawn widespread applause but also produced some lingering doubts. The larger question is the epistemic asymmetry between the Global North and the Global South. The Nobel committee members may have sincere intentions, but the ecosystem within which they make their selection is framed by bias, deSouza writes. The North's way of seeing, he argues, becomes the universal way of seeing.

How to make hair removal wax at home



There are times when you can't find the time to visit the salon to get your waxing done. When that happens, it's better to get waxed at home instead of shaving.

Step 1

Take a saucepan and heat some sugar in it. Keep stirring until it starts melting. Let the sugar caramelise.

Step 2

Mix in a few drops of honey and lemon into the mixture. Keep stirring until the mixture becomes really hot.

While stirring, you need to make sure that the wax has good consistency .

Step 3

If you think that the mixture is too thick, add a little water to it and keep mixing.

Step 4

Once the mixture is ready , take it off the stove and keep it at room temperature for about an hour and allow it to cool down.

Step 5

Once the wax has been cooled, take a tin container and refrigerate it.

Benefits of using homemade wax

- Compared to the ones that are available in the market, a homemade wax has several benefits. Here are a few.
- Since the wax is made using natural ingredients, it makes your skin soft and glow.
- You are not likely to develop any skin rash or infections by using homemade wax.
- It will remove the hair as well as will also moisturise your skin.
- Homemade wax lessens the production of hair, so the next time you wax, you will realise that the hair growth has considerably reduced.
- It will exfoliate your skin and also open the pores of your skin to allow the dirt to get out.

How to take care of your skin after waxing

- Always apply a moisturiser after you are done waxing.
- You can also wet the skin us ing a damp cloth so that it stays nourished and does not dry out immediately .
- Avoid going out in the sun too much after waxing. In case you have to, always wear a sunscreen.
- Avoid taking warm or hot wa ter showers after you've waxed. This will strip you off the essential oils.
- Before you go to bed at night, apply a nourishing lotion on the area so that your skin stays moisturised.
- If the area starts itching or turns red, apply talcum pow der to reduce it.
- You can also try applying a cube of ice on the affected area to reduce the redness.

Ways to fix your discoloured lips

Dark/discoloured lips could be due to an unhealthy lifestyle or bad hygiene habits.

If you smoke, here's one more reason to kick the butt. Smoking is one of the biggest causes of lips turning dark. Experts say that the nicotine present in cigarettes causes lip discolouration.



Your lips also need regular exfoliation. Use a soft bristle toothbrush to scrub your lips once a week. This will remove all dead skin and keep your lips pink, soft and healthy.

Experts say that massaging your lips regularly will improve circulation. Make a paste of crush almonds and lemon juice and massage it on your lips regularly.

Lips also need to be hydrated and moisturized. Apply petroleum jelly or lip balm daily so that you don't suffer from dry and chapped lips. Use a balm, which has cocoa butter, known to be great for lips.

A simple home remedy to lighten dark lips is to crush pomegranate seeds and mix them with a few drops of milk cream. Apply this paste on your lips and leave for 20 minutes.



9 Ways to keep your skin looking Young

You might not know what it is, but collagen is the key when it comes to keeping your skin youthful and wrinkle-free.

Collagen is a protein produced by our cells that helps "hold" the skin together, giving it firmness and elasticity. When we're young, our skin stays plump and smooth because it constantly regenerates itself. But as we age, collagen production slows -and existing collagen can get damaged due to sun exposure and bad skin habits.The results?

Wrinkles and sagging skin. Luckily , there's lots you can do to preserve your collagen and even boost its production...

1. UP YOUR VITAMIN C IN TAKE

A study published in the American Journal of Nutrition found women over 40 with the highest amount of vitamin C in their diet were less likely to develop wrinkles than those who consumed lower levels."Vitamin C is crucial to the formation of collagen. Without it, amino acids can't be linked to form the protein," says dietitian Jo Travers, "Good sources are red pepper, dark green leafy vegetables like broccoli and sprouts, tomatoes, oranges and kiwi fruit." Skincare products that contains vitamin C is also thought to encourage collagen repair (it's usually listed on the label as LAscorbic acid, ascorbyl palmitate or ascorbyl phosphate).

2. STOP SMOKING

"Smoking creates enzymes called matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs), which damage the collagen in your skin; hence the telltale sagging which many smokers are betrayed by," says consultant dermatologist Dr Nick Lowe.

3. STAY SUN SAFE

Sun exposure is a prime suspect for hastening collagen loss. "UVA rays penetrate deep into the skin and damage the deep collagen support structures there," says Dr Lowe, "My advice would be to wear an SPF15 broad spectrum cream (one that protects against UVA and UVB rays) through the year."

4. REACH FOR RETINOL

Retinoid creams -only available on prescription -have been proven to help boost collagen production. "Retinoids reduce substances in the skin that break down collagen after sun exposure and also target receptors in the skin which increase the production of collagen," says Dr Maria Gonzalez. You can get your hands on milder forms of retinoid in over-the-counter retinol creams.

5. CUT BACK ON THE STUFF SWEET

According to Dr Patricia Farris, eating too much sugar can be a beauty disaster. It causes premature ageing of the skin by a process called gly cation. This is where excess sugar in the blood attaches itself to lipids, nucleic acids and proteins (especially your collagen) to form "advanced glycation end products" or AGEs, which accelerate the ageing process and cause wrinkly skin.

6. EXFOLIATE

Exfoliation -removing the top, dead layer of skin -helps speed up the natural process of skin and col lagen renewal, says Amanda Elias, founder of a skin care brand. "My favourite way to b exfoliate is with some warm water. Repeat the process everyday for several days to see results.

7. ADD ANTIOXIDANTS TO YOUR SKINCARE REGIME

Antioxidants help protect against free radicals that can cause ageing skin."The term `free radical' describes a damaged skin cell," says Amanda."It's `free' because it's missing an elec tron (healthy cells have two electrons, a damaged cell has one). "Free radicals attach themselves to healthy skin cells and basically suck out the electrons they need, leaving healthy skin cells damaged. This process triggers an enzyme in the skin that breaks down collagen. Antioxidants help by neutralising the free radical so that it doesn't have to feed off our healthy skin cells."

Sip on green tea -it contains antioxidants called catechins -and eat foods high in lutein, an antioxidant found in green leafy veg like spinach. Look for creams and serums containing antioxidants, too.

8. PLANT PROTEINS, PLEASE

The menopause can make us wrinkly because, as we age, our oestrogen levels drop. Because oestrogen is vital to making healthy collagen, creases and crinkles can creep in to our skin. Lots of foods contain plant oestrogens (phytoestrogens) that can help replace the effects of lost oestrogen. Try hummus, nuts, soy and pinto beans. Look for face creams containing phytoestrogens.

9. MASSAGE

"Massaging your face daily will help boost the production of collagen, give skin a more plump appearance and help stimulate the lymph glands to promote clear skin," says Nichola Joss, a skincare expert. "Use a collagen boosting oil," she adds. Daily Mirror

Easy ways to cure underarm Darkening

Simple ways to get rid of dark underarms

Frequent use of razors and deodorants can cause dark, ugly looking underarms that can cause you a lot of embarrassment. Here's how to get rid of the darkness.



Milk and flour pack

- Make a thick paste out of milk and white or wheat flour and apply a thick layer of it on your underarms. Let it dry off and rinse. This mixture helps exfoliate the dead skin off and the milk helps lighten the skin.

Coconut oil -

Massage underarms for a few minutes with some warm coconut oil and leave it on for about half an hour. Go for a steam and then have a warm exfoliating bath with a good quality scrub. Doing this three to four times a week can show effective results.

Vinegar pack -

IF you're not allergic to vinegar, mix some rice flour with a few drops of vinegar to form a thick paste. Apply on the affected areas and let it dry for about 20 minutes. Scrub it once it is dry and have a warm bath.

Home lightening pack

- A pack made with a mix of yogurt, lemon juice, turmeric and besan should be applied and kept for about 20 minutes. Wash it off

How to care for your Cuticles



spare some thought for your cuticles the next time you think about your nails. Cuticles are important because they protect your nails from damage. Often, cuticles get weak and hard because they are cut or bitten, which you should never do.

Not only does cutting the cuticles weaken them, it also causes infection and problems like white spots or lines and ridges. A bacterial infection will hinder your nail's growth and can also cause a lot of discomfort. If at all you want to push your cuticles behind, do it gently. Avoid using cuticle clippers completely and make it a point to moisturise your cuticles as well. Not applying hand cream will cause dryness and that, in turn, will make them peel, or worse, crack.

If your cuticles are weak, apply petroleum jelly every night before going to sleep. And use a good hand cream during the day. Also, when you visit a parlour for a manicure, insist that all tools are sterilised. And don't forget to tell your nail technician to go easy on your cuticles. Tell her you are okay with your cuticles being pushed back, you don't want them cut. If you spot any redness that persists for more than a couple of days, make a trip to your doctor, it could be worth investigating. It is also advisable to go easy on acetone. Not only will constant use dry out your nails, it will also wreak havoc on your cuticles. And wear gloves while doing your daily household chores.

Go skintastic This summer!



Are skin woes dampening your summer spirit? Fret not, here's addressing a host of skin-related queries so that you can make the most of that gorgeous summer shift dress.

Sweltering weather is synonymous with rising hems and plunging necklines. So don't let problem-ridden skin come in the way of daring summer dressing. "Eat for beauty," advises nutritionist and food consultant, Naini Setalvad.Paying a little attention to the changing needs of your body this summer can go a long way.

What are the diet essentials for the summer months?

Setalvad recommends a heavy breakfast, a light lunch and a medium dinner. "Fried food, red meat and dry fruits (except raisins) should be avoided. Eggs are heat producing and should be kept to a minimum; fish is a good option. Light grains like rice and wheat are okay for the diet but millets should be avoided," she states."Yoghurt cools down the digestive system. So try to include raitas in your meals or use yoghurt as a salad dressing," she adds. Dr. Apratim Goel, dermatologist, says that antioxidants helps to counter the damage caused by over exposure to the sun. "Raw tomatoes are an excellent source of antioxidants. The bottom line for great summer skin, however, is maximum hydration," she explains.

What does one drink in summer for optimum hydration?

Setalvad strongly recommends raw mango drinks (popularly known as aam panna in most parts of India). Avoid alcohol and sugary fluids like sherbets and aerated drinks. Salted lemon water, buttermilk, jal jeera and caffeine-free herbal infusions like peppermint or coriander drinks are ideal.

Does a predominantly fruit and vegetable diet ensure great skin?

Not all veggies are ideal for summer. Pumpkins, snake gourds, cucumbers, tomatoes and lettuce are good for light summer meals. Setalvad suggests incorporating slices of raw mango into salads or snacks. "Mango pickle is an excellent option since it helps to re plenish the essential salts lost due to perspiration," she explains. Melons and mangoes are well known 'summer fruits'. However, the innocuous mango is often thought to be responsible for pimples. "Don't blend mangoes with milk or sugar," warns Setalvad. Mango is alkaline while milk is acidic, resulting in a disrupted pH. This causes indigestion and skin break outs when the body tries to eliminate the accumulated toxins. Setalvad also suggests sprinkling dry ginger pow dry ginger powder on mango in order to reduce the risk of flatulence.

What is the basic skin care regimen that one should follow during summer?

Your skin needs moisturising even in summer.Dr Goel recommends making an emulsion of your regular moisturiser by mixing it with a little water and applying this to the face and neck. She suggests a natural remedy to rejuvenate tired, summer skin."Pack grated cucumber in a piece of muslin cloth and place this on the face for 20 minutes," she suggests. Fungal infections proliferate in summer due to dampness induced by excessive perspiration. Using a light anti-fungal dusting power can help nix rashes and infections.

How does one choose the right sunscreen?

'Sunscreen' is a golden word in summer. But it is a fact that it doesn't agree with all skin types. In such cases, make the most of physical protection in the form of broad-rimmed hats, sunglasses, full-sleeved cotton clothing, etc. "If sunscreen is too greasy for you, use aloe vera and calamine. This is especially good for acne-prone skin," says Dr Goel.He explains that over-the-counter sunscreens are of two kinds chemical and physical. "The chemical ones need to be applied 20 minutes prior to sun exposure whereas the physical ones (that contain titanium or zinc oxides and benzones) act instantly," she says.

Handy tips

- As inviting as they are, avoid pack aged facial wipes as most of them contain alcohol that could eventually harm your skin.
- Mineral water sprays are a good alternative when there is no provision for a face wash.
- Use a cold compress after long periods of sun exposure. It helps to instantly cool down the skin. Applying tomato juice or buttermilk relieves minor sunburn.

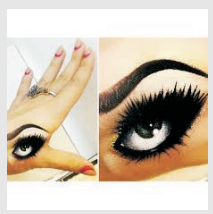
Hand makeup

What it is

People doing their eye makeup on their hands.

How it started

The idea behind the trend is to practise your eye makeup on your hand before committing to putting it on your face. But then, these designs just took on a life of their own. Some of them are so intricate that they look like the real deal.



How it's done

All you have to do is apply eye makeup the way you would normally , except that you do it on the upper part of your hand.You can experiment with all sorts of trends -glitter, cut crease and winged eyeliner, for instance..

How mommyhood Changes a woman

Becoming a mother is one of those experiences that changes a woman forever — and not just physically. These alterations are subtly visible in the way her personality undergoes a makeover once she gives birth and becomes engrossed in rearing her child. There are psychological, physiological and emotional changes, most of which are for the better — thereby elevating this phase in a woman's life to be one of the epitomes of her existence.

The deeply satisfying phase enriches her

Motherhood is demanding, however, at the same time, it is deeply satisfying too and this contentment enriches the mother to a large extent. Weight management and Ayurveda professional Dr Amrapali Patil says, "A mother instinctively knows that she is a special creation because she alone has been given the power to bring forth another human life and this builds up her resilience, character, strength, happiness, confidence, faith, love — all these characteristics reflect externally, making the mother look more charming and charismatic."



Hormones play their magic and enhances her beauty

A new mom -to-be's body is flooded with pregnancy-related hormones, say doctors. These tend to add a lovely glow to the skin, which make her appear radiant and fresh. The quality of her hair also improves, and hair fall reduces due to these hormones, say experts. The body develops soft curves and the breasts look fuller. Cosmetologist Dr Jaishree Manchanda says, "A woman's blood flow changes during pregnancy. This increased blood flow happens in order to help nourish the growing baby, but by a happy accident, it can make a woman look gorgeous and radiant too. So, once a woman is pregnant, her skin glows with an unmistakable radiance."

Motherhood becomes a source of strength

Being a mother requires strength and the process of going into labour and delivering a baby requires a woman to have faith and vanquish fear. Patil says, "This enhances her confidence further (a concept referred to as the Aishwarya Bhava in Maharishi Patanjali and Ashthanga Yoga). This adds to her internal stamina to take on life and manifests externally as enhanced body confidence." And one of the best things that a woman can wear is her confidence.

The immense power of pure love becomes a reality

Becoming a mother increases a woman's ability to love by many folds. Patil adds, "Love is a very powerful emotion and tends to make the facial features become tender, soft and less fierce. Such a face is more joyful, appealing and attractive."

Tips a mother can follow to enhance her beauty

Though one day in the year is not enough to celebrate motherhood, at least on Mother's Day, many acknowledge the mother who is invariably taken for granted on all other days. Mothers need to take care of themselves — their hair, skin etc and Dr Manchanda gives us tips...

Hair:

Have a healthy diet that is rich in antioxidants to strengthen the roots of your hair.

Acne:

The best natural ingredients to deal with this are aloe vera and eucalyptus.

Dark circles and puffy eyes:

Sleep for seven to eight hours, eat healthy and stay hydrated.

Skin:

Eat a lot of green leafy vegetables. Use cocoa butter, almond or olive oil on skin to avoid stretch marks.

10 Tips to rejuvenate your eyes this summer

You might have already started wearing your sunglasses and slathering on sunscreen thanks to the summer heat. In spite of taking all these precautions, there are still high chances that you may end up catching an eye allergy because of the rising temperature. Here are some simple yet effective tips that you can try to rejuvenate your eyes...



1. If you get conjunctivitis, ensure that you consult a doctor and use your eye drops regularly. Maintain hygiene so that it doesn't spread to people around you. Conjunctivitis is highly contagious so try to wash your hands as much as possible.
2. Do simple eye exercises every morning. This is especially essential for those who spend hours in front of the computer screen everyday. Wash your eyes with a splash of cold water at least twice a day.
3. To relax, place cucumbers on your eyes. This will provide a lot of relief to tired eyes.
4. If you are prone to dust allergy, use an eye compress.
5. Eat a lot of green veggies and protein-rich foods — these are excellent for eye health.
6. Don't expose your eyes directly to air conditioner. This may cause your eyes to get dry and sensitive.
7. Don't share your makeup products, especially the ones that are applied on your eyes. This may also result in spreading infection.
8. Give yourself an eye massage. Use your thumb and index finger to give your eyes a soothing massage. Much needed this summer!
9. If you are a swimmer, make sure to wear water goggles.
10. Sleep for at least six to eight hours a day. That in itself is a good way to rejuvenate your eyes. If you suffer from dry eyes, use soothing eye drops to get some relief. Don't forget to blink your eyes often.

Three relatives arrested for abetting suicide of Greater Noida family

Delhi.(Agency)

Police on Sunday arrested three relatives for allegedly abetting the suicide of a couple and their three children, whose bodies were found at their home in Greater Noida's Nagla Padam village on Saturday.

The accused are Mahesh's elder sister Sunita, 45, younger sister Sapna, 32, and brother-in-law Shekhar, 50, a police official said. According to police, Mahesh, 37, recorded a voice note before his death, allegedly holding the three responsible. Preliminary information suggested a property dispute may have led to the incident. Police said Sunita allegedly influenced their mother, Chandrawati, to transfer in her name the house where Mahesh lived with



her. Mahesh was reportedly distressed after learning about the transfer. The three accused are being questioned.The bodies of Mahesh, his wife Lalita, 35, and their children—Mishti, 7, Sakshat, 11, and Riyansh, 3—were found on Saturday morning, official said. Police further added that the CCTV camera footage of the area around the house did not show any outsider entering the premises.Post-mortems indicated signs of poisoning, and viscera samples have been sent for forensic analysis to establish the cause of death. Teams from the Forensic Science Laboratory and the Food Safety Department also visited the spot.

A case under Section 108 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita , relating to abetment of suicide, was registered on a complaint by Lalita's brother, police said.

Over 1K personnel on duty at CR Park, vigilance stepped up after Kolkata stampede

Delhi.(Agency)

"No vehicle is allowed inside," a paramilitary personnel standing between two barricades told an elderly devout headed to a Durga Puja pandal at Chittaranjan Park in South Delhi. Locals say this is probably the only time of the year when paramilitary troops can be seen on duty in the area.

A day after 19 people were killed in a stampede in the Chorbagan area of Kolkata amid Durga Puja celebrations, security personnel are even more vigilant in CR Park, officers told The Indian Express on Sunday. "We have made sure that no unnecessary vehicles are inside the area, so that there is ample space for public movement in face of any untoward incident," said Additional DCP (South) Aishwarya.

Officers said that more than 500 police officers are deployed across the area. In addition to that, there are three companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), with one more company ready to join if needed, taking the total number of security personnel on duty to nearly 1,000. Each CAPF company has about 80-100 personnel.Devotees come to CR Park for some of the most prominent Durga Puja pandals in the Capital, including the ones at Mela Block, K Block and B Block.

People brave the constant traffic snarls starting from Greater Kailash —- with even a 1-km stretch taking more than 20 minutes to cross — to reach the area for pandal- hopping.

Police officers said that at the biggest of pandals, which see a footfall of more than 50,000 a day, an inspector-rank officer has been separately assigned to manage the security.

One of them is the Kali Mandir pandal, in the B Block, which has its own army of sorts of guards to help the security personnel."We have 150-160 private security personnel at the pandal. They were all trained for six weeks ahead of the Puja. We have a retired army colonel as our security chief," said Dr Shirshendu Mukherjee, Secretary, Kali Mandir society.The Kali Mandir pandal is divided into five blocks, with two normal exit gates, and five emergency exits. Each block has a supervisor, and the whole area is covered by CCTVs attached to a central command.About 5,000-7,000 people, Dr. Mukherjee, visit the pandal during puja time in the day, while the number crosses 50,000 in the night.

Protests, detentions continue in Delhi amid security

Delhi.(Agency)

The national capital continued to witness protests and consequential detentions on Sunday over various issues, including demands for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and opposition to BJP leader Dushyant Gautam's appointment as Sikkim governor over his alleged involvement in the 19-year-old Ankita Bhandari's murder case. The protests took place even as central Delhi continued to witness heavy security arrangements, including around Jantar Mantar, Parliament, and Connaught Place.

The National Students' Union of India (NSUI) held an "Ungli Toh Uthegi–Hallabol March" towards Jantar Mantar, demanding Kumar's resignation. Led by NSUI national president Vinod Jakhar, the march began at the NSUI national headquarters on Raisina Road and proceeded towards Jantar Mantar. Later, several NSUI members were detained and taken away from the spot. As security personnel were taking them away, several NSUI members stopped the bus ferrying them and helped the detainees escape the vehicle by jumping through its windows.

The protesters held placards seeking accountability from the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the central government, including those bearing the message "Gyanesh, it's done bro". They also raised slogans against Kumar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Delhi Police also detained around 50 protesters, including Congress members, on Sunday after they staged a protest outside the Patiala House Court, demanding an impartial probe into the 2022 murder of 19-year-old Ankita Bhandari in Uttarakhand. Several detainees were taken to Jaffarpur Police Station.

The protesters called for a fair probe into the alleged involvement of a "VIP" who purportedly sought favours from Bhandari. The protesters gathered outside the court on Sunday to demand Gautam's removal as governor. Around 100 to 150 people participated in the protest, including Congress members from Uttarakhand and members of the Aam Aadmi Party and Left parties.

Police soon dispersed the protesters and detained several of them. A fresh wave of protests has hit the national capital ever since BJP leader Dushyant Gautam was appointed the Sikkim governor. Gautam is alleged to be the same VIP, though nothing incriminating has been established yet.Bhandari, who worked as a receptionist in Vanantara resort near Rishikesh, was dead in the Chilla Barrage there in September 2022, triggering outrage in the state. Opposition parties have questioned Gautam's appointment as governor while the investigation is ongoing.

NSUI holds march demanding CEC's exit; Congress, AAP and Left seek probe into 'VIP' link in Ankita Bhandari murder case.



Delhi cabinet approves Rs 50 cr foundation to support startups

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi government has approved the setting up of the Go-Delhi Foundation with a corpus of Rs 50 crore to support young innovators and startups, a Chief Minister's Office (CMO) statement said on Sunday. The approval was granted at a recent Cabinet meeting chaired by CM Rekha Gupta. The capital has nearly 21,000 startups recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The foundation aims to promote innovation and entrepreneurship by helping young people, researchers and entrepreneurs turn their ideas into market-ready products and successful enterprises.

Gupta said the foundation would help startups and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) access product engineering, prototyping, laboratories and testing facilities. It would also provide technical guidance, mentorship, incubation, business support and opportunities to connect with investors. The initiative will support entrepreneurs at different stages, from product development and testing to certification preparation and market access. It aims to bring various support facilities together on a common platform, making it easier to establish and expand businesses in the national capital.Government departments will also be able to share real-world challenges with innovators. Products and technologies developed to address these issues could be tested through pilot projects, with successful solutions considered for adoption, Gupta said.

The foundation will collaborate with industry, educational institutions, investors and other partners. It will follow a hub-and-spoke model, using existing facilities and partner institutions across Delhi to deliver its programmes.The foundation will be established as a not-for-profit company under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, and operate under the Delhi government's Department of Industries, the statement said.

Voter for a decade, now, not on SIR draft rolls': Inside a Delhi public hearing

Delhi.(Agency)

When Naimuddin checked the Delhi draft electoral roll released in August, he found that his name and that of his wife had been marked under the "permanently shifted" category.

This was a rude shock to the Jamia Nagar resident who claimed that no booth level officer (BLO) had visited his house during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, which started in June in the Capital. He recalled submitting his enumeration form at a camp near his home in July.

"I don't know how this happened. No BLO ever visited my house. I had submitted my enumeration form during the SIR exercise in July. I have had a driving licence since 1993. I graduated from Jamia Millia Islamia in 1999 and have been a voter for over a decade," Naimuddin, in his late 40s, told The Indian Express at a Jan Sunwai (public hearing) organised by civil society groups in Jamia Nagar in the Okhla Assembly constituency on Sunday.

The public hearing, organised by Jan Sarokar, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS), Voter Adhikar Manch and the National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) at a baraat ghar in Jamia, saw around 150 voters registered at the desk to share their experiences and seek assistance in checking their electoral status.



Naimuddin was earlier advised to submit Form 6, used to register new voters, at a special camp organised by the Election Commission in Batla House, around a kilometre away. However, he was reluctant to do so, questioning why an existing voter should have to fill out a form meant for new voters. "I have been a voter for years. Why should I fill out Form 6, which is meant for new or first-time voters?" he asked.Another voter, Anita, arrived at the hearing with her daughter and four voter ID cards. She has been anxious ever since she discovered that her husband's name had been marked as "dead" under the absent, shifted, dead and duplicate (ASDD) category. "There are six members in my family, including my husband, in-laws and brother-in-laws. All have been voting for years. I came here only to check the status of our votes, but was told that my husband's name had been deleted. He is a carpenter and is alive," she said.

A volunteer subsequently found that Anita's husband had two voter ID numbers. While one entry had been marked under the "dead" category, his name appeared in the draft roll under the second ID, of which he was reportedly unaware.At another desk, Zakir Hussain and Nafisha Begum, residents of Joga Bai Extension, said they had been unable to fill out their forms and were subsequently marked as "untraceable" and "permanently shifted", respectively.

A look at numbers

The volunteer-led "audit", which preceded the hearing, found around 100 voters had been wrongly marked for deletion despite continuing to live at their registered addresses. The exercise, conducted between October 9 and 16, covered 1,579 voters across 307 households in Batla House. It examined voters on the ASDD list, the notice list and lists of those deleted before the SIR exercise. The survey covered around 69% of the 2,296 voters on these lists in the areas surveyed.

Gen Z turning grievances into legal challenges

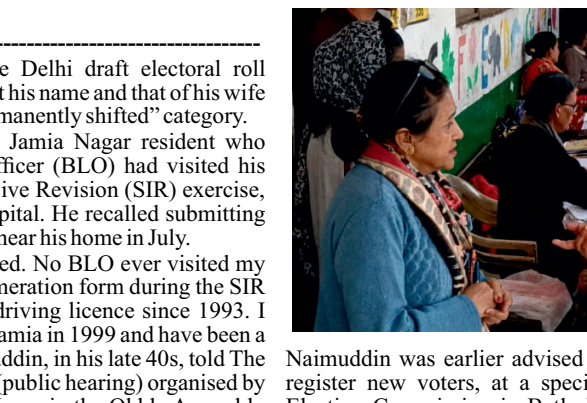
Delhi.(Agency)

The city has been witnessing Generation Z's growing assertion in the past few months. Its challenge to the establishment is no longer confined just to the streets. The young are also taking their battles to the classrooms, demanding accountability of those in charge. They are moving the courts too, questioning government rulesand seeking remedies through the institutions of democracy.

When we talk of courtroom interventions, it's not merely about heavyweight lawyers such as Kapil Sibal and Prashant Bhushan taking up their cause to protest. Young lawyers, law students and ordinary citizens who believe that the system must answer for its failures are approaching the bench.

A recent public interest litigation before the Delhi HC is in line with this emerging trend. The issue at stake is deceptively simple, when a consumer orders paneer, s/he be entitled to know whether what is served is genuine dairy paneer or a non-dairy substitute.Last week, a petition filed by a 22-year-old fourth-year law student, and her senior from school, a practising advocate, brought a question of food safety, consumer rights and nutritional transparency before the court. The Delhi High Court issued notice to the Union government, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Delhi government, seeking their responses.The significance of this intervention extends beyond the merits of the food labelling dispute. For a generation increasingly conscious of nutrition, protein intake and healthy eating, the ingredients of everyday food matter. Consumers who choose paneer as a source of protein expect a milk-based product. If a restaurant serves a substitute made with vegetable fats, starches or other non-dairy ingredients without adequate disclosure, the consumer's choice is compromised.

The petitioners are not seeking a blanket prohibition on lawful dairy analogues or plant-based alternatives. Their argument is about transparency, products should be sold and served for what they actually are, allowing consumers to make informed decisions.



Rather than merely expressing dissatisfaction on social media or joining a street demonstration, the two young legal professionals have approached a constitutional institution to seek a legal remedy. They have taken up an everyday concern and translated it into a question of public accountability.

This is precisely where Gen Z's emerging political character deserves attention. Its activism does not always fit the conventional mould of party politics, ideological mobilisation or mass movements organised around a single leader. It can begin with an individual experience, a grievance encountered in daily life or a concern shared by a community.

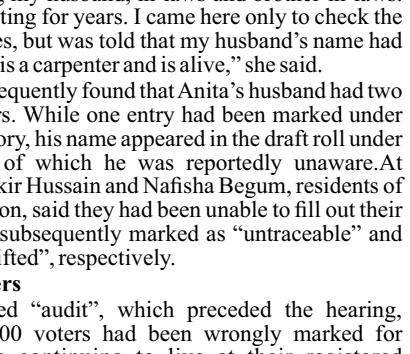
NCRTC expects nod for two new Namo Bharat routes

Besides the two proposed corridors, detailed project reports for the Ghaziabad-Jewar and Noida-Faridabad-Gurugram corridors are under preparation, the NCRTC said.

Delhi.(Agency)

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) expects approval soon for two proposed Namo Bharat corridors—Delhi-Panipat-Karnal and Delhi-Gurugram-Behror—as it marks three years of operations of the regional rapid rail service. Besides the two proposed corridors, detailed project reports for the Ghaziabad-Jewar and Noida-Faridabad-Gurugram corridors are under preparation, the NCRTC said.The 82-km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor has recorded over 4.5 crore passenger journeys since its launch in October 2023 and currently serves more than 1.1 lakh commuters daily, the NCRTC said on Sunday. It recently recorded it's highest-ever single-day ridership of around 1.68 lakh.

The NCRTC celebrated three years of Namo Bharat operations at an event attended by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal, Minister of State Tokhan Sahu and senior officials. Addressing the gathering, Manohar Lal said the rapid rail service was ushering in a new phase of regional connectivity and



providing a new dimension to urban transportation. He said better transport connectivity not only reduced distances between cities but also linked people with new opportunities and supported economic growth.Operations began on October 20, 2023, with the inauguration of the 17-km priority section between Sahibabad and Duhai Depot. The remaining sections were opened in phases, and the entire 82-km corridor was dedicated by PM Narendra Modi on February 22 this year, along with the Meerut Metro, it said.

Sensex, Nifty trade flat as private bank earnings weigh, PSU banks rally

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Stock markets opened on a cautious note on Monday, with benchmark indices swinging between gains and losses as investors assessed the latest quarterly results from major private lenders HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank.Elevated crude oil prices amid rising tensions around the Strait of Hormuz also weighed on sentiment, limiting the market's ability to extend last week's rally.

The BSE Sensex was trading at 74,729.27 in the latest closing session on Friday, while the Nifty 50 had settled at 23,146.15. In early trade on Monday, the Nifty 50 was at 23,161.50, up 15.30 points or 0.07%, around 9:38 am.The market opened amid mixed global cues after the Sensex and Nifty gained around 2.8% last week. Investors are now watching the December-quarter earnings season closely, with stock-specific moves likely to drive trading.

BANKING STOCKS IN FOCUS AFTER Q2 RESULTS

Shares of major lenders were mixed in early trade as investors assessed their latest quarterly performance.

Truecaller expects $91 million tax claim from India over transfer pricing

Kolkata.(Agency)

Sweden's Truecaller said on Monday it expected Indian authorities to seek a tax claim of about 900 million Swedish crowns ($90.85 million), including interest, after auditing its transfer pricing in the country.d..A transfer price is the actual price charged in a transaction between related entities, according to India's Income Tax website.

The caller identification app said it had received the first formal transfer pricing order from India for the 2022/23 financial year. A formal tax demand will follow.

The order, which relates to the allocation of revenue between Truecaller entities, proposes an adjustment of 270 million crowns in additional tax and interest, the company said.For the period between the financial years 2018/19 and 2023/24, the company said it expects a total liability of about 900 million crowns.However, it expects to get back about 350 million crowns in Sweden under double-taxation relief, putting its net potential exposure at about 550 million crowns.

Rupee rises to 94.80 against US dollar, but crude oil threatens recovery

New Delhi.(Ajency)

Rupee began the week on a cheerful note, inching towards the 94 mark against US dollar on Monday. The currency strengthened by 9 paise to 94.80 against the greenback in early trade, extending its recovery for a third consecutive session. This followed Friday's close of 94.89, when the currency had gained 10 paise.The Reserve Bank of India's structural forex interventions continued to support rupee, although elevated crude oil prices remain a key risk to sustaining the gains. Forex traders said that the currency has staged its sharpest rally in seven months, but sustained pressure from expensive crude, rising US treasury yields and continued foreign capital outflows has kept the currency under strain. The RBI has stepped up its market interventions amid these pressures.CR forex advisors MD Amit Pabari said the currency's movement below 95 over the past three sessions has brought the 94.80–94.70 range into focus.

Tata Sons reviews Articles of Association ahead of IPO, Tata Trusts' control at stake

- Tata Sons is reviewing its Articles of Association ahead of a possible stock market listing. The exercise could reshape Tata Trusts' special governance rights while preserving its

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Tata Sons has begun reviewing its Articles of Association (AoA) ahead of a potential stock market listing, a move that could affect the special rights held by Tata Trusts over board appointments, voting and governance at the holding company of the Tata group, reported The Economic Times.The review is aimed at aligning the company's rules with Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) requirements for listed companies, according to the report. The proposed changes could cover the appointment of directors, independent board representation, voting rights and restrictions on share transfers.The development comes after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rejected Tata Sons' application to surrender its registration as a core investment company.Tata Sons must therefore comply with regulations governing upper-layer non-banking financial companies, which require such entities to list their equity shares within three years of being classified in that category.The review is at an early stage, and no final amendments have been approved.

WHY TATA TRUSTS' RIGHTS COULD COME UNDER REVIEW

Tata Trusts collectively own around 66% of Tata Sons, giving them majority ownership of the group's holding company. Under the existing Articles of Association, the Trusts can nominate up to a third of the board.These provisions could need changes if Tata Sons lists its shares, as listed companies must comply with securities regulations governing

special shareholder rights and board composition.Under Sebi Regulation 31B, special rights granted to shareholders must be approved by shareholders at least once every five years. Public shareholders would play an important role in determining whether such rights continue.A listing would not automatically reduce Tata Trusts' majority stake in Tata Sons. However, the way the Trusts exercise their influence at the board level could change depending on the final structure and applicable regulatory requirements.“The real issue is control, not compliance,” Harshal Anjaria, founder of Shreeyam Advisors, told The Economic Times.Certain decisions also require the affirmative vote of a majority of Trusts-nominated directors. A majority of these nominees must be present for a board meeting to constitute a quorum.

BOARD COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT RULES MAY CHANGE

A listed Tata Sons would also have to meet Sebi's requirements on independent directors. If its chairman is an executive director, at least half the board would need to comprise independent directors, according to the report.The process for selecting the chairman could also be reviewed. The existing five-member selection committee includes three nominees linked to Tata Trusts.

Sugar stocks fall up to 7%: Why shares are under pressure

New Delhi.(Agency)

Shares of sugar companies fell nearly 7% on Monday after the government directed oil marketing companies to stop using sugar-based products for ethanol production in the 2026/27 supply year, reported The Economic Times. The move is aimed at increasing domestic sugar supplies and easing prices, but it has raised concerns about the earnings of sugar mills that have invested in ethanol production.Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar led the losses, falling over 7%, followed by Shree Renuka Industries, which declined more than 6%. Balrampur Chini Mills dropped 4%, while Triveni Engineering and Industries fell over 3%. EID Parry and Dhampur Sugar declined more than 2% each.

WHY THE GOVERNMENT STOPPED SUGAR DIVERSION TO ETHANOL

The latest ethanol tender excludes supplies made from sugarcane juice, sugar syrup and B-heavy molasses, a by-product of sugarcane crushing that contains a high amount of sugar.

The decision limits the ability of sugar mills to shift sugarcane and molasses between sugar and ethanol production depending on market conditions. This could weigh on margins and returns from investments in ethanol-making capacity.The Centre's move comes as India, the world's largest sugar consumer, looks to increase domestic availability and bring down prices that have reached record highs. Concerns that weak rainfall in key sugar-producing states could affect output have also added to supply worries, Reuters cited analysts at Motilal Oswal and Choice Broking as saying.

FESTIVE DEMAND ADDS TO CONCERNS OVER SUGAR SUPPLIES

Sugar consumption in India typically rises between August and November as festivals such as Ganesh Chaturthi, Dussehra and Diwali drive demand for



sweets, biscuits and other confectionery products.Ahead of the festive season, the government reduced the period for which sugar dealers can hold stocks to 15 days and capped their holdings at 1,000 quintals. The restrictions, effective from October 15 to November 30, 2026, are intended to prevent hoarding and ensure the steady movement of supplies through the market.Global supply concerns have also increased. Brazil, the world's largest sugar producer, has warned of harvest delays due to adverse weather. Its suspension of bi-weekly harvest and production reports has further reduced visibility on the global supply outlook.

In Europe, heatwaves and El Nio conditions across the European Union and the UK have raised concerns about tighter supplies. Regional sugar output estimates have been cut to 14.98 million tonnes. Thailand, the world's third-largest sugar producer, has also lowered its projected output by 15.6% to 9.5 million tonnes.Weather-related disruptions across major producing regions have changed expectations for the global sugar market. While a surplus was anticipated at the start of the year, concerns over production have raised the possibility that supply could fall short of demand.According to Bloomberg, sentiment among sugar traders has turned more positive. Commodity Futures Trading Commission data as of September 29 showed that net short positions in raw sugar had fallen to their lowest level in more than 21 months. This suggests that large speculators have significantly reduced their bets on falling prices.In Brazil, persistent heavy rainfall has disrupted sugarcane harvesting and milling. Green Pool Global has cut its sugar production estimate for the 2026/27 season in Central-South Brazil by 3%.Europe's production outlook is also challenging, with estimates from the EU Monitoring Agricultural Resources Unit indicating that the region's crop could be around 11% below its five-year average.

Jio Platforms IPO GMP today: Premium hits Rs 250 as anchor book opens

New Delhi.(Agency)

Jio Platforms' grey market premium (GMP) has climbed to Rs 250 ahead of its much-awaited initial public offering (IPO), pointing to an indicative listing price of Rs 1,369 per share. The anchor investor bidding window opens on Monday, October 19, ahead of the public issue opening later this week.At the latest recorded premium of Rs 250, Jio Platforms IPO GMP indicates a potential premium of 22.34% over the upper end of the issue price band of Rs 1,119. The estimated listing price of Rs 1,369 is calculated by adding the grey market premium to the upper price band.The GMP is an unofficial indicator of investor sentiment and does not guarantee the price at which the shares will list.The IPO of Reliance Industries' digital services arm will open for public subscription on October 21 and close on October 23. The company aims to raise Rs 30,213 crore through a fresh issue of shares, making it India's largest-ever IPO if completed at the announced size.

JIO PLATFORMS IPO GMP TREND

The Jio Platforms IPO GMP has strengthened over the past few days. It stood at Rs 206 on October 14 before rising to Rs 221 on October 15 and 16, and Rs 235 on October 17. The latest reading is Rs 250 on October 19.

The movement suggests improving sentiment in the grey market ahead of the IPO. However, these transactions take place outside the formal stock exchanges, and the premium can change before listing.The estimated listing prices are based on the upper price band of Rs 1,119 and the corresponding GMP readings. The figures are indicative, not forecasts of the actual listing price.

For a retail investor applying for one lot of 12 shares at the upper price band, the investment would be Rs 13,428 before any applicable charges. At a GMP of Rs 250, the tracker indicates a notional gain of Rs 3,000 per lot. This is not a guaranteed return, and the actual listing price could be lower than the issue price.

US 'very close' to finalising trade pact with India, says Marco Rubio

Mumbai . (Agency)

The US is “very close” to finalising a trade deal with India, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said, while explaining how global energy supplies, oil prices and national security concerns influence Washington’s decisions on Russian oil sanctions, according to ANI.

Rubio’s remarks come ahead of his meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in



Mumbai on October 20, Reuters reported.

US CONSIDERS MULTIPLE FACTORS IN RUSSIAN OIL SANCTIONS

Speaking about US waivers on Russian oil and gas sanctions, Rubio said Washington had to consider their impact on global energy supplies and prices.“We've had to waive sanctions over the past few months because of the impact on global supplies and prices,” he said.Rubio added that the US takes several factors into account when making decisions on national security waivers, including the difficulties some countries face in securing energy from alternative sources.“Every country has a complex set of factors that it has to take into account. Geography is real. For some countries, it's very difficult to acquire energy from alternative sources,” he said.

He added that these factors were not an excuse but needed to be balanced while making foreign policy decisions.

Rubio also linked the ongoing trade negotiations with India to the broader considerations involved in decisions on national security waivers.

INDIA-US TRADE DEAL IN FINAL STAGES

Rubio's comments come as India and the US continue to work towards concluding a bilateral trade agreement.Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal recently said that the first phase of the India-US trade pact had been finalised and was undergoing legal drafting. The government hopes to complete the process soon, he said.“The US bilateral trade agreement's first tranche has been finalised and it is going through final contours, the legal drafting and we hope to be able to finalise that soon and operationalise that once we get the competitive advantage over our peer countries,” Goyal said at an event in New Delhi, according to .The two countries announced a framework for an interim trade deal in February. However, the agreement has yet to be operationalised, amid prolonged negotiations.Goyal had earlier said that changing global circumstances would need to be considered while finalising the pact. On October 14, he described India-US relations as “very good” and said he did not see any problems in bilateral ties despite the delay in concluding the trade agreement.

Axis Bank shares crash 4% despite 38% profit jump: Should you buy the stock?

Kolkata.(Agency)

Axis Bank shares fell more than 4% on Monday despite the private sector lender reporting a 38% year-on-year rise in standalone net profit for the September quarter, as earnings fell short of market expectations and concerns over margins and operating costs remained.

The stock declined to Rs 1,232 on the BSE after Axis Bank reported a net profit of Rs 7,003 crore for the second quarter of FY27, compared with Rs 5,089 crore in the corresponding period last year. The profit was below the average estimate of Rs 7,124 crore, according to data cited in the report.The reaction highlights why a strong rise in profit does not always translate into gains for a stock. Investors also assess whether earnings meet expectations, how sustainable growth is and whether the bank can improve profitability in the coming quarters.

Axis Bank's net interest income (NII), the difference between interest earned and interest paid, rose 12% year-on-year to Rs 15,371 crore. However, its net interest margin (NIM), a measure of the profitability of its lending business, stood at 3.36%, down 10 basis points sequentially

WHY DID AXIS BANK SHARES FALL?

One concern is the pressure on margins. Centrum Broking noted that the bank's NIM declined sequentially, partly due to heavy foreign currency non-resident bank (FCNR-B) flows. Adjusting for these flows, the brokerage said NIM improved marginally to 3.47%.

The bank's profit also saw a sequential decline of 1.5%, with weaker treasury gains and higher operating expenses weighing on performance, according to Centrum.Dolat Capital also flagged a decline in sustainable margins, while 360 One WAM noted that lower other income and higher operating expenses had affected the results.The trajectory of retail lending will also matter. Centrum said the sustainability of retail loan growth remains important for margin improvement, while Dolat Capital argued that continued retail growth would be needed to improve margins and return on assets.There were, however, positives in the results. Axis Bank's advances grew 23% year-on-year and 9% quarter-on-quarter. Its operating profit increased 6% year-on-year to Rs 11,083 crore, while core operating profit rose 11% to Rs 10,998 crore.Asset quality also improved. The gross non-performing asset ratio fell 30 basis points year-on-year to 1.16%, while the net NPA ratio declined 9 basis points to 0.35%. The net slippage ratio fell 30 basis points to 0.75%.

SHOULD YOU BUY AXIS BANK SHARES NOW?

Brokerages remain broadly positive on Axis Bank, although their target prices reflect different views on the bank's earnings outlook and margin recovery.

Keralam: UDF govt puts horti wine rule in cold storage

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)

The UDF government on Sunday froze an LDF-era decision that allowed bakeries, supermarkets and malls to sell fruit-based wine with high alcohol content, and removed a top-level excise official who had issued the licence to a bakery in Thrissur. The first-of-its-kind decision of the previous government will remain on hold until the new liquor policy, expected by November-end, is announced.

The move followed a row over MRC bakery in Thrissur's Chalakudy securing the first-ever licence to sell horti wine with up to 15% alcohol content. The owner, Krishnakumar, bought the first stock on Saturday. However, following news reports, Excise Minister M Liju froze the decision, telling reporters that the government was not told about the licence. On his instructions, Deputy Excise Commissioner C K Anil Kumar, who issued the licence, was removed.

Kolkata stampede: Ropes dropped, one exit, warnings that led to panic

Kolkata.(Agency)

Only one exit, narrow lanes, inexperienced volunteers, rain and ill-timed announcements by organisers: It was this potent mix of security gaps that culminated in the stampede that led to 19 deaths at the Chorbagan Sarbojanin Durga Puja in Kolkata, The Indian Express has learnt.

So far, seven people have been arrested and charged under BNS sections 105 and 110, related to culpable homicide, and section 3(5) on common intent, which aims to hold all co-accused equally liable. Those arrested include Raj Kumar Sewda (48), secretary of the puja committee, and Santanu Dubey (55), its vice-president. All the accused have been sent to police custody for 10 days. Of the 25 injured, two are in ICU, officials said.

Located in North Kolkata near the Burrabazar area, Chorbagan Sarbojanin, like most Durga Pujas in the area, is surrounded by narrow lanes and bylanes. Over the past three days, police sources said, the puja saw a huge rush of people, with police barricades breached at least 10 times on Friday alone, a day before the stampede at around 7.40 pm on Saturday.

Godavari river turns blue at Andhra's Polavaram with decline in flood intensity

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

The Godavari river at Polavaram has undergone a visible change in colour, from a copper hue during the monsoon to blue in recent days, following a decline in flood intensity. The change, observed between early and mid-October, coincides with a reduction in the sediment carried by the river.

During the monsoon, heavy rainfall in the upstream catchment areas brought large volumes of floodwater into the Godavari. The water carried red soil, silt and sand from the surrounding hills and streams, giving the river a reddish-brown or copper appearance near Polavaram.

This colour was particularly noticeable from July to the first week of October.

With rainfall easing and flood flows receding, the quantity of soil and other suspended particles entering the river has declined. As the sediment settles, the water has become clearer, with a blue hue now visible along stretches near the Polavaram spillway.The inflow from the Sileru river, whose waters also appear blue, is another feature of the changing river scene. It reflects seasonal changes in the river's flow.

After Kolkata stampede tragedy, pandals in Odisha adopt queue darshan

- Stringent action will be initiated against any organiser found to be violating the guidelines, an official warned.

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

A flagship government programme led by Chief Minister V D Satheesan to build a comprehensive wellness model has sparked widespread controversy, as medical experts question its core provisions. Critics allege that key health department stakeholders were kept in the dark to allow long-opposed provisions, such as the practice of 'mixopathy', to be introduced through the backdoor.'Mixopathy', a critical term coined by modern medicine doctors in India, refers to the practice of combining or integrating modern scientific medicine with traditional AYUSH systems such as ayurveda. Tensions surfaced following the maiden meeting of the 16-member 'Kerala Holistic Model for Health, Wellness & Longevity Task Force' on October 12. Although the meeting



was attended by top health administration officials, including the principal secretary of health, the director of health services, and the director of medical education, concerns remain over how the initiative was structured.

"The senior leadership of the health department have been kept in the dark about the proposals. Integrating ayurveda into public health centres is controversial and not suitable for Keralam, which already has a good network of AYUSH institutions," a source said.Despite a national policy advocating the mainstreaming of AYUSH, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) continues to strongly oppose 'mixopathy' at the lans.

Defending the project's objective, the chief minister noted in a social media post: "This is the first time in the country that a statethe vice-chair of the task force, did not respond to calls seeking comment.Bhubaneswar-Cuttack police commissioner S Dev Datta Singh said the responsibility of safety of devotees and visitors, and hassle-free darshan lied primarily with the puja committees. "Guidelines have been issued to them for proper organisation and conduct of the festival at the pandals. While police have extended necessary security personnel and assistance, the organisers have been asked to deploy adequate volunteers to manage crowd. They have also been instructed to install CCTV cameras at the pandals," Singh said.Stringent action will be initiated against any organiser found to be violating the guidelines, he warned.Odisha Fire and Emergency Services wing has also enhanced arrangements in Bhubaneswar, which organises one of the grandest Durga Puja celebrations in Odisha. It has deployed eight special rescue teams at various puja pandals in the state capital for public safety.IG Fire Service, Umashankar Dash said personnel of special rescue units are specially trained in crowd rescue and advanced first-aid, including oxygen support, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and an automated external defibrillator, management of respiratory arrest and serious injuries.

Monsoon rains spark second wave of butterfly migration in western TN

The movement has been recorded in Salem, Namakkal, Erode, Tiruppur and Coimbatore districts, TNBS members said.

COIMBATORE .(Agency)

A second wave of butterfly migration has been recorded across the western districts of Tamil Nadu, following an earlier movement in mid-September. Large numbers of four species from the Danainae subfamily, Blue Tiger (Tirumala limniace), Dark Blue Tiger (Tirumala septentrionis), Common Crow (Euploea core) and Double-branded Crow (Euploea sylvester), have been spotted across the region.

The current wave, which is larger than the first, gained momentum following fresh northeast monsoon rains and the withdrawal of the southwest monsoon in mid-October. The movement has been recorded in Salem, Namakkal, Erode, Tiruppur and Coimbatore districts, according to members of the Nature and Butterfly Society (TNBS).

"Blue Tigers were recorded passing through Rasipuram at a rate of 72 per minute by one of our members, with large numbers heading towards the foothills of the Western Ghats. The westward and south-westward movement is consistent with the pattern expected during the onset of the northeast monsoon. A reverse migration from the Western Ghats towards the plains would generally begin in April or May the following year," said A Pavendhan, president of TNBS. Members of the Coimbatore Nature Society also assisted TNBS members in observing the migration in Coimbatore district.The migration peaked over the weekend, with sightings reported across Coimbatore district, from Mettupalayam to Singanallur, between 8.30 am and 4 pm on Saturday (October 17). The rate of movement ranged from five to 135 butterflies per minute. Sightings of migrating Crows and Tigers continued on Sunday (October 18) in Erode and Tiruppur districts, including Udumalpet.

"Moderate rainfall was recorded across Tamil Nadu during this period, particularly along the migration corridor. However, one unusual observation was that the butterflies were flying much closer to the ground than usual. While they are typically seen migrating at heights of five to 25 metres or more, their lower flight path this time warrants further ecological study," said K Sadhees Kumar, a senior TNBS member from Erode district.The low-flying movement has also resulted in butterfly deaths on busy roads, said S Gopalakrishnan, another senior TNBS member. "Several instances of roadkill were reported as the butterflies crossed busy traffic. In one instance, more than 1,000 specimens were reportedly killed. Upon reaching the foothills of the Western Ghats, the butterflies were seen congregating on nectar-bearing plants," he said.

Thenisai Thendral Deva laid to rest with state honours in Ranipet

RANIPET.(Agency)

Veteran Tamil music composer and singer Deva, popularly known as 'Thenisai Thendral', who died of a heart attack in Chennai on Saturday, was laid to rest with state honours at his farm in Pazhaya Mangadu village in Sakkaramallur, Arcot taluk, Ranipet district, on Sunday. Personnel from the Ranipet Armed Reserve Police fired 72 rounds into the air as part of the honours.Deva's mortal remains were brought from Chennai to his farm around 3 pm. Residents of his native village put up tribute banners along the route. His body was taken to the burial site in a procession accompanied by traditional percussion music. Local residents and relatives gathered to pay their last respects.Several prominent personalities, including CM C Joseph Vijay, DMK president M K Stalin and actors Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan, had paid their last respects to Deva's mortal remains in Chennai on Saturday.



'Submit educational documents, STF to verify': HC to all UP govt school teachers of Classes 1-8

Lucknow.(Agency)

Observing that the deteriorating quality of education and poor performance of teachers were reasons behind the closure of government primary schools in the state, the Allahabad High Court has directed all government school teachers of Classes 1 to 8 to submit their educational documents within a week for an "extensive verification" by the Uttar Pradesh Police's Special Task Force (STF).

The teachers have been asked to submit their educational documents along with appointment letters to the Basic Shiksha Adhikaris (BSAs) of their districts and file notarised affidavits with details of their immediate relatives, whether serving or retired, who have been posted in the Education Department at the level of BSA or above.The court ordered the STF to conduct the verification process expeditiously and fixed November 4 as the next date for "reporting compliance and further consideration".If the officials concerned face "administrative difficulty or need more resources", it should be brought to the notice of the court before the November 4 hearing, the bench said.

Hearing a petition of a teacher who allegedly secured his job fraudulently, the bench of Justice Vinod Diwakar in its October 16 order stated, "It is a matter of common knowledge that a large number of primary schools have been closed down, principally on account of a shortfall in the number of students. That shortfall is not attributable to a want of resources, but to the deteriorating quality of the education imparted and to the inadequate performance of the teachers."

"Nor is it attributable to appointments made in recent years alone; it is traceable to the practice, prevailing over the last two decades, of appointments secured by fraudulent means.Where the Government is infusing substantial resources — free textbooks, the mid-day meal, uniforms and other provisions — and the condition of the primary schools has still not improved, one of the principal reasons may well be the quality of the teachers, and the fact that teachers in government service are not discharging their duties with the seriousness and sincerity expected of them," the bench observed.

FIR against Surat firm after 6-year-old bridge found unsafe in Narmada district

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

The Roads and Buildings Department has registered an FIR against a Surat-based contractor over alleged substandard work on a bridge built over the Karjan River in Narmada district, said an official release from the state government on Sunday.The government has also initiated departmental proceedings against the officials responsible.The FIR was registered at the Rajpipla Police Station on Sunday against Royal Infra Engineering Pvt. Ltd.The bridge, which is crucial for connectivity in and around Rajpipla and Ramgadh, was found to have several construction-related defects, raising concerns about its safety for public use.

As per the release, the Department had awarded the bridge construction contract to Royal Infra in 2018-19 at a tender cost of Rs 10.71 crore. The bridge's construction commenced on September 15, 2018, and was completed on August 14, 2020.However, during an inspection of the bridge, several critical deficiencies were detected in its construction, compelling the authorities to suspend traffic movement on it.The release stated, "During an inspection, officials noticed settlement in one of the bridge's foundations. Following this discovery, the Quality Control Division was directed to conduct a comprehensive inspection.

Gujarat Hardlook: Corporate Road in Gujarat chokes after Ahmedabad bridge opening, civic body scrambles for solutions

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

On September 24, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated several infrastructure projects in Gujarat's largest city, Ahmedabad. The Makarba Railway Overbridge was one among them. Built at a cost of Rs 98.60 crore, the bridge was meant to ease traffic chaos caused by the level crossing (LC-24) where commuters would have to wait till the train passes, causing a flood of vehicles crisscrossing from either side.The project was completed under the Central government's Phatak Mukt Abhiyan, a scheme aimed at freeing cities of traffic jams caused by railway crossings.However, the opening of the bridge has created more chaos on the road with the authorities adding more traffic police personnel, widening the road, implementing a capsule design alternative and perhaps adding a traffic signal to correct the alleged fault in the design.Ashwin Jansari, a retired professor who lives on Anandnagar Road and has an office in the Dev Prime building on the Corporate Road which connects one end of the new bridge, has had to change his route to reach his workplace on time. He feels the traffic situation was better earlier.

"Earlier (before the opening of the ROB), the traffic was, in fact, not a big issue. I thought the new bridge would make travel on the route easier, but it is creating traffic chaos. Everyone living around the bridge is complaining every day that things should have been considered right from the beginning and it should be designed properly. Now, I have to take a longer route and start early from my house to reach my office on time," Jansari told .

Odisha's forest department identifies 12 sites for adventure ecotourism

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

The Forest department has identified 12 ecotourism sites for introduction of a wide array of low-impact adventure tourism activities to enhance visitors experience and extend sustainable livelihood support to the local communities.Deputy conservator of forests (DCF), ecotourism, Vivek Kumar said Similipal, Satkosia, Mahendragiri, Jiranga, Deomali, Barbara, Hirakud, Bichitrapur-Kuldiha, Gandhamardan, Karlapat and Chandaka are among the sites where the department has decided to introduce adventure tourism activities in the initial phase. Kumar said the state plans to upgrade its ecotourism sites with environmentally conscious infrastructure that improves tourist experience while minimal to zero impact on the forests. "The eco-tourism wing has worked out a low-impact plan to bring fun outdoor activities to the nature spots. Visitors will get to experience the thrill of high-rope challenges like zip lines, Burma bridges and commando nets while there will also be special tracks for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and mountain biking trails wherever permitted," he said.There will also be provision of archery at some of these places, while for water lovers, the plan includes kayaking, canoeing, boating and river crossing. People will be able to enjoy rock climbing on built structures. The camping sites and long walking paths will also allow guests to enjoy nature safely while keeping the environment clean. There will also be provision of view points and children's adventure zone at these sites, he added."While wall climbing, canopy walk and rowing have been introduced in Chandaka wildlife sanctuary recently, steps will be taken for introduction of the eco-adventure activities in other identified eco-tourism sites. The initiative will diversify sustainable tourism offerings, enhance visitors experience and strengthen livelihoods of local community members engaged in these eco-tourism sites," he said.



The Odisha Ecotourism Society has initiated a process for selection of a professional agency capable of implementing the project in identified sites in a responsible manner.

Asian Para Games: Sheetal equals world record to reach archery final

New Delhi.(Agency)

Sheetal Devi began India's Asian Para Games 2026 campaign in spectacular fashion on Monday, October 19, equalling the world record in the women's compound archery qualification round in Nagoya. The 19-year-old scored 704 out of a possible 720 points, bettering her own Asian record and setting the tone for India's campaign.The archer from Jammu and Kashmir delivered a near-flawless performance, registering 57 perfect 10s from her 72 arrows, including 32 Xs, which denote shots landing in the innermost scoring zone of the target. overs of play were possible.Sheetal, the Paris Paralympics bronze medallist,



surpassed her previous Asian record of 698 by six points. The world record of 704 was set by Turkiye's Oznur Girdi at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games.The reigning Asian Games champion also improved on her own Asian Para Games record of 680, which she had set at Hangzhou in 2023. Sheetal had won two gold medals, in the individual and mixed team events, and a silver in doubles at the previous edition.

She had raised the Asian record to 698 in March this year before producing an even better performance in Nagoya.

LaLiga: Mbappe stars as Madrid beats Sevilla 4-1ahead of El Clasico



MADRID.(Agency)

Kylian Mbappe scored twice including one brilliant individual goal as Real Madrid thrashed Sevilla 4-1 on Sunday to climb into third in La Liga. Arda Guler, who was fortunate to avoid an early red card for an elbow, netted a spectacular opener before Mbappe's double and a rocket from Yan Diomande as Jose Mourinho side moved above Real Betis. Mbappe's first was a sensational strike, involving a roulette on the edge of Sevilla's box, and his second a chipped Panenka penalty.Champions Barca are six points ahead of Real Madrid before next weekend's Clasico at Camp Nou after thrashing Betis on Saturday, with Atletico Madrid second, sandwiched between Spain's giants.

"We played a great game... we are a team and we work to improve, we've only been together for a very short time," Mourinho told Real Madrid TV. "It's hard to have the calm that other coaches enjoy at other clubs, given the scale of Real Madrid, but we're making the most of every minute we have." Mourinho lined up with Diomande on the left in place of suspended Brazilian winger Vinicius Junior, and brought Guler in as part of the midfield pivot.Vinicius's red card for hair-pulling last weekend provoked ire in the Spanish capital at officiating in Spain.

Bundesliga: Maza and Schick help Bayer Leverkusen clip Freiburg's wings

- After a shock defeat to promoted Elversberg, Leverkusen have now picked up 13 of a possible 18 points and sit fourth, level with third-placed Freiburg on points but behind on goal difference

New Delhi.(Agency)

Ibrahim Maza and Patrik Schick combined to score two goals as Bayer Leverkusen came from behind to beat in-form Freiburg 2-1 in the German Bundesliga on Sunday.After a shock defeat to promoted Elversberg in the season opener, Leverkusen have now picked up 13 of a possible 18 points and sit fourth, level with third-placed Freiburg on points but behind on goal difference.

Replaced by Bayern Munich atop the Bundesliga table after Vincent Kompany's men thumped RB Leipzig on Saturday, Freiburg host the Bavarian giants next weekend.Schick's goal 14 minutes from time made him the first Leverkusen player to score in each of the first six matches in a Bundesliga season."It was a lot of fun, especially against such a strong opponent. Huge respect to Freiburg but we showed what we can do," Algeria attacker Maza told DAZN.

"Schicky and I are building some petty good chemistry. The more time we spend playing together, the better it's getting. It's going pretty well right now."Freiburg coach Julian Schuster said his side would learn from the defeat ahead of Bayern's visit next Sunday.

"It was completely unnecessary that we lost and dropped points here today," he said.

"But despite that there's plenty of positives to take out of it that will make us stronger and definitely help us," he added.The Bundesliga's form team, Freiburg, took the pitch in Leverkusen under the watchful eyes of Germany coach Jurgen Klopp.In October,



Klopp called four Freiburg players up to the Germany squad for the first time and two of those combined for the opener with 14 minutes gone.Right-back Philipp Treu laid on a counter-attacking opener for Derry Scherhant with a clever flick.Five minutes later, Schick played a smart one-two with former Aston Villa winger Moussa Diaby before flicking to Maza who slammed home.Schick blasted over the bar on the hour but did not need to wait long for his next opportunity.With 15 minutes remaining, Maza dribbled in from the right and evaded several Freiburg defenders before playing an inch-perfect pass for Schick to guide a controlled strike home.Rock bottom Borussia Moenchengladbach are still searching for a first point of the season after losing 2-1 at home against fellow strugglers Hoffenheim.Hoffenheim's Bambase Conte opened the scoring with his second goal in two games since a surprise call-up to Klopp's Germany squad in October.Wael Mohya pulled one back for the hosts just after the break but Alexander Prass put Hoffenheim back in front shortly afterwards as the visitors, who host Lyon in the Europa League on Thursday, won just their second game of the season.

Lyon go top of Ligue 1 as Monaco fall to first defeat of the season

New Delhi.(Agency)

Ten-man Lyon held on for a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Nice to move top of Ligue 1 on Sunday, as previous pace-setters Monaco lost for the first time this season.Five teams are level on 14 points at the top of the table with Lyon heading Paris Saint-Germain, Paris FC, Lille and Monaco on goal difference.



Lyon head to PSG next weekend.

"It's good to be top but it's not the most important thing," said Lyon coach Paulo Fonseca."But having 14 points is very positive. Of course, that gives us confidence and greater responsibilities, but at this stage of the season it changes nothing."It was a close run affair for Lyon, playing in front of local boy and French cycling prodigy Paul Seixas, following Keito Nakamura's dismissal 20 minutes from time.

Ivory Coast forward Elye Wahi, who opened the scoring for Nice on 18 minutes with his second goal of the season, was denied an injury-time equaliser by a razor-tight offside call.Two goals in three minutes turned the game around by half-time as Pavel Sulc equalised by prodding home a rebound and Tanner Tessmann headed the hosts in front.

Veteran Belgium midfielder Axel Witsel headed against the bar early in the second half while Wahi hit the post with a close-range header, shortly after Nakamura was dismissed for a high boot.Noah Cadiou's second-half penalty for Lorient prevented Monaco from returning to the top of Ligue 1 as the principality outfit fell to a 1-0 defeat in Brittany on Sunday.Wing back Dembo Sylla earned the penalty on the hour mark at the Stade du Moustoir as he was felled by Monaco captain Denis Zakaria.Finnish goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky dived the right way, but Cadiou placed his spot-kick into the corner, to hand Monaco their first league defeat of the season.

Stunning bicycle kick

Paris FC joined the leading quintet as Lassine Sinayoko's injury-time penalty gave them a 4-3 victory over Rennes, who dropped to fifth, a point behind the leading five, despite forward Esteban Lepaul's hat-trick of penalties.

Maxime Lopez twice gave the hosts the lead, only for Lepaul, who earned his first France cap in the recent international window, to equalise from the spot.Lassine Sinayoko looked to have given PFC the victory 14 minutes from time with a stunning overhead bicycle kick, only for Brazilian substitute Otavio's clumsy handball to hand Lepaul the chance to level up a third time.

Asian Para Games: Mona, Avani dominate 10m air rifle as India bring home first gold medal

Bengaluru.(Agency)

India opened their medal account at the Asian Para Games 2026 with a commanding one-two finish in the women's 10m air rifle SH1 event on Monday, October 19. Mona Agarwal clinched gold with an Asian Para Games record of 250 points, edging out defending champion Avani Lekhara, who settled for silver with 249.6 points. The contest between the two Indian shooters went down to the finest of margins, with Mona finishing just 0.4 points ahead of Avani. The result also gave India their first gold medal of the campaign, with both shooters reaching the podium on Day 1 of the competition.Avani, the reigning Paralympic and Asian Games champion, had led the standings until the halfway point of the final. However, a 9.7 in the fourth series of the second stage allowed Mona to seize the advantage.Avani responded strongly under pressure, holding off challenges from South Korea's Yunri Lee and Kazakhstan's Aigerim Tulegenova, who briefly moved ahead of her. The Indian shooter recovered to secure silver, ensuring a memorable start for the Indian contingent.For Mona, the gold medal marked another major achievement in a sporting career that has risen rapidly since she took up competitive rifle shooting in December 2021.WHO IS MONA AGARWAL?

Born on November 8, 1987, in Sikar, Rajasthan, Mona contracted polio at nine months of age, affecting both her lower limbs. Before finding success in para-shooting, she explored several sporting disciplines, including para-athletics and para-powerlifting, and played an important role in women's sitting volleyball.In 2019, Mona captained



Rajasthan's women's team to gold at the inaugural National Sitting Volleyball Championship. She began competitive rifle shooting in December 2021 and quickly established herself as a contender on the national and international stages.After winning a national silver medal in 2022, she earned bronze in the mixed team event at the 2023 World Shooting Para Sport World Cup in Osijek, Croatia. Later that year, she won gold in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event at the World Cup in Changwon, South Korea.

How Archery Premier League is helping Indian archers bridge the Olympic gap

- India's archers continue to win medals at major international events, but Olympic success remains elusive. The Archery Premier League is seeking to bridge that gap through international competition, a faster format and pressure-

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's archers have enjoyed considerable success on the international circuit, winning medals at continental championships, World Cups and world championships. Yet, the Olympic stage remains a different challenge. For the Archery Premier League (APL), bridging that gap is the central objective, and its organisers believe the league is beginning to move Indian archery in the right direction.

The second season of the APL in Hyderabad offered Indian archers more than an opportunity to compete for their respective franchises. It brought them alongside some of the world's best archers, introduced a faster competitive format and tested their ability to perform under challenging conditions.Speaking exclusively to IndiaToday.in, APL chairman and director Anil Kamineni explained the thinking behind the league, recalling the question that prompted its creation.“We have been winning medals everywhere except at the Olympics. What is it that we are not doing right?” Kamineni recalled



asking.“We analysed the situation and found that several other sporting disciplines had benefited from having leagues of their own. We also noticed an improvement in athletes’ performances in those sports. So we thought, ‘Okay, let’s start our own league.’”The league was conceived as an attempt to address that gap, drawing on the success of franchise-based competitions in other sports and creating a different competitive environment for archery.

LEARNING FROM THE BEST

One of the APL's central objectives is to bring leading international archers into the same competition as India's top performers. For younger Indian athletes, competing alongside established names offers an opportunity to observe how elite competitors approach the sport, from their shooting routines to their handling of pressure.The exchange goes both ways. Kamineni said international archers had also spoken positively about competing alongside athletes from different countries, creating opportunities for learning across the field.The league has also brought recurve and compound archers together in the same competition. The two disciplines generally operate in separate competitive environments, but the APL has created opportunities for athletes to interact and compete as teammates.

The mixed-discipline format is another attempt to broaden the sport's appeal while bringing together athletes who might otherwise have limited opportunities to share a competitive environment.

FIVE SECONDS LESS

The APL has also changed the pace of competition. Its format gives each team 120 seconds to shoot eight arrows in a set, working out to an average of 15 seconds per arrow. That is five seconds less than the conventional 20-second allowance per arrow in standard team formats.The shorter window demands quicker decisions. Archers must assess the conditions, settle into position and execute their shots without allowing the pressure of the clock to disrupt their accuracy.

Serie A 2026-27: Lazio crush Juventus to move level with Serie A leaders Inter; AC Milan, Como also win

MILAN.(Agency)

When Anshul Kamboj made his Test debut in Lazio scored a statement win on Sunday, brushing Juventus aside 3-0 in Turin to move level on points with Inter Milan at the top of Serie A.Lazio trail the defending champions on goal difference, but 19 points is their highest total after seven league games, surpassing the 17 accumulated by Sven Goran Ericsson's team to open the 1999-2000 season.That side went unbeaten for their first nine games and ended up winning their second, and most recent, Serie A title, by one point from Juventus.

On Sunday, Lazio took control with a Danish double. Oliver Provstgaard, a 1.93m centre back, leapt high above the home defence after 37 minutes and guided a



header inside the far post.After 66 minutes, winger Gustav Isaksen, faced by a backpedalling fullback, drifted inside and placed a lo shot inside the far post.

With three minutes left, substitute Fisayo Dele-Bashiru picked up the ball in his own half and cantered unhindered into the Juventus penalty area before sliding home his shot.ce.

Right balance’

AC Milan and Como both won earlier on Sunday to end the week in the top five.Milan held off visiting Atalanta 3-2 to end the weekend fourth, four points off the lead.



Kanpur Event Organiser Threatens Legal Action Against

Anjali Arora

Over Kacha Badam Controversy

Social media influencer Anjali Arora, who rose to fame after a dance video to the song 'Kacha Badam' went viral, attended an event in Kanpur. Videos of her losing her cool at a DJ and slamming him for playing the song 'Kacha Badam' are going viral. Amid this, the organiser of the event has slammed the actress for her overreaction at the event.The organiser claimed that he and the team behind the event had no idea that the song would offend the actress, as it was the main stepping stone in her journey to fame. Speaking to State Media 24, the event organiser accused Anjali of staging a publicity stunt.The organiser said, "Yeh ek publicity stunt tha jo inke dwara kiya gaya tha. Har artist ko pata hota hai ki stage ki garima hoti hai. Agar stage par koi baat hui hoti, toh hum baad mein management team ke saath baithkar use clear kar lete," and added, "Kacha Badam song bajne par Anjali Arora kyun offend ho gayi, iska jawab woh dekar nahi gayi hai."

He further threatened legal action against Anjali and stated that he had invested lakhs of rupees in the event, particularly to bring Anjali in for a performance. However, he claimed that she barely appeared and left the stage within just 15 minutes after creating a scene.While videos of the incident are circulating all over social media, Anjali is yet to react or issue a clarification regarding the accusations.



What happened at the Kanpur event?

The videos that went viral featured Anjali Arora on stage as 'Kacha Badam' plays in the background. Soon after hearing the song, she turns around to speak to the DJ. One user wrote, "Anjali Arora got famous because of Kacha Badam, and now she's getting angry at a DJ for playing the same song. What an irony."Another user wrote, "Logo ko apni pehchan se samasya hai… waah… yahi hai downfall…." A third user wrote, "You won't get a life of respect, no matter how hard you try."Meanwhile, Anjali was recently seen playing the role of Sita in Mahakavya Shri Ramayan Katha. She was massively trolled after the film's teaser was released. Earlier, she reacted to the criticism, saying that she did not feel upset by the backlash.



Aneet Padda's

Shakti Shalini NOT Pushed To 2027, Set To Clash With Shah Rukh Khan's King?

Aneet Padda's Shakti Shalini is one of the most highly anticipated films, as it marks another chapter in the popular horror universe. Alongside Shakti Shalini, Shah Rukh Khan's King is also among the most awaited films of the year. Earlier reports suggested that the Aneet Padda-starrer might be pushed to 2027 to avoid a clash with the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer, but it appears that the plans have changed.

It has been confirmed that the film remains scheduled to hit theatres on December 24, 2026. The release date appeared in a promotional video screened alongside Prahaar, confirming December 24 as the theatrical release date. With both SRK's King and Aneet's Shakti Shalini scheduled to arrive on the same day, it will be interesting to see which film dominates the box office in this mega Christmas clashVishal Jethwa, who stars alongside Aneet Padda in Shakti Shalini, had earlier addressed speculation about a possible delay in the film's release.

Speaking exclusively to The Free Press Journal at FICCI FRAMES 2026, the actor acknowledged hearing the buzz, saying, "Maine bhi sune hain rumours," and laughed off the reports.

About King

King was officially announced in November last year. The electrifying title reveal, released on November 2 to mark Shah Rukh Khan's birthday, introduced his silver-haired, action-driven look, an SRK-special theme song, and a striking dialogue delivered by SRK: "Darr nahi, Dehshat hoon." With the release date revealed, anticipation for the film continues to soar.

Produced by Red Chillies Entertainment and Marflix Pictures, King marks Shah Rukh Khan's first on-screen collaboration with his daughter, Suhana Khan.



About Shakti Shalini

Shakti Shalini was officially announced during Diwali last year. The title announcement promo was attached to Thamaa and introduced the central character with the descriptions: "The Protector", "The Destroyer", and "The Mother Of All"..The film marks another chapter in the expanding Maddock Horror Comedy Universe, which includes several interconnected titles that have found success at the box office.

Prateik Smita Patil Remembers 'Guardian Angel' Smita Patil On Birth Anniversary: 'I Feel Your Blessings...'



Actor Prateik Smita Patil penned an emotional tribute to his late mother, veteran actress Smita Patil, on her birth anniversary, describing her as his "guardian angel" and expressing his belief that their bond transcends the physical world.

Prateik took to Instagram, where he shared a string of pictures from the day he got married to actress Priya Bannerjee. The actor took to the caption section and said he continues to feel her blessings and protection through every moment of his life."Happy forever heavenly birthday my guardian angel… this physical world was too weak to witness our love but we always had other plans… I feel your blessings and protection through every moment of my existence and more deeply with the moments in this journey that are meant to define me and understand who I really am and why we chose this journey together and for each other (sic)," Prateik wrote as the caption.

He added: "In retrospect i now understand how and why you've always been watching over me blessing me and protecting me from this cruel world through victory and defeat through the inevitable and deceit…. energy can neither be created nor destroyed but then we've so beautifully and carefully created an energy that was always written to be intertwined with our souls and be limitless and it most certainly can never be destroyed our spark will never fade our fire will never diminish our light will always burn bright."Prateik is the son of Raj Babbar and Smita Patil. The couple first met on the sets of the 1982 film Bheegi Palkein. Prateik was born on 28 November 1986. The late star died from childbirth complications on 13 December 1986 at the age of 31. After her death, Prateik was raised by her parents in Mumbai.Smita Patil's last work included Galiyon Ka Badshah.Directed by Sher Jung Singh, the film stars Raaj Kumar, Hema Malini, Mithun Chakraborty, Poonam Dhillon, Smita Patil, Aruna Irani, Ranjeet, Danny Denzongpa, Om Shivpuri, Iftekhar. The film was shot and completed several years before its delayed release and also marked the final film of Smita Patil, who died in 1986.

Nayyi Navelli Box Office Day 1: Yami Gautam's Film Earns Rs 3.25 Crore On Opening Day



Yami Gautam's Nayyi Navelli has failed to impress the audience. The mythological drama released in theatres on October 16, 2026, but failed to make a mark at the box office. The film witnessed a slow start mainly due to the competition it faced from other major releases like Prahaar, Jailer 2 and Ranabaali.

Nayyi Navelli Box Office Collection Day 1

According to Sacnilk, Nayyi Navelli collected Rs 3.25 crore on its opening day. The film did better than Rajkummar Rao's Prahaar, which earned Rs 2.35 crore on Friday. However, it couldn't match the opening of Yami Gautam's 2024 film Article 370, which had collected Rs 5.90 crore on day one.

About The Film

In the film, Yami Gautam plays Mohini, a successful corporate executive who marries Raja Awasthi, played by Addinath M. Kothare. She moves to Meerut to start a new chapter with her husband and his rather unconventional family. But things get awkward when Raja's brother, Bantu (Anurag Thakur), begins to suspect that Mohini is a daayan, or witch.And Bantu isn't exactly keeping his suspicions to himself! He comes up with a series of bizarre arguments to convince the rest of the family that Mohini has a supernatural side. Soon, the household is filled with suspicion, strange accusations and plenty of chaos. As the story moves forward, Mohini's true identity becomes an even bigger part of the mystery. "We watched it so you could save yourself the trouble. Nayyi Navelli fails to leave a lasting impression, offering neither the scares of a horror film nor the laughs of a comedy. The movie can cost you a ticket, popcorn and headache medicine."

Nayyi Navelli OTT Release

The film's posters have revealed Amazon Prime Video as its OTT partner. However, the makers are yet to announce the film's official streaming date. In India, films usually arrive on OTT platforms around four to eight weeks after their theatrical release. Hindi films generally follow an eight-week window.

Venezuela opposition alliance confirms Nobel laureate Machado as leader

- The coalition's announcement comes as one Opposition faction engages in political transition talks with the interim government, following the US ouster of longtime



KYIV.(Agency)

An alliance of Venezuelan Opposition parties on Sunday (October 18, 2026) confirmed exiled Nobel Peace Prize laureate María Corina Machado as its leader, increasing pressure on interim authorities to allow her return.The coalition's announcement comes as one Opposition faction engages in political transition talks with the interim government, following the US ouster of longtime leader Nicolas Maduro.Members of the Opposition's Unitary Democratic Platform (PUD) agreed to "recognise and support the leadership of Maria Corina Machado," who is currently living in Panama, according to the final document presented at the conclusion of a meeting in Caracas.Mr. Maduro was captured in January by the US military and flown to stand trial in New York, with his deputy, Delcy Rodriguez assuming power in his place and governing under intense pressure from Washington.At the Caracas meeting, members of the alliance put forward 14 proposals for restoring democracy in Venezuela, along with a roadmap for holding general elections.The alliance also agreed to demand the unconditional release of all political prisoners, an end to political repression and the right of xiles to return home.It called for full freedom for political parties, the lifting of bans on candidates running for office and an end to administrative proceedings targeting political organizations, as well as measures to protect human rights.

The group called for a peaceful transition to democracy and free, competitive elections — but did not set a date for the vote.

Vente, Ms. Machado's party, is calling for elections next year and demanding that a date be set.Ms. Machado has been in exile since she covertly left Venezuela in 2025 to receive her Nobel Peace Prize. According to her party, she has tried at least seven times to return home but has been blocked by Venezuelan authorities.The agreement comes as the government and a faction of the opposition hold their third round of US-backed talks in Caracas. Ms. Machado has not been invited to participate.

A Year After Louvre Heist, $100 Million French Crown Jewels Remain Missing

Paris.(Agency)

One year after a stunning break-in at the Louvre Museum, the four main suspects are in jail awaiting trial, but police appear to have run out of leads to locate the stolen crown jewels.

Thieves disguised as workmen sliced their way into the museum with industrial disc-cutters on October 19 last year before making off with eight irreplaceable items worth an estimated $100 million.

They include a brooch and crown from Napoleon III's wife Eugenie. President Emmanuel Macron referred to the robbery as an attack on France's history.

Experts from law enforcement and private art theft agencies who spoke to AFP believe the best chance of recovering the treasures is if the thieves acted alone and stashed their loot somewhere in the Paris region."There was a short period of time where they may have hidden them in a wall or buried them," Christopher Marinello from Art Recovery International, a private agency, told AFP.All four men were arrested within 10 days of the heist.

Interrogation

The last known sighting of the glittering 19th-century gems was on CCTV footage recorded in an underground lock-up in the gritty Aubervilliers suburb of northern Paris, where all the suspects live.

Vienna-Bound Plane From Tel Aviv Diverts To Bulgaria After Bomb Threat

Sofia.(Agency)

A bomb threat against an Austrian Airlines flight from Tel Aviv to Vienna on Sunday forced the plane to divert to Bulgaria, according to Bulgarian authorities and the airline.The Austrian Airlines crew decided to make an emergency landing in Sofia after reportedly receiving a bomb threat as they neared Romania, Bulgaria's transport ministry said in a statement, adding that the passengers were evacuated from the aircraft after landing.

The Bulgarian air force scrambled a MiG-29 fighter jet to escort the airliner as part of established procedures, the transport ministry said.

The airline told AFP that 51 passengers and six crew were aboard the flight, and that a security search of the aircraft -- an Airbus A320 -- was launched after it safely landed in Sofia about a half hour after the threat.

Elon Musk Hints At Tesla Roadster Flying Over Grand Canyon In Future Demonstrations

world.(Agency)

Elon Musk has hinted at some ambitious stunts for Tesla's next-generation Roadster, suggesting that future demonstrations could see the electric car fly over the Snake River or the Grand Canyon, land on its wheels and exceed half the speed of sound.His post on X came after Tesla showcased the Roadster performing a stunt that involved driving upside down and briefly taking to the air.Tesla emonstrated the next-generation Roadster at SpaceX's facility in Texas on October 15, 2026. During the showcase, the car accelerated towards a specially designed curved ramp, climbed it and continued travelling upside down along the surface. It then performed a short airborne manoeuvre before landing safely.The demonstration offered a closer look at Musk's long-running vision for the second-generation Roadster, which was first unveiled in November 2017. Tesla positioned the car as an electric performance flagship, while Musk revealed.

Grass fire at Canadian military base kills 4 soldiers and critically injures 19 other people

WAINWRIGHT, Alberta.(Agency)

Four Canadian service members were killed and 39 people injured, including 19 critically, when a fast-moving fire overtook soldiers conducting live-fire combat training at a military base in Alberta, officials said Sunday.Maj. Gen. Wade Rutland said military officials knew about the fire for hours but believed it was sufficiently contained to allow training to continue before winds suddenly shifted, sending flames racing toward the soldiers."The fire was a kilometer away when the wind shifted. That is not normal for a fire to move a kilometer in 36 seconds," he said at a news conference in Edmonton.Rutland said a commander at the scene told him soldiers went from seeing no fire to having flames upon them in less than a minute.The fire broke out Saturday during high-intensity combat training involving Charlie Company of the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.About 84 soldiers were split between a grenade range and an area where they practiced attacks on simulated enemy positions. The fire swept into the second training area.Rutland said investigators had not determined what ignited the grass fire.

He said the battalion was preparing for rapid deployment to global crises and a mission to reinforce Canadian troops in Latvia next spring.The military identified those killed as Sgt. Morgan Wong of Edmonton; Pvt. Shaun Farrell of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; Pvt. Aidan Goulding of North Vancouver, British Columbia; and Pvt. Hayden Lykkemark of Langley, British Columbia. All four were serving with the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Edmonton.Alberta Premier Danielle Smith said 39 people were receiving medical care. Sayeh Zielke, chief executive of Acute Care Alberta, said 19 were in critical condition, eight were



stable and 12 were ambulatory and receiving treatment for less serious injuries.Smith said some suffered severe burns and could face weeks or months of intensive treatment.Prime Minister Mark Carney described the incident as one of the worst peacetime tragedies for Canada's military on domestic soil. He ordered flags lowered to half-staff on federal buildings nationwide.

Carney said the families of those killed had been notified. Those affected included regular forces personnel, reservists and soldiers from bases across Canada.

Hospitals respond to mass casualties

Alberta health officials said patients were transferred from Wainwright to four hospitals — the University of Alberta Hospital and Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary and Red Deer Regional Hospital.Alberta officials said they had lifted the "Code Orange" emergency activated at several hospitals Saturday night to mobilize staff and beds for the casualties.The response involved 22 ground ambulances, six airplanes and two helicopters, with assistance from neighboring Saskatchewan. Smith said all patients had been accounted for and no further patients were awaiting transport.

Wainwright Mayor Bruce Pugh said the town's small hospital was not designed to handle a mass-casualty incident but praised local medical personnel.Rutland confirmed that military search-and-rescue technicians parachuted into Wainwright to reinforce the emergency response. Pugh said their red parachutes were illuminated by flares as they descended shortly before midnight.

Cathy Keane, a mayoral candidate in Ontario, said her eldest son was among those critically injured. "As a mother, right now I need to be with my son and family," she wrote on Facebook, saying she was traveling to Alberta.

Conservative opposition leader Pierre Poilievre, who represents the area in Parliament, visited Wainwright on Sunday and said he had heard accounts of people who ran toward the danger to help others and were now fighting for their lives in hospitals.

Trump backs ally Netanyahu ahead of Israel's tight election

JERUSALEM.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump on Sunday endorsed his ally Benjamin Netanyahu before Israel's close-fought parliamentary election on October 27, providing a boost to the veteran prime minister's bid to win a new mandate.Netanyahu touted his close relationship with the US president in a video released by his Likud party, saying that together they had "crushed Iran" and adding that re-election would allow him to work with Trump to "elminate the Iranian threat over the next two years, or even sooner".The endorsement comes less



than two weeks before Israel's first vote since the October 7, 2023 Hamas-led attack, which opposition politicians have accused Netanyahu of bearing personal responsibility for after allegedly ignoring warnings.Trump and Netanyahu, who polls show is in a tight election race, have worked closely together on Israel's multi-front wars after the Hamas-led attack, including bombarding Iran, and the endorsement could be a boon to his re-election campaign."Bibi Netanyahu has been Strong, Brave, and Brilliant in the face of tremendous opposition, including that coming from even Israel, itself," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform, using a common nickname for the Israeli leader."This is the kind of Partner that the United States of America is demanding of Israel, a Country for which it has done so much. Please let this Letter serve to represent my Complete and Total Endorsement of Bibi Netanyahu in his upcoming Race for Re-Election as Prime Minister of Israel.

Egypt's top security body agrees to help Saudi Arabia defend itself against Houthi attacks

CAIRO.(Agency)

Egypt's top security body said Sunday it has agreed to support close ally Saudi Arabia in the major escalation of fighting between the kingdom and Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, which has marked the latest front in the Iran war.Saudi Arabia has been pressing allies for military assistance. The Houthis have repeatedly attacked airports and oil infrastructure across the kingdom with drones and missiles that can change direction during flight, posing a challenge to interceptors. At least 19 people have been killed, thousands of flights have been affected and global markets have been rattled.Also on Sunday, the Saudi defense minister was meeting with the United Arab Emirates president about ways to strengthen cooperation, according to the UAE's news agency WAM. The countries have had tense relations in the recent past as they backed different factions in the Yemeni coalition fighting the rebels.

The Egyptian announcment o military assistance came a month after a visit by the Saudi crown prince. Chaired by President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, the National Defense Council decided to provide "all possible forms of support" to enable Saudi Arabia to defend its security, according to a presidential statement.

It didn't provide details. El-Sissi on Saturday called for parliament to grant him the authorization to deply troops and military equipment abroad.Civilians in both Yemen and Saudi Arabia have died

The surge in fighting has threatened civilians in both Saudi Arabia and Yemen, which has seen a return to civil war. The interim capital of Yemen's internationally recognized government, Aden, has seen its airport and a palace used by the government attacked in the past week.On Sunday, an airstrike killed at least nine people, including five children and two women, in Yemen's rebel-held northern province of Saada, the Houthi-run Health Ministry said.Spokesperson Anees al-Asbahi said the strike hit a house in Sahar district and wounded 19 others, including 11 children. Some were in critical condition, he said.Al-Asbahi blamed Saudi Arabia. There was no immediate comment from the kingdom. The Houthi-run al-Masirah satellite channel aired footage of people clearing debris with their hands and pulling two young people out of the rubble.The rebels said attacks by Saudi-led forces had killed or wounded over 30 people in the past 24 hours. Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, the Houthis' military spokesperson, said 110 missiles or airstrikes were carried out against civilian sites in Sanaa and other cities. The Associated Press could not independently verify the claim.Across the border in Saudi Arabia, a Saudi helicopter gunship crashed near the city of Najran in the southwest, killing its two-member crew, a Saudi military spokesperson said, citing a technical malfunction. The Houthis earlier claimed to have downed it.

Later, Saudi Civil Defense authorities said a projectile fired by the Houthis landed in a residential area of Najran province, wounding six people.

Bomb threat alert forces Austrian Airlines flight from Tel Aviv to divert to Sofia

Caracas.(Agency)

An Austrian Airlines flight from Tel Aviv to Vienna made an emergency landing in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, on Sunday, October 18, after the crew reported a "bomb threat signal", Reuters reported, citing Sky News. There were 57 people — 51 passengers and six crew — on board. Bulgaria's transport ministry said a fighter jet flew alongside the plane until it landed, and the passengers were then safely evacuated. No injuries have been reported, and an investigation has begun.

What happened on the flight

Flightradar24 data shows the Airbus A320, registered OE-LZE, was due to leave Tel Aviv for Vienna at 6:40 pm. It was diverted to Sofia at 9:25 pm. The ministry said the crew raised the alert while the plane was on the border with Romania. In its statement, it said the crew "decided to land in Sofia extraordinarily".The BBC said the plane, flying as Austrian Airlines flight 82, left Ben Gurion Airport on Sunday evening and landed at Vasil Levski airport in Sofia about three hours later. It said the landing came about 30 minutes after the alert was first raised.

Fighter jet escort and search

The Bulgarian air force sent up a MiG-29 fighter jet to escort the plane, the ministry said, according to the BBC.

After the landing, the passengers left the aircraft. Officers then searched the plane. The BBC said an investigation has begun.

What officials and the airline said

Bulgarian and Israeli media said the plane received a bomb threat. Austrian Airlines confirmed the same but gave no more details. Reuters said it could not verify the report at first, and that neither Austrian Airlines nor the ministry replied straight away to its requests for comment. The BBC has asked Lufthansa, which owns Austrian Airlines, for comment.



The incident follows other case involving commercial flights in recent weeks:

Flydubai: Last month, a pilot tried to hijack a Flydubai flight bound for Tel Aviv by attacking the captain. The crew and passengers overpowered him, and the plane landed safely in Saudi Arabia.