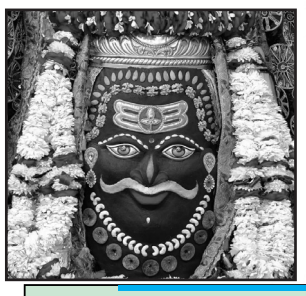
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CM Naidu to meet PM Modi in Delhi, seek Visakha Metro approval, El Nino aid

New Delhi. (Agency)

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu will begin a two-day visit to New Delhi on Wednesday, during which he is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi to seek approvals for the Visakhapatnam Metro Rail project and the beach corridor. He is also expected to seek special financial assistance for the state in view of the prevailing El Nino situation, according to an official release. Naidu will also meet several



Union ministers during the visit and take part in a Confederation of Indian Industry event on Thursday. The release said he will return to Amaravati late on Thursday. "Naidu to meet Prime Minister in Delhi for approval of Visakha metro rail project and beach corridor. CM to seek special financial assistance from the Prime Minister with prevailing El Nino impact in Andhra Pradesh," the release said.

Daro mat: DMK asks Rahul Gandhi to break silence on Tamil Nadu SIR voter deletions

Chennai. (Agency)

The DMK on Wednesday renewed its demand that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi break his "silence" on alleged large-scale voter deletions in Tamil Nadu, citing a media report that it said showed the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise had significantly affected the outcome of the 2026 Assembly election. In a post on X, DMK spokesperson Saravanan Annadurai drew a contrast with Gandhi's remarks on Bihar, where he



had alleged that elections were "stolen". Annadurai's comments came a day after INDIA bloc leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, marched from Parliament to the Election Commission office in Delhi and demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the SIR process. Taking a direct swipe at Gandhi with the phrase "Daro Math!" Annadurai said the Congress leader had spoken forcefully about Bihar but remained silent on developments in Tamil Nadu. Referring to the media report, he claimed that the SIR exercise had altered election results in the state. "Most notably, among the 135 constituencies where more than 20,000 voters were deleted, TVK won 84. In the 10 constituencies with more than 80,000 deletions, TVK won all 10," Annadurai claimed.

Yogi Adityanath sounds 2027 battle cry, UP Rajya Sabha contest sets election tone

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath claimed the "80 versus 20" contest had returned, with 80 per cent of the electorate backing the NDA and 20 per cent with the opposition's PDA.

New Delhi . (Agency)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday linked the latest Rajya Sabha contest in the state to the 2027 Assembly elections, saying it had set the tone for the bigger political battle ahead. He claimed the "80 versus 20" contest had returned, with 80 per cent of the electorate backing the NDA and 20 per cent with the opposition's PDA.

His remarks came a day after eight BJP candidates and two Samajwadi Party nominees filed papers for 10 Rajya Sabha seats from Uttar Pradesh. With the SP not fielding a third candidate, all 10 nominees are set to be elected unopposed, subject to the completion of the electoral process.

Addressing the "Seva Jyoti Yatra-Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha" in Lucknow, Adityanath said, "The Rajya Sabha election (nominations) in Uttar Pradesh showed what the result of the Assembly election is going to be. The 80 versus 20 fight has returned. Eighty per cent are with the NDA and 20 per cent with the PDA, and what is going to happen to the PDA will again be before you." He had earlier said that 80 per cent of voters supported good governance under the BJP while 20 per cent would be on the opposite



side. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav had earlier hinted at fielding a third candidate. But on the last date for filing nominations on Tuesday, he said his party's focus was not on three seats but on the 403 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh. Yadav had earlier said the party would field a third candidate once it had secured the required numbers. The BJP candidates who filed their nominations on Tuesday are Dharampal Singh, Prakash Pal, Shruti Gangwar, Vidya Sagar Sonkar, Priyanka Singh Rawat, Radhakant Ojha, Gopi Krishna Pandey and Ram Pratap Singh Chauhan.

The SP has nominated veteran leader Ram Gopal Yadav and Reliance Industries executive Dhanraj Parimal Nathwani. The Rajya Sabha elections are scheduled for October 16, while the terms of the sitting members from the 10 Uttar Pradesh seats will end on November 25.The BJP's list includes three OBC leaders, two Dalit leaders, two Brahmins and one Thakur, reflecting an effort to maintain broad social and regional representation ahead of the 2027 Assembly polls. The SP, meanwhile, has built its political narrative around PDA — "Pichhda, Dalit, Alpsankhyak" — as its social coalition for the 2027 election. In sum, the Rajya Sabha nominations have sharpened the political messaging of both sides well before the next Assembly contest.

Diwali Should Bring Happiness to Every Household, and the Hard Work of Municipal Sanitation and Other Employees Must Also Be Honored: Congress Raises Strong Demand Before Nadiad Municipal Corporation

Mahanagar Metro Desk

GUJARAT: With the festival of Diwali approaching, the issue of the financial rights and welfare of municipal employees has come into sharp focus in Nadiad. While preparations for the festival are underway across the city, questions are being raised over whether the employees who work tirelessly throughout the year to maintain civic services will receive their legally entitled bonus on time.Municipal sanitation workers, administrative staff, field employees and workers engaged through contractual and outsourcing agencies play an important role in keeping the city functioning. From maintaining cleanliness on roads and in public areas to handling various civic responsibilities, these employees continue to perform their duties even during difficult circumstances and on occasions when most people are celebrating with their families.Against this backdrop, Hardik Bhatt, Corporator from Ward No. 12 of Nadiad Municipal Corporation and President of the Nadiad City Congress Committee, has submitted a strong representation to the municipal administration regarding the timely payment of Diwali bonuses to eligible employees.Bhatt has demanded that all legally eligible employees of Nadiad Municipal Corporation should receive their statutory bonus well before the festival. He has specifically emphasized that employees working under contractual and outsourcing arrangements should also be considered for the benefits to which they are legally entitled. According to the demand, the bonus should be paid at least 20 days before Diwali so that employees can make necessary preparations and celebrate the festival with their families.Bhatt stated that the employees who work throughout the year for the people of Nadiad deserve respect not only through words but also through timely implementation of their financial rights. Sanitation workers, in particular, remain on duty during early morning hours, late nights, public holidays and festive occasions to ensure that the city remains clean and hygienic.Many such employees are unable to spend adequate time with their families because of the nature of their work. Despite this, they continue to perform their responsibilities so that citizens can receive uninterrupted civic services. Therefore, ensuring that their legitimate bonus and other financial benefits are paid on time is an important responsibility of the municipal administration.The Congress has also questioned the possibility of delays in bonus payments and has urged the municipal authorities to take immediate steps instead of waiting until the last moment. The demand is that the administration should identify all eligible employees, complete the necessary administrative process and ensure that the bonus reaches them well before Diwali.Bhatt further warned that if the legitimate financial rights of municipal employees are ignored or payments are unnecessarily delayed, the Congress party will not remain silent. He made it clear that the party is prepared to intensify its agitation if the municipal administration fails to take appropriate action within the required timeframe.The issue has also brought attention to the condition of workers engaged through contractual and outsourcing systems. These employees frequently perform duties similar to those of regular municipal workers but may face uncertainty regarding employment conditions, payments and other benefits. The Congress has therefore demanded that legally eligible workers from these categories should also receive the benefits due to them without unnecessary administrative delays.



Kharge calls INDIA bloc lunch after Rahul Gandhi detention over vote chori protest

Mallikarjun Kharge will host INDIA bloc MPs for lunch at 1.30 pm in Sagar Ratna, Janpath. The meeting is expected to shape the opposition's next move and sharpen its demand for the CEC's resignation.

New Delhi . (Agency)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will host a lunch for INDIA bloc MPs in Delhi today, a day after the opposition's protest march and Rahul Gandhi's sit-in



over the "vote chori" issue. The meeting is expected to help the alliance decide its immediate next steps as it steps up its campaign and presses its demand for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation. Sources said Kharge will host the lunch for INDIA bloc MPs at 1.30 pm at Sagar Ratna on Janpath. The meeting comes after a day of protests led by the opposition, with Rahul Gandhi taking centre stage in a demonstration that led to a lockdown of Parliament Street and ended with his detention. Tuesday's high drama began around 11 am when opposition MPs marched from Parliament House over the "vote chori" allegation amid heavy police barricading. While most opposition MPs were detained and stopped from moving ahead, Rahul Gandhi, along with other Congress MPs including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, entered the Akashvani Bhawan premises, about 200 metres from the Election Commission office, insisting that they be allowed to meet the election commissioners. The sit-in began around noon and continued for more than eight hours. It ended after 8 pm when a large number of police personnel forcibly removed Gandhi and others and put them into police vans and buses as the MPs resisted.

Dhappa: How Rahul Gandhi's new protest trick is keeping cops on their toes

Rahul Gandhi and the Congress led a surprise eight-hour siege of the Akashwani Bhawan during their protest against CEC Gyanesh Kumar. It is the third time in the past two months that Rahul has caught the police off guard with his impromptu sit-ins.

Patna (Agency).

The route from Parliament to the Election Commission headquarters was heavily barricaded. Police and paramilitary personnel were ready. But then came Rahul Gandhi's 'dhappa'. Joined by Priyanka Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition led a surprise eight-hour siege of the Akashwani Bhawan as the Congress stepped up its protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged SIR irregularities.

It is for the third time over the past two months that Rahul caught the police and, to some extent, even Congress leaders, off guard by his impromptu sit-ins. In July, the Congress MP led a flash protest



outside the Prime Minister's residence. Last month, we saw Act 2 of his new playbook when he suddenly barged into the Parliament Street Police Station with a student protester who suffered pellet injuries during the July 20 violence and demanded an FIR be lodged.

THE RAHUL TWIST DURING CEC PROTEST

Such flash street protests have become a new weapon in Rahul's political arsenal. Act 3 unfolded on Tuesday. It appeared that Delhi Police had anticipated every move of the Opposition's protest march to Nirvachan Sadan. As the opposition's march reached

NITI Aayog office, a few hundred metres from the ECI headquarters, the protesters ran into the police. Amid the hullabaloo, Rahul gave cameras something to click. He climbed over a police barricade and waved the Tricolour as Congress leaders tried to push forward. However, the police had enough. A familiar script followed as the police started detaining the leaders and bundling them into buses.

Palwal Police arrest 449 wanted accused in September crackdown

PALWAL.(Agency)

Palwal Police arrested 449 accused wanted in various criminal cases in September as part of a special drive against illegal activities and criminals, according to the district police.The arrests included 10 reward-listed accused, 17 proclaimed offenders (POs) and 81 bail jumpers, police said in a statement issued on October 6.The crackdown, carried out on the directions of Palwal superintendent of police Deepti Garg, targeted drug trafficking, illegal arms, illicit liquor, gambling and betting, theft and house-breaking cases.Police arrested 12 drug traffickers in 11 cases during the month. The seizures included 193.67 grams of smack, 73.79 grams of heroin, 4.414 kg of ganja and 186.220 grams of poppy husk.In cases related to illegal weapons, police arrested 19 accused in 12 cases. The recoveries included six pistols, seven illegal country-made firearms, one knife and 26 cartridges, police said.Police also arrested five accused in five cases related to the illegal liquor trade. The seizures included 449.5 bottles of country-made liquor and 420 bottles of Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL).In action against gambling and betting, 22 accused were arrested in five cases. Police recovered Rs 28,550 in cash, according to the statement.

Police also traced 10 theft and house-breaking cases and arrested nine accused. Cash, property and jewellery worth more than Rs 3.47 lakh were recovered, police said.SP Deepti Garg directed all station house officers, CIA staff, the Narcotics Cell and the PO staff to intensify the drive against wanted accused with the cooperation of the public.

Garg said illegal activities would not be tolerated in Palwal and strict action would continue against those involved in such activities.

Noida Sector P-3 residents demand overhaul of ageing water pipeline

Noida.(Agency)

Residents of Sector P-3 in Greater Noida have urged Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) to upgrade the area's water pipeline, which, they said, is corroded, leaks frequently and also supplies contaminated water to households.

GNIDA held a public meeting earlier this week and asked residents to directly inform officials of their grievances regarding the water infrastructure.

In the meeting, the president of the sector's residents' welfare association Amit Bhati said the issues inconvenience around 10,000 people who live there. He added that the infrastructure has not been revamped in 30 years. "Since the land in the sector was allotted in 1996, the pipeline has not been revamped. There is an urgent need to upgrade it, especially since the population of the sector has risen since then. Now, the pipeline is rusted and the residents are receiving water that is dirty and mixed with metals. In addition, the water pressure is very low and supply is often unpredictable," he said.Residents also asked that the quality of the water supply be improved. "Every day, we get dirty, yellowish water. Forget about drinking or cooking, people cannot even bathe in the water that is supplied here," said Aditya Bhati, another resident of the sector. The water has tested high in total dissolved solids (TDS), which indicates that it is highly polluted.The third demand they made is to ensure timely supply three times a day — a schedule similar to how other sectors in the area get their water supply.

Noida court acquits man of rape after complainant turns hostile

Noida.(Agency)

A fast-track court on Monday acquitted a Bihar man of rape charges after the complainant and her family members turned hostile and the court was informed that the accused had married the woman.

"Factual witnesses, including the complainant, were declared hostile by the prosecution and did not support the incident. The victim's father also did not support the prosecution's story during cross-examination. It is clear that the accused is married to the victim. The charges against the accused of raping the victim, threatening to share obscene photographs of her and repeatedly raping her under the pretence of marriage are not proven beyond a reasonable doubt," the court ruled. While acquitting the man, additional sessions judge Satyendra Singh ordered him to execute a personal bond of Rs 30,000 and one surety of the like amount within 15 days.

The case stems from an FIR registered at Sector 49 police station in 2022. The woman alleged that she met the accused, who was working as an accounts officer in a bank in Delhi, while looking for a job. The accused got her employed with a private company and they became friends. After this, the accused had invited her to his house, offered her a drink laced with an intoxicant and raped her. She said the accused had also taken obscene photographs and videos of her and threatened to circulate them. When she got married to someone else in 2016, she said the accused blackmailed her for a physical relationship on the basis of the photographs. She said she became pregnant with the accused's child and when her in-laws came to know about it, they severed all ties with her. While she initially did not lodge a complaint, she later came to know the accused had exploited another girl in the same way and ultimately went to the cops.

However, during trial, she said she was misled by a friend, who had a grudge against the accused, to file the complaint. Further, she said she signed the complaint without reading its content.

Garba Fever Returns to Jodhpur: 'Kamariya' Festival Set to Bring a Grand Celebration of Music, Dance and Gujarati Culture

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Jodhpur, (piyush goutam): Jodhpur Set to Dance to Garba Beats as 'Kamariya' Festival ReturnsJodhpur is all set to celebrate Navratri with music, dance and festive energy as the sixth edition of the 'Kamariya Garba Festival' will be held on October 11, the first day of Navratri, at Shivgarh Resort near Dali Bai Circle on Jaisalmer Bypass. The event, organised by DNA Lux Celebrations, Jodhpur, is expected to attract more than 1,500 participants. The festival will feature traditional Garba and Dandiya, live music, a grand stage setup, special entries, food stalls and traditional dhol beats. RJ Shailendra will host the event, while DJ Mrigansh will keep the crowd dancing throughout the evening. Several titles will be awarded, including Best Dancer Male and Female, Superb Outfit, Little Champ, Master Marvelous, Miss Lovely and Charming Couple. The highlights will be the 'Mr. Kamariya 2026' and 'Miss Kamariya 2026' titles. Winners can receive cash prizes of up to Rs 11,000, along with gold and silver lucky draws. This year, the festival is also being organised as a fundraiser for NGO 'Pankh – Ek Udaan'. Single passes are priced at Rs 600, while couple passes cost Rs 1,100. Tickets are available online through District by Zomato.



Confronted for breaking barricades, man tries to run over MCG gunman with bulldozer

Gurgaon.(Agency)

An MCG gunman has alleged that a man drove an earthmover towards him after another man damaged a temporary iron barricade on vacant MCG land in Nathupur on Oct 1. An FIR was registered against the two men on Monday, police said.Harjinder Singh, a resident of Hasanpur Kalan in Punjab's Gurdaspur district, works as an MCG gunman with a sanitation security force team and was deployed to prevent illegal dumping of debris, garbage and other material on the civic body's land.According to Singh's complaint, a temporary iron barricade had been installed on vacant MCG land earmarked for a community centre near Bhairav Mandir in Nathupur. On Oct 1, a guard, Kamal, informed him that an earthmover operator had damaged the barricading and driven towards the hill.Singh said he and Kamal went to the spot, where they found an earthmover. The driver identified himself as Salim, according to the complaint.When Singh questioned Salim aout the damaged barricading, another man arrived in a Thar. Singh told police that the man said they had damaged the barricading and challenged them to take whatever action they could.The man then allegedly told Salim to drive the earthmover towards Singh and Kamal. When the driver did not do so, the man allegedly took control of the machine himself and drove it towards Singh.Singh told police that he moved aside to avoid being hit and alleged that the earthmover could have run him over had he not moved in time. The men then allegedly left the spot with the earthmover and the Thar.Singh identified the man as Harsh Gujjar, saying he had disclosed his name at the spot. He also said Rahul, a clerk, and Kamal were present during the incident and that the entire incident was captured on video.Singh lodged a formal complaint at DLF Phase 3 police station on Oct 2. ASI Virender, accompanied by a constable and Singh, subsequently visited the spot to conduct an inquiry.

A case was subsequently registered on Monday under sections 221 (voluntarily obstructing a public servant while they are performing official duties), 351(3) (aggravated criminal intimidation) and 3(5) (act done by several persons) of BNS, along with Section 3 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act."The complaint concerns the alleged damaging of public property and the alleged use of an earthmover to drive towards an MCG employee during the confrontation. The investigation will establish the circumstances surrounding the incident and the role of the persons named in the complaint.

Woman held for allegedly extorting Rs 90 lakh by threatening false rape case

Noida.(Agency)

A 24-year-old MBA graduate from West Bengal has been arrested for allegedly blackmailing a man and extorting around Rs 90 lakh from him over nearly three years by threatening to implicate him in a false rape case and harm his family.

Police arrested Suryadita Das, who was residing in Sushant Lok, after Ankit Aggarwal approached Sadar police station on Oct 4. Police said they recovered Rs 50,000 in cash from her and have frozen approximately Rs 95 lakh lying in her bank account.

Police sources said the complainant, Ankit Aggarwal, works in a private company. He had met Das around three years ago through an online app. They initially communicated through online chats, later exchanged phone numbers and began meeting in person. He alleged that Das later started blackmailing him and demanding money. She allegedly threatened to implicate him in a false rape case and to harm his family if her demands were not met.

The complainant told police that he had already paid approximately Rs 90 lakh through a combination of bank transfers and cash payments, but the demands for more money continued. After receiving the complaint on Oct 4, police from Sadar police station formed a team and planned an operation to catch the accused while she collected another payment.According to police, Das had called Aggarwal to Coffee House on Sohna Road in Sector 47 to collect money. The police team reached the location in plain clothes and kept the proceedings under surveillance.

Das was apprehended while allegedly accepting Rs 50,000 in cash from the complainant. Police said the money was recovered from her during the search. Some of the recovered currency notes bore signatures or initials that had been put on them earlier by the police team as part of the operation.A case was registered against Das at Sadar police station under section 308 (5) (extortion) of BNS. Police produced her before the court on Oct 4, 2026, and obtained two days' police remand.

Garbage dumped in Aravalis, Faridabad municipal corporation trucks under lens

Noida.(Agency)

Aravali hills and forest areas around Bhankri village in Faridabad have become a dumping ground for municipal waste. Several Municipal Corporation of Faridabad (MCF) vehicles could be seen carrying waste into the area and unloading it amid the green cover. The forest department has taken note of the dumping and said it would write to MCF over the matter.Waste could also be seen along the stretches leading to the hills. A forest department official said the department had taken note of the matter and would communicate with MCF. "We are writing to MCF regarding the dumping of waste in the area," the official said.Residents and activists have demanded that the waste



already dumped in the hills be removed immediately and that vehicles carrying waste be stopped from entering the area.The Bhankri are is part of the Aravalis, an ecologically important hill system that supports vegetation, wildlife and groundwater recharge. It is covered under section 4 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), under which tree felling is not permitted without permission. The regulatory protection adds to concerns over the use of the hill and forest area for waste disposal.The dumping has raised questions over the handling of municipal waste and the use of an ecologically sensitive hill landscape for disposal. Environmentalist Vaishali Rana said, "Allowing waste disposal in the Aravalis can create longer-term problems, particularly if the dumping continues and the waste footprint expands."Open dumping of mixed municipal waste can introduce plastic and other non-biodegradable material into the landscape and affect soil and surrounding vegetation.

No police to stop them, e-ricks and autos take wrong way to Botanical Garden

Gurgaon.(Agency)

E-rickshaws and autos driving against the flow of traffic and hailing shoppers and commuters along the way have become a common sight on the one-km stretch from GIP Mall and Sector 18 metro station to Botanical Garden metro station on Captain Vijyant Thapar Road.After Noida Authority last year closed the stretch between Sector 18 metro station and Atta Peer to three-wheelers, in a bid to avoid adding to the chaos in the city's busiest market hub, auto and e-rick drivers are required to take a detour of roughly 10km via Film City, DLF Mall, Atta market in Sector 27 and under Noida Elevated Road to reach the other arm of the road and finally Botanical Garden.For drivers, for whom more rides mean more money, breaking the rule has become more than a convenience, especially at a time when fuel prices are skyrocketing. No police personnel are posted on the stretch, so the violations also go unchecked.Gaurav Kumar, who regularly drives from Botanical Garden towards Rajnigandha Chowk, said autos and e-rickshaws



plying in the wrong direction cut through the flow of traffic and add to the chaos. "Lack of police personnel at the spot makes matters worse," he said.Auto drivers told TOI that the road sees heavy movement of vehicles throughout the day. During the festive season, rush-hour pressure is immense as streams of shoppers head from GIP Mall to Botanical Garden metro station. "Passengers are in a rush and don't mind if we drive on the wrong side," e-rickshaw driver Raju said.

Raju said the restrictions imposed last year left drivers with little choice. "There is a U-turn near Sector 18 metro station but as e-rickshaws are banned from plying on that road, we are forced to take a longer route to reach Botanical Garden," he said. A journey of around 1km can consequently turn into a trip of about 10km.Another auto driver, Santosh Kumar, said the detour adds 15-20 minutes to each trip but does not allow drivers to charge passengers more. "Passengers neither want to pay a higher fare nor take a longer route. The extra travel means more fuel consumption and fewer trips in a day, which affects our earnings," he said.DCP (traffic) Pravin Ranjan Singh said he had directed a team to visit the spot and conduct an enforcement drive. The district has about 18,000 auto-rickshaws and 20,000 e-rickshaws.Noida Authority, which has been looking for a fix, plans to open a U-turn near Sector 18 after discussion with traffic police. Senior manager Kapil Singh said the civic body would take up the matter with the police. "The enforcement part is with the traffic police. We will discuss the matter with the traffic police and explore a permanent solution, including a U-turn, for smooth commuting," he said.

Woman held for abducting homeless infant, planned to sell baby to UP man for Rs 6 lakh: Ahmedabad Police

Although Parmar intended to hand over the abducted child to another individual, they panicked, abandoned the infant in the New Ranip area and attempted to flee. The child was soon reunited with the relieved parents.

Ahmedabad(Agency).

AT 3:15 am on October 2, a homeless couple reached Sabarmati railway station in Ahmedabad, requesting the police to find their 37-day-old child who was allegedly abducted from their sleeping spot on a footpath outside Ahvadiya lake in the city's New Ranip area.

Several teams of the local police, including the crime branch, were coordinated, and the first step of investigation, checking the CCTV footage, showed a female suspect, now identified as Jinal Govind Parmar (21), abducting the child from its bed. Checkpoints were established at all railway stations, bus terminals and the airport to apprehend her.



Although Parmar intended to hand over the abducted child to another individual, they panicked, abandoned the infant in the New Ranip area and attempted to flee. The child was soon reunited with the relieved parents.

"Once the child was identified, we tracked the movements of the female accused and apprehended her," said Ahmedabad City Commissioner of Police Anupam Singh Gahlaut at a press conference on Tuesday.Jinal Parmar, a resident of Wadhwan, Surendranagar, was apprehended near Sabarmati Railway Station and subjected to detailed interrogation. "Following the emergence of preliminary facts confirming her involvement, legal action was taken against her; she was handed over to the Sabarmati Police Station and scheduled to be produced before the local court," said a statement from the Crime Branch.

Plot Unravels: From Kidnapping to Trafficking

Police said, "Interrogation of the arrested female accused revealed that two individuals from Uttar Pradesh, who were juveniles in conflict with the law, had assisted in the crime.

Man caught recording Bombay HC proceedings; fined, phone confiscated

In Bihar, a major land mafia syndicate is allegedly operating through a nexus between land mafias and officials and employees of the Revenue Department. Through this alleged collusion, fake registrations of government land are being carried out in the names of poor and vulnerable people in various areas.

Mumbai(Agency).

Noting incidents of court proceedings being recorded without permission, the Bombay High Court has ordered the confiscation of the mobile handset used and imposed a Rs 10,000 fine on a man after he was caught doing so.Emphasising that the incidents have been "unfortunately on the rise," the Bombay High Court also noted that such recordings are "manipulated in ways unimaginable, and then distorted versions are posted on social media" and "in fact, it has become quite rampant."



A bench of Justices Girish S Kulkarni and Neela K Gokhale took suo motu (on its own) cognisance on October 5, noting that while the court was in session, around 12:23 pm, a person sitting in the last row held a mobile phone, with its flash on.

Suspecting he was recording court proceedings, the court staff, on the judge's instructions, seized his phone and sent it for examination. Meanwhile, genuine landowners allegedly approach officials ranging from the CO to the DCLR and Additional Collector with complaints, but their cases often remain pending for long periods. The delay allegedly allows land mafias to retain possession of the properties.

The person, identified as Dilip Wagh, who works at the Education Inspector's office, was visiting the Government Pleader. He deleted the video recording after being caught. The video was later retrieved by the court's IT department.

The HC noted that except for the HC registry's written permission, there was an "express bar" under HC's Rules to record court proceedings, which Wagh did not obtain, and "he was fully aware of these basic expectations."

"There cannot be any objection for any member of the public to attend the Court and witness the Court proceedings, as they are open proceedings. However, certainly, restrictions on any member of the public to adhere to the rules and regulations governing the Court proceedings, when inside the Courtroom, need to be followed in letter and spirit," the HC noted."Thus, considering the seriousness, casualness and frequency of such instances happening, it is high time that actions as the law would mandate are taken by the Court," the order added.

The judges stated they "would be falling in our duty" if they "overlook" the Rules by not taking any action.While the court accepted Wagh's apology and did not initiate contempt proceedings, it ordered confiscation of the mobile handset, removal of all data with a registry panchanama, and its disposal as per legal procedures. He was also ordered to pay Rs 10,000 to the High Court Legal Services Authority within two weeks, and compliance was sought by October 19.

'Honesty needs no publicity': Why Punjab CM's 'imaandaar' hoardings are sparking ire

Ludhiana(Agency).

With less than six months to go for the Punjab Assembly elections, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab is fighting a paradox.

While the Punjab and Haryana High Court has ordered a high-level CBI probe into the serious corruption allegations linked to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's office, the roads, highways and streets in the state, especially in the state's largest city, Ludhiana, are speaking otherwise.

Huge hoardings declaring CM Mann as "imaandaar" (honest) have flooded Ludhiana at intervals of every few meters across the city– from highways, chowks, roadsides to streets. Not just Ludhiana, but the "imaandaar CM" hoardings have cropped up across the state — drawing sharp reactions from the Opposition parties as well as residents.

Residents in Ludhiana have questioned why "imaandaari" (honesty) "needs an announcement or publicity", and why crores of taxpayers' money was being spent to issue a "self-certified honesty declaration" for the CM when polls were just months away, and people would be the only judge.The critics are also pointing to CM Mann's own words, before he became the CM, when he had flayed other parties for "advertising false claims".In Ludhiana, huge hoardings declaring Mann as "imaandaar CM" have been installed on



Ferozepur Road, with his smiling face and a caption: "Imaandaar CM: 90% households getting 600 units of free power". The "honesty" hoardings have also been put prominently in posh locations of Ludhiana West constituency such as Pakhowal Road near Hotel Park Plaza, Aggar Nagar locality on Ferozepur Road, near Sidhwan Canal (Pakhowal Road), etc apart .

Six arrested in Bihar for murder, attack on STF personnel; three injured in gunfight with police

Bihar (Agency).

Six people were arrested in two separate incidents in Bihar for their alleged involvement in a murder and an attack on Special Task Force (STF) personnel, officials said on Wednesday. Three of the accused were injured in an exchange of fire with police while allegedly attempting to flee.

In Sitamarhi district, three men, including a murder accused, were arrested in the Riga area on Tuesday night after they allegedly opened fire at police while trying to escape, prompting the personnel to retaliate, police said.

"Sunil Kushwaha, Mani Kumar and Indal Kumar were travelling on a motorcycle when police intercepted them near the Rewasi-Bhagwanpur border. They allegedly opened fire while attempting to flee, prompting police to retaliate."All three accused sustained bullet injuries in their legs and were immediately overpowered by the personnel of the Special Task Force (STF) and district police", it said.

They have been placed under arrest and admitted to a government hospital, police said, adding that three semi-automatic pistols and 800 live cartridges were seized from them.

In Vaishali, three persons, including a man carrying a reward of Rs 25,000 on his arrest, were arrested for attacking an STF team during a raid near Bhairavpur Chowk under the jurisdiction of Vidupur police station on Tuesday evening, police said.

'Rat' in dosa: When a food complaint could set Tukaram Mundhe into motion — but turned into extortion

Mumbai(Agency).

When a video showing a rat inside a dosa went viral on social media, it could have been enough to prompt Maharashtra food safety chief Tukaram Mundhe to raid the hotel. But a few days later, the incident took a darker turn and turned out to be an extortion call.



The Borivali Police have booked two sisters for allegedly threatening hotelier Jai Kishore Shah with a police case over a viral video of a rat allegedly found in a dosa unless he paid them Rs 25 lakh. According to the complaint, the amount was negotiated down to Rs 7 lakh, of which Shah allegedly paid Rs 1 lakh in advance on September 30.

On October 5, Shah allegedly agreed to meet the sisters and pay the remaining Rs 6 lakh. Acting on his complaint, the Borivali police arranged for the meeting to take place at the same hotel. Mansi Acharya and her sister Kinjal allegedly came to collect the money.

However, instead of arresting them, the police served them notices, a police officer said.According to the police, on September 24, Acharya, along with a child and two men, visited Radhakrishna Hotel-Banquet-Fast Food on L T Road in Borivali (West) to eat Mysore Masala Dosa and other dishes. While eating about half a dosa, a person accompanying her, identified as Amit Trivedi, allegedly found a rat in his dosa. Acharya allegedly created a ruckus at the hotel, called the police, and made a video.

According to Shah's complaint, the video went viral on September 26, after which the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suspended the hotel's licence on September 28, forcing it to shut down.Shah alleged that Acharya threatened to lodge a police complaint against him and circulate the video further unless he paid her money. He approached the Borivali police on September 29, alleging that he had been threatened with further circulation of the video and a police case if he did not pay.

Ahmedabad bridge meant to ease traffic ends up worsening it

The Makarba railway overbridge that CM Bhupendra Patel inaugurated on Sept 24 lands smack at a junction on Corporate Road. The civic body has demanded an explanation from the design consultant and is scrambling to find immediate solutions to the traffic chaos that has ensued.

Ahmedabad (Agency).

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has issued a show-cause notice to a design consultant firm involved in a railway overbridge project at Makarba that has caused traffic chaos, within two weeks of its inauguration.

This traffic congestion in the rapidly growing commercial and residential area in southwestern Ahmedabad has forced the civic body to widen the connecting road to resolve the problem, and to implement immediate traffic solutions.The firm, Ahmedabad-based DELF Consulting Engineers (India) Pvt Ltd., is an extension of DELF-South Africa, according to its website.

The company was the design consultant for the railway overbridge that Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated on September 24 under the "Phatak-mukt Bharat Abhiyaan", a campaign to free roads from railway level crossings.

However, the four-lane bridge, which was meant to ease traffic snarls caused by the closure of the gates of Level Crossing 24 on the Ahmedabad-Botad broad gauge section of Western Railway, lands at a junction on Corporate Road – which has resulted in congestion and traffic chaos on the roads that connect to the Sarkhej-Gandhinagar Highway.

"AMC has instructed the project's design consultant, DELF Consulting Engineers (India) Pvt Ltd, to conduct a technical study of the current traffic situation and submit a detailed report," Dinesh Gaurav, Deputy Municipal Commissioner, Roads and Building Department, said.He said the design consultant had been "instructed to analyse the root causes of the current traffic congestion and traffic flow patterns, and to submit a detailed report outlining both immediate corrective measures for the current situation and long-term solutions to permanently resolve the traffic issues".

Gaurav said the design firm has been asked to explain the technical reasons behind the situation, and to compare the



traffic flow now with the time when the study was conducted. Work on the bridge began in 2023.The show-cause notice says, "The bridge lands in close proximity to the Corporate Road junction, leaving inadequate length for merging, weaving and dispersal of traffic."Based on the findings of the technical study and the clarifications provided by the design consultant, an appropriate technical evaluation will be carried out, and necessary further action would be taken, Gaurav said.Meanwhile, the AMC has implemented a "capsule design" layout to streamline traffic.

Ola, Uber banned in Chandigarh. Drivers have a workaround. So do cops

Chandigarh(Agency).

The ride may be banned, but getting one is still surprisingly easy. In Chandigarh, drivers of app-based taxis and bike taxis linked to Uber, Ola, inDrive, and Rapido are finding new ways to stay on the road — and the police are finding new ways to catch them.

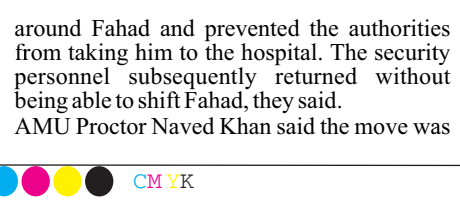
From switching phones to airplane mode to cancelling bookings just before the ride begins, drivers are adopting tactics to evade enforcement, while Chandigarh Police are booking rides themselves on banned platforms to catch them in the act.

The cat-and-mouse game has so far resulted in action against 915 vehicles — 812 challaned and 103 impounded — in what authorities describe as their biggest crackdown yet on unauthorised app-based transport services.

Modus operandi

The drivers allegedly put their phones on airplane mode, ask passengers to pay the amount shown, cancel the ride just before starting, and go offline while plying routes where police are not normally deployed.

Drivers also allegedly ask passengers to tell the police they found the cab parked and hired it directly. When the police catch the driver, he



quickly puts his phone on airplane mode.

Meanwhile, the Chandigarh Police book cabs through the banned apps themselves to catch drivers red-handed. After stopping a vehicle, they check the driver's phone and apps to establish whether the cab is being operated through a banned platform.

More bikes than cabs

The crackdown has so far resulted in action against 915 vehicles in Chandigarh, making it the authorities' biggest drive yet against unauthorised app-based transport services.

According to State Transport Authority (STA) data, bike taxis accounted for the bulk of the violations, with nearly 70 per cent of all vehicles found operating in Chandigarh, underlining the scale of their continued operation in the city.Data shows as many as 569 bike taxis were challaned and 67 impounded, taking the number to 636. Among the 208 taxis, 194 were challaned and 14 impounded.

Tension at AMU after protesters block attempt to shift student leader on hunger strike to hospital

The protesting students have been demanding elections to the students' union that have not been held for eight years.

Uttar Pradesh (Agency).

Tension prevailed at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) after protesting students stopped university authorities from shifting a student, who has been on a hunger strike for 15 days, to the hospital as his condition worsened, officials said on Wednesday.

The protesting students have been demanding elections to the students' union that have not been held for eight years.

A team of security personnel reached the protest site with an ambulance on Tuesday night after reports that the condition of Yasser Fahad, a postgraduate student of Urdu, had worsened, the officials said.However, a large number of protesting students gathered



around Fahad and prevented the authorities from taking him to the hospital. The security personnel subsequently returned without being able to shift Fahad, they said.

AMU Proctor Naved Khan said the move was aimed at providing the student urgent medical treatment."This was not an attempt to break the hunger strike, as was mistakenly assumed, but just to provide him urgent medical support in view of the serious level of a number of health parameters," Khan told reporters.

He said the university authorities had conveyed to the students that Fahad would be allowed to return to the protest site after doctors stabilised his condition.A spokesperson for the protesting students said they were deeply concerned about Fahad's health and urged the university to announce the elections to the students' union."If the university authorities share our concerns, then they should immediately.

The subterranean republic: How prohibition and algorithms built Bihar's lumpen aristocracy

Along the arterial highways of provincial Bihar and across its algorithmic feeds, the public grammar of power has undergone an unacknowledged mutation. The visual language is no longer shaped by the austere moral authority of socialist mobilization or the quiet social prestige of academic attainment. Instead, public imagination belongs to tinted-glass SUV cavalcades, trailed by private armed retinues and soundtracked to auto-tuned Bhojpuri anthems that brazenly celebrate caste belligerence, firearms, and the swagger of the local Rangdaar (strongman).Outside the state, this digital subculture is routinely dismissed as provincial kitsch or peripheral social-media noise. Viewed through the lens of political economy, however, it mirrors a profound structural rupture: the wholesale displacement of formal aspirational mobility by an desi-armed, algorithmic lumpen elite.For decades, despite acute industrial stagnation and recurring agrarian unrest, Bihar preserved an austere but functional social hierarchy. In the absence of large-scale private enterprise, the state's aspirational apex was anchored in formal civic capital: the gruelling discipline of the civil service aspirant, social reformers, poets, the village school headmaster, the district court advocate, ideological party worker or the hardworking common man. It was an institutional ethos that prioritized statecraft, scholastic labor, and civic legitimacy as the primary currencies of social honour.

That historical compact has collapsed under sustained economic and demographic attrition. The decay of provincial universities and the chronic deficit of white-collar employment triggered a relentless outward migration of human capital. Those with marketable skills, professional ambitions, or the capital to relocate departed for metropolitan corridors. Left behind is a stranded, non-migrant youth cohort trapped in an economic void devoid of formal manufacturing, organized services, or credible meritocratic ladders.

Into this structural vacuum stepped an unintended catalyst: the total prohibition regime enacted in 2016. Instituted with paternalistic rhetoric to curb domestic distress and household debt, the alcohol ban reproduced the textbook distortions of America's Volstead era. When the state criminalizes an inelastic consumer good without curbing aggregate demand, it does not extinguish consumption; it merely privatizes the rents. Overnight, an immense revenue stream was transferred from the public exchequer into an desi styled & locally armed, informal distribution syndicate.I have been collecting only the candies that you have given me in the past, and am returning them." The hapless cashier looked at the glowering owner, but had no choice except to take them.In sub-divisional towns, the most accessible employer for an undereducated youth is no longer a trade apprenticeship or agricultural enterprise. It is the logistics of contraband. The mechanics of this parallel economy - ferrying consignments across porous borders, navigating unpaved link roads, and managing decentralized home deliveries - offer immediate cash returns that dwarf any agrarian wage. Prohibition did not eliminate supply; it minted a decentralized army of bootleggers, couriers, and muscle.This subterranean capital quickly forged an ideological apparatus to legitimize itself: the contemporary Bhojpuri digital complex. Turbocharged by cheap mobile data and YouTube recommendation engines, regional music production has mutated far beyond the double-entendres of the cassette era. It has evolved into an aggressive instrument for digital caste assertion and the romanticization of lawlessness. Viral tracks routinely invoke specific caste lineages, threaten violence against rival factions, and glorify the lifestyle of the mafia boss. Misogynistic tropes and violent bravado are not peripheral excesses; they are the algorithmically optimized product, engineered to harvest views through predatory dominance.

Manish Tewari: Punjab beset by narco-terrorism

Easy availability of narcotics and illicit arms makes the border state highly vulnerable

PAKISTAN's strategy of bleeding India with a thousand cuts has another sinister manifestation — narco-terrorism. It is the silent, creeping poison that flows across the northwestern border. It has emerged as an existential threat to the security architecture and social fabric of north-west India, particularly Punjab.

Globally, the core of narco-terrorism is fundamentally profit-driven. Violence is viewed as a necessary means to protect and expand lucrative operations rather than as an end in itself. In Punjab, however, the pursuit of profit has also been aimed at promoting and financing terrorism, separatism and radicalisation.The foundations of the drug-terror nexus plaguing India were laid over two centuries of geopolitical machinations. The opium commerce, which first enriched the Venetians and later the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British, was a tool of economic warfare long before it became a source of terror financing.The British East India Company, through its monopoly on Indian poppy fields, used opium to balance its trade deficits with China. This cultivation stretched along a succession of mountain ranges from Turkey to Japan, including the regions that now form the Golden Crescent. Drug production and trade in the Indian subcontinent evolved and adapted to the market, be it opium, heroin, amphetamines, Ecstasy or designer drugs.

Simultaneously, weapons trafficking in the Golden Crescent (including Balochistan) has a long history entwined with the drug trade. The Makran coast, once a conduit for slaves and gold, evolved into a smuggling route for firearms destined for Afghans resisting the British, a tradition of arms trafficking that the colonial government itself inadvertently nurtured by licensing local arms manufacturers along the Durand Line to undercut foreign competition.The drug-terror nexus began to expand when the weapons trade to both state and non-state actors on the black market became enormously profitable. Afghanistan's poppy cultivation surged in the 1970s, and it became a global supplier of opiates when other countries in the region banned poppies. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan (1979) catalysed the cross-border movement of weapons and narcotics in the region.

The ghost wars waged in Afghanistan by Western intelligence agencies and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in the 1980s provided the political protection and logistical framework that connected Afghanistan's poppy fields through Pakistan's heroin laboratories to markets in America and Europe. This effectively created the Frankenstein's monster that the entire region confronts today.By 1989, after a decade of covert operations, Afghanistan and Pakistan ranked as the world's largest and second-largest suppliers of illicit heroin, respectively. The drug trade became an important fund-raising activity. The theological justification was: "We are making drugs to neutralise the Western infidels. If we cannot kill them with guns, we will kill them with drugs."

This period saw the active encouragement of poppy cultivation by Pakistan's military dictator Gen Zia-ul-



Haq, who patronised it as a lucrative method to fund operations of terrorist groups targeting India.

By the late 1980s, about 70 per cent of the heroin processed in Pakistan was being sold on the international market. Pakistan's National Logistics Cell, created ostensibly to transport weapons to the Afghan border, also facilitated the movement of opiates back to the port of Karachi.

Following the Soviet withdrawal, as Western aid evaporated and civil war consumed Afghanistan, the opium economy replaced foreign patronage as the primary source of paramilitary financing, with existing arms smuggling routes perfectly suited for drug trafficking.By 1996, the Taliban's prohibitionist approach to drugs had evolved into an acceptance of cultivation and trafficking and a resolve to tax it. By 1999, the United Nations estimated the Afghan opium crop's value at $265 million, yielding an estimated $40 million in tax revenue for the Taliban treasury. They even sought to expand cultivation by distributing licences and fertilisers. Following the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, with no effective enforcement or alternative crops, poppy cultivation rose exponentially beyond mid-1990s levels.The current military hostilities between Afghanistan and Pakistan also largely centre on the latter wanting the Taliban to expand poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and allow the ISI to continue exercising its established monopoly over drug smuggling routes across the Durand Line. It's a paradigm that the post-2021 Taliban leadership is not comfortable with, for it sees the damage that five decades of narco-trafficking has done to the war-ravaged nation.Simultaneously, a distinct narco-terrorism nexus emerged in Punjab. The socio-economic and political crisis that commenced as early as the late 1970s because of the state's trifurcation created structural inequities in its wake.It provided a fertile recruiting ground for secessionist organisations. The ISI gave a free hand to the smuggler-secessionist nexus to operate across the eastern border from Pakistan. A 1987 CIA research paper, declassified in 2012, confirmed that profits from narcotics trafficking were used by extremists to promote communal disharmony in Punjab.The links surfaced as early as the 1990s, when Canada-based drug dealers were murdered in gangland hits in Vancouver. New cross-continental drug trade routes were even then in place, with "elements" in the diaspora coordinating activities with their compatriots in Punjab from safe havens in North America.After the end of insurgency in Punjab in the mid-1990s, the focus of the ISI's strategy shifted. Rather than foment terrorism predicated on creating religious discord, it started focusing on sending large quantities of drugs across India's north-western border to destroy future generations of Punjab.A collateral consequence was that the traditional drugs-weapons trade morphed into a form of predatory capitalism. The vast profits from drug smuggling were funnelled into seizing control of even legitimate economic activity, creating a complex network of criminal godfathers who have unleashed a new wave of targeted killings in Punjab.While the Union government may claim success in reducing terror incidents, the narcotics network which once sustained that terror has metastasised. According to government data (in response to a question in the Lok Sabha), 3,69,764.4 kg of opium-based drugs, 1,61,522 kg of cannabis-based drugs, 1632.62 kg of cocaine, and 918.95 kg of synthetic drugs were seized in north-west India from 2021 to November 2025.The use of drones for drug smuggling is now commonplace, with drug cartels exploring the potential of underwater drones, building on the semi-submersible vessel technology used by Latin American cartels.

This escalating influx feeds a ticking time bomb. The combination of latent secessionism, traditional gangsterism, readily available illicit arms and a deluge of narcotics threatens to transform north-west India into a region plagued by cartel violence, akin to Latin America.

Prime moment to step up as Ukraine and Russia look to New Delhi for talks

Ukraine has already said it is ready to consider a truce covering attacks on energy infrastructure and in the Black Sea. It is also open to discussing an unconditional ceasefire along the line of contact on the warfront

When External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Ukraine on September 3, three days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Bishkek on August 31, discerning policy watchers noticed something curious. Modi, in his interaction with Putin, had called for a shift from "endless war" to the "end of the war". Images of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha listening intently to Jaishankar's presentation suggested India had moved beyond interesting one-liners to more substantive peace formulations. We now have Sybiha on record saying that New Delhi indeed put forward a "comprehensive" and "broad" proposal to end the war. Besides India, Ukraine has received proposals for resolving the conflict from Türkiye, Egypt and the US. But Sybiha rated the Indian suggestion the best of the lot. "We have four proposals. The most comprehensive is India's. For the first time, India has signalled its willingness to play a role," he said.

Sybiha's revelation came hours after Putin, delivering his annual foreign policy speech at the Valdai Discussion Club, spoke glowingly about Modi constantly flagging



the conflict in their mutual interactions and having "very good ideas" to end it. "The Prime Minister takes a neutral position… I think it's my duty to say that directly. We are thankful for his desire to put an end to this conflict through peaceful means and as soon as possible," Putin remarked.

With both Kyiv and Moscow appearing keen on letting India take the lead, the situation may be ripe for the land of Gandhi to bring the sides to the negotiating table. Ukraine has already said it is ready to consider a truce covering attacks on energy infrastructure and in the Black Sea. It is also open to discussing an unconditional ceasefire along the line of contact on the warfront. Zelenskyy had earlier indicated he would be ready for talks with Putin at the G20 summit in the US on December 14-15.

Resolving the Ukraine conflict could be a low-hanging fruit compared to the US-Iran war, since both sides want an honest broker, not a self-serving bully. High diplomacy appears to be around the corner. If the PM pulls it off, it could substantially ease the global food and energy crises. Whatever the outcome, there is no harm in trying.

India's Rise in Modi era creates opportunities for Chhattisgarh

From manufacturing and startups to agriculture and tribal entrepreneurship, the state can harness the opportunities created by India's economic transformation to build a more ambitious future.

Since 2014, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has embarked on a remarkable journey of transformation. Over the past 12 years, the country has expanded its economic and technological capabilities while reshaping its aspirations at home and its standing abroad. From financial inclusion and digital infrastructure to entrepreneurship, manufacturing and space exploration, the Modi era has been marked by an India increasingly confident about its ability to set ambitious goals and build the capabilities to achieve them.The most consequential change is visible beyond statistics—in the aspirations of India's people. Young Indians are looking beyond conventional employment towards entrepreneurship and innovation. Women, particularly in rural areas, are moving from being beneficiaries of welfare programmes to becoming earners and entrepreneurs.Indian enterprises are expanding globally. India's G20 Presidency in 2023, the inclusion of the African Union in the G20 and initiatives around renewable energy, disaster resilience and the Global South demonstrated a country seeking to contribute solutions to global challenges. Chandrayaan-3's historic lunar landing provided another powerful symbol of this confidence.This transformation has been reinforced by the Modi government's focus on manufacturing and investment. Make in India, followed by Production Linked Incentive schemes, the semiconductor programme and infrastructure expansion, has sought to position India as a competitive global production and tech hub. Investments involving companies such as Micron, Tata Electronics, CG Power, Kaynes Semicon and the HCL-Foxconn joint venture reflect the growing semiconductor ecosystem.

When Startup India was launched in 2016, India had around 500 DPIIT-recognised startups. By March 2026, the number had crossed 2.23 lakh. More than half have emerged from Tier II and Tier III cities.

For Chhattisgarh, this is an opportunity to ensure that our youth need not leave the state to pursue their ambitions. A young entrepreneur in Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Bastar or Surguja should be able to build a company from home and take it to national and global markets. Our agriculture, forest produce, minerals, tribal heritage, tourism and emerging opportunities in drones, AI, clean energy and digital services provide a distinctive foundation.

Chhattisgarh is already attracting significant investment. The state's new industrial policy is built around three pillars—attractive financial incentives, ease of doing business through transparent processes, and fast-track approvals through a single-window clearance system.

The state received investment proposals worth more than `8 lakh crore from 84 companies. Through our New Industrial Policy 2024–30, we are seeking to create an investor-friendly environment. Through Chhattisgarh Investor Connect, we have taken our proposition to Tokyo, Osaka and Seoul. Raipur has also hosted international platforms, such as the Green Steel and Mining Summit and the Chhattisgarh International Trade Expo.Across Chhattisgarh, more than 26 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana have provided



families with greater security and dignity. Nearly complete electrification of railways is strengthening connectivity and opening new possibilities for the economy.Chhattisgarh's farmers are central to this transformation. Paddy procurement at Rs 3,100 per quintal, with a ceiling of 21 quintals per acre, has strengthened the state's agricultural support system. At the national level, PM-KISAN provides eligible farmers `6,000 annually through direct transfers. The next phase of Chhattisgarh's agricultural development must build on this foundation through diversification, dairy, horticulture, millets and other allied activities.

For Chhattisgarh, the empowerment of women and tribal communities is not a peripheral objective. It is central to our development model.

The same is true of health and education. Ayushman Bharat has expanded access to healthcare. PM-SHRI schools and Eklavya Model Residential Schools are creating new opportunities for children across Chhattisgarh.Nowhere is our larger vision more important than in Bastar. We want its narrative to encompass culture, tourism, tribal entrepreneurship, investment and opportunity alongside its challenges. Bastar Pandum and our international investment outreach are part of this effort to make Bastar's rich identity an economic asset without compromising its culture.

The Modi era has created platforms—from Make in India and Startup India to Digital India, Skill India, Nari Shakti and Drone Didi. The next task is to turn these platforms into deeper outcomes. For Chhattisgarh, that means ensuring that a young person can build a company for the world, a woman can become a technology entrepreneur and a tribal producer can capture greater value from local resources.India's rise is creating a new horizon of possibilities. Chhattisgarh is determined not merely to witness that rise, but to be an active participant in shaping it.

What are kids Reading?



Geronimo Stilton, Captain Underpants, Wimpy Kid, Percy Jackson...kids today have much to choose from.

Pranksters George Beard and Harold Hutchins are terrorised by their principal, the mean Benjamin Krupp. They get back, and how! They turn him into a reluctant superhero who wears just briefs and a cape! If you are a 10-year-old, you would have got the story by now. This is the tale of Captain Underpants, a hot favourite among pre-teens. Then, there's the adorable mouse who publishes 'The Rodent's Gazette'. He scouts around for news instead of cheese and craves a vacation. That's Geronimo Stilton. He also has a sister, Thea Stilton, who has a separate series in her name. There's a big smile on kids' faces as they read the squiggly text that literally shivers when Geronimo is afraid.

Books for kids are big news now. There was a time when interest in books came down and technology turned temptress. But, authors such as J.K. Rowling hooked kids back to the page. Luckily, others rushed in to meet the demand.

Divya Chandran's sons Adhvik and Dhaman picked up the reading habit seeing their parents read. Today, her elder one reads National Geographic's NG Kids Magazine (for ages 6-14). There's also an NG Little Kids Magazine (for ages 3-6).

"Adhvik loves reading about wildlife. So, I make it a point to pick up books on the subject. Dhaman likes The Berenstain Bears. When we let kids read books relating to the topics they are interested in, it keeps the reading habit alive," she says. But, yes, she does check if the books are age-appropriate.

Adventure is cool

J. Yashaswi finds Captain Underpants cool because it combines adventure, school life and an element of magic. His mother Nandini says she tries to ensure her son reads a mix of modern-day tales and vintage kids' books. So, Roald Dahl and Enid Blyton are a vital part of his reading list too. Of late, parents and schools are encouraging children to read, if only to keep them off electronic gadgets. Book stores hold events for children. Online store Flipkart is working at initiatives such as book readings with famous children's authors, to draw in young readers, says Anil Goteti, director-retail. Niranjani Ramanathan, who runs JustBooks library in Coimbatore, says parents are keen on books that showcase Indian culture and tradition in an easy-to-read manner. Probably why, publications by Tulika Books, Karadi Tales and Amar Chitra Katha are very popular. "It helps that most new international titles are available here too." That way, children keep pace with what others in their age group are reading across the world.

Niranjani says that a library helps because when children visit it, they end up seeing and picking up books they would have never been exposed to otherwise.

Anu Vignesh's daughter Mayanka, a Class V student, is a huge fan of Enid Blyton. She's loves horses too, and so, an encyclopaedia on horses is popular on her reading list. So are pre-teen books such as the St. Claire's series.

Rema Giridhar's daughter Layanaya, 9, reads a lot of Amar Chitra Katha and Geronimo Stilton. "We allow her to read what she wants to. When she chooses a slightly higher read, we step in as censors, so that she reads the right books," she says.

Abhirami, 15, is a voracious reader. She grew up abroad and so also reads books that are unfamiliar here. Her mother Vasanthi, an avid reader herself, says she has always encouraged Abhirami to read. "We have gently nudged her to try books a little higher than her level. This has ensured she reads all books, not just those she is used to or is comfortable with," she says. Thanks to this, Abhirami reads Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Jerome K Jerome and PG Wodehouse. But, she also loves Asterix!

Sometimes, children's reading habits rub off on adults. That's what happened with Vasanthi. "Abhirami tells me about the new authors she's reading. It's lovely because these are authors who were not around when I was a kid. At any age, it's nice to read kiddie books," she says, rushing off to read her daughter's copy of Jacqueline Wilson's Hetty Feather.

"I've to return it tonight!"

What sells online

Anil Goteti of Flipkart says that Indian authors such as Ruskin Bond, R.K. Narayan and Sudha Murthy are amongst the most popular kids' authors. Adventure is a top seller, followed by the fantasy genre. And, despite the influx of new authors and titles, Enid Blyton and R.K. Narayan are still a hit.

Top-Sellers

Ages 5 to 7 Geronimo Stilton, Roald Dahl, Captain Underpants, Wimpy Kid, Dr. Seuss

Ages 8-10 Wimpy Kid, Famous Five, Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew, Amar Chitra Katha, Percy Jackson and Narnia

Ages 11-15 Lord of The Rings, The Hunger Games, Calvin and Hobbes, Artemis Fowl, Tintin and Twilight



Recipe: One pot

Spanish rice and prawn

A one pot dish for those hurried afternoons

Preparation time: 4 minutes

Cooking time: 16

Serves: 4

Ingredients:

1 onion, sliced

1 red and 1 green pepper, de-seeded and sliced

50g chorizo, sliced

2 garlic cloves, crushed

1 tbsp olive oil

250g basmati rice

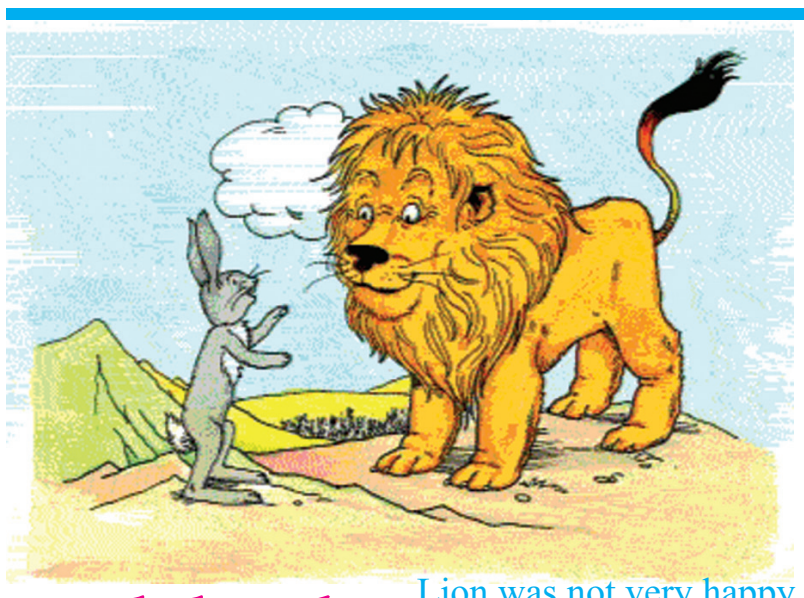
400g chopped tomatoes

200g raw, peeled prawns, defrosted if frozen

Method:

Boil the kettle. Heat the oil in a non-stick frying or shallow pan with a lid, fry the onion, peppers, chorizo and garlic in the oil over a high heat for 3 minutes. Stir in the rice and chopped tomatoes. Stir for 2-3 minutes till the rice is well coated. Add 500ml boiling water, cover, then cook over a high heat for 12 minutes. Uncover, then stir - the rice should be almost tender, stir in the prawns, with a splash more water if the rice is looking dry, then cook for another min until the prawns are just pink and the rice tender.





Rabbit's Ruse

Lion was not very happy with his ministers. So he decided to test them. Would they pass the test?

A large, green forest, was ruled over by Lion — the undisputed king of the jungle. He wanted to give the impression that he was kind and benevolent. To win the trust of his subjects, he thought it would be a good idea if he selected his ministers from amongst them. After mulling over the idea for a long time, he chose Bear, Monkey and Rabbit to assist him. Bear represented the big animals, Monkey the medium-sized ones and Rabbit the small ones. This way, Lion hoped to achieve the right balance.

Honesty

Everything went well for some time. Then Lion realised that he could not kill any animals when Bear, Monkey and Rabbit were his ministers, because they would want to protect their own. So, once again he put on his thinking cap and pondered over the problem.



"If I get rid of these three ministers, I can do what I please without being answerable to anyone," he thought. Very soon, he came up with an idea. He smiled broadly and his whiskers twitched excitedly. The plan was extremely simple.

Lion called his ministers for a high level meeting. Greetings were exchanged and he requested them to be seated. Lion said, "You have been with me for a while now. I want to make sure that the high position you hold has not spoiled you. So I am going to test you."

"What is the test?" asked the bewildered ministers.

"I am going to ask each of you a question. I want an honest answer. Will you promise to be absolutely honest?"

"We will, we will," the three ministers chorused.

"What is the question, Your Majesty?"

Deciding to go in order of size, Lion turned to Bear. "Tell me, how does my mouth smell?" Honest Bear told lion the truth as promised. "It smells foul, Your Majesty."

Lion gave a royal roar. "How dare you! This amounts to treason. Your position has gone to your head." The next instant lion jumped on Bear and killed him.

Next he looked at Monkey and posed the same question. Monkey decided to be crafty, having witnessed the fate of the bear. "It smells as fresh as a rose," he lied.

"You liar! Do you think I am a fool to be taken in by your flattery?" He grabbed Monkey by the neck and shook him till his teeth rattled. Then he killed him.

Only Rabbit remained. Lion faced him and repeated the question. Rabbit sniffed and cleared his throat. "I am sorry, Your Majesty. I am unable to answer your question. I have a bad cold and am unable to smell anything. If you grant me a couple of days to recover, I can answer your question," he bluffed. "Honestly!" he added for good measure.

Lion nodded his regal head and dismissed Rabbit. Delighted that his ruse had worked, Rabbit sped away. Needless to say that he never returned.

Taking baby reading Steps

All people lamenting how kids these days don't read much, wake up and smell the coffee. Kids are very much reading, and a lot, because parents today are making an effort to ensure their kids start early and get hooked to reading by the time they can read independently. And it's a habit that seems to stay, once they get going.

Mridula Charlu, a senior manager at an IT firm says it's been two years since their family of four took a library membership at their neighbourhood branch of Just Books "because we all love books. We used to go to the library once a week on Saturdays, now we are not so regular," she admits. She started reading books to her now nine-year-old daughter Arundhati when she was barely one. "And then while potty-training her, we gave her books to read to keep her entertained while she sat…that's where it really started, she laughs. "By the time she was three, she was reading independently. Now, I have to tell her to stop reading, go out and play. My husband and I read a lot as well, so I guess she picked the habit from us." Arundhati has a group of about six other classmates, who exchange books between themselves and read. Her son Agastya, now a little over four years, and Arundhati read every night before they go to bed. Some classics are also downloaded on the iPad for them to read.

There may be other many encouraging factors too, apart from enthusiastic bookworm parents. The number of good libraries that allow books to be ordered from home and are delivered at the doorstep have increased. So have activities around books — new book launches are accompanied by storytelling sessions for children. Many libraries conduct monthly activities for kids around a theme or book that could include painting, craft, making up their own stories — al of which lead kids towards more stories and more books.

Divya Purandar is a familiar figure in Bangalore's bloggers' circles as the one who blogs at One Story A Day. It all started for Divya and her then three-year-old son Abhay when they were in America. She was bowled over by the books and library system there. She started this habit of reading her son one story a day and it's become an inseparable part of their life over the last four years. "Now he's picked up reading on his own and I get him books from early readers' series thrice a week," says Divya. She's a member of three libraries "just for him", and apart from borrowing, also buys him books every month. "He's not really a voracious reader and doesn't grab each and every thing I get him, but now I discover he's interested in reading books on adventure, cars, and mythology, especially Amar Chitra Katha."

But why then are so many rueing that kids don't read? Mridula points out that there are two kinds of children — those that read and those that don't. Umesh Malhotra, CEO of Hippocampus library, says there are two categories of parents — those who are educated and have always believed in the power of reading, and those who are schooled and focus mostly on academics and struggle to realise the importance of the reading habit in their children's lives. "The average starting age of reader in our place is about 3.5 years and we have upward of 3,000 members. Many mothers bring their kids to our library when they are as young as one, and we have seen them evolve as readers till they are about seven. Parents have taught children the alphabet by the time they are three, and they specially take time out to make them read," he observes.

Varsha Pillai, mother to Aadya, who's just a little over two, has been reading to her daughter since she was one. She started identifying things in books before she turned two. They graduated from hard board books, to touch and feel, to small stories like the Baby Einstein series. Books are also great company for children on long journeys, she's realised. Varsha believes there are many takeaways to children learning to read early. "She is able to identify and recognise things around her. Recently we went to the Mysore zoo and she recognised a Toucan because she'd seen it in a book." Apart from going to the library regularly, Varsha also buys second-hand books that can be rough-used, and come at a much lower cost than rather expensive children's books otherwise.














Organic recipes for Diabetics

Diabetics needn't restrict themselves to boring soups and fat-free snacks. Try these simple recipes with unconventional grains that pack in flavour and nutrition.

Organic food is the buzz word and every nutritionist, model, health enthusiast is swearing by their daily dose of quinoa. Organic or not, grains such as polenta, couscous, barley and flax seeds suddenly find themselves in the limelight, outsing the good old rajma and chana. We get Chef Prakash Lopes, from Citrus at The Leela, to teach us healthy and delicious variations using these grains.Barley and vegetable broth

Ingredients

200 ml Barley (soaked overnight)
5 ml Olive oil
15 gm Carrots (chopped)
15 gm Onions (chopped)
5 gm Fresh herbs of your choice
200 gm Vegetable stock
1 Garlic (chopped)
Salt and pepper to taste

Method

- Boil the soaked barley grains in hot water till they soften and keep aside.
- Boil all the vegetables and cook them until they are soft.
- Combine the boiled barley with the vegetable stock and bring the it to a boil.
- Let it simmer it for a few more minutes and season with salt and pepper.
- Garnish with chopped herbs and serve hot.

Chef's tip for non-diabetics: Add a dash of balsamic reduction to the soup. Alternatively, you can also add a few drops of Tabasco sauce to spice up this preparation. If you want to indulge, substitute olive oil with butter.

Cous cous salad

Ingredients

100 gm Couscous
50 gm Onion (finely chopped)
25 gm Yellow bell pepper (finely chopped)
25 gm Red bell pepper (finely chopped)
50 gm Tomato (deseeded and finely chopped)
20 gm Parsley (finely chopped)
25 ml Lemon juice
30 ml Olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste

Method

- Soak couscous in hot water and cover it with cling wrap.
- Keep it soaked until it softens. This should take about 10 minutes. Strain and let it cool.
- In a bowl, add all the chopped vegetables and tip in the cooked couscous once it cools.
- Season it with salt and pepper, followed by lemon juice and olive oil.
- Toss it gently with a spoon and serve cold.

Chef's tip for non-diabetics: You can toss in some boiled potatoes or red kidney beans to make it wholesome. You can also add a few pieces of fruit for a sweet tinge.

Vegetable and chicken stew with polenta

Ingredients

600 gm Polenta
600 ml Milk
100 ml Olive oil
20 gm Onions (chopped)
20 gm Carrots (chopped)
20 gm Garlic (chopped)
1 kg Chicken (chopped)
1 tsp Peppercorns
5 gm Sage leaves
1 tbsp Rosemary
2 Bay leaves
1 kg Tomatoes (chopped)
1 tsp Nutmeg powder
Salt and pepper to taste

Method

- Heat a litre of water and add the polenta to it.
- Cook this for five to six minutes, stirring continuously.
- The polenta might bubble excessively, so be careful. Once it is cooked, let it cool in an open vessel.
- In another pan, saute the garlic and add the vegetables and meat.
- Cook this mixture until the chicken is done.
- Add sage leaves, rosemary, bay leaves, peppercorns, tomatoes and nutmeg powder to this mix.
- Let the mixture simmer for six to seven minutes. You can add some vegetable stock to avoid browning.
- Continue to cook mixture for about40 minutes.
- Season with salt and pepper and serve it with polenta.

Chef's tip for non-diabetics: Butter, cream and cheese can be added to the polenta while cooking. This will give it a creamy texture, rich flavour and a smoother bite...

Quinoa salad

Ingredients

½ cup Quinoa (cooked)
¼ cup Yellow bell pepper (chopped)
¼ cup Red bell pepper (chopped)
4 tbsp Basil and thyme (finely chopped)
1 tbsp Olive oil
2 tbsp Fresh lemon juice
Salt and pepper to taste

Method

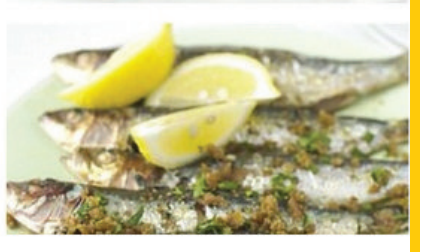
- In a salad bowl, mix all the vegetables with quinoa and herbs
- Drizzle it with olive oil and lemon juice. » Season with salt and pepper and serve cold.

Chef's tip for non-diabetics: You can drizzle the salad with some balsamic reduction for a more enriched, gourmet flavour.



Changing palettes with changing times



Over the last few years, Chennaiites have begun to relish exotic cuisines. finds out what's on plates nowadays

The cityscape has undergone a sea change especially in the culinary sphere. Since the launch of Chennai Times five years ago, a lot has changed - not just in food but people's palates and tastes as well.

So apart from the regular Chinese, Mughlai, Continental that has existed since a long time, today, you can find cuisines like Lebanese, Japanese, Burmese, Greek, Korean and more. Pratiti Rajpal, who works at a star hotel in the city, says, "We had to change our entire buffet in the last one month because people want to try out new cuisines and are more experimental when it comes to food now." They have now added Thai, sushi, hot and cold chats and much more to the menu.

Chennaiites now have evolved palettes (because of more travel and exposure to foreign cultures on TV) and want variety while ordering food, and they can't be blamed either! It is this evolving appetite that has compelled the city's restaurants and hotels to redo their menus.Chef Thomas Angerer, Executive Chef at a luxury hotel, says, "Due to the influx of new hotels and restaurants in Chennai, people have opened up to different cuisines and are ready to try out what's new. They are open to newer concepts as well. It wasn't the same case a few years back."

And people here agree. "I love food, and more than that I like trying out new cuisines. Earlier, to try out an authentic cuisine one had to go to a star hotel. But now there're so many small restaurants and so many choices. Food has changed in this city," says Kiran P, an engineer and an ardent food lover.

Food festivals regular held across the city at eat-outs have also made people inquisitive about international food and exotic cuisines. Saurabh Agarwal, an entrepreneur who has been in Chennai for over six years, says, "I like going for food fests; it is great way to find out what different foods taste like. Over the years I have seen the change in food habits.

When I first came to Chennai, there were very few places where I could get good north Indian food. Forget north Indian, the only food easily available was different types of south Indian cuisines. Now many restaurants offer a variety. In fact, we have Korean, Greek and Lebanese restaurants as well!"

While Italian was always a favourite in this city, more south Asian cuisines are emerging.

Manoj Kurian, proprietor of a Burmese restaurant in the city, says, "My restaurant is a year old and people who come here don't feel that they are eating an alien dish. I have had a great response as well." He believes had he opened his restaurant a few years ago, it might not have done so well. "Burmese food has been in Chennai but it was thought of as street food," he adds.

Tadka maar ke Punjabi style!

As the city is high on its appetite binge with Baisakhi round the corner, The Funjabi Tadka (TFT) is geared up to celebrate the season of harvest with a delightful culinary spread.

From starters to desserts, a peek into the special menu finds exciting selections like Pineapple Shikanjvi, Makai Shorba, Zaffrani Murgh Tikka, Kadai Paneer, Palak Methi, Ghehoon Ki Kheer, Moong Dal Halwa and much more.

The special menu, available from April 14 to April 21 is on from 12 noon till 3.30 pm for lunch and 7 pm till 11.30 pm for dinner. It is priced at 400 plus taxes per couple.

Essential dos in summer from the chef

Have high water content vegetables.

Try less spicy food. However, usage of capsicum and peppers always helps.

Eat fruits like watermelon blended with tomato or pepper.

Yoghurt drinks of low fat at intervals with salt and a little bit of sugar can make up for the loss of body salts.

Experiment with cucumber, tomato and lettuce-based salads dressed with the essence of cardamom.

Venue: 19A Southern Avenue, opp Tollygunge Police Station, Kolkata



Delhi High Court asks govt to decide on body cameras for police, RAF in 6 months

Delhi HC refuses to mandate body cameras for police, RAF personnel; asks govt to decide in 6 months

Delhi. (Agency)

-The Delhi High Court has refused to direct the Delhi Police and Rapid Action Force (RAF) to mandatorily wear body-worn cameras during crowd-control and protest-management duties. A bench directed the government to treat the public interest litigation (PIL) seeking mandatory use of body cameras as a representation and decide on it within six months. The petition had sought the framing of standard operating procedures (SOPs) making the use of body-worn cameras mandatory and continuous for every Delhi Police and RAF personnel deployed for crowd control, protest management or dispersal duties.

PETITION SEEKS MANDATORY CAMERA USE

The petitioner argued that the technology required for body-worn cameras is already available and that their use would go a long way towards ensuring greater transparency in policing. The plea sought that cameras remain operational from the beginning of deployment until personnel are stood down from duty.

COURT LEAVES DECISION TO GOVERNMENT

While declining to issue a direction making body cameras mandatory, the High Court asked the government to consider the PIL as a representation. The government has been given six months to examine the demand and take a decision on the proposed SOPs and mandatory use of body-worn cameras by police and RAF personnel during such deployments.



Delhi is India's No. 2 concert market. So why are global artists skipping it?

Delhi. (Agency)

In the past year, Delhi-NCR has seen a spate of mega concerts, from hip hop star Travis Scott and English singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran, and is set to host upcoming shows by Fred Again and Khalid. It is currently India's second-largest concert market, accounting for nearly 17% of concerts and live events in the country — about half the share of Mumbai.

Yet some international artists planning India tours are skipping the national capital altogether, choosing Mumbai and Bengaluru — and, in some cases, smaller cities such as Guwahati and Ahmedabad — instead.

For instance, English rock band Gorillaz is heading to Guwahati, Bengaluru and Mumbai in January next year. Post Malone performed at Guwahati last year while Coldplay only did shows in Ahmedabad and Mumbai. Many other artists like Enrique Iglesias and John Mayer only did concerts in Mumbai. Guns N' Roses is headed to Guwahati in November after Bengaluru. For organisers and industry executives, the choice of city is increasingly about more than just audience size. They pointed to several factors behind the decision, from state subsidies and audience spending patterns to concerns around women's safety and air pollution in Delhi.



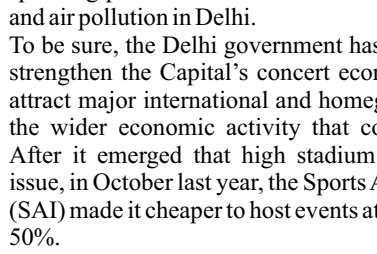
To be sure, the Delhi government has been pushing to strengthen the Capital's concert economy, seeking to attract major international and homegrown artists and the wider economic activity that comes with them. After it emerged that high stadium rentals were an issue, in October last year, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) made it cheaper to host events at its venues by 40-50%.

'Your computer is hacked': India-based scam targeting US seniors via Bitcoin ATMs

Delhi. (Agency)

In 2022, several senior citizens in the US began receiving calls and emails from men claiming to be "Microsoft employees". Their computers had been hacked, the callers warned, and their bank accounts "compromised". The callers then directed the seniors to Bitcoin ATMs — a physical kiosk that lets you buy or sell cryptocurrency using cash or a debit card, connecting directly to your digital wallet — where they were coerced into depositing cash to buy software that would supposedly fix their computers.

Fearing that their money and personal information were at risk, the victims followed the instructions. They realised only later that they had been scammed.



Some of them complained last year to authorities in the US, and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) was alerted. On July 27 this year, the CBI lodged an FIR under sections of criminal conspiracy and Section 66(D) of the IT Act, 2000, which punishes cheating by personation using a computer resource. In August, three scammers, including alleged mastermind Saurabh Rana, were arrested by the central agency.

Investigators said the accused were part of a syndicate operating from Punjab and Delhi that allegedly targeted American nationals through an organised tech-support scam by impersonating representatives of technology companies, financial institutions and law-enforcement agencies.

Yuvraj Manchanda murder: Rs 90 lakh cheque, fake threat and plot to kill Adani Realty manager

The Delhi Police claimed the accused, Anya Vats, was trying to raise the money to settle a cheating case when she allegedly devised a plan to kill her former colleague, Yuvraj Manchanda, with her live-in partner.

Delhi. (Agency)

On September 2, Yuvraj Manchanda, a manager at Adani Realty, was sitting at Roots Cafe in Gurugram's Sector 29 with Anya Vats, a former colleague who now worked as a freelance real estate agent. Yuvraj, 31, was getting married in October and was looking to buy a home. "Anya had told him about some flats in Gurugram's Pyramid Society in Sector 70 that were available at throwaway prices. They met to discuss finances," said a Delhi Police officer. A source with the Delhi Police said Anya was also finding out exactly how much money Yuvraj could put together: how much he had in his accounts, how much he planned to borrow from banks, and how much he was taking from friends and family. She then asked for his phone to check something. "She wanted to see his password. She had already accessed his bank account statements and bank balance in the name of formalities for the sale of the plot," said a police officer. Four days later, Yuvraj was dead. Police alleged that Anya and her live-in partner, Sanyam, shot him dead on September 6 inside their white Creta in Gurugram's Sector 70. His body was later dumped in a drain.



A police officer said the murder was linked to a post-dated cheque of Rs 90 lakh that Anya had issued to settle a cheating case involving a senior Punjab National Bank (PNB) official. With the money unavailable, investigators alleged, she targeted Yuvraj and fabricated a threat to draw her partner into the plan.

Expanded ANMOL scheme, hike in ASHA incentive — Delhi launches health initiatives

Delhi. (Agency)

Expansion of the ANMOL scheme, which raises the free newborn screening programme for newborns, from 56 to 63 diseases, doubling of the monthly incentive for ASHA workers from Rs 3,000 to Rs 6,000 — these were among the several new healthcare initiatives launched by the Delhi Government on Tuesday under the "Seva Sankalp Abhiyan" programme, organised at Thyagraj Stadium.

The programme also saw the virtual inauguration of the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) building at GB Pant Hospital. Further, a Nursing Home Management System portal was launched, which moves registration and renewal for private nursing homes online, officials said.

The hike in incentives is set to benefit 6,690 ASHA workers in the Capital, officials said, adding that the increment is a recognition of the dedication with which the workers bring Delhi's health services to households. ASHA workers act as the link between the community and the public health system. They register pregnant women, push for institutional deliveries, track immunisation, counsel families on nutrition and sanitation, and accompany patients to health facilities and work under the National Health Mission.



On the development, Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said, "The incentive had been pending for nearly a decade. Through the Covid years, the workers kept serving. The steps to recognise them did not come. This government has addressed it."

On Tuesday, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta also felicitated outstanding workers at the "ASHA Sammelan-2026 and ASHA Samman Samaroh". She said she expects them to reach every family like an elder sister, and announced a special dandiya programme for them during Navratri.

Congestion ahead: Accurate Google Maps update on Barapullah traffic expected soon

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi Traffic Police is coordinating with Google Maps to ensure that the traffic situation on the newly opened Barapullah Phase-III corridor is accurately reflected on the app, officers said on Tuesday.

This comes a day after the Delhi Traffic Police on Monday said in a post on X that with the app showing the route as relatively clear, commuters are being directed towards the already congested stretch.A drone survey had identified a major bottleneck at the Sundial Park merger near Sarai Kale Khan where lanes merge into the existing Barapullah corridor.

Traffic Police officers said this is adding to the traffic load as vehicles that would otherwise use DND or NH-24 turns towards the new corridor, choking it further. "The newly opened corridor is attracting substantial traffic that would otherwise use NH-24 and DND, thereby increasing the traffic load," an official said. The Traffic Police said the issue on the navigation app will be sorted out in a few days.



PWD flags 'misinformation'

Public Works Department (PWD) officials have also blamed Google Maps for feeding "misinformation" to commuters, exacerbating the lockjam. "There is some misinformation on Google Maps; apparently, it is not updating real-time traffic information for commuters to properly navigate, causing more congestion on the stretch," quoted an official as having said. Officials also said that despite a recent meeting with the Traffic Police and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), no solution has been reached so far.

Mere eyewash: Court tears into Delhi Police over organised crime case

A Delhi court rebuked the police for failing to arrest MCOCA accused for years despite repeated offences. The judge said the delay defeated the law's purpose and warranted an enquiry into erring officials.

Delhi. (Agency)

What began as a protest planned at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on October 2 against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has, over the past four days, spread across central Delhi, with multiple groups attem A court has sharply criticised Delhi Police for the handling of an organised crime case, saying two accused allegedly continued to commit serious offences, including murder, for years after the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) was invoked against them, but were arrested only in 2026. Special Judge Gaurav Rao said the police report placed before the court was an "absolutely perfunctory and mere eyewash". The court has sent a copy of its October 5 order to the Delhi police commissioner, saying the matter "calls for a detailed inquiry and appropriate action against all the erring officials/investigating officers." It has also sought a report from the commissioner's office by the next hearing and directed the concerned joint commissioner of police to remain present in person with the report and his comments. The case relates to an FIR registered in September 2020, in which MCOCA was invoked against Mukesh alias Punit and Pardeep alias Guri. The court noted that when MCOCA was invoked, Mukesh was already involved in around 20 FIRs, including two for murder and one for attempt to murder. After that, he was allegedly named in eight more FIRs between 2021 and 2024, including cases of murder, attempt to murder, robbery and kidnapping. He was arrested only on February 9, 2026, by Assistant Commissioner of Police Rakesh Kumar after the investigation was assigned to him on September 25, 2025. "Hence, before ACP Rakesh Kumar, none of the IOs made any efforts to arrest the said accused," the court said.



The court said Pardeep alias Guri was also involved in several cases and, according to the chargesheet, committed a number of heinous offences in 2020 after MCOCA was invoked against him. He was also named in two FIRs registered in 2024, yet was arrested only on April 16, 2026.The court further noted that three other accused — Vinod alias Sonu alias Praveen alias Khalifa, Pardeep alias Anil alias Salamuddin and Vikas alias Vicky alias Pankaj — have still not been arrested, and investigation against them remains incomplete despite more than six years having passed.

Markets fall in early trade after two days of rally; Sensex falls 460 points

Kolkata. (Agency)

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early trade on Wednesday after two days of rally amid a spike in crude oil prices and caution ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy decision.The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 460 points to 72,599.05 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 164.80 points to 22,610.85.Among the 30 Sensex firms, Titan, Asian Paints, Bharat Electronics, Maruti, Axis Bank and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the laggards.

Bajaj Finance and Bharti Airtel were the gainers.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 1.01 per cent higher at USD 101.6 per barrel.

"Brent crude is back above USD 101 and there are no signs of any reversal in FPI outflows. Domestic liquidity and expectations of good Q2 numbers are supporting the market. The focus of the market today will be on the monetary stance and the message from the RBI Governor," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,961.30 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra will announce the rate decision at 10 am on Wednesday after the conclusion of the three-day meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee.In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hang Seng index quoted lower.US markets ended higher on Tuesday."Geopolitical risks remain elevated, while crude oil prices have rebounded modestly from recent lows. WTI crude is trading near USD 90 a barrel, while Brent remains above USD 100. The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee decision due later today is likely to be the key domestic catalyst," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, said.

Best Apps to Save Sports Highlights and Match Replays in 2026

Kolkata . (Agency)

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clips have a short shelf life. The two days after a match are when the good ones circulate, and by the following week half the accounts that posted them have taken the videos down or been made to. If you saw something worth keeping, the window for keeping it is measured in days.

Advertisement

Snaptube is where to start, because most of what makes a tool right for this comes down to two things: how fast you can act, and how many places you can act on. Five more follow, each with a note on the situation it actually fits and the one it does not.Coverage across more than a hundred platforms is the part that matters first, because the highlights from one match are never in one place. A league account posts the goals, a fan account posts the same goals with better commentary, a player's own page posts the celebration, and all three sit on different social platforms. Chasing a single fixture across three apps is how people give up halfway, and a tool that takes any of those links removes the switching entirely.Speed matters differently here than it does for other content. Downloads begin when you tap rather than after a stretch of parsing, which turns saving a clip into something you do while still watching the reaction rather than a task you leave for later. That is the whole game with sports: rights holders clear this material quickly, and the version you meant to save tomorrow is often gone tomorrow.

Titan reports 25% revenue growth in Q2FY27, jewellery sales up 21%

New Delhi. (Agency)

Titan Co Ltd, the country's leading branded jewellery and watchmaker, reported a 25 per cent year-on-year growth in its revenue for the September quarter of FY27, driven by performances across its jewellery, watches and eyewear segments.o combine innovation with accessibility..However, the growth momentum moderated on a sequential basis, with revenue growth in the September quarter at 25 per cent, compared with over 40 per cent in each of the preceding three quarters.Titan had reported 40 per cent growth in standalone revenue in the December quarter of FY26, which further accelerated to 46 per cent in the March quarter. It had reported 41 per cent revenue growth in the June quarter of Fy27.In the September quarter, its jewellery division, which contributed 91.5 per cent of its over Rs 75,000 crore revenue in FY26, reported 21 per cent growth.

Titan, which operates in the branded jewellery segment with its flagship brand Tanishq and other brands, including Mia, Zoya, beYon and CaratLane, said consumer demand remained healthy, with some moderation towards the end of the quarter due to the shift in the festive calendar to Q3 Fy27."Aided by the 'Festival of Diamonds' campaign and brand-level promotions, studded jewellery grew strongly in the early thirties, while plain gold jewellery grew 20 per cent year-on-year (YoY)," it said.However, investment-led coins demand "tapered" from a high base, "resulting in a high single-digit decline" YoY, said Titan.

"Buyer growth (at a portfolio level) came in mid-single digits with average ticket sizes seeing double-digit growth in this period," it said.

What does repo rate hike mean for common man? From loans and EMIs to stocks and gold

The RBI has raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50%, making loans slightly costlier for households. The move signals that rate cuts are off the table for now, pushing borrowers and investors to prepare for higher rates for longer.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Reserve Bank of India's decision to raise the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50% will make borrowing marginally more expensive for households, while also changing the outlook for homebuyers, investors and savers.

The impact will be felt most directly by people with floating-rate home and auto loans, as lenders are likely to reprice loans following the RBI's move. But the bigger message for borrowers is that they should not count on lower interest rates Governor Sanjay Malhotra said rate cuts are "off the table in the near term" and that the next policy action can only be a rate hike or a pause, depending on how inflation and growth evolve.in the near term.

HOME LOAN EMIs COULD RISE

For existing floating-rate home loan borrowers, the impact will depend on how quickly their lender passes on the higher policy rate and whether the bank chooses to increase the EMI or extend the loan tenure.Atul Monga, CEO & Co-Founder, BASIC Home Loan, said the 25-basis-point hike will lead to a marginal increase in home loan borrowing costs, but is unlikely to significantly change homebuyer sentiment or long-term housing demand."For most borrowers, the impact on EMIs will remain manageable, particularly when viewed against the long tenure of a home loan,"



Monga said.He gave an example of a Rs 50 lakh home loan with a 30-year tenure. A 25-basis-point increase would raise the monthly EMI by Rs 852 at a PSU bank, from Rs 34,109 to Rs 34,961. At a private bank, the EMI would rise by Rs 867, from Rs 35,821 to Rs 36,688.

Over the full 30-year tenure, assuming the loan runs for the entire period, the additional interest outgo would be around Rs 3.07 lakh for a PSU bank and Rs 3.12 lakh for a private bank, Monga said.

Adhil Shetty, CEO, BankBazaar, also said the rate increase could show up either through a higher EMI or a longer tenure. Floating-rate loans linked to the repo rate usually reset within a few months, he said.At a 7.5% interest rate over 25 years, Shetty estimates that the monthly EMI could increase by around Rs 490 on a Rs 30 lakh loan, Rs 654 on a Rs 40 lakh loan and Rs 817 on a Rs 50 lakh loan.

Over the full tenure, the additional interest could work out to roughly Rs 1.5 lakh, Rs 1.96 lakh and Rs 2.45 lakh, respectively.

Repo rate hike to weigh on housing demand: Experts

New Delhi. (Agency)

The RBI's 25-basis-point repo rate hike is expected to weigh on housing demand as it comes against a backdrop of rising property prices. The increase will push up borrowing costs for homebuyers and may lead to deferment in purchasing decisions, particularly in the price-sensitive segments. After nearly three-and-a-half years, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday raised the key benchmark policy rate by 25 basis points to 5.5% to control rising inflation amid the West Asia crisis.

"The rate hike will put presure on consumer sentiment and discretionary spending – this has a direct correlation to housing demand. The festive season is a key period for housing demand, and an increase in borrowing costs will affect buyer sentiment," said Anuj Puri, Chairman - ANAROCK Group. Puri added that with the rate hike, dearer home loans will make buyers more selective and cause decision timelines to extend, particularly in the price-sensitive segments. As per Anarock Research data, average residential prices increased 7% y-o-y. Q3 2026 recorded approx. 1,00,220 housing sales across the top 7 cities, up 3% y-o-y and 10% q-o-q. Affordable housing comprised a 16% share of these sales. "This momentum will now be tested because even a modest increase in EMIs will result in deferred purchase decisions or budget recalculations among affordable housing buyers…Higher financing costs coupled with the possibility of softer festive consumption could make developers and investors more cautious. Some new mall projects could potentially be deferred until there is greater clarity on demand," stated Puri. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided to raise the policy repo rate by 25 basis points. MPC also changed its stance to 'calibrated tightening' from 'neutral' and also underscored that rate cut is unlikely.

Rupee falls 10 paise to 96.45 against US dollar ahead of RBI monetary policy decision

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The rupee depreciated 10 paise to 96.45 against the US



dollar in early trade on Wednesday ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy decision.

The rupee is under continuous pressure amid persistent outflows of foreign funds from domestic equities and strong US dollar holding near multi-month highs above 102 (DXY), forex traders said.Moreover, investors are keenly awaiting the RBI's monetary policy decision for further cues.At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 96.37, then lost ground and fell to 96.45, down 10 paise from its previous close

On Tuesday, the rupee settled at 96.35 against the US dollar."We have the RBI monetary policy meeting today, in which the RBI is expected to raise rates by 25 bps with an outside chance of a 50 bps raise. The RBI may also raise the CRR by 1 per cent to 4 per cent to absorb the excess liquidity."We await the RBI stance on the falling rupee which has lost more than 2 per cent in the last 1 month with oil demand and FPI demand for the US dollar keeping the rupee lower," said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said.The Reserve Bank of India will announce its bi-monthly monetary policy decision at 1000 hrs on Wednesday, with several experts expecting a rate hike after nearly three-and-a-half years as inflation pressures rise due to the continuing West Asia conflict.The RBI last hiked the repo rate in February 2023, raising it by 0.25 per cent to 6.50 per cent. It kept the rate unchanged through 2023-24 before beginning its rate-cut cycle in 2025.

The RBI's policy repo rate currently stands at 5.25 per cent.Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the strength of the greenback against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 102.02, higher by 0.19 per cent.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 0.91 per cent at USD 101.50 per barrel in futures trade.On the domestic equity market front, Sensex fell 460 points to 72,599.05 in early trade, while the Nifty declined 164.80 points to 22,610.85.

Paramount completes its takeover of Warner Bros to become one Hollywood giant known as Skydance

CHICAGO. (Agency)

It's official: Skydance-owned Paramount closed its $81 billion takeover of Warner Bros. Discovery on Tuesday, ushering in a new Hollywood behemoth.

The merger brings two of America's oldest moviemaking studios together under a new name: Skydance.HBO Max, titles ranging from "Harry Potter" to "Sinners" and networks such as CNN now also find themselves under the same roof as Paramount+, CBS and the likes of "Top Gun" and "The Godfather." All are under the helm of billionaire David Ellison and his new co-CEO Ynon Kreiz.

"Today is a historic day, not just for Skydance but for our entire industry," Ellison said. "We couldn't be more excited to get to work."Ellison's Skydance bought Paramount for $8 billion last year before setting its sights on Warner. What followed erupted into a tumultuous, roughly yearlong fight over the storied Hollywood giant. Including billions of dollars in debt, the acquisition amounts to nearly $111 billion.The now-combined Skydance marks one of the biggest tie-ups in media and entertainment history, further concentrating power in an industry already run by just a handful of big players. Politics also loomed over much of the process. The Ellison family has notably held a long relationship with Republican President Donald Trump, who said Tuesday that Skydance is "going to be a great company."Netflix gets into a bidding war with Paramount for WarnerThe early days of Paramount's quest for Warner turned into a messy bidding war.

Months after disclosing it was open to selling all or part of its business, Warner initially struck a studio and streaming deal with Netflix in December.

But Paramount said it also had made offers that Warner management "never engaged meaningfully" with. It soon launched a hostile counterbid.

The Hollywood giants spent much of early 2026 in a heated back-and-forth over who had a stronger offer, with Warner leadership repeatedly backing Netflix as its preferred suitor. But Netflix bowed out after Paramount eventually upped its offer to buy all of Warner for $31 per share.

Hollywood stars made their thoughts known

Hollywood was closely watching the fight over Warner's future. From awards shows to online petitions, A-list celebrities and other creatives made their voices known.

RBI's festive-season rate hike is bad news for homebuyers

The festive season is usually when homebuyers make big purchase decisions. But the RBI's latest rate hike could make buying a home a little more expensive, especially for those already working with tight budgets.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The festive season is usually a time when homebuyers start making big purchase decisions. But this year, a higher repo rate could make that decision a little harder, especially for buyers already stretching their budgets.The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Wednesday raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50%, its first rate hike since February 2023. The move comes as inflation pressures rise and the global economic environment remains uncertain.For the housing market, timing matters. The festive season is traditionally an important period for property sales, but higher borrowing costs could make some buyers pause before signing on the dotted line.

HOME LOAN COSTS COULD WEIGH ON FESTIVE DEMAND

A repo rate hike can eventually push up borrowing costs for banks and lenders, which may affect home loan rates. Even a small rise in the interest rate can increase the overall cost of a long-term home loan.

Jason Samuel, MD, House of Swamiraj, said the industry will be watching the impact of the rate hike closely as the festive season brings more buyers into the housing market."A higher repo rate can translate into increased borrowing costs and, over time, put some pressure on home loan EMIs and affordability, particularly for price-sensitive buyers," Samuel said.However, he does not expect the rate hike alone to change the decision of buyers who are already serious about owning a home.

"Festive demand should remain reasonably steady, although buyers may take a little more time to finalise their finances before making a decision," he said.

FIRST-TIME, MID-INCOME BUYERS MAY FEEL THE PRESSURE

The impact is likely to be more visible among first-time and mid-income homebuyers, who tend to be more sensitive to changes in monthly EMIs.

Harsh Jagwani, Managing Director, Notandas Realty, said the 25-basis-point



increase could affect housing sales sentiment in the coming months, particularly as buyers were expected to step up purchases during the festive season."Marginal increase in home-loan rates play an influential role in purchase decisions and its impact in the upcoming months will be noticed," Jagwani said.

He expects luxury housing to remain relatively insulated from the rate hike. According to Jagwani, premium and luxury homes could continue to see strong demand during the festive period, with sales in the segment expected to rise 20-30%.The impact of higher borrowing costs is not limited to homebuyers. Small businesses typically increase inventory, production and hiring ahead of the festive season, often relying on working capital and short-term loans.Shrikant Goyal, Managing Director, Getfive Funds, said even a modest rise in borrowing costs could put pressure on MSME margins, particularly for smaller businesses with limited pricing power.

"The timing is notable for MSMEs, as the festive season is when they ramp up inventory, production and hiring, and rely heavily on working capital and short-term credit," Goyal said.

He added that a stable interest-rate environment would have provided greater certainty to businesses heading into the festive season. However, he expects MSMEs to remain resilient, helped by formalisation, digital adoption and better access to credit.

NEWS BOX

IIT Bombay puts ceiling fans to a vote after student's suicide

Mumbai (Agency).
"As part of ongoing efforts to improve student safety, comfort and hostel living conditions, feedback is being collected regarding possible alternatives of ceiling-mounted fans in hostel rooms," the form states. Its purpose, it adds, is "to understand students' preferences regarding fan type, quantity and placement, so that practical and effective configurations can be evaluated."
Wakode died by suicide on September 18, hours after he was allegedly found using a mobile phone during a mid-semester examination. His death triggered massive student protests, after which Director Prof Shireesh Kedare held an open house to hear students' concerns.
The survey offers four alternatives to the ceiling fan: wall-mounted, pedestal, table or desk, and tower fans. Students can also choose "no alternative" if they prefer to keep the existing ceiling fan.
They are asked to pick from configurations such as two wall-mounted fans, one wall-mounted and one table fan, or two table fans, and to give the main reason for their choice. The options include better air circulation,

Buying medicines at a UP hospital? The price will be on display from Nov 1

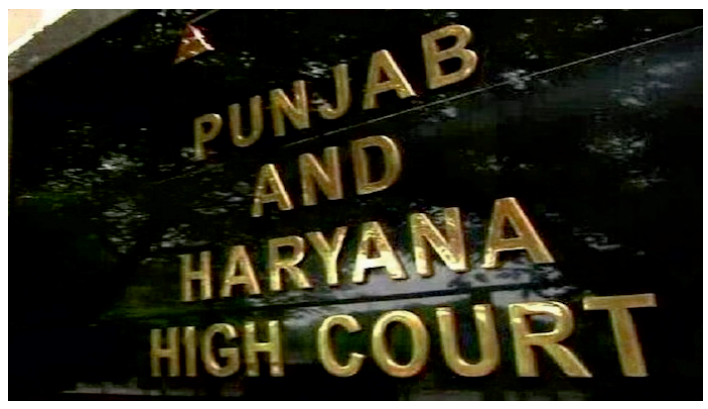
Lucknow(Agency).
The Uttar Pradesh Food Safety and Drug Administration (UPFSDA) has directed pharmacies operating from hospitals across the state to display price lists based on the actual procurement and sale rates of medicines from November 1.
This comes after an inspection by the Uttar Pradesh Food Safety and Drug Administration (UPFSDA) found a staggering gap between the procurement prices of medicines and the maximum retail prices (MRPs) printed on their packs, with the MRP of some drugs found to be several times higher — as high as 67 times – than the price at which hospitals procure them.
The department has also directed all retail pharmacies to create public websites displaying their licence number, appointed pharmacist, licensed premises and stock details. The information will have to be updated on weekly basis, it is learnt.
The move is aimed at improving price transparency, particularly for patients buying medicines from hospital pharmacies where they may have limited alternatives, officials said.
The department has pointed to the cost-plus model followed in some government medical colleges for expensive medicines, including cancer drugs, high-end antibiotics and costly injections. Under this model, the price charged to patients is linked to the hospital's actual procurement cost rather than simply the printed MRP.
Seeks action against drug overpricing
The UPFSDA also sought action by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) on drug pricing after inspections found that patients at some hospitals were being charged up to 67 times the procurement price of medicines.

Karnataka CM to take final call on milk price hike; Rs 8 per litre rise likely after Dasara

BENGALURU (Agency).
The Karnataka Cabinet on Tuesday authorised Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to take a final call on the proposed Rs 8 per litre hike in milk prices, with the State Government likely to seek the Election Commission of India's approval before announcing the decision in view of the Model Code of Conduct which is in force for the MLC elections. As per the Cabinet agenda, the proposal was for Rs 8 to Rs 10 per litre.
A senior Cabinet minister told The New Indian Express that several ministers had favoured the proposed hike and the issue was discussed at the Cabinet meeting. "We have left the final decision to the Chief Minister. Since the Model Code of Conduct will remain in force until October 23, the hike may be officially announced after that. It could come into effect, after Dasara, from November 1," the minister said.
According to informed sources, the proposed increase would be shared in an 80:20 ratio, with Rs 6 per litre going to farmers and Rs 2 to milk unions. The unions had sought a 70:30 sharing formula. The final decision, however, is yet to be taken.
Sources in the government said that the Cabinet held a detailed discussion on the proposed milk price hike, including a comparison of milk prices in other states, which are higher than those in Karnataka.
The meeting also discussed the concerns of milk producers and milk unions, who have been putting pressure on the State Government for a hike citing rising operational costs.Animal Husbandry Minister Puttaranga Shetty, Agriculture Minister PM Narendra Swamy and others argued the need to increase the price.
"The Cabinet has left the final decision to Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who will decide when the hike will be implemented and the quantum of the increase per litre," a minister said.

Wilfully misleading? Punjab Chief Secretary faces contempt notice over DA dues case

Chandigarh(Agency).
The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Tuesday issued a notice to Punjab Chief Secretary KAP Sinha, asking him to explain why criminal contempt proceedings should not be started against him for allegedly "wilfully misleading" the court in a case linked to pending dearness allowance dues of state employees and pensionersThe court also asked him to remain preent on October 9, the next date of hearing.
The bench of Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra and Justice Rohit Kapoor acted after a report from the Supreme Court registry contradicted the state government's stand on the status of its appeal. According to the report, several defects in Punjab's appeal had still not been removed, despite the chief secretary's affidavit stating that the defects had been cured and the appeal had been re-filed.
The high court was hearing pleas over the alleged non-compliance of its August 3 order directing the Punjab government to release pending dearness allowance and dearness relief dues to employees and pensioners at the rates paid to All India Services officers serving in the state. The Punjab government had filed a special leave petition in the



Supreme Court on September 1 against that order.
Referring to the report sent by the Supreme Court registry, the high court noted that the appeal continued to carry several defects, including a deficit court fee, an unsigned vakalatnama and defects in the re-filed appeal as well. It also noted that the defects pointed out earlier had not been cured. The bench said, "The fact that when the statement is made by the chief secretary on affidavit that the appeal has been re-filed, we expect that such senior person would ensure that an appeal correct in all respects would have been presented before the court, particularly when a month has expired since the filing of defective appeal." It added, "...the matter has been persistently adjourned by this court only to accommodate the State. The manner in which the State has chosen to proceed in the matter, therefore, cannot be approved of."
The court further observed, "Re-filing a defective appeal when almost a month has expired since filing of the defective appeal, prima facie, indicates that the attempt was only to misrepresent facts before this court." It said, "From the materials placed on record, we prima facie, find that there is a deliberate misstatement of fact made by the chief secretary before this court. We therefore issue notice to the chief secretary, Punjab, to explain as to why proceedings of criminal contempt be not initiated against him for willfully misleading this court by making false assertions."

Odisha CEO announces special drive to include left-out voters

BHUBANESWAR (Agency).
With over 20 lakh names deleted from the draft roll and another 44,000 removed from the final electoral roll in the state as part of the special intensive revision (SIR), the chief electoral officer (CEO) on Tuesday announced a three-day special drive from October 7 to 9 for the inclusion of eligible left-out electors in the latest voter roll.
The CEO's office has urged all eligible residents whose names have been left out to submit Form-6 for inclusion in the updated electoral roll.
Officials said the main objective of the state-wide drive is to include eligible voters who were left out of the roll during the SIR process and register newly eligible young citizens. Deputy CEO Laxmi Prasad Sahu told this paper that the drive to include eligible voters in the roll will continue till the end of October. However, the special campaign will be conducted across districts on October 7, 8 and 9 to sensitise voters and encourage those left out during the process to enrol themselves in the electoral roll. Applicants can directly approach their local booth- level officers (BLOs) for



guidance and assistance throughout the submission process, Sahu said.
The CEO's office informed that eligible voters inadvertently omitted from the final voter list during the SIR-2026 drive, as well as electors who were unable to take part in the mapping process, will get an opportunity to file their claims and objections and apply for inclusion during the drive.
To ensure maximum transparency, the list of absent, shifted, dead and duplicate voters prepared during the revision process has been made available on the official CEO Odisha portal as well as the respective district websites.Citizens and political stakeholders will have the opportunity to verify these records and submit claims or objections if the name of any eligible voter has been mistakenly excluded or listed under any of these categories, the CEO's office stated.
Officials said the list of identified entries will also be shared with representatives of all recognised political parties. Party representatives can review the lists and lodge necessary claims or objections to prevent improper exclusions or incorrect entries, they said.

Mathura gurukul students went inside water tank after foul smell, 4 dead

Lucknow (Agency).
Four students died after inhaling suspected poisonous gas inside an unused underground water tank at a gurukul in Mathura's Vrindavan late Tuesday night, when a group of students went into the tank to investigate a foul smell, police said.
Two owners of Maharishi Panini Sanskrit Gurkulam have been taken into custody.
The incident came to light after 11.30 pm. Mathura Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Shlok Kumar, told The Indian Express that preliminary investigation so far has revealed that a group of students were cooking food on the ground floor of the ashram when a foul smell wafted out of the water tank nearby.The water tank, about 15 ft deep, was unused and was covered with a concrete lid.
The SSP said the students initially tried to get rid of the smell by removing the small amount of water inside the tank with a bucket.
One of the students then volunteered to go inside. He climbed down the stairs built into the tank but did not return or respond when the other students called out to him. Four others went down one after another in an attempt to bring him out.
All of them fell unconscious, causing panic among other students waiting outside. Staff members and local residents then pulled all five students out of the tank, the SSP said.A police team had rushed to the gurukul by then. Policemen tried performing CPR and gave first aid to the students, but it did not help; they were all rushed to the hospital.
Four of the students — Manu Katare, 21, of Jabalpur; Vishu and Aryan, 18, of Meerut and Kaushambi; and Devansh, 17, of Vidisha — died during treatment in the early hours of Wednesday. The fifth student survived and is currently stable, Kumar said.

Centre seeks to push back Mumbai airport's 5-million passenger shift to Navi Mumbai

The Civil Aviation Ministry asks airlines and airport operator AAHL for a detailed transition plan by October 20, with stakeholders set to meet again on October 13.

Mumbai(Agency).
The Ministry of Civil Aviation on Tuesday has proposed deferring the transition plan to shift five million international passengers of Mumbai International Airport (MIA) to Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) by a few weeks, said sources. It has also asked airlines and the airport operator to submit a solid plan on the operational shift by October 20. The next meeting will be held by the Ministry with all stakeholders on October 13.
The Secretary of Civil Aviation Samir Sinha held a 90-minute interaction in Delhi with Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL),



which operates Mumbai and Navi Mumbai airports, the Airports Authority of India which operates all government-run airports in the country and all airline representatives in Delhi. A source said, "The ministry on Tuesday has proposed delaying the proposed transition from MIA by a few weeks."
The MIAL had recently announced that it would begin phased redevelopment of the North Section of Terminal 1B and work would commence from January 2027. It cited safety concerns for the 60-year-old building as the reason and urged airlines to temporarily shift to Navi Mumbai on their own discretion. The plan looks at shifting 5 million international passengers to Navi Mumbai. The move is being resisted by airlines, An international cargo airline, Challenge Group, has announced that it was suspending cargo operations to Mumbai due to the proposed shift.
AAHL outlined its preparedness for handling up to 5 million international passengers annually at the newly commissioned NMIA. "The company highlighted the airport's readiness, supported by key infrastructure and passenger amenities, including robust airport connectivity, inflight catering facilities, hotels, lounges, and other supporting services," another source said. It also addressed operational concerns and queries from airlines on the proposed transition and redevelopment plan.

Disqualified Sabarimala head priest selection candidate gets chance for interview

Kochi (Agency).
The Kerala High Court has allowed a candidate disqualified by the Travancore Devaswom Board to provisionally take part in the interview for selecting the melsanthis, or head priests, of the Sabarimala Sree Dharmasatha temple and Malikappuram Temple.
A bench of Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan V and KV Jayakumar passed an interim order permitting 56-year-old Rajeev MP to appear for the interview scheduled to take place today for the selection of melsanthis for the Sabarimala-Malikappuram Devaswoms for this year.
The court said, "It is made clear that the above direction shall be subject to the final orders to be passed by this court in matters concerning the selection to the post of melshantis to Sabarimala-Malikappuram Devaswoms, for the year 1202 ME (Malayalam Era) (2026-27)." The bench also posted the matter for hearing on



November 2.
Rajeev had sought directions to the Board to allow him to take part in the selection process for appointment as melsanthi of the Sabarimala Sree Dharmasatha temple and Malikappuram Temple. He told the court that he met the conditions laid down in the notification and guidelines issued by the Board.He also said that he had earlier fulfilled the eligibility criteria and had been included in the list of candidates for the selection process for the post of melsanthi at the Sabarimala-Malikappuram Devaswoms for the year 1201 ME.After hearing the arguments, the court said that, in view of the facts and circumstances of the case and the records produced by the petitioner, he had made out a case for an interim order."In view of the matter, there shall be a direction to the respondent Nos. 1 (Board) and 2 (Devaswom Commissioner) to permit the petitioner also to participate, provisionally, in the interview for selection to the post of melsanthi, Sabarimala-Malikappuram Devaswoms, for the year 1202 ME (2026-27), proposed to be conducted on October 7, 2026," the bench said.

NEWS BOX

Baseless: Team Virat Kohli denies he took Rs 5 crore to visit Premanand's ashram

PUDUCHERRY. (Agency)

Former India captain Virat Kohli's spokesperson has denied claims that the cricketer was paid Rs 5 crore to visit spiritual leader Premanand Maharaj's ashram in Vrindavan.The statement comes after an allegation made by Dinesh Sharma, popularly known as Falahari Maharaj, surfaced in reports and social media. Sharma, who is the president of the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Sangharsh Nyas, had alleged that Rs 5 crore was spent to bring Kohli to Premanand Maharaj's ashram.The allegation has not been independently verified. No publicly available payment



record, contract or other evidence has emerged to establish that Kohli received Rs 5 crore for visiting the ashram.

Responding to the claim, Kohli's spokesperson said the allegations were "completely false, baseless and factually incorrect.""We would like to categorically state that the claims made by Falahari Maharaj Dinesh Sharma in regards to Mr. Virat Kohli are completely false, baseless and factually incorrect," the spokesperson said.The spokesperson also said Kohli's visits to Premanand Maharaj were motivated by his personal faith and respect for the spiritual leader."Mr. Virat Kohli visits Premanand Maharaj Ji purely out of his deep faith and reverence for Maharaj Ji," the statement said.Kohli and his wife, actor Anushka Sharma, have visited Premanand Maharaj in Vrindavan on several occasions. Their first reported visit to the spiritual leader took place in January 2023, and the couple have subsequently returned to the ashram multiple times.On the cricketing front, Kohli recently returned to ODI action in India's three-match series against the West Indies.

Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana hadn't been seeing eye to eye over captaincy: Report



NAGOYA. (Agency)

It was a no-brainer that Smriti Mandhana would receive the honour of captaining the Indian women's cricket team after Harmanpreet Kaur's resignation from the position. But is it a case of the elevation coming too late in the day for the 30-year-old left-hander, who is the country's best batter right now by quite a distance?

The call from Harmanpreet, who led India for the first time in 2016, to step down from captaincy across formats was taken following a review meeting with the BCCI. The 37-year-old from Moga ended her path-breaking leadership tenure on a high, having just captained India to a second consecutive Asian Games gold in Japan.Mandhana was the obvious choice to take over the mantle from Harmanpreet. Having made her debut way back in 2013, the elegant opener has risen to be among the leading batters in the game, tallying more than 10,000 runs across formats.

Mandhana was always head and shoulders above the rest when it came to skill and now she has further elevated her craft by adding power to her all-round game. It was no secret that she had run out of patience with the selectors, who chose to maintain the status quo on captaincy even after India ended their ICC trophy drought with the ODI World Cup win at home last year.In a recent interview, she expressed her readiness to lead India and after the Asian Games gold, she went on to say that India should be aiming to win bigger tournaments. In between the 50-over high, India had made premature exits from back-to-back T20 World Cups, raising questions over the leadership starBut the selectors did not bell the cat.

Harmanpreet Kaur: From heartbreak to glory, a captain leaves with her head held high

New Delhi. (Agency)

For years, the question followed Harmanpreet Kaur everywhere. Should she continue as India captain? Had the time come to pass the baton to the next generation? After every disappointing tournament, every batting failure and every painful exit, the debate returned.On Tuesday, October 6, the answer finally came from Harmanpreet herself.

The 37-year-old stepped down as India's captain across all formats, bringing the curtain down on one of the most eventful leadership careers in women's cricket. She will continue to play for India, but the captain's hat is no longer hers as she has passed it on to Smriti Mandhana.Perhaps there was an argument for Harmanpreet to walk away from leadership after India's historic ODI World Cup triumph last year. She had finally achieved the one prize that had eluded her for so long. But she stayed on. She led India to the Women's Asia Cup title in September and then guided them to a second successive Asian Games gold medal in October.Harmanpreet did not walk away after failure. She did not leave with questions hanging over her. She bowed out after leading India to another major title, with her head held high and her duty, as she put it, done.

TAKING OVER IN TURMOIL

Harmanpreet's captaincy journey was never supposed to be easy. She took over as India's full-time T20I captain in 2016, at a time when the team was still searching for direction in the shortest format. India had endured a miserable campaign at the 2016 Women's T20 World Cup on home soil, winning only one of their four group matches and failing to reach the semi-finals. Harmanpreet was soon entrusted with taking the team forward.





She brought something different to the leadership role. There was aggression, instinct and a willingness to take risks. More importantly, she was prepared to carry the weight of expectation.Then came the innings that changed how the world viewed her.Her unbeaten 171 against Australia in the 2017 Women's World Cup semi-final remains one of the defining knocks in Indian women's cricket. It carried India into the final and turned Harmanpreet into a global name. India eventually lost the Lord's final to England, but something had changed.The belief that India could compete with the world's best was no longer theoretical. Harmanpreet had helped create it.The heartbreak, however, was only beginning.

WEIGHT OF CAPTAINCY

The hardest part of being India's captain was not always what happened on the field.In 2018, Harmanpreet found herself at the centre of one of the most bitter controversies in Indian women's cricket. Mithali Raj was left out of the T20 World Cup semi-final against England despite having scored two half-centuries earlier in the tournament. India lost by eight wickets, and the decision became a national talking point.Harmanpreet defended the selection call and said she had no regrets. The backlash was severe. Mithali's manager publicly attacked the captain, and the controversy became so draining that Harmanpreet later admitted she had considered stepping away from cricket altogether.It was an early lesson in what leadership meant for her. A captain could make a decision for the team and still have to carry the consequences alone.

Neeru Dhanda chose guns over dolls, feared the shotgun, then shot Asian Games gold

New Delhi. (Agency)

When other girls her age wanted dolls, she says, she was drawn to toy tractors and toy guns. There was a wooden tractor, a bigger iron one and a toy gun that fired pellets. Those, she remembers, were the things she chose.Years later, when a real gun finally found its way into her hands, the reaction was rather different.The gun belonged to her cousin Lakshay Sheoran's father, Somveer, and was an old Indian double-barrel shotgun of the sort families once kept for shooting pigeons in the fields. One day, they took Neeru to a farmhouse and decided to see if she could handle it. A tin sheet became the target. Two or three shots were fired.The sound frightened her. She was still young. The gun was heavy in her hands, the crack of the 7.5mm pellets unfamiliar and startling. She panicked and threw it away."I got scared," she recalled in an interview with IndiaToday.in.It is an unlikely beginning for the woman who, years later, stood in pouring rain at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, calmly breaking 28 of 30 targets to win a historic gold medal.In Aichi-Nagoya, Neeru



ended India's 48-year wait for an individual trap gold. Earlier that day, she had won a women's team silver with Aashima Ahlawat and Manisha Keer. The following day, she returned to the range and won another gold with Kynan Chenai in the mixed team event.For much of her journey, Neeru was not chasing Asian Games records. She was trying to find a way to build a better life for her family.

Neeru grew up in Sangatpura, a village in Haryana's Jind district, in a family that could not afford the luxuries associated with a sport as expensive as shotgun shooting. Her father is a farmer. The family owns a modest amount of farmland, while her mother, Sudesh Devi, has supplemented their income by selling buffalo milk. The extent of those financial constraints was still evident on the morning Neeru won her Asian Games gold: her mother was on her way to collect the family's ration when she heard the news.Shooting was not an obvious career choice.In fact, Neeru says she was not particularly good at studies. Nor did she grow up dreaming of becoming an elite athlete. Her first sporting association was with kabaddi.Then came Lakshay. Her cousin had taken up trap shooting and won a silver medal at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta. Neeru did not know much about shooting at the time.

Bumrah-Bhuvi for World Cup 2027? Ashwin's bold claim after Bhuvneshwar's India return



New Delhi. (Agency)

Former spinner R Ashwin made the bold claim that he can see Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowling in tandem for India during next year's World Cup. Bhuvneshwar made his way back into the Indian T20I side for the New Zealand tour.

Bhuvneshwar's India career had been on hold since the T20 World Cup semi-final against England in Adelaide in November 2022. Nearly four years later, the 36-year-old has forced his way back into the national reckoning with a string of impressive performances in the IPL.The seamer's consistency for Royal Challengers Bengaluru over the past two seasons has played a major part in his comeback. Bhuvneshwar has claimed 45 wickets across the 2025 and 2026 IPL campaigns, contributing to RCB's title triumphs during that period.

His 2026 season stood out in particular. The veteran pacer finished with 28 wickets, while maintaining an economy rate of 7.95, underlining the impact he continues to have with the ball.Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ashwin said that Bhuvneshwar could have been an all-format asset for India like Bumah had he worked harder and avoided injuries."I am very excited and happy for Bhuvneshwar Kumar because he is a very unassuming guy. And yes, I am once again putting my neck on the line to say this: if he had worked a little harder, if the timing had been right and if he had avoided those injuries, with the skill set he possesses, he could have been a king for India across all formats."Do you want swing? He has swing. If you want it to move one way, he can do that.

Some don't want Argentina to win: Messi on World Cup conspiracy in farewell speech

New Delhi. (Agency)

Lionel Messi slammed the conspiracy theories surrounding Argentina's run in the 2026 World Cup and urged the fans to stay united and support Argentina as he brought down the curtain on his international career on Wednesday, October 7. The message contained a little bit of everything from the Argentine superstar as he was straightforward with his words to an emotional crowd inside the stadium.Messi ran the show on an emotional night as Argentina hammered Benin 3-0 at the Monumental in Buenos Aires. Messi assisted two and then capped off the win with a penalty in front of the fans, who cheered him on with every touch he made on the night.

As soon as the match was done and after a



drone show and a musical performance, Messi was given the chance to speak to the fans and his teammates. Messi started by remembering his late father, Jorge, who sadly passed away in August.

Messi admitted that he was sad to be retiring from international football but claimed that the last World Cup did take a toll on him and the team, both emotionally and physically. He then targeted the theories that were floating around regarding Argentina's run to the finalMany had claimed that Messi and Co. received a lot of favourable decisions during key points in the tournament, which allowed them to reach the final against Spain.Messi thanked his teammates for carrying him to World Cup and Copa America glory in the final few years of his international career. The Argentine maestro then turned to the fans, thanked them for their love and dedication towards the national team.

Gautam Gambhir has a message to Agarkar's critics in farewell note for selector

New Delhi. (Agency)

India men's cricket team head coach Gautam Gambhir paid a touching tribute to outgoing BCCI chief selector Ajit Agarkar after his tenure officially came to a close. The BCCI has formally set the ball rolling to appoint a new member to its Men's Selection Committee, inviting applications for the vacant position following Ajit Agarkar's exit.In his message on X, Gambhir appeared to take a jibe at critics of Agarkar, stressing that the success that Team India had over the last three years was because of team-first attitude and conviction.Agarkar, whose tenure ended earlier this week, was among the chief selectors who were willing to take bold and, at times, unpopular calls. His tenure saw India move on from Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in Test cricket, while Suryakumar Yadav was dropped from the T20I side weeks after leading India to the 2026 T20 World Cup title."Dear Ajit Bhai, an absolute honour to work with you. Those 3 ICC trophies are testimony of your conviction: Team first & Team ahead, always.. I must say, History will be kinder to you. Thank you for everything. My heartfelt wishes for your future endeavours !!" Gambhir wrote on X.The selection committee also placed an emphasis on building for the future, with Agarkar often backing younger options over established names. Not every call worked, and some of his decisions invited criticism, but the broader approach remained consistent: India kept moving forward rather than looking back. Bhuvneshwar Kumar's recall to the T20I side, coming immediately after Agarkar's departure, was a notable shift in that thinking, with the veteran returning after nearly four years.The governing body released the application notice on Tuesday, just 48 hours after Agarkar's term as chairman came to an end on October 4. Agarkar had been at the helm of the senior men's selection panel since taking charge in July 2023, but reports had indicated that he was not interested in seeking an extension.

Gambhir became the coach of the Indian team during Agarkar's tenure and both men have worked hand-in-hand to deliver the Champions Trophy 2025 and the T20 World Cup 2026.

AGARKAR'S TIME AS CHIEF SELECTOR



Agarkar took charge of India's senior men's selection panel on July 4, 2023, and remained in the chairman's role for just over three years, with his tenure ending in October 2026. His stint coincided with one of the most successful periods in Indian cricket, with the team winning three ICC trophies: the 2024 T20 World Cup, the 2025 Champions Trophy and the 2026 T20 World Cup. India also reached the 2023 ODI World Cup final during his tenure.

During Agarkar's tenure, the selection committee also appeared more accessible to the media, with the former India all-rounder regularly addressing the press after selection meetings and explaining the thinking behind major calls. Agarkar himself acknowledged the nature of the job, saying it was impossible to please everyone and that selectors would inevitably face criticism given the level of interest in Indian cricket.His tenure, however, was not without controversy. One of the biggest talking points was the uncertainty surrounding the ODI futures of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli as India began looking towards the 2027 World Cup. In October 2025, Agarkar had publicly backed the two veterans to continue, saying they would not be put "on trial" given their outstanding ODI records.



Kareena Kapoor's

Birthday Wish For Karan Boolani Is All About 'Martini And Meal'

Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan took to her official Instagram handle and wished filmmaker Rhea Kapoor's husband Karan Boolani with a lovely social media post.

Sharing an adorable couple photo of Rhea and Karan on her Insta Stories, Bebo wrote, "Happy Birthday dear Karan (Red heart emoji and rainbow emoji) May the martini and meal always be top (Ok hand and fire emoji) Big hug @karanboolani (sic)."

It must be noted that Kareena was directed by Rhea in the 2018 comedy 'Veere Di Wedding', which also featured Sonam Kapoor, Swara Bhaskar and Shikha Talsania. Earlier, Rhea also treated the netizens with a carousel of some unseen moments with her husband. Wishing him on his special day, she wrote, "happy birthday to my handsome, loving, rock of a husband. after 18 years together, just seeing you in our home in our precious little world still makes my heart flutter. Must have done something right! i love you more than the butterflies you give me! me+u".



Veteran actor Anil Kapoor also wished his son-in-law, saying, "Happy Birthday, @karanboolani! Over the years, I've had the chance to see many sides of you. The filmmaker, the creative mind, the person behind the camera, and simply Karan. And what has always stood out is how much curiosity and thought you bring into everything you do."

"And what has always stood out is how much curiosity and thought you bring into everything you do. You and Rhea have built something very special together, and it's always lovely to see. Wishing you a year full of good stories, good people and lots of happy moments. Starting with the one we're going to have just now at lunch. On the way to your residence to have an amazing lunch with the whole family. Looking forward to lunching," he added.

After years of being in a relationship, Rhea and Karan finally got married on August 14, 2021, in a private and intimate ceremony at the Kapoor family's Juhu residence.

Yami Gautam

And Aditya Dhar NOT Moving To Himachal Pradesh, Dhurandhar Director's Team Clarifies

Rumours about Aditya Dhar and Yami Gautam making Himachal Pradesh their permanent home recently surfaced online. The couple, who won National Awards for their work on Article 370, is now at the centre of speculation over an alleged relocation. However, a member of Aditya's team has confirmed that the reports are incorrect and that the filmmaker and actress have no plans to permanently shift to Himachal Pradesh.



Yami Gautam and Aditya Dhar not to leave Mumbai

Amid the reports, SCREEN reached out to Aditya Dhar's team for clarification. The filmmaker's representatives dismissed the claims, questioning the source of the speculation. "No. Who is sending this story?" they told the portal. Earlier, an NDTV report claimed that Aditya and Yami were considering Himachal Pradesh as their permanent home. The report attributed the move to Yami's ties to the state and her hometown, and further claimed that the actress had acquired a century-old heritage property along with a 25-acre plot in Gohar. However, Aditya's team has dismissed the report, stating that there is no truth to the claims.

Aditya Dhar has been in the spotlight following the box-office success of his recent films Dhurandhar and Dhurandhar: The Revenge. Released within a three-month window, the two films collectively crossed the ₹3,000 crore mark worldwide. The filmmaker and Yami Gautam also had a major milestone earlier this year when they won National Film Awards for Article 370. At the 72nd National Film Awards ceremony, held in Gujarat on September 22, Yami was named Best Actress, while Aditya received the award for Best Feature Film as the film's producer.

Despite being one of Bollywood's prominent filmmaker-actor couples, Yami and Aditya have maintained a relatively private personal life. Their relationship began after they met while working on Uri: The Surgical Strike, Dhar's directorial debut, in 2019. The two got married in 2021 and later became parents to a son, Vedavid. He was born in 2024.



Ram Gopal Varma Slams Celebs For Reacting To Janhvi Kapoor's AI-Morphed Clip: 'Made Crores See The Link'



Janhvi Kapoor's AI-morphed videos have been making headlines. The actress debuted in Telugu cinema with Devara, and now an objectionable AI-morphed video of her from the 'Chuttamalle' song is circulating online. Since then, several actors, including Jr NTR, Janhvi Kapoor, Vijay Deverakonda, and others, have reacted to it. Now, Ram Gopal Varma has questioned celebs' reactions to it and, without naming Janhvi, said that the focus should have been on catching the perpetrator.

Taking to his X account, Ram Gopal Varma shared, "The only thing all the celebrities succeeded in is to publicise and thereby make crores and crores of people see the objectionable link."

He further continued and shared how, instead of naming the victim, they should have focused on catching the perpetrator behind it and added, "The smart thing would have been to concentrate on catching the perpetrator and publicise that..Instead what they did is to tweet and bring enormous attention to the victim's identity and the offensive content which is also a crime."

In another tweet, RGV continued while talking about AI. He wrote, "When you can't WIN, you should JOIN…. . If you fight A I, it will ERASE you out of EXISTENCE."

How Did Janhvi and Jr NTR React to the AI Video?

A part of NTR's long note reads, "Disgusting, Sick and Shameless. In a land that worships women as mothers and goddesses, where "Matrudevo Bhava" is not just a phrase but a part of our culture, some people have fallen so low that they are using AI to disrespect a woman in the most degrading way possible. Using AI to create something this vile is shameful beyond words. To the scumbags behind this morphed Chuttamalle video, I will not spare any of you. I will take every possible legal action against those who created it and those who are spreading it."

In a strongly worded statement on Instagram, Janhvi Kapoor slammed the AI clip that is going viral. "The criminal misuse of technology to objectify women and circulate fictionalised content without consent is deeply violating, bordering on sexual assault. Almost every woman in my industry has faced some version of this, and women everywhere are increasingly being subjected to it. Consent, choice and respect for a woman's body should be among the most basic notions of humanity. Yet somehow, they continue to be treated as complicated. They are not," she wrote.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali And Alia Bhatt To Revive Inshallah After Love And War? Here's What We Know



Filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Alia Bhatt have already collaborated on Gangubai Kathiawadi, and the two are set to reunite for Love & War, which also stars Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal and is slated to release in January 2027. Alia and Bhansali were also supposed to come together for Inshallah, which was announced in 2019 with Salman Khan as the male lead. However, the project was eventually shelved following creative differences between Salman and Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Now, according to the latest reports, Alia and Bhansali may be looking to revive Inshallah after Love & War releases. The project is reportedly being reimagined, with changes expected to be made to the script.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali And Alia Bhatt Planning To Revive Inshallah?

According to a report in Mid Day, Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Alia Bhatt will unite for a third time, and have already begun conversations to revive their previously shelved film 'Inshallah'. The script will reportedly undergo major writing changes as the filmmaker and actress are discussing a reimagined version of the love story.

"It's not being looked at as the same film that was announced years ago. The core story remains the same, but the material will be reworked and given a fresh spin," a source told the publication.

Earlier, rumours suggested that Shah Rukh Khan was being considered to play the male lead in the movie. However, the Mid-Day report states that Sanjay Leela Bhansali will be finalising the script first before taking any casting decisions.

"No casting gets locked on a Bhansali film without the script being finalised. Salman is occupied with Raj-DK's film while Shah Rukh hasn't decided his next after 'King'. It's also possible that the story will seek a younger actor," said the source.

Why Was Inshallah Shelved?

Inshallah, which was originally announced in 2019, was reportedly shelved due to creative differences between director Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Salman Khan.

NEWS BOX

Pakistan: Security forces kill 18 militants in separate operations in KP, Balochistan

WORLD.(Agency)

Pakistani security forces eliminated 18 terrorists in separate engagements in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, state media reported on Wednesday.

According to the Dawn, in KP, Pakistan TV reported that security forces "killed 13 Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists in an intelligence-based operation in North Waziristan, as operations against militant groups continue under the Azm-e-Istehkam vision".

Separately, in Balochistan's Mastung district, security forces killed five terrorists belonging to Fitna al-Hindustan, Pakistan TV reported.

The PTI quoting Radio Pakistan said that the security forces "killed 13 Fitna al-Khawarij terrorists" during an intelligence-based operation in North Waziristan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The federal government uses the term 'Fitna al-



Khawarij' for terrorists belonging to the banned terror outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan.

Separately, five terrorists were killed in Balochistan's Mastung district, according to state-run Pakistan Television.Weapons and ammunition were recovered from the slain terrorists, while clearance and search operations were underway in the area, the report said.

Iran-backed Houthis claim new attacks on Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Aden airport

CAIRO.(Agency)

Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen on Wednesday claimed attacks on military facilities and airports in neighboring Saudi Arabia as the escalation deepened the latest front in the Iran war and threatened a crucial shipping alternative to the Strait of Hormuz.

The Houthis' military spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, said on social media that the rebels launched ballistic missiles and drones in the attacks targeting King Khalid International Airport in the capital, Riyadh, but didn't provide evidence.

Flights to and from the airport werebriefly disrupted, according to Flightradar24, a tracking platform.

Saree said Abha airport, a frequent target of Houthi drones and missiles, was targeted. The rebels also claimed to have hit an air base in the city of Khamis Mushait and two military bases Najran and Asir. All are in southwestern Saudi Arabia and near the border with Yemen.The spokesperson for the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Houthis, Maj. Gen. Turki al-Malki, said they intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile north of Riyadh.Saudi Arabia and allied Yemeni forces in recent days have launched a major ground and air offensive against the Houthis in an attempt to retake territory that the rebels seized about a month ago along Yemen's western Red Sea coast and on the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Those positions gave the rebels better surveillance of shipping as they pursue a blockade of Saudi vessels.

Drone attack sets oil tanker ablaze off Russia, all 23 Indian crew members rescued

The Liberian-flagged Aframax Rio caught fire near Sochi after what Moscow described as a naval drone attack.

CHANDIGARH.(Agency)

A Liberian-flagged oil tanker carrying 23 Indian crew members caught fire off Russia's Black Sea coast after what Russian authorities described as an attack by naval drones, with all crew members rescued, according to a report by news agency Reuters.The tanker, identified as the Aframax Rio, was attacked by "naval drones" on Tuesday, triggering a fire near the Russian resort city of Sochi, Russia's Transport Ministry said, according to Reuters.All 23 crew members aboard the tanker were Indian nationals and were rescued following the attack, the report said. There were no reports of injuries among the crew.The blaze was initially too intense for firefighters to approach the tanker, the Russian Transport Ministry said. Firefighters were expected to make another attempt to bring the blaze under control once its intensity decreased.

Russian authorities said crude oil was burning following the attack. Footage circulating on social media showed bright flames at sea and a thick column of black smoke rising near Sochi, Reuters reported.Authorities in Sochi restricted access to the coast and beaches following the incident.Russia did not immediately identify those responsible for the attack. Reuters report says that the Russian Transport Ministry said the tanker had



been attacked by an unmanned vessel, but there was no immediate independent confirmation that Ukraine was behind the incident.The tanker fire came amid a series of incidents involving commercial vessels in the Black Sea as the Russia-Ukraine war continues.A day earlier, the Turkish-owned cargo vessel MV Royad Mammadov caught fire and sank in the Black Sea outside Romania's territorial waters, Reuters reported. Two people were killed and 11 crew members were rescued, according to Romanian authorities.Three Indian nationals were among the crew, and one Indian crew member was injured, according to reports.

Reacting to the escalation, India condemned the attack and reiterated its call for dialogue and diplomacy to end ongoing conflicts. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed that the injured crew members had been rescued by Romanian authorities and were receiving medical attention, while expressing gratitude for Bucharest's swift action. Indian Ambassador to Romania Manoj Mohapatra also visited the three Indian nationals receiving treatment at Constanța County Hospital to assure them of continued assistance.

Trump blames France unrest on Islam, migration

world.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday blamed France's mass student protests on Islam and migration, pushing his global right-wing narrative ahead of tough midterm elections at home."What's happening in France is nothing less than out of control mass migration," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social network."This isn't about schools, this is about Islam wanting to take over a once great Country!"

French students have blocked the entrances to hundreds of high schools across the country since late September to demand better conditions, in protests that have descended into sporadic clashes with security forces.A quarter of a million demonstrators took to the streets across France on Tuesday.Trump did not elaborate on his claims or provide any evidence. In France, no link has yet been established between the student movement and any religious or identity-based demands.

But leading voices in Trump's Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement have been using the French protests to ram home points about immigration ahead of the US midterm elections next month.MAGA commentators repeatedly posted videos of the French unrest in the days leading up to Trump's post."The riots in France are a clear warning to the rest of the West," Trump ally Glenn Beck said on X on Monday. "What is happening in France today is all part of an international network of socialists working to dismantle the West.""This will come to America if the Democrats take power again," posted right-wing commentator Dave Rubin to his 1.6 million followers, along with footage filmed in a French train station.Trump, 80, has ramped up his rhetoric on core issues like migration and transgender people ahead of the midterms, as the Iran war and the cost of living look set to cost Republicans control of Congress.At the same time, Europe has been a target for Trump ever since his first term in the White House.And his second administration has been keener than ever to warn of what it calls the decline of Western culture on the other side of the Atlantic.The US national security strategy released in December said Europe faced "civilizational erasure" -- and in extraordinary language towards close allies, said it would be "cultivating resistance" to current political trends.Vice President JD Vance has also been a vocal critic of Europe on the same issue.Even Trump's handshake-heavy "bromance" with outgoing French President Emmanuel Macron has failed to keep the US leader from criticizing a key ally.But France responded to Trump's reaction by comparing it to that of Iran, which earlier summoned the French envoy over what it called Paris's "violent response" to the school protests.

Israelis mourn on the anniversary of the Oct. 7 attack as Palestinians grapple with war it sparked

NETANYA.(Agency)

Israelis are gathering Wednesday to commemorate the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that killed 1,200 people, saw 251 taken hostage, and sparked a devastating war in Gaza that Palestinians still grapple with.

In southern Israel, families will mourn at intersections, bomb shelters, and the site of a music festival that Hamas-led militants overran three years ago in the deadliest attack against Israel. This will be the first anniversary that all the hostages are home, marking a new stage of grief.



For Palestinians, the anniversary brings another day living with the results of Israel's retaliatory campaign in Gaza that has killed tens of thousands of people. Most of the population of about 2 million people live in vast, squalid tent camps, with large parts of the strip's cities reduced to rubble. More than half the territory remains in the hands of the Israeli military, and despite a ceasefire deal reached nearly a year ago, Israeli strikes continue almost daily.For the region, the day highlights a startling transformation over the past three years. Israeli troops occupy a large chunk of southern Lebanon in their conflict with Hezbollah, which began firing on Israel in 2023 in support of Hamas. Iran and the United States are locked in a confrontation that has seen attacks across Arab Gulf countries and has shaken the global economy — a conflict that Israel helped launch and that the Gaza war paved the way for even if they weren't directly connected.as an emergency rescue service under Hamas.

A released hostage marks his first Oct. 7

Elkana Bohbot, 37, is marking the anniversary in Israel for the first time, after being released from 738 days of captivity last year. For most of that time, he said, he was held 50 meters (165 feet) underground in a dark, damp tunnel.Bohbot, who was abducted from the Nova music festival, was kept in a small cell with other hostages, given very little food, and allowed to bathe only every few weeks, he said. His captors forced him to take part in several propaganda videos, including one where he acts out a fake call to his family.

Palestinian Authority says Israel blocked election officials from Jerusalem, Gaza

world.(Agency)

Israel refused to allow Palestinian election officials access to east Jerusalem or Gaza ahead of legislative polls, according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa, increasing concerns that the vote will be postponed.The Palestinian legislative elections are due to take place on November 28, a month after Israel's own general election, but many Palestinians expect them to be postponed or cancelled, as happened in 2021.If they go ahead, they will be the first in two decades."The Israeli government has refused to allow the Central Elections Commission to enter the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem to oversee preparations for the legislative elections," Wafa news agency reported, citing a Palestinian official.Neither Israel's defence ministry nor COGAT, its affiliated entity in charge of civilian matters in Palestinian territories, responded to AFP requests for confirmation of the decision to block the officials.Farid Taamallah, spokesman for the Palestinian Central Elections Commission, told AFP his commission could still hold elections.

"The Commission is continuing to organise the electoral process despite the Israeli decision," Taamallah said, stating that commission employees in Gaza were already trained and present on the ground.

The European Union, the Palestinian Authority's main financial backer and a staunch advocate for Palestinian elections, is "ready to deploy" election observers to monitor the elections, top diplomat Kaja Kallas said on Tuesday."Palestinians have the right to choose their representatives in elections that are credible, inclusive and transparent," Kallas posted on X after talking to Palestinian vice president Hussein al-Sheikh.

In turn, Sheikh called in a post on X for "European support for Palestinian efforts to... overcome any obstacles that might hinder the holding of elections, in a way that guarantees the participation of all members of our people in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip"lled on Oct. 7 and in the ensuing war.In early September, top Palestinian official Jibril Rajoub told reporters the elections would not be held on time.

Rajoub, secretary-general for the dominant Fatah party of 90-year-old President Mahmoud Abbas, said holding presidential elections first "would solve a large part of the problem"Fatah rivals including Hamas and the Democratic Reform Current, a Fatah splinter group, have said they aimed to create joint lists for the election.

An August poll by the Jerusalem Media and Communication Center found that only 29 percent of Palestinians expected the November election to go ahead as scheduled..

Tear Gas Fired As Over 260,000 Rally Seeking Education Funding In France

Paris.(Agency)

Police fired tear gas to control crowds in Paris and elsewhere in France on Tuesday as more than a quarter of a million people rallied nationwide to support high school students demanding more education funding, according to government figures. The protests increased pressure on the administration of outgoing President Emmanuel Macron.As pupils blockaded high schools, large crowds waving flags and placards gathered in Marseille, Strasbourg and other cities. The demonstrations showed how protests that began at a high school in the Paris region in mid-September have grown into a nationwide movement - the latest of many that have marked Macron's nearly decade-long tenure.

"We need to listen to them," said Lea Monimart, an adult demonstrator in the northern city of Lille. "They are 17 years old; they are not completely clueless, and they know what they are talking about. It's important to show that there are adults who support them."

The Interior Ministry estimated that 266,000 people took part in demonstrations across the country on Tuesday, including 56,000 in Paris, where small groups of protesters clashed with riot officers at a city square at the end of a largely peaceful march.Nearly 500 people were detained Tuesday, the ministry said. The widespread use of arrests, tear gas and riot-control weapons against teenagers is fueling defiance and angering some parents and teachers. Some student groups called for new protests Thursday.Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said the police response had been proportionate in "almost all cases" and that the protests had at times turned into riots, requiring police intervention.

French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu said the government and school leaders must listen to students' concerns and find solutions.Questioned in parliament on Tuesday about the protest movement, Lecornu denounced "ultra violence" threatening schools. Responding to criticism of police tactics, he pledged that any "accidents" would be investigated and described allegations that the police are racist as a "lie."More than two weeks of class boycotts and school blockades, and policing that has led to more than 6,500 arrests, mostly of minors, have become a flashpoint in the early days of the presidential election campaign.

Felix Barney, a university student, described the police response as disproportionate, saying it doesn't make "any sense to hit minors."Riot police, batons, rubber bullets, tear gas," said Aurelien Le Coq, a lawmaker with the far-left France Unbowed party.

US woman who survived botched execution is conscious, speaking: lawyers

Pike's lawyers said Tuesday that "against all odds" she was now "conscious, speaking, and continues to receive critical medical care."

WASHINGTON, United States.(Agency)

United States: The female inmate who survived a failed execution in a US prison last week is now conscious and speaking, but her prognosis remains unclear, her lawyers said Tuesday.Christa Pike, 50, who was sentenced to death for a murder she committed when she was a teenager, received two supposedly lethal doses of the drug pentobarbital at a Tennessee prison a week ago.

She survived the injections, however, and was rushed to hospital, where she had been unconscious and on a ventilator in critical condition.Pike's lawyers said Tuesday that "against all odds" she was now "conscious, speaking, and continues to receive critical medical care.""Despite the severe damage she endured to her arms, she is still handcuffed and shackled to the bed," they said in a statement. "Her recovery is medically unprecedented. Her prognosis



remains unclear but, at a minimum, we expect a long recovery."Her lawyers repeated a call for Tennessee Governor Bill Lee to commute Pike's sentence to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Lee suspended the carrying out of capital punishment in the southern state following the failed execution pending an independent investigation.The prison chief has since resigned.First to survivePike's legal team had previously objected to the execution's IV protocol, saying it would have caused needless suffering due to her small veins and a blood condition.Medical experts had warned of needles becoming dislodged or piercing through the vein, causing lethal drugs to flow into Pike's arm instead of the bloodstream, lawyer Stephen Ferrell has said.

A court filing described pentobarbital as a caustic substance that burns skin, tissue and veins. Upon arrival at the hospital, both of Pike's arms were "swollen, burned, and blistered," it said.

The Death Penalty Information Center, which publishes data and analysis on capital punishment in the United States, said Pike was the first inmate ever to survive "after being injected with lethal doses of execution drugs."Pike's case sparked debate over the death penalty for young offenders, as she was 18 when she and her boyfriend beat and killed 19-year-old Colleen Slemmer at a job training camp in 1995.The killing gained national attention after Slemmer's body was found with a pentagram, often seen as a satanic symbol, carved in her chest.