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BJP asks Karnataka police chief to stop action for submitting Form 7

BENGALURU(Agency)

Senior BJP leaders on Saturday urged the state police chief to stop registering FIRs against party workers who submitted Form 7 during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. The BJP leaders alleged that after Chief Minister DK Shivakumar staged a protest before the Election Commission office in Bengaluru on Thursday regarding Form 7, the police department has been targeting BJP workers.

Former chief minister BS Yediyurappa, BJP state president BY Vijayendra, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, MPs and MLAs met the DG&IGP and submitted a memorandum.

Ashoka said Congress leaders have put pressure on the police to register criminal cases against party members. Police stations have become Congress offices and criminal cases were registered against BJP workers, he said. The BJP leader said they can file Form 7 and it is for the Election Commission to decide whether a voter's records are correct or not.

Jaishankar meets US Pacific Commander Paparo in Delhi, discusses security and maritime cooperation

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar held a meeting with the Commander of the United States Pacific Command, Admiral Samuel J. Paparo, in New Delhi on Sunday, during which discussions were held on advancing the security partnership and maritime cooperation.

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor was present at the meeting. "Glad to meet Commander of the US Pacific Command, Admiral Samuel J. Paparo. Discussed advancing our security partnership and maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific," EAM Jaishankar posted on X.

On Saturday, Admiral Samuel J. Paparo arrived in New Delhi for a six-day official visit to strengthen the defence partnership between the two nations. Sergio Gor extended a warm welcome to Admiral Samuel Paparo.

During his visit, Admiral Paparo will hold talks with Indian counterparts on shared security priorities, including harnessing digital transformation and emerging technologies, maintaining regional strategic stability, strengthening defence energy resilience, and navigating an increasingly competitive technology landscape.

"From emerging technology to maritime security, the United States and India are building a defence partnership equipped to meet the challenges of the future," the US Embassy in India said in a statement.

"Admiral Paparo's visit underscores the strength of the Major Defence Partnership and reaffirms the United States' enduring presence and interests in the Indian Ocean region," it added.

Earlier, on September 28, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Dhiraj Seth and Deputy Commanding General of United States Army Pacific Lieutenant General Joel B. Vowell held a meeting in New Delhi, where the two sides discussed the evolving security landscape.

Truth Is Our Greatest Weapon': Rahul Gandhi Launches Satyagraha' Digital Platform

New Delhi(Agency)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday alleged that truth is being suppressed and that it was his responsibility to ensure this did not happen, as he launched the 'Satyagraha' digital platform to consolidate issue-based protests unfolding across the country.

He urged people to register their protests against the government on the 'Satyagraha' platform, which he launched a day after the 157th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, to ensure help for people wherever truth was being crushed.

"Across the country, people are fighting for their rights and too often, fighting alone. Gen Z, students, farmers, Adivasis, Dalits, women -- every struggle has its own story. But a lone voice is often easier to silence." "Satyagraha is an initiative to bring these voices together on one map," he said in a post on X. Invoking Mahatma Gandhi, the Congress MP said, "Bapu taught us that truth is our greatest weapon. But an even greater weapon is standing together with the truth. If you too are fighting against any injustice, share your story. It will take just two minutes."

Gandhi said their protest will find a place on the Satyagraha map, adding, "You will see who else, like you, is fighting their own battle."

"And I will do whatever I can in Parliament, on the streets, through letters, wherever I am needed -- to stand with you. As the leader of the opposition, that is my responsibility. Tell me the story of your Satyagraha..." he said. In a video posted along with it, the Raebareilly MP said, "As you all know, truth is being

suppressed all across the country, and there are multiple protests happening across the country."

Noting that protests on land, women's rights, Dalit rights, OBC rights, education, and exams are taking place across the country, he said, "We want to help organise these protests, put them together on one map, and work together with you to see if we can help you resolve what you're fighting for. Take a look at the Satyagraha website. Fill out the form. Enrol your movement on the website, and we will try to see how we can support you. We'll be in touch."



"As the leader of the opposition, it's important for me to help people resist where truth is being crushed. The truth is important. It's important at the highest levels, but it's important that we fight for it in every corner of the country," Gandhi said in his video message.

Late evening, he put out another post, saying, "Satyagraha went live 9 hours ago. Since then, more than 10,000 people and groups have come forward. That's how many struggles Indians are already fighting -- quietly, convinced that no one was listening."

He said that, however, the Congress was listening.

"We are listening. Every submission will be read. Already, we see stories in the topics of education, corruption, social justice, farmers, labour, health, women's safety, land and environment," his post read.

Gandhi said his team will go through each grievance, work out how they can help, and reach out where more details are

needed. "Where any genuine struggle needs to be amplified to be resolved, we will do it," he said.

"This is only the beginning. Satyagraha isn't a one-day campaign. It will run for years, and it will stand with every andolan, big or small," Gandhi said, thanking people for their support for the cause.

"Thank you for speaking up and for standing up for the Constitution," he said, urging people to tell their story in case they have not yet.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh underscored that the Satyagraha website aims to bring various resistance under a single platform, as he slammed the police action on Friday against people protesting against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

"Yesterday, we all witnessed how, on Gandhi Jayanti, the Home Minister's police displayed barbarity against people peacefully protesting on the path shown by Bapu," he said.

'Cause For Worry': Air Force Chief On Pak-China Fighter Jet Collaboration

New Delhi(Agency)

The inordinate delays in inducting new combat jets, including the Tejas aircraft, are hurting the Indian Air Force (IAF) in view of the depleting strength of its fighter squadrons at a time when air power is increasingly becoming crucial to deal with security challenges, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh said on Saturday. Addressing a press conference ahead of the 94th Air Force Day, the IAF chief also said that the force requires induction of at least 36-40 fighter jets annually for the next few years to plug the gaps and hoped that the situation will improve with the induction of indigenously-built Tejas Mark-1A aircraft as well as Rafale combat jets to be procured under the multi-role fighter aircraft (MRFA) programme.

Air Chief Marshal Singh also flagged concerns over Pakistan collaborating with China on a fifth-generation fighter jet.

"It is a cause for worry," he said, adding: "We do have capabilities. It is not that one platform matters so much."

Elaborating on measures to enhance the IAF's combat prowess, he said the government is looking at finalising the

MRFA deal by this financial year, provided things go as per plan. In its largest-ever defence acquisition push, India in February cleared a long-pending proposal to procure 114 Rafale fighter jets under a government-to-government framework with France, nearly two decades after the plan was originally rolled out to boost the Indian Air



Force's combat prowess. The price negotiations and other critical issues relating to the project are currently being finalised.

"I think if things go well, we should be able to sign it (MRFA deal) in this financial year. That's what my hope is. But it is a two-way process," he said while referring to negotiations between the Indian and the French sides.

12 BJP candidates facing election expenditure questions get re-tickets

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Gandhinagar: Serious questions are once again being raised over alleged irregularities in the 2021 Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation elections, particularly regarding the election expenditure declared by winning candidates and the subsequent administrative proceedings. According to allegations, all 41 winning councillors declared exactly the same election expenditure of Rs 1.33 lakh. The identical figures have raised questions over whether the expenditure records were prepared and submitted transparently. The unusual similarity in the declared amounts has also become a key point of discussion among political observers. The matter reportedly re-



mained under administrative scrutiny for nearly five years. During this period, six Collectors served in Gandhinagar, but the issue allegedly failed to reach a clear and conclusive outcome. Repeated administrative proceedings and requests for additional time have further raised questions over the delay in resolving the matter. The contro-

versy has now gained fresh political significance ahead of the upcoming Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation elections. Of the 41 councillors whose election expenditure declarations have been questioned, 12 have reportedly been given BJP tickets again. The decision has triggered criticism among political observers, grassroots workers and sections of the public. Questions are being raised over whether candidates facing serious questions regarding election expenditure should have been considered for renomination before the matter was conclusively resolved. The Gujarat BJP leadership is also facing questions over its stand on transparency, accountability and party discipline. Critics are asking why the

alleged irregularities remained unresolved for years and why some of the concerned candidates have once again been given an opportunity to contest the municipal elections. The issue has therefore moved beyond the question of election expenditure and has become a broader debate over political accountability and administrative transparency in Gandhinagar. With the municipal elections approaching, the controversy is expected to remain an important political issue. However, the allegations remain subject to official scrutiny, and any wrongdoing would have to be established through the competent administrative or legal authorities.

Owaisi warns of Jantar Mantar 2.0 in Hyderabad if Form 7 misused against Muslims

Addressing an Islamic religious gathering, the Hyderabad MP said the Election Commission should take action against concerned persons if 'false' Form 7 applications were being filed.

New Delhi(Agency).

AIMIM chief and Lok Sabha MP Asaduddin Owaisi has warned of massive protests in Hyderabad if Form 7 is misused during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls. Addressing an Islamic religious gathering at Milad Maidan in the city on Saturday, October 3, the parliamentarian said the Election Commission (EC) should take action against concerned persons if "false" Form 7 applications were being filed.

He said that if the names of genuine Muslim voters were struck off merely on the basis of their religion, Hyderabad would witness protests bigger than those seen in Delhi earlier this year. "If false Form 7 are being filed, we appeal to the Election Commission to take action against

those responsible. If this drama does not stop, remember: protests bigger than those at Delhi's Jantar Mantar will take place on the



roads and streets of Hyderabad, and it will create a lot of trouble for you. [AIMIM] will not remain silent," Owaisi was quoted as

saying by news agency ANI.

Form 7 is an application form for filing objections to the proposed inclusion or deletion of a name from the existing electoral rolls. Owaisi alleged that the BJP and the wider "Sangh Parivar" were misusing Form 7 applications to remove the names of Muslims en masse from final electoral rolls.

He said, "Printed Form 7 are being submitted where the name of the person whose name is to be deleted is mentioned, but the name and details of the person filing the form are not being provided. If this is happening, it is completely wrong." "If the Election Commission turns a blind eye and gives

BJP people a free hand to remove the names of Muslims, we will not allow that to happen," the Hyderabad MP added.

Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai reaches Singapore for SING Forum 2026

Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai arrived in Singapore to showcase the state's investment potential and attract global capital through SING Forum 2026.

Chhattisgarh(Agency).

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai arrived in Singapore on Saturday to expand investment horizons and attract global capital to the state. Upon his arrival, he was officially received by India's High Commissioner to Singapore, Dr. Shilpak Ambule.

The visit follows a nomination by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, designating Chhattisgarh to participate in the inaugural SING Forum 2026. Organized by the Singapore Business Federation, the high-level international platform gives the state a dedicated stage to showcase its economic achievements, development potential, and business-friendly ecosystem to global investors. Chief Minister Sai will lead the Chhattisgarh delegation at the forum. A key highlight of his itinerary is a CEO Roundtable, where he will engage directly with top executives, industry

representatives, and institutional investors from Singapore. The interactive session will focus on highlighting sector-specific opportunities and exploring cross-border investment partnerships across Chhattisgarh. Highlighting his administration's vision,



Chief Minister Sai stated that concerted efforts are underway to establish Chhattisgarh as one of India's premier investment destinations. He emphasized that the state's value proposition rests on its new industrial policy, abundant natural

5-yr-old playing on terrace falls to death in Khoh

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A five-year-old boy died after falling from the second-floor terrace of a rented house in Khoh village on Friday evening. The child was playing with his parents when the accident took place. The family of the deceased, Aarav Yadav, is originally from Muraithi village in Farrukhabad. They shifted to Khoh three years ago and had been living in a rented house since then. According to police, Aarav was on the terrace with his parents around 6 pm when he moved towards the edge and lost his balance. The terrace had a railing about one foot high. He fell from a height of around 35 feet. Family members rushed Aarav to Fortis Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Aarav was the couple's only child. The victim's father, Rahul Yadav, works as a labourer at a private factory in IMT Manesar. The family has not alleged any foul play in the incident. Police have initiated an inquest proceeding into the incident. An officer said that prima facie, it was an accident and denied any suspicion pertaining to the death of the child. The body was handed to the family after the autopsy on Saturday, to identify the truck and trace its driver.

Should waste agency be barred MCG seeks fresh report



Ghaziabad.(Agency)

MCG has sought a detailed performance report on a private agency providing manpower and tractor-trolley services after finding that an earlier submission from officials lacked sufficient details about its work and action taken against it. The civic body has asked its joint commissioners to provide details of all show-cause notices issued to the agency over unsatisfactory services or for improvement in its performance. The officials have also been asked to give a clear recommendation on whether the agency should be blacklisted or debarred from future work. "It is informed that the office went through the reports submitted by your office and it was found that the report was not self-explanatory. The number of show cause notices issued for unsatisfactory services or for improvement of services have not been mentioned in the report. Moreover, the data about the fine/penalties imposed month-wise upon the agency was also not mentioned in the report," read a letter recently sent by MCG commissioner to the joint commissioners. The joint commissioners have been asked to submit the revised report immediately so that further action can be taken.

Tin roofs, illegal power lines: Furniture markets in Ghaziabad are major fire risks

Noida.(Agency)

Illegal furniture markets have emerged as a major fire hazard, with shop owners operating from makeshift tin-roofed structures enclosed by boundary walls and obtaining electricity connections unlawfully. Large quantities of dry timber, plywood, PVC flooring material, foam and chemicals stored at these shops make them tinderboxes where even a small spark could lead to an inferno. On Kala Patthar Road, one such market has popped up. A suspected short circuit in an air conditioning unit at a storehouse of a quick commerce company triggered a major fire in the area on Oct 1. The fire spread to two furniture shops, a diagnostic centre and a housing society located next to the warehouse. Twelve fire engines brought the blaze under control in two hours. Although there were no casualties, the warehouse and the furniture shops were charred. One of them was completely burned down to the ground while parts of the other were affected. Inside the second furniture shop, the remaining pieces of furniture were covered in layers of ash and soot. On April 21 this year, a fire at Tyagi market in Crossings Republik gutted around 20 shops in the area. The fire was triggered by a gas leak in a restaurant. It took around three hours to control it. One of the shops that was destroyed was a furniture shop. It was also a makeshift shop walled by tin sheets. Residents said in both cases the blazes might not have started in these furniture shops, but they have always added fuel to the fire. They claimed they have complained several times about these stores, but the authorities have never taken any action against them. A resident of Uninav Height in Raj Nagar Extension, Rajiv Ranjan, said these illegal shops often display their items on the roads, leading to severe snarls. Moreover, they often draw electricity by hooking on to a loose, dangling canopy of wires. The founder of an AOA federation in Indirapuram, Alok Kumar, said such furniture shops have come up next to the roads over the past few years and can now be seen in Indirapuram, Vaishali, Vasundhara and other areas. "These markets often come up beside high-rises to attract more customers. Complaints have been filed with GDA several times; they were removed once, but they soon returned to the same spot, reopened their shops and expanded them," he said. "None of these shops have basic safety protocols like functional fire extinguishers, water storage networks or designated emergency exit pathways."

Chhota Udepur: Young man drowns in sand mining pit, villagers protest with body at site

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Chhota Udepur:A tragic incident in Dhandhoda village of Chhota Udepur district has sparked anger among local residents after a young man reportedly drowned after falling into a deep, water-filled pit in a sand lease area. The incident has once again raised questions over safety arrangements at mining sites and the alleged lack of protection around deep excavation pits. According to information available locally, the deceased was a resident of Simal Faliya. He had reportedly left his home to collect maize when he reached the area where sand mining activities had created deep pits. He reportedly fell into one of the pits filled with water and drowned. The incident caused panic in the area, while news of the death led to anger among family members and villagers. Following the incident, the deceased's body was taken for post-mortem. However, after completion of the post-mortem

procedure, the family members and a large number of villagers reportedly brought the body back to the accident site instead of taking it home for the last rites. The villagers demanded immediate action against those responsible for the mining pits and called for accountability from the concerned authorities. Protesters reportedly insisted that the body would not be removed from the site until they received assurance regarding action against the persons responsible for the alleged negligence. Villagers have alleged that deep pits are being created during sand excavation without adequate barricading, warning signs or other safety arrangements. They claimed that such open excavation areas can become dangerous, particularly for local residents who travel through or live close to the mining zone. Residents also raised questions over the monitoring of sand mining activities in the area. According to their allegations, co



ncerns regarding unsafe pits had been raised earlier as well, but effective preventive measures were allegedly not taken. The latest incident has intensified demands for inspection of the mining area and strict enforcement of safety norms. As the protest continued and tensions increased, officials from the Mining and Minerals Department, along with other administrative officials, reportedly

reached the spot. The officials spoke with the agitated villagers, heard their demands and assured them that the circumstances surrounding the incident would be examined. Officials reportedly assured the protesters that an investigation would be conducted and appropriate legal and administrative action would be taken if any person or agency was found responsible for negligence or violation of applicable rules. Following the officials' intervention and assurances, the villagers eventually called off the protest and the body was removed from the site for the final rites. The incident has brought the issue of safety around sand mining sites back into focus in Chhota Udepur. The key questions now concern whether adequate safety measures were in place around the deep pits, whether the mining operations complied with applicable regulations, and whether responsibility will be fixed after the investigation.

Violent Attack by Criminal-Minded Accused Who Allegedly Committed Murder at Bhuj Railway Station: Stone Attack on Inmate Inside Palara Jail Sparks Panic

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Bhachau, Kutch: Rupesh Solanki Dipanshu Vishwakarma, the accused allegedly involved in the brutal murder of a migrant youth at Bhuj Railway Station over a trivial issue, has continued his violent activities even inside the high-security zone of Palara Jail. In a shocking incident, the accused allegedly attacked a convicted inmate sleeping inside a barrack with a stone, causing serious injuries and triggering a commotion among the jail administration and police authorities. Inmate Attacked While Sleeping Inside Barrack According to available information, an inmate named Abbas Ismail Sama was sleeping in Barrack No. 11 of Circle-1 at Palara Jail. During this time, accused Dipanshu Chetan Vishwakarma allegedly brought a stone from the bathroom and suddenly struck Abbas on the head. Abbas sust



ained serious injuries to his head and other parts of his body in the violent attack. Following the incident, a jail guard immediately shifted the injured inmate, who was bleeding profusely, to G.K. General Hospital in Bhuj for treatment. He is currently undergoing treatment at the hospital. Allegedly Committed

Murder at Railway Station Over a Simple Inquiry It is noteworthy that the same accused, Dipanshu, had allegedly killed a youth named Mukesh Chandrika Sahani from Bihar a few days ago at Platform No. 1 of Bhuj Railway Station. According to the police, the incident occurred after an argument over a routine inquiry regarding a train bound for Surat. The accused allegedly became enraged and attacked Mukesh with an iron pipe, resulting in his death. Following the incident, the Railway Police registered a case, arrested the accused and sent him to judicial custody. Accused Previously Involved in Three Cases: A Challenge for Police According to Railway Police Officer P.R. Solanki, the accused has a serious criminal background, with three previous cases of assault registered against him. He reportedly has a tendency to become aggressive over minor issues and resort

to violent attacks. When contacted regarding the incident inside the jail, Investigation Officer S.S. Patel of B-Division Police Station stated that during the preliminary inquiry, it emerged that the accused allegedly became agitated because he was feeling "disturbed" and subsequently attacked the inmate. Police have currently registered an information report regarding the incident and are recording statements from both sides as part of the legal proceedings. The fact that the accused has allegedly been involved in a murder and, within only a few days, another violent attack inside the jail has raised serious concerns for the police and jail authorities. It will now be a major challenge for the police to conduct an in-depth investigation into the accused's criminal history and, at the same time, ensure effective control over his violent activities inside the jail.

3 held in Gurgaon with foreign-made pistols, cops suspect extortion plot

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Three alleged members of an extortion gang have been arrested on suspicion that they were preparing for an extortion in Delhi, and two foreign-made pistols and five live cartridges were seized. ACP Navleen Sharma said the men were allegedly conducting reconnaissance for the operation on the instructions of handlers based abroad. "We will, however, interrogate them to ascertain their target and to know their source of weapons. We are likely to make more arrests soon," he said. The arrests were made by the Farrukhnagar crime branch unit of Gurgaon police on Friday. The men have been identified as Abhay alias Maulad (20), a resident of Khera Jhajhrola village; Jatin alias Jony (29), a resident of Patel Nagar in Sonipat and currently staying in Siddharth Colony; and Sagar, also a resident of Khera Jhanjhrola, police said. The cops said a team led by the in-charge of the Farrukhnagar crime unit, SI Lokesh, apprehended Abhay near Garhi flyover on New Pataudi-Gurgaon Road and nabbed Jatin and



Sagar from Farrukhnagar. Delhi Police allegedly registered an FIR against Sagar in 2024 for firing at the office of a property dealer in Delhi, and Jatin was named by them in an Excise Act case. Police said Sagar attempted to evade the team by jumping from the flyover during the operation. He sustained a fracture in his leg and was admitted to a local civil hospital for treatment. He will be arrested in the case after his discharge. Police also seized two PX-3 pistols. They said these pistols were made in China. They suspect that the weapons were procured by the gang through a

cross-border arms smuggling nexus from Pakistan and the weapons reached Haryana through Punjab. A case has been registered at Sector 10 police station under relevant provisions of the Arms Act. Abhay allegedly disclosed that Jatin had provided him with the illegal firearms, while Jatin had allegedly received the weapons from other associates. Investigators are now trying to establish the source of the firearms and identify the other members involved in their procurement and distribution. However, sources said the men had received weapons a few days

ago and were asked to wait for directions by their foreign handlers who wished to target a Delhi resident for extortion. The guns used by the shooters killed in the Sushant Lok encounter in July this year were also believed to be PX-3s. These are semi-automatic pistols made by Chinese defence manufacturer Norinco. The gunmen used these pistols to fire at the house of a 36-year-old businessman over an alleged extortion demand of Rs 10 crore and then at the police team that surrounded them, leading to the encounter in which more than 60 rounds were fired in one of the city's toniest neighbourhoods. Police sources said PX-30s are available in Pakistan's weapons black market, especially in Peshawar, and have found their way into India before through illegal cross-border arms smuggling, either through arms drops from Pakistan or the Nepal border. On June 19 this year, BSF and Punjab Police intercepted a consignment of 25 pistols, including Norinco and an AK-47, in Amritsar. On Jan 21 this year, 11 Glocks, five Ziganas and three Norinco were intercepted in Fazilka.

NEWS BOX

Staff at T Nagar courier office held for stealing parcels

CHENNAI (Agency).

A 55-year-old housekeeping worker was arrested on charges of stealing four gold coins weighing 23g from courier parcels at a private courier office near T Nagar. The accused, J Kumudhavalli of JJ Nagar in Korukkupet, had been working as a housekeeping staff at the office for the last six months through an agency on Mount Road, the police said.

According to the police, in July, Kumudhavalli was tasked with checking parcel details. During the process, she allegedly noticed through a scanner that a parcel received from the airport contained four gold coins and stole it. The theft came to light when the staff found that a parcel was missing while entering incoming consignments in the computer system. CCTV footage revealed three more missing parcels containing gold coins. When the company officials questioned her, she initially denied the allegations, police said. On Friday, the firm's manager lodged a complaint with the Pondy Bazaar police. The coins are yet to be recovered from her, sources said.

4 women killed as bus overturns on ghat road

Hyderabad (Agency).

Four women were killed and several passengers injured after a private travels bus carrying mourners overturned on the Ananthagiri ghat road in Vikarabad district on Saturday morning.

The passengers, residents of Kesaram village in Patancheru mandal of Sangareddy district, were travelling to Chintakunta village in Dharur mandal to attend the funeral of a relative, when the accident occurred.

The deceased were identified as Rajendla Prameela (53), Athelli Yadamma (52), Mala Padma (50) and Athelli Padmamma (55).

Police said the bus, carrying around 50 passengers, lost control and overturned on the ghat road. Many passengers sustained injuries, with at least one person reported to be in a critical condition.

The impact left many passengers trapped inside the overturned vehicle. Local residents rushed to the spot on hearing cries for help and joined rescue efforts before police and emergency teams arrived. The injured were later shifted to the Vikarabad govt hospital in ambulances.

Preliminary investigations suggest a possible brake failure. The driver, identified as Kumar, reportedly fled the scene soon after the accident. Police have launched a search for him and are probing the cause of the accident.

Vikarabad district superintendent of police Sneha Mehra instructed officials to ensure immediate medical care for the injured and regulate traffic on the busy ghat road. "We are taking steps to shift those who suffered serious injuries to super-speciality hospitals," the SP said. The state govt announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of the deceased and Rs 1 lakh each to those who suffered serious injuries. "A case has been registered against the travels company and the driver. We will take strong action against."

Chennai's out-of-school kids return to school but struggle without bridge courses

CHENNAI (Agency).

For the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), getting an out-of-school child back into a classroom may mark the success of a door-to-door survey. But, as the GCC has brought more than a thousand out-of-school children back into formal education, lack of bridge courses to regain basic learning skills has left many struggling to cope with the regular curriculum.

The GCC enrolled 619 children in schools and 396 in ITIs, diploma, polytechnic and other training programmes. It was observed that school-returned children are facing greater difficulty in learning than those who joined vocational programmes, where learning is largely practical.

Several children who spoke to said they are finding it difficult even to read English letters, write basic sentences, and understand fundamental concepts after a year or more away from school.

Saranya, a high school student from South Chennai, had to drop out after she was abandoned by her parents. After being re-enrolled through the GCC's drive, she was placed directly in a regular classroom with students who had been attending school continuously.

"I can manage Tamil now, but English, Social Science and other subjects seem alien to me. I can't even read or remember what I study," she said. "I am also afraid to tell my teachers that I do not understand the concepts, especially in front of the whole class," she said. Residing with her relatives, who often ask her to do household chores, she said, "I have no one to share how I continue to struggle with all this amid reading and writing."

The GCC is also yet to engage psychologists to counsel children returning after prolonged breaks.

Oppn in Thane seeks action against 'Aaka' amid 52 murders, demands CBI probe into Sena UBT man's killing

Thane (Agency).

Opposition parties on Saturday urged chief minister Devendra Fadnavis to identify and rein in the "Aaka" (mastermind) of Thane, pointing out over 52 murders reported in the region this year, including the recent killing of a police sub-inspector, which they claimed had raised safety concerns for residents.

The figures were mentioned at a joint news conference by Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (SP), MNS and local alliance partners, where they announced a protest march on Friday to condemn the killing of UBT functionary Pradeep Purnekar.

"We will hold a morcha and march to Thane police headquarters to draw CM Fadnavis' attention to the deteriorating law-and-order situation. The city has also witnessed a spurt in the blatant trade of contraband, with little apparent fear of the law," said former UBT MP Rajan Vichare and NCP (SP) MLA Jitendra Awhad. Vichare also criticised deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde for his silence on Purnekar's killing.

Meanwhile, UBT state functionary Sushma Andhare questioned whether Purnekar's repeated RTI applications—seeking information on alleged discrepancies in the caste certificate submitted by corporator and former mayor Meenakshi Shinde during



elections, as well as alleged irregularities in a builder's construction of a parking tower—could have triggered the attack and demanded a CBI probe.

"There are official records showing Balu Dada had sought information through RTI. We have also been told that the accused may have met at a restaurant in the Pawar Nagar area, where some financial transactions also happened ahead of the incident.

The police should examine CCTV footage and investigate accordingly," Andhare said during a press interaction, where she challenged Meenakshi Shinde to undergo narcoanalysis tests if she was confident of her innocence.

Shiv Sena MP Jyoti Waghmare, addressing the media in Thane, rejected the opposition's allegations and said the UBT was targeting Deputy CM Shinde out of frustration.

3 Army men among 7 more held in arms theft case

Hyderabad (Agency).

Bollaram police on Saturday arrested seven more accused, including three serving Army personnel, in connection with the theft of firearms from the Madras Regiment. Investigators said the prime accused, former havildar U Mallesh, had meticulously planned the offence and intended to sell the stolen weapons through contacts in West Bengal while also using them to carry out robberies and extortion.

The arrests follow Mallesh's 10-day police custody, during which he allegedly disclosed details of the conspiracy involving K Sheshulu (36), a sepoy posted at the Madras Regiment; Vinod Kumar (34), a naik in charge of the regiment's armoury (Kote); K Praveen (37), a havildar with the regiment's 16th battalion in Tamil Nadu; Birbal Shaw (27), a juice vendor; Avi Dey (32), an alleged illegal firearms supplier from Barrackpore in West Bengal; U Mallikarjun (39), a mason and Mallesh's



cousin; and Ch Niranjana (39), a grocery shop owner from Nagarkurnool district.

According to Malkajigiri police commissioner B Sumathi, Mallesh was pensioned out of Army service in June after 16 years due to knee ailment and disciplinary issues, though he wanted to continue for three more years. Investigators believe he harboured resentment against senior officers following his premature retirement. "Mallesh got Rs 22 lakh after retirement. But the amount was not sufficient

for his financial needs as he had recently built a house and purchased a plot in Nagarkurnool district. He also purchased a car. Mallesh was involved in two burglaries before joining the Army and in one offence, he stole Rs 2 lakh worth of valuables. His mindset has not changed even after joining the Army, and after the early retirement against his wishes, Mallesh decided to steal firearms to sell for profit and use them to commit bank or jewellery shop robberies. He also planned to extort businessmen and politicians," the commissioner said. She said Mallesh offered the other accused a share in the weapons' sale. She added that Mallesh's criminal background may not have surfaced during recruitment verification as he allegedly used the name Raju. Sumathi said that Seshulu followed some Pakistan-linked social media handles, while Birbal has suspicious contacts. "We are verifying all the details but as of now, no terror-related.

Eiffel Tower row: 'Never asked for removal of female staff', says BAPS monk

The statement follows the September 29 announcement by the chief of the company operating the Eiffel Tower that he will be stepping down at the end of this year, following the controversy, AFP reported.

Ahmedabad (Agency).

Nearly a month after the Eiffel Tower controversy, a senior monk of the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Sect (BAPS) has said that the organisation had been given a "clean chit" and that it had never asked for the removal of female staff, referring to an investigation by the Parisian authorities.

Eiffel Tower was closed for a day on September 7 after employees protested the removal of female staff during a private visit by a delegation of the Ahmedabad-headquartered BAPS on September 5. The delegation was led by its chief Mahant

Swami. The visit was part of the Festival of Culture organised in Paris as part of the opening of the group's temple last month.

In a video statement on Friday, Brahmavihari Swami said, "The city of Paris had nominated an independent agency—the Inspector General of the city of Paris—which conducted a completely neutral investigation, and BAPS has a clean chit. They (BAPS) never asked for the removal [of female staff]. Authorities have mentioned that the probe clears BAPS."

He added, "Somebody created a misunderstanding regarding the spiritual

disciplines of a 'sadhu'. Brahmacharya is one of the four stages of the Hindu dharma,



and a little confusion was created across the world." The General Inspectorate of the City

of Paris (IGVP) investigation reportedly found that there had been "no explicit request" from BAPS regarding the removal of female staff. The statement follows the September 29 announcement by the chief of the company operating the Eiffel Tower that he will be stepping down at the end of this year, following the controversy, AFP reported. Patrick Branco Ruivo has been the director general of the Société d'Exploitation de la tour Eiffel (SETE) since 2018. SETE said the probe found "operational flaws and shortcomings" that resulted in the "unacceptable" exclusion of female staff, as per the report.

CJP faces FIR for unlawful assembly, traffic disruption at Shivaji Park protest in Mumbai

KOTTAYAM (Agency).

Police registered an FIR against Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) for allegedly holding an unlawful assembly, raising slogans, disrupting the smooth flow of traffic and using loudspeakers without permission during a protest at Shivaji Park on Friday.

CJP supporters were protesting, demanding the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar over concerns surrounding Election Commission and SIR. According to the FIR, around 400 to 500 unidentified supporters and protesters, including CJP members Ajinkya Shinde, Pranay Ahire, Ashutosh Ranka, Abhijeet Dipke, Saurav Das, Afreen Nawaz, Soumya Korde, Ankit Bhardwaj, Vijay Malangi and Yogesh Ingale, gathered at the protest venue at 2 pm and stayed put until 7 pm. According to the FIR, the protesters gathered on a public road, allegedly



obstructed traffic and raised slogans, leading to a law-and-order situation. Police also alleged that loudspeakers were used to address the gathering without the required

permission. The FIR has been registered under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including those relating to unlawful assembly and

disobedience of a lawful order, along with provisions of the Maharashtra Police Act. CJP organised a 'Jail Bhao' protest on Friday, demanding the immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, amid reports of differences within Election Commission.

Despite heavy police deployment and denial of formal permission for the protest at Shivaji Park, a large number of citizens and supporters gathered at the venue. Meanwhile, Shivaji Park resident and advocate Siddhi Deolekar too filed a police complaint against Abhijeet Dipke and others, alleging illegal gathering and protest. Deolekar said she lodged the complaint against Dipke, Ashutosh Ranka, Saurav Das and Ratna Singh, alleging that they proceeded with the protest and attempted to gather a large crowd despite not having any required permissions.

Power of two, shadow of three, an order in flux

Upon Xi Jinping's arrival for a State visit to the United States on September 23, 2026, US President Donald Trump personally went to Joint Base Andrews to receive the Chinese President. The welcome featured a red carpet and a military ceremony, including an ostentatious bomber flypast. It felt like déjà vu, except last time Trump travelled to Anchorage, Alaska on August 15, 2025 to receive Russian President Vladimir Putin on the tarmac. Although the US-China summit that followed in Washington had more spectacle than substance, the modesty of the deliverables is the story itself. It continued a pattern from the Busan and Beijing encounters in October 2025 and May 2026, respectively, where Trump framed the meetings as 'G2' moments.

Economist C Fred Bergsten first floated the idea of a US-China condominium or G2 in 2005, imagining shared leadership through existing institutions rather than their abolition. China itself once promoted the related idea of a 'new type of great power relations', founded on mutual respect for sovereignty and core interests. The present understanding of G2 is less a scheme of institutional co-governance than an acknowledgement that Washington and Beijing possess disproportionate material power, and that decisions between them have consequences far beyond their bilateral relationship. Simultaneously, another configuration exists in the same landscape: a triumvirate, or troika, rather than a dyad. Moscow remains materially weaker than either the US or China in economic scale, but it retains the largest nuclear arsenal on the planet, enormous military reach and energy leverage, and a proven capacity to disrupt the calculations of stronger economies. It forces upon us a profound and unsettling question: as the world wanders, shocked and grieving, through the ruins of the old order, are we witnessing the birth pangs of a new, more concentrated world order? A G2, a duopoly of American and Chinese power, or perhaps a G3, a troika that also accommodates a revanchist Russia? G2's allure lies in its simplicity: the two largest economies, the two most powerful militaries, and the two most consequential technological ecosystems would agree on a framework for stability, leaving the rest of the world to adapt. It is a pragmatic, transactional approach that prioritises managing great-power competition over the messy, multilateral consensus-building of the post-war era. For Washington, this is a form of burden-sharing, a way to manage its relative decline by ceding some regional hegemony to Beijing in exchange for stability in the core arenas of global concern. For Beijing, it is the ultimate recognition of its status as a peer competitor, validating its century-long quest for national rejuvenation. Yet, for all its apparent logic, the G2 is a profoundly destabilising proposition for the rest of the world. It risks creating a system of hierarchical control where the interests of all other nations, from the European continent to India to Brazil, are subsumed by the whims and rivalries of the two.

The narrowly expansive alternative is G3, in which Washington manages both rivals at once, inverting the logic Henry Kissinger pioneered in the 1970s, when the opening to China was designed to isolate Moscow. Its central argument is the 'paradox of dual-containment': Washington's efforts to confront China and Russia simultaneously can encourage greater Sino-Russian cooperation, increase American strategic overstretch, and generate alliance fatigue. In that formulation, Russia is not necessarily a peer competitor to either Washington or Beijing; it is the disruptive third vertex whose actions alter the other two's calculations. A potential G3 is also a pressure-regulating layer atop three subordinate frameworks in Northeast Asia: US-Japan-South Korea deterrence, China-Japan-South Korea cooperation, and a China-Russia-North Korea axis. For Moscow, this is a vital path back to the top tier, a way to transcend its pariah status and reassert its great-power prerogative. Its 'no limits' partnership with China, as detailed in Global Affairs, provides the foundational axis for such a configuration, a shared desire to counter Western dominance and reshape the international system.

Revisiting the Constituent Assembly debate on the ECI

China has halved its US holdings, while Japan is moving away too

OF late, there has been increasing concern about the institutional wellbeing of the Election Commission of India (ECI). The institutional decline in terms of the ECI's autonomy and neutrality has been flagged. It is in this context that this comment revisits the Constituent Assembly (CA) debate proceedings concerning the ECI, held from May 16 to June 15, 1949 (Constituent Assembly Debate: Official Report. 2014. Lok Sabha Publication, Vol. VIII, pp. 915-61). The revisit serves three purposes. First, it tells us about the way the founding members envisaged the broad nature of the institutional framework of the ECI. Second, revisiting enables us to discover the 'original intent' of the Constitution makers while instituting the ECI as an election management body. Third, it also helps in discussing about to what extent the institution has been able to live up to its expectations in its seven-and-a-half-decade existence. And, how the long-term question mark over its neutrality can be attributed to a certain oversight of the CA members. The ECI may well be regarded as an 'original' institutional innovation of the CA as there was no election management body (EMB) in colonial India, nor in the Great Britain. The CA debate, while envisaging the ECI, mainly veered around three issues. First, whether the ECI was to be made a permanent constitutional body or to be set up just before every General Election. The members decided for permanency because they correctly anticipated that the five-year electoral cycle might be disrupted in future. Second, the members also debated whether to institute the ECI as a centralised integrated institution or, alternatively, set up a separate commission for each constituent state as per the federal principle.

BR Ambedkar, supported by KM Munshi, defended the proposal to structure the ECI as a centralised institution on the grounds that the presence of a 'mixed nature of population' in some provinces led to the fear that there could have been deliberate exclusion of racial or linguistic minorities if elections were to be held under the jurisdiction of the provincial executive. Third, how to ensure the independence and neutrality of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the ECs was another important part of the debate. Members like HN Kunzru and Shibban Lal Saxena raised their apprehension that, with the appointment process remaining under the exclusive control of the Central government, there would be the temptation to appoint a 'staunch party man'.

The members were keen that the ECI should remain independent and separate from the executive branch in order to ensure 'purity of election for fairness in elections'. Saxena proposed the provision of a parliamentary two-thirds majority to ratify the



appointments so that "everyone, even in opposition, may not have anything to say against the Commission." Ambedkar proposed an 'Instrument of Instruction' in place for the purpose of appointments. On the suggestion of Munshi, Clause 2 was added to the draft Article 289 (now 324), stipulating that the appointing power of the President shall be 'subject to the provisions of any law made on that behalf by Parliament'. Saxena and Kunzru also raised their concerns about the manner of removal of the ECs, asking for the same security of tenure to be accorded to them as for the CEC. While the 1950 Constitution did provide for the security of tenure of the CEC, it was inexplicably left for the future Parliament to legislate about the appointment procedure.

The critique

While the CA can be lauded for framing the ECI as a permanent federal body with constitutional mandate, it can be critiqued on the following grounds.

First, leaving the appointing power subject to legislation by future Parliament and allowing the government a free hand till then, an instance of 'constitutional incrementalism', needs to be questioned. Was it not quite naïve on the part of the CA members to think that the political executive that invariably dominates the legislature in a parliamentary system would be willingly ready to give up 'such a valuable power' — as evident in

the way the NDA government moved quickly to legislate, upturning the court judgment in the Anoop Baranwal vs Union of India, constituting a collegium comprising not only the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition but also a neutral Chief Justice of India? Second, while the broad constitutional framework, as envisaged in Article 324, has allowed both a 'judicially active' Supreme Court and 'activist' CECs in the past, a 'solid underpinning' to lay down new electoral rules and procedures whenever the legislative bodies have been 'slow to give guidance', it has also led to instances of 'overreach' by the ECI, raising doubt about the institutional neutrality. Third, election commissioners (ECs) not being given the same constitutional safeguards as in the case of the CEC regarding the security of their tenure (they can be removed by the President simply on the recommendation of the CEC), despite now having the same powers post the TN Seshan vs Union of India judgment, undermines the position of the ECs, coming in the way of the democratic functioning of the ECI, having serious fallouts, like seen in the case of the resignations of Ashok Lavasa and Arun Goel. The past and the present experiences have shown that the CA members would have done well to take care of drafting a more detailed institutional framework, both on mapping out the ECI mandate and the appointment and security of the tenure of election commissioners.

Iraq 23 years later: War is over, but its consequences aren't

Terrorism cannot be defeated merely by taking over a territory, defeating commanders or changing regimes. Nor can security be outsourced indefinitely to foreign armies

Twenty-three years after the United States invaded Iraq, the last American troops have left. Washington calls it the end of its military mission; Baghdad terms it another step towards full sovereignty. But history will certainly be less forgiving. Iraq was invaded on the claim that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction, an assertion that proved false, and the war was declared effectively won long before its consequences had even begun to unfold. The famous "Mission Accomplished" moment in 2003 captured the Iraq war's central illusion: military victory could be confused with political settlement. The invasion toppled Saddam Hussein, but it also dismantled institutions, deepened sectarian divisions, fuelled civil conflict and helped create the conditions in which the Islamic State could emerge. Lakhs of Iraqis died, more than 4,500 American service members were killed and an entire region was thrown into turmoil. The US left in 2011, only to return three years later when the Islamic State swept across territory, captured Mosul and proclaimed its caliphate. No doubt the US-led coalition eventually destroyed that territorial



caliphate. US President Donald Trump now says there was no reason to turn a temporary mission into a permanent presence. Yet the distinction between ending a military mission and ending a multidimensional conflict is vital. The Islamic State has lost its territory, but extremist networks, sectarian politics, armed militias and regional rivalries have not disappeared. The larger question is what fills the space left behind. Baghdad must

demonstrate that its own security institutions can contain both militia power and the threat of an Islamic State resurgence. The American withdrawal, therefore, might close one chapter without guaranteeing a stable next one. For India, the lesson matters even more. Speaking at the Asia Society in New York, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar recently stressed that terrorism is one of New Delhi's central security concerns. He warned that a partner's insufficient understanding of cross-border terrorism can affect bilateral relations. That is Iraq's enduring lesson. Terrorism cannot be defeated merely by taking over a territory, defeating commanders or changing regimes. Nor can security be outsourced indefinitely to foreign armies. The next phase must focus on capable national institutions, accountable governments, intelligence cooperation, and a refusal to distinguish between 'convenient' and 'inconvenient' forms of terrorism. Americans have gone home, but Iraq's strategic consequences will endure in West Asia and far beyond for decades.

Military academies must raise the bar

There is a pressing need to review the selection procedure and training methodology

THE Indian armed forces, apart from contributing to the defence and security of the nation, also form a distinctive strand in India's multi-ethnic and multi-religious fabric. In the chaos that often prevails, they not only embody order and discipline and uphold our democratic, secular traditions but also set high standards of integrity, professionalism and excellence for their compatriots. For these reasons, our military leaders were held in high regard by civil society as exemplars of honourable and ethical conduct. But today, we find that the armed forces are slipping in the estimation of their fellow Indians, not only because of occasional misdemeanours but also due to signs of politicisation and public display of religiosity among the higher ranks. India's social and economic transformation has been accompanied by a steep decline in standards of private and public conduct. Hand in hand with corruption goes the politicisation of every system, including the police, the bureaucracy, the legal framework and the media. Communalism and parochialism are on open display at election time since votes are sought on the basis of region, caste and religion. The slide in the military's ethical standards is often justified on the grounds that since soldiers are drawn from society, their conduct is bound to reflect prevailing societal norms. This facile logic must be firmly rejected. Not only does every soldier swear an oath of allegiance to the Constitution, but also the armed forces have traditionally set their own standards and codes of conduct and are governed by stringent disciplinary regulations. It was their adherence to this self-imposed code — not their place in the Warrant of Precedence — that earned them a high standing in society. More than just a shield against external threats, the armed forces serve as a fundamental anchor of the country's social stability and national well-

being. In order to maintain the public's trust as well as its own internal cohesion, our military leadership requires rigorous grounding in key foundational pillars such as upright and ethical conduct, secular principles and apolitical neutrality. There is an old saying: "Mighty oaks from little acorns grow." To produce military leaders with a strong moral fibre, fit to occupy leadership positions, the defence forces must groom candidates along the right path from the earliest possible stage. Apart from the tri-service National Defence Academy (NDA), five key institutions impart ab initio training — ranging from 12 months to four years — before commissioning young men and women as officers. It is the rigorous physical and academic training, along with the mental inculcation imparted in these "cradles of leadership", that moulds the character of these youth forever. Having passed out of the NDA's portals in 1964, I returned 33 years later as its Commandant to find that the institution had seen vast improvement in infrastructure and facilities, the enhanced syllabi and above all, the motivation levels of the young trainees. But what came as a nasty surprise was the advent of a new ethos, which required a cadet to possess a basic "skill set" for survival.

This included cheating, manhandling juniors, minor theft and even impersonation — all against the academy's rules and unheard of when I was a cadet in the 1960s. Even more dismaying was the benign and tolerant attitude of the training staff towards such misdemeanours. Many of the young staff officers believed that not only was such conduct an "academy tradition," but that unless a "smart" cadet was resourceful enough to "beg, borrow or steal" a few small things and tough enough to give and take a little

manhandling, he would be useless as an officer!

If we were to examine past or recent trespasses by senior officers which have earned the armed forces a bad name, the fundamental cause of misdemeanours is the inability of an individual to distinguish between the "easier wrong" and the "harder right". It becomes obvious that the



instincts that motivate a young cadet to commit minor offences in the academy mutate into serious character flaws in later years and erode the integrity of senior officers, leading them to commit ethical lapses. A number of disturbing trends have been emerging from our service academies, but they do not seem to evoke the necessary alarm or remedial responses from the military hierarchy. There have been periodic fatalities among cadets and a growing number of withdrawals at early stages of training in academies. These indicate that the

selection processes employed by the Union Public Service Commission and the Services Selection Boards, including the medical criteria, may have become outdated and need drastic revision. This is also a reflection not only on the physical training methodology and syllabi being followed but also on the unwarranted liberty granted to senior cadets to conduct "training" (ragging?) of juniors.

The selection of training staff — both military and civilian — needs to be far more stringent and discriminating so that only persons who can provide mature and sensible guidance shape the trainees' outlook. In this context, the academy's Commandant exerts an outsized influence on the cadet body — by his personality as well as personal example. Unfortunately, this post is often treated as a convenient short-term parking slot by service headquarters (HQs) and some "hand-picked" incumbents have even been removed from command for serious misconduct. Finally, many Commandants have taken liberties with the training curriculum and even the customs and traditions of these institutions by making arbitrary changes. Such matters need to be codified in the form of a "Blue Book", approved by service HQs for implementation in letter and spirit by the Commandant and the staff.

The quality of the nation's military leadership is an issue important enough for the Chiefs of Staff Committee to take urgent note of. It's time for them to convene a high-level military commission to review the processes for the selection and induction of officer candidates into the services, evaluate the training syllabi and methodology being followed in our service academies and recommend reforms where required.

How Robots

are bringing about a new

lifestyle!



With robotics bridging the gap between technology and the way we live, it's all about a human-humanoid interaction now.

Exploring new frontiers

The Antarctic has long been a worry for scientists as to how they would learn more about the sea there, but in recent news, a robot has allowed scientists to map the sea ice in 3D. Jaguar, a 300-pound yellow robotic vehicle helped them gain valuable information on the thickening of the ice. Industrial robots are also building cars and other transport. And when it comes to finding out more about the tricky, hostile environment of space, it's the robots that have to be credited with the exploring. Robotic missions have been sent to the Moon, Mars, Venus, Titan and Jupiter. This May, in a giant leap in engineering, robot Dextre (by the Canadian Space Agency) repaired the International Space Station's Canadian robotic arm in space.

Hospitality

Say hello to the army of robo-chefs!

Fancy a machine serving you a virgin mojito? Did you know, as per reports this November, a 'smart' Caribbean cruise liner had robots mixing drinks in what is called the world's first 'smart ship'. As patrons place orders on tablets and a wall displays their wait time, the jerky, drink-mixing bots used mechanical arms to pull down bottles, adding mixes, shaking and stirring. In Harbin, China, robots have been serving tables at an eatery. They dish up dumplings, noodles and wait on diners. As per a report, when someone walks in, they say, 'Earth person hello. Welcome to the Robot Restaurant.' Once the orders are placed, the robots get into the kitchen and cook the meals. Two Chinese students at a university also came up with a 'wok robot' that can dish up 600 dishes! A Japanese firm has come up with an engineering masterpiece — a six speed sushi-making robot — capable of churning 2,500 pieces of sushi per hour! And it's not just terra firma, you can

expect to be served by a flying robot — the first commercial attempt of its kind — by the end of 2015! The demo was presented this November to Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and these futuristic automated waiters are set to be launched at an outlet in Singapore then.

Helping at home

This is how tech-savvy equipment is going to change basic domestic chores and make life easier for you! The Cocorobo, a Japanese premium vacuum robot, that's part of the smart home system, cleans your floors, tells you the weather and more. The Scooba can vacuum and wash floors at the same time. There are also window cleaners

and lawn mowers as well as robot pool cleaners. And if you're tired with all that cooking on a weeknight, Armar can come to the rescue! Called a 'kitchen companion', he fetches stuff from the fridge and does the dishes too!

Correct your golf swing

Always regretted that bad swing that has been spoiling your golf game? Now, a 10-foot-tall robot in South Seattle called RoboGolfPro, wants to help you. It can be programmed in a various ways to allow golfers to realise the correct move and thus improve their game.

Handcrafted yet mindblowing

The items on display at the West Bengal State Handicraft Expo are the perfect pointers to what a little creativity can do to everyday stuff.

The colours on the 'pat' just don't mingle to form a 'chitra'; they are statements woven into a story. The terracotta skull ashtray reminds one of the fate of many a smoker. The miniature busts and figurines carved out of coconut shells and ornamental items made from fish scales are instances of perfect waste management, while the seemingly delicious Bengali dishes are rock solid. Watch your teeth!

All these and more such out-of-the-box items are on display at the 22nd West Bengal State Handicraft Expo 2014-2015, which was inaugurated on November 21 at the Milan Mela ground. Apart from being an attempt by the state government to promote artisans and their crafts, it is a platform to highlight individual talents. TOI takes you through the stalls of the few districts whose artisans have been able to pull crowd.

Darjeeling



Tanned tribal soldiers armed with spears stand as mute gatekeepers at the expo entrance. Made out of wood from the Gamhar — a tree found at high altitudes, these figurines, according to Naxalbari artisan Pradeep Singh, 35, takes at least two days to carve. Singh, who has been at it for 20 years now, said kwash ink is used for highlighting and texturing the figurines. Animal masks and miniatures, all made from the same material, are also on display at the stall.

Hooghly

Ashok Jha has created his miniature fairground, comprising a merry-go-round, human figures and other fun rides, completely out of springs and bolts. The set, priced at '40,000, has a hi-tech look with a touch of ethnicity. The 37-year-old artisan from Bandel also has religious wall decorations, made with acrylic paint, wood and putty, on display — all priced between

'4,000 and '16,000. On the other hand, the imitation food dishes by Shibnath Barai, 49, are just mind-blowing! Barai — the creator of the Science City dinosaur exhibits — has used fibreglass to mould pieces of fish and chicken drumsticks and pigment colours to provide the texture. The dishes will leave you dearest by '300 and '700. Would you be interested to buy rotten fruits and eggs for '100 per pair? Well, he has these on offer too!

Shubhankar Bakshi, 44, on the other hand, makes fabulous miniatures, especially of monkeys, out of coconut shells. "I just use a plain knife to give shape to the coconut fibres. I don't tamper with the natural construct," he said. His other creations include coconut fibre crabs and other marine creatures and mini dolls made of mahogany fruits.

His health warning to smokers is a sickening green terracotta skull ashtray! According to Baraipur artisan Govind Chandra Pal, the ashtray happened by accident. "A friend of mine once commented that everything relating to smoking should come with a warning. I liked the concept and the ashtray was the result." But the warning comes with a price tag — '70.

Paschim Midnapore

You'd probably want a piece of art that tells a story. Saleha Chitrakar, 26, is the person whose exceptionally meticulous 'patchitra' evokes the same idea. The colours have been churned out of natural substances like turmeric, sheel leaves, aparajita flowers and burnt rice. Apart from the paintings on canvas that range from '700-1,500, she also has handmade fans and khuntis, priced at '50 each.

Dakshin Dinajpur

Have a penchant for indigenous Incan masks? Forget about travelling to Machu Picchu, because artisan Bubai Baisya has just the right stuff, and that too between '400 and '1,200 apiece. The 26-year-old artisan carves bamboo with a batali and uses blue lamps to smoke the masks and give these an antique look. Also on display are engraved owls on flower vases, again made of bamboo stems.

South 24 Parganas

If you lay eyes on Suman Saha's earrings and trinkets, you'll think twice before throwing away fish scales and endoskeletons. Why? Well, the artisan creates her ornaments with just these, using glass paint, acrylic colours and glitters. The price tag: '30 to '100.

How to remove common stains at home

How often have you poured something on your dress and toiled to get the stain out? Even when you run it through water or hand wash it, the stain stays put because every stain is different and must be treated differently. Here are some effective ways to get common stains out.

Stains from drinks like coffee, tea, alcohol, fruit juices and

soft drinks:

Soak the stain in cool water for 10 minutes and using either a bar of soap, liquid detergent or a paste made with washing powder and water, dab on the stain and rub.

Before the paste dries, wash the dress with detergent in hot water.

Chocolates: Try to scrape off as much of it as you can with a blunt-edged knife. Soak in warm soapy water and if a brown stain is still visible, soak in a mix of water with sanitizer and rinse with warm water.

Cosmetics: Before you put the dress for wash, dab on the stain with either a prewash stain remover or a paste of washing powder with water.

Oil: Using a tissue, remove

the excess oil. Wet the stain and apply liquid detergent directly on the stain and leave it for 15-20 minutes. Wash with hot water. Alternatively, try putting a paper on both sides of the stain and ironing over the paper.

Things to remember

- Always take the stain out before you wash your dress.
- Always blot the stain, don't rub.
- The longer you leave the stain, the more difficult it is to remove.
- Nail polish stains are close to impossible to remove, so the best thing would be careful about not spilling it on your dress.





Give your Bedroom a romantic touch

Considering that we spend a major part of our lives in our bedrooms, we should make it one of the most comfortable zones in our homes. It should be a room that spells romance and makes you feel good as soon as you step inside — a space that stimulates your senses. So, what do you need to make your boudoir a cosy love nest? Read on to find out some tips...

Make it look great:

The way your bedroom is lit, can make or break the look you want to create. Interior designer Ketki Passi says, "The right kind of lighting can help create a romantic ambience."

Candles can work wonders — they are what romance is all about. The mysterious light and shadow effect of a candle can give a very special aura to your bedroom. Bright, harsh bulbs are a big no-no. For the ideal romantic look dim, soft lights are key. Use heavy curtains to escape the glare of harsh street-lights. Of course, table and floor lamps are

indispensable.

Make it comfortable:

A bed that looks comfortable is a basic essential here. Four-poster beds look romantic. Use light fabric drapes in pastel shades around the bed to get a soft look. When it comes to bedspreads and covers, avoid rough and uncomfortable fabrics

— soft, smooth and comfortable ones like satin, silk and very good quality airy cotton are essential. Using sexy colours makes your room look, well, sexy. Choose bright bold colours like red, orange or rust. Place plush pillows on the bed of different sizes to make it look comfortable and inviting. Two large pillows, four medium

have a romantic essence to it, don't you think?



rectangular pillows and around four to five smaller square cushions. A fluffy and soft comforter can add to the romantic look.

Prioritise privacy:

Curtains spell romance — pretty, flimsy, sheer curtains that sway with the breeze, light ones in lovely pastel shades that leave you feeling calm and relaxed. Of course, you should also have those heavy drapes to guard your privacy.

Indulge the senses:

Romance is about titillating the senses and the sense of smell is important. Spraying room freshener is passe. Opt for fragrances of incense sticks, scented sachet, aromatic candles in lavender, vanilla, and camomile etc. Go and have fun doing up your bedroom!



5 cool makeover tips for your Room

Interior designer Rakshita Singh gives some simple design tips that can add some drama in your bedroom decor.

When decorating your bedroom, you need to make sure that your aesthetics are in place and more importantly, you need to ascertain whether you want the 'me only' look for your bedroom or the 'we' look. Here are some simple design tips that can add drama to your bedroom decor...

Keep the magic alive:

Dedicate one wall of your room to your partner with a large number of tiny framed photographs in a heart shape. This will remind you of each other and the best times you have spent together. It will also help to keep the magic alive.

All about the 'we' not 'me':

It's not about his or her, BUT it's about 'WE'. Opt for more neutral tones of colour like beige, purple and whites when renovating a room for a newly married couple.

Add some romantic drama:

Add some extra canopy of cloth in your bedroom to add some drama and closure. Choose and name your bed sides before you get hitched by putting the name above your bed heads.

Make a cozy nook:

Adding a love seat in a bright and attractive colour to your bedroom decor can jazz it up.

Light it right:

Add some drama by adding tea lights and lamps in the corner of your rooms. It does make it romantic.

Plan ahead:

Even if you are a great believer in spontaneity, give that a miss. Give attention to planning to avoid any last minute trouble. A day of prep here and there will make the lead-up to your party much more manageable. Apart from your food and drinks, do pay attention to your playlist, flower arrangement, lighting and the like.

Choose a theme:

Let us admit that everybody loves a theme. It might not be a



4 ways to organise a cool party

When you are entertaining, do it with a sense of ease and elegance. Here are four simple ways to throw a party which will make the guests feel at home

very very strict theme but people enjoy the party when a theme is there. A theme actually adds more fun and life to a party. Don't go overboard but give a little crazy thinking while choosing a party theme.

It's all in the details:

Yes, life's in the details. It's the little things that make people smile, and remember even long after your party is over. Keep in mind the likes and dislikes of your guests. If you have kids accompanying the adults in the party, remember to keep their food and drinks preference in mind.

Be a relaxed host:

When you are throwing a party at home, don't behave like a caterer. Don't run around like a worried soul. Remember, it's just a party. The whole point of a party is to spend time with your guests in the spirit of celebration. So, just relax and soak in the mood of fun and revelry.

How to take care of your Woollen clothes

- * Use lukewarm water and baby shampoo or a light detergent for washing woollen clothes.
- * Regularly brush up your coats and jackets to avoid any bacteria breeding on them.
- * Dry them in the shade; else they will lose their colour and sheen.
- * Fold and then store the heavy sweaters instead of hanging them.
- * Try wearing the woollen clothes after a gap of two or three days as it takes times for them to regain their original shape.



Woollens are hard to maintain but they can last you a long time if you take good care of them. Few tips to maintain your woollens:



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta lays foundation of waste processing, biogas plant; inspects Okhla landfill

Delhi generates around 13,500 tonnes of municipal waste every day, while MCD currently processes around 60 per cent of the waste generated in the city.

Delhi. (Agency)

In a move aimed at increasing Delhi's capacity to process fresh waste, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is setting up three new waste-processing plants at Okhla, Singhola and Ghazipur, along with a 300-TPD (tonnes per day) biogas plant at Ghazipur. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday laid the foundation stones for the three plants and the biogas facility, virtually from the Okhla landfill site and carried out a site inspection as well. Delhi generates around 13,500 tonnes of municipal waste every day, while MCD currently processes around 60 per cent of the waste generated in the city. The three new plants will add 2,900 TPD of fresh-waste processing capacity, helping bridge the gap between the waste generated and the quantity being scientifically processed. The Okhla plant will have a capacity of 1,400 TPD, while the Singhola and Ghazipur plants will process 800

TPD and 700 TPD, respectively. The civic body's survey identified approximately 125,000 cattle across Delhi, which generate roughly 1,500 tons of dung daily. MCD was directed by central and state authorities to intercept this waste and prevent it from entering city drains and polluting the Yamuna. A 300-TPD biogas plant for biodegradable waste is being set up at Ghazipur to prevent this waste from entering and polluting Yamuna. The projects are aimed at strengthening Delhi's fresh-waste processing infrastructure and preventing waste generated each day from adding to the burden of the existing landfills. The civic body is also constructing two more decentralised fresh-waste processing plants with a combined capacity of nearly 3,000 TPD, which will be operational in the coming year,

officials said. Biogas plants at Goyla and Ghoga are set to be operational in the next two months, they added. Meanwhile, Gupta, during her inspection of Okhla landfill site on



Saturday, reviewed the status of waste disposal, land reclaimed and the capacity of the new processing facilities. She directed officials to make the new units operational at the earliest

and at their full capacity. The expansion of fresh-waste processing capacity comes alongside efforts to clear legacy waste from Delhi's three landfill sites. According to government figures, 217.17 lakh metric tonnes of waste have been disposed of from Okhla, Bhalswa and Ghazipur over the past 18 months, freeing nearly 100 acres of land. MCD officials said the Okhla and Bhalswa landfill sites are expected to be cleared within three months, while the target for clearing Ghazipur is December 2027. Gupta said clearing the existing landfills would not be sufficient and that the system for processing fresh waste generated every day needed to be strengthened to prevent new garbage mountains from forming.

As activists try to return to Jantar Mantar, around 150 detained amid heavy security

Delhi. (Agency)

For the second consecutive day, protesters demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and raising concerns over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls were stopped from reaching Jantar Mantar, the designated protest site, on Saturday. Around 150 people, including AISA national president Neha Bora, activist Yogendra Yadav, and senior advocate Prashant Bhushan were detained. The police action drew a response from Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, who alleged that there were allegations of misconduct with women protesters during Saturday's



demonstration.

In a post on X, Gandhi referred to a female journalist's allegation against a police officer. "And this isn't the first time — we've seen video evidence before of police officers engaging in disgusting misconduct with women," said Gandhi. He said that Delhi Police comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs, and added that Union Home Minister Amit Shah should "answer for this". After the journalist alleged that Delhi Police was not registering an FIR, several people allegedly squatted outside the Parliament Street police station. Later, a policemen told the gathering that the journalist's complaint has been received and a probe was underway.

Campus gate shut, food for protesters stopped: Ambedkar University students claim 'manhandled by guards'

Delhi. (Agency)

At the gates of Dr B R Ambedkar University's Kashmere Gate campus, students gathered on Saturday with packed food in their hands. It was meant for students and PhD scholars who had been sitting in an indefinite protest for six days inside the campus with demands ranging from drinking water and classrooms to faculty shortages, student representation, and access to campus areas. But those outside the gate alleged that security



guards stopped them from entering the campus and they could not hand over food to the protesters. Blessy, an MA student of Gender Studies, said students were stopped from entering the campus despite many having classes and exams. While alleging that the campus was closed to students on Saturday, she claimed that guards stopped students outside from passing food to the protesters and "manhandled" those trying to receive it. The Public Relations Office of the university, however, said in a statement on Saturday that items being delivered at the gate beyond normal hours were checked by security personnel on safety grounds.

Ex-CBI chief M Nageshwar Rao enters politics, becomes Sarvajana Sanatan Party chief

Former CBI Director M Nageshwar Rao took charge as Sarvajana Sanatan Party national president in Varanasi. He said the party aimed to pair modern development with Sanatan civilisational roots.

Delhi. (Agency)

Former CBI Director M Nageshwar Rao has entered active politics, taking charge as the National President of the Sarvajana Sanatan Party (SSP) in Varanasi on Saturday. Rao announced his new political role from Kashi, marking a new phase in his public career after nearly four decades in security, law and order, and administration.

According to an ANI report, Rao said his experience in public administration had convinced him that India's reconstruction could not be limited to administrative reforms. He said the country needed to pursue modern development while remaining connected to its civilisational roots.

PARTY'S FOUR PILLARS

Rao said the SSP's vision of Sanatan goes beyond a method of worship and represents a way of life based on truth,



dharma, duty, compassion, justice, self-control, nature, family, society and public welfare. The party's stated vision rests on four key pillars — education, health, livelihood and

civilisational reconnection.

On education, the party seeks to connect Indian civilisation, history and knowledge traditions with modern and global-level education. On health, it has outlined a focus on quality and accessible healthcare, combining modern medicine with Indian health traditions. The livelihood pillar focuses on creating respectable livelihood opportunities for youth, farmers, artisans, labourers, small businesses and entrepreneurs. The fourth pillar, civilisational reconnection, places emphasis on India's languages, arts, temples, pilgrimage sites, festivals, knowledge traditions, families and cultural institutions as sources of national strength.

Delhi cooperative housing societies told to conduct comprehensive safety audits of buildings

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi's office of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) has instructed all Cooperative Group Housing Societies (CGHS) in the city to undertake comprehensive safety audits of their buildings and common facilities, with managing committees being made responsible for identifying structural and safety deficiencies and taking remedial action.

A circular dated October 1, citing Rule 106 of the Delhi Cooperative Societies Rules, 2007, placed responsibility on the management committee for repairs and maintenance of the society's property, regular inspection of relevant items and immediate action for their repair and maintenance. It also mentioned the directions issued by the government

regarding safety audits of cooperative group housing societies.

The audit is likely to cover structural safety through qualified structural engineers, verification of valid fire safety certificates or NOCs and proper



functioning of firefighting and safety installations, and verification of valid lift inspection or safety certificates and proper maintenance of lifts.

The RCS has directed societies to

inspect buildings, common areas and facilities to ensure that there is no structural damage, major cracks, seepage, leakage, damage to roofs or external walls, staircases or any condition that could adversely affect the safety of buildings and their occupants. Any serious structural or safety deficiency posing an imminent risk to life or property has to be brought to the notice of the competent authority, with appropriate precautionary measures taken, the circular stated.

The managing committees have also been asked to take immediate remedial action wherever defects are detected. If intervention from a civic or other competent authority is required, societies can approach agencies including the DDA, MCD and Delhi Fire Service and pursue the matter until necessary action is taken.

Delhi govt to conduct topographic, underwater terrain surveys of 48-km Yamuna stretch

Delhi will conduct topographic and underwater bathymetric surveys of the 48-km Yamuna stretch from Palla to Jaitpur to map the riverbed and identify clogged sections.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi government will undertake topographic and bathymetric surveys of the entire 48-km Yamuna stretch from Palla at the Delhi-Haryana border to Jaitpur at the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border to map the riverbed, identify clogged sections and assess changes in the river's course, senior government officials said. A Bathymetric survey measures water depth and maps the three-dimensional shape and contours of underwater terrain. It functions as an underwater equivalent to a land topographic survey. The surveys will also map embankments, spurs, drains, islands, encroachments and ghats within 100 metres of either bank, with the findings expected to aid flood management as well as planned

riverfront development and boat navigation activities, officials said. Besides improving flood management, the government plans to undertake riverfront development projects and boat navigation activities in the river channel, with the survey findings helping in the planning, officials said.

The Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) department invited bids on October 1 to undertake two types of surveys of the river from Palla to Jaitpur. "The bathymetric survey of the Yamuna will cover the entire 48km river course in Delhi. The exercise will undertake cross-sections of the river at every 250m interval. The topographical survey will also develop the contour plan of the river, identify changes in the river's

course and its topography. Both surveys will involve the use of electronic total station machines, echo sounders and sonar systems mounted on motorboats," an official explained. A topographical



survey is an assessment of a site's physical characteristics, including its natural and man-made features and their elevations, to create a comprehensive map. A bathymetric survey maps the

underwater terrain by measuring water depths and can be crucial for understanding the riverbed's condition and for future drainage and riverfront development projects. It maps the underwater terrain, much like a topographic survey maps the land's surface.

"The survey uses technologies like single-beam and multi-beam sonar, acoustic Dopplers, GPS and motion sensors mounted on a boat to map the bed as it passes along the water channel. The sound velocity data and sensor data are fed into software to get a digital map of the surface," the official said. The Yamuna surveys are likely to cost around ₹80 lakh, and the agency will be given eight months to complete the exercise.



SUV hit them from behind. The accident was caught on CCTV cameras installed in the area. A video clip circulating on social media showed a Hyundai Creta taking a left turn and suddenly veering off course and hitting the couple from behind. The impact of the hit was such that the elderly man was flung in the air, while the woman fell on the side of the road, near an electric pole. The clip further showed the woman driving the SUV stepping out of her car and rushing towards where the elderly man is lying. She looks at the man who is lying injured face down on the road and then rushes back to the car and drives away. There are other passersby who also rushed in to help the elderly couple. The woman driver of the car, who hit them reportedly stayed on the road for around 30 seconds, before driving away in her vehicle.

Shopping to streaming apps: Review bank statement to spot wasteful spending

New Delhi. (Agency)

UPI and credit cards are convenient, but they also quietly encourage higher spending — whether through rewards, cashback offers, or the ease of tapping a button. It's easy to lose track and spend far more than originally planned. Add to that the ability to order virtually anything — from food and groceries to makeup and high fashion — at any hour with just a few taps, and the temptation becomes constant. The result is people spending beyond their means, often slipping into a cycle where expenses outpace income. This can lead to rising debt levels as people try to sustain a certain lifestyle. At the same time, excessive spending eats into savings, weakening financial security and casting uncertainty over long-term goals. This is why a thorough inspection of your bank account statement remains central to your financial well-being. Before we get into how to spot wasteful spending in your bank account statement, let us first discuss how to set up a calendar to make this task part of your weekly or monthly routine.

The bank account statement check routine

Bank accounts should ideally be reviewed at least once a week for a quick check and more thoroughly at the end of every month. A weekly scan helps you spot unusual transactions, missed payments, or unnecessary spending early while a monthly review gives a clearer picture of your overall cashflow, recurring expenses and savings patterns. To stay diligent, setting up reminders is key. You can schedule a fixed day each week, say, Sunday evening, for a quick review and a more detailed check at month-end. Use calendar alerts, banking app notifications or expense-tracking apps to flag large transactions and upcoming auto-debits. It also helps to enable SMS or email alerts for every transaction so nothing slips through unnoticed. Building this simple habit ensures better control over your finances and prevents small leaks from turning into bigger problems.

Never miss a bill payment deadline, follow these steps to avoid penalties

New Delhi. (Agency)

Missing a bill payment occasionally may seem like a small mistake but repeated late payments can become expensive. Late fees, extra interest charges, service interruptions and, in some cases, damage to your credit history can make everyday money management harder than it needs to be. The good news is that forgetting bills is often a systems problem rather than a budgeting problem. A few simple routines can reduce missed payments without requiring constant attention. The goal is not to remember every due date by memory, but to create a reliable process that keeps bills moving on time while still allowing you to stay in control of your money.

Why bill misses happen

Most people do not miss bills because they do not care about paying them. Bills are often forgotten because they arrive through different channels, fall on different dates or compete with other priorities. Utility bills may arrive by email, credit card statements through an app and insurance premiums by text message. Without one organised system, it is easy for a due date to slip by. Irregular income can make the problem worse. Someone who is paid on varying dates may postpone a payment until the next deposit arrives and then forget about it. Multiple bank accounts, changing payment methods and recurring subscriptions also increase the chances of missing a due date.

RBI repo rate may climb to 6 pc in FY27; G-Sec yields face upward pressure: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to raise the repo rate by 25 basis points in October, with further hikes likely in FY27 as inflation risks persist, potentially pushing the benchmark rate to 5.75–6 per cent, pressuring G-sec yields, as per a report by Union Bank of India. The lender noted in its report that Indian government bonds remained under pressure in September as high crude oil prices and rising global yields strengthened expectations of RBI rate hikes. At the same time, higher domestic bond supply, including RBI open market operation (OMO) sales and increased long-tenor issuance in the second-half borrowing calendar, added to the pressure and kept yields elevated despite lower overall government borrowing. The pressure was particularly visible in the 5-year segment. Over September, the 5-year G-Sec yield rose 45bps, compared with 24bps for the 10-year, narrowing the 10-year minus 5-year spread from 36 to 16 bps," it noted. It further noted that the government plans gross dated G-Sec borrowing of Rs 7.86 lakh crore in H2FY27, with the gap between budgeted and projected gross borrowing at around Rs 1.1 lakh crore. However, net borrowing remains broadly unchanged "as redemptions have been reduced by aggressive switch auctions, as bond switches have deferred repayments, reducing redemption requirements and refinancing needs in FY27." Higher T-bill issuance and moderately higher state borrowing are also expected to add to market supply. The report further highlighted that the central bank continues to absorb the FCNR(B)-led surplus through variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auctions, open market operation (OMO) sales and foreign exchange swaps.

Adani-run Mumbai airport to redevelop T1 B from Jan 2027, 9% traffic to be affected

Mumbai airport will begin redeveloping the North Section of Terminal 1B from January 2027.

The phased move is aimed at addressing safety concerns while limiting disruption to passengers.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL)-operated Mumbai International Airport Limited will begin the redevelopment of the North Section of Terminal 1B from January 2027, with safety concerns surrounding the 60-year-old building prompting a phased redevelopment of the terminal. Of Mumbai airport's approximately 55

million passengers per annum (mppa), only around 5 mppa, or about 9 per cent, will be temporarily de-operationalised. To ensure continuity of operations and minimise inconvenience to passengers, AAHL has provided airlines with the option to temporarily relocate their operations to Navi Mumbai International Airport at their discretion. AAHL will support airlines through the transition and provide all necessary assistance to ensure a smooth and seamless migration of services. "91% of Mumbai Airport's passenger traffic will remain unaffected even as we undertake redevelopment of the age-old infrastructure that was in urgent need of repairs. Only the North Section of Terminal 1B, which accounts for around one-third of T1 of Mumbai Airport's capacity, is being demolished in Phase 1 to minimise passenger inconvenience and

operational disruption. The transition to Navi Mumbai Airport is temporary and does not represent a permanent shift of Mumbai Airport traffic," said Mr. Arun



Bansal, CEO, Adani Airport Holdings Limited. Terminal 1 has long been identified as a safety-related concern, with only temporary mitigation measures being implemented over the years due to the absence of a viable alternative for

passengers and airlines. Following the fire incident at Terminal 1 in April this year, the risks associated with continuing operations have become even more pronounced. With Navi Mumbai International Airport now operational and capable of providing an alternative option for airlines and travellers, the planned closure and phased demolition of Terminal 1 can no longer be deferred. The redevelopment of T1 will begin from January 2027 and increase its capacity by 33 per cent, up to 20 mppa from the current 15 mppa.

"Extensive consultations with airlines on the future of Terminal 1 have been ongoing since 2020, and the proposed redevelopment was also presented before AERA and subsequently incorporated into the approved tariff framework.

Nayara Energy hikes petrol, diesel rate: Will IOC, HPCL, BPCL follow as crude price rises?

Kolkata. (Agency)

This could have been the worst development just before the festive season begins in India. Nayara Energy has raised petrol prices by ₹5 and diesel by ₹3. The obvious question now is, will the PSU oil marketing companies such as IOC, HPCL and BOCCL follow Nayara's footsteps? The question has become more relevant since in September, the average price of crude oil that Indian refiners have imported has zoomed higher than any level since the West Asia war — \$116.09 per barrel. With 7,108 pumps across India Nayara Energy operates the biggest private-sector petrol pump network. The company is jointly owned by Russia's state oil major Rosneft and

an international consortium including Kesani Enterprises Co Ltd and United Capital Partners. Both of these hold 49.13% stake in



the company. Nayara also raised prices in March. This isn't the first time Nayara has increased petrol and diesel prices this year. On March 26, the company also raised petrol prices by Rs 5 and diesel by

Rs 3 per liter. At that time, the price of petrol at Naira pumps rose to Rs 100.71 and diesel to Rs 91.31 per liter. However, the company later reversed these increases after global crude prices softened. On July 1, petrol was reduced by ₹5 and diesel by ₹3 per liter.

Crude oil average price sky high in Sept

The apprehension of a rise in the retail prices of petrol and diesel becomes real if one studies the rise in the average price of the crude oil that India has imported in September. It stands far above any monthly average that Indian refiners have imported since the US-Iran war began on February 28 this year. Let's have a look.

Pricing pressure, geopolitical risks to weigh on India IT growth in Q2FY27: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's IT sector is expected to post another quarter of muted growth amid pricing pressure, competitive bidding and geopolitical headwinds, while margins are likely to remain stable, as per a report by Systematix Institutional Equities. As per Systematix, large-cap IT companies are expected to post muted organic revenue growth in Q2FY27, with growth ranging up to 2 per cent. "Tier-I IT companies are expected to post muted organic QoQ CC revenue growth of -1.5% to 2.0% in 2QFY27E," it said. Growth in banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), manufacturing and healthcare, along with easing client-specific headwinds, is expected to be offset by weakness in other verticals. AI-led pricing pressure, competition and geopolitical risks. Mid-cap IT firms, however, are expected to continue outperforming their larger peers. Margins at large IT services firms are expected to improve modestly quarter-on-quarter. Margins at large IT services firms are expected to improve modestly QoQ, as cost efficiencies and currency tailwinds partly offset pricing pressure and wage hikes," it said.

However, with most levers already deployed and surging investment needs, "profitability may remain under pressure." At the same time, the brokerage house expects some large IT firms to report forex losses regarding cash flow hedging. On valuations, the report noted that the Nifty IT index has declined about 30 per cent over the past year, pushing valuations of most IT services stocks to multi-year lows and steep discounts to their 10-year averages. The correction reflects weak demand, AI-led deflation and macroeconomic headwinds. However, resilient margins, healthy cash generation and deal wins provide support, while attractive payout and free-cash-flow yields and lower AI token costs could create opportunities for leading IT services companies. "Current multiples imply modest growth expectations, while payout and free-cash-flow yields remain attractive. Lower token costs could also create significant opportunities for leading IT-services firms. We see limited downside to valuations from current levels," it said. (This content is sourced from a syndicated feed and is published as received. The Tribune assumes no responsibility or liability for its accuracy, completeness, or content.

Turn sporadic savings into a system: Set a budget, review regularly

New Delhi. (Agency)

Most people have good financial months. A bonus arrives, a freelance project pays off, or spending stays low. A chunk goes for savings, and it feels like progress. Then an unexpected bill, a slow income month, or a friend's wedding depletes those savings. This pattern of irregular saving is more common. A recent survey found that nearly 75 per cent of Indians do not have emergency funds, and close to half save less than 10 per cent of their income. Often, the issue isn't a lack of discipline but the absence of a system.

Understand why savings are inconsistent

Before addressing the problem, first identify its cause. You spend first and save what is left, but in reality, there is not much to save for an emergency fund.

Variable income situation

Freelancers and commission-based earners experience monthly income fluctuations, leading to



inconsistent saving habits.

Intention without the habit

The goal to save exists, but it keeps getting pushed aside by something more urgent, or is simply forgotten.

Identifying the underlying reason is the first step; the solution will depend on your specific situation.

Build a savings system

Step 1: Set your monthly budget

Begin by determining your average monthly income and your essential monthly expenses.

To calculate income, total your earnings from the last three months and divide by three. If your income varies, use your lowest-earning month as your baseline. This ensures essential expenses are always covered.

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

The precious metal remains under pressure due to a stronger dollar and high interest rates, which put pressure on non-yielding assets and increase their opportunity cost of holding.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Gold rate on Sunday remained stable as there has been no market movement, currently standing at Rs 14,918 per gram for 24-carat purity on October 04, 2026. Rates for 22K and 18K gold are Rs 13,675 per gram and Rs 11,189 per gram, respectively. The yellow metal came down on Saturday by Rs 110 for 24K purity, Rs 100 for 22K purity, and Rs 82 for 18K purity in comparison to October 02, 2026. The gold market remains volatile amid geopolitical tensions and the US's tighter monetary policy. The



precious metal remains under pressure due to a stronger dollar and high interest rates, which put pressure on non-yielding assets and increase their opportunity cost of holding. The recovery in gold prices at the end of September followed a slip in oil prices on Wednesday amid reports of higher supply through the Strait of Hormuz. The development came as Saudi Arabia's crude exports through the East-West pipeline hinted towards

recovery following disruption earlier in the month due to drone attacks. The yellow metal was weighed down by higher oil prices for two successive sessions on Monday and Tuesday due to inflation concerns and continued expectations of the Federal Reserve raising interest rates further. However, the latest report suggests lower chances of a rate hike during the October meeting after Federal Reserve policymakers

indicated that "There is no need for urgency" following the softer US data. Oil prices are experiencing a downward trend as reports suggest that G7 countries agreed to release 100 million barrels of crude oil and diesel from emergency stocks following pressure from US President Donald Trump. Following the US Federal Reserve's decision to raise the policy rate by 25 basis points during the September 15-16 meeting, gold weakened. It has since been experiencing upward and downward movements as gold has continued to fluctuate amid geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Also, US inflation data and interest rates set by the Federal Reserve are weighing down on the yellow metal. Meanwhile, Yemen's Houthi has reportedly claimed responsibility for an attack on an oil facility in the Saudi on Saturday. On the other hand US President Donald Trump has told reporters that Iran has been "decimated", and has to face a choice between the "easy way or the hard way"

Minor girl allegedly abducted and gang-raped by four youths; offer made to settle the case

In Bulandshahr, a minor girl was allegedly abducted and gang-raped by four youths. The girl later managed to reach home and informed her mother about the incident. The accused allegedly offered them a deal to settle the matter. The victim's mother has filed a complaint with the police.

Bulandshahr/Aurangabad (Agency). A shocking incident has come to light in a village under the Aurangabad police station area of Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh. A Class 7 student was allegedly abducted by four youths in a car and sexually assaulted. When the victim's mother approached the police station after allegedly receiving no response, she submitted a complaint at the SSP's office. The SSP assured her that the matter would be investigated and appropriate action taken.

A woman from the village said her daughter, who is 16 years old, is a Class 7 student at an intermediate college. On the morning of September 28, the girl had gone to offer water to the deities. A youth from the village allegedly arrived in a car and tried to force her into the vehicle. The girl managed to escape after resisting him. Later that evening, while the girl was returning home, four youths travelling in a car allegedly stopped her on the way, forced her into the vehicle and took her away.

It is alleged that the four youths sexually assaulted the girl. The family also alleged that an attempt was made by the accused side to settle the matter by offering ₹2 lakh. On October 2, the victim's mother went to the police

station and submitted a written complaint, but alleged that no case was registered. On Saturday, she reached the SSP's office with her daughter. The inspector said that there was a dispute between the two sides and that the matter was being investigated. Four youths accused of molesting woman on moving bus, attempting to tear her clothes. In another incident, four youths allegedly harassed and behaved indecently with a woman travelling by bus from Noida to Khanpur to visit relatives. When the woman objected, the youths allegedly attempted to tear her clothes. A passenger who intervened was also allegedly assaulted by the accused, triggering a commotion inside the bus. The accused reportedly fled after getting off the bus, while the bus driver took the vehicle directly to Khanpur police station.

According to the woman, she was travelling from Noida to Khanpur. Near Sikri village, the four youths allegedly began abusing her and behaving indecently. When she protested, they allegedly misbehaved with her and tore her clothes. A passenger named Kuldeep, a resident of Timarpur, reportedly objected to their behaviour and tried to intervene.

Real estate businessman murdered; injury marks found on neck, blood-stained cloth recovered nearby

Sonbhadra (Agency).

Om Prakash Bhardwaj, a 62-year-old real estate businessman in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh, was allegedly strangled to death late Friday night. His body was found on Saturday morning on a bed inside a room built on the roof of his house in Ward 4. Marks were found around his neck, and a blood-stained piece of cloth was recovered nearby. Police and a forensic team reached the spot after receiving information about the incident and collected evidence. His younger son, Akash, submitted a written complaint at the Kotwali police station. Police are awaiting the post-mortem report. Om Prakash, originally from Raghunathpur village in the Kapseethi police station area of Varanasi, had been involved in the real estate business with his two sons, Vikas and Akash, for the past six



years. On Friday evening, both sons had gone to a Hanuman temple built by their father in Dhurakari village, where a community feast was being held. They were supposed to bring food back for their father. However, Om Prakash told them over the phone that some friends were coming and asked them to stay there for the night. When the sons returned in the morning and found the door locked, they entered through the rear door and discovered their father's body lying on the bed.

Police investigating the murder

After receiving information about Om Prakash Bhardwaj's death, Ghorawal police reached the scene and inspected the crime site. Inspector Brijesh Kumar Singh and outpost in-charge Uday Narayan Kushwaha conducted the investigation. The forensic team collected important evidence from the scene.

Dam breach in Sihawal, Ranihaura Dam bund breaks; crops submerged

Ranchi (Agency).

The embankment of Ranihaura Dam near Khairbada under Gondadih Panchayat in Silli block breached by around 40 feet on Saturday. Following the heavy flow of water, nearby villages were flooded, submerging crops belonging to hundreds of farmers and washing away fertile topsoil. The affected areas include Khairbada, Bauman, Gondadih Nayak Tola, Pentola, Bansatola, Satpalu, Sidabagana and Palasdi. Several cattle, a large number of ducks and thousands of fish were reportedly swept away. Water also entered some houses. Around 22,000 people from five villages have been affected.

The dam had filled to capacity following heavy rainfall over the past few days, and villagers had already expressed fears that the embankment could give way. According to local residents, the dam was constructed by the Water Resources Department in 2010-11 at a cost of several crores of rupees. Former village headman Dublu Mahli and other residents had informed the Silli administration and the BDO about the situation. Later, Gondadih headman Sawan Devi, Sukram Bediya, Subhash Mahto, Shridhar Mahto, Murlidhar Ghatwar and several other villagers visited the affected areas. The villagers have demanded that the administration provide immediate compensation to those affected.

Land Grab Syndicate in Bihar

Nexus with Bhumi Mafia Officials, Land Being Usurped Through Fake Registries

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

Bihar (Agency).

A nexus between land mafias and officials and employees of the Revenue Department has been uncovered in several circles of Bihar. The syndicate allegedly prepares fake and forged documents for government land and gets the properties registered. With the help of revenue officials and employees, the land is then transferred through mutation records. The alleged nexus between land mafias and officials is also accused of grabbing the properties of poor and vulnerable people. An investigation into the matter is underway, and investigating agencies may soon take major action. It is learnt that the Economic Offences Unit (EOU), along with other investigating agencies, has received information about the alleged organised land mafia network. During the investigation, the alleged nexus has been uncovered in about a dozen circles, including Sikandra in Jamui; Bakhtiyarpur, Khusrupur and Naubatpur in Patna; and Mushahari in Muzaffarpur district. Action has been recommended against the concerned departments. A high-level investigation into such alleged networks is underway in 18 circles.



Fake deeds decades old allegedly prepared

The investigation has reportedly found that land mafias first create disputes over properties. For this purpose, fake sale deeds or related documents allegedly dating back 80 to 100 years are prepared. On their basis, properties are allegedly registered illegally in the names of different members of the land

mafia. Revenue officials then allegedly facilitate mutation on the basis of manipulated reports.

Role of circle officers also under suspicion

What is particularly concerning is that the alleged illegal network reportedly involves officials ranging from circle officers to revenue officials and employees.

Lallan Singh Stands Firm; Says He Will Not Broker a Compromise Between Anant Singh and Neeraj: "I Don't Get Involved in Fights"

Patna (Agency).

Union Minister and senior JD(U) leader Lallan Singh has declined to mediate between party leaders Anant Singh and Neeraj Kumar. Lallan Singh said he does not get involved in other people's disputes and believes in development work. He added



that he has never even settled a dispute in his own village. Tensions between Anant Singh and Neeraj Kumar have surfaced during the Bihar Legislative Council elections. Meanwhile, JD(U) national working president Sanjay Jha had earlier said that Lallan Singh was looking into the matter.

Lallan Singh says he will not intervene

Addressing a meeting in Ghoseth village of

Lakhisarai on Saturday, Lallan Singh mentioned Anant Singh and Neeraj Kumar and said that he does not get involved in disputes. However, he added that if both leaders are willing, he could help bring about a settlement. "I have never settled a dispute in my village," Lallan Singh said. He said he

does not encourage disputes and that people from his village often approach him with their problems.

Sanjay Jha said JD(U) had assigned Lallan Singh the task

Two days earlier, Sanjay Jha had said that the matter was connected to Lallan Singh's parliamentary constituency, Munger, and that the party had authorised him to speak to Anant Singh and Neeraj Kumar. The JD(U) working president had expressed hope that the dispute between the two leaders would be resolved soon. However, after Lallan Singh's refusal to mediate, doubts

have emerged over the possibility of an immediate settlement.

Anant Singh and Neeraj Kumar face-off in MLC election

Elections are being held for eight seats in the Bihar Legislative Council. In the Patna Graduates' MLC seat, JD(U) candidate Neeraj Kumar is facing open opposition from Mokama MLA Anant Singh.

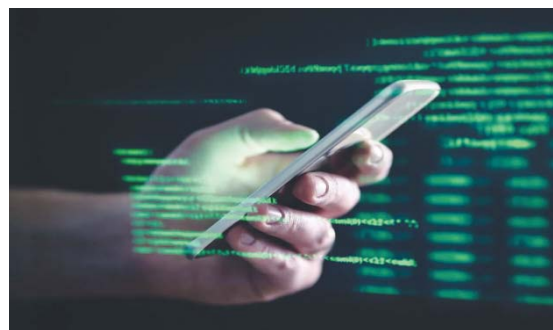
On Bank Holiday, Cyber Fraudsters Looted Lakhs in UP; Money Stolen from Several Accounts

On a bank holiday, cyber fraudsters allegedly siphoned off lakhs of rupees from several bank accounts in Varanasi. The fraudsters reportedly hacked into multiple accounts and transferred the money to their own accounts. The victims said they had not shared any OTP or bank-related information with anyone.

Varanasi/Lohta (Agency).

On October 2, a bank holiday observed on the occasion of Gandhi-Shastri Jayanti, cyber fraudsters allegedly siphoned money from several bank accounts in Varanasi. In Korauthi village of Lohta, fraudsters allegedly transferred 3.5 lakh from the bank account of a school

manager. The victim said he had neither shared any banking information nor disclosed any OTP. In another case, a resident of the Pandeypur area was allegedly cheated of ₹1.36 lakh. According to police, Dr. Ajay Kumar Singh, manager of Surajpati Kanya Inter College in Korauthi village, has accounts with Bank of Baroda and ICICI Bank. At around 11 a.m. on Friday, he received messages on his mobile indicating that money had been debited. The fraudsters allegedly withdrew 99,000 from his Bank of Baroda account and 2 lakh from his



₹1.36 lakh allegedly withdrawn after fake KYC call

Anil Jaiswal of Pandeypur was also allegedly defrauded on October 2. His wife received a call from an unknown number. The caller allegedly posed as a bank employee and said that KYC for her husband's account needed to be updated. The caller asked Anil for his Aadhaar and

ATM card numbers, which he provided. Shortly afterwards, the caller claimed that the KYC had been updated for five years. Anil then received three messages showing deductions from his account. He reported the matter through the cyber helpline and the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal. ₹1 lakh allegedly withdrawn after mobile was hacked. Another cyber fraud victim, Ashish of Samne Ghat, allegedly lost ₹1 lakh after clicking a Google IPTV-related link that appeared on his mobile phone.

Jharkhand bids farewell to monsoon; rainfall 9% above normal after heavy showers

Uttarakhand (Agency).

The Southwest Monsoon withdrew from Uttarakhand on Saturday after remaining active across the state for around 98 days. The state recorded 9 per cent more rainfall than normal during the monsoon season. According to the Meteorological Department, this is the fourth consecutive year in which Uttarakhand has received above-normal rainfall during the monsoon season. The monsoon arrived in the state on June 30 this year. According to the Weather Department, Uttarakhand received a total of 1,289.1 mm of rainfall during the monsoon season, against the normal average of 1,182.6 mm. The highest rainfall was recorded in September, particularly during its final week. During the last week of September, the state received 107 per cent more rainfall than normal, recording 108.8 mm against the normal 52.9 mm. Overall,



September received around 66 per cent more rainfall than normal. In-charge Weather Director Dr Rohit Thapliyal said that the

monsoon has now withdrawn from the entire

The monsoon remained active for around 98 days. The state recorded 9 per cent more rainfall than normal during the monsoon season.

According to the Meteorological Department, this is the fourth consecutive year that the state has received above-normal rainfall during the monsoon season.

state.

Rain likely to resume from tomorrow

Light to moderate rainfall is likely across the state from October 5 to 7. After this, the weather is expected to become dry, with nights gradually turning colder with the onset of winter. According to Weather Director Dr C.S. Tomar, rain may occur in hilly areas on October 5 and 6, while parts of the state may also receive rainfall on October 7 and 8.

Labourer Murdered by Slitting His Throat in Dehradun; Body Found in Ravine

A labourer was allegedly murdered by slitting his throat in Manduwala area of Premnagar. His body was found in a ravine along the Darred River near Dolphin College on Saturday evening. Knife injury marks were found on the victim's neck. However, the motive behind the murder has not yet been ascertained.

Dehradun (Agency).

A labourer was allegedly murdered by slitting his throat in Manduwala area of Premnagar. His body was found in a ravine along the Darred River in a forest near Dolphin College on Saturday evening. Knife wounds were found on his neck. The motive behind the murder has not yet been established. Police have launched an investigation into the case. Premnagar SHO Girish Negi said police received information through the control room at around 4:30 pm on Saturday that a body was lying in the forest near Dolphin College. When police reached the spot, they found the blood-soaked body in the ravine.

Forensic and field unit teams collected evidence from the scene, while an SOG team also conducted an investigation. The SHO said preliminary investigation indicates that the victim was murdered before his body was thrown into the ravine.

Schoolchildren spotted bloodstains on the way

According to Premnagar police, schoolchildren had noticed bloodstains on the road near the ravine on Saturday. Drag marks were also found in the bushes, raising suspicion that the body was dragged and thrown into the ravine after the murder. The deceased was identified as Madan (38), son of

Baldev Mukhiya, a resident of Baun Saharsa in Bihar. He was living in a rented house in Manduwala and worked as a labourer. His landlord identified him at the scene. Police took the body into custody and sent it for post-mortem examination. Further investigation is underway.

Police questioning acquaintances

Police questioned the deceased's acquaintances, landlord and co-workers on Saturday. Investigators are also trying to determine whether the murder took place in the forest itself or whether the body was brought from another location and dumped in the ravine.

NEWS BOX

IND vs BRA: From Chennai to Bhopal, Brazil supporters bring samba flair to Kolkata



New Delhi. (Agency)

STimesofIndia.com in Kolkata: People from different walks of life made their way to the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata for the historic India versus Brazil friendly. Even though the iconic venue wasn't filled to its 65,000 capacity, many were still keen on making the most of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. A family of six from Chennai. A Brazilian living in Delhi. A family with two young boys from Delhi. Another family had travelled from Bhopal with their two daughters. Kohana had her husband and four boys for company. They went through India and Brazil jerseys on the street adjacent to the venue. The father went through them one by one while the four boys tested the size by placing the jerseys against themselves.

"We live in Chennai but we're from Japan. We bought tickets last week and have travelled just for this match. I'm supporting both teams today but the boys are big fans of the Brazilian team," said Kohana, who hails from Osaka, with a smile. "We wanted to stay for the Uruguay game also but because they have school next week, we'll do just the Brazil match," she said, referring to the next FIFA friendly on October 6. Forty-six-year-old Felipe, who comes from Porto Alegre, the birthplace of Ronaldinho, has taken the trip from New Delhi. He works in the tourism sector in the capital with the aim of bringing more Brazilians, like himself, to travel to India. The moment he heard about the match, he didn't hesitate to buy a ticket online. Mere hours after arriving in Kolkata, he was overwhelmed by the city's food offerings. "I never thought Brazil would come here. When I saw the Brazilian team was coming to India, I decided that no matter what, no matter how, I have to be there. I have to see this match," he said, revealing that he had spent around ₹150 on the ticket (Rs 16,000 I like the city. I like the food, it is very good. I went to the Victoria Memorial, it's beautiful. I went to the New Market, a lot of things to see and buy," he continued.

Adeeba and Aneefa Warsi donned the yellow and green of Brazil as they realised themselves outside the Salt Lake Stadium.

India vs West Indies ODI series rewrites record books with highest scoring rate ever



New Delhi. (Agency)

The India-West Indies ODI series was a run-fest from start to finish, with the three-match contest setting a new record for the highest scoring rate in a bilateral series involving at least three ODIs.

The series recorded a scoring rate of 7.43 runs per over, the highest in the format for a bilateral series of three or more matches.

The previous record was held by England's 2015 home series against New Zealand, which produced a scoring rate of 7.15 runs per over. India themselves were involved in the third-highest mark, scoring at 7.00 runs per over against England in the 2017 series. England's 2019 series against Pakistan comes fourth at The numbers underline just how explosive the India-West Indies contest was. The first ODI saw 595 runs scored, with West Indies making 295 for seven before India chased down the target in just 41.4 overs, finishing on 300 for two. The second ODI raised the bar considerably. West Indies piled up 405 for seven, only for India to chase down the target in 43.3 overs, reaching 406 for two. The match produced 811 runs.

The run-scoring continued in the series finale, with India making 351 for seven before West Indies completed a record chase of 352 for five in 48.2 overs. The third ODI alone produced 703 runs. Across the three matches, both teams repeatedly crossed the 300-run mark. India eventually won the series 2-1, sealing victories by eight wickets in the first two matches before West Indies produced a five-wicket consolation win in the finale. The series was so heavily tilted towards the batters that, apart from Kuldeep Yadav's four-wicket spell in the opening ODI, there was little in the bowling departments to remember. The India spinner's spell stood out as one of the few occasions when a bowler managed to exert sustained influence on a contest otherwise dominated by the bat.

Asian Games: How Pakistan thriller prepared India for hockey final vs Malaysia

Craig Fulton said India's nerve-jangling semi-final win over Pakistan helped his side get ready for their Asian Games final against Malaysia. India defended their gold medal with a 5-1 win over Malaysia in Nagoya.

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's victory over Pakistan in a tense semifinal gave the men's hockey team the confidence and momentum to produce a commanding performance against Malaysia in the Asian Games final, according to head coach Craig Fulton. The result secured India back-to-back Asian Games gold medals and also sealed their place at the 2028 Olympics. Harmanpreet Singh led from the front with two goals as India brushed aside Malaysia 5-1 in the final, successfully defending their Asian



Games title. However, they were given an almighty scare in the semi-final as Pakistan came back from three goals down to level the game 3-3 before Abhishek got his side over the line. "We played a great game. We almost needed that semifinal (win) to get

into this mindset," Fulton said after the final, as quoted by Fulton said that the team had an honest debrief after the Pakistan game and the aim was to focus on tempo and play without fear. "We just had a good debrief. We were just honest with the way

we played and I think the occasion got to us a little bit."

"Because if we didn't get to four and five goals and then you make one or two mistakes and then Pakistan get their tail up and they can play and they can score goals," said Fulton. "I'm glad we found a way to win that game because that was the difference and I think that helped us in this final."

'ASIAN GAMES WAS MAIN GOAL FOR 2026'

India's win in the final against Malaysia meant that they secured direct qualification for the LA Olympics in 2028. This comes on the back of a poor World Cup campaign, where India finished in 8th spot. Fulton said that the main aim for 2026 was to win the Asian Games and secure the Olympic berth. "That was the main goal of 2026. Had we won the World Cup we still would have had to come here and play. Obviously the World Cup didn't go the way we wanted it to.

'This is all fake': Shoaib Akhtar dismisses reports of taking up role in Mohsin Naqvi-led PCB

New Delhi. (Agency)

Shoaib Akhtar has dismissed reports linking him with the role of Pakistan's chief selector, making it clear that he has no interest in taking up any position with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Speculation around a major overhaul of Pakistan's coaching and selection setup has intensified since Babar Azam's side suffered a 0-3 defeat in the three-match Test series against England. Amid the reports of possible changes, Akhtar had been tipped for a key role in the selection committee. However, speaking during a live programme on PTV Sports, the former Pakistan fast bowler rejected the claims. The anchor reminded Akhtar of his earlier comments that his mother had advised him to stay away from the PCB and Pakistani politics. Asked directly about the latest reports, Akhtar said:

"There is no such thing, and all that is being said is speculative. I stand by my statement, and I am going to stick to that advice." "There is no truth to these claims. I am not at all interested in going to the



PCB. I stand by my statement. I am hearing all this news about taking on the role of chief selector. This is all fake, and there is no truth to such claims. I just want the betterment of Pakistan cricket," he added. Akhtar also said he has not held any

discussions with the Mohsin Naqvi-led PCB over the reported appointment. The former pacer is currently in Houston on a private visit.

'Many other ways'

Despite ruling out any formal association with the PCB, Akhtar said he remains keen to contribute to Pakistan cricket and believes he can do so without taking up an official position. "I would love to serve Pakistan cricket, but I think I can do it in many other ways," Akhtar said. Akhtar, who played 46 Tests, 163 ODIs and 15 T20Is for Pakistan, has remained away from an official role with the board.

The reports had earlier claimed that Akhtar met PCB chairman Naqvi for detailed discussions about the national team and ways to improve its fortunes. They also suggested that the relationship between the two had improved in recent months.

No Insta, no off-days: At 17, Kumkum Mohod lives and breathes archery



New Delhi. (Agency)

At some point during the final against South Korea's Oh Yejin, Kumkum Anil Mohod had already done the difficult part. She had fallen behind, recovered, fallen behind again and forced the contest into a shoot-off. What remained was one arrow, one target and a chance to do something no Indian recurve archer had done before at the Asian Games.

Kumkum shot a 10, and with it won a historic Gold medal in women's individual recurve archery in Aichi-Nagoya on Saturday, October 3. The 17-year-old from Amravati crossed a barrier that Indian recurve archery had spent years pressing against. Kumkum became the first Indian woman to win an individual Asian Games medal in recurve, after helping India win a historic women's team gold and adding a mixed team silver. She did it at her first Asian Games, against a Korean opponent, in a final that went down to its last arrow. The victory also secured an individual quota place for India at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. There was a strange inevitability to it.

Her coach, Praful Dange, had been telling her for years that the individual medal was the one he wanted. Team and mixed-team medals were welcome, he says, but they were not the ultimate test. "I addressed her as 'Champion' first," Dange tells India Today.in, recalling the conversation after the gold.

"Until now, she didn't have an individual medal in the international circuit.

"She achieved that for the first time, and that too a Gold! I always tell her that I am not interested in team or mixed-team events. I want an individual medal because our game is individual. Team and mixed team are good if they happen, but if you win an individual medal, according to me, you are the real champion of that tournament.

Not a good sign for World Cup: Shubman Gill flags concerns after India's defeat in 3rd ODI vs West Indies

New Delhi. (Agency)

Indian skipper Shubman Gill flagged death bowling and fielding as major concerns heading into the 2027 ODI World Cup after India suffered a five-wicket defeat in the third and final ODI of the three-match series against West Indies in Mullanpur on Saturday. West Indies pulled one back to end the series 1-2 after India won the first two games on the trot.

It was a poor bowling performance from the hosts as they failed to defend a target of 352 runs, allowing West Indies to pull off their highest-ever successful run chase in ODIs. India's bowling woes were left exposed throughout the series as their bowlers kept conceding runs heavily. India conceded over 400 runs in the 2nd ODI and failed to defend 352 runs in the third ODI

on Saturday, highlighting their woes. The hosts were also poor on the field, dropping



as many as five catches in the series. Speaking after his side's defeat, Gill said India's poor show with the ball and the dropped catches are not good signs heading into the 2027 ODI World Cup.

"Lot of boxes ticked, but there are some

areas that definitely need fine-tuning. Our fielding could be better. We dropped around 6-7 catches. That is not a good sign leading up to the World Cup," said the Indian skipper after the game.

Gill also said that India need to work on their death bowling, stressing that the bowlers need to be clear on their plans and the execution. India heavily leaked runs in the death overs in the 3rd ODI against West Indies on Saturday as Shai Hope took the match away from them with his brilliant 162-run knock. "We need to work on our death bowling. We are not clear whether we're attacking or defending, especially when we are bowling the death overs. One day such a game, six down, you are never really sure what fields to take, whether we are going for the death too early or we are still bowling kind of like middle overs.

India earn praise from Carlo Ancelotti despite 4-0 defeat against Brazil in historic friendly

Brazil head coach Carlo Ancelotti praised the India for their "organised" defense despite the hosts' 4-0 defeat in the historic friendly.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Brazil head coach Carlo Ancelotti praised India for their "organised defense" and counter-attacking style despite the hosts' 4-0 defeat in the historic friendly between the two sides at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Saturday, October 03. Brazil had a nervy spell at the start of the contest, but grew in confidence to thrash India comfortably. Ancelotti fielded a second-string side as the five-time champions played under muggy conditions at the Salt Lake Stadium. Estevao Willian opened the scoring for Selecao in the 28th minute,



following which the visitors scored three more goals to make light work of India. Nonetheless, India managed to catch the eyes of Ancelotti, who praised them for remaining organised under pressure and playing counter-attacking football, which gave them the most realistic chance of

hurting world-ranked 5th Brazil.

"They defended, they were organised, they tried to play counter-attack. I think they played a good game," Ancelotti said on India after the friendly. He admitted to Brazil facing some anxious moments in the game at the start of the contest, but insisted their first

goal changed the complexity of the game. After Estevao's opener, Pedro (42nd) and Samuel Lino (58th, 90+5) scored three goals to wrap up a 4-0 win for the visitors. We had difficulty to open the score but the moment we opened the score with Estevao, we had more opportunity to control better the game," said Ancelotti. "We defended well. We could have defended better. It was a new defence that never played together, so it could be that not everything was perfect," he added. Brazil look to rebuild after disappointing World Cup

Brazil are aiming for a rebuild under Ancelotti after their pre-quarterfinal exit from the FIFA World Cup 206 earlier this year. The head coach gave chances to several young players on Brazil's recently concluded tour of India and Australia in a bid to give them the opportunity to showcase their talent. "It was a test. Now it's a moment for us to give an opportunity to the young, to be part of the squad, to know — and for us to know — if they have the quality to be part of the national team in the future," said the Brazil manager after the India friendly.

Alia Bhatt

Reunites With F1 Driver Carlos Sainz In An Ad After Cannes 2026, Internet Can't Keep Calm

Actress Alia Bhatt and Formula 1 driver Carlos Sainz are once again sharing the screen, months after their L'Oréal Paris appearance at the 2026 Cannes Film Festival. The duo feature in a new advertisement for the beauty brand, which is currently airing on Italian television.

Alia Bhatt reunites with Carlos Sainz

Alia Bhatt and Carlos Sainz, both global ambassadors for L'Oréal Paris, are seen promoting the brand's Elvive haircare range in the campaign. A clip from the advertisement has now surfaced online and caught the attention of fans, who are loving the unexpected Bollywood-F1



collaboration. In the clip doing the rounds on X, Alia and Carlos are seen featuring in the brand's haircare campaign. The advertisement has since grabbed everyone's attention. Soon after the video was shared, excited fans of Alia were seen reacting to it. One fan wrote, "Best Collab ever!!" Another fan commented, "this is so cool I wanna see it all." A third fan wrote, "My girl Alia with smooth operator I'm jealous of you girl!!!" Others were seen dropping red hearts and fire emojis. The duo had previously grabbed attention with their appearance at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year. As part of its Cannes campaign, L'Oréal Paris also brought together several of its global ambassadors, with Alia and Carlos featuring alongside fellow Formula 1 driver Charles Leclerc in a campaign reel. Meanwhile, on the work front, Alia was last seen in YRF's spy thriller Alpha, alongside Sharvari, Bobby Deol and Anil Kapoor. She will next headline Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love & War, which also stars Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal. The film's first-look posters were unveiled recently, generating considerable buzz among fans. The trailer is expected to be released soon. After facing multiple delays, Love & War is now slated to arrive in theatres in January 2027.



Vijay Varma's All-Black Cut-Out Look Goes Viral; Netizens Have Mixed Reactions



Vijay Varma's latest fashion outing has become the subject of an online roast. The actor, who is no stranger to experimental styling, was recently spotted at a Mumbai event in an elaborate all-black ensemble. Paparazzi videos from the appearance soon began circulating on social media, where his outfit drew a flood of jokes, comparisons and criticism. Instead of playing it safe with a conventional black look, Vijay stepped out in an outfit built around cut-outs, contrasting textures and long strips of fabric. The styling immediately caught attention, though the reaction in the comments section was far from universally flattering.

What Did Vijay Varma Wear?

Vijay wore a fitted black top featuring an intricate criss-cross lattice pattern. The geometric construction created several sheer, skin-baring sections across the outfit. Long, narrow strips of black fabric also extended from the sleeves and lower portions of the top, giving the ensemble additional movement as the actor posed for photographers.

He paired the statement top with high-waisted black leather trousers. Their smooth and slightly glossy finish provided a contrast to the open-weave texture of the upper half while keeping the entire outfit within a monochrome palette.

Vijay did not add too many accessories to the already detailed ensemble. He completed his appearance with oversized black sunglasses, while his neatly styled hair and clean grooming kept the remainder of the look comparatively understated.

Netizens Compare Vijay Varma To Uorfi Javed

Once videos from the Mumbai event surfaced online, social media users began reacting to the outfit, with several comparing Vijay to Uorfi Javed, who is known for unconventional and quirky fashion choices. Another netizen simply wrote, "Cartoo", while a different reaction read, "Perfect chapri look".

Salman Khan's Nephew Arhaan Khan Shares Throwback Photo With Superstar Uncle



Salman Khan's nephew Arhaan Khan took a trip down memory lane as he shared a series of throwback pictures from his childhood. He gave fans a glimpse into his growing-up years with his cousin Nirvaan Khan, Ayaan Agnihotri and uncle Salman Khan.

Arhaan, son of Malaika Arora and actor-filmmaker Arbaaz Khan, shared the pictures on his social media account in a carousel that appeared to capture some of his favourite childhood memories.

The post was captioned, "pov: you're a pokémon inside a pokeball", with the pictures reflecting his fascination with the popular Japanese franchise.

One of the pictures shows young Arhaan posing alongside his cousin Nirvaan. Another throwback captures the two cousins with their uncle Salman Khan on a football field.

Salman can be seen sitting on the grass with the boys, wearing a black football jersey bearing his name and the number 10. Arhaan and Nirvaan are seen wearing matching team jerseys, with their names and numbers printed on the back.

The carousel also includes a childhood picture of Arhaan and Nirvaan sitting together, with the cousins looking adorable in their younger days.

Another photograph shows a young Arhaan engrossed in a game on a Nintendo device, further explaining the Pokemon-themed caption.

Keeping the nostalgia going, Arhaan also shared a colourful hand-drawn Pokemon artwork featuring popular characters including Pikachu, Bulbasaur, Squirtle and Charmander.

The post prompted an affectionate reaction from his family with Malaika Arora, Arhaan's mother, singling out the second picture and commented, "2nd pic". She also jokingly addressed another childhood memory, writing, "@iamarhaankhan wat have u done to my Casper?"

Seema Sajdeh, who is Nirvaan's mother, also reacted to the nostalgic collection, commenting, "My boys."



Rasika Dugal

Says There's A Need To 'Normalise Conversations Around Desire And Sexuality': 'It's Important'

Actress Rasika Dugal has spoken about the importance of creating safe spaces where people can openly seek information about sexuality and desire. Speaking at the trailer launch event of her upcoming film "Little Thomas," she said such topics are often considered uncomfortable to discuss, but having access to the right information is important to avoid



misinformation. Rasika stated, "I think it's very, very important and very necessary that there is a place that you can get information on sex, on sexuality, on your desires, on everything. That there should be a place or a person with whom you can go and talk about these things. So that you don't fall from misinformation and also so that you don't have to ask this question to anyone."

The 'Mirzapur' actress also stressed the importance of receiving accurate information from a trusted adult. She acknowledged that conversations around sexuality can be difficult for many people but said they should not be treated as taboo.

"You know, I think it's very important to have that access to information from an adult in your life, and such conversations are unfortunately

uncomfortable and unfortunately difficult for many people but it shouldn't be so," Rasika said.

She added that society needs to become more comfortable discussing these subjects openly.

"I think there's really a need to normalize conversations around desire and sexuality," she said. Directed by Kaushal Oza, the film also stars Gulshan Devaiah and Hridansh Parekh in pivotal

roles. Anurag Kashyap-backed children's film is slated to hit theatres on October 23.

Talking about the film, Gulshan had said in a statement, "It's a heartwarming story of a simple family from Goa and it's been very fulfilling to do this film. Being a part of the amazing works built by Kaushal Oza and sharing the screen with Rasika Duggal has been a very memorable experience for me."

NEWS BOX

Iranian UN delegation duo 'kicked out' of US: State Department

TEHRAN.(Agency)

The United States has "kicked out" two members of the Iranian delegation who attended the recent UN General Assembly after they ignored an order to leave the country, the State Department said Saturday.

"Two more members of the Iranian delegation were found still in (New York) long after the United Nations General Assembly had passed. They have now been kicked out of the US," a US official told AFP, adding that Secretary of State Marco Rubio "means business."



US media reported the State Department had told Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his delegation to leave the country Monday, and resorted to

expelling the two members after learning from the Iranian mission to the UN they remained in the country on Friday. One member of the delegation left Friday night, while the second departed Saturday morning, according to Axios.

US and Iranian officials had met the week prior in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. US President Donald Trump had rejected a proposal from Tehran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, but told US media he expected talks to resume in the coming days.

Iranian state news agency IRNA reported that Tehran had no more direct talks scheduled with Washington.

A \$28B hemp THC industry is fighting to save itself from a looming US government ban

World.(Agency)

In a commercial kitchen outside Raleigh, North Carolina, Nicholas Hohns spreads a blue-green goo into a gridded mold, making one of his company's signature products: potent THC gummies, featuring the primary intoxicating compound found in marijuana.

It's a business he might soon have to give up. America's multibillion-dollar market for impairing hemp products — from THC seltzers sold at some Target stores to smokable cannabis flowers, and different from the regulated legal marijuana industry — faces potential elimination after Congress voted to close a loophole in federal law that has allowed it to flourish.

Advocates for the industry, along with some lawmakers, are fighting to save it. The short-term government-funding bill signed by President Donald Trump last month delayed the effective date of the "hemp THC ban" from Nov. 12 to Dec. 11, giving Congress more time to consider regulating the products rather than banning them.

"It's such a weird spot to be in," said Hohns. "You worked 100 hours a week for the past four years, and, yeah, you made some money. But now you might have nothing to show for it."

Sen. Mitch McConnell closed a loophole in the hemp law he championed

Marijuana and hemp are the same plant — cannabis. Marijuana is cultivated for high levels of THC in its flowers. Low-THC hemp has historically been grown for its sturdy fibers, food or wellness products. "Rope, not dope" was long the motto of farmers who supported legalizing hemp. To give farmers a new cash crop, Kentucky Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell successfully pushed the legalization of industrial hemp in the 2018 farm bill.

Go after the money: How Zelenskyy plans to punish Russia for attacks on civilians

World.(Agency)

Ukraine will double down on attacking Russian oil refineries in response to a new policy of airstrikes by Moscow designed to force people to abandon Kyiv and other cities, but will not target civilians, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. Ukraine's intelligence services have obtained documents showing that Russian leader Vladimir Putin had issued a "new doctrine" of military attacks on a much broader range of civilian targets ahead of this winter, Zelenskyy said.

"We saw documents, and we know that they allow them to attack infrastructure, logistics, and especially to attack in the cities, in the villages, everywhere, roads, schools, hospitals," Zelenskyy told Reuters in an interview. "To pressure people to leave the capital, leave different cities: this is the goal of the operation."

Driving the shift in policy, Zelenskyy said, was Putin's desire to appear strong at a time when his military was losing ground in a key frontline region and sustaining higher levels of casualties.

The Kremlin was not available to comment on Saturday. But in a statement urging foreign nationals to leave Kyiv, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Moscow would continue to systematically hit targets in what it said were retaliatory strikes for Ukrainian attacks on Russia in recent months.

COUNTEROFFENSIVE IN DONBAS

Zelenskyy said a successful Ukrainian counteroffensive, code-named "Vivaldi", had recaptured around 140 sq km (54 sq miles) of Ukraine's eastern Donbas region and was still ongoing. Russia has said it must control Donbas in

its entirety as a condition for any peace deal. In recent weeks, US President Donald Trump's administration has sought to revive talks to end the four-year-old conflict — Europe's bloodiest since



World War Two.

The US leader last month urged Ukraine to refrain from hitting Russian oil installations, saying that was sending global diesel prices surging.

But Zelenskyy, speaking as air raid sirens blared outside the gilded halls of the presidential offices, said he had received no indications from Russia that Putin was interested in peace talks or discussing a ceasefire on energy infrastructure.

Over the past week, the Ukrainian capital has come under persistent attack by Russian drones and missiles targeting energy and telecoms assets, road and rail infrastructure. For the first time, Russia has targeted the bridges across the Dnipro River connecting east and west Kyiv.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine would react to the change in tactics by Moscow, but would not target civilian infrastructure indiscriminately. "We have to respond in any way (we can). With their attacks on our energy, we have to respond on their energy. First of all, oil refiners, etc.: what gives money."

flydubai passenger feared pilots saving plane might hijack it, fly to Iran

Jerusalem.(Agency)

The two mystery pilots who stepped in to save a flydubai Dubai-Tel Aviv flight after Captain Smit Machchhar was attacked by his Omani co-pilot in the cockpit have yet to be publicly identified, three days after the dramatic mid-air incident. But as the pilots took control of the aircraft, terrified passengers briefly feared the worst -- that the plane could be hijacked and flown to Iran.

One passenger, Daniel Schlichter, said the two travelling pilots helped stabilise the aircraft after the cockpit attack, but their initial silence left some passengers unsure whether they could be trusted. "I was worried about this," Schlichter told The Associated Press, recalling that he feared the men might be "hijacking the plane into Iran, maybe".

Schlichter who was seated in the second row, provided one of the most

detailed accounts yet of how the two pilots helped avert a potential disaster. He said they took control of the aircraft after passengers realised that Omani co-pilot Hamam al-Hammami was attacking Machchhar inside the



cockpit, helping stabilise the plane before it eventually landed in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia. Hamam is currently in UAE custody, while Machchhar is recovering at a Dubai hospital.

The airline has described the mystery pilots only as on-duty crew members travelling on the aircraft, which was

carrying 182 people, but has not disclosed their names or provided further details about them. "This is one of the miracles. That not in every flight they bring two extra pilots. In this case, they brought them because they should have brought the plane back from Tel Aviv to Dubai, and this is the only reason they were there," Schlichter told The Associated Press.

The practice is known as deadheading. Schlichter said panicked passengers realised something was wrong in the cockpit and said the co-pilot was attacking Machchhar repeatedly, with "blood everywhere". The captain, though badly wounded, managed to unlock the cockpit door.

After one passenger grabbed the co-pilot and pulled him out of the cockpit, and others struggled with him to subdue him, Schlichter said one of the travelling pilots moved in quickly to take over the controls.

Jay Clayton to lead Trump's Super Intelligence Force on AI risks

World.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump has created a task force to examine the risks and opportunities posed by artificial intelligence (AI) and recommend what role the federal government should play in overseeing the technology, with a report due within 120 days, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday.

US Director of National Intelligence Jay Clayton, who will lead the group, told the newspaper that the task force would be known as the "Super Intelligence Force". A senior White House official described Clayton as effectively serving as Trump's AI czar, the report said.

The move comes days after Trump met with executives from some of the world's biggest technology companies at

the White House and endorsed an agreement aimed at strengthening voluntary safeguards for artificial intelligence. The September 29 agreement, signed by



Trump and executives from Google, Anthropic, Meta, OpenAI and Nvidia, called for companies to use external auditors to assess their AI controls, establish independent board oversight and maintain internal systems to monitor AI models during training and deployment. The companies were also urged to monitor their models for risks involving cybersecurity, biosecurity and chemical threats and ensure that

AI systems do not gain unintended access to technical systems. "Over time, it may make sense to codify these steps into laws or regulations," the White House accord said, while calling the controls and audits critical to ensuring a safe future.

Saudi-Houthi fighting escalates as Yemen strikes Houthi targets in Sanaa, Saada

world.(Agency)

Yemen's armed forces launched strikes against Iran-aligned Houthi targets in the capital Sanaa and the group's stronghold of Saada early Sunday, marking another escalation in the rapidly intensifying conflict between the two sides.

A spokesperson for Yemen's armed forces, which are aligned with the internationally recognised government, said the strikes targeted what he described as "vital targets". He did not provide further details about the targets or the extent of the strikes.

The strikes came hours after the Houthis claimed they had attacked a Saudi Aramco facility in Riyadh with ballistic missiles and drones. The group said the assault was retaliation for Saudi attacks on Sanaa and other parts of Yemen.

A large plume of smoke and fire was seen near an Aramco facility in Riyadh on Saturday, according to a Reuters witness. Saudi authorities did not immediately confirm that the facility had been attacked, while Aramco also did not respond to a request for comment.

HOUTHI REPORT SAUDI STRIKES ON SANAA

Houthi-run Al Masirah TV reported that

Saudi Arabia had carried out an attack on Sanaa. Saudi authorities did not immediately confirm the report.

The latest exchanges come amid a sharp deterioration in the Saudi-Houthi conflict, which had largely remained frozen under a 2022 truce. The renewed fighting is part of a



broader regional escalation linked to the war between Iran and the United States.

The Houthis declared a naval blockade on Saudi Arabia in July and subsequently stepped up attacks on Saudi territory and shipping. The group has also made significant territorial gains along Yemen's Red Sea coast.

Saudi Arabia has responded with air strikes in Yemen while backing forces loyal to the internationally recognised government in their fight against the Houthis.

Easy way or hard way: Trump says decision on Iran soon amid war stalemate

Moscow.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump on Saturday said a decision on Iran would come "very soon", warning that Tehran could face the "easy way or the hard way" as talks to establish peace and end the eight-month war remain deadlocked.

Speaking to reporters before departing the White House for Ohio to campaign for Republican candidates ahead of the November midterm elections, Trump said he was weighing his next steps on Iran.

"We have a decision that I'll make about Iran. Iran's been decimated. So the only question is, it'll either be the easy way or the hard way," Trump said.

He did not elaborate on what decision he was considering, but his remarks come amid growing speculation that Washington is reviewing military and diplomatic options should tensions with Tehran escalate again.

The US President also claimed that Iran was backing away from any effort to acquire a

nuclear weapon. "Iran is virtually giving up any plans to have a nuclear weapon," he said.

CAMP DAVID TALKS FUEL SPECULATION

Trump's comments came a day after Axios reported that his top national security advisers met at Camp David to discuss US



policy options on Iran as well as the escalating Saudi-Houthi conflict in Yemen. The discussions intensified speculation over whether the administration could consider renewed military action if diplomacy fails to break the deadlock with Tehran.

The latest developments came despite ongoing mediation efforts aimed at reviving negotiations between Washington and Tehran following months of conflict and instability across the region.

IRAN PREPARES FOR POSSIBLE RENEWED CONFLICT

Iran, meanwhile, has been preparing contingency plans in case the US resumes large-scale military operations, according to Iranian officials and a source familiar with internal deliberations who spoke to Reuters.

The planning reflects a growing belief within Iran's leadership that any future US military campaign should be met with a stronger response than the one launched during the conflict on February 28.

Senior Iranian commanders have reviewed options that would broaden potential targets beyond US-linked assets and could include countries supporting American military operations, according to sources. Iranian officials are continuing diplomatic efforts to prevent a fresh confrontation, although some privately acknowledge that the chances of a breakthrough remain slim.