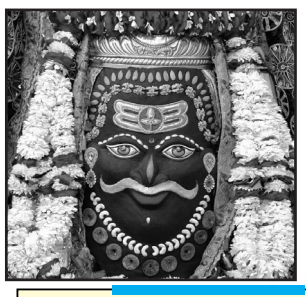
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Siddaramaiah's silence on sting operation intrigues Congress, political circles

BENGALURU. (Agency).

The continued silence of former chief minister and Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Siddaramaiah over the alleged sting operation targeting him has intrigued political circles and sections of the Congress, with the controversy triggering a series of meetings among senior Congress leaders.Home Minister Priyank Kharge met Chief Minister DK Shivakumar at the latter's Sadashivanagar residence in Bengaluru on Monday. Housing Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan also met Siddaramaiah at his official residence, Cauvery, in Bengaluru.

Earlier in the day, Zameer had met Siddaramaiah in Mysuru and held discussions with his son, Urban Development Minister Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah. Municipal Administration Minister H C Balakrishna also called on Shivakumar.

The meetings come amid mounting political pressure over the alleged sting operation, with the Congress leadership yet to articulate a clear public response. Neither Shivakumar nor Priyank responded to media queries on the controversy after their meeting.

'No double standards on terrorism': At SCO meet, Rajnath Singh calls for dismantling terror ecosystem

New Delhi (Agency).

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday described terrorism as one of the gravest threats to global peace and development while addressing the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting in Tajikistan.

Notably, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister, Ishaq Dar, was also present during Rajnath Singh's remarks against terrorism.Rajnath Singh said, "Terrorism not only causes the loss of innocent lives but also disrupts investment and commerce. It radicalises society and deprives our youth of the opportunities they deserve."The Defence Minister emphasised that there can be no justification for terrorism. "There should be no double standards in dealing with terrorism, and no place for those who finance, support or provide safe havens to terrorists. The entire ecosystem of terrorism must be firmly and collectively dismantled," he said.

Earlier on October 15, reiterating India's stand on cross-border terrorism, Rajnath Singh asserted that any further terrorist acts originating from Pakistan would invite an even stronger response. He emphasised that while India's cultural ethos favoured dialogue, coexistence and peaceful resolution of disputes, its commitment to peace should not be mistaken for weakness."Operation Sindoor, Balakot Airstrikes and Surgical Strikes weren't just military operations; they symbolised a decisive shift in the nation's approach, moving from diplomatic condemnation.

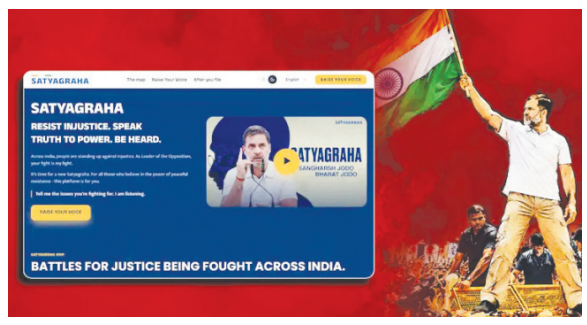
36,000 Voices, One Map: Inside Rahul Gandhi's Satyagraha Portal

Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of submissions on the portal, with 6,244 voices raised. Karnataka followed with 4,351 entries, while Maharashtra ranked third with 3,528.

CHANDIGARH(Agency).

More than 36,000 people have already registered their grievances on the Satyagraha portal launched by Rahul Gandhi on October 3 amid a series of protests taking place across the country.

The platform aims to bring together issues being raised by citizens, social groups and organisations onto a single map. Gandhi, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, had said the portal would help identify struggles being fought across India and allow the opposition to engage with them.Data from the portal shows that voices have poured in from nearly every state and Union Territory, with some states emerging as major centres of public participation. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of submissions on the portal, with 6,244 voices raised. Karnataka followed with 4,351 entries, while Maharashtra ranked third with 3,528.Bihar (2,970), Madhya Pradesh (2,643) and Rajasthan (2,638) were also among the states with the highest participation. Together, these six states account for a significant share of all complaints and grievances registered on the platform.Among metro regions, Delhi reported 1,578 submissions. Other major contributors included Telangana (1,352), Haryana (1,278) and Gujarat (1,139).The data suggests that the response has not been limited to any one region, with the portal receiving entries from northern, southern, eastern and western India alike.



Education, Corruption Emerge As Top Concerns

A closer look at the issues being raised reveals that education is the single biggest concern on the platform.The category received 6,210 submissions, making it the most-reported issue by users. Corruption followed closely with 5,822 voices raised.Caste discrimination ranked third with 2,627 complaints, while healthcare (2,565) and labour rights (2,326) completed the top five.

Issues affecting farmers also featured prominently, attracting 1,834 submissions. Women's safety (1,450), alleged vote-related irregularities (1,249), land rights (1,209) and unemployment (1,166) were among the other major concerns highlighted by citizens.The prominence of education and corruption suggests that governance and public services remain among the key issues resonating with people using the portal.

Poll-Bound States Signal Different Priorities

The data also offers a glimpse into what concerns are gaining attention in states that are expected to head into assembly elections in the coming months.In Uttar Pradesh, education emerged as the top issue with 1,201 voices raised, followed by corruption. Caste discrimination was another major concern reported by users in the state.

YUSUF PATHAN'S VADODARA LAND ALLOTMENT SPARKS POLITICAL CONTROVERSY: CONGRESS QUESTIONS FREE PLOT AND 45% CONCESSION, THREATENS MASS PROTEST

Mahanagar Metro Desk

AHMEDABAD: A political controversy has erupted in Gujarat over a proposed government land allotment in Vadodara involving former international cricketer and Trinamool Congress (TMC) Member of Parliament Yusuf Pathan. The Congress party has questioned the terms of the proposed allotment, alleging that the decision raises concerns about political favouritism, transparency and the use of public land. Gujarat Congress spokesperson Nishant Rawal has demanded a clear explanation from the state government and the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC), while warning that the party could launch a major public agitation if the disputed resolution is not withdrawn.The controversy centres on a 978-square-metre government plot in Vadodara. According to a press statement issued by Rawal, Pathan had reportedly sought the allotment of the land in 2012, but the matter remained pending for several years. The issue has now returned to the political spotlight following a municipal decision concerning the proposed transfer of the plot. The Congress has questioned why the matter has progressed at this stage and whether the terms offered are consistent with the rules governing the disposal of public land.500 SQUARE METRES PROPOSED FREE, REMAINING 478 SQUARE METRES AT A DISCOUNTAccording to the allegations outlined by the Congress spokesperson, the proposed arrangement involves 500 square metres of land being allotted without charge, while the remaining 478 square metres would be transferred at a concession of approximately 45% on the government-assessed value.The Congress has argued that such terms require a detailed public explanation, particularly because government land is a public asset and its transfer should follow established rules, valuation procedures and approval mechanisms.The party has called for clarity on how the land was valued, what regulations were applied, why the proposed concession was considered appropriate and which authorities approved the arrangement. It has also questioned whether comparable benefits are available to other applicants seeking residential plots.The exact financial implications of the proposed arrangement cannot be established from the allegations alone. The official VMC resolution, land valuation records and relevant government orders would be necessary to determine the precise terms and the extent of any financial concession.CONGRESS QUESTIONS WHY THE PROPOSAL REMAINED PENDING SINCE 2012A central point raised by Nishant Rawal concerns the reported timeline of the proposal. According to the Congress statement, the request dates back to 2012, yet the matter remained unresolved for years before coming under renewed consideration.Rawal has questioned the circumstances surrounding the timing of the decision and called on the authorities to explain the administrative process behind it. The Congress has suggested that the timing deserves scrutiny, although any connection between the allotment and political considerations would need to be established through evidence.The party has also raised broader questions about consistency in the government's treatment of public representatives and ordinary citizens. It argues that decisions involving public land should be based on transparent criteria rather than political affiliations or individual influence.The issue has consequently become a wider debate about the management of municipal assets, the standards applied to special allotments and the importance of making the decision-making process accessible to public scrutiny.NISHANT RAWAL QUESTIONS THE BJP GOVERNMENT'S POLICYIn his criticism of the proposed allotment, Gujarat Congress spokesperson Nishant Rawal has questioned whether the same level of financial assistance or concession would be extended to economically weaker families and middle-income households struggling to secure residential property.Rawal has challenged the state government to explain what provisions exist for ordinary citizens who cannot afford market-rate land. He has argued that if substantial concessions can be considered in an individual case, the government should clarify the broader policy governing such benefits.The Congress spokesperson has also referred to opposition politicians who have joined or supported the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), using those comparisons to question whether political realignments could influence the distribution of government benefits.These statements represent the Congress party's political position on the matter. Whether the proposed allotment involved preferential treatment would depend on the applicable rules, the documented decision-making process and evidence concerning the reasons for the approval.



Bhagwant Mann Says Anti-Drug Activist's Killing Case To Be Handed To CBI

Chandigarh(Agency).

Political sparring over the murder of anti-drug activist Parminder Singh Jhota intensified in Punjab on Tuesday, with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announcing that the case would be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), triggering sharp reactions from the BJP and Congress ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the state.Mann announced the decision in a post on X, saying the state government stood with Jhota's father and family, who had been fighting against drugs. He said the decision to transfer the case to the CBI had been taken in response to the family's demand."Our fight against drug dealers is absolute. We will not step back from taking whatever tough steps are required to make Punjab drug-free," Mann said in his post.Known for raising his voice against the illegal sale of addictive substances at pharmacy shops, Jhota was shot in broad daylight inside a medical store at a busy marketplace in Mansa on October 13.Ashwani Kumar, the store owner who opened fire at Jhota after he questioned him for selling drugs to an elderly man,



was taken into custody from Rajasthan's Salasar.The incident, which took place while Jhota was hosting a Facebook Live, triggered a political slugfest in Punjab, which goes to polls early next year.Seven days after Jhota was shot dead, his post-mortem and cremation are yet to take place as his family members and supporters refuse to allow last rites until they get justice.

DMK leader's remarks against Vijay spark row, TVK slams personal attacks

Chennai (Agency).

A DMK leader has been booked for allegedly making defamatory remarks against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay at a party event, news agency Press Trust of India reported, citing police. The ruling TVK accused the opposition party of turning political platforms into spaces for personal attacks.The case was registered against Chennai Corporation ward councillor Sudha Deenadayalan, who allegedly made the remarks, and DMK functionary Muralidharan, who organised the October 7 event in Chennai.



No arrests have been made so far, police told PTI.Deenadayalan, the DMK's Chennai East District Women's Wing organiser, allegedly targeted Vijay after he criticised DMK president MK Stalin. Police said she addressed the Chief Minister in the singular and made derogatory remarks.

Video clips circulated on social media purportedly showed her using abusive language and making personal remarks comparing physical appearances while defending her party leadership.According to a Greater Chennai City Police release, the case was registered after TVK Harbour Area Secretary Udayakumar filed a complaint seeking action against Deenadayalan and Muralidharan. Deenadayalan was booked for allegedly seeking to incite public disorder.The comments were made in the presence of DMK deputy general secretary and MP Kanimozhi, former state minister PK Sekar Babu and Chennai Mayor R Priya. Visuals appeared to show Sekar Babu.

The case was registered against Chennai Corporation ward councillor Sudha Deenadayalan, who made the remarks against CM Vijay, and DMK functionary Muralidharan, who organised the October 7 event.

Labourer slits his throat on road near Ghata village

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 37-year-old man from West Bengal allegedly died by suicide after he slit his throat with a shaving blade on a road near Ghata village late Saturday.A labourer, P Karmakar, was from Dakshin Dinajpur district, West Bengal and had moved to Gurgaon a few months ago. He was staying with his elder sister at her house in Sector 64.

After receiving information about the incident, a team from Sector 56 police station reached the spot and took the body into custody before sending it for a postmortem examination."Preliminary investigation suggests that the deceased was under mental distress. We are speaking to his family members to ascertain the circumstances leading to the incident," police said. They added that the family has also stated that Karmakar was reluctant to go to work.

Investigators are examining the sequence of events to establish if he had been facing other difficulties. Police said the family's statements would be crucial in understanding the circumstances of the incident. The postmortem examination will help establish the medical findings related to the death after which it will be handed over to the family.

Jewar bus operator back on roads weeks after fire that killed nine

Noida.(Agency)

Three weeks after a bus operated by Raj Kalpana Travels caught fire near Jewar on Yamuna Expressway, killing nine passengers, the operator has resumed services with little visible disruption. A ground check found some buses carrying items on their roofs, and the company continues to function through three offices across Delhi-NCR.

On Oct 16, the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Hrishikesh Pandey in GB Nagar rejected the bail application of accused Vikas Kumar, citing the seriousness of the offences. The four men arrested in connection with the fire remain in judicial custody.

On Sunday evening, three staff members sat across the reception table at the operator's office near Akshardham, checking bookings and coordinating bus departures. Passengers waited inside the small office and on the staircase outside.

Four-year-old dies after being struck by SUV in Noida, driver held

Noida.(Agency)

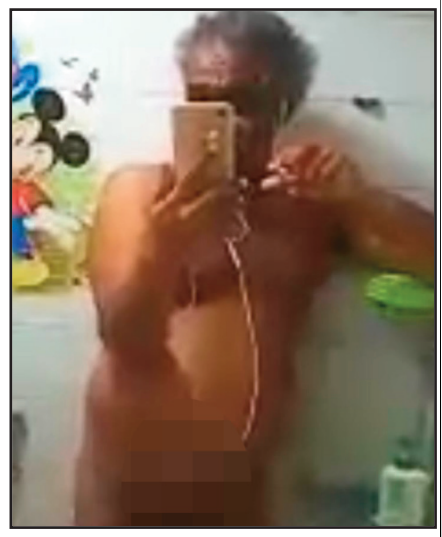
A four-year-old boy died after he was hit by a speeding car in Sector 49 near the Hanuman Temple. The driver attempted to flee the spot but was caught by locals and handed over to the police.Around 8am on Monday, the boy, Aniket, was on his way to visit Hanuman Temple with his mother and grandmother when a speeding white Scorpio hit the child. The boy collapsed on the road, the impact leaving him critically injured. Locals rushed him to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.While the child was being rushed to a hospital, the accused driver attempted to flee. Locals at the scene intercepted him and alerted authorities. A police team subsequently reached the spot and took the driver, Shaurya, into custody. The Scorpio involved in the accident was also seized.

Police said they are waiting for the family to file a formal complaint.

JAIN MONK SAGAR CHANDRA SAGAR FACES ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Gujarat: A controversy surrounding Jain monk Sagar Chandra Sagar has sparked discussion and concern within sections of the Jain community, following allegations involving inappropriate communications with female Jain ascetics, financial irregularities and coordinated social media efforts to defend those facing criticism.The allegations, which have circulated through social media and other channels, have raised questions about religious accountability, transparency and the responsibility of religious institutions to uphold the principles of restraint, non-violence and truth associated with Jainism. The claims require independent verification, and the responses of the individuals concerned remain important to establishing the facts.Allegations of Inappropriate Communications with Female AsceticsQuestions have reportedly been raised over alleged explicit video calls and sexually inappropriate telephone conversations involving female Jain ascetics. These allegations, if substantiated, would raise serious concerns about the ethical standards expected of religious leaders and the protection of individuals living within religious institutions.The controversy has also prompted concerns among members of the Jain community about the safety, dignity and well-being of female ascetics.Questions have further emerged regarding whether influential members of the religious group have intervened to defend individuals facing allegations of misconduct. Any claims of protection or institutional complicity would need to be examined through credible evidence and independent investigation.Questions Surrounding Financial TransparencyApart from the allegations concerning personal conduct, questions have also been raised about the financial management of religious ceremonies, including initiation ceremonies and other religious events.Claims of substantial financial irregularities and the alleged misuse of funds have circulated in connection with the controversy. However, these claims require verification through financial records, documentary evidence and statements from the relevant parties.There are also allegations that money may have been spent on public relations activities and social media campaigns intended to defend those facing criticism. The nature, funding and purpose of any such campaigns would need to be independently established.Questions have reportedly been raised about the authenticity and interpretation of certain medical or laboratory reports cited during the dispute. Any assessment of these documents should be based on verification by qualified professionals and the relevant institutions rather than unverified online



claims.Social Media Campaigns and the Battle Over Public PerceptionSocial media has become a major platform for competing narratives surrounding the controversy. Posts and digital material defending Sagar Chandra Sagar have circulated alongside content critical of him.

Worship of Weapons or Responsibility for Power? A Question That Makes Society Reflect...

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki, Faith and culture hold a special place in human life. Our traditions are not limited merely to religious rituals; they also convey lessons about the art of living, a sense of duty, and responsibility towards society. When weapons are worshipped at a particular place, an important question arises alongside the ritual: How should power be used, and for what purpose?Weapons are symbols of power, but true strength does not lie merely in possessing or carrying weapons. True strength lies in protecting the innocent, raising one's voice against injustice, and maintaining peace in society. Holding a weapon may represent power, but having self-restraint in one's mind and humanity in one's heart reflects true values and character.The police force occupies an extremely important position in our society. Maintaining law and order, protecting citizens, taking action against crime, and coming forward to help people during difficult times are all responsibilities carried on the shoulders of police personnel. Therefore, religious ceremonies and traditional worship conducted within police departments should not be viewed merely as religious occasions; they should also be associated with a commitment to duty, discipline, and public service.However, there is also a question worth reflecting upon. When we worship power, do we show the same dedication towards respecting humanity? When we give importance to the instruments of security, do we give equal importance to the trust of citizens? After all, the true strength of any institution does not lie in the resources it possesses, but in the trust it earns in the hearts of the people.The purpose of weapons should not be to spread fear, but to create a society free from fear. The purpose of law should not merely be to punish offenders, but also to strengthen people's faith in justice. Similarly, authority does not mean simply exercising power; it also means fulfilling one's responsibilities with sincerity.In today's world, as society faces numerous challenges, we need sensitivity alongside strength, compassion alongside discipline, and a sense of duty alongside authority. The success of any system is truly established only when an ordinary citizen can raise concerns with<



out fear and retain the hope of receiving justice.Ultimately, the worship of weapons reminds us of the importance of power, but the value of humanity teaches us how to use that power correctly. The power that gives courage to the weak, serves as a shield against injustice, and preserves peace in society is the power that truly deserves respect.

Fugitive gangster Anil Pandit, Rs 10L bounty holder, claims role in firing at Tiger Shroff's car

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Gangster Anil Pandit, who is from Haryana's Panipat and is believed to be operating from abroad, has emerged as a key figure in the probe into firing at actor Tiger Shroff's car in Mumbai. Pandit claimed responsibility for the attack along with Harman Sandhu through a social media post. Police are verifying the authenticity of the claim.

For Haryana Special Task Force (STF), Pandit (31) was already on the radar before the Mumbai incident. He is among four foreign-based fugitive gangsters for whom STF has proposed a reward of Rs 10 lakh each as part of its crackdown on criminal networks allegedly being run from abroad. STF had also secured a red-corner notice (RCN) against Pandit in Feb this year in connection with a criminal case.

Investigators believe that Pandit has been handling gang operations from the US. The three suspects, including a juvenile, accused of carrying out the firing at Shroff's car were arrested at Rajasthan's Kota railway station while travelling from Mumbai to Delhi. The accused include two residents of Haryana's Sonipat and a 22-year-old man from Bihar who was living in Mumbai. The arrests were made following coordination among Mumbai, Haryana, Rajasthan and Bihar police.Investigators are probing their alleged roles in the firing and the wider conspiracy. Police said key accused Rehan, from Sonipat, was in contact with Pandit. The accused had allegedly planned to flee to Nepal after the attackThe Lawrence Bishnoi syndicate had claimed responsibility after the attack, with a message attributed to Pandit warning members of the film industry associated with actor Salman Khan. Police are examining the post and a voice note linked to the claim.According to police, Pandit has become more active from 2025 and is suspected to be involved in multiple extortion cases.

Noida Authority to build bus stands in a bid to improve public transport

Noida.(Agency)

Noida Authority is set to develop bus stands at various locations across the city to strengthen public transport infrastructure. It has floated tenders to complete the work within six months.Bus stops from the Botanical Garden bus stand through Gaur Chowk and Ek Murti in Greater Noida West; Noida International Airport; Sector 62; Surajpur Collectorate and Anand Vihar in Delhi will be developed. These



routes recorded a ridership of 1.5 lakh passengers in July peaking to 3.4 lakh in Aug. The details of Sept and Oct data have not been compiled.In 2016, Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) launched feeder bus services on 11 routes connecting Noida, Greater Noida and Greater Noida West. The services were suspended following the Covid-19 outbreak in March 2020 and formally discontinued in December that year. Low ridership is believed to have contributed to the losses incurred by NMRC.After a gap of six years, the state govt launched electric city bus services in Noida, Greater Noida and the Yamuna area in June this year, coinciding with the start of commercial operations at Noida International Airport. Initially, 45 electric buses were flagged off, with the fleet subsequently increased to 100.

Noida Authority officials said the contractor would repair or reconstruct components of existing stands and build new ones along bus routes. "They will be responsible for arranging construction materials, equipment and labour, as well as conducting quality tests," an official said.Mohit Kumar, a Sector 37 resident, said the lack of designated bus stops made it difficult for commuters to access bus service. "

The bus stands will improve also help increase ridership," he added.Separately, Noida Authority has floated another tender to maintain the bus depot in Sector 90, which has a charging station and houses the electric bus fleet. The selected agency will provide staff, tools and equipment for cleaning and maintaining the depot. The facility previously housed an NMRC-operated city bus service..Last week, it signed an MoU with ITI Ltd to set up electric vehicle charging stations at 48 locations across the city. It plans to install 100 such stations to promote green mobility and curb pollution.

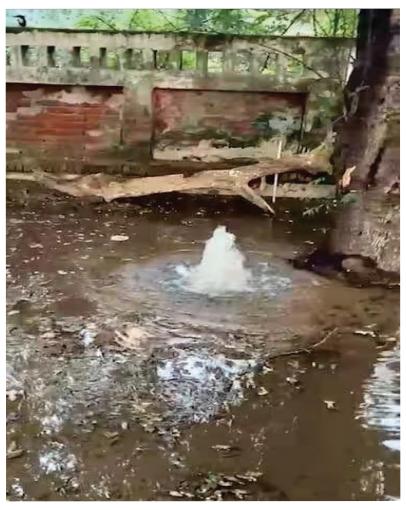
Pipeline damaged during repairs, water supply disrupted in Greater Noida

Noida.(Agency)

Water supply was disrupted in Greater Noida's Sector 37 on Monday morning after a contractor damaged a pipeline with a JCB machine while carrying out road repairs near B-207 late Sunday night. The damaged line caused water to overflow onto the streets before supply was affected, inconveniencing residents during the ongoing Navratri festivities.

"We woke up to find the water supply completely cut off," said resident BK Mavi. "Given that it's the festive season, many families have guests visiting, and this has complicated household chores and day-to-day activities. We urge the authorities to expedite repairs."

Sector 37, home to more than 3,400 residents, has faced water supply disruptions in the past. Residents across Greater Noida sectors, including 31, Delta 1, Alpha and Beta, have also reported pipeline leaks, low pressure and foul-smelling or contaminated water. Residents attributed the recurring problems to ageing infrastructure, with several pipelines, including those carrying Ganga water, prone to leaks and bursts."Many pipelines, especially those supplying Ganga water, are decades old and susceptible to leaks or bursts," said



another Sector 37 resident.Residens have also raised concerns about possible contamination, pointing out that damaged water lines often run close to overflowing drains. They said such incidents not only disrupt daily routines but also raise questions about the safety and reliability of the supply.With families making festive preparations and hosting guests, residents urged Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) to ensure prompt repairs and prevent similar disruptions.

Lawyer shot dead at Bengaluru home, tenants prime suspects

BENGALURU.(Agency)

A 42-year-old lawyer was shot dead at the doorstep of his house near Whitefield late Sunday night by two men, who allegedly arrived on an online food delivery two-wheeler, claiming that they had come to pay outstanding rent. One of the assailants allegedly pretended to hand over the money, while the other opened fire at the victim before fleeing. While rent dispute is suspected to be the motive, the police are investigating from multiple angles, including a property-related conflict and personal enmity.

The deceased, Manjunath, a resident of Pattandur Agrahara, sustained three bullet injuries — one in the forehead and two in the chest. He collapsed at the spot, and his wife and neighbours rushed him to a hospital, where he was declared brought dead. The police have formed four teams to nab the two suspects. Manjunath owned several acres of land in Pattandur Agrahara, where his family had constructed around 50 labour sheds and rented them out to migrant workers, including from Bihar. One of the tenants had allegedly failed to pay rent for the past three months.

When Manjunath approached him, an argument reportedly broke out and the lawyer returned asking the tenant to pay the dues. The police suspect that the same tenant may have subsequently planned the murder in retaliation for the confrontation.

Climate data tools target Bengaluru's heat, water, infrastructure challenges

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Data-driven tools to address Bengaluru's urban heat stress, infrastructure gaps and changing water trends were among the initiatives highlighted at the inaugural Bangalore Climate Data Week 2026, which brought together climate-tech startups, researchers, policymakers and technology companies to explore solutions to climate challenges.

WRI India launched Data Lab Connect during the five-day programme, held from October 12 to 16. It aims to help organisations use data and analytical approaches to address the city's challenges.

Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy also launched the BHRIGU–National + Heat Insights Explorer to strengthen urban heat resilience and demonstrated its Namma Safari and Disha platforms, which explore pathways towards a carbon-neutral and sustainable Karnataka.

The event was organised by Climate Collective Foundation, with Google as anchor partner and Karnataka Digital Economy Mission, Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society and Startup Karnataka as state innovation partners.

Hyderabad: HYDRAA joins water fight

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

With summer water stress looming, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) will deploy the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) to inspect construction sites and curb the overuse of potable water and groundwater. The move comes as the state government makes the use of treated wastewater for construction and landscaping mandatory from November 1.

Marketed as Green Tanker water, treated wastewater will be supplied for non-drinking purposes, with the water board targeting 100 million litres a day (MLD) to save an equivalent volume of groundwater. The government plans to enforce these measures until the El Niño period ends, amid concerns over its possible impact on rainfall, HMWSSB managing director K Ashok Reddy told . The board has urged public institutions, households, commercial establishments and real estate developers to reduce their daily potable water and groundwater consumption by at least 20% by switching to treated wastewater. Such a reduction across consumption points could save an estimated 110–120 MGD.Institutions such as the Botanical Garden in Gachibowli and Lok Bhavan already use treated wastewater through dedicated pipelines for landscaping and gardening.

Convicted of murder, ex-BJP man wants to contest 2027 UP polls. Now, court relief

The ex-BJP leader, who was convicted with his associate, had sought bail saying he wanted to contest upcoming Assembly poll.

Lucknow.(Agency)

Holding that "politicians bear a special duty to their constituents and that failure to secure stay of conviction may lead to loss of an opportunity to contest an election", the Allahabad High Court has suspended the conviction of a former BJP leader serving life sentence in the murder case of a party worker and a Ram Janmabhoomi movement activist.

The ex-BJP leader, Nandlal Rai alias Babloo Rai, had filed a petition for bail and stay on his conviction, stating that he wished to contest the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly election as a ruling party candidate or an independent. His co-accused and associate, Sheshnath Sharma, who had also petitioned the court, also got relief.The two were convicted and sentenced to life by a Varanasi court on April 15 last year for shooting one Pramod Kumar Nigam dead in the city's Sigra area in January 2017. Granting the bail and staying the Varanasi court judgment, a division bench of Justices Siddharth and Vinai Kumar Dwivedi, in an order dated October 5, said, "Keeping in view the right to livelihood of a common man which is not less important than the right to



contest election by a politician, conviction and sentence of appellant deserves to be stayed so that he may be able to survive for hearing the final verdict in his above noted appeal." The bench stated further, "The Apex Court has stayed conviction of a number of public representatives holding that the politicians bear special duty towards their constituents and failure to secure stay of conviction may lead to loss of opportunity to contest election and grant stay of conviction to the politicians/legislators."

The court cited a Supreme Court order on a petition of Samajwadi Party's Ghazipur MP Afzal Ansari, stating, "… There is no gainsaying that in order to suspend the conviction of an individual, the primary factors that are to be looked into, would be the peculiar facts and circumstances of that specific case, where the failure to stay such a conviction would lead to injustice or irreversible consequences."

'Preparing to contest from Ghazipur'

The petitioner's counsel, Devendra Deo Gupta, told The Indian Express that his client Nandlal Rai, who belongs to Ghazipur, had been an active BJP leader and was preparing to contest the 2017 assembly election from his home district.

Nigam, who was around 51 years old then, had no major dispute with Rai, but had once entered into an issue over the sale of fish in Sigra where roadside vendors used to sell garments. Rai had a business of fishery while Nigam was patron of the garment selling place. This issue, however, did not snowball then, the counsel claimed. He further said Nigam was shot dead in Sigra and the case was lodged by his son, Himanshu, against unidentified persons. The complaint stated that Nigam was returning to his house at 7.30 pm from market when some unknown accused killed him by firing.

Lucknow cafe owner murder

Reward for model-influencer doubled to Rs 50,000, senior cop transferred

The Lucknow Police have obtained non-bailable warrants against the model, her sister and driver in Shiva Sharma's death.

Nagpur.(Agency)

In a fresh twist in the murder case of Lucknow cafe owner Shiva Sharma, 27, the Uttar Pradesh government has transferred Deputy Commissioner of Police Vikrant Vir, who was supervising the investigation. Vir has been attached to the office of the Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP). Hazratganj Station House Officer Vikram Singh has also been removed from his post and attached to the police lines. Shiva's live-in partner, model-influencer Shraddha Dubey, her sister Rashmi Dubey and their driver, Tanveer Ali alias Danish, are wanted for murder and remain on the run. Lucknow Police on Sunday doubled the reward for information leading to their arrest from Rs 25,000 to Rs 50,000 each and obtained non-bailable warrants against them.

The case

Shiva died on the night of October 9 after falling from the fourth floor of Awadh Green Apartment in Lucknow's Hazratganj area. He was reportedly found in his undergarments, with lipstick marks on his body. His family alleged he was pushed. The investigation has revealed that Shiva was in a relationship with Shraddha and the two had lived in the Hazratganj apartment for the past three months. Recently, Shraddha's sister Rashmi, started staying with them.

In viral videos, Shraddha denies murder

At least three videos of Shraddha have surfaced on social media, in which she claims she is innocent. In a video circulated on Sunday evening, Shraddha claimed that Shiva's mother had filed a false case against her because she disapproved of their relationship, partly because she was older than Shiva. She



urged police to examine CCTV footage from her apartment building, saying it would establish her innocence.

Shraddha also claimed that police had obtained CCTV footage showing her near the Nepal border but had not retrieved footage from her apartment building. In another video, she said she had known Shiva for about four months and that he had started visiting her home around two months ago. She claimed he had debts of Rs 16-17 lakh and had sought financial help from her. She also alleged that Shiva had taken jewellery worth Rs 5-6 lakh from her home about a month before his death. Describing the matter as personal, she claimed he had acknowledged taking the jewellery in a video and promised to return it. Shradda said she left because she was overwhelmed by emotional distress. She claimed she had initially intended to face the situation but panicked after her driver was allegedly assaulted and accused in the case. In Rae Bareli, her hometown, residents said they knew little about her life over the past eight years. They said she rarely visited her father, Shiv Prasad Dubey, and that her family had become increasingly withdrawn from the locality.

"Shraddha's family had severed ties with almost everyone in the locality and had even stopped stepping out of the house," said a resident who lives near the family's home. Lucknow Police recently visited Rae Bareli to gather information about her background. On Sunday, DCP Vir had said police teams were conducting raids to trace and arrest the three accused. The reward for information leading to their arrest had been increased, he said.

A crushed tiffin, a broken bucket, mangled vehicles and a Sangrur village plunged into grief

TIRUPATI.(Agency)

Sangrur's Alisher village, with around 1,200 voters, has settled into a silence difficult to describe. The village appeared deserted after the accident on Sunday, with most of its residents at the protest site on the highway, barely a kilometre away. At the accident site, an Insaaf Committee comprising representatives of several labour and farmers' organisations has launched a dharna and blocked the state highway. The committee is also demanding Rs 50 lakh compensation for each deceased worker's



family, one government job per family and Rs 20 lakh for each injured worker.At the roadside remained the wrecked car and crushed two-wheelers. Near the mangled vehicles were objects — a steel tiffin, a crushed aluminium bucket, and some agricultural spades — telling the story of an ordinary workday interrupted without warning.

On Sunday, around 2.45 pm, 40-year-old Jeevan Singh stopped his motorcycle along the Sangrur-Jakhal road to meet his mother, Banto Kaur. She was clearing roadside bushes for horticultural work, under the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G).

Film producer Amit Jani says armed men chased his SUV in Sonipat

Bengaluru.(Agency)

Film producer Amit Jani on Monday alleged that unidentified men chased his SUV and tried to force it to stop at gunpoint in Haryana's Sonipat district while he was travelling from Jammu to Noida with four others. Jani lodged a complaint at Kundli police station. Police said they were verifying his allegations by examining CCTV footage. No FIR had been registered so far, an officer said. Jani, the producer and writer of Kala Hiran: The Battle for Legacy, whose release is stalled amid a legal dispute with actor Salman Khan, has in the past received threats from a rival faction of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. According to his complaint, the incident occurred around 8.28 pm on Sunday when a white car began following his SUV and overtook it. The driver allegedly signalled them to stop. Fearing an attack in view of previous threats, Jani asked his driver to speed up. "The car continued to follow our vehicle. The driver then brought his car alongside our SUV and flashed a weapon," Jani alleged. He said he again asked his driver to accelerate and called the police emergency helpline 112. The car allegedly continued chasing them until they reached the Kundli-Palwal-Manesar highway. Acting on directions from the police control room, they proceeded to Kundli police station. Jani claimed he had been receiving threats for over a year and had been provided Y-category security by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, with protection from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

Bengaluru's Kasturinagar residents plant 600 saplings around revived lake

BENGALURU.(Agency)

As part of the complete lake revival exercise and its ecosystem, Kasturinagar residents, along with an NGO, planted 600 fruit and shade-giving saplings across 6.5 acres of the reclaimed Kasturinagar Lake. The residents said that a year ago, they pooled in over Rs 40 lakh and revived the dead water body, which is under the Forest department now. As bird activity has increased, including peahen and peacock sightings in the lake premises, the association decided to plant fruit and plant saplings with a dual purpose.



"We wanted a dedicated lake boundary, and as part of it, we had already planted a few saplings last year. Now, we have planted jamun, guava, sapota, bird cherry and other saplings for birds on land reclaimed from encroachment," said Abhijith MS, member, Kasturinagar Welfare Association. Residents have had to fight the land mafia and garbage mafia to save the lake as illegal debris was being dumped, and till 2024, there was no trace of a water body. They have run from pillar to post to find the original custodian of the 6.5acres of forest land.

While 19 acres were notified for the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) around 1986 for the formation of East of NGEF, subsequently, 2 acres were allotted to the Railways and 3 acres for Outer Ring Road.

Row over 'non-Hindus must leave' remark at Navratri event: Over 200 activists, social workers demand police action

They demanded that the Director General of Police (DGP), Gujarat, register a formal First Information Report (FIR) and initiate time-bound investigations under applicable provisions of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS),

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

MORE THAN 200 activists and social workers across the spectrum on Monday issued a joint statement seeking the registration of an FIR and an investigation into the October 14 incident in Ahmedabad where an announcement made from the stage of the Rang Morlo Navratri event headlined by Khalaasi-fame singer Aditya Gadhvi, and "non-Hindus" and "Muslims" were asked to voluntarily exit the premises. The anchor also said, "The Vishwa Hindu Parishad has come here for the protection of Hindus," and gave a "helpline number" from the stage.

The statement said, "We, the undersigned citizens, human rights advocates, social workers, legal professionals, academics and representatives of civil society organisations across Gujarat, express our profound anguish and outrage over the discriminatory incident that transpired on the night of October 14, 2026, during the Navratri festival in Ahmedabad. During the commercial Garba event titled 'Rang Morla ft. Aditya Gadhvi', held at the Savvana Party Plot on Shela Road, an announcement was publicly broadcast from the stage featuring anchor and radio jockey Akash Trivedi, explicitly asking non-Hindus — specifically pointing to members of the Muslim community — to immediately leave the venue. The announcement openly referenced the presence and instructions of extra-constitutional vigilante groups, including members of the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), while circulating a phone number to report "suspicious persons."The statement was shared by Bhargav Oza of NAPM Gujarat, Dev Desai, Managing Trustee of ANHAD and Raghavan Rangarajan from PUCL, Ahmedabad.

It said, "While artiste Aditya Gadhvi subsequently issued a public clarification



stating that third party vigilante groups forcibly took control of the stage and made the discriminatory call, and this was endorsed by RJ Akash Trivedi, the occurrence of such an event highlights a dangerous breakdown of law, order, and constitutional norms in public spaces." The statement added that the incident was in direct violation of constitutional guarantees, and, "Such coercive actions represent a direct violation of Article 14 (Equality Before Law), Article 15(1) & 15(2) (Prohibition of Discrimination), and Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty)."

Touchstones: Discover common ground

This is traditionally the start of our annual festive season: Dasehra, Diwali, weddings and Christmas. The weather turns balmy and cool, neither too hot nor yet cold and foggy so that we can all take out those silks and beautiful shawls that are packed away after Holi. This year, however, everything is going topsy turvy: the monsoon, like a shameless guest, keeps spraying rain on open air venues, and the sun when it shines afterwards is so blinding that it's difficult to open one's eyes without shading them with a hand.

The festival sales that are taking place now — and sustain the pavement life in Janpath and Bengali Market area — are unreachable as that part of Delhi remains mostly cordoned off and barricaded. So the artisans who bring lovely mirrorwork skirts and cholis from Gujarat and Kutch, jutis and parandis from Punjab, hand-printed saris and fabric from Rajasthan were forced to abort their plans. Added to this was the uncertainty of where traffic was allowed to move, which led to long lines of stranded passengers, schoolchildren trapped in buses, patients in ambulances, grieving relatives unable to attend a cremation. Delhi has never seen a less happy time than now.

I wish to ask whether it is just the Constitution that needs to be defended. What about a citizen's right to move freely? I can see a lot of the initial sympathy for these movements now turn into anger and indifference. As these feelings are avidly exploited by the political leeches that feed on them, friends, families, neighbours and colleagues find themselves on opposing sides. Is this the India that we are going to bequeath to Gen Alpha and those yet unborn?Let me turn from there to some memorable events I was able to attend. The first was a most invigorating conversation between Ramachandra Guha and Prof Apoorvanand on Guha's latest book, 'Arguments with Gandhi'. I can think of very few scholars who have dedicated their lives to scouring archives the way Guha has. I remember how he arrived each year to spend a month at the India International Centre to trawl through the Teen Murti Library, the National Archives and several such libraries and collections.

His path-breaking promotion of environmental history was followed by his documentation of Gandhi's life from his stints in Britain, South Africa and India. There is possibly no part of Gandhi's life, philosophy and writing that Guha has not studied and written brilliantly on.

Matching his intellectual and historical sense was Prof Apoorvanand, who nudged Guha back to the discussion when Guha occasionally got carried away.

What I particularly appreciated was the fact that despite both being awesome scholars, they shared their knowledge with the audience. Often such a conversation becomes a polemical debate where one tries to outshine the other. I see this as a certain disdain for the common or lay reader all around me. In most editorials written by some of the finest intellectuals we have in this country (and perhaps the world), there is temptation to use a vocabulary that excludes a large part of the readership.

This stems, in my view, from something that we often neglect when talking of the universality of Gandhi's perennial appeal. Educated in English, Gandhi too could have chosen to use English when challenging the British colonial rulers. Yet, on the advice of Tilak, he stripped himself literally down to his basics, and always addressed his audiences in the simple homespun wisdom of our known Hindustani and aphorisms or prayers that were familiar to even the unlettered peasants. He travelled on foot, wore khadi and practised what he preached.This was his greatest weapon against the entitled lords and ladies of the Raj. He carried more dignity in his dhoti than the battery of medals the others shone on their lapels. How I wish our leaders today had that respect for a common man's dignity and life.

India must regain leverage in Washington

Amid H-1B visa row, alliance-building should be revived in the US to facilitate talent mobility

THE H-1B visa issue is as old as the hills, allowing for a little hyperbole. Every two years, it flares up around the middle of an election year in the United States, either mid-term or presidential.For several decades, Indian reporters in the US like this author have been receiving panicked messages during those biennial flare-ups from representative organisations of India's information technology industry laying out their case for unfettered access to H-1B visas. Equally, reporters have been bombarded by grievances from trade unions in US manufacturing industries that cheap Indian hires under H-1B visas were destroying American livelihoods and families.Inevitably, the issue blows over once the elections are over — till the next campaign season — because this fight is politically opportune. Jobs are an emotive issue in societies the world over. It is easy to whip up sentiment over job losses, especially through scaremongering and xenophobia.Take, for instance, US Vice President JD Vance's outburst against Indians — although not by name — which prompted India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on October 9 to accuse him of "resorting to terminology that carries painful historical and colonial legacy connotations." The MEA described the Vice President's comments as "deeply offensive", without mentioning the three offending words — "foreign indentured servants" — that he had used to describe H-1B visa holders seeking permanent residency in the US.Why did Vance use such strong language? On November 3, his Senate seat in Ohio, which Vance vacated upon becoming Vice President is going to the polls. It is important for him that fellow Republican Jon Husted retains this seat for the Grand Old Party (GOP). Vance's path to the White House in 2029 depends to a great extent on demonstrating his continuing hold on Ohio — especially if Florida's Senate seat, similarly vacated by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, is retained by the GOP on November 3. At present, Vance and Rubio are the leading Republican contenders for the presidency when Trump's term ends.As of now, Ohio is a "toss-up" state, meaning that the result could go either way. An albatross around the necks of Vance and Husted in this race is Vivek Ramaswamy, the self-made billionaire Republican candidate for Ohio Governor's job. Although Ramaswamy did not realise his American dream through the H-1B route because he was born stateside, he has been unable to shake off an impression of H-1B connections among ordinary Ohioans. Amidst rising anti-immigrant sentiment, many of his voters assume that Ramaswamy started on the road to prosperity as a first-generation immigrant, by depriving Americans — white or black natives — of their jobs.To win back his Senate seat by proxy amid the xenophobia now sweeping the US, Vance has to double down on immigrants. It does not help that his wife Usha is a Hindu and an ethnic Indian, although she too was born in the US and was not a candidate for indentured servitude. However, if Usha's parents had emigrated to the US a decade later, they may have used the H-1B route. Their relocation to America predates the H-1B programme in its current incarnation.

The MEA's October 9 statement prescribing what is good for Americans will not help Indians who are already in the US on employment visas or others who are hoping to go there. The H-1B programme "helps US companies…besides creating shareholder wealth in the US," the statement said. It carries a presumption that the Indian government knows better than its American counterpart what is good for the US.When any American even peripherally important says anything objectionable about India, the MEA inevitably bristles and uses epithets like "misinformed" and "unwarranted" against them. Now, the shoe is on the other foot. Visas and permanent residency are internal matters of the US. The MEA had no business wading into the internal affairs of the US."The steps announced by the US do not advance the shared ambitions of both countries," said the MEA. Neither does the Indian government's latest stand. Such sermonising will not make the administration in Washington change its policies to the advantage of Indians or Indian-Americans. It will only harden the prickly and stubborn Trump administration's stance against talent mobility from India.Instead, India should urgently rebuild the coalitions in the US that defended the H-1B programme and speedier green cards for talented immigrants during the governments led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh. Then too, mobility by skilled Indians was periodically under attack. These coalitions were formidable and had three pillars — offices in Washington of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), backed strongly from India by the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM). Together, they organised roadshows and campaigns to convince sceptical Americans that Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) was bringing jobs to the US, not taking them away.CII and FICCI heads such as Tarun Das and Amit Mitra, who had direct lines to the highest levels of successive administrations — even to the White House — chose the best persons from their talent pool and sent them to their Washington offices. One example was Kiran Pasricha, who set up the CII office in the US capital and ran it for 16 years. She would pick up the phone and call then First Lady Hillary Clinton in the White House — later Senator from New York — and discuss India's trade problems. Such access for India is closed now. In addition, captains of Indian industry like Ratan Tata, Anand Mahindra and Rahul Bajaj went to the US together to tell prominent Americans about their factories and other businesses in that country that were giving jobs to local people.Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said after the latest crackdown on skilled immigration that "not getting more H-1B visas is absolutely good for the Indian economy." The MEA said the opposite. The Indian government should stop pretending that domestic conditions are so good that Indians won't seek work in America even through the "donkey route." Instead, alliance-building should be revived in the US to facilitate talent mobility. Otherwise, the anti-H-1B protests will outlast the current election campaign and become deeply embedded in American minds. If that happens, skilled immigration will no longer be subject to market forces.



Election panel must go beyond retreats to restore public trust

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

As somersaults go, the Election Commission of India (ECI), under Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, has managed quite a few in recent times. It's a survival skill seasoned bureaucrats employ when their backs are against the wall. Until the Supreme Court's verdict on the controversial special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, the judiciary had largely seemed to accommodate the poll panel. That latitude may be running out. The court has twice taken issue with the Commission's selective interpretation of its Bihar SIR verdict. It has outright rejected the ECI's claim that the judgement validated adding a contested declaration to Form 6, the application used to enrol voters. The court could deliver another blow when it resumes hearing the matter after examining ECI files to determine whether the Chief Election Commissioner made key decisions unilaterally.That is when Nirvachan Bhavan's U-turns began. The latest in the series is a special summary revision of electoral rolls in 17 states and Union territories where the SIR is already over. It opens the door to enrolling afresh about 13 crore voters purged during the SIR exercise. No citizenship hassle, no algorithmic tyranny of logical discrepancies; the process would be back to pre-SIR normalcy. There is more. If the poll body blocked demands for machine-readable poll rolls from political parties over the past few years, claiming it would compromise voter privacy, it has now volunteered to provide them in that format at both the draft and final stages, but without electors' photos. The PDF files previously shared with political parties contained photographs but were not machine-readable.Other about-turns include circulating the agenda of the Commission's meetings in advance and publishing minutes of the interactions for transparency, as the Reserve Bank of India does with the minutes of its Monetary Policy Committee's rate-setting meetings. The ECI can do more. For example, it should consider including photographs in machine-readable electoral rolls, since matching images with names can help flag duplicate entries.It should also publish a searchable log of every addition to or deletion from the rolls and disclose the full findings of the external vetting of ECINET, its national electoral-roll repository. Media reports suggest intentional blocking of ECINET access to update the voter list during the SIR process.



How to Turn the Goddess Vegetarian?

Goddesses are not replaced. Their food is. And much of it has to do with sectarian rivalry and the rise of money power

Every autumn two daughters come home. In the Konkan it is Gauri, who arrives in Bhadrapad, a few days after Ganesha, and is seated in the house as a married girl visiting her maher. In Bengal it is Uma, who leaves Shiva on Kailash for four days in Ashvin and returns to her parents' house with her children. The agamani songs are about a mother waiting at the door. Neither is a distant empress on a throne. She is a daughter, and a daughter at home eats what the household eats.So on the Konkan coast she is fed fish. In many Koli, Agri, and Maratha homes along the Konkan, the meal for Gauri includes mutton or fish, served on the day she is worshipped. In Bengal, goats were cut in front of the goddess in the old zamindar houses, the bonedi bari, and on Dashami, before she leaves, many East Bengal families give her rice with fish, sometimes hilsa, so she does not go back to her husband's house hungry.

Then the Vaishnavas arrived and told a different story.Vaishno Devi in the Trikuta hills of Jammu is the clearest case. Here the goddess is Vaishnavi, a girl who does tapasya waiting for Rama, who has promised to marry her at the end of Kali Yuga when he comes back as Kalki. She is no wife and no mother. She is bride-in-waiting, chaste and patient. Her enemy is Bhairon Nath, a tantric yogi, described in the shrine's own telling as a disciple of Gorakhnath. At a feast hosted by the devotee Sridhar, Bhairon demands meat and liquor. She refuses. He chases her up the mountain. She hides in a cave for nine months, then cuts off his head. The head lands on a nearby ridge, Bhairon repents, and she rules that no pilgrimage to her is complete without a visit to his shrine.

In this version, meat and wine belong to the Nath and the tantric. The goddess hates both. The tantric gets beheaded and survives only as a subordinate stop on the pilgrim route. This telling spread across north Indian vegetarian shrines through the 20th century, with Arya Samaj and BAPS Swami Narayan influence, with calendar art, bhajan cassettes, and mythological films, and it made the vegetarian Devi feel ancient. How old the written legend actually is remains unclear. The shrine's mass popularity is recent. This is why North Indians are becoming vegetarian during Navratri and shocked, even disgusted, at eggs and chicken being served in Bengal Durga pandals.Then there is the Jain claim. Jinasena's Harivamshapurana, written in 783 CE, chapter 49, tells the origin of Durga as a mistake. Krishna's sister Ekanasa becomes a Jain nun and stands in kayotsarga in the Vindhyas. Shabara hunters on their way to rob a caravan take her for a forest goddess and pray for success. She dies in meditation. A tiger eats the body, leaving blood and three fingers. The hunters return, see the blood, and conclude the goddess loves blood. They build a shrine to the fingers and start killing buffaloes. Blood sacrifice, in Jinasena's hands, is a misreading by tribals. And the tiger, Durga's own mount, is the animal that eats her.

At Osian in Rajasthan the Upakesha Gaccha Pattavali takes the next step. The goddess Sacciya Mata, a form of Chamunda once fed buffaloes and goats, demands something to crunch. The monk Ratnaprabhasuri gives her heaps of modakas. She converts, becomes a lay follower of Mahavira, and turns so vegetarian she cannot stand even a red flower. She is now the kuldevi of the Osval Jains. This same story is attributed to Adi Shankara to explain why Kamakshi of Kanchi is vegetarian whereas Kamakhya of Assam is not.Goddesses are thus not replaced. Their food is. And much of it has to do with sectarian rivalry and the rise of money power. Marwari and Gujarati trading families, Jain and Vaishnava both, fund the renovations, the marble floors, the bhandaras, the management trusts. Once they hold the purse, the goat goes. Bali stops quietly, a coconut is broken instead, and a story appears explaining that the Mother never wanted blood. Gita Press Gorakhpur, itself a Marwari project, printed vegetarian Devi into millions of homes.

In the Devi Bhagavata Purana (3.26), Vyasa tells Janamejaya how to keep Navaratra. After the fruit offering (verses 30 to 31), verses 32 to 34 add a second path for meat-eaters: buffalo, goat, and boar are the best offerings, animals killed before the Goddess go to heaven, and sacrificial killing counts as ahimsa, echoing Manusmriti 5.44. Two kinds of devotee, both accepted. A popular modern Hindi translation folds all five verses into one line about fruits and a 'purified offering'. The meat-eaters, the animals, their heaven, and the ahimsa claim, all disappear.

That being said, the Konkan Gauri still eats flesh. The Bengal Uma may soon be eating dhokla. A daughter once fed by her own family may soon depend on a satvik canteens of temple trusts.





Why we are better at Solving Friends Problems than our own

As expected, participants who thought about a friend's dilemma considered wiser strategies to be more useful than did the participants who thought about their own personal issues.

Have you noticed how quickly we come up with solutions when a friend or a neighbour brings up issues related to their romantic relations or tensions at work while we struggle to work through our own personal problems?

This is because we approach our friends' problems with clear-eyed objectivity, suggests new research. But when it comes to finding a solution to our own problems, we view them through a personal, flawed and emotional lens.

The new research, published in the journal Psychological Science, showed that those who are motivated to pursue virtue and go beyond their personal perspective deploy wiser reasoning to solve personal problems.

"Our findings suggest that people who value virtuous motives may be able to reason wisely for themselves and overcome personal biases observed in previous research," said Alex Huynh of the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

"This is in part due to their ability to recognise that their perspectives may not be enough to fully understand a situation, a concept referred to as intellectual humility," Huynh said.

Previous research has typically focused on how situations can affect a person's level of wise reasoning, but these findings suggest that personal motivations may also play a role.

"To our knowledge, this is the first research that empirically ties this conceptualisation of virtue with wisdom," Huynh added.

"These findings open up new avenues for future research to investigate how to increase a person's level of wisdom," Huynh said.

The researchers recruited 267 university students for this study.

The participants reported the extent to which they were motivated to pursue virtue by rating their agreement with statements like "I would like to contribute to others or the surrounding world" and "I would like to do what I believe in".

Then, they were randomly assigned to think about either a personal conflict or a close friend's conflict, imagine that the conflict was still unresolved and describe how they felt about the situation.

Finally, they rated how useful different wise reasoning strategies (for example, searching for compromise, adopting an outsider's perspective) would be in addressing the conflict in question.

As expected, participants who thought about a friend's dilemma considered wiser strategies to be more useful than did the participants who thought about their own personal issues.

But the motivation to pursue virtue seemed to close this gap – participants who thought about personal problems rated wise-reasoning strategies as more valuable as their motivation to pursue virtue increased.

Further analyses revealed two specific components of wise reasoning that mattered most — considering other people's perspectives and intellectual humility.



Keep eyes shut, ears open to perceive others' emotions

Engaging in two different tasks of watching and listening simultaneously may confuse the listener and hurt the performance of both the tasks.



Do you want to feel empathetic towards others feelings? Paying attention by listening with your eyes closed may help, researchers say.

The study stated that while listening to one must keep the ears open and eyes shut because facial expression can mask emotions.

Moreover, engaging in two different tasks of watching and listening simultaneously may confuse the listener and hurt the performance of both the tasks, the researchers noted.

"Perhaps people are paying too much attention to the face, while the voice might have much of the content necessary to perceive others' internal states accurately," said Michael Kraus, Professor at the Yale University in Connecticut, US.

"The findings suggest that we should be focusing more on studying vocalisations of emotion," Kraus added.

For the study, published in the journal American Psychologist, the researchers studied over 1,800 participants with five set of series with experiments, whereby individuals were asked either to interact with another person or were presented with an interaction between two others.

In some cases, participants were only able to listen and not look; in others, they were able to look but not listen; and some participants were allowed to both look and listen.

The results revealed that individuals who only listened without observing were able to identify the emotions being experienced by others more accurately.

Men prefer kindness over attractiveness in women

This study aims to show the changing mindset and preferences among modern Indians and how they are approaching matchmaking and matrimony with much more clarity of their preferences. According to the findings of a survey, men believe kindness is the most desirable trait in a woman.



In the metro cities of India, men prefer women for their kindness factor rather than their attractive looks quotient, according to a survey. Banihal, a neuroscience-based recommendation engine for finding life partners, conducted a survey involving 10,000 users of the matchmaking site through Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

According to the findings, 27 per cent men believe kindness is the most desirable trait in a woman, while education is ranked as the most significant attribute by only 6 per cent of women. Only 8 percent of men go for beauty. The study conducted by Banihal comprised of 60 per cent men and 40 per cent women.

Men from Bengaluru prefer more independent girls as compared to those in Mumbai and Delhi with the ratio being 17:14:8 per cent respectively. When it comes to role models, fathers are the most admired for women in all three cities, while 12 per cent men in Bengaluru consider their sisters as their role models as compared to only 7 per cent in Delhi and Mumbai.

The study also throws light on the fact that 41 per cent women in Bengaluru consider a friend as their role model as opposed to 34 per cent women in Mumbai and Delhi.

Ishdeep Sawhney, Co-founder and CEO at Banihal said, "This study clearly shows the changing mindset and preferences among modern Indians and how they are approaching matchmaking and matrimony with much more clarity of their preferences. At Banihal, we pride ourselves on being able to use such data and insights to simplify the matchmaking process and find the perfect match for a person."



Why Indian working Mothers Make the best professionals

If you are a working mother, you already know the struggles of juggling between a career and kids (and home, husbands, in-laws and so many more things). It can get really tough and overwhelming. Rushing out of an important meeting on the pretext of getting some papers to call the daycare to check on the safe arrival of kids or missing out on a crucial doctor's appointment in the middle of the week to give that dreaded presentation to the boss. We all have been there, done that.

At professional front, a lot of us have witnessed or undergone 'motherhood penalty'. In one experiment, sociology professors Shelley Correll, Stephen Benard, and In Paik at Harvard questioned college students to rate a pair of job applicants offering them their resumes along with notes from screening interviews. Once they picked all the qualified professionals, they were told that one was a mother. As part of the experiment, it was found that mothers stood lesser chances to be recommended for hire. And if they were, they were offered less in starting salary over childless women.

According to Dr. Simrat Kaur, Doctorate in Neuro Psychology and presently working as a Consultant Neuro Psychologist with Doctor Insta, "The 'motherhood penalty' at workplace is quite worrisome. What many don't realize is that the brightest side of becoming a mother is that you learn patience, which is an extremely essential trait to function better in day to day life, especially at a workplace. Motherhood makes you wiser, more adept to handle stress and the ability to maintain a healthy balance in your life."

Yet people often stay conflicted about the positives of having a working mother as an employee. They may give you a significant cut on your appraisal because you were away on your maternity for three months or talk behind your back for leaving office on time; mind you, if working mums unite, they can change the power structure of the world. Here's how:

WORKING MOTHERS CAN MULTITASK

Undeniably so, they are doing a lot at once. The fact that she handles a child back home along with the umpteen tasks that she handles at work in itself shows her prowess to handle multiple things at one go. She could be researching about her presentation, shooting urgent mails to the support staff, replying to the kid's teacher over Whatsapp and also pouring herself a cup of green tea - all at once.

WORKING MOTHERS HAVE BRILLIANT PEOPLE MANAGEMENT SKILLS

A working mother handles the ungodly tantrums of her little one back home, yet resists every urge to give up and strike back. Motherhood teaches her brilliant people management skills. And this wisdom enters with her at the workplace too. She is adept at handling tough colleagues and is often the best person to go if you are in dire need of some sensible advice. Clearly so, she barely has time for office politics and tries to keep her surroundings clear of it.

WORKING MOTHERS WILL NEVER DELAY WORK

Yes, she likes to leave office in time but that's also why she finishes her work well in time. She is very well aware that delaying work would mean staying back in office till late or completing work assignment at home. A single delay at work can cause mayhem back home and she will never let that happen. Thus, she gives her best in her working hours.

WORKING MOTHERS ARE ORGANISED

A woman who is basically nurturing another life (and family) knows darn well the importance of staying organized. What's more? She is always more focused on practical solutions to ensure that there is balance in everyday life, both at work and back home.

WORKING MOTHERS WILL NEVER COMMIT

A working mother knows her limitation and she will never over commit at the workplace. "Whatever she will says, she will mean it," adds Dr Kaur. The underlying insight remains that motherhood is the most trying roles and also the greatest learning experience ever.

MOM SPEAKS

Shalini Vij, director and founder, Hangout

Being a working mom can be challenging especially with children who are of a tender age. I will agree I have had to cut back on family vacation time as last few years, the expansion projects have kept me busy but I have tried to compensate by taking them along on my business trips. Mixing work with family was fun. It did take a lot of effort and hard work. I will be honest, I use to work till late and be up at 6 am to send my little one Shiven to school. I worked after their bed times, because I didn't want to take away from their time. I juggled with time and work on tight schedules. My team members often comment on the times they receive my e-mails and know I handle all my mail and correspondence work at night, after their bed time. I do all on-site work and go to office, while they are in school and then take time out to teach them and help them with their studies. I have a nuclear family set-up as my in-laws are in the States and I need to take care of my three men, which means household chores too. My family and friends know I have a set schedule and are understanding of my time restraint. It's all about time management and multi-tasking, I believe time management and multi tasking are the key and my specialty.

Aditi Gokhale, Co-Founder, All Things Organic

Being a working mom can be very challenging since your child needs love and attention and at the same time you need to attend to work. One of the most challenging aspects of being a working mother is not being able to spend quality time with my child. I feel guilty at times for not being able to give the required attention in my daughter's crucial foundation laying years. My experiences as an entrepreneur have been very fulfilling; while the last few months undoubtedly have been very challenging, the satisfaction of seeing your dreams take baby steps every day, more than compensates for the long hours.

Study links job problems to parenting



Parents, take note! If your kids have problems at work, you may be responsible to some extent for the trouble, according to a new study which found a link between parenting styles and workplace behaviour.

"It really is about both parents, but because mothers are typically the primary caregivers of the children, they usually have more influence on their children," said Peter Harms from University of Alabama in the US. Researchers studied manager-employee relationships in the workplace and found a link between parenting styles and workplace behaviour.

Their research was based on the work of John Bowlby , an early psychoanalyst, who argued that the way parents treat their offspring could have long-term implications for how their children approach relationships.

In particular, the work focused on how parents acted when their infants cried out for help.

Babies learn over time that they can either count on their parent to come to their rescue right away or they need to escalate to high levels of distress in order to get attention. Or, if babies learn that parents are not a reliable source of comfort, they stop making overt appeals for help. Individuals with reliable parents view others as potential sources of support.

These people are often categorised as having anxious or avoidant attachment depending on the style they adopted to cope with distress.

"Your boss is sort of like your parent," said Harms. The findings showed that when anxious followers were paired with supportive leaders, they were perfectly fine. But when they were paired with distant, unsupportive leaders, the anxiously attached employees reported higher levels of stress and lower levels of performance.

How to get your kid excited about School

It is a difficult task for most parents to make their kids go to school following a weekend break.

Now, after a month-long summer holiday, it is going to be even more of a challenge. Here are a few tips you can use to help your children get back to the school routine:

Get them involved

By now, you would have bought the necessities for the coming academic year (books, notebooks, uniforms, et al). Get your kid involved in getting these things organised — like covering the books and notebooks, labeling them, getting the uniforms pressed, and so on.



Buy new things

Buy at least one new item for your child as this will motivate them. It could either be a school bag, lunch bag, pencil box, water bottle or even stationery. If your child is an ardent fan of comic heroes like Spiderman, Superman or Chota Bheem, buy stuff that has these characters.

Throw a party

You can arrange a get-together and invite your kid's school friends home. Meeting friends will make him/her look forward to school. You could also get them excited about the new friends they would be making this year.

Give them a preview

Just sit and talk with your kid the way you usually explain things to them. Talk about the thrill of getting back to school and meeting teachers and classmates after a long time. You could even talk about some of the exciting topics that they are going to learn this year and give them a peek into these topics.

JNU standoff on, hunger stir enters 16th day

Delhi.(Agency)

Seven months after the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) was suspended in February, the standoff between the elected student body and the administration continues. The indefinite hunger strike by students entered its 16th day on Monday, with protests, solidarity marches and public meetings failing to resolve the dispute.In a statement issued on Monday, JNUSU questioned Vice-Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit's response to the protest, accusing the administration of attempting to malign the union and its hunger strike.The union questioned the Vice-Chancellor's visit to the



hunger strike site at 9 am without prior intimation. It claimed hundreds of student volunteers and hunger strikers were present round the clock and alleged that the timing was intended to create the impression that only a few students were participating.JNUSU also disputed the administration's claims regarding medical assistance, alleging that rusticated office-bearers were denied medical check-ups during the first six days of the protest. The union also raised concerns over alleged irregularities in university recruitments.

At Delhi's Durga Puja pandals, spotlight on legacy, traditions and causes

Delhi.(Agency)

Not just the idol of the goddess but an iconic North Kolkata lane, which has been recreated at Arambagh Durga Puja Samiti's pandal in Central Delhi's Paharganj, catches one's eye upon entry. The "culturally rich" Shyambazar, according to samiti's chairman, Abhijit Bose, is also close to Rabindranath Tagore's ancestral home — Jorasanko Thakur Bari.

"We have tried to recreate the same ambiance — the alleys, how a man sits at a tea stall or his balcony reading a newspaper, how the day starts early," Bose explains.The lane serves as a window into this year's pandal theme — "Power of Print Never Fades", a tribute to newspapers and print culture. Its centrepiece is a printing press.

Describing further, Bose says, "This model of a printing press shows newspapers rolling out, a newsagent sorting copies behind it and a cyclist running to deliver it to every home. We have also added the elements of the typography to showcase how the letters have evolved over time."He adds, "A small track plays, opening with the sound of old radio stations and, in places, the Doordarshan news tune. Front pages from the Emergency, Independence and Rabindranath Tagore's death are on display, some sourced from the Parliament Library and the National Library…… When you enter the pandal, you see how letters are moving into the digital age."

Bose also recalls evenings from his childhood when people gathered to read the newspaper. "I grew up in Odisha. Our newspaper used to arrive a day late. And to read that newspaper, there used to be a long queue…..Two or three people read a single newspaper together." He quips that in the current digital age, no one even remembers in the afternoon what the morning news was. "We want to drive the point that digital cannot displace or replace newspapers," he says.Bose says the samiti started themed pujas in Delhi-NCR in 2013 and has since taken up many themes, including Bengal's Jatra folk-theatre last year.

But Arambagh is not the only pandal in Delhi that uses the festival to stir discourse.At CR Park in South Delhi, two committees — both in their 51st year — have turned to traditional crafts and eco-friendly material to create the pandals and send out a message.

At the Park Mela Ground, Avik Mitra, assistant treasurer of the CR Park Mela Ground Durga Puja Samiti, says this year's theme is "Mati, Manush, Mohon"."Mati" represents the clay of the idol, "Manush" the craftspeople who made the pandal, and "Mohon" means something deeply enchanting.

Seven STPs eject contaminated discharge in Yamuna: DPCC

Delhi.(Agency)

At least seven sewage treatment plants have failed the prescribed discharge standards for total suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand and faecal coliform levels in September, the latest Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) report said.The report evaluates testing standards at over 30 sewage treatment plants (STPs) across the capital, presenting data from samples collected at both inlet and outlet points.Flagging the STP at Yamuna Vihar Phase III for non-compliance, the report said the outlet sample from the facility exceeded the set limits for total suspended solids, biological oxygen demand and faecal coliform.

According to the report, the treated discharge from the STP showed a faecal coliform level of 64,000 MPN/100 ml, against the permissible level of 230 MPN/100 ml. The outlet sample at the Yamuna Vihar Ph-III also showed a Total Suspended Solids (TSS) level of 109 mg/l against the prescribed limit of 10 mg/l and a Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) of 42 mg/l against the permissible level of 10 mg/l.The sample collected from the STP at Mehrauli showed a faecal coliform level of 11,000 MPN/100 ml, along with high TSS and BOD. The other STPs that have not met the prescribed limits included those at Yamuna Vihar Ph-I, Okhla, Keshopur, Ghitorni, and one in Vasant Kunj. The STP at Ghitorni showed an extremely high level of faecal coliform, reaching up to 17,000 MPN/100 ml. The STP at Vasant Kunj showed a faecal coliform level of 8,100 MPN/100 ml.The DPCC conducts periodic monitoring of STPs to assess the efficiency of sewage treatment and ensure compliance with environmental norms aimed at reducing pollution in the Yamuna river and other water bodies.Earlier reports suggested that the Yamuna river, which enters the city at Palla Village and exits at Jaitpur, recorded a slight deterioration in the water quality. At three spots in September, the effect was particularly poor with faecal coliform levels declining sharply from the previous month, according to the DPCC.The seven locations included major points like Palla, Wazirabad, ISBT Bridge, ITO Bridge, Nizamudin Bridge, Okhla Barrage and the Yamuna River at Asgarpur (Kidwali, Haryana).

The Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels remained high and well beyond the permissible limit for September. Higher BOD levels reflect greater pollution and reduced oxygen availability for all aquatic lives.

Faecal coliform levels soar, Yamuna Vihar Phase III among top violators; IMD forecasts largely dry conditions, with no rainfall expected over the coming week



Winter Action Plan notified to keep AQI under control

The government has notified an advance Winter Action Plan, which includes restrictions on non-BS-VI vehicles entering the city from outside, doubling of parking charges and provisions for 50% work from home.

Pre-Diwali air inches towards 'poor' in Delhi, minimum temp drops

Delhi.(Agency)

With Diwali a fortnight away, the city's air quality has been showing signs of deterioration. The Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 139 on Monday, down from 187 a day earlier, but forecasts warn that pollution levels could push the city into the 'poor' category in the coming days. Dry conditions, weak winds and rising local emissions are adding to concerns over air quality ahead of the festive season.Also, the city recorded its lowest minimum temperature of the month so far on Monday, with the mercury settling at 17.1 degrees Celsius, 1.3 degrees Celsius below the season's average, the Met office said. The IMD also forecast largely dry conditions, with no rainfall expected over the coming week.The air quality early warning system has forecast that the air quality will remain in the "moderate" category on October 20 before deteriorating to "poor" levels on October 21 and 22. The outlook for the following six days also indicates poor air quality.Unfavourable meteorological conditions could hamper the dispersal of pollutants, the system noted. A ventilation index below 6,000 square metres per second, coupled with average wind speeds of less than 10 kmph, is considered unfavourable for pollutant dispersion.According to data reported by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the capital's AQI stood at around 90 on Friday before climbing to 159 on Saturday and 187 at 4 pm on Sunday.



2 stations hit 'poor' category

Of the city's 58 monitoring stations, two recorded "poor" air quality, six were in the "satisfactory" category, while the remaining stations reported "moderate" levels as per data shared on Monday. Pusa recorded worst AQI at 281.

First private player gets Haryana power regulator nod, faces government opposition

Delhi.(Agency)

In a move that could end the monopoly of the state-owned Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVNL) in the power-distribution sector, the Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC) on Monday granted a 25-year parallel electricity distribution licence to a private company, Eleven Power Private Limited, for Gurugram and Nuh districts. The go-ahead, however, has drawn mixed responses. While the Haryana government is set to move the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity against the order, RWAs have welcomed the decision, hoping it could put an end to power cuts.A coram (which is a bench of officials adjudicating the case), comprising Chairman Mukesh Garg and Member Shiv Kumar, cited chronic delays in installing electricity connections as the key reason behind introducing a private player. State discom data submitted to the commission revealed that DHBVNL alone had 1,08,590 applications pending for new meters and load increases as of October 2025, the order states.

If the decision, subject to review and approval, comes into effect, parts of Gurugram and Nuh will become the first districts in the state where consumers can choose their power suppliers.Under its approved rollout plan, Eleven Power will invest Rs 4,716.73 crore over five years between 2026-27 and 2030-31. The bulk of this amount, Rs 4,650.37 crore, is earmarked for laying underground cabling and setting up power substations, officials said. The order directs Eleven Power to file a migration protocol within 60 days to govern how consumers can switch without disrupting supply or leaving unpaid dues. The company's network will be funded entirely through private equity and loans, officials said.



Concerns flagged

Haryana Energy Minister Anil Vij took to X on Monday, stating that the state government will move the Appellate Tribunal, an autonomous body set up under the Electricity Act, 2003, against the order.State power utilities have opposed the move during the hearings. The discoms argued that Gurugram generates a major portion of their revenue and losing commercial consumers could destabilise cross-subsidies that support subsidised power for farmers. Further, it alleged that Eleven Power would "cherry-pick" affluent urban segments and ignore less lucrative pockets.Power employee unions, including the All India Power Engineers Federation, have also expressed reservation with the decision, calling it backdoor privatisation that could jeopardise state revenue and employment.Subhash Lamba, National Vice-President, Electricity Employees Federation of India, told The Indian Express that the order was 'unilateral'. "Appeal is one option, but we had already taken permission for strikes anticipating this, for December 1-3. Now we may start on October 22 itself. We will not let this be implemented so easily. The HERC did not consider our detailed objections, and those submitted by farmers, RWAs and employees. Even the expert committee that had recommended the license earlier was inexperienced."

However, defending the decision, HERC pointed out that Eleven Power has allocated Rs 304.37 crore to Nuh starting from its very first phase of work.

India's cultural heritage defines its true identity, says Union Minister Shekhawat

Delhi.(Agency)

Real identity of the soul of India doesn't lie in physical and geographical progress; it exists in the country's multifaceted culture and cultural body of work, said union culture and tourism minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Monday.Addressing the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puruskar Ceremony in New Delhi, the Minister said, "We are committed to bestow immortality to cultural heritage…As India is marching ahead on the path of development…When India's respect and identity are being sculpted into anew, it is our belief that our cultural heritage will only provide a sense of gravity. The future of our cultural heritage does not lie just in the greatness of its past."



The minister further said that the country is experiencing an era of transformation, with its identity and stature gaining recognition across the world. He noted that artists have a significant role to play in this transformation. He also highlighted the contribution of generations of artists who have sustained India's cultural traditions despite many hardships.Mr Shekhawat conferred the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar by the Sangeet Natak Akademi for the years 2024 and 2025 to 106 young artists from across the country in the field of performing arts. Rajasthan's Akram Khan Behrupiya received the puraskar for folk dance, Bihar's Manisha Srivastava for Folk music, while Hito Kiho from Nagaland was honoured for Choir music. Subhashree Swain was conferred the puraskar for Chhau dance and Ghanshyam Sah was given the award for Playwriting."We have gathered here to honor young artists who express the various aspects of Goddess Saraswati through their art and are taking new steps forward with renewed energy to advance India's cultural consciousness. Honoring these artists is certainly a moment of pride and honor, and since the ceremony is being held on such an auspicious day, I believe it is also deeply inspiring," Shekhawat said.

Namrata Rai, who was honored at the ceremony for her work in Kathak, said, "The Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, named after the legendary maestro, is a source of inspiration for me. I am very happy that the Sangeet Natak Akademi has given my art recognition..."Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar was instituted by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2006 to recognize young artists up to the age of 40. Since then, these awards have been presented annually to young artists at a special ceremony. The General Council of Sangeet Natak Akademi, at its meeting held from 22-26 March 2026 unanimously selected 106 young artists for the recognition for the years 2024 and 2025. he award carries purse money of Rs 25,000 besides.

Yamuna riverfront facelift on Sabarmati model: Delhi Minister Verma

The government plans to develop cycle tracks, walking tracks, sports grounds and other recreational spaces along the river.

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi government will develop the Yamuna riverfront in two phases, with the Wazirabad barrage dividing the project into two stretches, Water Minister Parvesh Verma said on Monday. The government is also planning to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation in Gujarat to study its riverfront development model, he said."We are currently hiring consultants for the Yamuna riverfront. It will be developed in two phases—the first from Palla to Wazirabad and the second from Wazirabad to Okhla barrage. We have moved a proposal to sign an MoU soon," Verma said. The Sabarmati model will be studied closely, and its best practices adapted to Delhi's needs to create a clean, green and world-class Yamuna riverfront, he added.

The government plans to develop cycle tracks, walking tracks, sports grounds and other recreational spaces along the river. "If all goes well, before the next election, the model of the riverfront will be visible to the people of Delhi, and lakhs of Delhi residents will be able to do yoga, take walks and enjoy the space," Verma said.Earlier, Verma visited the Sabarmati riverfront during a study tour along with officials from the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) and the Irrigation and Flood Control department.The minister also said the Yamuna would become visibly cleaner only after about two-and-a-half years, when several sewage treatment plant (STP) upgradation projects are completed and the city's sewage treatment capacity reaches 100 per cent.



"The Yamuna's water is still not clean today because, out of our 37 existing sewage treatment plants, we have upgraded 28 in the past one-and-a-half years. But there is still a gap of 250 million gallons per day (MGD) in sewage treatment capacity, for which new plants are being constructed," he said in a statement.

Hit Songs, Empty Pockets: The Hidden Math Behind India's Viral Music Boom

BENGALURU.(Agency)

A song takes off on Reels. Millions of people use it in their videos. The views pile up. But who actually gets paid?
India has around 2-2.5 million active digital creators, according to a 2025 BCG report. Together, they influence an estimated $350-400 billion in annual consumer spending. That number could cross $1 trillion by 2030.et money is not reaching everyone equally. BCG says only 8-10 per cent of these creators monetise effectively. Many nano and micro creators earn less than Rs 18,000 a month. Music sits at the heart of this content. And the people who make it often see the least.
Who Really Gains From Virality"The creator economy in India is thriving, yet the issue of who really makes money from virality has not been addressed yet," Gaurav Dagaonkar, Co-Founder and CEO of Hoopr, told In his view, platforms and creators with existing music libraries benefit most.
Independent composers see very little from their viral songs. Meanwhile, creators risk takedowns when they use music without the right permissions.

Applying For Car Loan 5 Ways To Save More This Festive Season

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 illion crowns in Sweden under double-taxation relief, putting its net potential exposure at about 550 million crowns.So, how should you pick the best car loan? Sumit Singla, CEO of Rupyy, highlights five ways buyers can make smarter financing decisions and save mone Check Your Credit Score Before Applying
Your credit score can influence the interest rate a lender offers you. A stronger score generally improves your chances of securing favourable loan terms and getting your application approved. A score of 750 or above is often considered strong by lenders, although their eligibility criteria may differ. Check your credit report a few weeks before applying. If you find errors, raise a dispute with the relevant credit bureau. You should also clear overdue payments, if any.

PepsiCo India expects steady festive snack sales driven by new launches

New Delhi.(Ajency)

PepsiCo India expects its food business to match last year's festive growth momentum driven by new product rollouts and convenience-focused choices that match modern consumer habits, a top company official said on Tuesday.The company is expanding its portfolio across snacks, 'better-for-you' products and premium offerings to cater to diverse consumer preferences during the festive season, said Saakshi Verma Menon, Chief Marketing Officer Foods at PepsiCo India.
"We expect PepsiCo Foods to deliver a growth trajectory similar to last year during the festive season, growing in line with the industry," Menon told
The company has recently strengthened its ready-to-eat offerings on e-commerce platforms to make festive snacking more convenient.PepsiCo's product strategy in the food business is aimed at addressing evolving Indian taste preferences and different consumption occasions, with its research and development teams working on new offerings for the market.

Gold prices dip ahead of Diwali: Will the fall continue

- Gold prices have softened ahead of the festive rush, raising hopes of a better deal for jewellery buyers. But with global tensions and inflation concerns building, could prices fall

New Delhi.(Agency)

The festive season is usually a busy time for gold buyers in India, with many households purchasing jewellery for Dhanteras, Diwali and weddings. But for those hoping for some relief in prices, gold has slipped as rising oil prices fuel inflation concerns and investors wait for clues on the US interest rate outlook.
On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold was trading at Rs 1,47,300 per 10 grams, down 0.42% at the time of writing. In the international market, spot gold fell 0.3% to $4,128.92 per ounce, while US gold futures for December delivery dropped 0.3% to $4,148.50.The decline comes as higher oil prices raise concerns that inflation could remain elevated, making it harder for central banks to cut interest rates.

WHY ARE GOLD PRICES FALLING?

One of the key reasons behind the fall in gold prices is the rise in crude oil prices. Oil prices have climbed amid fresh geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, with Brent Crude hovering near a five-month high, reported Reuters.Traders have factored in the risk of further disruption after Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group said on Monday that it had carried out attacks on Saudi energy, airport and military targets.
Higher oil prices can push up transportation, manufacturing and other costs, adding to inflationary pressure across economies. This could make central banks more cautious about lowering interest rates.For gold, this creates a challenge. Although the precious metal is often seen as a hedge against inflation, it does not pay interest. When interest rates remain high, investors may prefer assets that offer returns, reducing the appeal of holding gold.

ALL EYES ON THE US FEDERAL RESERVE

Investors are also watching the US Federal Reserve's next policy meeting, scheduled for



October 27-28, for clues about the direction of interest rates.Recent comments from Fed officials have suggested that there is little urgency to tighten monetary policy further. This has reduced expectations of an immediate rate hike at the October meeting. However, trades continue to expect a possible rate increase in December, with the CME FedWatch Tool indicating a 92% chance of a hike, according to the data cited in the report.The Fed's decision could influence gold prices in the coming days. If the central bank keeps rates unchanged, gold could find some support. However, any indication that rates may remain higher for longer could put further pressure on the metal.

WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO GOLD PRICES NEXT?

Gold prices could remain sensitive to movements in crude oil prices, geopolitical developments and signals from the US Federal Reserve.
Higher oil prices may keep inflation concerns alive, while expectations of higher interest rates could weigh on gold. On the other hand, if the Fed leaves rates unchanged and signals a less restrictive approach, the metal could regain some ground.For Indian buyers planning festive purchases, short-term price movements may offer some relief, but the direction of gold prices remains uncertain. Domestic prices are also influenced by currency movements and other local market factors.

Crude prices jump 5-month high amid geopolitical risk in Gulf; Brent at $110.08

New Delhi.(Agency)

Global crude oil prices advanced on Tuesday, hovering near a five-month high as traders continued to factor in a geopolitical risk premium amid attacks on vessels in the Gulf, renewed Houthi strikes and escalating tensions involving Iran. Brent crude -- International oil benchmark -- gained as much as 0.48 per cent or 53 cents to $110.08 a barrel after touching $110.70 in the previous session, highest level since May 20. Meanwhile, US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose 0.46 per cent or 45 cents to $99 a barrel.
Crude prices also drew support from renewed Houthi attacks on a Yemeni military training camp as well as strikes targeting Saudi energy, airport and military facilities.Moreover, Brent prices have surged nearly 80 per cent so far this year as widening conflict involving the United States and Iran, alongside the escalating Russia-Ukraine war, disrupted energy supplies and heightened concerns over global crude



flows.Acc rding to shipping tracking firm Kpl , at least 18 vessels were attacked over the past two weeks, helping to keep the risk premium embedded in crude prices.However, exports from Gulf producers have continued to recover. S Energy Secretary Chris Wright has said crude flows had rebounded to about 80 per cent of pre-war levels, although shipments of refined products remained constrained, according to reports.Meanwhile, Iraq's oil minister said the country's crude exports have exceeded 3.4 million barrels per day so far this month. Export volumes are now nearing pre-war levels after Iraq offered deep discounts relative to regional benchmark prices.On the domestic front, commodity exchanges are closed in the morning session due to Dussehra.
Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) will not remain closed for the entire day. But trading will be suspended from 9 am to 5 pm and reopen for the evening session from 5 pm.

Growth prospects remain strong for Crompton Greaves Consumer: Brokerages

New Delhi.(Ajency)

PepsiCo India expects its food business to match last year's festive growth momentum driven by new product rollouts and convenience-focused choices that match modern consumer habits, a top company official said on Tuesday.The company is expanding its portfolio across snacks, 'better-for-you' products and premium offerings to cater to diverse consumer preferences during the festive season, said Saakshi Verma Menon, Chief Marketing Officer Foods at PepsiCo India.
"We expect PepsiCo Foods to deliver a growth trajectory similar to last year during the festive season, growing in line with the industry," Menon told PTI.
The company has recently strengthened its ready-to-eat offerings on e-commerce platforms to make festive snacking more convenientHe expects demand to remain strong through the festive period, with November and December being important months for the beverage business as consumers celebrate Diwali, Christmas and New Year.SLMG Beverages has also been navigating higher input costs, including sugar and packaging materials, but is adopting a wait-and-watch approach before taking further pricing decisions, Ladhani said in the interview.
The company said it is prioritising consumer affordability while seeking to offset commodity cost pressures through growth in sales volumes.
The FMCG sctor is facing sustained margin pressure as rising input costs squeeze profitability.
Input-cost pressures intensified in the September quarter, reversing some of the moderation seen in the preceding quarter.

AI in commodity markets: How Kwala Intel helps investors spot opportunities

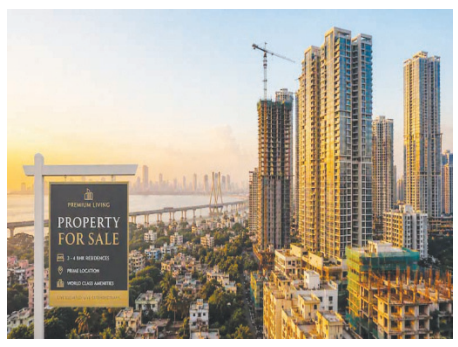
New Delhi.(Agency)

Does AI have the potential to transform how investors understand commodities, identify opportunities and build multi-asset portfolios? For decades, Indian investors have embraced equities with financial data and investment research simplified by new-age technology. However, many commodity experts feel that their domain somehow remains relatively underexplored because their fundamentals are scattered across domestic and international sources.
Some argue that AI could actually change this by integrating production, consumption, inventories, trade flows, seasonality and market data into actionable insights, as the markets make an imminent change towards smarter investment decisions away from scattered data. However, with the investors' interest turning increasingly towards multi-asset portfolios, can AI actually help investors understand commodities, identify relative-value opportunities and pursue better risk-adjusted returns without relying solely on equity markets?
Enter Kwala Intel
AI-powered market intelligence platform Kwala Intel provides market insights on commodities, such as gold, silver, crude oil and Dr Copper, as well as Dalal Street equities linked to commodity prices. Kwala Intel navigates through live commodity prices and the forces behind them, ranging from supply and demand dynamics to policy changes to ever-evolving geopolitics to fluctuating input costs! It also interprets those moves to NSE- and BSE-listed companies. For instance, changes in crude oil can influence airlines or paintmakers in one direction and downstream oil companies in another. Kwala Intel assesses the impact on costs, margins and the stock's fundamentals, and shares insights with you in real time in your language.
The AI-powered Shift That's Gaining Market Attention: From fear of numbers to confidence in investing.

Selling A Property Here Are Five Costs That Can Eat Into Your Returns

Mumbai . (Agency)

A property owner may sell a house for Rs 1 crore and expect to walk away with a handsome profit. But the amount that eventually reaches their bank account could be much lower.



Brokerage, capital gains tax, outstanding home loans, maintenance bills and other expenses can take a sizeable bite out of the proceeds. Some costs are easy to spot. Others build up quietly while the property remains on the market."Many property owners calculate their returns using two numbers, what they paid for the property and what they expect to sell it for," said Gaurav Mavi, Co-Founder of BOP.in. "The calculation often looks attractive until they sit down and work out what they will retain after the saleFor a property worth Rs 1 crore, even a 1 per cent brokerage fee amounts to Rs 1 lakh. Add taxes, loan dues and other expenses, and the gap between the expected profit and the money in hand can become significant. According to Mavi, here are five costs property sellers should account for before accepting an offer:-

1. Brokerage: The First Cut From Your Sale Proceeds

Finding a buyer is not always free. If a property owner hires a broker, the commission can take a significant bite out of the final amount. The fee depends on the agreement, the location and the type of property. Even a seemingly small commission can add up when the property is expensive.For instance, a 1 per cent brokerage on a property sold for Rs 1 crore comes to Rs 1 lakh. At 2 per cent, the bill doubles to Rs 2 lakh. Sellers should clarify the brokerage rate, when it becomes payable and whether any additional charges apply before signing an agreement with an agent. The key is to calculate the fee using the expected selling price, not the profit. Brokerage is generally linked to the transaction value, even if the seller's actual gain is modest.

2. Capital Gains Tax: The Profit May Not Be Entirely Yours

Selling a property for more than its purchase price does not mean the entire difference belongs to the seller. Capital gains tax may apply. The tax calculation depends on factors such as the purchase date, sale date, acquisition cost, eligible improvement expenses and applicable exemptions.Under the current rules, gains from property held for more than 24 months are generally treated as long-term capital gains. These are usually taxed at 12.5 per cent without indexation. However, resident individuals and Hindu Undivided Families selling land or buildings acquired before July 23, 2024, may be able to use the earlier 20 per cent rate with indexation if it results in a lower tax bill.

He added that the pact has significance beyond trade, str

Kolkata.(Agency)

The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA), signed on April 27, came into effect on Tuesday, providing duty-free access to a range of Indian goods, including products from labour-intensive sectors such as textiles and leather.It is the seventh trade pact to come into force in the last five years. The others are agreements with the UAE, Mauritius, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) bloc, the UK, Oman and Australia.Signed on April 27, 2026, the agreement follows negotiations launched in 2010, stalled in 2015 and revived in March 2025. The pact becomes India's 17th operational FTA.
According to experts, the sectors benefiting from the FTA are textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, engineering goods and auto components, gems and jewellery, agriculture and processed foods, pharmaceuticals, and other manufacturing industries.Gulzar Didwania, Partner, Deloitte India, said the deal is expected to support higher FDI inflows into India, but the scale of any increase remains uncertain and will depend on private-sector investment decisions.New Zealand has committed FDI worth USD 20 billion in over 15 years."The FTA's provisions on duty-free access for certain inputs, bilateral cumulation, customs facilitation, and investment-promotion mechanisms may encourage deeper value-chain integration and improve investment conditions," he said.He added that the pact has significance beyond trade, strengthening India's strategic position in the Indo-Pacific, expanding its network of FTAs with developed economies.At a time of growing global trade uncertainty, the India-New Zealand FTA is a strong endorsement of open markets and predictable trade rules. Its target of doubling bilateral trade by 2030 sets an ambitious agenda for both countries.
What makes this FTA particularly valuable is that it goes beyond goods to cover services, investment, skills and mobility, creating fresh opportunities for Indian professionals and businesses.
With 100 per cent of Indian exports gaining duty-free access to New Zealand from day one, the agreement gives Indian exporters a significant competitive advantage. MSMEs in textiles, leather, footwear and engineering goods are particularly well placed to benefit.Economic think tank Chintan Research Foundation (CRF India) President Shishir Priyadarshi said that at a time of growing global trade uncertainty, the India-New Zealand FTA is a strong endorsement of open markets and predictable trade rules."What makes this FTA particularly valuable is that it goes beyond goods to cover services, investment, skills and mobility, creating fresh opportunities for Indian professionals and businesses," he said.

Steering wheel not a plaything for a child, says Karnataka High Court

BENGALURU.(Agency)

In a rare instance, the Karnataka High Court allowed trial against a 51-year-old father from Mysuru, under Section 304 Part II of the IPC (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) for permitting his 14-year-old son to drive a car that crashed into a two-wheeler, claiming three lives, of a couple and their son travelling on Bengaluru-Mysuru Road, and leaving the other son injured. "Parents and guardians who permit such adventures cannot treat the statutory prohibition (minors from driving) as a matter of convenience, and thereafter seek complete insulation from criminal consequences when the foreseeable peril turns into catastrophe.

The steering wheel of a motor vehicle cannot become a plaything in the hands of a child, nor can a public road become the playground for such indulgence," observed Justice M Nagaprasanna, rejecting the petition filed by Nadeem ur Rehman, father of the minor boy.

After meet with Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, farmers decide to call off protest for a month

DHARWAD.(Agency)

Members of Hasiru Sene and other farmers organisations, who were protesting for the last 10 days, will give a month-long break to their agitation following a meeting they had with Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and other elected representatives on Monday morning.

The protesters are demanding a minimum support price for sugar, fair and remunerative price for sugarcane and implementation of the Swaminathan report.

Hasiru Sene president Shashikanth Guru said that following a request by Deputy Commissioner Snehal R, he and other farmer leaders attended the meeting that was held at Circuit House in Hubballli and chaired by Joshi.

The meeting started at 12.30 am and went on till 3.30 am. Joshi told farmer leaders that their demands will be considered positively, but time is required to fulfil them. After he requested them to call off the protest till such time, farmer leaders withdrew the agitation.

Nine, including three children, injured in fire at 13-storey residential building in Mumbai's Kurla

Mumbai.(Agency)

A fire erupted in an electrical duct of a 13-storey residential building in Mumbai's Kurla area early Tuesday, injuring nine people, including three children, civic officials said.

The blaze erupted around 6.53 am at Kohinoor HDIL Building No. 5 in Kurla West, where flames spread along electrical wiring and duct installations before fire brigade personnel brought it under



control at 7.21 am, they said.

According to a civic official, eight residents suffered suffocation as thick smoke engulfed the structure, while one person sustained an injury to his right leg.

The injured, including a five-year-old boy, two teen girls and a senior citizen, were rushed to Rajawadi Hospital, where their condition is said to be stable, he said.

Personnel from the Mumbai Fire Brigade, police, power company, a 108 ambulance service and ward staff were mobilised for assistance, officials said. The cause of the fire and extent of the damage are yet to be determined, they said.

Adani refuses to budge over shifting international flights to Navi Mumbai

- In its latest communication to airlines, AAHL said individual carriers would have full discretion over the relocation of their international operations, but has refused to budge over the plan



Mumbai.(Agency)

The deadlock between Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL) and airlines over the proposed relocation of international flight operations from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) to Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) continued, with the airport operator maintaining that the airport needs to cut capacity of five million passengers annually beginning in March 2027. In its latest communication to airlines, AAHL said individual carriers would have full discretion over the relocation of their international operations. Airlines can voluntarily shift a portion of their weekly international flights to NMIA, temporarily suspend operations at the terminal until the redevelopment of Terminal 1 (T1) is completed, or explore other alternatives, it said. The airport operator reiterated that around five million passengers per annum in capacity would need to be restricted to accommodate the summer schedule of 2027. This comes amid opposition from the Airline Operators Committee (AOC), which has resisted the airport operator's insistence on finalising a proposed traffic transition plan ahead of the next stakeholder meeting scheduled for October 28.

Airlines have maintained that they would not agree to the transfer of international operations to NMIA or the cancellation of slots allocated to them at CSMIA. In an email to airport authorities, the AOC said individual consultations or participation in discussions should not be interpreted as collective acceptance or consent on behalf of other airlines.

The AOC has also questioned the rationale for the proposed slot reductions, seeking capacity assessments, operational data and an evidence-based justification for the proposed transfer. It has urged airport authorities to adhere to the Ministry of Civil Aviation's 2013 slot-allocation guidelines and the International Air Transport Association's Worldwide Airport Slot Guidelines. The dispute stems from a proposal by Mumbai airport authorities to reduce weekly international flights at CSMIA by 33 per cent to accommodate displaced traffic during the partial redevelopment of T1, initially scheduled to begin in January 2027. Following the intervention of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the proposal was deferred. After a stakeholder meeting on October 13, attended by AAHL leadership, including Jeet Adani and Arun Bansal, the proposed transition was pushed back to March 2027.

Viral video: Ludhiana man goes on rampage, tries to mow ex-wife, her mother

Jassi, 55, said she was waiting for an auto-rickshaw on Monday when Dalvir, her former son-in-law, passed by in his car and stopped after spotting her.

Ludhiana .(Agency)

A man in Ludhiana's Guru Nanak Nagar area, Daba, tried to run over his ex-wife and her mother, injured two others, and damaged several vehicles in the process, police said. A video of the incident was shared widely on social media.

The accused allegedly reversed his car multiple times to hit the woman and bystanders, who tried to intervene, police said. Locals pelted the car with stones and bricks when the accused tried to escape, they added. According to the woman's mother's complaint, the accused was identified as Dalvir Singh alias Kaka, a resident of Lohara.

Jassi, 55, said she was waiting for an auto-rickshaw on Monday when Dalvir, her former son-in-law, passed by in his car and stopped after spotting her. She alleged that he approached her and picked a fight. People at the spot intervened, after which she called her daughter, Kamalpreet.

According to Jassi, when Kamalpreet arrived at the scene, Dalvir allegedly began arguing with her as well. He allegedly threatened to kill Jassi and take Kamalpreet and their eight-year-old son with him. Jassi claimed that Dalvir then got into his car and tried to run her over.

She managed to escape unharmed, but he allegedly reversed the car several times in an attempt to hit her, striking other people and vehicles instead. Two locals suffered injuries in the incident. Kamalpreet alleged that her former



husband had a criminal background and had previously been in jail. Kamalpreet claimed that she had divorced him because of his alleged involvement in drug peddling. Inspector Jatinder Kumar, SHO Daba Police Station, said Jassi has filed a complaint.

After nearly 100 years, tiger spotted in Maharashtra's Beed district

Pune.(Agency)

A tiger has been recorded in Beed district for the first time in nearly 100 years, after travelling across several districts from the Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary in Yavatmal, a forest official said on Monday. The four-year-old male, weighing over 200 kg, was captured on a camera trap on August 20 in the Brahmgaon forest range of Ashti tehsil. Speaking to The Indian Express, Amol Munde, Range Forest Officer, Ashti, said, "The sighting is the first confirmed presence of a tiger in the Ashti and Patoda forest areas since the 1910s and 1920s. The last record of a tiger in the district appears in the Beed District Gazetteer of 1920.""The tiger has been passing through our area for the last two years, but we could not capture it on camera," Munde said. Forest officials refer to the animal as 'Ramling', though it has not been officially named. According to Munde, the tiger is a cub of tigress T-22 and left Tipeshwar in 2023. It first travelled to the Kawal Tiger Reserve in Telangana's Adilabad region before moving into Nanded. It then followed the Painganga River to Ahmedpur in Latur district and subsequently entered Dharashiv before reaching the Ashti and Patoda areas of Beed.

7 tonnes of iron, 700 bamboo poles, 5,000 metres of velvet: What goes into making 221-ft Ravana effigy

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Building a 221-foot-tall Ravana, which is billed by the organisers as the country's largest, is no ordinary craft. It takes three months of work, 6.5 tonnes of iron, around 700 bamboo poles, nearly 5,000 metres of velvet cloth, a giant fibreglass face, and a team of nearly 40 workers.

Once the structure is ready, it takes another 100 bouncers, 12 security personnel and a police vehicle to ensure that it remains standing until Dussehra evening on Tuesday. With 3,000 eco-friendly crackers from Sivakasi for the immolation, the scale of the task becomes clear. For Tejinder Chauhan, 59, who was once a kabaddi player, the challenge goes beyond putting together a giant structure.

"I have been making Ravana effigies for years, but



every new structure brings a different challenge. At 221 feet, the scale is enormous. We have to plan everything, from the frame to the faces and the fireworks. It takes months of work, and the entire team has to work together," Chauhan, a craftsman from Barara in Ambala, told . Chauhan and his team, including workers from Barara and Agra, have been working on the Panchkula effigy for around three months. Nearly 40 workers are involved in the project, putting together the giant structure piece by piece.

"The frame alone required around 7 tonnes of iron, supported by approximately 700 bamboo poles, each measuring 24 feet in height. Nearly 5,000 metres of velvet cloth will cover the structure, while its fibreglass face weighs around 3.5 quintals," he said.

In Kolhapur, Satej Patil-led alliances win Gokul Milk Union polls, defeats Mahayuti

Pune.(Agency)

Despite facing heavy odds, the Rajarshi Shahu Shetkari Alliance — which was backed by Congress MLC Satej Patil — won Kolhapur's Gokul Milk Union elections, defeating Chhatrapati Shahu Shetkari Vikas Aghadi — backed by Mahayuti. The counting of votes for 25 seats of the union was held on Monday. The Mahayuti had campaigned aggressively to capture the Gokul Milk Union elections. Heavyweights in the Mahayuti alliance in Kolhapur district, including as many as three cabinet ministers, ten MLAs, and two MPs, had put their best foot forward to win the elections. The Gokul Milk Union is known to be a power centre of local politics in Kolhapur. Satej Patil single-handedly managed the strategy and campaign against the Mahayuti. On Monday, till the last reports of counting, the Satej Patil-led alliance was leading in 14 out of 25 seats. The Mahayuti had 11 seats. However, after recounting votes of one seat, Mahayuti's tally went up to 12. Satej Patil finally won with 13 seats. The Mahayuti panel was led by Medical Education Minister Hasan Mushrif. His son, Navid Mushrif, who was the chairman of Gokul, was defeated. State Minister Chandrakant Patil said he was completely confident that Mahayuti would sweep the Gokul polls.

23-year-old arrested for honey-trapping 82 victims in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

Saidabad police arrested a 23-year-old man for allegedly creating fake social media profiles posing as women to obtain nude photographs and videos from victims and extort money by threatening to circulate the material or implicate them in police cases.

The accused, Kondabhattula Pavan Kumar, a resident of Kukatpally, allegedly extorted Rs 18 lakh through the scheme and cheated others of Rs 7.16 lakh through separate frauds, taking the total amount involved to Rs 25.16 lakh, police said. According to Charminar Zone DCP Khare Kiran Prabhakar, he interacted with more than 1,000 people using fake profiles, while 82 allegedly shared their explicit photographs or videos with the accused. The victims included doctors, businessmen, lecturers, private-sector employees, delivery personnel and gig workers. Nine victims were from other countries, including the UAE, Turkey, Pakistan and Canada, while 24 were from other Indian states, including Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Punjab. Speaking at a press meet on Monday, the DCP said Pavan operated 13 Instagram accounts and 14 Facebook accounts using different identities. He also used three mobile numbers and two WhatsApp accounts. Police found that he frequently used photographs of a woman from Kolkata, identified as 'Chandana', for the fake profiles. They have taken steps to alert her through her workplace and the local police in Kolkata.

Pavan allegedly sent friend and follow requests to users, posed as a woman and gradually steered conversations towards sexual content. After exchanging explicit photographs, he persuaded victims to share their own images and videos.

Breathing in Mumbai gets riskier; city leaps from 5th to 3rd most polluted in a week

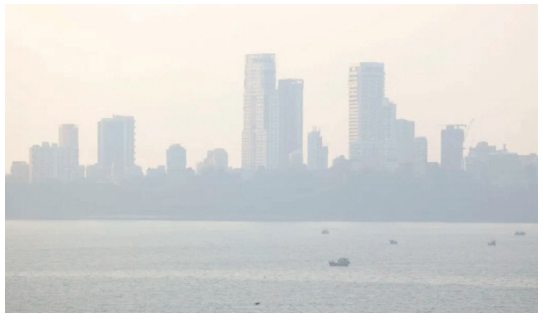
Mumbai.(Agency)

A week after Mumbai came fifth in the list of most polluted cities in the world, a latest ranking carried out by IQAir — an independent US-based global air quality assessment organisation has classified Mumbai as the third most polluted city globally, with an AQI reading of 166, in a list of 122 global cities. Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) topped the list with an AQI of 192, while Kolkata ranked second with an AQI of 170. In all three Indian cities, PM 2.5 has been identified as the primary pollutant.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on Monday showed Mumbai's AQI in the unhealthy category at 114. The CPCB dashboard also showed that 13 out of the 20 AQI monitors operational in Mumbai have shown unhealthy readings — Navy Nagar (Colaba) 158, Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) 156, Andheri East 145, Siddharth Nagar (Worli) 143 and Malad 138.

Civic officials said that unlike the state and central pollution boards, the sensors used by these private monitoring organisations record real-time AQI numbers by running averages. "Private monitoring organisations use hourly averages to show more recent changes. A sudden pollution spike may therefore show up sooner on a platform like IQAir," said additional municipal commissioner Avinash Dhakane, adding that most of them use sensors whose data source is confined within a short span of area only.

However, the monitors used by government bodies such as CPCB record ambient air at a given geographical location. "Private agencies combine data from government stations and other sources, including low-cost sensors.



Their city reading is based on the median of hourly station AQI values; therefore, they reflect a different mix of numbers for Mumbai, which will not be correct to compare," Dhakane said.

According to experts, rising pollution levels are a direct cause of the ongoing El-Niño — a naturally occurring climate pattern marked by the abnormal warming of surface waters in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Powerlifter Ashok clinches 65 kg silver at Asian Para Games

NAYOGA .(Agency)

India's Ashok (37), clinched the silver medal in the men's 65 kg powerlifting competition at the Asian Para Games in Nagoya on Tuesday (October 20, 2026). Ashok lifted a best of 192 kg to finish behind reigning Paralympic champion Zou Yi of China, who won gold with an effort of 216 kg. Indonesia's Margono took the bronze medal with 177 kg.Ashok opened with a successful 187 kg lift before



managing 192 kg in his second attempt. He failed to lift 201 kg in his final attempt.Para powerlifting is a bench press competition that tests upper body strength. It has only one discipline, but athletes compete in different weight categories. Athletes competing in powerlifting have an impairment in their hips or legs. Ashok, who hails from Gohana in Sonipat district, had contracted polio as a child.

Man City star Guehi says taking the knee has lost impact after opting against anti-racism gesture



MANCHESTER.(Agency)

KManchester City defender Marc Guehi believes the gesture of soccer players taking the knee before matches might have lost its impact and wants to see more done in the sport's fight against racism.

Guehi, who is Black, didn't take the knee prior to kickoff in City's home game against Ipswich in the Premier League on Saturday in the first of two rounds of games dedicated to the competition's "No Room For Racism" campaign.

It isn't the first time Guehi refused to perform the gesture, which was introduced in June 2020 to show support for the Black Lives Matter campaign.

Since the start of the 2022-23 season, the Premier League decided against taking the knee ahead of every match, with players instead invited to do so on certain occasions each season.Speaking Monday at a news conference the day before City's Champions League match against AEK Athens, Guehi said it was "great" that the Premier League's anti-racism campaign was continuing."Whether more can be done — more can always be done," he said. "We have to see how we can move the campaign along."I don't think it's necessarily a football issue. I think it's a wider societal issue and football is that beacon of hope to try to get the message out. But whether more can be done, we will try, hopefully with the PFA (English soccer's players union), with the league."

Asked whether taking the knee had lost its meaning, Guehi said: "Maybe. I haven't been taking the knee for a while now, to be honest. I'd always clap, just because of what that actually signifies."Guehi didn't go into more detail about his reasons for not taking the knee. Another player not performing the gesture at the weekend was Leeds striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin, who stood while his teammates and opposition players for Manchester United knelt.

Infantino set to take his FIFA re-election campaign to Japan to court Asian soccer federations

- This comes after Infantino apologized last week in Zurich, Switzerland, to FIFA's 37-member ruling council — which he chairs — for "mistakes" he made in assembling a now-scrapped USD 4.2 billion sell-off plan for the World Cup.operation had gone

New Delhi.(Agency)

Gianni Infantino's campaign for re-election as FIFA president is set to move this week to Japan and a meeting scheduled for Wednesday with the Asian Football Confederation.This comes after Infantino apologized last week in Zurich, Switzerland, to FIFA's 37-member ruling council — which he chairs — for "mistakes" he made in assembling a now-scrapped USD 4.2 billion sell-off plan for the World Cup.The council is the main decision-making body at FIFA with a global spread of officials.The planned meeting with Asian soccer leaders is to be held in a five-star hotel in Tokyo with the media largely excluded.Sheikh Salman bin Irahim Al Khalifa, the president of the AFC, expressed early opposition to Infantino and his plan to create a subsidiary to run the World Cup, but may have moved closer to Infantino, The Athletic has reported.Infantino has offered to critics an open, independent review of how FIFA makes its decisions.

Infantino is electioneering

An Associated Press tally indicates Infantino is close to landing the simple majority of the



211 FIFA member federations he needs to win re-election in March to a fourth term. Some of the deciding votes could some from Asia.

The AFC had joined the criticism of Infantino in the wake of the proposed World Cup sell-off, but its members appear far from united. Qatar, the 2022 World Cup host, has expressed support for the FIFA leader while Jordan has declared its opposition.The FIFA Council is scheduled to meet next on Dec. 16 in Doha, Qatar.The Associated Press count shows 87 of the 211 FIFA Member federations have indicated support for Infantino – either in individual comments or by endorsing statements of support by their regional confederations. The largest block of opposition comes from Europe.

The FIFA voting system

No sitting FIFA president has lost an election since 1974. The deadline for a candidate to file against Infantino is Nov. 18.FIFA rules state candidates must have "played an active role in association football (e.g. as a player or an official within FIFA, a confederation or an association, etc.) for two of the last five years before being proposed." They must have "declarations of support" from at least five of the 211 members."FIFA is a massive patronage network," Jules Boykoff, a political scientist at Pacific University and a former professional soccer player.

Australian umpire Ben Treloar to officiate 2 Ranji Trophy matches in India

New Delhi.(Agency)

Australian umpire Ben Treloar will officiate in two Ranji Trophy matches in India as part of a cricket officials' exchange programme between the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and Cricket Australia. In a reciprocal arrangement, Indian umpire Parashar Joshi will travel to Australia to officiate in two Sheffield Shield matches and one One Day Cup fixture.Treloar's India assignment will begin with Delhi's Ranji Trophy match against Gujarat, scheduled from October 18 to 21. He will then officiate in Mumbai's clash against Haryana from October 26 to 29.The Australian brings considerable domestic experience to the programme, having stood in 30 first-class matches, 20 List A games and 39 Big Bash League fixtures. He has also officiated in two women's One Day Internationals and four women's T20 Internationals

Beyond his on-field duties, Treloar serves as Cricket New South Wales' Umpire Education Officer, working towards the development of upcoming match officials. His contribution to umpire education has earned him four George Borwick Memorial Awards from the New South Wales Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association.Joshi, meanwhile, will begin his Australian stint with Queensland's Sheffield Shield fixture against Tasmania at the Gabba from November 11 to 14. He will return to the same venue for the teams' One Day Cup match on November 16 before officiating in the Sheffield Shield clash between New South Wales and Queensland at the Sydney Cricket



Ground from November 22 to 25.Joshi has officiated in 19 first-class matches, 32 List A games and 40 T20 fixtures in India, including matches in the Indian Premier League and the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

2016: WHEN AN AUSTRALIAN UMPIRE FELL ILL

The exchange programme has not always gone entirely to plan. In November 2016, Australian umpire Sam Nogajski was hospitalised during his first Ranji Trophy assignment after falling ill on the morning of the second day's play in the match between Uttar Pradesh and Mumbai in Mysuru.Nogajski complained of stomach pain and loose motions and was admitted to a local hospital early that morning. Doctors reportedly diagnosed dehydration and advised him to rest, ruling him out of the remainder of the match.With Nogajski unavailable, Indian umpire Virender Sharma had to officiate from both ends.

Who is Deepthi Jeevanji? India's para-athletics golden girl shines again in Nagoya

Nagoya.(Agency)

Deepthi Jeevanji did not settle for a record in the heats. The Indian runner returned to the track in Nagoya on Tuesday and went faster when it mattered, clocking 56.36 seconds to win the women's 400m T20 gold at the 2026 Asian Para Games. The 23-year-old from Telangana also set a new Games record.

Jeevanji had clocked 57.57 seconds in the heats, setting an Asian Para Games record before improving by more than a second in the final. Japan's Niina Kanno finished second in 58.92 seconds, while compatriot Akane Kato took bronze in 1:00.26. Jeevanji's gold was India's first of the day and fifth overall at the Games.

ASIAN PARA GAMES 2026, OCTOBER 20: UPDATES

The win adds to the growing list of achievements for an athlete who has risen quickly through international para athletics. She won the 400m T20 title at the 2023 Asian Para Games, became a world champion in 2024 and claimed bronze at the Paris Paralympics that year.

HOW DID DEEPTHI JEEVANJI RISE THROUGH THE RANKS?

Jeevanji's journey began when she was 15. Sports Authority of India coach N Ramesh spotted her at a state-level athletics meet in Telangana and began training her. She won bronze at the 2019 Asian Youth Championships in Hong Kong before collecting two gold medals, in the 100m and 200m, at the 2020 Khelo India Youth Games.

Her breakthrough on the senior international stage came at the 2023 Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, where she won the 400m T20 gold with Games and Asian records. She followed that with gold at the 2024 World Para Athletics Championships in Kobe, Japan, clocking 55.07 seconds in a world-record performance at the time.Later that year, she won bronze in the 400m T20 at the Paris Paralympics, becoming the first Indian athlete with an intellectual impairment to win a Paralympic medal. Those performances established her



among India's leading para-athletes and set the stage for her return to the Asian Para Games in Nagoya.

The heats offered an early indication of Jeevanji's form, but she was even quicker in the final. Her 56.36-second finish put clear distance between her and Kanno, who crossed the line more than two seconds later.

Why not Krunal Pandya Can all-rounder follow in the footsteps of RCB teammate Bhuvi

- Krunal Pandya's consistent IPL performances have strengthened his case for an India comeback, with Sunil Gavaskar and Murali Kartik backing merit over age. But can the RCB all-rounder break through and make

New Delhi.(Agency)

When the debate over Bhuvneshwar Kumar's return to the Indian team gathered momentum, it sparked a familiar conversation among fans: which other experienced stars deserve another shot at the national colours?

Mohammed Shami was among the names that came up repeatedly. After putting in the hard yards on the domestic circuit, the veteran pacer has made a compelling case for consideration. But his international future rests with India's new selection committee, which will have to decide whether he fits into its plans.Recent selections suggest that the selectors are not afraid to make bold calls. Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer returned to the domestic fold and continued to make their presence felt in the IPL, earning their way back into India's plans. Shreyas is now leading a side being built towards the defence of its T20 World Cup title in 2028. Bhuvneshwar's return, meanwhile, showed that experience still counts and age need not be a barrier.The Royal Challengers Bengaluru all-rounder has quietly built a strong case for himself in the IPL. Even Sunil Gavaskar has backed the idea of picking players on merit rather than letting age dictate



selection, describing Krunal as one of the smartest cricketers in India at the moment."He's an outstanding cricketer and I do believe that if you want to win the World Cups, you just go with the guys who you think will win thDon't look at their age. That's not the point. If they're playing in the IPL, they're fit. If they're playing, domestic cricket, they are fit and if they've performed in that, you pick them in the India team. That's how you should go about it," said Gavaskar.The question, then, is whether Krunal can turn his IPL performances into an India comeback. To assess his chances, we spoke to former India spinner Murali Kartik, who believes the 35-year-old should not be ruled out simply because of his age.

WHY NOT KRUNAL?

Krunal's numbers offer a strong starting point for his case. Across 158 IPL matches, he has taken 107 wickets at an economy rate of 7.57. But his recent performances suggest there is more to his game than those career figures alone.After a few decent seasons with Lucknow Super Giants, Krunal took on a bigger responsibility at RCB: leading the spin attack. He responded with 31 wickets in 31 matches across the last two seasons, showcasing an ability to adapt his bowling to the demands of the format.e World Cup."His evolution has been particularly interesting. Krunal has mixed in quicker bouncers to unsettle batters with slower, flatter deliveries designed to deny them room and disrupt their rhythm. It is an approach built around variation, control and the ability to stay one step ahead of the batter.That tactical flexibility helped him deliver an economy rate of 8.41 across the last two IPL seasons, according to the figures cited for this story. It was better than the corresponding figures for established spinners such as Varun Chakravarthy, Rashid Khan and Kuldeep Yadav.

For Kartik, the bigger point is that Krunal's age should not overshadow what he is delivering in the present.

The call that mattered most after Chinmay Sutar's historic 400 in Ranji Trophy

MILAN.(Agency)

The tears came after the runs, the milestone and the history. For Chinmay Sutar, though, the most important moment of a day that changed his cricketing life had little to do with the record books. It was a



phone call to his father, Rajesh.

As Sutar sat unbeaten on 400 for Mizoram against Nagaland in the Ranji Trophy Plate Group on Monday, he had become only the second Indian batter to score a quadruple century in first-class cricket. But when the day's play ended, it was not the numbers that occupied his mind. It was the person who had stood by him through the disappointments that preceded them."The first person I called after the day's play was my father. It was a big milestone, and I wanted to share it first with my dad," Sutar told from Sovima, Nagaland.

"He has been a big supporter of mine from early years."A FATHER'S UNWAVERING SUPPORT

The emotion was understandable. For a cricketer whose journey had been marked by missed opportunities, the achievement was more than a remarkable innings. It was a moment of vindication, shared first with the person who had urged him to keep believing when the chances he wanted did not come.Rajesh, who played seven first-class matches for Mumbai, understood the demands of the game. More importantly, he had remained a constant source of support when his son struggled to find opportunities in his home state.

Don't Mind People Saying That'

Ishita Dutta

On Getting Films Due To Connection With Ajay Devgn



Ishita Dutta Sheth marked her Bollywood debut with Drishyam in 2015 and that's how developed a personal equation with both Ajay Devgn and Kajol. Ajay, in fact, who had worked with her husband Vatsal Sheth on Tarzan: The Wonder Car, played matchmaker for the couple. Over the years, Ishita worked with him on other instalments of Drishyam and De De Pyaar De 2 (DDPD 2).But she does believe that she bagged these opportunities because of the connection she shares with Ajay? "I can't change the perception. Drishyam is a franchise. If I do the first film, I'll have to do the others. I auditioned for DDPD 2. Luv (Ranjan; producer) sir had called Vatsal. The same person, Vicky (Sidana) ji, who cast me for Drishyam cast me for DDPD 2," she tells News18 exclusively."I, honestly, don't know where the recommendation comes from. All I know is that they had given me a script, I auditioned, they liked it and that's how I got all the parts. To be honest, I don't mind people saying that I got these films because of my connection with the Devgns. And even if I did get those offers because of this reason, I think it's okay," Ishita adds.Beyond the equation she shares with Ajay, she credits both him and Drishyam 3: The Conclusion director Abhishek Pathak for creating a conducive environment for her on the sets during a significant phase of her personal life – her second postpartum. "Abhishek called me up and told me that we'll start shooting in two-three months," the Ghamasaan and Rishton Ka Saudagar – Baazigar actor recalls.



Ishita further coninues, "By that time, I was fully pregnant with my second baby, ready to deliver in three-four months. I told him that we'll have to change the script. I was worried as to how I would look like Shriya's (Saran) kid in the film! Looking her daughter is a task. It's my biggest stress. We look like sisters because we're closer in age in real life."

She recalls how the team scheduled the shoot around her convenience and tells us, "Somehow, I managed to start the shoot four months after delivering my daughter. Abhishek told me not to worry and that I could get my baby to the set. They were ready to figure everything around my schedule. They made sure that my Goa schedule is for lesser number of days."'But I didn't take my daughter there because that would be like disrupting the whole family. I took breaks, went to Goa for a couple of days, shot and then came back.

Tiger Shroff Attack: Rumoured Ex-Girlfriend Disha Patani Visits Actor After Juhu Firing Incident



Actress Disha Patani was spotted arriving at Tiger Shroff's residence after news of the firing incident involving the actor in Mumbai's Juhu area broke. Disha, who was rumoured to have dated Tiger for several years, was seen visiting him after three unidentified men allegedly opened fire at his car on Sunday evening, October 18.Tiger escaped without any gunshot injuries, but his driver and another person were injured in the incident. Disha's visit comes amid concerns over the actor's well-being following the frightening incident.

What Happened To Tiger Shroff In Mumbai's Juhu?

Tiger Shroff was allegedly shot at by three motorcycle-borne men near Pushpa Park in Mumbai's Juhu area on Sunday evening. The incident took place around 7 pm as the actor was leaving a football ground after playing a match.The attackers allegedly opened fire at Tiger Shroff's car as he was leaving the area. Tiger escaped unhurt, but his driver, identified as Firdaus, sustained a gunshot injury to his hand. Another person, an autorickshaw driver, was also injured. Both were taken to hospitals for treatment.Mumbai Police confirmed that Tiger had not sustained any gunshot injuries. He reportedly suffered minor abrasions. Police teams are examining CCTV footage and investigating the incident to identify the attackers.Meanwhile, a social media post and a voice message purportedly linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang claimed responsibility for the attack. However, the authenticity of the claims and the gang's involvement have not been independently established.

Disha Patani And Tiger Shroff's Relationship Timeline

Disha Patani and Tiger Shroff were rumoured to be dating for many years. The two were often spotted together at dinner outings, parties and holidays. However, neither of them ever confirmed their relationship publicly. Disha is also a friend of Tiger's sister, Krishna.Their rumoured relationship dates back to around 2016. They later starred together in the 2018 film Baaghi 2.

Varun Dhawan Celebrates Kanjak With Little Girls, Shares Heartwarming Navratri Picture



Actor Varun Dhawan marked the festive occasion of Navratri by spending time with a group of children and sharing a heartfelt festive greeting.Taking to his social media account, the actor posted a picture of himself sitting on the floor with little girls, who were seen drawing and colouring. Varun held up a handmade greeting card that read "Happy Navratri".Dressed casually, the actor was seen smiling alongside the children as they worked on their artwork, with sheets of paper, crayons and colouring supplies spread around them. Sharing the picture, Varun wrote in Hindi, which further translated in English reads, "Heartfelt Navratri wishes to all of you."

Varun, who enjoys a strong following on social media, frequently shares glimpses of his personal and professional life with his fans.On the professional front, the actor has been part of many popular films, including 'Badlapur', 'Badrinath Ki Dulhania', 'October', 'Jugjugg Jeeyo' and 'Bhediya'. He was also seen in the action thriller 'Baby John'.

Varun Dhawan, who married fashion designer Natasha Dalal in January 2021, welcomed their daughter, Lara, in June 2024.The actor has spoken about the special place his daughter holds in his life, describing her arrival as Goddess Lakshmi coming into his home.His strong family values were also evident at the trailer launch of his upcoming film 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai', where his father, filmmaker David Dhawan, became emotional while speaking about him.David had praised Varun for being a caring son and recalled how the actor stood by him during his health struggles, even sleeping beside him in the hospital.



Dia Mirza

Reveals Deewaanapan Was The First Film She Shot, Not Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein

Dia Mirza's first film as an actor was not Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein, the 2001 romantic drama that marked her Bollywood debut. The actor recently revealed that she had already signed two other films before starring opposite R Madhavan in the Gautham Vasudev Menon directorial, with Deewaanapan being the first film she shot for.

Speaking on Screen Spotlight, Dia recalled how her film career began with offers she had not expected so soon after winning the Miss India Asia Pacific pageant. Her first film signing was Om Jai Jagdish, followed by Deewaanapan, before producer Vashu Bhagnani offered her Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein.

Dia Mirza Shot For Deewaanapan Before Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein

Dia's first film offer came when director Anupam Kher and actor Anil Kapoor were in Hyderabad for a shoot. They spotted her in the lobby of their hotel, where she was celebrating her homecoming after winning the beauty pageant, and offered her a role in Om Jai Jagdish.

Dia was unsure about beginning her acting career immediately after the pageant. However, Kher and Kapoor were willing to wait as the film was scheduled to go on floors later. Convincing her parents was the next step. "Mr. Kher very generously called my parents, came home, and convinced them to allow me to be a part of the film," recalled Dia.After moving from Hyderabad to Mumbai, Dia received Rs 11,000 from Kher as a token amount. She used the money to buy the first pieces of furniture for her new home.While preparing for Om Jai Jagdish, Dia attended workshops with veteran theatre director Feroz Abbas Khan. It was during this period that producer Vashu Bhagnani offered her Deewaanapan, an action romance directed by Ashu Trikha and released in 2001.

Vashu Bhagnani Offered Dia Mirza Three Films

After completing the shoot of Deewaanapan, Dia returned to preparing for Om Jai Jagdish.



Bhagnani then offered her another film, this time Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein, which also released in 2001.The actor said she was surprised by how quickly the offers came, especially as she was still getting used to the demands of film shoots. "And I thought to myself, 'What's happening to me? I haven't even finished one film, and am about to start a third one.' Without it being officially a three-film deal, it ended up being that.

Gold mine collapse kills at least 14 in southwest Colombia

BOGOTA.(Agency)

At least 14 miners were killed Monday when an open pit gold mine operating with no permits collapsed in a remote corner of Colombia's Nariño province, regional authorities said..In a statement, Nariño's government said that an additional seven people were injured in the mining accident near the small town of Santa Barbara de Iscuande, adding that search efforts had ended Monday night. "This emergency once again highlights the risks associated with informal mining," the statement said. "In less than three months, two collapsed mines in Nariño have killed 27 people."Santa Barbara de Iscuande is surrounded by dense rainforest and can only be reached by boat or small aircraft, which make it difficult for aid workers to reach the area."Entire families have been killed in this regrettable accident. It is very sad," said Nariño's governor, Luis Alfonso Escobar.Hundreds of small mines in Colombia operate without government permits and some are controlled by rebel groups.Besides being difficult to reach, Santa Barbara de Iscuande also faces security problems.Two rebel groups reportedly operate in the area, including the Jacobo Arenas Block, a group led by former members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) who refused to join a 2016 peace deal with Colombia's government.

US Bars Government Agencies From Using China's DeepSeek

world.(Agency)

The US government on Monday ordered its agencies to stop using artificial intelligence tools from Chinese startup DeepSeek, as the countries race for dominance in the fast-moving sector.

A notice from the Department of Homeland Security announced the ban on products developed by DeepSeek -- and tools created using DeepSeek by third parties -- saying they must be removed from IT devices.The department can issue direction to civilian agencies, but not the military or intelligence services.

Washington's Department of Defense did not respond to an AFP request for comment.

"DeepSeek's models present multiple threat vectors," said a document attached to Monday's notice.Use of DeepSeek AI tools "may result in the transfer of sensitive data to (China) if used by US government employees or vendors," the department warned.

Trump Says Zelensky Should Get "Somebody Else" To Negotiate To End War



world.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump on Monday said he thought someone other than Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy should negotiate on Kyiv's behalf as it seeks to end the war with Russia."Maybe it's time for Zelenskiy to get somebody else to negotiate," said Trump, who on October 10 had called for Ukraine to replace the President. Trump also told reporters that Russia has been "fine" with regards to Ukraine. "They haven't been doing much," he said.Trump added that the US continued to share intelligence with Ukraine and said he would consider allowing Ukrainians to stay in the US under temporary protected status until the war ended.

Short of funds, UN food agency cuts aid to 500,000 Palestinians in Gaza and 200,000 in the West Bank

- **WFP chief Carl Skau urged donors to provide $450 million to restore food aid and deliver hot meals and food parcels in Gaza and the West Bank for six months.**



KYIV.(Agency)

The United Nations has cut food assistance to 500,000 Palestinians in Gaza and 200,000 in the West Bank due to a serious funding shortage, the head of the U.N. food agency said Monday.ll not obstruct the process.Carl Skau, acting head of the World Food Program, urged the international community to provide $450 million so the agency could restore the cut assistance and provide hot meals and food parcels in Gaza and the West Bank for the next six months.

Because of the money shortage, the number of people receiving assistance was reduced this month from 1.6 million to 1.1 million in Gaza and from 400,000 to 200,000 in the West Bank, he said.Skau, who had just visited both territories, told U.N. correspondents in a video briefing from Jerusalem that life in Gaza remains "absolutely brutal" and incredibly dangerous, with U.N. teams recording about 50 attacks per day in the past week.Nonetheless, he said that since last October's ceasefire between Israel and Hamas "we have been able to push back on famine." But an estimated 1.4 million people — or 67% of the population — are still experiencing "acute food insecurity at crisis levels or worse," with around 200,000 requiring immediate food aid to prevent death from hunger, according to WFP.Skau said WFP will now prioritize food to those most in need — the sick, mothers and children at risk of malnutrition, and people closest to the "yellow line" dividing where Israeli forces remain and Palestinians can live.Adding to the difficulties, the Israeli military last week halted the shipment of commercial goods, including food, into Gaza. It said Monday it would resume coordinating the entry of commercial trucks into Gaza, but warned that future reports of merchants paying taxes to Hamas would lead to their licenses being revoked.In the West Bank, Skau said, escalating attacks by Israeli settlers have turned what used to be a human rights and protection crisis "into a hunger crisis, because food insecurity has more than doubled in the last three years." He said almost a million Palestinians there now need food assistance.During his visit Skau said he saw burned down olive fields, camps and villages.

Iran foreign minister says Russia, Iran have 'never' worked so closely

IRAN.(Agency)

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tuesday that Russia and Iran have "never" worked so closely, as Moscow seeks to play a mediating role in the Middle East warAraghchi hosted his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Iran on Monday, in his first visit since the outbreak of the conflic."We covered everything from Europe to West Asia, including Lebanon, Palestine, Ukraine and Yemen. Also focused on expansion of economic and nuclear cooperation," Araghchi wrote on X."Never in our history have Iran and Russia worked as closely as now."Lavrov said ahead of the visit that Moscow's efforts "aimed at preventing the return of a large-scale war", with talks stalled between the United States and Iran.His visit came after Russian President Vladimir Putin told his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian this month that Moscow was



prepared to contribute to mediation efforts.Russia and Iran, two of the most heavily sanctioned nations in the world, maintain close ties.The Middle East war erupted in February with US-Israeli strikes on Iran. A ceasefire in April and a US-Iran memorandum of understanding in June have failed to stop fighting in and around the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran claims control over the strategic waterway -- through which one-fifth of the world's oil passes in normal times -- and regularly targets vessels that cross without its authorisation.In response, Washington has been maintaining a naval counter-blockade on Iranian ports.The Russian foreign ministry said ahead of Lavrov's visit to Iran that discussions were expected to focus on "ways to resolve the acute international crisis triggered by the unlawful aggression of the US and Israel" against the Islamic republic.

The ministry said the war had been a blow to stability and security "not only in the near and Middle East, but also on a global scale".

'I Know It's Risky But...': Sheikh Hasina Narrows Bangladesh Return Date

Dhaka.(Agency)

Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reiterated her intention of returning to her country in December, even if the current Tarique Rahman-led government "arrests, kills or tortures" her. Hasina, who fled Bangladesh following the collapse of her government in August 2024, said her return might expose her to imprisonment or violence but argued that political responsibility required her to stand alongside her supporters.Addressing a Washington-based press conference virtually, the former premier said it was her responsibility to return to Bangladesh and that the dangers surrounding it would not deter her."I will go back to Bangladesh in December. I am not afraid. I know they can kill me, arrest me and torture me...It's my responsibility to go," she said, without giving the exact date for her return."How risky it is, I don't care. I have to go back," Hasina added.Her son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, subsequently told journalists that no date had been fixed and that an announcement would be made closer to the time.Hasina's Thank You Note To IndiaThe Awami League leader has been living in India since her removal from power. She also thanked the Indian government and people for receiving her and providing refuge during a period of political upheaval.Well, thanks to the Indian government and the people, all party, they received me just like in 1975," she said, recalling the period when she and her sister survived the assassination of several members of their family.

A Promise Of Return

She also mentioned several earlier episodes in her political career when she returned to Bangladesh despite threats to her safety, including her return in 1981 after years abroad following the assassination of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and other family members in 1975 and her decision to return during the political emergency in 2007.

India voices concern over UN's liquidity situation in 2026, says unpaid assessment at unacceptably high levels

UNITED NATIONS.(Agency)

India has voiced concern over the "challenging" liquidity situation of the United Nations this year, as it called out the "unacceptably high levels" of unpaid assessments owed by just one member state."We consider that full, timely and unconditional payment of assessed contribution is the Charter obligation of every Member State," Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN Surendra Adhana said here Monday.

Adhana delivered India's national statement at the 81st Main Session of the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly on 'Improving the financial situation of the United Nations'.

"We note with concern that the liquidity situation in 2026 remained challenging due to the collection uncertainties and low cash balance," he said.

"While we have noted the marginal drop in the regular budget unpaid assessment to USD 1.46 billion from the USD 1.87 billion a year ago, the reality is that the unpaid assessment continued to remain at unacceptably high levels, and over 90 per cent of the regular budget arrears are owed by one member state," he said.The US is the single largest financial contributor to the UN, paying 22 per cent of the regular budget and 27 per cent of the peacekeeping budget.

In September, Washington paid USD 725 million to the UN regular budget and an additional USD 102 million for peacekeeping. But the US still owes the UN over USD 4 billion for its regular budget and peacekeeping arrears.Adhana noted that the respite resulting from a strong collection in the third quarter needs to be sustained. India welcomed that 141 member states had paid in full their assessment by September 30 this year compared to 136 member states last year.

India also voiced concern over the financial situation in UN peacekeeping, describing it as "more worrisome".

Adhana noted that unpaid assessments for UN peacekeeping reached USD 4.

Japan launches spacecraft to mysterious moons of Mars in a bold mission to bring home soil samples

world.(Agency)

A Japanese spacecraft rocketed toward Mars on Tuesday on a quest to explore its mysterious moons and bring back samples.

Five of the world's space agencies joined forces for the five-year mission that will attempt to land a robotic prospector plus a rover on Phobos, the larger and closer of Mars' two pint-sized moons.The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, which is leading the bold sampling effort, launched the spacecraft before



dawn from the country's main spaceport on Tanegashima Island. Officials declared success an hour later when the spacecraft separated as planned from the rocket's upper stage. Flight controllers burst into applause and jumped to their feet, shaking hands and embracing.

No one has managed to get samples from Mars or its moons yetWhile NASA has successfully landed nine spacecraft on Mars over the past 50 years and China scored a 2021 touchdown, no one has ever reached Phobos or its sidekick Deimos. And no one has managed to fetch samples from Mars, let alone its moons.If successful, bits of dust, soil and rocks from Phobos will arrive on Earth in 2031."There's a lot of adrenaline and a lot of excitement and a lot of wow," said NASA astrophysicist Tom Statler, who's involved with the project.

Japan has an edge going in, with two asteroid sample returns already under its cosmic belt.).

Mars' moon Phobos is a lumpy, little rock

Phobos is a lumpy, potato-shaped rock just 22 kilometers (14 miles) or so across. Examining pieces of it can explain how Mars' moons — and possibly moons elsewhere — came to be.

Dubbed MMX for Martian Moons Exploration, the $578 million mission features a hefty 5-ton spacecraft that should reach Mars by late next summer. It will sync up with Phobos' tight orbit around the red planet, before ejecting the French-German rover that's named Idefix after the white terrier in the Asterix comics.No bigger than a microwave oven, Idefix will plop onto Phobos by itself, bouncing for several minutes before coming to a halt in the moon's extraordinarily low gravity.

What happens after European Idefix rover lands

The four-wheeled rover is designed to right itself if it lands upside down. All bets are off, though, if it sinks into soft soil or gets wedged between rocks, said the French Space Agency's Julien Baroukh. Once the rover's solar panels are deployed, the vehicle can no longer right itself, he added, which is why it will move at a glacial 1 millimeter per second (0.04 inches per second).

Explained: How France's Worst Civil Unrest In Years Unfolded

world.(Agency)

More protests could be in store. High school and university student organizations called for more demonstrations Thursday and Saturday. The National High School Student Coordination group urged young people to "take to the streets" and backed continued blockades and demonstrations.

A group of activists seeking to revive the 2018 "yellow vest" movement against perceived social injustices also announced nationwide demonstrations planned for Saturday under the slogan "Macron must go.".The damage was comparable to the yellow vest protests at their peak, said Sebastian Roche, a research professor at the Sciences Po Grenoble political institute who studies policing.The movement, initially driven by opposition to fuel tax increases, brought repeated demonstrations against Macron's government. Some demonstrations turned violent, with cars burned, shops looted and the Arc de Triomphe vandalized during clashes in Paris."In terms of destruction and damage, it is probably close to the first two weekends of December 2018," Roche said.In June 2023, the police killing of a 17-year-old outside Paris also triggered days of nationwide unrest. Rioters looted shops and torched public buildings. Thousands were arrested and hundreds were injured.France also experienced three weeks of rioting in 2005, prompting the government to declare a state of emergency.What sets this latest unrest apart, argued Roche, who has studied policing and violence for more than 30 years, are the injuries from police weapons."We have a toll that has not been seen in the past 40 years," he said. Roche said six people, including minors, had been maimed in three weeks of protests, losing hands or eyes.Police have drawn sharp scrutiny over their use of grenades and other riot-control "There is no other country in Europe where the police maim protesters as much," Roche said, citing university databases that rank Spain a distant second.Authorities repeatedly blamed some of the violence on groups of "far-left radicals," followed by groups of criminals who see an opportunity for looting. Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu described "disorder organized in an unprecedented way."eapons during recent demonstrations.However, Roche said the far-left fringe was too small and loosely organized to account alone for violence on this scale. French intelligence services estimate the movement at around 3,000 people across its various factions, which lack formal structures, he said.Violent far-left activists and looters also pursue different targets, Roche noted.The activists typically attack symbols of capitalism and the global economy, such as banks and McDonald's restaurants.