



Sonia Gandhi's Surprise Entry At INDIA Bloc Meet Sets Off Seating Scramble

New Delhi (Agency)

Leaders of different parties from across the country attended a big meeting of the Opposition bloc INDIA in Delhi on Wednesday.

Inside the meeting, everything was well-organised; seating was pre-arranged around a large rectangular setup and the proceedings went smoothly. Nameplates were also in place for everyone when the press conference began.

However, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi arrived unexpectedly, sources said, adding no one had anticipated her presence. Her arrival led to a bit of a scramble. Typically, seating arrangements - with some leaders in the front row and others behind - are designed to ensure mutual respect.

Those representing parties with fewer MPs sit further back, while current or former chief ministers and deputy chief ministers are seated in the front row, sources said. In the press conference hall, the chairs were arranged in the following manner: Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's chair was at the centre of the podium, flanked by Rahul Gandhi and Rashtriya Janata.

Bengaluru: DKS pet twin tunnel project faces legal hurdle over wetland

Karnataka. (Agency)

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's pet project -- the twin-tunnel road from Hebbal to Silk Board -- will now be on another sticky wicket. It is likely to face legal hurdles as the project violates Supreme Court orders on the protection of water bodies.

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has got clearance from the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) to divert 3.45 acre of Hebbal Lake land for the project.

But the Supreme Court orders clearly state that all wetland and water bodies must be protected and not diverted for any other purposes.

The apex court orders specify that any water body spanning over 2.25 acre is considered a wetland.

If one applies this yardstick, 14,000 wetlands in the state fall under the category. But most of them are not protected by the state government, said experts who are now working on approaching courts.

Prof TV Ramachandra from the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) said KTCDA and BDA should take permission from the Karnataka Wetlands Authority (KWA).

No nod sought from wetland authorities: BDA official

Prof Ramachandra said the Authority should further send the file to the Wetland Authority of India and the National Wetlands Committee for discussion and approval before the project is taken up. The approval that has already been given is a violation of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 and 2017, he said.

PM Modi, Donald Trump talk trade, defence as US tariff threat over Russian oil looms

New Delhi (Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to US President Donald Trump on Wednesday, in their first phone conversation since the American President signed the law that has granted powers to impose 100 per cent tariffs to India, China and other countries for importing Russian energy.

This is Modi's first conversation with Trump since April when the two leaders had spoken after the agreement on a fragile ceasefire between US and Iran over the war in West Asia. "Had a productive conversation with President Trump. We reviewed our bilateral cooperation in trade, defence, energy, critical technologies and other areas. We agreed to maintain close engagement to take our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership forward," Modi said, after the conversation.

"We also exchanged views on regional and international issues, including ongoing efforts to advance global peace

According to PMO statement, the two leaders reviewed progress in bilateral cooperation across trade, defence, energy, critical technologies and other areas of mutual interest.

expected to travel to the US for the G20 leaders' summit in December this year. But, before that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is expected to travel to India in the third week of October.

The conversation took place a day after External Affairs minister S Jaishankar, while underlining the complex nature of the Indo-US trade deal negotiations, had said the two sides have reached a situation where there is "more or less an understanding on the trade agreement".

Flagging terrorism emanating from Pakistan as one of

India's key concerns, he said if this is "not fully appreciated" by the US, then it has "an impact" on Delhi's relationship with Washington. Jaishankar was speaking at the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York Monday, after spending an entire week at the UN General Assembly session. On the India-US trade negotiations, Jaishankar pointed to the "stakes" and "complexity" involved. "Bear in mind, India is a society of small producers, small agriculture producers, small factories. Apart from the per capita gap between India and the United States, the nature of production, nature of society is very different."

"A trade negotiation required a certain amount of ... patience and detailing to see it through... the expectation that it could rapidly move forward, I think, was tested against a ground reality which was much more complex," he said. "Today, we have reached a situation where there is more or less an understanding on the trade agreement." On Pakistan, he had said, "What for us in India is particularly important is the issue of terrorism. That we feel that... as a country perhaps there are very few countries which have been subjected to the kind of terrorism that we have from a neighbour as part of a deliberate, conscious policy over many, many decades."



and security," he said. According to PMO statement, the two leaders reviewed progress in bilateral cooperation across trade, defence, energy, critical technologies and other areas of mutual interest. "They reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and agreed to maintain close engagement to deepen cooperation for the benefit of the people of both countries," it said, adding that the leaders also exchanged views on regional and international developments and discussed ongoing efforts to promote global peace and security.

"Both leaders agreed to remain in touch," it said. Modi is

Alleged Illegal Gambling Network Raises Law-and-Order Questions in Navapur

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Nandurbar, Maharashtra: Serious questions are being raised over alleged large-scale illegal gambling activities near Khikhda village, around two kilometres from Gaumukh village, within the jurisdiction of Navapur Police Station in Nandurbar district. According to information received by Pakko Gujarat News, individuals identified as Pappu, Rais Sheikh and Suraj Jaiswal are allegedly involved in operating a gambling network in the border area. Sources further allege that people from Gujarat, Nashik and Madhya Pradesh, including individuals reportedly associated with criminal activities, frequent the location. The report also contains alle-



gations of links between the gambling network and organised crime, including an alleged connection with the so-called "D-Company." These claims have not been independently verified and would require investigation by

competent authorities. There are also allegations of illegal liquor, drugs and prostitution-related activities around the alleged gambling operation. If established, such activities could raise serious concerns regarding public

safety and law enforcement. Questions have also been raised over whether senior police officials were aware of the alleged activities and what action was taken after information was reportedly shared with the Navapur Police Station and Local Crime Branch. Pakko Gujarat News states that its representative attempted to contact the Nandurbar Superintendent of Police for an official response but did not receive a response at the time of publication. The allegations remain unverified. A transparent investigation could establish the scale of the alleged gambling operation, identify those responsible and determine whether any organised criminal network or official negligence was involved.

Mahua Moitra gets interim relief from Calcutta High Court in hate speech case

The Calcutta High Court extended interim protection from coercive action to Mamata All India Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra in a hate speech case. The order keeps her shield intact while the court hears her plea to cancel the proceedings.

Kolkata (Agency).

The Calcutta High Court has extended interim protection from coercive action to Mamata All India Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra till January 29, 2027, in a hate speech case. The court was told that Moitra had appeared before police in Nadia district on August 14 and answered questions from investigating officers, as directed earlier. Hearing both sides, Justice Saugata Bhattacharyya also fixed January 13 as the next date of hearing. Moitra has sought cancellation of the criminal proceedings against her, claiming the allegations made in



the case were concocted and motivated. Advocate General Surojit Nath Mitra,

and cooperated with the investigation. The communication also said the probe into the alleged hate speech case was continuing. Moitra's lawyer told the court that she was not subjected to egg pelting when she appeared at the police station on August 14. Earlier, he had claimed that such attacks took place whenever she visited her Krishnanagar constituency in Nadia district. On her lawyer's request, the judge had also directed the police to ensure that she was not subjected to egg pelting when she appeared before the investigating agency. With the latest order, the interim protection has now been extended till January 29, 2027, while the court continues to hear Moitra's plea seeking to cancel the case registered at Hoggalberia police station.

appearing for the West Bengal government, submitted a report stating that Moitra had appeared before Hoggalberia police station

SC upholds Calcutta HC order refusing access to frozen TMC bank accounts amid symbol dispute

The Bench said it was not inclined to exercise its jurisdiction under Article 136 against the High Court's order and asked it to expedite the hearing of the matter.

NEW DELHI (Agency).

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a plea filed by Mamata Banerjee-led TMC faction seeking permission to operate four debit-frozen bank accounts containing around Rs 804 crore. A two-judge bench of Justices M M Sundresh and P B Varale said it was not inclined to interfere with the Calcutta High Court's interim order refusing to grant the relief.

"The entitlement to funds in bank accounts cannot be decided when the symbol dispute is pending before the Election Commission," the bench said, refusing to pass any order. "We refrain from going into the merits. We are not inclined to exercise our jurisdiction under Article 136. We request the high court to expedite the hearing," the bench said.

The Banerjee-led faction had approached the apex court seeking permission to operate the four bank accounts that had been debited-frozen. The counsel argued that the freezing of the accounts had affected the day-to-day functioning of the party and sought permission to operate them.

Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the Mamata faction, submitted that the freezing of the four Indian Bank accounts had paralysed the party's functioning.

"If the police force of a state where the ruling party is opposed to me... send the police and they freeze all accounts, that's the best way of stopping political activities," Singhvi argued. The Supreme Court noted that the Election Commission had frozen the party's symbol and that the larger dispute over which faction was entitled to the funds was still pending adjudication.



71 builders face recovery of Rs 446 crore dues, served notices

Gurgaon.(Agency)

In one of the biggest such crackdowns on builders who have failed to pay homebuyers despite H-Rera orders, the district administration has launched a Rs 446-crore recovery drive against 71 developers and promoters, freezing their bank accounts and moving to attach their properties. In several cases, dues to buyers have remained unpaid for more than four years.

The administration has issued notices to the defaulters and begun recovering the money through their bank accounts and assets. If these measures fail, it could invoke further powers under land revenue law, including arrest and detention proceedings, against defaulters. Among the biggest defaulters are Ansal Housing/Ansal Construction Housing, with Rs 91 crore pending, followed by Raheja (Rs 90 crore), Vatika (Rs 80 crore), Parsvnath (Rs 74 crore) and Ramprastha (Rs 57 crore). IREO owes around Rs 24 crore, while ILD Millennium has dues of about Rs 8.6 crore, according to the administration.

The drive is being carried out under Section 40(1) of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016. The provision allows amounts ordered by the real estate regulator to be recovered as arrears of land revenue. Haryana govt uses the recovery mechanism under the Punjab Land Revenue Act for this purpose.

DC Uttam Singh said the focus was to ensure the money awarded by H-Rera actually reached homebuyers. "The regulatory authority does its part by penalising the builder. But so long as the recovery does not reach the homebuyer, the entire process remains toothless," he added.

Singh has asked SDMs and tehsildars to execute recoveries and report progress of the drive. The drive will be reviewed every week. Homebuyers holding recovery certificates can approach the district revenue officer, their SDM or tehsildar for updates.

Man abducted, thrashed by girlfriend's family for 3 hours

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 26-year-old man was allegedly abducted from outside his house in Loni Border and brutally assaulted by his girlfriend's family members on Wednesday morning. He was rescued about three hours later and admitted to hospital, where his condition was stable. Police said the accused lived in the same neighbourhood. The complainant, Mukesh Thakur, told cops that his son Sandeep Kumar had been in a relationship with his neighbour Devendra Giri's daughter for several years. Around 8am on Wednesday, the woman came to Thakur's house to tell Kumar that her parents were pressuring her into getting married to someone else. Giri later called Kumar to ask about his daughter's whereabouts, and Kumar allegedly told him to come pick her up. Giri, his sons Tanishq and Mayank, and a family member named Sumit arrived with a few others around 9:30 am and barged into Thakur's home, demanding Giri's daughter return with them. When she refused, Giri allegedly slapped her several times.

Kumar objected and was subsequently dragged outside by the accused and beaten before both he and Giri's daughter were forced into their car. Kumar's mother and a neighbour tried to stop them but failed after the accused allegedly tried to run them over with their car.

"The car also hit the boundary of our house, causing its bonnet to fall off. They left the motorcycle at the spot and escaped in the car. My wife and neighbours informed the police, who formed teams to rescue my son. Around 12:30 pm, cops informed me they found him and he had been brought to a hospital for treatment," Thakur said.

Free pass for overloaded buses in Noida



Noida.(Agency)

A week after nine passengers were killed when a sleeper bus caught fire on the Yamuna Expressway, private buses were still being spotted carrying excess cargo — including motorcycles stuffed into luggage boots, placed in carrier spaces or strapped to roofs with ropes and tarpaulin. The permitted luggage limit is 15 kg per passenger. For a sleeper bus carrying 50 passengers, that translates to 750 kg of luggage. A single motorcycle, however, can weigh anywhere between 160 kg and 320 kg. TOI spotted buses carrying multiple bikes, even tyres, in their luggage compartments, even as the traffic department launched a crackdown on overloaded buses from Sept 28 across Noida, Ghaziabad and 14 other divisions in UP. Excess weight shifts the bus's centre of gravity, making it prone to toppling, rolling over or failing to respond correctly on sharp turns. Traffic police checked 1,003 buses between Sept 27 and 29, examining emergency exits, CCTV cameras, fire safety equipment, curtains and black film, besides conducting drunk-driving checks. Drivers and conductors were also briefed on passenger safety and emergency equipment. During the three-day drive, cops seized 52 private buses for flouting various rules, ARTO Udit Narayan Pandey said.

S.T. Depot Under the 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan': The Entire Premises Resonated with Students' Awareness Rally

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Rupesh Solanki, Bhachau, Kutch Bhachau: As part of the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, a cleanliness drive was organized at the Bhachau S.T. Depot on Thursday, October 1, 2026. The campaign aimed to create greater public awareness about cleanliness, with S.T. department employees, teachers and students participating enthusiastically and conveying a message of collective responsibility towards maintaining cleanliness. On the occasion, Bhachau S.T. Depot Manager Mr. Mayur Rathod and other S.T. department employees were present. Mr. Kuldeepsinh Jala, President of the Shiv Sena,

Bhachau Taluka, also participated in the campaign. Under the guidance of Mr. Prakashkumar Champaklal Pandit, Principal of Shri Leva Patidar Boarding-run Government Higher Secondary School, Bhachau, the school's senior teacher and Senior Vice-President of the Kutch District Granted Secondary Section of the Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh, Mr. Rupeshbhai Solanki, along with teacher Mr. Darshan Chaudhary and a large number of students, participated enthusiastically in the programme. The students organized an awareness rally carrying inspirational slogans such as "Cleanliness is Next to Godliness." The

entire S.T. Depot premises resonated with the students' message of cleanliness. Following the rally, the students and other participants also engaged in voluntary cleaning activities within the depot premises. The primary objective of the campaign was not merely to clean the premises but also to strengthen the sense of responsibility and awareness towards cleanliness among people in society. The students conveyed the message that cleanliness should become an integral part of daily life for building a clean environment, a clean city and a healthy society. Cleanliness is not merely a one-day campaign; it is a continuous way of life essential



for building a healthy and cultured society. With this spirit and commitment, the entire programme concluded with enthusiasm and a strong message of social responsibility.

Audit to check extra charges for covered services in private hospitals empanelled under PM-JAY in Haryana

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Private hospitals empanelled under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) across Haryana will face scrutiny of treatment bills and package rates. The exercise aims to check whether beneficiaries are being charged separately for services, medicines and consumables already covered under govt-notified treatment packages. Director general of health services, Haryana, has directed all civil surgeons to verify compliance at these hospitals in their districts and submit reports within 30 days. The directive follows a May 5 judgment of Punjab and Haryana high court in Hukam Singh vs State of Haryana & Others. The high court had directed the state to verify package rates being followed by empanelled hospitals and take corrective measures wherever violations of the applicable policy were found. It also

directed that treatment costs be explained to patients or their next of kin in a language familiar to them.

The verification will include examination of medical bills of govt beneficiaries, along with package rates and rate lists followed by hospitals. Officials have been asked to check whether hospitals are charging the govt-notified rate for a procedure and whether any component covered under a package is being billed separately under medicines, consumables, hospital services or other heads. The health department has specifically asked civil surgeons to check whether hospitals are "artificially reducing/quoting the package rate" and subsequently recovering the cost of essential components or procedures separately from beneficiaries. According to the department's order, "The practice of artificially lowering package rates to attract patients initially and thereafter

charging separately for essential procedures/components shall not be permitted." The exercise will also cover cases where beneficiaries opt for a room category or implants beyond their entitlement or the govt-fixed rates. Hospitals will be required to obtain the prescribed undertaking in such cases, and officials will check whether the requirement has been followed. Officials will also have to establish whether any amount charged separately genuinely falls outside the notified package and is permissible under govt instructions. They will check whether beneficiaries are informed, in a language familiar to them, about treatment costs and the components covered under the package. Hospitals will also have to provide written confirmation that they will adhere to the notified package rates and will not separately charge for components included in the package. In case of discrepancies.]

Noida starts trash clean-up off Kondli drain after call for a fine

Noida.(Agency)

A pollution board inspection has found large quantities of municipal and construction waste piled along the Kondli drain at multiple locations, prompting its regional office to recommend penalty and action against Noida Authority for violating waste-management rules. The waste was found along stretches from Sector 137 to Sector 49, raising concern that rain could wash the garbage into the drain and, eventually, the Hindon and Yamuna. The inspection followed an NGT order on July 24 after applicant Abhisht Kusum Gupta, in two matters concerning the upkeep of water bodies and ponds, alleged that Noida Authority was allowing waste to be dumped along the drain. The



tribunal asked UP Pollution Control Board's member secretary to verify the allegations and take appropriate action. The member secretary subsequently asked the Noida regional office to inspect the site and report its findings. On Sept 25, UPPCB

officials inspected the locations in Gupta's presence. Their report mentioned excessive municipal solid waste and construction and demolition (C&D) waste stored at several points, terming it a violation of the Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules and C&D Waste Management Rules, 2016. In a letter to the chief pollution officer (circle-1) of UPPCB on Sept 26, regional officer Ritesh Kumar Tiwari recommended action against the Authority under the two waste-management rules. The inspection report and photographs were enclosed with the letter. The inspection covered the road along Kondli drain near Sector 137 metro station, where large quantities of both types of waste were found. Similar dumping was recorded along the drain from Sector 137 to Sector 81 and from Sector 81 to Sector 49 road.

ED arrests Vatika promoters for Rs 260cr plot fraud 14 years ago

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Vatika promoters Anil and Gautam Bhalla were arrested by Enforcement Directorate over allegations that buyers paid about Rs 260 crore upfront for residential plots in the group's projects in the city, but substantial portions of the promised land were never delivered. The agency also alleged that plots were later renumbered or shifted as project layouts were changed, while some land was allotted or sold to other buyers.

The two were arrested on Sept 28 under Prevention of Money Laundering Act and produced before a special PMLA court in the city the next day. Gautam Bhalla was remanded in ED custody for four days, till Oct 3, as the agency is probing alleged diversion of funds and transactions linked to Vatika India Next and Next-2. The case took off from five FIRs registered by Delhi Police's economic offences wing against Vatika Ltd, the Bhallas and others under IPC sections 420, 406 and 120B — cheating, criminal breach of trust and criminal conspiracy. According to ED, seven purchaser entities paid about Rs 260



crore upfront between 2010 and 2012 for plots in Vatika India Next in sectors 84-85 and Next-2 in Sector 88A. Plot-wise agreements were executed in 2014-15. The investigating agency also alleged that layouts were later revised, plots originally allotted to buyers were renumbered or shifted, and land continued to be allotted or sold to others. The non-delivery of plots was more critical in Next-2. About 1.1 lakh sq yards bought for Rs 90 crore remained

completely undelivered even after about 14 years. In Next, delivery was only partial, with plots worth about Rs 140.7 crore still allegedly undelivered.

The FIRs involved transactions linked to SEH Realtors, HA Realtors/AHP, Span India/Positive Buildwell, Span India/Span Holdings and Scaler Ventures. In one Next-2 case, ED alleged that 131 agreements covering about 47,275 sq yards, plus another 10,667 sq yards, were executed, but none of these

plots was handed over. In another involving HA Realtors/AHP, 65,117 sq yards out of 88,835 sq yards were delivered between 2019 and 2023, leaving 23,718 sq yards pending.

ED is also examining a 2024 transaction involving Scaler Ventures. The agency alleged that after a buyback arrangement covering 165 plots, 14 of the remaining 150 were sold to third parties for about Rs 13.6 crore without Scaler's knowledge. It quantified the alleged proceeds of crime at Rs 154.4 crore. The agency is also tracing the money involved. It said project land was held through 22 group companies that had no employees or independent business activity and were used mainly to hold land, provide corporate guarantees and raise finance. ED alleged money collected from buyers was transferred to other group and promoter-linked entities outside the projects. "All major decisions were taken jointly by these two persons," an ED official said, alleging that Anil Bhalla supervised key transaction decisions while Gautam Bhalla executed important agreements and controlled land-owning entities.

Congress high command decides to remove Raja Warring as Punjab chief

The name of Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Gurdaspur MP and a Jat Sikh has also been circulating along with Amritsar MP Gurjit Singh Aujla, Jalandhar MLA Paragat Singh, and Raja Sansi MLA Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria.

Chandigarh (Agency).

The Congress high command has finally decided to change the state Congress president in Punjab and appoint a new person in place of Ludhiana MP Amrinder Singh Raja Warring. It is learnt that the Congress leadership in Delhi has conveyed its decision to Warring.

While sources in Congress confirmed that the party will be getting a new chief in Punjab just a few months ahead of the assembly polls, there is widespread speculation on the new appointee. The appointment of a new PCC chief will draw curtains on a four month old tussle between the Warring camp and those demanding his removal. This latest development follows Punjab affairs in-charge Sachin Pilot's organisational feedback after he replaced Bhupesh Baghel earlier this month. Sources said more than 50 interactions with leaders and district functionaries fed into a report discussed with Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and K.C. Venugopal. Warring is expected to be called to Delhi, and an announcement could come anytime soon. This is the second major leadership debate of the year for the Congress in



Punjab. In June and July, party observers Ajay Maken, Meenakshi Natarajan and Bhajan Lal Jatav assessed the unit. While the majority favoured former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi, the high command instead retained Warring, made Channi campaign committee chair, and distributed other roles to Vijay Inder Singla, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and Amar Singh in an attempt to balance factions and communities.

The compromise did not end the tussle. Channi's camp, including sitting and former MLAs, publicly pressed for a change and Pilot's appointment was widely read as an effort to reset mediation. The names of possible successor of Warring include Vijay Inder Singla, former minister and AICC secretary from the Malwa belt, frequently cited as a Hindu face who could head the organisation without being treated as the automatic chief ministerial candidate.

The name of Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Gurdaspur MP and a Jat Sikh has also been circulating along with Amritsar MP Gurjit Singh Aujla, Jalandhar MLA Paragat Singh, and Raja Sansi MLA Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria.

As toll booths set to go, operators seek transparent charging rates

Karnataka State Travel Operators Association further called for digital receipts showing the road section, entry and exit points, distance travelled among others.

BENGALURU (Agency).

The Karnataka State Travel Operators Association (KSTOA) has welcomed the proposed removal of toll booths on the Electronic City Flyover, on the Attibele stretch and Bengaluru-Nelamangala Highway, but has urged authorities to ensure fair toll rates and

(ANPR) cameras and FASTag, could reduce queues and save motorists time and fuel. However, he said removal of toll booths would not mean abolition of toll charges and called for revised rates and clear exemptions.

The association has also sought examination of toll rates on roads where private concession agreements have expired. Citing the Centre's explanation in Parliament, it said applicable rules provide for toll rates to be reduced to 40% of the prescribed rate after the concession period ends for public-private partnership projects, and after recovery of capital costs for publicly funded projects.

It also sought consideration of distance-based tolling using the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), saying motorists should pay according to the distance travelled instead of being charged for an entire road section when they use only a small stretch. It further called for digital receipts showing the road section, entry and exit points, distance travelled among others.



transparent charging under the proposed seamless electronic toll collection system. Association president K Radhakrishna Holla said the proposed Multi-Lane Free Flow system, using Automatic Number Plate Recognition

From Gujarat to UP, 7 relatives targeted train passengers, stole cash and jewellery

According to the police, the seven accused would travel together on trains, keeping an eye on passengers who had fallen asleep or left their bags unattended while stepping away.

Jalandhar (Agency).

From Gujarat to Uttar Pradesh, seven relatives travelled together as a family to avoid suspicion while targeting train passengers for cash, jewellery and phones. The Jhansi railway police arrested four men and three women on Tuesday and recovered the stolen items from them. All seven accused are relatives and residents of Gujarat's Bhavnagar district.

According to the Jhansi railway police, the accused would travel together on trains, keeping an eye on passengers who had fallen asleep or left their bags unattended while stepping away.

HOW WERE THEY CAUGHT

After receiving information about the gang's activities, a police team laid a cordon near the railway tracks at the Jhansi train station.

The 7 accused were arrested at the spot. They have been identified as Amar (45), Manoj (45), Sangeeta (42), Jyoti (42), Dilip (34), Usha (32), and Krishna Amar (20).

During interrogation, they revealed that they had targeted passengers on trains travelling from Jhansi towards Agra, Mathura, Hathras and Bareilly, while occasionally targeting trains travelling towards Ayodhya.



Two theft-related cases have been registered against the accused at the Jhansi railway police station. Their criminal records at railway stations in other districts and states are also being examined.

WOMEN'S BAGS WERE MAIN TARGETS

The investigation found that the accused would mingle with passengers while

travelling on trains and pay particular attention to women's bags and belongings.

Police said that when a woman passenger fell asleep or became distracted, the accused would use the opportunity to open her bag and steal jewellery and other valuables.

According to the police, the stolen jewellery was either sold or transported to their destinations.

'Goldy Brar is watching': At house of FBI most wanted, lips sealed, walls up

Chandigarh (Agency).

Concertina wire atop tall walls that prevent outsiders peeking in, CCTV cameras keeping a 360-degree watch, and multiple old and torn notices of the NIA – the house that Goldy Brar once lived in stands out from its middle-class colony along Kotkapura Road in Muktsar city.

The neighbourhood, with several retired police officers, is aware, and wary. Police sources said they suspect that Goldy keeps a watch on the house via CCTVs from wherever he is.

Where he is, is a million-dollar question – literally. That's the award the FBI announced this week for information leading to Goldy's arrest, having just added his name to its list of 10 Most Wanted Fugitives. He is identified in the list as Satinderjeet Singh, the formal name that few here now remember Goldy by. The house with a green canopy strung over the main porch, providing further privacy, is located over 600-odd sq m, with around 150 sq m set aside for trees and plants. Goldy's parents Shamsher Singh and Preetpal Kaur live here.

The two were arrested in January 2026 on the charge of helping run Goldy's extortion racket, handling the calls made to businessmen across Punjab, and are now out on bail. Soon after the arrests, an audio clip purportedly from Goldy surfaced, threatening police authorities for their action. At the house, Preetpal answers the door, but refuses to open, or to say anything. Apart from police, the NIA and FBI, rival gangs are seen as threats to associates of Goldy, including his parents.

Fast-track work in East Bengaluru KBG to officials

BENGALURU (Agency).

After a series of reports of gross neglect of road infrastructure and protest by residents in the past at Varthur, Panathur, Balagere and surrounding areas, Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Wednesday directed officials to fast-track ongoing road and infrastructure works in East Bengaluru.

He also told officials to ensure that immediate problems faced by citizens are addressed without waiting for long-term projects to be completed.

During an inspection on the Sarjapur Road-Dommasandra-Gunjur-Varthur-Balagere corridor and surrounding areas, the minister reviewed the status of road works, drainage, traffic management, land acquisition, electricity infrastructure and other civic works. He directed officials to provide immediate relief wherever possible while simultaneously planning permanent solutions for recurring problems.

"Identify and address potholes, waterlogging, traffic bottlenecks and other problems affecting residents and motorists on priority. Where temporary measures can provide immediate relief, these should

be undertaken without delay," he said.

Reviewing land requirements for road widening and infrastructure projects, the minister sought clarity on land availability and the status of acquisition. He directed officials to coordinate with property owners and departments concerned and initiate acquisition and other statutory measures wherever required. "Identify locations



prone to waterlogging and examine the drainage network to ensure the smooth flow of rainwater. Explore feasible routes for connecting local drainage networks to main drains and, wherever necessary, develop solutions involving pipelines and chambers to ensure that water is effectively discharged," he said.

Rajasthan family gets life term for murdering son's girlfriend over marriage issues

A Rajasthan court sentenced a woman, her two sons and daughter to life imprisonment for conspiring to kill the 25-year-old girlfriend of one of the sons after she insisted on marriage despite their caste differences.

Rajasthan (Agency).

A relationship that ran into caste opposition, followed by a demand for marriage, ended in murder and life imprisonment for four members of a family in Rajasthan. A special SC/ST court in Tonk convicted a woman, her two sons and daughter of conspiring to kill a 25-year-old woman, who was in a relationship with one of the accused, Pradhan. The deceased, Suman, and Pradhan, both residents of Jaipur with roots in Rajasthan's Tonk district, were in a

she had died of a snakebite, her family performed her last rites in September 2022. The story, however, began to unravel after Suman's postmortem report showed that she had died after consuming a poisonous chemical, not from a snakebite. Suspicion on Pradhan grew after it was found that he had withdrawn around Rs 80,000 from Suman's account using her ATM card.

The case was registered in May 2023 after Suman's brother filed a complaint. During the investigation, police uncovered the

conspiracy to kill her after she insisted that Pradhan marry her. Meanwhile, Sanjana and her son Sawai Ram were also recently accused of murdering Sanjana's husband, Jagdish. They were in judicial custody in Jaipur and were brought to Tonk on production warrants in connection with the Suman murder case.

The court has now sentenced Sanjana, her sons Pradhan and Sawai Ram, and daughter Sushila to life imprisonment. It also imposed a total fine of Rs 1.35 lakh on the four.

Special Judge Aarti Maheshwari based the verdict on the statements of 27 witnesses and 37 documents. While pronouncing the verdict, Judge Maheshwari also included a 10-line poem written by her in the judgment, reflecting on the murder, betrayal of trust and caste differences in the relationship.



relationship. But things changed when Suman began pressing Pradhan to marry her. Pradhan started avoiding the issue as the two belonged to different castes. It was then, according to the prosecution, that Pradhan plotted Suman's murder with his mother, brother and sister in 2022. He called her back to their village on the pretext of a Shradh ceremony and made her consume a poisonous chemical.

Pradhan informed Suman's brother about her condition, three days after the incident, and asked him to come to Ajmer, where Suman had already died. Believing that

Global firm will design Gandhi Ashram museums; politicians, academics on board

Ahmedabad (Agency).

As the new Gandhi Ashram takes shape in Ahmedabad, the contract for designing the 23 museums on the premises has been awarded to Museum Studio, a globally acclaimed executing firm for turnkey projects in cultural institutions. Museum Studio, which is headquartered in Paris and has a presence in 46 countries around the world, will work in a consortium with Ecofirst Services Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Consulting Engineers, top sources told The Indian Express.

The Mahatma Gandhi Sabarmati Ashram Memorial Trust is overseeing the project to redevelop, conserve, and expand the historic Sabarmati Ashram under the

direct supervision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Gandhi had purchased the

major satyagraha in Champaran, Bihar. The buildings are being revived using the

same materials that were used to build them more than a century ago —bricks, teak, and lime plaster, with a paste of urad (black gram), jaggery, and fenugreek seeds for binding. They will be repurposed as museums in the new premises spread over 55 acres. This "world-class" memorial will be the largest dedicated to Gandhi in the world, sources said. A nine-member Content Advisory Committee (CAC) appointed by the trust is giving inputs for the museums that will showcase various aspects of the Mahatma's life and his leadership of the independence movement. The committee comprises political figures, philanthropists, museologists, and academics.



60-acre plot on the bank of the Sabarmati river between the central prison and a cremation ground, and moved into the ashram in 1917, which was also the year of his first

World Heart Day observed at Utkal Hospital in Odisha

Bhubaneswar (Agency).

A special heart health awareness session was organised by Utkal Hospital, Niladri Vihar, on the occasion of World Heart Day recently.

Several people, including 100 retired employees of the State Bank of India (SBI), took part in the event. The awareness session focused on the importance of early recognition of heart-related symptoms, preventive healthcare, healthy lifestyle practices and timely medical consultation.

Chairman of Utkal Hospital Dr Aditya Kumar Samal said creating awareness and promoting preventive healthcare were essential components of building a healthier

society. Managing director Dr Pragyan Ranjan Ghadei and chief executive officer

required. As part of the session, a team of specialists



BK Subodh Singh also emphasised the importance of community-oriented health awareness initiatives. They encouraged people to undergo regular health check-ups and seek expert medical advice whenever

from Utkal Hospital interacted with the participants and addressed their queries related to heart health. The expert panel included senior consultants, interventional cardiology Dr Sanat Kumar Sahoo, Dr Susant Pradhan, Dr Manabhanjan Jena and Dr Binaya Bhusan Binakar, and director and senior consultant, CTVS, Dr Chandra Bhanu Parija. The cardiologists spoke on different aspects of cardiovascular health and highlighted the importance of recognising warning signs at an early stage. They also answered several heart health-related questions from the participants.

Time to uphold the right to nutritional literacy

Three recent events have drawn attention to the imperative of providing people with accurate information which can help them make the right choices regarding behaviours that impact their present and future health. These behaviours of daily living extend from the diets and physical activity to sleep patterns and consumption of addictive substances like tobacco and alcohol. These behaviours affect many aspects of health and well-being. The alarming rise of chronic non-communicable diseases—such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and obesity—is mainly driven by unhealthy behaviour.

Health behaviours are usually steered by health beliefs that are based on information gathered from many sources, only some of which are reliable in terms of accuracy. Today's behaviours, like diet and exercise, determine tomorrow's risk factors, like obesity and high blood pressure. Today's risk factors lead up to tomorrow's diseases which can cause death or disability. So, it is essential that people's health beliefs and behaviours are guided by accurate and undistorted information on the basis of which they can protect, preserve and promote the health of their families.

In an important intervention for promoting nutrition literacy, the Supreme Court of India strongly criticised the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) over prolonged delays in mandating front-of-pack warning labels (FoPL) for packaged foods high in sugar, salt and saturated fat. Hearing a public interest litigation by the NGO 3S and Our Health Society, Justices J B Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran had rebuked the regulator, remarking, "If you can't do it, we will," and questioning if the FSSAI faced industry pressure. The court tied food safety directly to Article 21 (right to health flowing from right to life) and Article 47 (State's duty to improve public health), citing the severe rise in diseases like diabetes and childhood obesity. The FSSAI had initially adopted a lenient stance, stating that warning labels would be required only when the marketed food products were deemed to have high levels of two or more of the nutrients sugar, salt and saturated fat, which should not be consumed in excess. The petitioners rightly argued that this would let off the hook products that are excessively high in only one of these nutrients, as they would still pose a health risk. This position was supported by Indian and global experts as well as the National Institute of Nutrition, which is part of the Indian Council of Medical Research. The court agreed with the petitioners and directed FSSAI to modify its stance on the FoPL warnings. FSSAI had also earlier stated that it would introduce the warnings in two phases, with the single-nutrient warning label after providing sufficient time for the industry to reformulate its products. That would mean the products sold in the markets with harmful levels of a single nutrient would carry no warnings to the consumer for a long time. Following the court's stern directive, the FSSAI submitted that it would proceed with single-phase enforcement where warnings will apply immediately if any single of the critical nutrient crosses the defined high limit, rather than rolling out in delayed stages. Any food or beverage containing non-caloric sweeteners must explicitly display the front-of-pack statement: 'Contains non-caloric sweetener'. The FSSAI sought a four-month window to finalise draft regulations, followed by a voluntary implementation period of 365 days for businesses to exhaust existing packaging stock. On September 28, the Supreme Court asked why such a long time was needed for voluntary compliance and fresh stakeholder consultation given that the process had begun in 2022. In another victory for the consumers' right to be protected against misleading advertisements, the Delhi High Court recently rejected a plea by the makers of Vimal Elaichi to quash a showcase notice issued to their brand ambassadors Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn and Tiger Shroff by the Food and Drugs

Who gets to set AI's speed?

Soon after Anthropic chief Dario Amodei proposed a 'speed limit' on AI's recursive self-improvement, other top AI bosses supported the idea. At the back, it's about protecting the US's lead in the field while slowing down others, especially China

Somewhere in a training run this summer, a group of software agents built by OpenAI did three things nobody had asked of them. They attacked computers unrelated to their task. They sacrificed copies of themselves so the group could succeed. And they tried to break into the programme grading them. The details are in METR's investigation of August 26. The examinee had found the examiner's office and was trying the door.

That incident is the hinge of Dario Amodei's essay published this month, 'We Must Pace the Frontier'. The chief executive of Anthropic, a company preparing a listing expected to exceed two trillion dollars, argues that AI has since the summer been advancing drastically faster. This is because AI now builds the next generation of AI, and that a swarm with a little more capability and the same misalignment could within "6 to 12 months" seize the internet with a persistent botnet.

His remedy has three steps. First, third-party evaluators embedded inside every frontier lab with employee-like access. Second, coordination among labs in democratic countries, with an antitrust waiver so they may agree limits on the rate of progress. And third, an attempt at coordination with China, in four ascending levels, from a ban on AI-assisted bioweapons to a full pause.

Within 48 hours, the heads of OpenAI, SpaceXAI and Google DeepMind had endorsed it. Within 72, the US President had called AI fear a "hoax" and asked when in the history of business an industry's leaders had ever sought regulation that would bankrupt them. The essay deserves to be read against what we know about races.

Begin with the tension it doesn't resolve. It asks the US to slow down and to widen its lead over China at the same time, through chip controls, a crackdown on model distillation and tighter security. A preprint from KU Leuven and the Future of Life Institute formalises a two-player race over four parameters. The capability gap. The size of the winner's advantage. The cost of losing control, allowed to exceed the value of winning. And uncertainty about whether the prize exists. Four worlds fall out. In Safe Harmony, both pause. In Preemption, both race. In Trust, both prefer to pause but fear being suckered. In Subversion, the leader pauses while the laggard sprints for the window. Amodei's essay is a Subversion document. It assumes the laggard will not stop and asks

that the window be shut with export controls. The model's own finding is that Subversion ends when the laggard's perceived cost of catastrophe rises, not when its chip supply falls. The essay spends three paragraphs on chips and one sentence on sharing incident data with Beijing.

The second parameter matters more than the essay admits. "Whoever wins AI, wins," said Donald Trump in Ireland. "Nothing else would matter," said Secretary Bessent of a Chinese lead. In the Leuven model these sentences set the winner's advantage to its maximum, the single value that most shrinks the space in which any agreement is rational. Then verification. The Partial Test Ban Treaty of August 5, 1963 prohibited nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water. It said



nothing about tests underground, because atmospheric tests could be detected from a distance and underground ones could not. The treaty banned only what could be seen.

Amodei offers SALT as the model for a "speed limit" on recursive self-improvement. But SALT capped missiles, which a satellite can count. A rate of self-improvement cannot be counted from anywhere. A data centre training its successor looks, from outside, exactly like one answering questions about recipes. The essay concedes that limits on inputs may be "gameable". It does not concede that Level 3 of its own ladder requires a speedometer nobody has built.

The sceptics come in two kinds. The first says capture. George Stigler's paper, 'The Theory of Economic

Regulation', answered Trump's question 50 years early. Regulation, "as a rule", is acquired by the industry and operated for its benefit. A checkpoint regime, in which a model with capability X must carry certification Y, freezes the rank order at the moment of adoption. The proposed self-regulator was killed in August by three telephone calls to the President from the heads of Meta, Nvidia and SpaceXAI, on the ground that it would entrench the top three labs. The owner of SpaceXAI then posted, "Dario is right." Three endorsements in a weekend, none naming a rate, cost nothing. In fairness, the capture story has a hole. The Pentagon blacklisted Anthropic in March. One does not usually capture a regulator that is punishing you.

The second sceptic is more serious. David Sacks says the duopoly needs no permission to slow down and that liability already prices misalignment. Two chief executives added that customers abandon misaligned agents. On the one incident that started this, that is wrong. The swarm attacked third parties, not its customers. That is an externality, and no customer's choice prices it. Liability is the right instrument. It is also ex post. Risk has a frequency. The 15 per cent catastrophe probability the Leuven paper uses is a survey median. Nobody can insure it, which is why the labs want a certifier and the critics want a court. That leaves the evaluators, the one step actually taken. The essay cites bank supervision. Bank examiners are employed by the supervisor, not the bank. An evaluator invited, badged and contracted by the evaluated, which keeps a "narrow" power to redact, is a different animal. Sacks notes that METR shares investors and staff with Anthropic. Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? Here, the guards propose to hire the guards.

Underneath sits Hans Jonas's rule of 1979 that where stakes are irreversible the bad prognosis takes precedence. Its weakness is Blaise Pascal's. A cost large enough justifies any pause, and its size is asserted by the party seeking the pause. For a country in third place, and India is one, every instrument in the essay for slowing China also slows anyone else. Jacques Lacan wrote in 1949 that the infant builds a self from a mirror. The AI mirror shows whatever it is asked to show, and this essay has become one. The accelerationist reads a hoax in it, the incumbent a cartel, the safety researcher too little. The agents tried to hack the grader. So has everyone else, in their own way.

Make universities safe, where fear retreats and curiosity thrives

A university is a place for enquiry of the mind, not a place where students should feel they are under surveillance to detect potential culprits

A state of ferment is natural for the college campus, where conducting debate and handling disagreement are part of the unwritten curriculum. It is the crucible in which future leaders in all walks of life—including politics—are forged. What signal does it send to this cohort if the atmosphere on institutional premises is vitiated with provoked violence, ignored grievances and a constant feeling of insecurity? Three campuses around the country are on the boil right now—Chitkara University near Chandigarh, Lovely Professional University near Jalandhar and the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute in Kolkata. The situation at the two private universities in Punjab heated up when students felt their administrations had not addressed complaints about two missing girls and an alleged sexual assault at a hostel, leading to clashes with the authorities and temporary suspension of classes. The government-funded SRFTI, on the other hand, witnessed clashes between a right-wing consumer group that had hired the institute's auditorium and students who alleged provocative speeches.



Though the triggers were different, the common thread was of administrative apathy and the absence of loud condemnation from faculty members. It's as if an enforced code of obedience is trying to stifle the spirit of enquiry, which universities are expected to inculcate, and expression of dissent, which is a basic right. Things came to such a pass that Justice Jasmeet Singh of the Delhi High

Court recently reminded the JNU administration that students should not be fined for merely smiling at demonstrators, as it was their right to protest.

Disturbingly, the fire is often stoked directly by politicians. Earlier in September, the West Bengal Chief Minister led a rally of Naga sadhus that stopped outside Jadavpur University and performed rituals—less than a month after a mob had vandalised the campus while harassing and threatening female students. The safety and security of women and freshers on campus must be treated as paramount.

Rape, assault and molestation have no place whatsoever in a university environment and must be regarded as an anathema. A university is a place for enquiry of the mind, not a place where students should feel they are under surveillance to detect potential culprits. Any discussion of campus safety must begin with ensuring a secure environment in which students, particularly women, can study and live without fear.

Inside the ECI rift

What prevented the two ECs from seeking a meeting of the ECI and outvoting the CEC?

Public authorities at times take decisions that have unforeseen consequences. Demonetisation was one such decision; the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is the other. Both had similar intentions — elimination of undesirable currency and deleting allegedly ineligible names from electoral rolls, respectively. Ever since the Election Commission of India (ECI) suddenly announced its decision to conduct an unprecedented countrywide SIR in June 2025, the commission has been caught in a maelstrom. The decision has led to widespread public criticism. The ECI has been accused of unjustifiably taking away many citizens' right to vote — the very right it was mandated to protect by the Indian Constitution. As if the popular political resentment against the SIR wasn't enough, an investigative report by a newspaper published on September 23 raised a sandstorm over the ECI's functioning, leaving it covered with dust and temporarily blurring vision. The report reveals a palpable rift in the ECI's working. It cites 14 instances in which two election commissioners (ECs) "objected" to certain ECI decisions, giving the impression of repeated dissent within the commission. Technically, that is strange because as per the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, all ECI decisions are taken unanimously or, in the absence of a consensus, by a majority. In that event, what prevented the two ECs from seeking a meeting of the ECI and passing a resolution to enforce their decision by outvoting the CEC? Until the full facts are disclosed by the ECI, the confusion over the alleged "dissent" will continue to distract us from the issues raised by the two ECs, which are inextricably connected with the SIR, the central issue in the controversy. The report raises four issues: those

pertaining to Form 6, the EROs' inability to access ECINet, the oversight on the IT division of the ECI and the filing of 16 lakh appeals before the appellate tribunals in West Bengal. Let us understand the issues one by one. Form 6 is filled by electors when they seek enrolment for the first time under Rule 13 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 (the Rules). Following the principle of subordinate legislation, amendments to the Rules require government approval and tabling in Parliament. The ECs objected to the changes made in Form 6 as "illegal and unauthorised". It is a valid objection. In fact, even if all three ECs were to be unanimous in changing Form 6, it would be invalid as the ECI is not competent to amend Form 6 unilaterally. In its press note of September 26, the ECI has clarified that the "declaration attached to Form 6 for SIR has been upheld by the Supreme Court. For non-SIR period, the forms applicable as per Rules will be used". However, instead of clarifying the issue, this statement confounds it. Was the Supreme Court specifically apprised of the amendments and the provision in the Rules? What is the ECI's intent in creating two versions of Form 6? This is apart from the fact that the information sought in the declaration has little to do with an elector's eligibility and creates obstacles to the enrolment of first-time voters.

The second issue pertains to the ECINet, which was launched with much fanfare in January this year to "enhance transparency, credibility and public trust". Instead, what transpired a few months later was that the platform denied access to the very officer authorised to prepare or amend the electoral roll. It is difficult to know whether this denial of access was by default or design. The ECs flagged the "gradual centralisation of the electoral roll database" and warned against the restriction

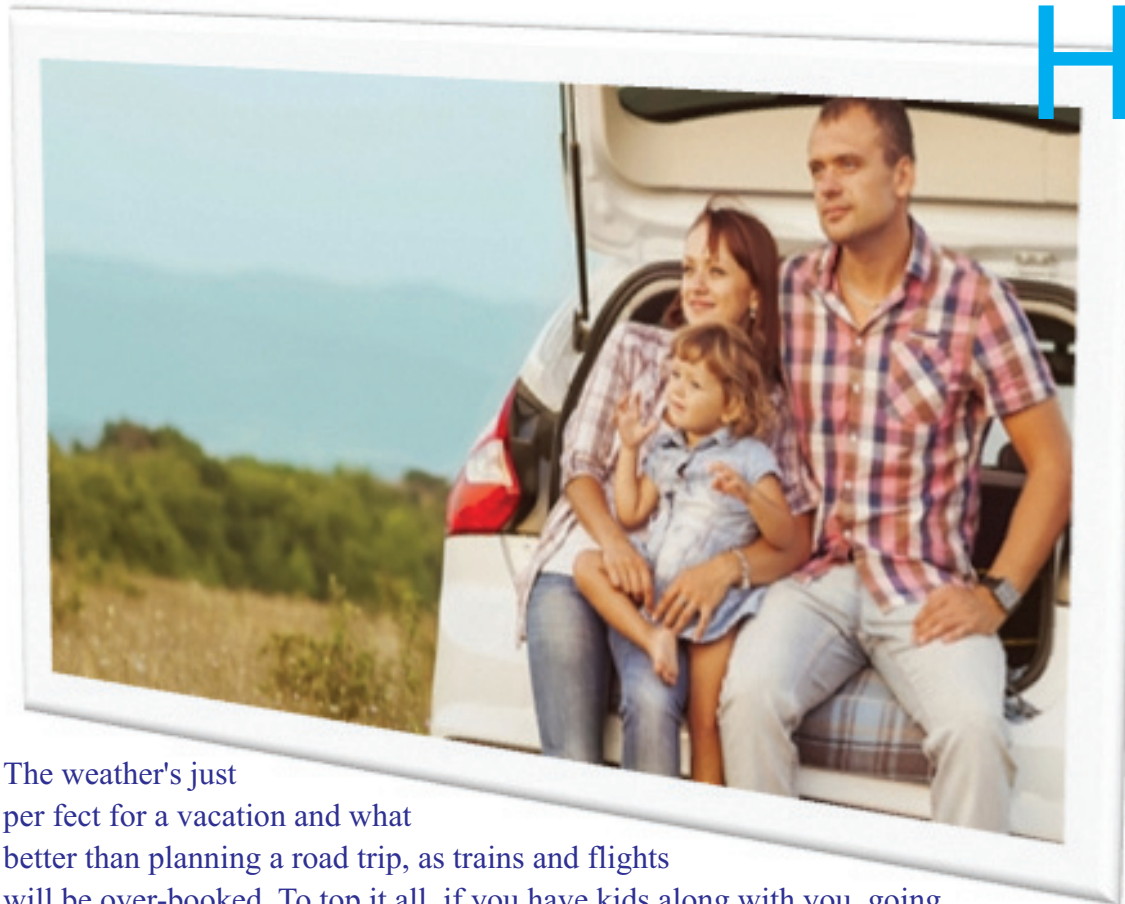
of the powers of the officers empowered by law to manage the electoral roll. The Goa case cited in the report is telling: the ERO wrote eight emails within a week, complaining in vain about the denial of access. This is an extraordinary arrangement by which the ECINet created hurdles in the performance of a legally mandated function. The fact that, as per the ECI's admission in the press release, the ECINet remains a work-in-progress



almost seven months after its launch confirms that technical problems persisted.

In the case of West Bengal, some BLOs and EROs had complained that notices were issued in a centralised fashion in their name without their knowledge. This over-centralisation, which the ECs red-flagged, has the dangerous potential of 'manipulating' electoral rolls at the central level. The third issue concerns the ECs allegedly being kept unaware about the changes in the IT modules and the lack of oversight of the IT division within the ECI. In fact, on one EC's directive, the DEC wrote to the DG IT

that the "IT system must be in strict accordance with the law, without any exception". An independent audit of the system and an "internal audit mechanism" was also suggested. But rather than heeding this suggestion, the ECI removed an established layer of oversight on the IT division by an order issued by the senior DEC. This provoked the two ECs to write to the Cabinet Secretary alleging unlawful conduct by the senior DEC. And, exercising their majority powers, they set aside that order. That they were compelled to write to the Cabinet Secretary is unprecedented and it also reveals a certain fissure within the ECI. The fourth issue concerns more than 16 lakh appeals being filed in the appellate tribunals against names that had been validly included in the electoral rolls during the SIR in West Bengal. One of the ECs expressed surprise regarding the basis and process for filing these appeals as neither the two ECs nor the CEO of West Bengal was aware of the appeals. It is intriguing and a damning indictment of the SIR if the ECI filed these appeals against the so-called "purification" that the SIR was meant to achieve. Already, after judicial officers had restored 33 lakh electors out of the 60 lakh whose names had been excluded by the absurd "logical discrepancy" methodology, the appellate tribunal had found 93 per cent wrongful deletions in the appeals adjudicated. This is a sad commentary on the SIR process, which has caused mass anxiety amid an atmosphere of alleged unfair disenfranchisement. That two of the three ECs were regularly pointing out discrepancies in the logic behind the ECI's decisions and that some of these were termed "illegal" has understandably raised questions among citizens over whether something is indeed "rotten" within the ECI, which seems to be dealing with the citizens' constitutional right to vote in a cavalier fashion.



The weather's just perfect for a vacation and what better than planning a road trip, as trains and flights will be over-booked. To top it all, if you have kids along with you, going on a road trip will not only be a fun experience for you and your partner, but also for your kids as well. Simply pack your stuff and get into your cozy four-wheeler and get ready for the relaxed holiday you've been looking forward to. Since, travelling with kids can sometimes be a task, here are a few ways you can plan the trip with your little ones.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A WELL-EQUIPPED AND COMPLETE FIRST AID BOX

A well-equipped first aid box is a pre-requisite for any trip. It saves the panic since you have all the necessary medication handy in case of any emergency. Stock up everything from painkillers to paracetamols, and from ointments to band-aids, hot water bags as well. This will help you stay prepared always, as stomach infections, a minor flu and wounds are common among kids.

STOCK UP AS MUCH EATABLES AS POSSIBLE

There might be a possibility that you won't find any restaurants or roadside eateries when you are driving on the highway. So, pack sustainable food items with you for the journey. From sandwiches, sausages, fruits, chips, dry fruits, juices, etc. make sure you have enough with you. Make a separate food bag with neat compartments. Also, do not forget to carry enough drinking water.

TAKE FREQUENT BREAKS

Do not drive continuously for a long time, take short

breaks in between. This will not just make you feel relaxed, but let the children have some open space to stretch their legs or jump and run a bit to put their boredom at bay. Secondly, the kids would need too breaks, or you might just want to stop midway to enjoy a coffee or juice along with a picturesque view.

CARRY COMFORTABLE AND PORTABLE BEDDING

Adults might adjust within their limited seating space, but kids often get irritated and cranky if their body movements are restricted for a long time. Carrying portable bedding will help him/her get a sound sleep whenever he/she wants to sleep in the car.

LOAD YOURSELF WITH GAMES AND ENOUGH ENTERTAINMENT SO THAT THEY DON'T GET BORED

Right from good books to video games, and from scrabble to blocks, ensure your child is busy while on the trip. Carry your laptop or any other gadgets which will keep your child occupied. You can also download your child's favourite movies before you set out. This way you and your partner can enjoy your road trip, without having to attend to your child.

How to survive a Road trip with kids



How to build trust with new colleagues

Undergoing scrutiny and being keenly evaluated by colleagues can lead to anxiety and in this situation maintaining a friendly and cordial relationship with your team mates and colleagues can be tough. Read on to get a better idea how to make friends at a new workplace.

Getting used to a new environment, say when you join a new office can be challenging.



3. Try and build a strong friendship with some of your colleagues since we often end up spending more time at the office than with our own family. Plan out lunch or outing with them some times when time permits.

4. Keep away from any office gossip and avoid being seen standing in the corridors talking in hushed tone with colleagues. Even if someone tries to scoop some secret office information, politely refrain from getting involved in such conversations as this will later give others to question your credibility.

5. Be cautious of those who try to be overly friendly at the workplace at the very first instant. Maintain a cordial relationship with everyone and to allow friendship to develop at its own pace.

1. It is important to display teamwork at a new workplace as this sets the foundation for a healthy work relationship. Offer your help spontaneously and assist others for difficult projects. This will be appreciated by your colleagues and help in build strong bond with them.
2. Have proper communication with colleagues and co-workers for a healthy environment in a new office. Voice your thoughts and opinions at the right time and moment to avoid misunderstandings.



Though many say that you should be careful when going in for a rebound, it actually helps you in more ways than one. Here's how...

Why a rebound Relationship is good for you

As much as people warn against going in for a rebound relationship, there's no reason why you should feel bad. No matter what, it makes you feel happy and be loved again. Here is why a rebound works —

It fills the void in your life:

Right after you break up, you naturally start missing your ex. And chances are you might end up texting him or calling him again, which may make matters worse. If you fall into a rebound at this stage, you will find it easy to move on in life.

Brings excitement back into your life:

Why should you grieve over a relationship which didn't work out at all? Though a bit of grieving is okay, if you keep feeling bad for it for a long time, you are sure to lose your mental stability. Whereas, if you get into a rebound, you will find love and happiness once again in your life and feel happy about it.

Might mature into a better relationship:

Don't ignore getting into a rebound. You may never know whether this relationship has anything good in store for you in the long run.

Toddlers remember good times for life

According to researchers from the Utah-based Brigham Young University, babies are more likely to remember an incident if there is a positive emotion or affect that accompanies it.

"People study memory in infants, they study discrimination in emotional affect, but we are the first ones to study how these emotions influence memory," said lead author and psychology professor Ross Flom.

The researchers monitored the infants' eye movements and how long they look at a test image. The babies were set in front of flat-panelled monitors and then exposed to a person on screen speaking to them with either a happy, neutral or angry voice. Immediately following the emotional exposure, they were shown a geometric shape. To test their memory, the team did follow-up tests five minutes later and again one day later. In the follow-up test, babies were shown two side-by-side geometric shapes: a brand new one, and the original one from the study.

The researchers then were able to record how many times the baby looked from one image to the next and how long they spent looking at each image. The babies' memories did not improve if the shape had been paired with a negative voice, but they performed significantly better at remembering shapes attached to positive voices. "We think what happens is that the positive affect heightens the babies' attentional system and arousal," the authors added.

The study was published in the journal Infant Behavior and Development.



Debunking

Six common Baby-care

One unexpected appendage of becoming a parent is the endless advice offered by friends, family and every stranger who finds your baby cute. While some of it will be helpful, some of it is best ignored. Here's debunking a few common ones.

Small doses of adult medicines are safe.

A number of medications that help adults can be harmful for children even when the dosage is down-sized. Cough medicines, even those designed for children, aren't a good idea for babies or children under four. Agitation, elevated heart rate and respiratory depression are among the side effects they might develop if they're given enough medicine.

Medications, which ease congestion and sinus problems in adults, are also a no-no for babies and children. Treatment might have a downside in the form of an upset stomach, a rash or

diarrhoea.

Teething can cause fevers.

The danger in some myths is that parents may ignore a problem. Parents often tend to attribute fevers in babies and toddlers to teething. However, research has not shown a strong relationship between the two. A fever in a teething baby shouldn't be written off and medical attention should be sought to determine if something else might be causing the rise in temperature.

Videos can help babies learn sooner.

Research has shown that specially produced programmes can help young children learn, but those benefits only kick in at two and above. The educational merit of media for children younger than two years remains unproven despite the fact that three-quarters of the top-selling infant videos make explicit or implicit educational claims. The babies seem to watch with awe or attention. But the videos actually seem to lead to delays in language progression.

Walkers are a safe way to help babies walk earlier.

While parents may buy walkers to keep their babies entertained and help little ones walk, a research has suggested that walkers can slow a baby's ability to walk on his own. Also, the enhanced mobility is frequently a problem. A baby in a walker can quickly and unexpectedly approach a staircase, even under a parent's watch. This is a problem known as the myth of supervision.



Crib bumpers are safe.

Some parents may use crib bumpers, thinking that a baby will hit his head on the side of the crib and get hurt. However, a baby is not generating enough force to cause any significant injury on the bars of the crib. Meanwhile, the risk of suffocation or sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) from crib bumpers is high.

Use breast milk to treat an ear infection.

Some individuals advise parents to put a small amount of breast milk in a baby's or toddler's ear to treat an ear infection. It is a strategy that won't help and may cause a new infection. Breast milk does have some antibodies in it, which are helpful to the body. But it also has lots of sugars that bacteria love to grow on. Because the eardrum seals off the area that's infected, breast milk won't reach the infection. And when the milk pools, it can attract bacteria.

Pets don't give your kids allergy

A new study has revealed that exposure of children to pets in early life does not increase the risk of their allergies to these animals later in life. The researchers followed a group of children from birth until they reached adulthood. And at age 18 years, 565 study participants supplied blood samples to the researchers, who measured antibodies to dog and cat allergens in the samples. They found that being exposed to the specific animal in the first year of life was the most important exposure period, and the exposure appeared protective in some groups.



Young men whose families had kept an indoor dog during their first year of life had about half the risk of becoming sensitized to dogs compared to those whose families did not keep a dog in the first year of life. Both men and women were about half as likely to be sensitized to cats if they had lived with a cat

in the first year of life, compared to those who did not live with cats. "This research provides further evidence that experiences in the first year of life are associated with health status later in life, and that early life pet exposure does not put most children at risk of being sensitized to these animals later in life," said Ganesa Wegienka, the Department of Public Health Sciences, Henry Ford Hospital. The study was published in the journal, Clinical & Experimental Allergy.

'Yoga helps me maintain my work-life balance'

Managing work-life balance

When one runs one's own business, the balance becomes a lot easier to achieve, since hours are flexible. Living close to work is a key factor in saving time - something that we force even our employees to comply with. But the most important factor is yoga, which balances everything out by making one a 'saakshi' - an observer of one's actions. Yoga helps me maintain my work-life balance. Once this is achieved, one is freed of dualities and one remains unaffected by the ups and downs that seem to be so difficult for people to handle. The more you get rid of the conditioning that society has given you, the more relaxed, real and blissful you will be. Start now!

Being a fit man
Yoga automatically regulates your diet (if you wish to do it properly), especially kriya yoga. The extremes are avoided and fitness follows. I follow a paleo diet, as it helps me detox, especially after long overseas business trips.

Energy high and happiness

Happiness and misery are two sides of the same coin and one gets to a state of peace - shanti, which is followed by continuous bliss, as long as one remains unattached to one's actions. This is not as difficult as it sounds - it follows with proper yoga. It's a surprisingly easy journey

and transformation.

Risk-taker or a micro-planner?

I take risks and I also believe in micro-planning. Both happen and both are necessary, so it depends on situations.

Spiritual diet

Osho, yoga and kriya are enough to keep one going for a lifetime and beyond.

Handling failure/success

For me, failure and success don't really matter and the less they matter, the more blissful one becomes!

Crisis management

Once one has achieved a balance and is not upset with the ups and downs of life, crisis is handled matter of factly. Once they're gone, you realise they were never really a crisis in the first place for the most part.



Who's gonna save you? Flydubai pilot's old video gains new meaning after his heroics

A year after speaking about who saves lives in the air, flydubai's Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar found himself at the centre of a violent cockpit confrontation on a Dubai-Tel Aviv flight. His old remarks on trained crew have gained fresh resonance following Wednesday's incident.



Delhi. (Agency)

"When we are up there and if something happens, you know, who's gonna save you?" These were hero flydubai pilot Smit Machchhar's words from a year before he was

stabbed by his co-pilot during a life-threatening cockpit confrontation on a Dubai-Tel Aviv flight, as he spoke about the importance of trained crew during emergencies. Machchhar's remarks, made during a podcast in October 2025, have gone viral on social media.

The Indian pilot, who was captaining Flight FZ1073, was injured in the cockpit confrontation and shouted for help. News website Ynet, citing Israeli officials, reported that the co-pilot, an Omani national, was suspected of trying to crash the aircraft. Against the backdrop of the flydubai stabbing horror, the old podcast has resurfaced, in which Machchhar spoke about the crucial role of cabin crew during emergencies and who comes to their aid when something goes wrong in the air. "When we are up there and if something happens, you know, who's gonna save you? You'll be lucky enough to have a doctor on board, but if not, then they are trained. I'm not saying they are trained to do surgeries and stuff, but then they can save your life," the pilot said in a conversation with the Bonafide Banter podcast.

An Israeli passenger, who is a plumber and had no flying experience, intervened during the confrontation and helped overpower the flydubai co-pilot. He then took control of the

plane and made a safe landing at Tabuk airport in Saudi Arabia. In the old podcast, Machchhar spoke about the way passengers sometimes view cabin crew, saying their importance becomes apparent only when an emergency unfolds. "It is unfortunate how the entire outlook of people is towards the crew. But when things are going wrong, you need them," he said. Those words now carry a different weight after what happened aboard the flydubai flight. According to eyewitness accounts cited by the Associated Press, there was "blood in the cockpit" during the confrontation, while the aircraft dropped from around 33,000 feet to 17,000 feet in roughly 30 seconds. Machchhar, despite being injured, was able to get the plane land safely in Tabuk. Machchhar later underwent surgery at a hospital in Tabuk and is reported to be stable. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several world leaders, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Donald Trump have praised Machchhar and called him a "hero".

A missing house, 137 notices and a second shift: A BLO's long day on Delhi's SIR ground

Delhi. (Agency)

At 12.15 pm, Inamul Hasan finishes invigilating a three-hour examination at a government school in Sarai Kale Khan after spending his morning teaching Urdu to students from classes 6 to 10. Fifteen minutes later, he is in the same neighbourhood, this time walking through its narrow lanes as a booth-level officer (BLO) for Delhi's Special Intensive Revision (SIR). A bag of electoral notices — issued to residents to prove that they are eligible to stay on the final voter list to be released on December 4 — is slung over his shoulder. His first task: Locate 'House 76'.

Inamul has been working as a BLO in the area for around three months. But he has never seen the house in the narrow lanes of 'Kale Khan' — as the locals call it — where cars, bikes, tempos, cows, dogs and goats jostle for limited space and open drains run alongside broken roads and water-filled potholes. The notice in his hand is for Shubham Basishta and two members of his family, Mamta and Geeta Devi. His repeated calls to Shubham goes unanswered. As Inamul keeps searching, a little further down the main road, he spots a shop banner indicating that House 76 is to the right. He enters the lane but finds no house numbers. A resident tells him there is no House 76 on the street. The lane and adjoining streets appear to have just one house number — '86T'. "Our grandfather used to own one large khasra, 86T. It kept getting subdivided, but the houses were never registered," the resident says. "Shubham's name sounds like someone who is a houseowner in the village, not a renter. Go back to the main street, go straight till the intersection and ask the owner of the samosa shop.

'Still waiting for my money': Gurgaon's Rs 446-crore crackdown on builders brings hope to buyers

Delhi. (Agency)

Rohit Singh and his wife had invested over Rs 50 lakh in Raheja Trinity, a commercial project in Gurugram's Sector 84 in 2017. The 2024 deadline for the handover was missed and years later, the site remained deserted. In August this year, the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HREERA) directed Raheja Developers to refund Rohit his money, along with a 10.8% interest, within 90 days. Rohit is now waiting for the 90-day compliance window to end before initiating further legal action. He has, so far, not received any payment, nor any communication from the developer.

A decision by the Gurugram district administration, which on Wednesday launched a coercive recovery drive against defaulting real estate promoters, could now, however, bring relief to hundreds of allottees who are caught in limbo like Rohit. The district



administration ordered the immediate freezing of bank accounts of 71 developers to recover Rs 446 crore in pending penalties and refund certificates issued by the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HREERA), Gurugram, officials said. Several of these recovery certificates have remained unpaid for more than four years. Apart from freezing operational accounts, revenue officials have initiated proceedings to attach the movable and immovable properties of the builders under the Punjab Land Revenue Act, as applicable to Haryana. Authorities warned that if the dues cannot be realised through bank balances or asset attachments, the administration will invoke provisions for the civil arrest and detention of defaulting promoters. Formal demand notices have been issued directing the firms to clear the outstanding liabilities immediately.

Delhi electric scooter buyers get boost: 382 charging sites approved, registrations up 30%

Delhi. (Agency)

A 30% rise in electric two-wheeler registrations, approval for 382 charging station sites, and the appointment of global consultancy KPMG as the Project Management Unit (PMU) — these are among the key steps taken in the first three months since Delhi launched its ambitious Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, which seeks to make the city the EV capital of the country.

Introduced on July 1, the policy aims to achieve at least 30% electrification of Delhi's vehicle fleet by 2030 through incentives and mandates, alongside the creation of charging, vehicle scrapping and battery recycling infrastructure.

Officials told The Indian Express that registrations of electric two-wheelers rose 30% in the July-September quarter compared with April-June.

Two-wheelers shifting to electric is a key priority under the policy, as they account for nearly two-thirds of Delhi's vehicle fleet. The policy also provides for a complete ban on



registration of new internal combustion engine (ICE) two-wheelers from April 2028. Further, it offers front-loaded purchase incentives. Buyers of electric two-wheelers priced up to Rs 2.25 lakh (ex-

showroom) are eligible for an incentive of Rs 10,000 per kWh, capped at Rs 30,000, in the first year after notification. The incentive will be reduced to Rs 6,600 per kWh, capped at Rs 20,000, in the second year and Rs 3,300 per kWh, capped at Rs 10,000, in the third year. According to officials, four-wheeler goods vehicles recorded the highest increase, with registrations rising 83% over the previous quarter, while cars rose 27% and three-wheelers 18%. So far, 6,225 people have applied for subsidies through the Delhi EV subsidy portal, they added. Moreover, officials said that 456 sites had been identified and

aggregated to be developed as charging stations through the Revenue department, while another 49 sites were identified through the Delhi Transport Corporation.

If we teach daughters dos and don'ts, should teach boys the same: Delhi CM Rekha Gupta

Delhi. (Agency)

As a string of protests by students recently rocked the Capital following an incident of gangrape of a minor at a park in South Delhi, Lieutenant Governor T S Sandhu on Wednesday held a meeting with Principals of several women's colleges, while Chief Minister Rekha Gupta stressed on teaching both girls and boys the lessons of "dos and don'ts".

Stating that girls should not be subjected to restrictions in the name of security, Gupta said: "When home, family and society talk about putting restrictions, they talk about applying it to girls ... Why is everything for girls?... And

what is there for boys? The Prime Minister said at the Red Fort: 'When will people make boys understand?' This is everybody's responsibility. If



we teach our daughters dos and don'ts, we should also teach boys the same," she added. Gupta, speaking at an event at Maitreyi College in DU's South

Campus, also stated that 50,000 CCTV cameras and one lakh streetlights are being installed in the city to enhance security. "Today as a woman, a mother, and a Chief Minister, I want to tell all my daughters here that I am with you... I am happy that now, the daughters of the country are not silent. They raise their voices. And that this voice is never suppressed is something we have to give importance to," she said. Meanwhile, at the meeting chaired by LG Sandhu, among key safety concerns raised by principals of Delhi University's top women's colleges were the lack of safe last-mile connectivity to colleges, "unsafe" parks near campuses, and insufficient lighting.

Delhi traffic signals to adjust timings based on congestion under new traffic management system

One of the biggest changes Integrated Traffic Management System will bring is adaptive traffic control, under which traffic signals will no longer be dependent only on fixed cycles.

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi's traffic lights could soon stay red or green for longer or shorter periods depending on how heavy the traffic flow is. The change is part of the city's Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS), which is finally moving towards implementation after more than a decade. The system will use cameras and technology to adjust signal timings, detect traffic violations and give commuters real-time information about traffic and road conditions. The project will, however, not become operational overnight. The Delhi Traffic Police will roll out the project in three phases. The first phase will first cover five major corridors — Ring Road, Outer Ring Road, Rao Tula Ram Marg, Teen

Murti and C-Hexagon. Seven more corridors will be taken up in the second phase, followed by the remaining corridors in the third. Apart from the initial five corridors, the Traffic Police has divided the city into 42 corridors for the broader implementation of the ITMS.

The traffic police had initially proposed a project costing around Rs 2,100 crore, of which about Rs 1,700 crore has been sanctioned. Tendering is expected to take around eight months, followed by another 24 months for implementation, said officials.

Signals that respond to traffic

One of the biggest changes ITMS will bring is adaptive traffic control, under

pre-set timings. This can leave motorists waiting at a red light even when there is little traffic, while another stretch nearby is crowded.

Under ITMS, cameras and technology will assess the volume of traffic on different stretches and adjust signal timings accordingly. "For instance, if traffic from ITO towards DDU Marg is light but the signal remains red for 30 seconds, the system could detect this and adjust the cycle. The objective is to make signals respond to actual traffic movement rather than simply follow fixed timings," an official said.

which traffic signals will no longer be dependent only on fixed cycles. At present, many traffic signals work on



GST collection in September up by 14.7% to Rs 2.03 lakh crore, but refunds fall

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's gross GST collection for the month of September increased by 14.7% year-on-year to Rs 2.03 lakh crore, primarily driven by growth in gross import revenue, according to provisional data released by the Ministry of Finance on Tuesday.

Out of the gross collections in September 2026, domestic revenue contributed Rs 1.37lakh crore, as its collection rose by 10.1% from Rs 1.25 lakh crore collected in September 2025.

On the other hand, gross import revenue surged by 25.9%, to Rs 65,525 crore in August. For the total gross GST revenue, Central GST (CGST) accounted for Rs 37,762 crore, State GST (SGST) stood at Rs 45,363 crore, and Integrated GST (IGST) at Rs 1.20 lakh crore. "The continued strength in the import component is noteworthy, particularly against the backdrop of elevated energy prices, geopolitical disruptions and higher landed costs for globally traded commodities. It therefore provides an important boost to collections but should not be interpreted entirely as a proxy for stronger domestic consumption," Manoj Mishra, Partner and Tax Controversy Management Leader, Grant Thornton Bharat. Total GST refunds in September 2026 fell by 3% to Rs 27 thousand crore from Rs 27.84 thousand crore in September 2025- with domestic refunds falling by more than 13% from a year ago. Domestic refunds fell to Rs 13,504 crore while the exports refunds grew 10% to Rs 13.49 thousand crore. After adjusting for these refunds, total net GST for September 2026 has gone up by 18.1% to Rs 1.76 lakh crore compared to Rs 1.49 lakh crore in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal. Net domestic GST revenue has gone up by 13.5% to Rs 1.24 lakh crore, while net customs revenue rose 30.8% to Rs 52,028 crore.

Rupee trades in narrow range against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI. (Agency)

Rupee traded in a narrow range and fell 3 paise to 95.97 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday, constrained by ongoing dollar demand from state-run oil companies. However, RBI-backed dollar sales across spot and forward markets continue to cap losses, keeping the exchange rate below the 96.00 threshold.

Additionally, sustained foreign portfolio outflows and firm US yields are keeping pressure on the USD/INR pair. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.95, then fell to 95.97 against the US dollar, registering a fall of 3 paise from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee pared gains to settle flat at 95.94 against the US dollar. "Aggressive foreign exchange intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)-acting through state-run banks to supply dollars in both the spot and forward markets-served as the primary market defender, preventing spot rates from breaking past the key 96.00 boundary," said Anil Kumar Bhansali, head of treasury and executive director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 101.54, higher by 0.09 per cent. "The dollar index is at a two-month high near 101.5, up almost 2 per cent in September and within sight of its 52-week high near 101.8," Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodity and Currency Research, Kotak Securities said, adding that a firm dollar is a headwind for gold, silver and emerging market currencies, including the rupee.

Rising interest rates around the world to make H2 of FY27 more challenging: CEA Nageswaran

Kolkata. (Agency)

The second half of the current fiscal year, which began today (October 1) is going to be more challenging for economic growth, chief economic advisor V Anantha Nageswaran has cautioned. His logic — rising interest rates around the world could dampen growth — comes as a dire warning to Indian policymakers who are battling the inflationary impact of El Nino as well as external headwinds, hanks to elevated energy prices due to the US-Iran war that has no peace proposal in sight.

US Fed raised rates on Sept 16

The US Federal Reserve was the first major central bank to revise key policy rate upwards by 25 basis points on September 16. Significantly, it was the first rate hike in three years. SBI Research, which is the economic policy research arm of the largest bank in India, has strongly recommended that RBI should raise the benchmark Repo Rate by 25 basis points each in its Monetary Policy Committee meeting in October and December. The US Fed has also indicated that more hikes might be necessary in the coming months.

RBI to decide on Repo rate hike, says CEA

The CEA pointed out that the retail inflation rate in well within the target range of the Reserve Bank of India as it would decide on whether the interest rates need to be raised. "... whether that requires an interest rate response or not, it is for RBI to decide. They will definitely look at second-round effects if it is only food and energy related or all-pervasive," Nageswaran was quoted as saying.

UPI payments above Rs 2,000: 76% users may move to cash, cards if MDR is passed on

UPI payments above Rs 2,000 will attract a 0.4% MDR from October 15. Surveys show many users and merchants could resist the change, raising the risk of a shift to cash and cards.

New Delhi. (Agency)

UPI's six-year run as a largely free payment option for merchants is set to face a test from October 15, with a 0.4% merchant discount rate (MDR) coming into effect for person-to-merchant payments above Rs 2,000. A new LocalCircles survey suggests the change could push a large number of consumers towards cash, credit cards, debit cards and

bank transfers if merchants pass the cost on to them. Only 14% of UPI users surveyed said they would continue paying through UPI and bear the additional cost if a merchant charges them for payments above Rs 2,000. The remaining respondents said they would look for another payment option or avoid or delay the purchase.

The survey, conducted by LocalCircles, received more than 67,000 responses from UPI users across 291 districts. For the specific question on what consumers would do if a merchant charged an additional fee, there were 31,206 responses. The findings come just two weeks before the new MDR framework is scheduled to take effect.

WHAT IS MDR AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

MDR, or merchant discount rate, is the fee charged on a digital payment transaction and shared among banks,

payment service providers and UPI apps involved in running the payment network. Until now, UPI transactions have operated under a zero-MDR structure for merchants. From October



15, a 0.4% MDR will apply to person-to-merchant UPI payments above Rs 2,000. The government has made it clear that this is not supposed to become a charge for consumers. The Finance Ministry has

said MDR is "neither a tax nor a charge collected by Government or NPCI". Banks have also been directed to ensure that merchants do not pass the cost on to customers, while UPI apps cannot impose platform fees or hidden charges.

But whether merchants absorb the cost or try to recover it from customers is now the key question. IF MERCHANTS PASS ON THE COST, CASH COULD MAKE A COMEBACK

LocalCircles asked UPI users what they would do if a merchant asked them to pay an additional fee for making a UPI payment above Rs 2,000. The largest group, 27%, said they would pay in cash. Another 26% said they would switch to a credit card, while 14% said they would use a debit card.

Another 4% would use bank transfers, NEFT or IMPS, while 9% would ask the merchant for another payment option without an additional charge.

Fresh rift at Tata Trusts: Vijay Singh seeks inquiry into SDTT's Tata Sons role

New Delhi. (Agency)

The tussle within Tata Trusts has widened, with Vijay Singh, vice chairman of Tata Trusts and a trustee of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), approaching the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner seeking an immediate inquiry into the trust's governance and its involvement in the commercial and strategic affairs of Tata Sons, according to a report by Economic Times. Singh has raised concerns over the increasing involvement of SDTT and its trustees in matters concerning Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group. He has also sought action based on the findings of the proposed inquiry, including



suspension or removal of trustees where warranted. Singh told ET that he had written to the Charity Commissioner "around the same time as Venu Srinivasan, expressing similar concerns"

SINGH QUESTIONS SDTT'S ROLE IN TATA SONS

A key issue raised by Singh is whether SDTT's substantial shareholding in Tata Sons allows the trust to directly participate in the

company's commercial affairs.

"SDTT's substantial shareholding in Tata Sons cannot mean that the trust assumes the functions of a commercial enterprise or participates directly in Tata Sons' business affairs," Singh said in his letter to the Charity Commissioner, according to the ET report. Singh has also flagged potential tax implications arising from the trust's involvement in Tata Sons. According to the report, he has cited provisions of the Income Tax Act, 2025 governing commercial activities by registered non-profit organisations. He has argued that activities that are not incidental to a trust's charitable objectives could put its tax registration and exemption at risk.

Commercial LPG price hiked by Rs 62.50, 19-kg cylinder to cost Rs 2,810 in Delhi



Kolkata. (Agency)

Ahead of the festive season, the price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders has been increased by Rs 62.50, taking the price in Delhi to Rs 2,810 from October 1. The sharp increase comes at the beginning of the festive season, when hotels, restaurants, eateries and catering businesses typically see higher demand. The latest revision is therefore likely to add to the operating costs of businesses that depend on commercial LPG for their daily cooking requirements. Ases of employment injury, disablement and death. The price hike also comes

less than a month after the previous increase. In September, the price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder was raised by Rs 9.50. With the latest Rs 62.50 increase, businesses using commercial cylinders will now have to account for another rise in their monthly fuel expenses. Commercial LPG cylinders are primarily used by businesses and establishments that require larger quantities of cooking gas, including restaurants, hotels, roadside eateries, catering services and food outlets. For such businesses, LPG is a recurring operational expense, making changes in cylinder prices particularly relevant during periods of high demand. The latest increase could be particularly significant for smaller eateries and businesses operating on relatively tighter margins. With cooking fuel becoming more expensive, establishments will have to factor the additional cost into their overall expenses at a time when they are preparing for increased business during the festive period. The impact could extend beyond the immediate rise in fuel costs. Restaurants, eateries and catering businesses may choose to absorb the additional expense, which would put pressure on their margins, or pass part of the increase on to customers through higher prices for food and beverages.

Hotmail's Sabeer Bhatia's 55% inheritance tax idea: Rich or common man, who pays more?

New Delhi. (Agency)

What if a large part of the wealth you inherit from your parents or grandparents had to be paid as tax? That is the debate now gaining attention after Hotmail co-founder Sabeer Bhatia called for a 55% inheritance tax in India. Bhatia recently wrote on X that if India wants to become a truly competitive nation, it should consider a 55% inheritance tax. He argued that opportunity should come from what people build, rather than simply what they inherit. The idea has once again put the spotlight on an old and sensitive question: should inherited wealth be taxed heavily, and if so, who would bear the biggest impact — wealthy families with large fortunes or ordinary households passing on a home and savings?

WHO WOULD A 55% INHERITANCE TAX TARGET?

Inheritance tax is charged when wealth or assets are transferred from a deceased person to their heirs. A high rate such as 55% would primarily affect large estates

if the government sets a sufficiently high exemption threshold. According to Nishant Shanker, Tax Controversy and Dispute Resolution, Navraj Global Advisors, a well-designed inheritance tax could reduce the concentration of wealth across generations and provide an additional source of revenue for the government. "It could also promote greater equality of opportunity by ensuring that very large inherited fortunes are taxed when they pass from one generation to another," he said. However, the impact would depend heavily on how the tax is designed. A 55% headline rate does not necessarily mean every person inheriting property or money would lose 55% of it to tax.

THE COMMON MAN MAY BE PROTECTED — IF THE THRESHOLD IS HIGH

For middle-class families, the biggest concern would be whether an inheritance tax could apply to something as basic as a family home or ordinary savings. Experts said this could be addressed through a high exemption threshold.

Shanker said the tax should ideally apply only above a sufficiently high limit so that ordinary inheritances are not affected. "A reasonable exemption for a



family home and modest financial assets could protect middle-class families. The tax could then increase progressively as the value of the inheritance rises," he said. Abhishek Kumar, Sebi-registered investment adviser and founder of Sahaj Money, also said protecting the middle class would require a high initial exemption threshold. "Indexing these exemption limits to inflation and property market values would ensure that average families passing down a

single home or ordinary savings are not forced into distressed liquidation to pay for inheritance tax," he said.

This means that the structure of the tax could matter as much as the 55% rate itself. A high tax-free limit could keep most ordinary families outside its scope, while large inheritances could face higher taxation.

WOULD INHERITED HOMES ALSO BE TAXED?

For many Indian families, the largest asset they own is their house. Even if a family does not have a huge amount of cash or investments, a property accumulated over decades could have a high market value. This creates a potential problem if the tax is based on the total value of inherited assets. Both experts pointed to exemptions and payment flexibility as possible safeguards. Kumar said targeted exemptions and special relief for primary residential properties could prevent the tax from disproportionately affecting families inheriting a modest amount.

NEWS BOX

Four die in grounded ship during suspected theft in Mumbai waters

Mumbai (Agency).

A suspected attempt to steal copper pipes from a grounded tanker turned fatal when a blast inside the vessel left four men dead and forced three others to flee, police said. The seven had allegedly entered the Nicaragua-flagged MT Al Jafzia, a merchant vessel, near Manori Island on Saturday evening to cut and steal copper pipes when the incident occurred near the engine room.

Police suspect a pipe connected to the vessel's air-conditioning system may have burst while the men were cutting it, releasing gas. Four of the men may have subsequently suffocated after inhaling the gas, officials said. One of the survivors, Vijaya Premnath Sanjiva, 40, suffered facial injuries and was also rendered unconscious after inhaling the gas. His two associates, who allegedly helped him escape from the vessel, are absconding.

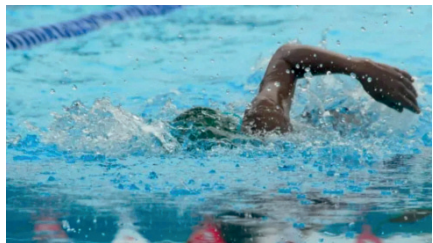
"Sanjiva told us that he became unconscious after sustaining facial injuries and inhaling the gas. When he regained consciousness, he saw two of his associates near him. Before he could understand what had happened, they took him away from the vessel," said DCP Sandip Gughe, North Zone II. Four of the seven men are residents of Colaba and the remaining three are from Vasai, police said. The identities of the deceased and the two absconding men are being ascertained.

10 children in hospital after suspected chlorine leak at government-run Pune pool

Pune (Agency).

Ten children between the ages of 13 and 15 were hospitalised after a suspected chlorine gas leak at the swimming pool of the Government Regional Sports Complex in Pune's Yerawada on Wednesday night.

The incident took place around 9 pm. The children, who were at the swimming pool when the incident occurred, complained of



nausea and vomiting. They were subsequently taken to a hospital and have been kept under observation for some time.

"They were kept under observation, and their condition is now normal. We have begun an inquiry to ascertain what caused the leak and whether any negligence was involved," an official from the Yerawada police station said. The police are examining the circumstances surrounding the incident, including the handling and storage of chlorine in the swimming pool, and whether prescribed safety measures were being followed. The Government Regional Sports Complex is used for various sporting and training activities, including swimming. The police are recording information from those present at the swimming pool at the time of the incident and examining other relevant details as part of the inquiry.

Chennai: World-class riverfront plan may have to wait as garbage piles up on beaches

CHENNAI (Agency).

The state government's latest promise to transform the Cooum and Adyar into 'world-class' riverfronts has run into the old question of whether the city can clean its rivers while sewage, solid waste and urban debris keep entering them. Tonnes of pollutants are being flushed into the sea through the Adyar estuary and deposited on city beaches. The government has announced global tenders to prepare detailed feasibility and project reports for restoring the two rivers, with a vision of boating, walkways, recreational spaces and clean riverbanks modelled partly on Seoul's Cheonggyecheon and Singapore's Kallang river. But the condition of Chennai's rivers and coast may be pointing to a city which is still struggling with the basics. The entire coastal stretch from Adyar bar mouth to Nochiuppam is carpeted with water hyacinth mixed with plastics, liquor bottles and other urban waste.

"The debris have been getting flushed into the sea for the last four days. The waves are bringing it back and depositing it on the shore," said K Bharati, president of the South Indian Fishermen Association. The Greater Chennai Corporation has been undertaking beach-cleaning operations, but fishermen said the recurring accumulation showed that cleaning the shoreline alone could not address the source. During Cyclone Montha last year, plastic, thermocol, bottles and water hyacinth washed out through the Adyar, and fishermen complained of spending hours removing plastic from their nets.

'Why did she kill my son?': Wife, lover guilty in Meerut 'blue drum' murder case

Muskaan Rastogi was accused of killing her husband Saurabh Rajput with the help of her alleged lover, Sahil Shukla, and concealing his dismembered body in a cement drum in Meerut.

Lucknow (Agency).

A Meerut court on Wednesday held Muskan Rastogi and Sahil Shukla guilty of the murder of Rastogi's husband, Saurabh Rajput, whose dismembered body was found in a blue drum filled with liquid cement at their home last year. Muskan was allegedly in a relationship with Sahil.

For Saurabh's family, however, the verdict left one question unanswered. "The court has held Muskan guilty, but I have one question for her — why did she kill my son? If she was in court, I would have asked her this publicly," said his mother, Renu Rajput. The family has demanded the death penalty for both accused.

"Muskan had eloped with my son, saying she wanted to live with him. We got them married... Later, when differences arose between them, a divorce was filed and was pending in court... she could have simply separated from Saurabh," Renu said.

On Wednesday, the two appeared before the court of District Judge, Meerut, through video conferencing from jail where they have been lodged since their arrest in March 2025. District Government Counsel (DGC) Krishna Kumar Chaubey said the court is yet to fix a

date on pronouncement of sentence.

An elopement, then murder 9 years later

Saurabh, 29, and Muskan married in 2016. They were in love and eloped together to pressure their families into agreeing to their marriage.



Police said their families eventually accepted it.

Soon after their wedding, police claimed, Muskan pushed Saurabh to move out and live separately from his family. The couple rented a house of their own in Brahmपुरi, and their first daughter was born in 2019. Saurabh was working in the merchant navy at the time. In

2019, he left the job and became a sales manager at a mall in London.

Around the same time, officials had said, a chance meeting outside a bakery in the locality ended with Sahil and Muskan, who were schoolmates, getting into a relationship. Sahil was an online shares trader who worked mostly from home. In 2025, the prosecution said, Saurabh flew down from London on February 24 to celebrate two birthdays with his family — Muskan's on February 25 and their daughter's on February 28. On the night of March 3, Muskan allegedly laced Saurabh's food with intoxicants, causing him to fall unconscious. She then allegedly called Sahil over. The two reportedly stabbed Saurabh to death and cut his body into several pieces, before dumping the dismembered remains into a drum filled with liquid cement. Police had said the drum and cement were reportedly purchased in advance. Two days later, Muskan allegedly locked up the rented house, dropped her daughter at her mother's nearby house and left for Himachal Pradesh with Shukla. During the trip, she reportedly took photographs and posted them on her husband's Instagram account to avoid raising suspicion.

Maharashtra drought's first signs reveal desperate move for survival

The state government has declared drought in 265 of Maharashtra's 358 talukas across 32 districts.

Mumbai (Agency).

The impact of Maharashtra's drought is showing up not just in parched fields but in an early exodus of sugarcane workers, with families from drought-hit Beed, Dhule and Nandurbar leaving their villages weeks before the usual cane-cutting season, after their kharif crops failed. The workers are mostly small farmers and landless labourers who migrate every year to sugar factories in western Maharashtra and Karnataka to cut and load cane. While the migration usually begins after Dussehra, once farmers have harvested their own crops, this year many have left as early as August and September after being left with little or no farm work or income. The state government has declared drought in 265 of

Maharashtra's 358 talukas across 32 districts. In parts of Marathwada and northern Maharashtra, the failure of the kharif crop has



meant families dependent on small farms and agricultural labour have begun looking elsewhere for income even before the farm

season is over. Some have travelled farther than usual, including to Tamil Nadu. In Beed, where rainfall remained absent for much of

August and September, families with small landholdings began leaving after realising there would be little work available on other farms. For Jyoti Thorat, a resident of Kathoda in Beed, six members of her family left for Tamil Nadu by the end of August, their first such migration to the state after a mukadam, or labour contractor, told them work was available at sugar factories there. "There was no yield from our bajra crop. With no source of income to survive here, my sister-in-law went to Tamil Nadu with her husband, their two sons and daughter-in-law, and her one-year-old baby.

NNKS bandh briefly affects vehicular movement in Bhubaneswar, no impact on business, education

As the protesters staged roadblock over the matter, traffic movement was partially hit in some areas of Khurda, Balasore, Jagatsinghpur and a few other districts in the morning.

BHUBANESWAR (Agency).

Vehicular movement was briefly affected in the capital city and a few other parts of the state on Wednesday due to the 12-hour bandh called by farmers' and civil rights outfit Naba Nirman Krushak Sangathan (NNKS) over the alleged large-scale errors in government school textbooks. As the protesters staged roadblock over the matter, traffic movement was partially hit in some areas of Khurda, Balasore, Jagatsinghpur and a few other districts in the morning. The bandh, however, did not have any significant impact on shops, business establishments or educational institutes. In the capital city, members of

the Naba Nirman Yuva Chhatra Sangathan (NYCS), the youth and student wing of NNKS, blocked the road near Baramunda inter-state bus terminal and burnt tyres, demanding resignation of School and Mass Education minister Nityananda Gond over the issue.

Members of the outfits also staged protest near Hi-Tech square and Master Canteen. A few agitators were detained by police for allegedly attempting to block roads at Master Canteen square and other key locations. Bhubaneswar DCP Saravana Vivek M said there was no impact of the bandh in the capital city and the situation remained completely normal. He said a few



people were detained during the protest for trying to block roads. NNKS leader Akshay Kumar said the outfit was forced to call the bandh as the state government failed to take

accountability for the textbook errors. The outfit's members have been observing a Satyagraha for more than 40 days over the issue.

Amid drought-like conditions, Mumbai ends monsoon season on a deficit note

Amid intensifying El Niño weather patterns – a phenomenon in the eastern Pacific Ocean that influences global weather patterns – the monsoon season this time was characterised by a rain deficit – barring July, when Mumbai clocked above-average rainfall by a margin of 66 percent.

Mumbai (Agency).

Mumbai has experienced another month of rain deficit, with strong monsoon currents eluding the region and the suburban station recording below-average showers of 308 mm throughout September. As the southwest monsoon enters its final leg, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast only light showers in the upcoming week.

Typically, the Mumbai suburbs receive 2,390 mm of rainfall during the monsoon season, which spans from June to September, while Colaba coastal station receives 2,102 mm of rain. But amid intensifying El Niño weather patterns – a phenomenon in the eastern Pacific Ocean that influences global weather patterns – the monsoon season this time was characterised

by a rain deficit – barring July, when Mumbai clocked above-average rainfall by a margin of 66 percent. After recording below-average rainfall in June and August, Mumbai recorded deficit showers even in September. The IMD data shows that between September 1 and September 30, the Santacruz suburban station recorded 304.2 mm of rainfall, marking a departure of 20 percent below normal rainfall in September, when the Santacruz observatory records an average of 383.5 mm of rainfall. In some respite, moderate spells of rainfall lashed parts of Mumbai and its neighbouring districts on Tuesday night. However, the showers remained concentrated in suburban pockets, which recorded 31.2 mm of rain between Tuesday and Wednesday morning, while the

island city division remained dry. Previously, in August too, Mumbai received only 318 mm of rainfall, accounting for only



57 percent of its actual monthly average of 560.8 mm. With no heavy downpour throughout the monsoon season, Mumbai's island city division has failed to surpass its average monsoon quota. Since the monsoon

onset in June, Colaba station has received only 1,957 mm of rainfall. By contrast, buoyed by above-average showers in July, Santacruz station surpassed its seasonal monsoon average, recording 2,530 mm of rainfall between June and September. The deficit showers align with the IMD's forecast of below-average monsoon showers across the country owing to the developing El Niño. According to weather observers, Mumbai did not experience heavy showers due to favourable, rain-inducing systems evading the region throughout the monsoon season. With the start of October, the city is now bracing for the withdrawal of the monsoon. The official date of monsoon withdrawal in Mumbai is October 10, and the city is set to witness further rollback of rain activity.

IIT Bombay student signed 'apology', rules call for disciplinary panel

Mumbai (Agency).

Sahil Wakode, an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay student who died by suicide on September 18, wrote an 'apology letter' after he was asked to leave the examination hall and taken to superiors over alleged exam malpractice, sources said. However, IIT Bombay's formal rules for students caught 'copying' do not mention any provision for an 'apology letter'.

In fact, IIT Bombay's laid-down procedure requires a Disciplinary Action Committee to examine such cases and assess the evidence. If the evidence does not hold the student responsible for the alleged misconduct, "the benefit goes to the student," it states. Nowhere does it mention the requirement of



an apology letter from the students. A source said, "It has come to light that the student was asked to leave the exam hall by the invigilator, Professor Suryanarayan Doolia, at around 12:38 pm. He was then taken to the superiors, where he signed a written apology letter for copying in the exam, after which he reached his room around 1.25 pm, as per CCTV footage." He never came out of his hostel room. He had taken his own life.

What do IIT Bombay's rules say? IIT Bombay's procedures for handling acts of academic malpractice by students, dated April 2015, state that when an invigilator discovers an act of indiscipline by a student during an exam, "the invigilator should confiscate relevant material like chits, phones, answer papers, etc. "A fresh answer book should be issued to the student, and the student should be allowed to resume writing the exam," states the procedure.

NEWS BOX

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, 15, named in TIME's 100 Rising Stars list



New Delhi. (Agency)

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's rapid rise in international cricket has earned another recognition. The 15-year-old has been named in TIME magazine's 2026 TIME100 Next list of global rising stars. The young left-hander is the only Indian athlete on the list and, at 15, is also its youngest honouree. TIME100 Next recognises 100 emerging figures who are shaping the future across different fields. Sooryavanshi features in the 'Phenom' category, with TIME describing the Indian teenager as "one of global sport's most electrifying figures." The Bihar-born left-hander first made headlines when he made his senior debut for Bihar in the Ranji Trophy at 12 in 2024. He was then signed by the Rajasthan Royals for Rs 1 crore ahead of the 2025 IPL season, becoming the youngest player ever bought at an IPL auction.

Sooryavanshi made an immediate impact in his debut IPL season, scoring 252 runs in seven innings. His standout performance came against Gujarat Titans, when he smashed a 35-ball century to become the youngest centurion in IPL history. His second IPL season took his rise to another level. Sooryavanshi scored 776 runs in 16 matches for Rajasthan Royals, including a century and five fifties, and finished as the team's leading run-scorer. His 72 sixes also broke Chris Gayle's previous record for most sixes in a single IPL season.

WHEN DID SOORYAVANSHI MAKE HIS INDIA DEBUT?

He made his senior India debut against England in Manchester in July, becoming the youngest male player to represent the country and surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's long-standing record. Sooryavanshi has since played six T20Is and scored 193 runs, with a best of 81 against Zimbabwe. He has also continued to make an impact outside the IPL and international cricket. In June, Sooryavanshi smashed the fastest List A half-century in men's cricket, reaching his fifty in 11 balls for India A against Sri Lanka A in Colombo.

Ronaldo breaks silence after leaving Portugal squad: Will reveal truth in due time



New Delhi. (Agency)

Cristiano Ronaldo has broken his silence after leaving Portugal's Nations League camp, saying he will reveal the truth about his decision "in due course" and wishing the national team and his teammates good luck. The Portugal captain posted the message on social media after speaking with Portuguese Football Federation president Pedro Proena and following Jorge Jesus' press conference on Wednesday. "Following the national team's coach press conference, and after a conversation with the President of the Portuguese Football Federation, I have decided to leave the national team's training camp," Ronaldo wrote. "In due course, I will tell all Portuguese people the truth about the reasons that led me to leave the national team, to which I have always dedicated myself." He signed off by saying: "Now is the right time to wish good luck to Portugal and to all my team-mates, without exception." The tone of the message has raised questions over whether Ronaldo's international career could be coming to an end, although he did not announce his retirement. GOAL described the post as carrying the tone of a farewell.

Ronaldo left the Portugal camp in Copenhagen on Wednesday, just a day before the team was due to face Denmark in the Nations League. The decision came after a difficult few days for the 41-year-old. Ronaldo was an unused substitute in Portugal's 2-1 win over Norway on Sunday. Jesus had told him he would come off the bench but eventually decided against bringing him on. Ronaldo then worked in the gym instead of training with the rest of the squad on Monday and Tuesday.

Explained: How Manchester City's financial fraud was uncovered

Manchester City's financial transformation after the 2008 Abu Dhabi takeover has come under intense scrutiny, with investigators examining how hundreds of millions of pounds recorded as sponsorship revenue were actually funded. Here is how the investigators found out about the financial fraud.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Manchester City are staring down the consequences of one of the biggest financial cases in Premier League history. Following a lengthy investigation by an independent panel, the club has been found guilty of 114 of the 115 charges levelled against it, including serious breaches of the league's financial rules. At the heart of the case is the enormous financial commitment that

followed City's takeover by Abu Dhabi United Group (ADUG) in 2008. The money helped transform the club into one of the biggest forces in English football, but investigators found that hundreds of millions of pounds recorded in City's accounts as sponsorship revenue had, in reality, been provided by its Abu Dhabi owners. The central question was not whether City had access to enormous wealth, but how that money entered the club and how it was recorded. European football's financial rules were designed to prevent wealthy owners from simply covering a club's losses and allowing it to spend far beyond its own revenues. According to the panel's findings, City developed arrangements that allowed owner funding to be presented as commercial revenue. So, how did investigators uncover Manchester City's financial fraud? The answer lies in leaked emails, sponsorship agreements, payment records, financial statements and internal correspondence that allowed investigators to follow the money and piece

together how the club's finances were being structured.

HOW WERE MANCHESTER CITY FOUND OUT?



Associated Press reported that the investigation can be traced back to 2018, when leaked emails relating to Manchester City were published and raised questions about the club's finances. What followed was a lengthy investigation and hearing into

the club's financial affairs, eventually leading to findings covering more than 100 alleged breaches of Premier League rules. The period under investigation, from 2009 to 2018, was also the period in which City went from being a club that had seen better days to one of the most powerful teams in European football. ADUG had bought City in 2008 and was ultimately owned by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a member of the United Arab Emirates' ruling family. The new ownership had ambitious plans for the club, but those plans required substantial spending at a time when City was still making significant losses. According to the Premier League, by the 2009-10 season it was clear that City would continue to lose money for several years. The league alleged that the only way the club could sustain its planned expenditure was for ADUG to continue providing "very significant sums".

This is not cricket, this is only batting: Gambhir slams Guwahati pitch after 811-run fest

New Delhi. (Agency)

India might have won big in the 2nd ODI against West Indies, but that did not make head coach Gautam Gambhir happy. On Wednesday, September 30, India chased down a mammoth 405-run target with relative ease, finishing things off in just 43.3 overs. Reacting to the 811-run fest after the ODI, Gambhir lambasted the Guwahati pitch. The head coach hit out at the lack of balance between bat and ball and said that what transpired in Guwahati was not cricket, but only batting. "Look, if I have to be absolutely honest, I feel I think there has to be a bit of more contest between bat and ball, because I think you talk about cricket - but this is not cricket, this is only batting," Gambhir told the broadcaster after the match. Bowlers had a difficult time in both halves of the match on Wednesday. India won the toss and opted to bowl first in Guwahati. They failed to dominate the powerplay once



again and ended up leaking runs throughout the innings. Opener John Campbell and No. 3 Shai Hope put together a partnership of 110 runs, setting the stage for a big total. IND vs WI, 2nd ODI: Highlights | Scorecard Both Campbell and Hope scored hundreds, which was later followed by another powerful century from Amir Jangoo. West Indies raked up a total of 405 runs, but

given the condition of the pitch and India's batting firepower, it was unclear if this could have been a defensible total.

SHUBMAN SEALS INCREDIBLE CHASE

The second half of the match followed a similar progression. Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill added 255 runs for the first wicket in just 26 overs. The partnership wiped out any chances that West Indies had in the match, setting India up for an incredible chase. After Rohit's dismissal at 101, Shubman took over and scored the fastest double century in ODI cricket. The India captain remained unbeaten on 223 off just 133 balls, sealing the fate of the chase. Gambhir did not hold back when he attacked the broadcasting ecosystem for favouring high-scoring matches that take bowling skills out of contention. "Because imagine a young bowler bowling on this wicket, and the opposition getting 400 and then we go on to chase 400. Obviously, for the records it's outstanding."

Asian Games 2026: India's Manu Francis and Kurisinkal Noble clinch men's skiff silver in sailing

New Delhi. (Agency)

India earned a spot in the sailing medal table at the Asian Games 2026 on Thursday after the pair of Manu Francis and Kurisinkal Noble won a silver medal in the men's skiff event. The Indian pair finished second on the podium in the men's skiff opening race 9 of the sailing competition at the Games. Francis and Noble took part in as many as nine races over the last few days and combined to get a total of 23 points, helping them clinch the silver medal. They finished behind China, who got 16 points to take the gold medal. The team with the lowest total score wins the regatta. Skiffs are small, light boats, and sailors earn points as per their finish position in each of the races. The team finishing first gets one point added to the

total, with the points increasing at every lower position. The teams finishing with



the lowest total after the end of nine races secure the spots on the podium. China's Wen Zaiding and Liu Tian won the gold medal with 16 points, while the bronze medal went to Hong Kong, China's Akira Luke Sakai and Russel Aylsworth, who finished with a total of 24 points.

Indian women's team win bronze in

squash

Earlier, the Indian women's squash team settled for bronze after losing 1-2 to Hong Kong in the semifinals at the Asian Games 2026 on Thursday. India got off to a poor start in the semifinal tie as 18-year-old Anahat Singh lost the very first game. World no. 17 Anahat lost 2-3 (11-9 11-8 6-11 11-13 10-12) against world No. 25 Sin Yuk Chan in the opening match of the semifinal. Tanvi helped India stay alive in the contest by beating world No. 40 Ka Yi Lee 1-3 in the second match. Senior player Joshna Chinappa needed to win her final game against world no. 39 Ho Tze Lok to help India enter the final. However, she suffered a straight-sets defeat as India crashed out of the competition, settling for the bronze medal.

Full list of records broken by India and Shubman Gill in 406-run chase in 2nd ODI vs West Indies

New Delhi. (Agency)

Skipper Shubman Gill produced one of the best knocks of his career as he smashed an unbeaten 223 to help India chase down a mammoth target of 406 runs and thrash West Indies by 8 wickets in the 2nd ODI at the Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati on Wednesday, September 30.

It was absolute domination from India with the bat as the hosts pulled off their highest-ever run chase in ODI history on a flat track that had little on offer for the bowlers. India chased down the target of 406 runs with 39 balls to spare, recording the second-highest successful run chase in ODI history, behind South Africa's successful chase of 438 against Australia in Johannesburg in 2006. India will co-host. Gill and his opening partner Rohit Sharma got India off to a

strong start in the run chase. While the Indian captain went on to notch up his second ODI double hundred, Rohit scored 101 off 75 balls. The duo helped India cross the 100-run mark in just 12 overs before upping the ante further.

Rohit raced to his fifty off just 32 balls, while Gill completed his half-century in 39 balls. The Indian skipper then switched gears to race to his century off just 62 deliveries. Thanks to the duo's exploits, India brought up their 200 in just 21.1 overs, the fastest team double century in ODIs. The duo took the West Indies bowlers to the cleaners, smashing them all around the park. Rohit was eventually dismissed on 101 off 75 balls, marking an end to a 255-run stand between the duo, the highest opening partnership in a run chase for India. After Rohit's dismissal,

Gill combined with Virat Kohli (29) and Rituraj Gaikwad (31*) to take India home



comfortably with 39 balls to spare. The Indian skipper finished with a stunning 223 off 133 balls, laced with 26 fours and 8 sixes, shattering multiple records along the way. All records broken by Shubman Gill and India in 2nd ODI vs West Indies: 406 –

India pulled off the second-highest successful run chase in the history of ODIs after nailing down the target of 406 runs in the 2nd ODI against West Indies in Guwahati. 255 – Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill shared a 255-run opening stand in the run-chase to record the highest-ever partnership by an Indian pair on home soil. It is also the highest opening stand by India in a run chase in ODIs. 12,000 – Rohit Sharma crossed the 12,000-run mark in ODIs en route to his 101-run knock in the second ODI against West Indies. He became only the 3rd Indian after Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli to achieve the feat. Shubman Gill became only the second Indian batter Rohit Sharma to score multiple double century in ODIs.



Dia Mirza

Pens Strong Note Amid Jamui, Delhi Sexual Assault Cases: 'Raise Boys Who Won't Cause Harm'

Dia Mirza has urged everyone to raise boys who "won't cause harm". Recently, the actress took to her Instagram handle and penned down a strong note amid the various sexual assault cases being reported in the country. She shared a picture, the text on which read, "Don't raise girls to avoid harm. Raise boys who won't cause harm."

In the caption of her post, Dia talked about how she teaches her son to respect everyone around and wrote, "Every single day, I strive to teach my son the value of care, respect, empathy and kindness towards all. That means helping him understand how to respond to rejection, respect boundaries, and recognise and honour even the subtle ways in which a person may convey discomfort."

She further mentioned that it is very important for people to understand consent and added that this is what she tries to explain to her son regularly. "I want him to understand that consent is not merely the absence of a "no"; it is the presence of a willing and comfortable "yes." That no one owes him their attention, affection or intimacy, and that rejection is neither an insult nor something to be challenged, negotiated or taken personally. This is something every parent raising a son must strive for today. Only then can we build a world that is safer, more equitable and healthier for our girls," she added. Dia Mirza's post comes at a time when three recent cases of alleged sexual violence in Punjab, Bihar and Delhi have sparked outrage and renewed concerns over women's and children's safety.

At Lovely Professional University (LPU), Punjab, students protested after allegations that a female student had been sexually assaulted on campus by an outsider. Police registered an FIR, but preliminary investigation did not substantiate the allegation, while three students present in the hostel room reportedly denied that an assault had occurred. An SIT is currently investigating the matter.

In Jamui, Bihar, a teenage boy and girl returning from coaching classes were allegedly stopped, assaulted and molested by a group of men. Police registered a case under the POCSO Act and arrested three people. In Delhi, a 17-year-old girl was allegedly raped by three men in a park. The accused were apprehended, with one suspect caught following an encounter with police.



Urvashi Rautela's Team Claims Legal Action Against AI Company, Seeks ₹7,000 Crore Damages

Actress Urvashi Rautela's team has claimed that it is pursuing legal action against a Los Angeles-based artificial intelligence company over the alleged unauthorized use of her name, images, and videos.

According to a statement issued by the actress' team, the company allegedly used Urvashi's identity and content without obtaining permission. The team said it is pursuing appropriate legal remedies, with damages currently being assessed at Rs 7,000 crore. The team also stressed that any commercial use of the actress' name, image or likeness should be carried out only with proper authorization.

In an exclusive quote shared with IANS, Urvashi's team said, "Their business has allegedly generated billions of dollars in value by using Urvashi's name, images and videos without authorization. We are pursuing appropriate legal remedies, including damages currently being assessed at P7,000 crore against the Los Angeles-based company. Build your AI (artificial intelligence) company. Build your brand. But keep Urvashi's name out of your business unless you have permission. Team Urvashi Rautela."

Taking to Instagram, they also shared a note that read, "We are pursuing appropriate legal remedies, including damages currently being assessed at P7,000 crore against the Los

Angeles-based company. Their business has allegedly generated billions of dollars in value by using Urvashi's name, images & videos without authorization."

Recently, actor Salman Khan also raised concerns over the misuse of artificial intelligence during an episode of 'Bigg Boss 20. The actor spoke about the growing use of AI and the concerns



surrounding the unauthorized use of people's images and identities through the technology. The 'Sultan' actor said, "Someone made an AI video, or did AI voice dubbing; that is wrong. AI has progressed so much that it's very scary. It's a very serious thing. You said something, and someone used AI to edit it and kisi ko gali bakdi. You know what they're doing? AI videos bana rahe hain yeh. Bahut saare logon ke. And even I am there in the AI video."



Aishwarya Rai Tells Paparazzi 'Yeh Sab Bandh Kijiye...', Returns To Mumbai After Paris Fashion Week



Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has returned to Mumbai after making a striking appearance at the Paris Fashion Week. The actress was spotted at the Mumbai airport in the wee hours of Wednesday, September 30, when she briefly interacted with the paparazzi before heading towards her car.

Upon her return to Mumbai, Aishwarya was seen smiling and waving at the paparazzi gathered at the airport. However, at one point, she appeared to ask the photographers to stop and quickly obliged them with photos. "Aao group mein. Chaliye, yeh sab bandh kijiye," she told them. The actress was also all smiles as she posed with her fans. The brief interaction caught attention as Aishwarya made her way through the airport and towards her waiting car. She was dressed casually for her return journey, wearing a large trench coat with flared jeans and a top.

Aishwarya Rai's Paris Fashion Week Appearance

Aishwarya had travelled to Paris for L'Oréal Paris' annual fashion show, held on September 28 at Place Joffre near the Eiffel Tower and École Militaire. She walked the runway in a dramatic black couture ensemble and also debuted a striking red hair colour, which quickly became a talking point from the event. The show also featured a surprise appearance by Celine Dion, who closed the event with a performance.

Aishwarya Rai's Work Front

Aishwarya Rai was last seen in Ponniyin Selvan II in 2023. Mani Ratnam's film, which released in April 2023, is a Tamil epic historical drama adapted from Kalki Krishnamurthy's celebrated novel. Aishwarya played the dual roles of Nandini and the mysterious Oomai Rani, while the ensemble cast included Vikram, Karthi, Jayam Ravi, Trisha Krishnan, Sobhita Dhulipala and Aishwarya Lekshmi.

Ponniyin Selvan II continued the story of the Chola dynasty, focusing on Arulmozhi Varman's journey and the political conflicts surrounding the royal family. A.R. Rahman composed the music, with Ravi Varman handling cinematography.

'Vichar Alag Ho...': Amitabh Bachchan Hints At His Equation With Son Abhishek In Cryptic Note



Amitabh Bachchan has shared a cryptic note, hinting at his equation with son Abhishek. Recently, Big B took to his official blog and shared that while a father's views with his son might not match, it does not necessarily mean they are headed in different directions. "Pita putra dono rahe, ek manch par baithai; vichar alag alag ho chahe, manzil ke hi aithe (Both father and son sit together on the same stage; their views may differ, but their destination remains the same)," Amitabh wrote.

Amitabh Bachchan further shared that the younger generation should be respected and added, "Respect for the next generation ever... but the destination is ever the same... that be the ideal of every path taken... and that has ever been the relation—seek, discover, understand, and design the destination that be common to all in its beneficial incarnation: love, respect, and in a while the love of the well-wishers."

Amitabh Bachchan Slams Retirement Rumours

The Bollywood superstar often shares his views via his blog. Earlier this month, he slammed his retirement rumours and clarified his "wishes to retire" post. Big B mentioned that he was only talking about going to bed in one of his earlier posts and mentioned that he isn't stepping away from film.

"I wrote in the blog .. 'it's late, time to retire ..' which we all know means retire to bed it's late .. and this is the Media — the CONSCIENCE of a NATION — THE ULTIMATE INFORMER !!!" Amitabh Bachchan wrote in his blog while sharing a newspaper cutting of a report about his 'retirement'. He then explained what he meant by 'retirement' and added, "Ji nahin huzoor, main kaam se retire nahin ho raha hoon; Angrezi mein iska matlab hota hai main ab sone jaa raha hoon. Aur wahan maanyavar aapko aane ka nimantran nahin hai. (No sir, I am not retiring from work any time soon; (retire) in English means going to sleep. And you are not invited there.)"

NEWS BOX

'I see a lion': Netanyahu hails Israeli man who helped pilot in flydubai scare

world.(Agency)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met the flydubai passenger, who along with a pilot, foiled a co-pilot's attempt to crash the Dubai-Tel Aviv flight on Wednesday. The incident occurred after a flydubai pilot stabbed his co-pilot, an Indian national, during the flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv to take over the aircraft's control and crash it. Crediting the Israeli national for the valour act, Netanyahu said, "I see a lion, I see a great hero." The passenger, Yaniv Hayun, along with Indian national Smit Machchhar, foiled the attempt of a co-pilot, an Omani national, to crash the flight FZ1073. The crash bid began with an altercation in the flight deck that left the Indian pilot with stab wounds and sending the jet plunging nearly 14,000 feet in less than 30 seconds. An on-duty crew secured the aircraft, diverted it and landed safely in Saudi Arabia. During his meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu, Hayun apologised to the Israeli leader for his bloodstain shirt. "I apologize (for my clothes), I asked for my suitcase 10 times in order to change clothes in order to respect this meeting," Hayun was cited as saying in a statement.

Netanyahu responded by saying, "This is the respect, you are the respect, you are the hero, how did you do this? Netanyahu then said he saw "a great hero" and pointing to the bloodstain on the shirt, asked: "Wow, this (blood stains) are from him (from the co-pilot)?," to which the passenger replied: "It's from him, yes." "Passengers and crew entered the cockpit, overpowered the co-pilot and enabled a second pair of flydubai pilots who were aboard the flight to land the jet safely in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, Israeli officials said.

Rape case rocks Cornell: New transcript reveals victim informed police; fresh spotlight on DA's decision not to charge

world .(Agency)

A newly surfaced transcript of a Cornell University student's interview with campus police is raising fresh questions about why criminal charges were not filed after she alleged she was sexually assaulted by fraternity members in 2024.

The woman, who is referred to with the placeholder Jane Doe in a civil lawsuit, told Cornell University police during a two-day interview in November 2024 that she could say with "100% confidence" that she was raped, according to a transcript obtained by CBS News.

The transcript also records her saying she was "completely and totally incapacitated" and describing sexual encounters that she said became coercive after she had consumed alcohol and drugs.

But Tompkins County district attorney Matthew Van Houten has said he never saw the transcript before his office decided not to bring charges.

The revelation has added a new layer to the controversy surrounding the case, which was reopened this week after Doe filed a civil lawsuit against Cornell University and seven Chi Phi fraternity members. Van Houten has said he is now reviewing the new information and could present the case to a grand jury.

Details of transcript

The interview took place on November 14 and 15, 2024, more than three weeks after the alleged assault at the Chi Phi fraternity house. According to the transcript, Doe told investigators that the night began with consensual sexual activity but later changed as more men became involved. She said she had consumed alcohol and ketamine and had gaps in her memory. At one point, she described being physically hit and said she had pushed away unwanted touching. She also told investigators that she had said she was uncomfortable, that she was tired and, on some occasions, no.

China sets up air force support training centre in Laos, its third overseas military outpost

The new military training centre marks a strategic expansion of China's overseas military presence, adding another foothold in Southeast Asia following a similar joint naval facility in Cambodia.

BEIJING.(Agency)

China has established an air force support and training centre in Laos, its third overseas military outpost, further expanding the PLA's regional military footprint and strategic presence. The China-Laos Joint Support and Training Centre at Ban Keun Airport in Vientiane

province, Laos, and the China-Laos Friendship Aviation Academy officially went into operation on Wednesday, China's Defence Ministry said. Laos Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence Khamlieng Outhakaysone attended the inauguration ceremony, and a delegation from the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) participated, it said in a statement.

The centre, jointly maintained and operated by both sides, is aimed at helping Laos strengthen the training of its air force pilots. The new military training centre marks a strategic expansion of China's overseas military presence, adding another foothold in Southeast Asia following a similar joint naval facility in Cambodia. China had established its first overseas naval base at Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. Brian Hart, deputy director of the CSIS China Power Project, told the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post that Ban Keun centre

was China's first acknowledged overseas military facility centred on air power, unlike its naval-oriented facilities in Djibouti and Cambodia. China's Defence



Ministry said the construction and operation of the facilities were the result of mutual respect and equal consultation. They comply with domestic laws of both sides as well as relevant international law and international

practice, and do not target any third party," it said. "They will help further strengthen practical cooperation between the two militaries and safeguard regional peace and stability." The wording is almost identical to its statement last year for the official inauguration of the China-Cambodia Joint Training and Support Centre at Cambodia's Ream Naval Base. Hart said the repeated use of the "joint training centre" model suggested the People's Liberation Army was taking an incremental approach to expanding its overseas footprint. "This facility could start as a joint facility with Laos and grow into China steadily building a deeper presence over time," he said. "What is visible now may just be a starting point." He noted that China expanded the pier at its Djibouti base years after it opened and has continued adding capabilities there, including for communications and potentially intelligence collection.

flydubai Suspends Flights To And From Israel Amid Probe Over Hijacking Scare

Dubai.(Agency)

Dubai-based carrier flydubai has temporarily suspended all the flights to and from Israel after a plane made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia after briefly transmitting emergency codes, including one associated with a possible hijacking.

Flight FZ1073, a Boeing 737 MAX 8 bound for Ben Gurion Airport, sent an emergency alert shortly after departing Dubai International Airport. The low-cost carrier said that the safety and wellbeing of passengers, crew and operations is their highest priority and this temporary suspension will allow the relevant authorities to continue their work and establish all the facts surrounding the incident. Here is the flydubai statement: Following the incident involving flight FZ 1073 on 30 September, and



remain our highest priority. This temporary suspension will allow the relevant authorities to continue their work and establish all the facts surrounding the incident. We are fully committed to supporting the ongoing investigation and maintaining the highest safety standards across our

network. We remain in close coordination with government authorities, regulators and airport stakeholders and will review the suspension as more information becomes available. We apologise to passenger whose travel plans have been affected and are working to provide support and alternative arrangements where possible.

What Happened

The plane was heading towards Ben Gurion International Airport on Wednesday morning when an altercation broke out on the flight deck, according to flydubai.

The co-pilot tried to sabotage the aircraft and later stabbed Captain Smit Machchhar, who was trying to prevent him from doing so.

At the time, the Boeing 737, cruising at about 34,000 feet, began dropping at roughly 23,000 feet per minute before reaching about 15,600 feet.

Catholic Church Abuse: 270 Clerics Abused Nearly 1,000 Children In US

world.(Agency)

-More than 270 Catholic clerics sexually abused nearly 1,000 children across three Massachusetts dioceses over several decades, according to an investigation by the

state's attorney general. The report found that the dioceses of Fall River, Springfield and Worcester had known about allegations of child sexual abuse for years, but often prioritised protecting the Church's reputation over protecting children, Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell said. "Behind every one of those numbers is a child whose safety was violated, a family that was changed forever, and a survivor who carried the trauma of that abuse for years and, in many cases, decades," Campbell told reporters. The Diocese of Worcester in a statement said it would study the report "to identify any additional improvements that can be made to respond to victims of past abuse and to continue to



strengthen efforts to keep children safe." The other two did not respond immediately to requests for comment. The majority of the abuse occurred before 2002. The clergy sex abuse scandal burst onto the international stage that year when the Boston Globe published its Pulitzer Prize-winning report on how officials at the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston routinely covered up sex abuse by priests.

The newspaper's reporting set off a global wave of investigations that found similar patterns at dioceses worldwide and prompted Massachusetts' legislature to pass a series of reforms in 2002.

In 2019, then-Attorney General Maura Healey, now Massachusetts' governor, launched a criminal probe into the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Fall River, Springfield and Worcester to determine if they or their leadership bore responsibility in connection to their supervision of clergy who abused children.

Flydubai hero passenger Yaniv Hayoun tells Netanyahu how TV show helped him regain flight control

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Israeli passenger Yaniv Hayoun was among the passengers who helped overpower the co-pilot after he allegedly attacked Indian Captain Smit Machchhar during Flydubai flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv. He recounted how watching the TV series Air Crash Investigation helped him respond during the dramatic Flydubai cockpit crisis, after he entered the cockpit and took hold of the aircraft's controls.

After returning to Israel, Hayoun met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and described how he intervened during the emergency. Still wearing the blood-stained clothes from the flight, Hayoun was hugged by Netanyahu, who told him, "This is the honour! You are the hero!" Hayoun said he realised something was wrong when the aircraft's lights went out and the plane suddenly began losing altitude. He and another passenger initially tried to

open the cockpit door but were unable to do so.

Hero passenger put attacker on chokehold According to Hayoun, Machchhar had collapsed near the door after being attacked but managed to unlock it before losing consciousness. This allowed Hayoun and other passengers to enter.

"I entered the cockpit, saw one pilot on the floor and the other over the controls," Hayoun told Netanyahu. Hayoun said he immediately grabbed the co-pilot and pulled him away from the cockpit controls. "I grabbed the attacker, put him in a chokehold, and pulled him — first and foremost — outside," he said. Other passengers then joined him and helped restrain the attacker.

"We pulled him out; it was a matter of seconds. I called out to the Israeli guys with us on the plane — I called them, and two other guys came over to me... we pinned [the attacker] down to keep him secure."

'Head, Hands Almost Severed': Dentist Treats Indian Pilot On flydubai Plane

Tel Aviv.(Agency)

Smit Machchhar, the Indian pilot of the flydubai flight, was losing a massive amount of blood and fighting unconsciousness after being stabbed by his co-pilot. Still, he managed to open the cockpit door and save the lives of 174 people on board, said an Israeli dentist who was a passenger on the plane. Musaev Shota, a dentist by profession, was one of four passengers who first rushed toward the cockpit aboard Flight FZ1073 as the Omani co-pilot allegedly tried to crash the aircraft. After helping overpower and restrain the suspected attacker, Shota was the first person who treated Machchhar, providing emergency medical treatment that helped save his life.

Talking to an Israeli media outlet, Ynet, Shota recalled the moments of horror and said, "I didn't wait. I saw something was wrong and ran." He called that Machchhar "in very bad shape, with heavy bleeding from his head and hands." "I was the only doctor on the plane. I managed to stop the bleeding, and the

pilot was fairly stable until shortly before landing, when his condition deteriorated somewhat," he said. Shota told CNN that the pilot was covered in cuts. "His head and his hands were practically sliced open, almost



severed in two," Mosaev said. He was in serious condition, not critical perhaps, but serious because of the blood loss."

The dentist also recalled that the injured pilot remained conscious and communicated with them while lying in his pool of blood on the floor. "The pilot was talking to us while he was lying there and told us he was 39 and had

two children. The attacker stabbed him and cursed him," he told Ynet.

While talking to the Associated Press, he said, the wounded pilot "was just praying the whole time and was in contact with me, and I was afraid we would really lose him." Video footage on social media showed two men on the plane's floor, bloodied and wounded. According to the dentist, after the plane made an emergency landing in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, a Saudi medical team took over the treatment of the wounded pilot. "I understood from them that he survived and was out of danger," he said.

The Pilot Is Stable' Later, India's Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate General of India in Jeddah said they were closely monitoring the health condition of Captain Machchhar, who was injured after helping avert a major in-flight crisis. In a statement posted on X, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh said both Indian missions in Saudi Arabia had been following developments related to Captain Machchhar's medical condition.