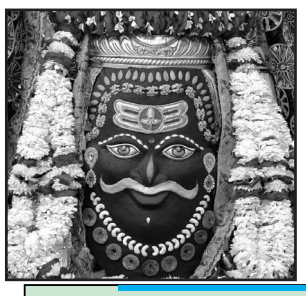
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12% Agniveer Quota, Green Tax On Older Vehicles: Himanta Sarma's Big Decisions

Guwahati. (Agency)

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma-led Assam cabinet has approved a 12 per cent reservation for Agniveers in constable-level recruitment in several state government departments, besides introducing a Green Tax on the sale and transfer of certain older vehicles. The Agniveer quota will cover recruitment to Assam Police AB (Armed Branch) and UB (Unarmed Branch) constable posts, commando personnel, jail warders, firemen, State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) constables,



forest guards and excise constables. The reservation will be available only to Agniveers who are permanent residents of Assam. Agniveers from other states will not qualify for the quota simply because they have completed military service. Sarma said the move was intended to make use of the training and experience gained by Agniveers during their four-year service and bring them into the state's uniformed services. The cabinet also approved the introduction of a Green Tax of Rs 3,000 on the sale or transfer of eligible vehicles that are more than three years old.

"RSS Distorting Sanatan Dharma": Digvijaya Singh's Big Charge Sparks Row

New Delhi. (Agency)

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh accused the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) of distorting Sanatan Dharma and dividing the country along religious lines through "Hindutva,", drawing sharp reactions from the BJP. "The discourse in this country has shifted to constantly harping on Hinduism, driven by the RSS and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad promoting 'Hindutva', a term coined by Savarkar.



Because of this, rifts have been created across the country, between Hindus and Muslims, between Hindus and Sikhs, and between Hindus and Christians. India belongs to everyone. Unity in diversity is our strength," Singh, in a video posted on X, said. The 79-year-old Congress leader - who will undertake a 'Sanatan Swabhiman Yatra', a foot march from Ujjain to Ayodhya to protest alleged religious exploitation - added that the word "Hindu" does not appear in any religious scriptures today, accusing the VHP of distorting the "Sanatan Dharma." "Today, no one speaks of the Hindu religion; people speak of Sanatan Dharma.

Sitharaman's speech disrupted

Congress claims anger over jobs, Chandrababu says enthusiasm

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's speech at an event in Andhra Pradesh was briefly disrupted due to shouting by some in the crowd. A clip of the incident has sparked a political clash, with the Congress claiming it was public anger over jobs and Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu terming it enthusiasm.

New Delhi (Agency)

A brief period of shouting by a crowd during Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's speech at Andhra Pradesh's Madanapalle has turned into a political contest over what the disruption was really about. The Congress claimed it was anger over jobs, while Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu trashed those claims, saying it was enthusiasm among the people of Rayalaseema. A video clip from the October 2 event in Madanapalle, where Sitharaman was speaking about an agriculture project, went viral online. The video shows Sitharaman trying to calm the people and Naidu stepping in. After Naidu's intervention, Sitharaman completed her speech.

Some of those who shared the video claimed that the disruption was caused by people in the audience who were demanding jobs. Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh shared the clip, describing the scene as a sign of "public anger". Chandrababu Naidu, Sitharaman, Andhra Pradesh minister and TDP leader Nara Lokesh, and BJP leaders rejected that interpretation. They said the crowd was enthusiastic about the leaders on stage, and that Naidu intervened to restore order. The audio in the clip, however, does not make it clear why exactly the crowd was shouting. What is audible is Sitharaman repeatedly asking people to listen to her before Naidu steps in and asks them to sit down. His remarks indicate how he interpreted the situation at the venue. "Please listen to me for one minute," Sitharaman told the gathering repeatedly. Naidu then took over. "Please sit down. What you are doing is not right," he told the crowd. He said the programme was about bringing change to the lives of Rayalaseema farmers and stressed the importance of the Union Minister's message. Rayalaseema is the southern part of Andhra Pradesh, and is a chronically drought-prone region.



RAISE SLOGANS LATER, NOT NOW: CHANDRABABU NAIDU

The video shows Chandrababu Naidu walking to the lectern and calming the sloganeering crowd."Please sit down. I understand your enthusiasm. But please sit down," Naidu said. He then told the gathering that he and Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan would come out after the programme. "Then, if you want, you can raise as many slogans as you want. But not here. Please sit down," Naidu said.

At one point, he also asked people who had climbed onto a railing to get down. "Hey, brothers, please get down," he said. Naidu said that he was telling them to sit down for their own good. "We are telling you this respectfully, so you should also show respect," Naidu said, before again asking the crowd to sit quietly. It is this intervention that has become central to the competing narratives around the incident.

If there's illegality...: SC seeks records of EC's decisions amid SIR row

Prayagraj(Agency)

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to pass any interim order to suspend Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over allegations that he took decisions unilaterally without the consensus of the two other Election Commissioners. It, however, directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to produce records of the decisions under challenge, including the controversial changes to Form 6.

The top court was hearing a petition, filed by Patna resident Rakesh Kumar Singh, challenging the functioning of the Election Commission under the CEC's leadership, alleging that several guidelines and software changes were introduced without the approval of the other two Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

It also sought the CEC's suspension, saying that he had acted contrary to the constitutional and statutory framework. During the hearing



The Supreme Court was hearing a petition seeking CEC Gyanesh Kumar's suspension and challenging the functioning of the Election Commission under his leadership. It alleged that several guidelines and software changes were introduced without the approval of the other two Election Commissioners.

decision should be by a majority; otherwise, the decision could be set aside. You are basing your arguments solely on a newspaper report," the CJI said. Form 6 is the application form used by eligible citizens to seek inclusion of their names on the electoral roll as new voters.

Vikas Singh, appearing for the petitioner, responded, "There is a press release from the Election Commission itself, and they have not refuted this report." In response, the CJI said, "The report might be accurate or inaccurate, but we cannot pass an order based on that. We must await their response." Meanwhile, the Supreme Court did not set a specific deadline for the ECI to respond, despite advocate Vikas Singh seeking a response within a week and arguing that the court needed to intervene, saying otherwise "the country will burn."

In response, the CJI said that if the court eventually found flaws in the appointment process, it could always cancel the results.

The senior lawyer, however, argued that the

In Maharashtra, everybody is protesting – From 'cockroaches' to tribals to women

Mumbai (Agency).

Protests in Maharashtra have reached a crescendo. In the past few weeks, different parts of Maharashtra have witnessed a string of agitations – from Gen-Z to tribal students to women, though only a few made the headlines. On Friday, October 2, the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) held a protest in Mumbai, demanding the ouster of CEC Gyanesh Kumar, followed by a similar protest by the Thackeray cousins.



Sand Mining Allegations Raise Questions Over Administration

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Chhota Udepur / Gandhinagar: Allegations of unchecked and illegal sand mining in Chhota Udepur district have raised serious concerns over environmental damage, groundwater depletion and losses to the government exchequer. Local residents allege that large-scale sand extraction from riverbeds is continuing despite the presence of government enforcement agencies.According to claims highlighted by Mahanagar Metro Newspaper, discussions are also intensifying over the alleged involvement of politically influential individuals in the sand-mining network. However, these allegations require an independent investigation and verification by the



competent authorities.Local residents are questioning the role of the Collector, Superintendent of Police, Tehsildars and Mines and Minerals Department officials. They want to know whether proper inspections are being conducted and whether strict action is being taken against unauthorized mining and transportation.The alleged illegal extraction could also result in significant royalty losses for the government. Residents and farmers are further concerned that excessive sand mining may affect river ecosystems and groundwater recharge, potentially worsening water availability in the future.Public anger is reportedly growing, with residents demanding immediate action against those found involved in illegal mining. They have warned of protests if the alleged activities continue unchecked.The key questions are whether all mining operations have valid permits, whether the government is receiving the legally applicable royalty, and what action has been taken against operators found violating mining regulations.The allegations now call for a transparent investigation by the concerned authorities. If violations are established, strict legal action should be taken against those responsible, irrespective of their political or administrative connections.

CBI probe ordered into corruption allegations against Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann's aides

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has sought a report within two months on allegations against people linked to CM Mann's office.

Chandigarh (Agency).

The Punjab and Haryana High Court Monday directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe allegations made by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against people linked to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's office and submit a report within two months.



The order came on a PIL filed by advocate Nikhil Saraf, who sought a CBI probe into issues raised by the ED in a letter sent to Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav. The petition contended that the allegations raised serious questions about the state government's functioning and warranted an independent investigation outside the Punjab Police and Vigilance Bureau. In its earlier communication to the DGP, the agency sought registration of a criminal case against CM Mann's Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Rajbir Singh Ghuman and his alleged associates, Nitin Gohal and Bir Devinder.

According to the communication, the three allegedly interfered in the transfer and posting of government officials, government work and tender processes. The agency also referred to material purportedly indicating "attempts to influence postings, access confidential government documents and interfere in administrative approvals and other official processes". The issue came to notice after investigations into alleged irregularities in the functioning of government departments and agencies in Punjab.

Bihar suspends 7 engineers over flood response lapses, Gandak level recedes

Patna (Agency).

The water level of river Gandak in Bihar has started receding quickly, even as the state government on Sunday suspended seven engineers and began departmental proceedings against another official for alleged negligence in handling the recent floods, according to an official statement. said the state government will implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) once the committee drafting its recommendations submits its report. He said the go The Water Resources Department said there was currently no pressure on embankments, while seepage and piping problems had been resolved. It also said materials had been stocked at breach sites to protect vulnerable stretches. At Rewaghat in Saran, the Gandak's



water level has fallen by 177 cm from its record high and is now 50 cm below the danger mark, the department said in a statement issued on Sunday evening. At Lalganj in Vaishali, the level has dropped by 130 cm but remains 52 cm above the danger mark. It is expected to fall below the danger mark within the next 24 hours, the release added. The Gandak had recorded unprecedented water levels after heavy rainfall in adjoining Nepal and Uttar Pradesh, with record highs reported at Devghat in Nepal and at Bagaha, Dumariaghat, Rewaghat and Lalganj in Bihar. The department said inspections had found laxity and delays in the emergency response by some engineers, including inadequate mobilisation of manpower and materials and poor coordination with locals and elected representatives.

The river Gandak has begun receding in Bihar as the state government suspended seven engineers over flood response lapses. The action underscores mounting scrutiny of embankment management while relief work continues across six affected districts.

Haryana colleges told to join digital library for wider access to study material

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Students in govt-aided colleges across Haryana, including Gurgaon, may soon get access to a wider range of academic resources, with the higher education department stepping up efforts to connect institutions to National Digital Library of India (NDLI).The department has directed colleges that have yet to register with the platform to complete their institutional membership process at the earliest. The initiative aims to supplement conventional college libraries with digital access to study material, research papers and examination resources.NDLI offers a common platform for students to access undergraduate and postgraduate study material, research publications, question papers and resources for entrance and competitive examinations. These include JEE, NEET, CUET, GATE, UGC-NET, SSC and banking exams, among others.

For students in Gurgaon, many of whom prepare for competitive examinations alongside their degree courses, the platform could provide access to academic and exam-related material without having to search across multiple websites.The digital library is not intended to replace physical libraries but to expand the range of resources available to students. It could also benefit postgraduate students and researchers seeking subject-specific material.

As part of the registration process, colleges are required to establish an NDLI Club to facilitate student participation. Through these clubs, institutions can organise expert lectures, webinars, quizzes, debates and examination-preparation activities.Once students are enrolled and the prescribed activities are conducted, institutions can receive an NDLI registration certificate. Participating students will also be eligible for certificates recognising their involvement in the programmes. Saturday. to identify the truck and trace its driver.

A decade gone, but bats keep flat owners hanging by the thread

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Residents of Ashiana Palm Court in Raj Nagar Extension said a persistent bat infestation in the society has made life difficult for the past decade. Several bats have made their home in the basement, walls and alcoves, with their droppings causing foul smells and breathing problems for some.

Vivek, a member of the apartment owners' association, said they had contacted the municipal corporation, the district administration as well as the forest department for redress in the matter but they had received no response so far. "Since some species of bats are protected under Wildlife Act, we wanted the forest department to relocate them. We have written emails and given reminders to GMC and the district administration too but to no avail," he said.

Vivek says the bats have almost taken over the basement and often get inside cars parked there. They then attack the drivers when they try to use the vehicles. "One time, a bat was found inside the car's engine during servicing," he said.Cleaning staff also face attacks from the animal. "The extreme dirt and smell from their droppings have made the basement virtually inaccessible," Vivek added.For Shailendra Kashyap, the issue is not confined to the basement only. "My flat is on the ground floor. I encounter the bats and their stench as soon as I step out of my home. It has become unbearable for me," he said.

President of the owners' association Rakesh Kumar said, "We have tried to work out solutions in the past, but nothing concrete could be devised." He said an email to the CM's office got a lukewarm response — an auto-generated reply that read "register your complaint on Jan Sunvai Portal".mmediately so that further action can be taken.

Labourer dies, another injured as roof collapses during repairs

Noida.(Agency)

A 30-year-old labourer died while his younger brother was seriously injured when a house roof collapsed during repairs on Sunday. The incident took place around 1pm in Dadri's Mohalla Brahmpuri locality during the renovation work at farmer Satish Aggarwal's house, police said.

Greater Noida ADCP Abhay Kumar Mishra said, "Seven workers, including a contractor, had been repairing the house for three days. Irfaan, a resident of Aligarh, and his brother Haider were removing plaster from the roof and a nearby wall for fresh plaster when the roof collapsed, trapping them under debris. Other workers were outside for lunch and tea." Haidar is undergoing treatment at a hospital."The workers alerted police, following which NDRF, fire department, police and hospital teams reached the site. The brothers were taken to a nearby hospital, where Irfaan died," he said.Dadri police station SHO Neera Mishra said that no complaint has yet been made by the victim's family members. "We will investigate whether the workers were provided any safety equipment or not. The body has been sent for autopsy and reports are awaited. The victim's family have been informed and they are on their way," the SHO added. A rescue operation continued for more than three hours even after both victims were pulled from the debris and sent to hospital, a senior police officer said.People at the site could not find worker Somveer, who had come to work only today, and none of the workers had his mobile number. Police continued searching but later found Somveer, who said he had gone for a cold drink and lunch.

When Two Hearts Come Close, a Relationship Becomes More Than Just a Touch...

Mahanagar Metro Desk

LIFESTYLE & RELATIONSHIPS SPECIAL FEATURE The True Essence of Intimacy: Why Emotional Connection Outweighs Physical Closeness in MarriageIn a fast-paced modern world, couples are growing emotionally distant despite physical proximity. A closer look at the vital role of trust, communication, and everyday acts of care in sustaining lifelong marital bonds.By Rupesh SolankiBHACHAU, KUTCH: In the complex landscape of modern married life, intimacy is frequently mischaracterized as merely a physical requirement. However, beyond the surface, it serves as a profound expression of affection, trust, absolute acceptance, and emotional closeness between two people. When genuine love resides in the heart, even a quiet, silent touch can communicate volumes, speaking more eloquently than a thousand words ever could.The Foundation of Mutual RespectPhysical intimacy between life partners transforms into a truly beautiful facet of marriage only when it is firmly rooted in mutual consent, deep-seated respect, and a rich emotional connection. Mere momentary attraction or fleeting passion cannot sustain the happiness of a relationship over the long haul. What breathes life into a marriage day after day is the profound ability to understand, validate, and honor each other's unspoken feelings.As the essence of this connection is often described:"A touch may last only for a moment, but the feeling it creates can last much longer; before two bodies come close, two hearts need to come closer."The Modern Paradox: Together Yet ApartIn today's fast-paced world, a tragic paradox often unfolds in domestic life: couples frequently become emotionally distant even while sharing the same room. The warmth of a relationship does not disappear overnight. It is gradu



ally extinguished by a lack of meaningful communication, unresolved misunderstandings, creeping mistrust, and the modern habit of not dedicating undivided time to one another.Everyday Gestures Outweigh Material ComfortsTrue intimacy is not a phenomenon experienced solely behind closed doors in private moments. It is a living, breathing energy felt throughout the day through small, often unnoticed acts of care. It is found in the effort of understanding each other's evolving likes and dislikes. It shines brightly when a partner asks at the end of a long, exhausting day, "How was your day today?"Standing as a pillar of strength during moments of crisis and patiently listening to what weighs heavy on a partner's heart without judgment are the irreplaceable treasures of a relationship, far more valuable than any material comfort.Trust as the Ultimate TouchstoneIn a truly enduring marriage, the connection of the soul and heart always takes precedence over mere physical closeness. Physical dynamics and youthful attraction will naturally evolve and change with time. But when the foundational bond of trust, mutual respect, and pure affection remains unshaken, the beauty of the relationship not only remains intact but grows deeper and more radiant even after decades of togetherness.

A-One Dialysis Scam: Will Health Minister Pansheriya Act Against the Corrupt Syndicate?

Mahanagar Metro Desk

AHMEDABAD/GANDHINAGAR: A massive corruption scandal has erupted within Gujarat's healthcare system, exposing how schemes designed to provide life-saving treatment to the poor have been hijacked by corrupt officials and vested interests. The state's highly publicized 'A-One Dialysis Programme' is currently at the center of a brewing storm over alleged illicit operations, financial irregularities, and blatant nepotism. By crushing tender regulations and distributing lucrative posts like freebies, a deeply entrenched syndicate has triggered an earthquake within the health department.Grave facts brought to light by reliable sources point directly to a coordinated nexus of corruption. Here is a definitive look at the primary pillars of this dialysis scam:Rampant Illegal Hiring Beyond Sanctioned LimitsAccord-



ing to strict tender provisions, only 10 posts were authorized for 'Senior HD Technicians' under this program. Administrative rules clearly dictate that the number of sanctioned posts cannot be increased by more than 25% under any circumstances—capping the absolute maximum at 13 posts.However, completely defying these regulations, 30 or more individuals were illicitly hired and deployed. The immediate question arises: Under what authority and which specific rule was this massive, unauthorized recruitment drive approved? The gross violations are not limited to senior roles; large-scale, rule-breaking appointments are also reportedly being made for 'Junior HD Technician' and 'Assistant Technician' positions, demanding an immediate and exhaustive probe.Fake Experience Certificates and the 'Patel Lobby' PlayTo determine salaries under the scheme, three distinct experience slabs were established:₹40,000/month: 1-year course + 10 years of experience₹32,000/month: 7 to 10 years of experience₹24,000/month: All other remaining techniciansAllegations indicate that Project Officer Naresh Patel is deliberately accepting unverified and fraudulent experience certificates from unrecognized institutions to financially benefit his inner circle.The case of Bhumi Patel, a technician working in the dialysis department of the Behrampura Municipal Corporation, serves as a prime example of this alleged manipulation. Reports suggest she leveraged a tampered experience record to directly enter the ₹32,000 salary slab, despite having spent two of those claimed years abroad. Sources allege that despite having full knowledge of this discrepancy, Project Officer Naresh Patel and Administrative Officer J.C. Patel elevated her from her rightful ₹24,000 bracket straight into the lucrative ₹32,000 tier.This points heavily toward the protection and collusion of a specific caste network or 'Patel Lobby'. The primary motive behind anchoring these under-qualified staff on the government payroll is allegedly to extort kickbacks from the technicians and secure hefty monthly commissions from the tender agency.

Power dues fall Rs 102 crore despite rise in defaulters in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The city's electricity arrears fell by nearly Rs 102 crore between March and Aug, but the reduction did not come from a decline in the number of defaulters. Instead, most of the fall came from recovering dues from disconnected connections, while the number of connected consumers with pending dues rose.The total amount owed by defaulting consumers fell from Rs 368.9 crore at the end of March to Rs 266.6 crore in Aug, a reduction of 27.7%. During the same period, the number of defaulting connections rose from 52,851 to 57,407.The distinction between connected and disconnected accounts explains much of the change. Dues against disconnected connections fell from Rs 223.7 crore to Rs 121.4 crore — a reduction of over Rs 102 crore. Meanwhile, dues against connected defaulting consumers remained almost unchanged at nearly Rs 145 crore.

The number of connected defaulting accounts, however, increased from 32,851 to 37,292. Disconnected defaulting accounts fell only marginally, from 20,711 to 20,520.

This means the reduction in arrears cannot be attributed simply to fewer consumers defaulting on payments. The outstanding amount against the existing pool of defaulters has fallen, particularly among disconnected connections.

The change is also visible in the average amount outstanding per defaulting connection. With total dues falling while the number of defaulting connections increased, the average outstanding amount dropped from around Rs 69,800 in March to Rs 46,400 in Aug.

The data, however, does not show how much of the reduction came from actual recovery by the discom and how much resulted from adjustments, write-offs, or otherwise removed from the defaulting ledger. It therefore does not, by itself, establish an overall improvement in payment discipline.For a power utility, outstanding dues are not merely an accounting concern but unrecovered revenue for electricity already supplied. "Persistent arrears can strain finances and affect the utility's ability to maintain its distribution network," a discom official said.

There are also sharp differences across the city's distribution circles. Southern Urban Gurgaon now has the highest outstanding amount at Rs 110 crore, followed by City Gurgaon at Rs 50.9



crore, Sohna at Rs 43 crore and Pataudi at Rs 30.8 crore.

Badshahpur recorded the biggest reduction. Its outstanding dues fell from Rs 132.1 crore in March to Rs 21.4 crore in Aug, an 83.8% decline. The number of defaulting connections there, however, rose marginally from 4,889 to 4,914. This further indicates that the fall was driven by a reduction in the amount outstanding against defaulters rather than a significant decline in their number.Manesar recorded a parallel increase in both arrears and defaulting connections. Its outstanding dues rose 45.1%, from Rs 7.2 crore to Rs 10.4 crore, as the number of defaulting connections increased from 1,298 to 1,478.The figures come as DHBVN has stepped up scrutiny of recovery. At a review meeting on Sept 30, the discom's managing director Vikram Singh directed officials to fix responsibility for pending recovery cases and ensure time-bound action.The meeting reviewed defaulting amounts in the govt and private sectors, reasons for pending dues and plans for recovery. Officials were told that recovery efforts should produce tangible results rather than remain limited to paperwork.Gurgaon's figures contrast with the broader trend across DHBVN's distribution network. The discom's total defaulting dues rose from Rs 4,633 crore in March to nearly Rs 4,800 crore in Aug, a rise of 3.6%. The number of defaulting connections also increased from about 11.19 lakh to nearly 13 lakh, a rise of 16.2%.

IIT-B suicide: Student council distances itself from protesting group

Mumbai (Agency).
General secretaries of the official student council at IIT-Bombay have distanced themselves from the ongoing protest near the main gate of the Powai campus, stating that the 10-12 protesting students do not represent the student community. The protesting students, however, questioned the council's independence and said they would continue with the protest.Student protests began on the IIT-Bombay campus on the night of Sept 18, hours after 20-year-old BTech student Sahil Wakode died by suicide. While most students stopped protesting after the institute held an open house on Sept 21 and gave assurances to look into their demands, a group continued their agitation near the main gate and later began a relay hunger strike.In a statement issued on Sunday, the general secretaries of the student council, while respecting the protesters' right to protest, said that the 10-12 students agitating at the main gate do not represent the wider IIT-Bombay student community. Claiming that some of the protesting students have affiliations with external vested interest entities, they said, "...Their affiliations are their democratic right, but they do not give this small group a mandate to speak on behalf of thousands of IIT-Bombay students," the statement said.It said 18 demands were finalised by 50 student representatives based on concerns raised by over 1,000 students and these were shared with the institute on Sept 20. The institute expressed its intent to act on them, it added. The continuing protest was affecting thousands of students not participating in it, many of whom had classes, exams, research and placements, it said.The statement added that students are actively and constructively working with the administration on institutional reforms arising from the situation. "Student representatives are engaging with relevant authorities, identifying concerns and working towards practical changes. This constructive engagement is an important part of the student response and should not be overshadowed by the action of a small group," it added.The protesting students, some of them from the humanities stream, however, reiterated that their protests have been peaceful and are not disrupting daily functioning of the institute.

Tribal student protesters arrested from Maharashtra Congress headquarters? What cops say

Mumbai (Agency).
The Mumbai Police has denied allegations that they entered the Congress headquarters at Tilak Bhavan and arrested tribal student protesters staying there. In a statement, the police said they detained Lok Bhavan march protesters from different locations and that legal action was being taken against them. Lok Bhavan is the official residence of the Governor of Maharashtra at Malabar Hill, Mumbai.



The protesters had called for a march to Lok Bhavan, and only those who attempted to proceed towards the Lok Bhavan were detained, police said, without giving details on those arrested.
Congress leaders, including Maharashtra Congress president Harshwardhan Sapkal and senior leader Balasaheb Thorat, had earlier alleged that police entered the party's Tilak Bhavan headquarters during the night and detained tribal students, including women, who had arrived in Mumbai from Nashik after a foot march.
Sapkal had alleged that police entered the office premises and threatened the students, while demanding their immediate release. He had also claimed that NSUI office-bearers were among those detained.Shame on the so-called double engine government in Maharashtra which is clearly Adivasi-virodhi," senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said. Balasaheb Thorat also criticised the alleged police action and asked, "Is it a crime for tribal people to protest for their legitimate rights?"
Congress spokesperson Atul Londhe said, "Women cannot be arrested at night. Who gave them this right?"
The party has meanwhile warned that party workers will gherao Varsha, the chief minister's residence, if the students aren't released.

TVK government buys tur dal Rs 31 cheaper/ kg, Rs 187 cr saved in 3 months

If the TNCSC manages to secure the same price in the next three tenders (for nine months) for procuring tur dal, the annual savings to the state exchequer could increase to around Rs 750 crore.

CHENNAI. (Agency)
The TVK government has procured tur dal at `77.89 per kg for public distribution through fair price shops, which is nearly `31 or 29% cheaper than the `109.15 paid per kg by the previous DMK regime, thereby saving `187.56 crore for the state exchequer in last three months.While the TVK government had spent `467.34 crore to procure 60,000 tonnes of tur dal from July to September, the DMK government, since July last year, had spent `654.9 crore every three months to procure dal of identical quantity, quality, and specification.If the TNCSC manages to secure the same price in the next three tenders (for nine months) for procuring tur dal, the annual savings to the state exchequer could increase to around `750 crore.Considering the hike in inflation and lack of significant change in the price of the commodity in India and international markets, the substantial reduction in procurement cost of dal has raised questions as to whether the state had overpaid for procurement under the previous regime.
The last tender floated during the DMK regime was finalised on May 2, two days before the announcement of the election result, and the procured stocks were used for distribution until the end of August. Every month, 20,000 MT of tur dal is allocated for distribution to ration cardholders at the rate of one kg per card. Of these, 86% to 88% of cardholders purchase the commodity at a subsidised price of `30 per kg.
The work orders issued by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation (TNCSC) to six contractors for procuring tur dal to supply from September, a copy of which is available with TNIE, show that the corporation has paid an average of `77.89 per kg.
DMK govt paid higher price for buying tur dal?
The procurement price is also mentioned in the official documents, including the policy note tabled in the recently concluded Assembly, for the first tender floated after the TVK government assumed office. Similarly, bills issued at ration shops since July last year, copies of which are available with TNIE, show that the DMK government procured the dal at `109.15 per kg.
Shilpa Prabhakar Satish, Managing Director, TNCSC, told TNIE that there was no change in the specifications or quality parameters for the procurement of tur dal in the recently concluded tender. Asked how the procurement price was `31.26 per kg lower than what was paid under the previous DMK government, she said all tender norms had been followed as per the existing procedures.
"There may have been more suppliers participating in the tender this time," she added. A food department official pointed out that under the special PDS, cooking oil was procured at `154.99 per litre under the incumbent government, compared with



`143.91 per litre during the DMK regime.
"Given the higher inflation and the rise in the wholesale price index for food commodities in the domestic and global markets, the TNCSC's procurement price for tur dal should ideally have increased by 5% to 10%. Instead, it has declined by 29%, indicating that a higher price was paid during the DMK regime. Any further action on the matter should be decided by the government."He added that the new procurement price for tur dal procured under the TVK government would soon be reflected in the ration shop bills. "Consumers can compare the procurement prices every three months themselves," the official said.
Despite repeated attempts, former DMK food minister R Sakkarapani could not be reached for his comments.The special PDS was introduced by the late Chief Minister M Karunanidhi on April 14, 2007, with an objective to control the prices of essential commodities in the open market. Since then, one kg of dal and one litre of oil have been sold at `30 and `25, respectively.The schee requires an annual expenditure of around `5,600 crore to `6,000 crore. The government has been funding the scheme in recent years by availing loans from banks. According to the white paper released in June, the outstanding debt of the TNCSC stood at `27,181 crore as of March this year.

10 'Toy trains' cancelled on Kalka-Shimla heritage route after track left hanging

SHIMLA. (Agency)
Ten trains on the Kalka-Shimla narrow gauge railway line, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, were cancelled on Sunday after heavy rain washed away soil supporting a section of the track in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district.
According to railway officials, soil slippage between Koti and Gumman stations left a portion of the track suspended in the air, prompting authorities to suspend operations on the affected stretch on Saturday night as a precautionary measure.Shimla Railway Station Superintendent Sanjay Gevar said 10 trains running between Kalka and Shimla were cancelled on Sunday. Services will resume only after the track is secured and its safety is assessed.
A railway notification stated that soil around the track near Bridge No. 57 between Koti and Gumman stations had been washed away due to continuous rainfall.The cancellation of the popular 'toy train' service caused inconvenience to passengers who had booked tickets in advance. The impact was visible at Shimla railway station, which remained quieter than usual on a weekend, with fewer tourists and travellers.Train services on the Kalka-Shimla heritage line have faced repeated disruptions this monsoon season due to rain-related incidents and landslides.
The 96-km Kalka-Shimla railway line, known for traversing challenging mountain terrain, features 102 tunnels, around 800 bridges and 919 curves, making it one of the country's most iconic engineering achievements and a major tourist attraction.
Meanwhile, rainfall continued across parts of Himachal Pradesh, leading to the closure of 64 roads as of Sunday morning.
According to the State Emergency Operations Centre, 24 roads were closed in Mandi district, 16 in Kullu, seven each in Kangra and Sirmaur, four in Una, three in Shimla, two in Chamba and one in Lahaul-Spiti. In addition, 225 power transformers and nine water supply schemes were affected.The Meteorological Centre in Shimla has issued an alert for heavy rainfall at isolated places across the state from August 31 to September 3.
Light to moderate rainfall was recorded in several areas since Saturday evening. Dhaulakuan received 38.5 mm of rain, followed by Ghaghas (30 mm), Palampur (23.8 mm), Murari Devi (22 mm), Kahu (11.6 mm) and Pandoh (10 mm). The weather office also reported thunderstorms.

UP hospitals sold medicines at up to 67 times the purchase price

Officials said the department was examining the reasons behind the wide variation.

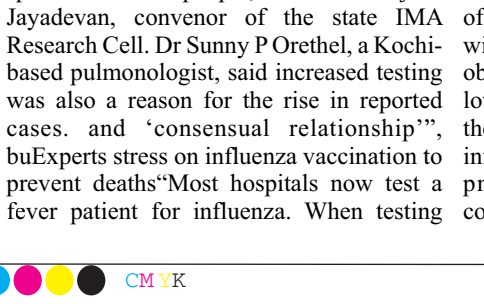
Lucknow. (Agency)
An inspection by the Uttar Pradesh Food Safety and Drug Administration (UPFSDA) has found a staggering gap between the procurement prices of medicines and the maximum retail prices (MRPs) printed on their packs, with the MRP of some drugs found to be several times higher — as high as 67 times – than the price at which hospitals procure them.



Officials said that they are now looking into the reasons for such large gaps.
The findings emerged from inspections of medical college and private hospital pharmacies across Uttar Pradesh.
According to the UPFSDA, it collected data from 214 hospital pharmacies and analysed the purchase price and MRP of 130 medicines identified in the data. Of these 130 medicines, 36 had MRPs more than 10 times their purchase prices, while in some cases the difference was as high as 67 times.Several of the medicines showing wide disparities are injectable drugs used in ICUs and for serious bacterial and fungal infections.Among the most striking examples was Polymyxin-B injection (GUFIPOL 500,000 units), which is used to treat severe bacterial infections in critically ill patients when other traditional antibiotics fail. The purchase price recorded by the pharmacy was Rs 74.09, while the MRP printed on the pack was Rs 4,980.94 — 67.23 times the purchase price. Another pack of the same medicine was purchased for Rs 90 against an MRP of Rs 4,528.10 – a difference of more than 50 times.
Terlipressin injection, used to treat severe bleeding, was purchased for Rs 56, while its MRP was Rs 3,050 — 54.46 times higher, an official said.
Similarly, Colistimethate Sodium 4.5 MIU, another antibiotic, was purchased for Rs 210 against an MRP of about Rs 9,702, while Tigecycline injection was purchased for about Rs 154, and its MRP was printed as Rs 7,110. The MRPs in both cases were about 46 times their purchase prices.The gap was also significant in high-value medicines. Bevacizumab 400 mg, for instance, was purchased for Rs 7,541 against an MRP of Rs 69,995 — a difference of Rs 62,453.The inspection was not limited to medicines. The UPFSDA also examined medical devices and found substantial differences between procurement prices and MRPs in some cases.Officials said the department was examining the reasons behind the wide variation between procurement prices and MRPs, including whether the pricing and trade-margin structure allowed unusually high margins in some cases.

Karnataka's push for 1,000 KPSs raises concerns over rural school closures

BENGALURU.(Agency)
School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa's full steam in establishing Karnataka Public Schools (KPSs) across the state, despite the minister's assurance of not equating to the closure of existing government schools in Karnataka, is causing the inevitable outcome. Students being shifted to KPSs from their local schools – especially in rural contexts – are facing severe socioeconomic hindrances that undermine the potential of any sustainable education for them, let alone a holistic one.
In his capacity as the School Education and Literacy Minister, Bangarappa has been consistently batting for the KPS model of education, which envisions unified campuses



for education from the pre-primary to pre-university levels. A couple of months earlier, Bangarappa announced that 1,000 KPSs would be built across Karnataka in a phased manner.However, the move is considered to be of grave and adverse consequence, by activists and those within the department alike, with personnel from the state government's School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) equally concerned by the developments. "Though he made a statement in the legislative session that he was not going to close any government schools, on the contrary, he is making all attempts to do so. The Right to Education (RTE) Act accounts for neighbourhood schools within walking distance as a very clearly defined responsibility of both local bodies and the state government," said Dr. Niranjanaradhya VP, chief convenor at the People's Alliance for Fundamental Right to Education (PAFRE).

120 influenza deaths reported in Keralam, 11,319 cases till Oct

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)
Keralam has reported 120 influenza deaths so far this year, nearly three times the 43 fatalities in all of 2025, triggering public health concerns.As many as 110 of the deaths this year were reported in the past four months. The state also reported 11,319 influenza cases until October 3, of which 145 were reported in the first three days of this month.Experts attributed the spurt in cases to a combination of rain, humidity and crowded Onam gatherings besides increased testing. They also said the surge was not specific to the state.The surge in cases is not specific to Keralam. Delhi and other states have been reporting it, too. The spread in most parts of India is monsoon-related.The combination of heavy rains, humidity and crowded social gatherings during Onam meant the disease spread to more people," said Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, convenor of the state IMA Research Cell. Dr Sunny P Orethel, a Kochi-based pulmonologist, said increased testing was also a reason for the rise in reported cases. and 'consensual relationship'", buExperts stress on influenza vaccination to prevent deaths"Most hospitals now test a fever patient for influenza. When testing increases, the number of cases reported increases proportionately. Once the cause is identified, we can prescribe appropriate antiviral medicines," he said.Influenza is a seasonal disease, with fever and body pain being common symptoms. A high proportion of the elderly population in the state, coupled with those with lifestyle diseases, cancer and obesity are vulnerable.Experts also believe low immunisation coverage as a reason for the rise in deaths.Vaccines are available for influenza. The annual flu vaccine and the pneumococcal vaccine help prevent complications.

Ego in the workplace and personal life

In the form of leaders and managers who worship at the altar of unending profit, who drive performance with rage, greed, fear and the threat of the proverbial sword of dismissal hanging over their teams. Such leaders corner a disproportionately large portion of profits and benefits, while those on the lower rungs are denied a living wage. If the organisation underperforms, they blame their team, colleagues, industry, economy and so on, but never themselves. They seek to succeed at the expense of all others — it shows that they are driven by false ego, which has spiralled out of control.Such leaders are always in a tearing hurry — to 'succeed', to conquer the cosmos, to defeat everyone else. Proud of overworking themselves and others to the bone. Proud of always being 'on', of living in the workplace, of a lack of healthy boundaries. (Rest is, no wonder, a controversial word in the modern workplace.) The corollary is that they skimp on their duties and/or make others perform them.In personal life, the egoistic people can be identified by their behavioural traits; they are the ones who put their needs and interests above those of the family or partner. They are quick to lose their temper, slow to admit faults. They lack empathy but possess an abundance of entitlement. Their relationships and conversations are all about them, and they believe they are the most knowledgeable in the world.

Do these egoistic people in the workplace or in personal life remind you of King Hiranyakashipu, whose ego destroyed his intellect? How should you manage them?Well, accept such people also as a choiceless situation. So know this — they will not change. The effort should be to change yourself, not them. To change your attitude towards them. And not let their words or actions cause harm. Accept them, not with hatred but as a part of life — this will take time, but ultimately, you will realise that hatred is a waste of time and effort.

Maybe they thrive on another person's perceived weakness and draw their power from control over others. Or perhaps they are hurt from some life experiences and seek to project their trauma onto another. Whatever the reason, you are not obliged to suffer at their hands. Even if they are family or friends.As an aspiring devotee, you have a duty to respect others but also to safeguard the self. This is not being selfish but prudent. The humility or a lack of ego of a devotee is not to be confused with a lack of self-respect, weakness or foolishness. You can be selfless, humble and non-egoistic without allowing others to inflict harm upon you, verbal or otherwise. Standing up for yourself and others is a key duty of the devotee.

Didn't great leaders like Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi and Rani Lakshmibai, among others, stand up against tyranny and colonialism, and succeed? On the contrary, remember the fate of Ravana? And that of Hitler? They were defeated, and so will any ego that harms another.On the other hand, if it was your false ego that caused hurt, you must seek forgiveness and course correct. Because you will also be in the wrong from time to time. There is no one in the world who is perfect — your ego can also hurt or destroy another person's peace of mind. Initially, you may feel satisfied that you won a shouting competition or slanging match, but it is a false joy, the cost of which you will pay at a later date.If you need to seek forgiveness (in the future), you will have to learn to forgive (in the present). You cannot continue to hold a grudge towards a friend but expect benevolence from the Higher Power (or anyone else).To sum up — in everyday life, you may enjoy some amount of pride when you discharge your duties as a devotee, spouse, parent, friend, employee or leader, but it should not be allowed to grow out of control. For a layperson, a small ego is normal and indeed a must to fuel ethical desire and positive ambition.

Where campuses think aloud

Questioning Western bias in indices that rank India in the bottom brackets on academic freedom doesn't entirely resolve the issue. Recent incidents in Delhi and Karnataka indicate that institutions are losing the authority to discuss, research and organise. Reducing political influence over appointments can be a good start



Indian universities have always been expected to produce and transmit knowledge. Increasingly, they are also expected to build skills and employability. These are legitimate concerns, but ones that have drawn attention away from what makes a university a university.

One such foundation is freedom: a place to question ideas and examine unpopular arguments without anticipating the preferences of those in authority. This freedom doesn't rest only on individual teachers' rights; it depends on whether their institutions have the autonomy to protect them.This is why the Academic Freedom Index 2026 deserves attention. Prepared by the V-Dem Institute and Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, it covers 179 countries. It measures academic freedom across five dimensions, including freedom to research and teach, campus integrity and institutional autonomy. India ranks 156th among the 179 countries assessed, placing it in the bottom 10-20 percent bracket globally, below every South Asian neighbour except China. India's decline has often been met with a familiar response: that such surveys reflect Western assumptions and fail to understand Indian realities. Methodology may raise questions. But dismissing the findings as Western bias doesn't help. Worse, in the process, we avoid a more important question: is institutional autonomy necessary for a university to remain a place of independent thought? If it is, one cannot dismiss the issue merely because the warning comes from outside India.A professor may, in theory, have the freedom to teach, conduct research and express an opinion. But that freedom becomes difficult to exercise when the institution employing them cannot make basic decisions without external approval. Institutional autonomy does not mean freedom from accountability; universities receiving public money must comply with the law. It means decisions about academic work and internal administration should ordinarily be made within the university, according to clear rules.What happened last April at Delhi University illustrates the difficulty. A senior Hindi professor invited to speak in New York was asked to submit his lecture text before his travel could be approved, and told that his leave required clearance from the Union education ministry. He declined, and the university denied permission. A university requiring a lecture's text for approval raises a different question: at what point does administrative procedure become scrutiny of academic content?

A similar question arose in Karnataka in March 2026, when the State Open University was directed to postpone an international conference after the higher education department said it had not followed government protocol. The government then ordered its cancellation. The conference, on the ideas of RSS ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya, had become politically sensitive; the university eventually held it, with the Governor inaugurating the event.The two episodes are only representative: one involves an academic, the other an institution, but both raise the same question: who has final authority over what a university can discuss, research or organise? Karnataka's recent debates over university administration show how easily autonomy turns into a political contest. But changing who controls appointments doesn't create autonomy. It may just change who exercises control; governments across the spectrum have sought such influence.

Another, less discussed dimension matters. Academic freedom requires people willing to question decisions and defend unpopular positions. Employment insecurity makes that difficult. Government data put the vacancy rate for sanctioned faculty posts at central universities at about 25.4 percent in 2025. In Karnataka's government degree colleges, a High Court judgement noted that guest faculty handled about 63 percent of the teaching workload in 440 colleges in 2023-24, with 10,600 guest faculty against 6,100 permanent faculty. Court records show 10,303 guest faculty were engaged in 2025-26.A teacher with job insecurity is likely to be more cautious about challenging administrative decisions than one with a secure appointment. When authority is concentrated and employment is insecure, decisions that could be settled within the university are more likely to be referred upwards. Over time, caution can become part of institutional culture, and academic freedom may remain formally intact while the willingness to exercise it diminishes.

The solution has to begin with institutional design. Universities need clear rules specifying which decisions fall under academic and administrative bodies and which require government approval, including travel, conferences, visiting scholars and public events. Government oversight should be transparent and rule-based rather than dependent on an event's political sensitivity. The appointment of vice-chancellors and senior officials also needs greater insulation from political considerations.

The Index raises a different question, then: whether V-Dem is Western. It is whether we are willing to ask what a university is for. If universities are reduced to institutions that transfer knowledge and improve employability, autonomy may appear secondary. If they are also places where society thinks aloud and pursues knowledge without fear, autonomy becomes indispensable. India should not accept an international index uncritically, but neither should it reject an uncomfortable finding simply because it comes from outside.

GST growth remains strong, but domestic demand is less robust

Comparing current revenue against past data with discontinued levies and calling the difference a statistical trickery is a classic accounting mistake



Even as the controversy surrounding India's GDP data remains unsettled, accusations are being raised against the authenticity of GST collections. The monthly indirect tax haul is growing in healthy double-digits, outpacing nominal GDP growth. However, former Finance Secretary Subash Chandra Garg has levelled a fresh allegation that the net GST collection—stripping out tax credits and refunds—was registering lower growth than the nominal GDP. Moreover, by his calculations, if we exclude GST compensation cess, which was discontinued in September 2025, the overall growth in tax collection would remain sub-par.The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs was quick to dismiss Garg's allegations as misleading and mischievous for cherry-picking figures from two different tax bases and raising suspicion when there's none. Further, it argued that it has been transparently publishing data pertaining to compensation cess in separate tables, with detailed disclosures. Garg countered that the increasing tendency to manage data to suit narratives is unfortunate.Comparing current revenue against past data with discontinued levies and calling the difference a statistical trickery is a classic accounting mistake. Even if Garg rejects the government's claim about double-digit expansion in monthly GST revenue as a sign of robust economic activity, it's undeniable that the money is flowing to the exchequer. There is simply no merit for the government to inflate tax revenue data and complicate its income and expenditure budget. Moreover, the annual growth in both gross and net GST collections is below nominal GDP growth. For instance, in 2025-26, gross collections at ?22.27 lakh crore saw 8.3 percent growth, while net proceeds at ?19.34 lakh crore registered a 7.1 percent increase. These are actual monies collected and refunded, and tax officials have no benefit in reporting otherwise.The allegations have come close to next month's GST Council meeting. At this, the council's first huddle since the major rate rationalisation exercise last year, it must speed up work on simplifying refunds and speeding up registrations. One focus should be preventing fake input tax credit claims, which are alarmingly rising. In 2025-26 alone, authorities detected 30,000-odd such cases worth ?74,782 crore. Fake invoicing and fraudulent claims lead to significant revenue leakage. Hence, it's essential for the government to strengthen fraud detection and prevent such claims.

The unwritten way back

Rollbacks are anathema to business, but in politics and society, there is no reconciliation without reversal. However, India is beyond the pale already, because its founding fathers had not anticipated the enormity of millions of voters being summarily disenfranchised

The story of India began with the Preamble to the Constitution. It has now become interior decor, a quaint heritage to hang on the wall. But in times of doubt, it focuses the turbulent mind and tells us exactly who's who and what's what. It is a document written by and for the people, who "hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution". No other entity belongs in its remit. There's no prime minister or president, no election commissioner, no judge, administrator or police officer. These functionaries are subsidiaries created later in the Constitution, instruments by which the people are to secure the Preamble's objectives of justice, equality, liberty and fraternity. They are public and civil servants, which is what they used to call themselves.

Today, this balance of power seems to have been upturned amidst the uproar about the Chief Election Commissioner and 'stolen' elections. It's a constitutional crisis, because the powerless no longer retain the one instrument of power guaranteed by the Constitution: the vote. If the election watchdog has turned predator and robbed the weak of the right to choose, the latter may as well not exist, and the Constitution is a fantasy for them.

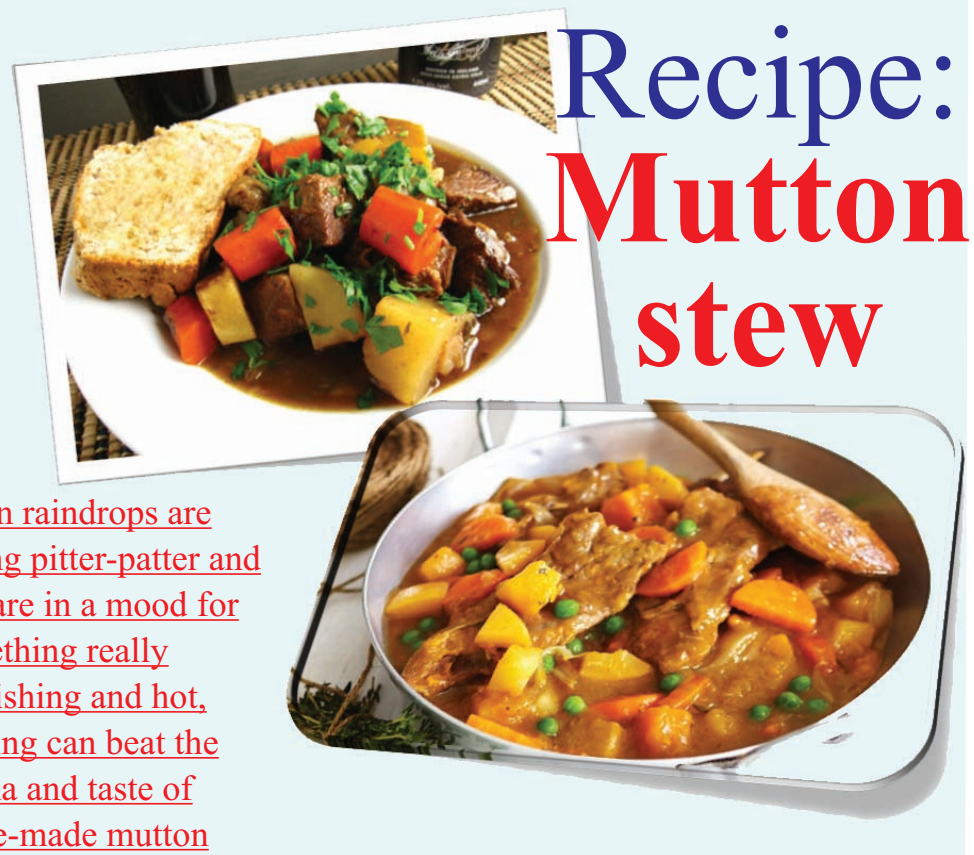
Calls to cancel elections presided over by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar underscore this constitutional crisis. The Cockroach Janta Party has taken the traditional position: hold off on future elections until electoral rolls are restored. Earlier, former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had gone further, seeking repolls. But is that even sufficient restoration, without rolling back the actions of governments that may not have a mandate? A rollback would take India into terra incognita. But India is beyond the pale already, because the founding fathers had not anticipated the enormity of millions of voters being summarily disenfranchised. Indian elections were made inclusive by the first chief election commissioner, Sukumar Sen, who had only excluded women voters who would not reveal their real names to strangers like polling officers, due to cultural niceties. The ECI used to pride itself on setting up polling centres for a handful of voters in sparsely populated regions amid forbidding terrain-and even for one voter, a baba in the Gir forest, whose only neighbours were Asiatic lions. Now, under Gyanesh Kumar, elections have become exclusivist, and the onus is on voters to prove their authenticity. A rollback, an undoing of what was ill-done, seems to be a moral imperative. And that is the constitutional crisis, too, because the nation's operating manual does not say how to achieve it. The land of rollbacks is uncharted territory. Here be monsters, and they are already in our midst-in the form of cockroaches who give the whole establishment the willies by challenging the politics of obscurantism with blunt realism, rejecting the WhatsApp wisdom of their parents, and bringing common-sense decency back to politics. In its hurry to climb down, the ECI has done away with the additional information it sought in Form 6 from new voters-which must have excluded many first-time Gen Z voters who could decide the 2029 general elections. Gen Z is now free to vote, but what of the millions excluded in prior elections by Form 6 black magic? A rollback would be imperfect and incomplete, but in response to an unprecedented crisis, that is no deterrent. The directives of state governments which won office under the aegis of Gyanesh Kumar should be rolled back pending elections,



to cancel their effect on the people. Beyond laws and rules, what of the cultural forces that influence the behaviour of communities? West Bengal's history texts will be politically redacted, and every school textbook must begin with a hagiography of Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder S P Mookerjee. The worldview of the state's children will change. Rectifying all this takes more than fresh elections.Rollbacks are anathema to business (remember Pranab Mukherjee's retrospective tax on Vodafone?), but in politics and society, there is no reconciliation without reversal. In September, the Gauhati High Court ordered compensation to a woman who was pushed into Bangladesh without due process. Money alone is not enough; the administration that cancelled her should apologise to restore the status quo ante. Compensation is the only possible reaction to acts of god, but damage from the acts of government should be rolled back.

There is now a BJP government in Delhi because AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia were incarcerated on trumped-up charges and could neither run their government nor campaign effectively for the 2025 election. Should that election not be rolled back, along with the administrative actions which followed? What about the many politicians and parties, across states, whose fortunes have been altered-and the people's will subverted— by the relentless application of saam daam dand bhed? The list of corrigible errors is vast.The thread of electoral malfeasance can be traced back to a change in the law for selecting the CEC in 2023-24, by which the election commissioners were no longer to be selected by the PM, the Leader of Opposition and the Chief Justice of India. The CJI was replaced by a cabinet minister chosen by the PM. That permanently tilted the odds 2:1. Gyanesh Kumar is the first CEC to be appointed thus—and hopefully the last. Imagine rolling back that diddle, which has changed the face of the country. Too much? Or have Indians been too forgiving and failed to honour the Preamble?

Recipe: Mutton stew



When raindrops are falling pitter-patter and you are in a mood for something really nourishing and hot, nothing can beat the aroma and taste of home-made mutton stew. And just in case, you think it takes hours to make this delicious stew, you couldn't be more wrong! It's a simple dish and even an amateur cook can make it.

Ingredients:
Fresh mutton: 1 kg.
Coarsely chopped onions: 4
Finely chopped garlic: 1 tablespoon
Badi elaichi: 2
Cinnamon stick: 2
Peppercorns: 8 - 10
Bay leaves: 2-3
Ghee: Two tablespoons
Salt: To taste

Method:
Wash the mutton and put it in a pressure cooker, along with all the ingredients (except ghee). Add one and a half glass of water, put the lid and pressure cook on slow flame for 12 minutes. Close the gas and open the cooker when it cools down. Check if the mutton is done and the onions have turned into thick paste, clinging to the meat with gay abundance. If there is extra water left, let it evaporate on slow flame. Add desi ghee just before serving and enjoy the exotic aroma and amazing taste.

Recipe: Hyderabadi mutton Biryani

Preparation time: 30 mins
Cooking time: 45 mins
Marinade mutton in spices overnight
Ingredients
Mutton: 1kg
Basmati rice: 500gm
Cumin (jeera): 1 tsp
Whole garam masala: 2 tbsp
Garam masala powder: 2 tsp
Boiled egg for decoration (optional): 2
Rose water (optional): 1 tbsp
Garlic-ginger paste: 2 tbsp
Golden-fried sliced onions: 2 cups
Mint leaves: 1 bunch
Curd: 2 cups
Cashew nuts (optional): 50gm
Turmeric powder: 1 pinch
Saffron: 1 pinch
Coriander leaves: 1 bunch
Salt: As per taste
Kashmiri red chilli powder: 1 tbsp
Oil: 5 tbsp
Procedure:
The Marinade -- Wash mutton (I prefer the raan or hind leg of a goat, for biryani). Pat dry and add garam masala, salt, ginger-garlic paste, red chilli paste, and two cups of curd. Put it in a clean film pastic bag and keep it in the refrigerator to marinade overnight.
Directions:
-First boil the water, add oil, salt and half-cook the rice.
-Next fry thinly sliced onions until golden brown. Add 1/3 of the golden-brown onion to the mutton marination and rest keep aside.
-Now in a handi (deep pan) add the marinated mutton in the bottom and top it of with half cooked rice, add mint leaves, coriander leaves and top it up fried onions. In a separate bowl, add some warm milk to soak saffron. Once the milk soaks the colour of the saffron, add it to the handi.
-Cover the handi or pan with a airtight lid or add sticky dough to the edges and cover it with a lid. Cook for 45 min.
-Add rose water and garnish with sliced boiled eggs.
-Serve hot with raita and mirchi ka salan.

A legend from the kitchens of the Nizam of Hyderabad, the kachche gosht ki biryani, also known as the Hyderabadi mutton biryani or is a spicey, fragrant and colourful variant of biryani in India. The traditional style of making the biryani by cooking the raw meat with spices for couple of minutes and then covered with rice and kept on dum until done.





Recipe: Kesar Milk Badam

In its hot and cold avatar, Milk Badam can leave you rejuvenated in any season. And a dash of kesar (saffron) will add to your craving. Here's how you can make it all by yourself.



Ingredients:
100 grams of almond
50 grams of pista
1 litre milk
Sugar (as per taste)
Powdered cardamom
Pinch of saffron (kesar)
5 rose petals
1 table spoon of cream

How to prepare it:
- First boil the milk for sometime and let it get thick.
- Along with it, grind the almonds and pistas. When it's powdered, add cream to it to prepare a paste. Remember soaking almonds for sometime as it's important that they get soft.
- Now add sugar, powdered cardamom and rose petals. The paste has to be blended well.
- Now, take the heated milk and mix the stuff in it. Churn it for some time.
- Those looking to down it hot can simply go ahead, whereas those preferring cold can refrigerate it for some time.
- Sprinkle saffron over it.

Parvathy Omanakuttan's Chicken Biryani



My earliest memory of food: The way my mother used to feed me as a toddler.The stories and excuses she would make to ensure I finished the meal!

My favourite recipe: Chicken biryani made by my mom.
I love cooking: But I don't know if I could cook 3-4 times a day, like my mother. Cooking to me is therapy. But I guess it's very different when one has to cook daily.
When I have the kitchen to myself, I like to cook: Oats and eggs.
Special meals I prepared for my loved ones: I cooked a proper Kerala meal for my dad when my mom was away. The last time I cooked was a few weeks ago, when my friends came over to my place. I made pomfret fry and prawn curry, Kerala style.
Men who cook are irresistible: I would love my man to cook and surprise me from time to time! Cooking together could also be a lot of fun.
On shoots, I prefer eating healthy and homemade food: I stay away from oily, spicy and hotel food. If I have to order, I go for fruits, dal and rice.
Best meal I have eaten till date: The food at Golden Dragon, Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai, is out of the world. I am yet to eat Chinese as good as that.

Chicken Biryani
INGREDIENTS: Basmati rice: 2 cups, Chicken pieces: 34 kg, Milk: 12 cup, Yogurt: 1 cup, Onion (sliced): 3, Ginger paste: 1 tsp, Garlic paste: 12 tsp, Green chilli paste: 1 tsp, Tomato puree: 12 cup, Red chilli powder: 2 tsp, Turmeric powder: 1 tsp, Roasted cumin powder: 1 tsp, Garam masala powder: 2 tsp, Green cardamom powder: 12 tsp, Coriander powder: 1 tsp, Coriander leaves: 2 tbsp, Oil: 7 tbsp, A pinch of saffron, Salt to taste.
METHOD: Mix tomato puree, yogurt, ginger garlic paste, green chilli paste, red chilli powder, turmeric powder, roasted cumin powder, garam masala, coriander powder and salt. Mix well. Marinate the chicken pieces in this mixture and keep aside for a few hours. In a pan, heat oil and fry the onions until golden brown. Add the marinated chicken and cook for 15 minutes. In a pressure cooker, add 4 cups of water to the rice. Mix saffron in milk and add to it. Add cardamom powder and the chicken pieces. Pressure cook the rice. Mix gently. Garnish with green coriander leaves and serve hot.

Restaurant Review: Yum Yum Cha

So soon on the heels of Tian at ITC Maurya, it seems that modern Southeast Asian has become a trend.

Decor
It is the tiniest little eatery in this - or any other - mall but so cleverly has the theme been executed and so intelligent the planning of the facilities that all you notice are the bright colours and playfulness of the mainly Japanese theme. Origami is the theme of the eatery, executed in paper-like metal brightly painted. It is on the ceiling in a collage, on the shelves in charming accessories, even on staff uniforms and napkins as embroidered motifs. The best part about Yum Yum Cha is the food and kudos to Varun Tuli to have managed the feat of making a one-of-a-kind menu and executing it to perfection in a diminutive kitchen.



Food
Order at least one basket of dim sum, because from the paper-thin wrappers to the fresh fillings with satisfying textures, they are miniature masterpieces. Prawn & curry (285 for 4 pieces) features crunchy prawn bits contrasted with a teaspoon of a fragrant gravy. Unusual and brilliant.Nigiri sushi (885 for 8 pieces) is served on a miniature tree, a delightful touch. While most of the nigiri and maki is traditional, the hotate mentoyaki (385) has never been done before in Delhi: a slice of scallop, topped by cod roe and glazed with mayo. However, it is the seafood salad (485) that is the most brilliantly presented dish in the restaurant. It looks like a giant futomaki, complete with a smear of flying fish roe on top. Made of a million flakes of crab, tuna and scallop, it is tasty, rich and subtle all at once. The nabe, called paper hot pot on the menu is a must have, if only for the sheer novelty value. Paper `cups' are set atop a spirit lamp and brought to your table filled with soup and the ingredients of your choice, while noodles are served separately.
Delightful even for a finicky child and deliciously spicy to please every palate, do not miss this section.

Plus and minus
They don't believe in saying no, whether you ask for half portions or customisation. Be prepared for lightning-quick service as they are under pressure to turn the tables rapidly because of the waiting crowds.

Restaurant Review: The Square (Global)

DECOR
Novotel's The Square is grandly spacious. Standardized interiors, themed around red, brown, wood and marble, give the guests from across the globe a feeling of coming home. A small curved alcove holds treasures like salads and desserts, while a live counter has expert chefs dish up the different cuisines. The place is brightly lit and is beside the pool.

FOOD
Food wise, a lot of effort has gone into keeping things authentic and at the same time using locally sourced ingredients. The buffet spread is impressive, and one can stop counting after the 20-mark. Playing it safe, we begin our meal with the mezze platter. It is colourful, and has some wellput-together tastes and textures. We loved the Lebanese Za'atar bread. It was soft, and easy to eat.Opting for Indian food, we sample the tan doori aloo chatpate. The salt reaches the core and it is well-cooked. Before getting into the main meal, we try the som sam Thai from Asian section of the menu. The grated raw papaya which was made tangy had that spicy crunch with chilli and peanuts. The flavours of the tom yum soup were all there, but the prawn was a little overdone.For mains, we stuck to Indian, going with the melt-in-the-mouth Nihari ghosht made by Chef Asif who belongs to the famous Imtiaz Qureshi family. He also serves a mean Awadhi dum biryani and dum ka murgh. The subz nargisi pulao is vegetarian and comes with its accompaniments. We end the meal with black sticky rice pudding.Thankfully it is not too sweet and carries the right balance of flavours. One could alternatively opt for a gooey hot chocolate pudding, which has the right balance of sweet and chocolate.



World of Fashion

Indian Fashion Industry 1000 crores in the next 5 to 10 years. Is expected to reach. Today, in addition to designing many options in this field have come before, which show creativity and the chance to make a name ..

When it comes to a career in the fashion industry, so that a designer or ramp catwalk model is exposed, but behind the scenes (Back Stage) working days of the demand for fashion professionals - is increasing day . Youth today face fashion styling, photography, choreography, branding, promotions, Garmet manufacturing, Mrchedaijing, consulting, fashion events such as career options are also managers. Let's take a look at the fashion industry, such as selected options, hot careers for youth who may be:

Fashion Stylist

Bollywood celebrities like Sonam Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor today Magajins ranging from fashion, music videos, TV Commercials models in every major role in new look is the fashion stylist. These range from personal interior, makeup, hair stylist apparel and dominated in the fashion world.

Work Profile: Instituto Marengoni matching the styling and fashion stylist specialization in the Deepali Mathur says Maya luxury brand creative head Outfits from a stylist hairstyle, makeup, accessory and footwear has everything Decide. In addition, during the fashion shows how a Gamrent be displayed, ramp models or actors on how to carry themselves, it is also a stylist decides. During events like the interior, it is also Decide stylist only.

How entries: Styling specialized courses in India are only in selected institutes. Students in the textile, fashion Mrchedaijing or undergraduate or graduate course in graphic designing can. In addition, Marengoni Milan, New York's Fashion Institute of Technology or the Instituto de Uropio design diploma or degree course in Fashion Styling may be three years. Yes, with any brand or designer fashion assistant, handyman personal styling, styling and portfolio work experience as interns, etc. is required. Deepali says that youngsters Celeb stylist, personal stylist, fashion editor, photo stylist, stylist Vorderob, TV Commercials, Magazine Photoshoot by both name and can earn money.

Fashion Photographer

Contemporary fashion industry has become as vital as the role of the fashion photographer, as a designer. Especially for the fashion photographer lot of publicity and branding needs. According to one estimate, by 2016 the fashion photography industry is expected to maintain a growth rate of 10 percent.



Work Profile: India's famous fashion designer Tarun Thliani, Rakesh Agrawal, Gaurav Gupta, Astha Narang, etc. working with fashion photographer Ashish Sahu, my work according to demand of the client or brand, is to shoot pictures. Well, fashion photographers models, Gamrents, taking photographs of accessories ranging from studio and isolated locations, work on events. Adjust the room lighting, camera settings, ranging portfolio is the full responsibility of their own. Additionally, the model that guides posing in front of the camera or how to be in a show.

How entries: Film and Television Institute of India to become a fashion photographer, National Institute of Design, National Institute of Fashion Technology, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan or one-year diploma or specialization course in fashion photography can be.

Some basic technical skills - such as lighting, Fashion Trends and Styles with information - as well as social skills should be. Ashish say that I had a passion for photography since childhood. Atrakt were the glamor industry. So hard work. Today is my identity. Students fashion photographer, magazine photographer or mail order catalogs can make a career as a photographer. In Startig Stablisd exposure from working as a photographer's assistant.

Visual Mrchedaijr

Visual Mcharendaijr emerged as a field where you get a chance to express their creativity.

Work Profile: Visual Mrchedaijr work is to determine whether any accessory or how Garmet displayed in retail stores so that He could Atrakt to customers. Garmets in market for accessories and advises clients of the study and how the store can be made Friendly Market.

How Entry: Most companies are Prifr higher secondary level to the diploma holders, who Customer Service, General Retail, Sales, Marketing, or 3 to 5 years of related experience in the field. Some companies, Business, Fashion Design, Fashion Mcharendaijing or give preference to those bachelors degree in marketing.

Fashion Mrrrchedaijr

Sabharwal worship Mrrrchedaijr wanted to pursue a career in the fashion industry fashion, but designers, but as Mrrrchedaijr. Thus, PG Diploma in Garrmet Mrrrchedaijing and today with a major brand.

Work Profile: Worship the work Garrmet Mrrrchedaijr take orders, sample preparation, costing and clients to deliver the final product. Designers and buyers reach to buy the outfit is the task of the Mrrrchedaijr. They fashion sense, business expertise and strong communication skills are necessary.

How entries: Mrrrchedaijr become fashionable in the fashion or PG course can Mrrrchedaijing Garrmet. Fabric fibers, cutting, International Marketing should be aware of.

Fashion Antrprenyor

Antrprenyor become fashion does not need any special qualifications. Candidates who have an understanding of just fashion, visualization power, Imajineshn, stay updated technology, innovative marketing and online Mrchedaijing requires knowledge of sense. E - commerce industry, beginning as Antrprenyor may be a little tough, but once you got your brand Stablis fourteen to fifteen million in the year would not be hard to earn.

Ghazal Sharma
Director, The Wage Story

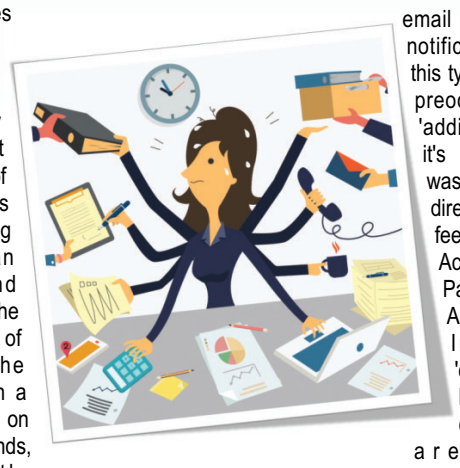
There are more options ..

Fashion Designer World Dressage unloading ramp models with many other experts have also roll. Some of these are:

1. Fashion Coordinator
2. Pattern Maker
3. Costume Designer
4. Fashion choreographers
5. Retail Managers
6. Brand Managers

Are you an 'overwhelmed Employee'?

With a cluttered desk and an even more cluttered mind, you too can be classified as an 'overwhelmed employee'.



So, take note before it takes you over! We live in an overwhelmed world with more than what we can handle. Being way too busy has become a way of life; be it due to the excess amount of work we have taken upon us or the way technology is being thrown at us. Such an overdose of work and technology has also led to the creation of a new kind of employee, which is the 'overwhelmed employee'. In a research study conducted on Global Human Capital Trends, 65-75 per cent of the organisations surveyed identified with this issue. With mobile phones, email, text messages, global teams, conference calls, social media, and even watches talking to us, there is so much stuff coming at us. We are constantly flooded and can't get our work done. Does this ring a bell? According to this study , it is noted that information overload and the 247 work environment are overwhelming workers, hence, undermining productivity and contributing to low employee engagement.

It was noted that, more than half (57 per cent) of interruptions at work resulted from either social-media tools or switching among disparate standalone applications. Also, according to the Kleiner Perkins Caufield Byers' 2013 Internet Trends report, the typical user checks hisher phone approximately 150 times every day. Phone checking instils a sense of an inner reward from scoring a personal, newsworthy or gossipy email or social-media notification. However, this type of smartphone preoccupation is an 'addictive' behaviour it's not only a time waster, it also is a direct contributor to feeling overwhelmed. According to Hema Parikh, director HR, Ajuba Solutions India Pvt Ltd, 'overwhelmed' is a blanket term for employees who are typically disengaged, underproductive and cynical. "More often than not, these are employees who are easily the best performers, but are on the verge of getting burnt out. In a digitally connected world as ours, employees tend to feel burdened with the sheer amount of information that they are tasked to handle. As a result, it feels like a lot of work is on the plate and employees tend to get stressed out. A simple way of identifying an overwhelmed employee is, reduced productivity , average or poor quality of work, missed deadlines, absenteeism, lower levels of engagement and overall dissatisfaction," she says.

Talking about what actually creates an overwhelmed employee, Pavan Choudary , CEO and managing director of Vygon India Pvt Ltd and author of 'How a good person can really win', shares, "The overwhelmed employee's calendar is full. His/her desk is also often overflowing with paper and products. He/she could often miss deadlines and be late for meetings. To be fair, he/she is often the employee who doesn't know how to say 'no'. Other attributes could be poor time management, uncooperative colleagues, lack of skills which could increase his/her efficiency or personal problems of some sort."

This is a critical issue and a coping mechanism for the same becomes a necessity. Companies need a purposeful approach to help employees identify and manage the triggers that lead to the feeling of being overwhelmed. The need of the hour is to simplify the work environment, create more flexible work standards, and teach workers how to prioritise.

Workplace distraction is usually inevitable. One way to curb this is by setting clear goals, priorities and deadlines to monitor progress. While managers must avoid micro managing, they must also keep constant open communication with their employees to ensure that the goals are met and that they are available for their team members when teams need their support. On an individual level, it would help if people organise or structure their day into a standard routine, suggests Parikh. "This may seem impossible, considering how much ad-hoc work we face each day , but planning and an organised process helps in prioritising work despite distraction. Last, but not the least, is team work. Team goals and cohesiveness help in delivering best results; it is the team's positive aura that can keep all distractions at bay and help you achieve the desired results," she explains.

So, declutter your mind and do away with unnecessary technology at work, as this is the way to step out of the zone of an overwhelmed employee.



Watch Designer

Give The Perfect Look

Is interest in designing, creatives, Elementary can keep an eye on things close, then designing Watch Future is Bright ..

A growing demand for fashionable watches. The arrival of foreign brands in the Indian watch industry market growth is rapid. Assocham

According to the report, the Indian wrist watch market growth over the next few years will be close to 15 percent of the job opportunities will continue in the years to come. If you have a creative concept designs, then this sector can move forward. It has a regular job, the full scope of own brand is created.

Personal Skills

In addition to the creativity and detail orientation Designer Watch, Kwalitij must be something like this:

- Artistic and Scientific Approach
- Knowledge of materials
- Understanding of market trends
- Practical Approach
- Focus on Detailing
- Before Work Research
- Client Dealing Quality

Job Option

Titan, Magjima, Sonata, Ajanta are the greatest opportunities for jobs in Indian companies. Watch Indian market has major stakes in small companies. It is also no shortage of options. International level you can work in companies.

Course

Product from a good institute, industrial or accessories can go into this field by designing course. Leading the Field

Courses:

- Diploma in Product Design
- PG Diploma in Product Design
- Bachelor of Design (Accessories)
- Diploma in accessories design

Elijibiliti

- Graduate level courses for senior secondary - PG Diploma in design, engineering, technology or architecture degree.

Salary

- Junior Designer starting salary is 4 to 5 lakh per annum.
- Experienced Designer annual salary of Rs 10 to 14 lakh.
- Those working abroad is between 18 to 22 million annual salary.
- Top Institutes
- National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad
- www.nid.edu
- National Institute of Fashion Technology
- www.nift.ac.in

High Salary Job

Watch several large foreign companies have launched their products in the Indian market. Indian companies are not far behind in technology, but when it comes to designing, so that foreign companies will have the edge. Dealing with the situation and maintain the lead in the market for designing, Indian companies also have begun to point to strengthen its product. Designers should watch good players on high salaries are higher. Watch Designing Field is the right time to go.

SC seeks Centre's reply on space for 135-year-old library under Central Vista plan

The Supreme Court has sought details from the Centre on space earmarked for the 135-year-old Central Secretariat Library. This comes after an Indian Express report raised concerns over relocating its 8.5 lakh books as Shastri Bhawan, where the library is located, is set for demolition under the Central Vista project.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Monday sought the Centre's response detailing the space allotted for the 135-year-old Central Secretariat Library under the Central Vista redevelopment project, while taking note of a media report which raised questions over the historic library's relocation. The Supreme Court's intervention follows a September 29 report by The Indian Express, which raised concerns over where the library's 8.5 lakh books would be housed as Shastri Bhawan, its current home, is set to be demolished under the Central Vista plan. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Sanjeev Sachdeva asked the Centre to file an affidavit, providing complete details of the area earmarked for the library, along with the actual layout plans. It said the affidavit must also clarify whether the allotted space can accommodate the library's 8.5 lakh books, and nearly two lakh books stored in south Delhi's RK Puram. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, told the court that space for the library had been allocated in the Central Vista plan. However, the bench sought a detailed affidavit setting out the exact provisions.

"If we go by the news report, this library dates back to 1891. Very well to say that we should cut down to paper, but that doesn't mean you don't take care of the valuable papers," Justice Sanjay Kumar observed during the hearing. The bench questioned whether the library was being adequately accommodated in the new plan. "You are allotting only two rooms in the Kartavya Bhavan, that's it?" Justice Kumar was quoted by legal website LiveLaw as saying.

The bench further raised concerns over the books currently stored in RK Puram and



directed the Centre to clarify whether these would also be accommodated in the proposed facility. The Central Secretariat Library, established in 1891, has a collection of approximately 8.5 lakh books and other archival material. A further two lakh books are lying in cartons at its storage facility in RK Puram. The Culture Ministry had raised the issue of finding suitable accommodation for the library's historic collection.

WHAT EXPRESS REPORT SAID?

According to The Indian Express report, the Culture Ministry found the two rooms initially allotted to the Central Secretariat Library at Kartavya Bhawan-2 were inadequate to accommodate its vast collection and facilities.

The report said that around two lakh books from the library's regional-language section were already lying in cartons at RK Puram following an earlier relocation.

Shastri Bhawan, where the library has been housed since 1969, is to be demolished as part of the Central Vista redevelopment plan, with the government having directed ministries to vacate the building.

Woman journalist who alleged sexual harassment by Delhi cop among 17 detained

Delhi. (Agency)

Around 17 people who camped overnight outside Parliament Street police station, demanding an FIR and action against police officers accused of sexually assaulting three female journalists during a protest against the Chief Election Commissioner, were detained on Monday morning. The protesters, including freelance journalists, YouTubers and one of the alleged victims, were picked up one by one and taken in a bus to Delhi Cantt Police Station. The woman told the media that they wanted to enter the premises and meet police officers to know the status of

her complaint. When contacted about the detentions, a senior police officer told The Indian Express that Section 163 has been imposed across the New Delhi district. "People were not allowed to hold a gathering at Parliament Street, as it is not a designated site for protests. They were detained and taken to a police station, from where they will be released soon," the officer said.

On Sunday, the Delhi Police said it had received three separate complaints from female journalists who alleged that they had been sexually assaulted by police personnel while covering the protest near Jantar Mantar on October 3. The police said the matters were being investigated by the Crime Branch and that the facts were being verified.

IIT Delhi scholar dies of injuries after suicide attempt, FIR filed

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi Police has registered a case of abetment to suicide after an IIT-Delhi PhD scholar, who was allegedly found in an injured and unconscious state inside his rented room in South East Delhi on August 18, died during treatment on Saturday, an officer said on Sunday. Police said that prima facie, the scholar, identified as Manish Anand who lived in Kishangarh's Munirka village, attempted to die by suicide. According to the police, the door of his room was locked from the inside. They said his neighbours had to break the door open. The police were subsequently informed and Anand was rushed to the AIIMS Trauma Centre, where he remained under treatment. "Anand died on Saturday while undergoing treatment. An FIR was registered at Kishangarh police station under Section 108 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) on Sunday," a police officer said.

The FIR was registered based on directions from the Supreme Court-led National Task Force (NTF), constituted in March last year to address mental health concerns and prevent suicides in higher educational institutions, police said. The task force was formed after students and family members of deceased students filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking inquiries into incidents of suspicious deaths. "The case has been registered on the basis of a complaint and the court's directions. An investigation is underway," the officer said. Police said that neither Anand's family nor anyone else had, during the course of the initial inquiry, raised suspicion or levelled any allegation against anyone in connection with the incident. Police said they also examined CCTV footage from cameras installed outside the rented accommodation Anand lived in.

Delhi riots: HC rejects pleas for FIRs against politicians for hate speech

The 15 petitions had sought directions for the registration of FIRs against politicians over the alleged hate speeches linked to the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, along with a probe by a Special Investigation Team.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi High Court on Monday dismissed all 15 petitions seeking the registration of FIRs and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into alleged hate speeches by political leaders during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which petitioners claimed helped instigate the 2020 northeast Delhi riots that killed over 50 people. A bench comprising Justices Vivek Chaudhary and Manoj Jain dismissed the petitions, filed in 2020 in the aftermath of the riots, which also sought action against police officials accused of dereliction of duty. One of the pleas, filed by Shaikh Mujtaba, sought an FIR against BJP leaders Kapil Mishra, Anurag Thakur, Parvesh Verma and Abhay Verma, alleging that their speeches



contributed to the violence during the riots, reports Live law. At a rally before the riots erupted, then Union minister Anurag Thakur was reported to have led the crowd in raising the slogan "shoot the traitors" while speaking about anti-CAA protesters.

The following day, BJP leader Parvesh Verma warned that the situation witnessed by Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir could be repeated in Delhi. Referring to the anti-CAA protesters at Shaheen Bagh, he alleged that a large number of them could enter homes and threaten the safety of women. Meanwhile, another petition, filed by Lawyers Voice, named Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra; AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Amanatullah Khan; AIMIM chief Akbaruddin Owaisi; and former MLA Warris Pathan.

How a drug drop in Rohini led Delhi Police to heroin worth Rs 50 crores in Lucknow

Delhi. (Agency)

Heroin worth around Rs 50 crore was seized on Sunday from a drug manufacturing unit in Lucknow, which the supply chain led Delhi Police to after it intercepted a drug delivery in Delhi's Rohini on September 16.

On the night of September 16, a team of police from Rohini's Special Staff division had stopped a white SUV in Sector 32 of the Begumpur area. In the car was 58-year-old Laxman Hooda who was carrying 300 grams of heroin to deliver to a client, said police.

Officers said that they had received a tip-off about this delivery and were waiting there for Hooda. "300 grams of Heroin and ₹3 lakh cash were recovered from his Grand Vitara car, which was also seized," said DCP Shashank Jaiswal. According to police, Hooda told them about his supplier, a resident of Delhi's Raghubir Nagar named Anil, alias Bhola, who was on



the run. Police traced him to Haryana's Sonipat and arrested him there, seizing yet another 500 gram package of heroin from him.

Then, police said, Anil told them that he was getting his supply from a man he identified as Bablu from Lucknow. It took police another 15 days to zero in on the identity and location of this supplier. When they found him, they also found over 6 kg of heroin.

"On the basis of technical surveillance and human intelligence, on 04.10.2026, a raid was conducted at a heroin manufacturing facility in Sita Colony, Jankipuram, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, and Bablu, was apprehended. During the raid, 6.275 Kg of freshly manufactured heroin was recovered," said DCP Jaiswal. This quantity of heroin, police said, is valued at about Rs. 50 crores in the international market. Inside the Sita Colony house, a whole cache of drug mixing supplies was found: 2.504 kg Sodium, 787 grams Acetic Anhydride, one tub, gas cylinder, mixer grinder, utensils, polythene, an electronic weighing machine, and a wooden basket.

Dead drops in Punjab, godowns in MP: How Navpreet Singh's drug syndicate operated

Delhi. (Agency)

Narco-trafficking kingpin Navpreet Singh, accused of running an international heroin syndicate, allegedly told investigators that drugs were delivered through dead drops — buried at multiple locations in Punjab and stored in godowns in Madhya Pradesh — according to the prosecution.

A Delhi court on Saturday remanded the 34-year-old to 10 days' custody of the Delhi Police Special Cell, which told the court it needed to recover the drugs, trace the syndicate's supply chain, and identify other people involved in the alleged trafficking network. Navpreet, 34, was deported from Türkiye and arrested at Delhi airport on Saturday. Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced his deportation in a post on X, saying Singh had obtained Turkish citizenship using the false identity of Navab Virk.



The 2021 heroin case

Navpreet was produced before Special Judge, Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances (NDPS), Anuradha Shukla, at Rouse Avenue court on October 3 in a case dating back to July 2021. The Special Cell had then arrested a man in South Delhi and followed the trail to Faridabad, where a total of 358.08 kg of heroin was seized. During submissions, Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Akhand Pratap Singh told the court, "There is ample evidence against this accused (Navpreet) in form of his connection with co-accused Gurpreet and Gurjyot Singh, from whom huge quantity of heroin in total 358.08 kilogram was recovered". He also submitted that the co-accused had made disclosure statements against Navpreet. "A cheque book recovered from the premises of co-accused Ramandeep belonged to the accused," the court order recorded.

Need to create fear in minds, Supreme Court tells cops amid Delhi rape cases

This comes days after the court took note of the recent spate of sexual assault incidents reported from various parts of the wider National Capital Region (NCR).

Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Monday called for a tougher and more robust policing strategy in Delhi to deter "anti-social elements" from committing sexual crimes against women and children, stressing that effective policing must create a sense of fear among potential offenders. The court's observations came days after it took note of a recent spate of sexual assault incidents reported from different parts of the wider National Capital Region (NCR). During the hearing, the bench told the Delhi Police that deterrence was essential and that policing on the ground needed to be strengthened.

"You need to create fear in the minds of anti-social elements," the bench, comprised of Justices J B Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran, told Delhi Police. Justice Pardiwala said offenders should be made to believe that they would face serious consequences if they attempted to commit crimes. "They (anti-social elements) should think 'ab kuch kiya toh marr jaenge' ('if we do something now, we'll get killed')," he said. The bench also made it clear that the police should not hesitate from taking stringent action when the situation warrants it. "Do not hesitate to be a little more harsh and strict – there may be people who raise hue and cry about Article 21 – but you take action as required," the bench said.

Article 21 of the Constitution of India protects the right to life and personal liberty. Addressing a senior police official present in the courtroom on behalf of Delhi Police, Justice Pardiwala said, "We are asking you with great hope. Please rise to the occasion. Every girl molested or raped is our sister—it's a challenge for the police."



"Live up to our expectations. Don't allow such things to happen just because there are some shortcomings," he added.

SUPREME COURT STRESSES ROBUST POLICING

The Supreme Court stressed that beat patrolling is central to ensuring public safety, and directed the Delhi Police to ensure that personnel remain mobile and actively patrol their assigned areas instead of merely maintaining a visible presence at fixed points. Questioning the practice of police vans remaining parked at one location for prolonged periods, the bench asked why they were not being moved around as part of regular beat patrolling. With the festive season approaching, the court also cautioned that "these miscreants will be high" during occasions such as Durga Puja and Diwali, underscoring the need for heightened vigilance and patrolling.

Strong order book, returns 1,705%: How these stocks gained from the US data centre boom

Kolkata. (Agency)

Data centre stocks are booming as investment in artificial intelligence, data centers, and energy infrastructure is fast expanding in the US. This is benefiting not only technology companies but also those that manufacture data center and pipeline components. This is why two Indian stocks, Sterlite Technologies and Welspun Corp, have caught investors' attention. Sterlite Technologies' stock has returned approximately 690% in the one-year period through October 1, 2026. Welspun Corp.'s stock has also seen strong gains during this period. While both companies operate separately, growing demand from the United States is becoming increasingly important for both.

Sterlite Technologies

Sterlite Technologies was incorporated in July 2001. The company manufactures products such as optical fiber, fiber strand, cable, and connectors. The company has a market cap of approximately ₹49,110 crore and holds approximately 8% of the global optical fiber cable market outside of China. Its business was under pressure a few years ago. Its operating margin fell from 17% in FY21 to 10% in FY25. The company also incurred losses in FY24 and FY25. Now, the growing demand for AI data centers has given the company a new direction. Fiber is required to transfer data at extremely high speeds between thousands of chips in data centers.

Data centre revenue

According to the company's June 2026 quarter data, data center revenue increased to 21% of total revenue, up from just 1% in FY26. North America's share also increased to 54%, up from 39% previously. In the June 2026 quarter, the company's sales were ₹1,910 crore, with EBITDA of ₹385 crore and a net profit of ₹197 crore. In the same quarter a year ago, sales were ₹1,019 crore, EBITDA of ₹132 crore, and a net profit of ₹10 crore.

RBI fixes 6.45% govt bond rate: How it works, interest payment explained

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has fixed the interest rate on Government of India Floating Rate Bond (FRB) 2028 at 6.45 per cent per annum for the six months from October 4, 2026 to April 3, 2027.Unlike a conventional fixed-rate bond, the return on this government security can change every six months.So, investors should not treat the newly announced 6.45 per cent rate as the return they will earn throughout the remaining life of the bond.

How is the 6.45 per cent rate decided?

The coupon on FRB 2028 is linked to the yield on 182-day Treasury Bills (T-Bills). In its October 1 release, the RBI said the bond carries a coupon with a base rate equivalent to the average Weighted Average Yield (WAY) of the last three auctions of 182-day T-Bills, along with a fixed spread of 0.64 percentage points.This means the return has two components:

- Base rate: Average WAY of the last three 182-day T-Bill auctions
- Fixed spread: 0.64 percentage points

The RBI then uses this formula to determine the coupon for each six-month interest period.

For the period beginning October 4, 2026, this calculation has resulted in a coupon of 6.45 per cent.What does 6.45 per cent mean for investors?

The interest rate is quoted on an annual basis, while interest is paid half-yearly.

Maintenance fee rises 90% in Gurugram township: What to check before buying

New Delhi. (Agency)

The nearly 90 per cent increase in common area maintenance (CAM) charges at a Gurugram township has triggered a dispute between residents and the developer.Homebuyers are threatening legal action over what they allege are incomplete amenities and inadequate maintenance.

Residents of The Westerlies in Sector 108 staged a peaceful demonstration on Sunday against Experion Developers and its maintenance agency, Mainage Facility Management, according to PTI. The Resident Welfare Association (RWA) has given the companies 15 days to submit a written, time-bound action plan.

The dispute highlights an issue that can materially affect the cost of owning a property in a large township: Maintenance charges can rise significantly even when residents believe promised facilities have not been fully delivered.

CAM charges rise from Rs 10 to Rs 19

According to the RWA, monthly CAM charges have increased from Rs 10 to Rs 19 per square yard over the past two years — an increase of about 90 per cent.Residents have questioned the basis for the increase and sought audited accounts showing how the maintenance charges are being spent. They have also demanded transparency on maintenance expenditure, including details of vendors.

The RWA has sought a rollback to the last undisputed rate until the matter is adjudicated by the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HRERA). For homeowners, CAM is an important recurring cost because it is separate from the property's purchase price, home loan EMI and other ownership expenses.

Tariffs were trade tool, now are weaponised: FM Sitharaman amid US-India trade talks

New Delhi. (Agency)

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said tariffs, which were traditionally used as an instrument of trade negotiations, have now become "weaponised" as countries seek to address trade imbalances through means beyond negotiations.Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, Sitharaman said the India-US trade agreement was still being negotiated and described it as a "hard and very rigorously negotiated agreement". She said both sides appeared to have reached a plateau, beyond which giving or taking more could become "very, very difficult"."Negotiation used to be the only platform through which countries could highlight the discrepancies, highlight the lopsidedness and say, would we want to correct this? And how would you correct it?" Sitharaman said.She said the traditional approach involved countries negotiating greater market access, with one side opening up to imports from the other in return for reciprocal concessions."Now the imbalance is being sought to be addressed through other means. Where you rightly said, tariff has become weaponised," Sitharaman said.TARIFFS NO LONGER JUST A NEGOTIATING TOOL

Sitharaman said tariffs were earlier viewed as an instrument of negotiation and were applied within a certain framework."Tariff was an instrument of negotiation. And tariff had a certain framework within which you would apply it. Today, framework is there, tariff some way," she said.She contrasted this with India's approach to its trade imbalance with China. Sitharaman pointed out that India's trade deficit with China has grown significantly since 2014 and questioned whether the same principle of addressing trade imbalances solely through measures outside



negotiations could be applied to India-China trade."I can probably take the same position, can I not? With China, because it's so lopsided. It is terribly against me. But no, you can't," she said.

Sitharaman said trade imbalances should instead be addressed through negotiations, including discussions on market access and reciprocal concessions."You will have to talk it out. You will have to negotiate. You will have to have some give and take," she said.

INDIA-US TRADE TALKS AT A PLATEAU

On the India-US trade agreement, Sitharaman said negotiations were continuing, but both sides had possibly reached a point where further concessions could be difficult."The agreement's negotiations are still ongoing although we'd like to believe that both the sides have reached a plateau beyond which giving or taking might be very, very difficult," she said.She added that if there were still areas where both sides could operate, negotiations could continue.

Sitharaman also highlighted the trade imbalance between India and the US, noting that the balance of trade is in India's favour. She said the US would naturally want to reduce the deficit and seek measures that, from its perspective, make up for the imbalance.

Anthropic eyes November IPO as filing flags existential AI risks

New Delhi. (Agency)

Anthropic could begin marketing its initial public offering as early as the week of November 9, potentially putting the artificial intelligence company on track to begin trading before the Thanksgiving holiday, Bloomberg reported, citing people familiar with the matter.The Claude maker is still expected to make its stock-market debut by the end of 2026, although the timeline could change, Bloomberg reported. The company had earlier been expected to move towards a public filing after the summer.Anthropic is also expected to target a valuation of around $1.8 trillion to $2 trillion, according to people cited by Bloomberg. The company expects its IPO to match or exceed the size of SpaceX's recent listing, the report said.



The timing would put Anthropic's planned IPO against a challenging backdrop for new listings, with several companies delaying their market debuts. Bloomberg reported that, excluding SpaceX and SK Hynix, more than 100 newly listed stocks had a weighted-average loss of 4%, compared with a 12% gain for the S&P 500 and a 20% rise for the Nasdaq 100 this year.

ANTHROPIC'S $42 BILLION LOSS

Anthropic's potential $2 trillion valuation comes despite a massive reported net loss.According to documents seen by Bloomberg, Anthropic had a net loss of nearly $42 billion in 2025, up from about $8.3 billion in 2024. Its revenue, however, jumped to roughly $4.6 billion from $386 million a year earlier.

GST 2.0: Easier rules, more tax credit, no arrest powers may be on way

New Delhi. (Agency)

India is looking at another major round of changes to the goods and services tax (GST) system, with the focus now shifting from tax rates to making compliance easier for businesses.The GST Council is likely to consider a wide range of proposals at its meeting on Wednesday, including measures to unlock stuck input tax credit (ITC), simplify GST registration and returns, speed up refunds and reduce tax-related litigation. The proposals also include rationalising e-way bill rules and removing powers to arrest under the GST law, according to people familiar with the matter, reported Economic Times.The broader aim is to move GST away from a process-heavy system towards one that uses technology, data and risk-based checks to identify genuine mistakes and deliberate tax evasion.The first phase focused on a major rationalisation of GST rates last year. The Council is now looking at how the system works for businesses on a day-to-day basis.



A key area under consideration is input tax credit (ITC). Several businesses have large amounts of credit stuck in the GST system, affecting their cash flows and ability to invest.The GST Council may consider allowing businesses to get refunds of tax paid on certain plant and machinery and input services in monthly instalments over five years.The proposals also seek to expand the list of business expenses on which companies can claim ITC. These could include health and life insurance for employees, outdoor catering, telecom towers, pipelines outside factories, certain free samples and expired goods that have to be destroyed.

Credit could also be allowed on vehicles with seating capacity of up to 13 people, along with their insurance and maintenance.

Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 75,000: Why this working mom chose family over a bigger pay cheque

New Delhi. (Agency)

But for many working mothers, there comes a point when another question becomes just as important: How much of my time, energy and family life am I willing to give up for a higher salary?I spoke to several women for this story, and what struck me was that being highly qualified or having years of experience does not always mean chasing the highest-paying job. Sometimes, women are willing to accept a lower salary for flexible hours, predictable schedules, weekends off, work-from-home options, a crche or simply the freedom to be there when their children need them.It is not necessarily about choosing family over a career. For many, it is about finding a way to have both.Take Swati (name changed), for instance.

A master's degree holder, Swati was working as a lecturer and teacher at a reputed Delhi-NCR college and earning around Rs 1.5 lakh a month. She had a good job and her organisation also had a creche.

But after she had her daughter, things became difficult.

The creche was available, but her baby could not adjust to it. Managing a newborn alongside work became overwhelming. By the time Swati returned home, she was exhausted, leaving little energy for her daughter.Initially, she tried to manage both. Eventually, she quit.She later took up a work-from-home job that paid her Rs 75,000 a month — half her previous salary.On paper, it looks like a steep financial compromise.

But Swati does not see it that way.

The lower-paying job allows her to care for her daughter, continue working and also give time to her home and family. She earns less, but says she is happier and more content.And that raises a larger question: when we compare two jobs, do we only count what is credited to the bank account?

GIVE ME FLEXIBILITY, EVEN IF I EARN LESS'

For Shiwangi Pandey, a new mother working at one of the Big Four companies, flexibility is not a nice-to-have. It is something working mothers actively negotiate for.Work from home is one thing that we bargain on. I do have flexibility, so there isn't that much hassle," she said.But there can be a professional price to that flexibility.Shiwangi said working mothers may prefer domestic projects because offshore clients can require employees to work according to different time zones.

Sensex, Nifty open higher after 8-week losing streak; banks lead rebound

New Delhi. (Agency)

Benchmark indices opened sharply higher on Monday, with the Sensex rising over 400 points, as banking and financial stocks led a rebound after the market's longest weekly losing streak in 25 years. Easing crude oil prices and expectations that the US Federal Reserve may not raise rates this month also supported sentimentThe Sensex was at 72,322.08 at 9:22 am, up 412.38 points or 0.57%. The index opened at 72,340.95 and touched an early high of 72,402.27. The Nifty 50 was at 22,536.75 at 9:23 am, up 114.80 points or 0.51%. It opened at 22,532.40 and touched 22,564.60.

The rebound comes after both indices logged their eighth straight weekly decline last week. Persistent foreign selling, elevated crude prices and rising global bond yields had kept investors cautious in recent weeks.

BANKING, FINANCIAL STOCKS LEAD RALLY

Banking and financial stocks were among the biggest gainers in early trade, providing strong support to the benchmark indices. Bajaj Finance was the top Sensex gainer, rising 3.12%, while Bajaj Finserv gained 1.55%. SBI rose 1.46%, Axis Bank 1.38%, HDFC Bank 1.05% and ICICI Bank 0.44%.

The Nifty Financial Services 25/50 index rose 0.77%, while the private bank index gained 0.72% and PSU Bank index jumped 2.07%.HDFC Bank was also in focus after the lender appointed Anup Bagchi as its next MD and CEO for a three-year term. Bagchi, currently MD and CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, will be the first external candidate to lead HDFC Bank.

Dr V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said the market could see a rebound after eight weeks of declines."After eight weeks of declines the market appears set for a rebound in the near-term. The better-than-expected results of Accenture and the appointment of Anup Bagchi as MD and CEO of HDFC Bank have the potential to lead a turnaround in the market," Vijayakumar said.

He added that while elevated crude prices, high US bond yields and sustained FII selling remain headwinds,



attractive valuations, particularly among large-caps, could limit further downside.

CRUDE OIL EASES

Oil prices also provided some relief to Indian equities. Brent crude was down 0.83% at $101.40 per barrel, while WTI crude fell 1.22% to $90 a barrel.

Lower oil prices are positive for India as they can ease pressure on inflation, the import bill and corporate margins. The market has remained highly sensitive to crude in recent weeks as prices above $100 had added to concerns around inflation and India's external finances.

Vijayakumar also pointed to the resilience of the domestic economy, citing September auto sales as a positive signal."September auto sales numbers are good, indicating a structurally resilient economy," he said.

RBI RATE HIKE IN FOCUS

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee meeting begins today, with the central bank's policy decision due on Wednesday.

Vijayakumar expects the RBI to raise rates by 25 basis points on October 7, although he said the market has already largely priced in the move.

"The RBI is most likely to raise rates by 25bp on 7th October. The market has already largely discounted this. Banks will benefit from the rate hike since rising floating rates will improve their margins," he said.

NEWS BOX

Drought relief inadequate Rs 50K per acre needed, says BY Vijayendra

TUMAKURU.(Agency)

Alleging that Karnataka's coffers have been emptied by the Congress government's guarantee schemes, state BJP president BY Vijayendra has demanded that the State Government provide Rs 50,000 per acre as drought relief to farmers and issue a white paper on the state's financial position.

Speaking to reporters at Junjappana Hatti in Hagalavadi of Gubbi taluk in Tumakuru district on Sunday, Vijayendra alleged that the State Government had failed to adequately respond to the severe drought.

He said the government had announced only Rs 2,500 per hectare as relief (input subsidy), which he said was grossly inadequate. "The BJP has demanded Rs 50,000 per acre for farmers affected by drought," he said. Vijayendra alleged that the state was facing a severe financial crisis owing to the Congress government's guarantees.Claiming that there was even a shortage of funds to pay salaries to employees in the police and irrigation departments, he demanded that Chief Minister DK Shivakumar make the government's financial position public through a white paper.He also accused the government of waiting for assistance from the Centre. Vijayendra further alleged that Shivakumar was misusing power and claimed that the State Government was attempting to take over the NICE project and proceed with the Bidadi township project despite opposition from local residents.

Telangana: Rs 104.63 crore spent so far under New Employees Health Scheme

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

The state government's New Employees Health Scheme (NEHS), which was introduced in July for the benefit of government employees, pensioners, and their family members, has so far empanelled 919 hospitals and approved 15,395 treatments worth `104.63 crore.According to officials, of the 919 hospitals, 778 are private and 141 are government institutions. The Police department was also brought under the scheme from September 1.

The scheme provides cashless inpatient treatment through 1,816 CGHS packages, covering treatment, medicines, diagnostic tests, consumables, implants, and follow-up care.Under this scheme, beneficiaries can approach an empanelled hospital directly in an emergency without a prior referral. The hospital has to inform the health trust within the prescribed time.Regarding OP services, a senior officer said that the scheme also covers outpatient services, including doctor consultations, diagnostic tests, and medicines at wellness centres.At present, 12 wellness centres are functioning in 12 districts. Twenty-five more centres have been proposed, which would take the total to 37. Similarly, health cards are not mandatory, and eligible beneficiaries cannot be denied treatment merely because they do not have a health card.

Sukhpal Khaira booked for sexual harassment over posts on AAP leader; cops issue notice to X

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The Punjab Police has registered an FIR against Congress MLA Sukhpal Khaira on charges of sexually harassing and insulting modesty of a woman and criminal intimidation following a complaint by an Aam Aadmi Party leader who had flagged his posts against her on social media platform X. Khaira termed the FIR and attempt to muzzle his voice.

The FIR has been registered under Sections 75(1)(iv), 75(3), 79, 351 and 61 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 67 of the Information Technology Act, it has been learnt.Section 75(1)(iv) of BNS deals with sexual harassment (sexually coloured remarks). Section 75(3) deals with punishment for Section 75(1)(iv) and prescribes imprisonment for up to one year, a fine, or both. Section 79 of BNS deals with insulting the modesty of a woman through any word, gesture, or act and covers verbal abuse, vulgar gestures, or digital messages meant to degrade a woman's modesty.

Section 351 for the BNS deals with the offence of threatening a person with injury, reputation, or property to cause alarm. Section 61 deals with criminal conspiracy while Section 67 of the IT Act punishes any person who publishes or transmits obscene material in electronic form.."On September 27, the office of the Additional Director General of Police, State Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, Mohali, in an e-mail to X, directed the platform to take down posts by Khaira and two other accounts within three hours, stating that a criminal case has been registered.

Gujarat powers up govt buildings with solar energy; 95 MW capacity installed, another 65 MW targeted

Gujarat has added a digital layer to its renewable-energy programme with the launch of an Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT)-based Renewable Energy Monitoring System this year.

AHMEDABAD. (Agency)

Gujarat is stepping up its clean-energy push by turning government rooftops into power-generating assets, with solar installations across 6,014 government buildings already taking cumulative capacity to 95 MW.The state is now preparing for its biggest expansion yet, targeting 15,000 additional government buildings and another 65 MW of rooftop solar capacity during 2026-27.The expansion comes as Gujarat seeks to reduce its dependence on conventional electricity, cut government power bills and curb pollution linked to conventional power generation.The rooftop solar programme, implemented by the Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA) under the Climate Change Department since 2011-12, gained further momentum during 2025-26. During the year, solar systems were installed on 1,377 government buildings, adding 17.1 MW of renewable-energy capacity. As a result, the cumulative number of government buildings covered under the programme reached 6,014 by March 2026, while the total installed capacity rose to 95 MW, Climate Change Minister Arjun Modhwadia said.Building on that progress, the Gujarat government has set an ambitious target for the current financial year. Modhwadia said the state plans to install rooftop solar systems on 15,000 more government buildings, with the expansion expected to add approximately 65 MW of additional solar capacity."This year marks the biggest expansion of the rooftop solar programme for government buildings. We



have set a target of covering 15,000 buildings, which is expected to add around 65 MW of solar capacity. The move will further strengthen renewable-energy use across government infrastructure and accelerate the shift towards cleaner power," Modhwadia said.The state government has also earmarked Rs 314 crore for the programme in 2026-27, underlining the scale of the planned expansion. Of this, Rs 278 crore has been allocated for general government buildings, while Rs 3 crore has been earmarked for buildings under the Social Justice and Empowerment Department and Rs 33 crore for buildings managed by the Tribal Development Department, GEDA Director Dharmendra Patel said.Under the scheme, the Climate Change Department provides 100% capital-cost support from its annual budget allocation for installing rooftop solar systems on buildings under the Gujarat government's jurisdiction. The government says the programme is not merely about adding renewable-energy capacity but also about reducing the environmental and financial burden of conventional electricity consumption.Pravin Mali, Minister of State for Climate Change, said the rooftop installations are expected to lower conventional electricity consumption and reduce expenditure incurred by government offices. At the same time, greater use of solar power could help reduce pollution associated with conventional power generation.The initiative is also aligned with the broader push to expand solar generation by converting otherwise unused government rooftops into decentralised power-generation assets.

Vadakara 'home' offers women a 'Vintage' break from monotony

Founded by retired women employees, the day centre provides around 80 women a joyful sanctuary from 10 am to 3.30 pm to dance, sing, practice yoga, and build uplifting connections.

KOZHIKODE. (Agency)

At 75, Vidyalakshmi, a retired schoolteacher from Azhiyur, found that life after retirement and the quiet loneliness of home could be daunting. With her children settled elsewhere and daily routines slowing down, isolation began to set in. That was until she found her way to a rented, cozy house in Vadakara, named Vintage Pearl Home. A 'care home' for elderly women.Now, visiting 'Vintage' every day, Vidyalakshmi Teacher is the most senior and vibrant participant among a close-knit group of women. For her, as well as many others, this collective has brought back joy, purposeful days, and a renewed sense of belonging.Offering a powerful ray of hope, Vadakara's 'Vintage' initiative is rewriting this reality. Founded by retired women employees, this day centre provides around 80 women a



joyful sanctuary from 10am to 3.30pm to dance, sing, practice yoga, and build uplifting connections.nts and went there," Zakharia said.Our door is open to any woman who can independently manage her basic needs and seeks meaningful company," said its treasurer, Ajitha K, 56. The initiative, which started in April 2026, was born out of a collective dream to support women facing solitude, retirement blues, or family commitments that leave them alone during the day.What began with a small gathering of around 15 women has now grown into a thriving community with nearly 80 registered members from nearby places like Villiappally, Moodadi, Maniyur, Thiruvallur, Mukkali and Thodannur, the daily attendance ranging between 35 and 40.

The other side of Sept 30: A family waited anxiously for their son — Captain Smit Machchhar

MUMBAI. (Agency)

To the world, Sept 30 was the day a terror attack was thwarted. To Captain Smit Machchhar's parents, it was the night their only child lay wounded and alone in a military hospital in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, deep lacerations across his body, tubes running in and out of him.

While the world was already beginning to call him a hero, his parents in Mumbai were still living inside the uncertainty of those first terrible hours. They had no clear word on his condition. No assurance that their son would survive. They were trying to find a flight to him, but airline schedules offered little mercy. There was nothing left to do but pray.It was only around 10am on Thursday that they managed to board a flight. Even then, they were flying only as far as Dubai, still hundreds of miles from where their son lay.

"I was on the plane in Mumbai when Prime Minister Narendra Modi called; he told me not to worry and asked me what I wanted. He said, 'Before the day ends, I will make you speak to him'," Smit's father, Upendra Machchhar, told TOI in an exclusive interview from Dubai.

By the time the family landed in Dubai, another development had already begun to unfold. Indian Embassy had contacted Smit's wife, Sonal, and informed her that Capt Machchhar had been airlifted on Dubai Sheikh's private aircraft to be taken to the military hospital in Abu Dhabi.

The family set off for Abu Dhabi, a journey of about two hours. There was relief now, but it was not yet peace. They knew he was alive. They did not know how badly he had been hurt.It was only after Upendra finally saw his son in the hospital that some of the fear began to loosen its grip."After yesterday's visit to the hospital, I am now at some comfort level and believe that everything is going to be fine. Smit also tells me, 'Give me some time and I'm going to be all good'," said the father.

For the Machchhar family, the days since the attack have blurred into one long stretch of fear, faith and waiting. Their son has become, almost overnight, an international symbol of courage. But for them, beneath the headlines and the praise, he remains what he has always been: their only child.

"The cuts are deep, and he is in terrible pain. But when leaders of nations speak to him, he gathers himself and responds with remarkable calm," Upendra told TOI. "As his family, we know what lies behind that calm. The stress is immense. But the God who saved him will also decide the course of his life ahead. Right now, we are 100% positive that God will do what is best for him."The hospital has told the family that recovery will not be quick. "The head of the hospital said he needs at least another eight days. After that, they will review his discharge date. The wounds and cuts are very deep. They want him to be completely fine before they send him home. But the treatment has been fantastic.

Yet for Upendra, there is another question tha refuses to leave him. It is not how his son endured the injuries. It is what made him open the cockpit door at all after being stabbed."What hapened shocked us. But it's his bhaav (his intrinsic nature) to place others before him that made him do what he did," the father said. "If we have a family event and if he has to go to mentor another pilot or go to conduct a pilot test, he will prioritise that and ask the family to push the function by an hour or so."

Upendra believes that instinct, to put someone else first, was there long before Smit ever became a pilot.

Flying was not the family plan.

Smit was initially expected to join the family business. His grandfather had established a textile printing factory, and Upendra and his brother eventually took over its running together.

Purandeswari holds meeting with CM Majhi, reaches out to RSS

The interaction assumes significance as the BJP seeks to consolidate its organisation at the grassroots ahead of the panchayat elections in the state early next year.

BHUBANESWAR (Agency).

Odisha BJP in-charge D Purandeswari on Sunday held meetings with Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, state ministers and RSS functionaries and discussed strategies for strengthening the party organisation, improving coordination with the government, party functionaries and the Sangh.Purandeswari along with party's state co-in-charge Swadesh Singh called on Majhi at his official residence. The interaction assumes significance as the BJP seeks to consolidate its organisation at the grassroots ahead of the panchayat elections in the state early next year.

Earlier, Purandeswari and Singh held two separate meetings at the party office with state office-bearers, district presidents and district in-charges followed by another meeting with the council of ministers in the presence of Majhi, state BJP president Manmohan Samal and general secretary (organisation) Manas Mohanty.



"Had detailed discussions on the party's organisational activities, upcoming programmes, the functioning of Morchas and strengthening the party at the grassroots level. We also discussed the necessary roadmap to effectively advance party programmes by staying connected with the people and ensuring better coordination among our karyakartas," Purandeswari said in an X post.She said the party needed to remain closely connected with people and ensure better coordination among its workers. The Odisha unit would be further strengthened under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of BJP national president Nitin Nabin, she added.She took part in the ongoing 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' and attended the 'Namo Seva Gatha' street play at Jamukoli near Jatni in Khurda district, organised by the Odia Language, Literature and Culture department. She said the programme was an effective way of taking the Modi government's welfare and development initiatives to the people.

"Service is the resolve and development is the goal," Purandeswari said and asserted that India is moving towards the goal of a developed nation under Modi's leadership.Purandeswari and Singh visited the Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar and offered prayers before leaving for Delhi.

Mumbai woman says wrong-side scooter rider blocked her car, abused her; cops respond

Mumbai (Agency).

A Mumbai woman has alleged that a scooter rider travelling on the wrong side of the road blocked her car and verbally abused her at a junction in south Mumbai, in an incident that has triggered concerns over traffic violations and road rage in the city.

Monal Jhaveri shared the incident on X, saying it took place at the junction of Patkar Marg and Gamdevi Road. She alleged that the rider was coming towards her from the wrong side and stopped directly in front of her car, preventing her from moving ahead.In a follow-up post, Jhaveri shared a video of the confrontation. The clip shows a man standing beside her car and allegedly using abusive language in Hindi. He is then seen getting on his scooter and riding away, again on the wrong side of the road."This is how he abused me with the choicest words in Hindi… 1st he threatened me, insisting I open my window,



which I refused… he claimed his girlfriend had her period… finally drove off in a hurry, again driving on the wrong side of the road," she wrote, tagging the traffic police.Police respond

Mumbai Traffic Police responded to her post, saying, "Tardeo Traffic Division has been informed about this." The police later told her that "action" had been taken against the rider.

Online reactions

The post drew mixed reactions from social media users. Many flagged wrong-side riding by two-wheelers as an "endemic" problem that police need to enforce strictlyOne user claimed traffic personnel at times allow wrong-side movement during peak hours, giving the impression that it is normal.Another praised Jhaveri and said motorists should not give way to wrong-side drivers..

NEWS BOX

Gurvinder Singh: From torn spikes to podium finish at Asiad 2026

New Delhi. (Agency)

A day after returning home with an Asian Games bronze medal, India's fastest sprinter Gurvinder Singh on Sunday recalled the difficult years when he trained in a torn pair of spike shoes and expressed gratitude to those who supported his sporting journey.

In an interaction with the media, in Jalandhar, the 25-year-old sprinter from Patial village near Bhogpur said his achievement was the result of collective efforts by his family, coaches and supporters. Gurvinder had earlier this year clocked 10.09 seconds in the 100m at the Federation Cup in Ranchi, becoming the first Indian athlete to breach the 10.10-second barrier.Recalling his early years, he said several people told him Indians were not suited to the 100m and claimed North Indians lacked the genes required for sprinting. Even his father had suggested changing his event. Gurvinder, however, said he refused to give up.My coaches never told me that it was not



possible, then why should I change my event?" he said, invoking Punjab's warrior tradition and questioning why Indian athletes could not excel in the event with hard work.He also spoke about the financial difficulties he faced during his formative years, saying he used the same pair of spike shoes for nearly two to three years. He recalled showing his torn shoes during a media interaction and saying that he trained in them."My financial situation was not strong then. After an interview on social media, I received immense support and help from people across the world," he said.

Gurvinder also recalled meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi after his national record was mentioned on 'Mann Ki Baat'. He said he was nervous before the interaction but described the meeting as an overwhelming experience.Looking ahead, Gurvinder said he wanted to improve at the upcoming Asian and World Championships and hoped to turn his bronze medal into gold.

He also recalled watching fellow sprinter Animesh win gold at last year's National Games and receiving calls from senior state government officials.

India win men's Asian Games hockey gold again. But was it really special?

The Indian men's hockey team won the Asian Games gold again. However, the feeling of the victory doesn't match up to the one achieved by the women's side. A lot of external noise, coupled with on-field errors made India's win in Nagoya feel a bit subdued.



New Delhi. (Agency)

Indian hockey achieved a sensational high in Nagoya as both the men's and women's teams claimed gold medals after unbeaten campaigns.The Indian women ended a 44-year wait for gold, winning their first Asian Games title since 1982. The men, meanwhile, went out and retained their crown, once again establishing themselves as the best team in Asia.Yet, strangely enough, the celebrations didn't quite match the achievement.The women's gold was greeted with an outpouring of joy. It was a result everyone hoped for, but one that was far from guaranteed. The men's triumph, on the other hand, felt almost routine. The celebrations, at least from the outside, seemed a little more muted.Perhaps that was because, even before the tournament began, Harmanpreet Singh and Co. were expected to win gold. Anything else would have been deemed a failure.That sentiment was perfectly encapsulated by PR Sreejesh's tweet after India's win over Malaysia."Nothing special We won. We were supposed to win. We are the Asian Champions. And yes WE ARE GOING TO LA! Now, time to celebrate!" said Sreejesh.The legendary goalkeeper was, of course, celebrating the victory. But his words also raised an interesting question.

Did the win really not feel special at all?

Was it just another victory for a team that was expected to dominate?We decided to look into why India's men's hockey gold didn't quite carry the same weight as the women's triumph.

DECLINE OF ASIAN HOCKEY

The biggest reason perhaps lies in the state of Asian hockey itself.

The continent's hockey landscape currently appears to be in decline, and the trend was laid bare at the World Cup. India finished eighth, but none of the other Asian teams managed to break into the top 10.

Pakistan finished 11th, Japan ended 14th and Malaysia 15th. Korea, four-time Asian Games champions, didn't even qualify for the tournament.For India, that meant the biggest challenge was missing even before the competition had properly got going.

India moved beyond him: Ex-star says 'no point' in picking Mohammed Shami for 2027 ODI World Cup

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India wicket-keeper batter Dinesh Karthik believes the ship has sailed for Mohammed Shami, as he explained why the selectors and team management should not look at bringing back the senior pacer for the ODI World Cup next year. Shami is currently not in the scheme of things for India as far as the World Cup is concerned.The senior pacer last played for India in the Champions Trophy 2025 and has since remained out of the national setup. Shami battled multiple injuries before making a strong comeback in the domestic circuit. He has been one of the consistent performers with the ball for Bengal, however, he has failed to earn a recall in the Indian team.India's departing chief selector Ajit Agarkar decided to move on from Shami owing to his fitness record and backed the likes of Prasidh Krishna, Harshit Rana and Gurnoor Brar in India's pace attack. However, the lack of experience was clearly evident as the



Indian pacers struggled in the recently concluded ODI series against West Indies. India conceded over 400 runs in the 2nd ODI and failed to defend a total of 351 runs in the third and final ODI against West Indies on Sunday. The poor show from the pacers led to calls from many quarters for the inclusion of Shami in the pace attack ahead of the 2027 ODI World Cup. However, Karthik is not in favour of the idea."No, I feel there are other pacers. India moved beyond him. There's no point in going back. So I wouldn't be looking at Shami, even though he's bowled very well," Karthik said in a video on Cricbuzz, speaking about Shami.In Shami's absence, India have backed Arshdeep Singh, Rana and Prasidh, who have paired up with Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj in the pace attack in ODIs. While Rana was out injured, Bumrah and Arshdeep missed the ODI series against West Indies as they were part of India's squad for the Asian Games 2026 in Japan.

Will ODIs witness a decline after Kohli, Rohit?

Karthik also shared his views on whether ODI cricket will witness a 'decline' after Kohli and Rohit decide to retire from the game. While Kohli has already stated that the 2027 ODI World Cup will be his last for India, Rohit is also expected to retire after the showpiece event.

How short is the boundary? Fast bowler's bouncer goes over wicketkeeper's head for a six



New Delhi. (Agency)

A bizarre incident in the Canada Super60 franchise league went viral on Sunday. Fast bowler Ali Khan, playing in the semi-final of the tournament, bowled a bouncer against Masters' Kieron Pollard.The ball, dug a little too short by Khan, flew over the keeper's head and ended up landing beyond the boundary line, for a six.Just as the fans started celebrating the bizarre six, they came to realise that it was not a six at all.Pollard had not made any contact with the ball, which meant the runs could not be credited to him or recorded as a six. The umpires instead ruled the delivery a wide and added four runs for the ball reaching the boundary, giving Toronto Sixers a total of five runs from the delivery.

HOW SHORT ARE THE BOUNDARIES?

It was a bizarre sequence, but one that also highlighted just how short the boundaries are in the 10-over franchise league. Khan's bouncer was not hit by Pollard. It simply bounced short, cleared the wicketkeeper and had enough distance to travel all the way over the boundary rope.A delivery that would normally be expected to trouble the batter ended up producing a boundary without the batter even getting a touch on it.The unusual five-run play came during Toronto Sixers' semi-final against Mississauga Masters, with Pollard's team eventually completing a 9-run victory to book their place in the final.Toronto posted 130 runs from their 10 overs before restricting Masters to 121 for 7. Their bowlers kept the chase under control for most of the innings, with the majority conceding fewer than 12 runs an over.Mississauga needed 18 runs from the final over, but Abdul-Raheem Toppin conceded only eight and dismissed the dangerous Azam Khan to close out the match.

Asian Games 2026: Samurai spirit to the fore



NAGOYA. (Agency)

A Samurai code of honour is deeply embedded in Japanese culture. As is loyalty and discipline.The finer tenets of Buddhism, Confucianism and the local Shinto were merged into one cultural ethos that is reflected in everything the Japanese do, from corporate to ordinary life. Nagoya is one of the cities that has inherited the Samurai way of life: warriors who never give up and usually pick death over loss.

On the various grounds across the Aichi Prefecture, 503 athletes from India fought different battles over the last two weeks or so. To give a little tweak to a very popular saying, 'when in Japan, do as the Samurais do'.After more than half of the Games were over, after half of the athletes left, the remaining tried to salvage India's medal's tally; for a period of time, it was looking anaemic to say the least. The weather changed from sunny to gloomy but it finally ended with bright sunshine on Saturday. India's fortunes too fluctuated like the fickle weather.India were staring at one of the worst Games in recent times. The bulk of the medal share in the last Asian Games was lifted by the shooters and athletes. Their performance was below expectation and the entire Indian contingent was under pressure. Shooters finally won 15 medals but only three gold; athletics, a usual source for good news stories at the Asian level, won only one gold (23 other medals).The business end of the quadrennial showpiece continental event saw some of the best performances by Indian athletes. From four gold at the Games' halfway mark, the tally swelled to 21. During the last five days, athletes broke records, created history and marched on. Just like the Samurais, they never gave up.

On the sheer merit of their performance, the archery team that had been knocking on the doors of immortality finally shone in golden hues. Kumkum Mohod, 17, emerged as one of the most unlikely warriors with bows and arrows.

Portugal stays perfect without Ronaldo in Nations League, Germany held by Greece

New Delhi. (Agency)

Gonçalo Ramos is helping Portugal to forget all about Cristiano Ronaldo, while Greece took more points off Jürgen Klopp and Germany in the Nations League.Ramos fired Portugal to a 2-1 win over Norway on Sunday to keep the Portuguese perfect in Group A4 with four wins – enough to book their place in the quarterfinals.Ronaldo was involved in Portugal's opening Nations League game, where he was replaced by Ramos in a 1-0 win over Wales, and hasn't played since. The veteran left the squad after watching the second game from the substitutes' bench – a 2-1 win in Norway – and Portugal showed no ill effects from his departure with a 4-2 win in Denmark and the latest 2-



1 win over Norway.Kristoffer Ajer opened the scoring Sunday with a brilliant half volley inside the far corner from the edge of the penalty area after taking down Martin Ødegaard's free kick to set up the shot in the 36th minute.A seemingly inspired João Cancelo responded in similar fashion at the other end two minutes later.Ramos got the winner from close range in the 79th after a move involving Vitinha and João Félix, and Portugal survived Francisco Conceição's late sending off with his second yellow card.Erling Haaland failed to score for the second consecutive game, and was substituted in the 67th minute. He has 65 goals in 59 appearances.A late penalty from Rasmus Højlund was enough for Denmark to beat Wales 1-0 in the other group game.

Indian tennis enters a dark phase as safety net disappears in Nagoya

New Delhi. (Agency)

Indian tennis arrived at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games with a proud history behind it. It leaves Japan with something it has not experienced in four decades: no medal.

For the first time since 1986, India failed to win a single tennis medal at the Asian Games. Since 1990, there had been at least one podium finish at every edition. That run finally ended when Sumit Nagal, India's last remaining hope, lost 4-6, 4-6 to China's Wu Yibing in the men's singles quarter-final.The result is not just a bad Asian Games campaign. It is a reflection of how far Indian tennis has slipped.

This was once a sport in which India could almost always count on a medal. Leander Paes remains India's most decorated Asian Games athlete, with eight medals, including five golds. Mahesh Bhupathi, Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna carried that tradition forward, giving Indian fans players to follow deep into Grand Slam tournaments and major international events.

MESSY FROM THE START

India's problems began before the first match.The Asian Games squad was embroiled in a selection controversy after five players were left out following the government's pruning of the proposed contingent. Manas Dhamne, Vaishnavi Adkar, Sahaja Yamalapalli, Vaidehee Chaudhari and Prarthana Thombare were among those affected. AITA disputed the account of how the omissions happened, while the Sports Authority of India maintained that the players had not been part of the final recommended list.The most glaring consequence was India's absence from the women's singles draw. Sahaja, India's top-ranked women's singles player, along with fellow contenders Vaishnavi and Vaidehee, were all left out.

Bopanna questioned the process and argued that players who had earned their rankings through international competition deserved their opportunity.It was hardly the ideal preparation for a campaign in which India needed every available weapon.

WHERE ARE THE SUCCESSORS?

The deeper problem is that Indian tennis has not found replacements for its golden generation.Bopanna's retirement has left a particularly large hole. He was still winning Grand Slam titles into his 40s, reached world



No.1 in doubles and remained India's great insurance policy at major tournaments. He won the men's doubles gold medal at the 2018 Asian Games and was part of the mixed doubles gold-medal-winning team at Hangzhou 2022.Now, there is no Indian player who gives you the same feeling that a Grand Slam or major title is within reach.

There are good professionals. Yuki Bhambri and N Sriram Balaji have experience, while younger players such as Dhakshineswar Suresh have shown flashes of promise. But flashes are not enough.

At Nagoya, both Indian men's doubles combinations fell in the quarter-finals. Balaji and Anirudh Chandrasekar lost a deciding match tie-break, while Bhambri and Dhakshineswar also went out at the last-eight stage. The mixed and women's doubles combinations could not rescue the campaign either.

SUMIT NAGAL'S FALL

Sumit Nagal was perhaps the clearest symbol of both hope and disappointment.

In 2024, Nagal appeared to be breaking through. He entered the world's top 100 after winning the Chennai Challenger and climbed to a career-high No. 68 in July. He also became the first Indian to win an ATP Masters 1000 match on clay and looked capable of pushing towards the top 50.



Yami Gautam

Dhar Seeks Blessings At Patna Sahib Ahead Of Nayyi Navelli's Dussehra Release

Yami Gautam Dhar's upcoming film Nayyi Navelli is already receiving a lot of love from the audience, and ahead of the film's release, the actress visited Patna Sahib's Gurudwara on October 2. The actress visited Patna ahead of the Dussehra release of Nayyi Navelli and, during her visit, took time out to seek blessings at Patna Sahib.

The visuals from her visit to the gurudwara showed her wearing a stunning green kurta pyjama with a matching dupatta. The actress' suit featured stunning embroidery. In one of the pictures, the actress was seen sitting in the gurudwara as she sought blessings ahead of the release of her film.

Yami also attended an event in the city, where she shared an interesting anecdote from her first day of shooting for Nayyi Navelli, revealing the unexpected dance challenge she took on for "Bhabhi Tabaahi".

Yami Gautam Dhar spilt the beans on her first day of shooting for Nayyi Navelli, revealing that she had to perform six different dance forms, from Bhangra to the Moonwalk, for "Bhabhi Tabaahi". Director Mohan simply asked her to do "whatever you're comfortable with... but just a bit of Moonwalk!" The actress was left stunned by the unexpected challenge but had a great time dancing to various dance forms.



Yami Gautam's Nayyi Navelli Trailer Unveiled

The trailer of Nayyi Navelli wastes little time in establishing that there is more to Yami Gautam's character than meets the eye. The trailer opens with a rather suspicious family member declaring that the new bahu, Mohini, is a 'daayan' (witch).

Mohini enters the Awasthi household as a newlywed, and her brother-in-law, Bantu, is immediately suspicious of her. In one of the early moments, he even asks her to show her feet so he can check whether her footprints are straight — clearly convinced that there is something supernatural about her. But while he remains unconvinced, Mohini quickly wins over the rest of the family.

She appears to settle into her new home with ease, becoming the picture-perfect bahu everyone could ask for. Bantu, however, isn't buying it. As the trailer progresses, Bantu's suspicions begin to look less far-fetched. He warns the family that while everything may seem peaceful inside the house, something far more dangerous is happening outside. Soon after, viewers get a glimpse of Mohini's mysterious true form, leaving those around her stunned.



Tom Cruise Tells

Avneet Kaur

About Digger's Toughest Scene: 'It Was A 10-Minute Monologue In One Shot'

Avneet Kaur had a special interaction with Tom Cruise at the world premiere of Digger in London. The actor, who attended the September 23 premiere, has now shared a video of her conversation with the Hollywood superstar on Instagram, where Cruise spoke at length about his dramatic transformation for the film and one particularly demanding sequence.

The two greeted each other with a hug before sitting down to discuss the Alejandro G. Iñárritu directorial. Avneet told Cruise that she had never seen him inhabit a character like Digger before, prompting him to open up about what made the role different from anything he had previously attempted.

Tom Cruise On Playing Digger

"To get this movie made, it takes a tremendous amount of skill, ability and imagination. I have never read a character like this. We just keep learning, keep creating," Cruise told Avneet.

When she asked if there was a scene that remained particularly special to him, Cruise immediately recalled a lengthy monologue that was captured without a cut.

"Every day on set with Alejandro and the crew, it was such an outrageous character. We are looking at that monologue that I had, that was a 10 minute-monologue in one shot. It was just all one take," he said.Avneet admitted that the scene had caught her by surprise and told Cruise that he must have connected deeply with the character to sustain such a performance.

'It Is A Dance, It Is A Rhythm'

Cruise explained that the sequence depended on finding the character's rhythm and understanding every dramatic beat within the staging.

"It is a rhythm. As an actor one knows the beats to play. Alejandro's staging is perfect and it is a dance… I only did the scene a couple of times



but it is all one take. I just showed up and did it," he said.He added, "To be able to have that opportunity to play that, to show that transition, to show how you discover characters… the voice for Digger where it is something that is going to service the story."Cruise also revealed that his physical transformation came with its own challenges."The comedic timing, I was also wearing a fat suit which was quite heavy… so yeah it is a dance, it is a rhythm.

Neetu Kapoor Calls Out Paparazzi Over 'Back' Photos: 'Aapko Yeh Bada Accha Lagta Hai Na?'



Neetu Kapoor has joined the growing list of actresses who have questioned the paparazzi practice of taking photographs from behind. The veteran actress was recently spotted in Mumbai, where she gave photographers a pointed response after they reportedly asked her to pose with her back towards the cameras.The brief exchange has once again brought attention to a complaint several female celebrities have raised in recent months, with many publicly objecting to pictures taken from angles they find uncomfortable or intrusive.

Neetu Kapoor Questions Paparazzi Over 'Back' Pictures

In a video from the outing, Neetu was seen leaving an establishment and making her way towards her car when photographers asked her for a picture from the back.

Instead of turning around and posing, she stopped and responded with a sarcastic question."Aapko yeh bada accha lagta hai na, 'back'?" Neetu said.

The photographers immediately denied that this was the case. Neetu then got into her car and shut the door, ending the interaction there.

Her reaction was brief, but it echoed concerns that have already been voiced by a number of women in the entertainment industry over the kind of photographs that are often taken and circulated online.

Salman Khan Had Also Spoken About The Issue

Neetu's comment comes after Salman Khan addressed the same subject during a recent episode of Bigg Boss 20.

The actor criticised paparazzi photographers who capture women from uncomfortable angles and later circulate those images on social media.

Salman also brought up the role of viewers who engage with such content online, pointing out that the circulation of these photographs is not limited to the people behind the camera.His comments added to an ongoing conversation around paparazzi culture and the boundaries celebrities have repeatedly tried to set when being photographed in public.

Rakhi Sawant Calls Govinda's Rumoured GF Komal Rani 'Pati Chor': 'Main Sunita Ahuja Nahi Hoon'



Rakhi Sawant has once again weighed in on the controversy surrounding Govinda, his wife Sunita Ahuja and his Roopa co-star Komal Rani Swarnkar. After Komal was recently spotted at the Mumbai airport, Rakhi launched into a sharp attack on her and also questioned Govinda over the ongoing speculation surrounding his marriage.

Speaking to the paparazzi, Rakhi said she was unhappy with Govinda and declared, "Govinda ji, pura desh naaraz hai aapse."

Rakhi Sawant Takes A Dig At Komal Rani Swarnkar

Rakhi's remarks quickly shifted towards Komal, whose name has repeatedly surfaced amid rumours concerning Govinda's personal life.Taking a sarcastic swipe at her, Rakhi asked, "Ye Komal kaun hai? Ye choopa laga rahi hai kya?"

She also claimed that Komal had been speaking about her and other celebrities."Ye mere bare m bakwas kar rahi hai, aur bhi celebs ke baare mein bakwas kar rahi hai. Chichi bhaiya ne isko ye pankh diye hain," Rakhi said.

Rakhi then issued a direct warning to Komal and invoked Sunita while doing so.

"Sun, meri naad mein nahi lagna. Main Sunita nahi hoon, teri dhajjiyan uda ke rakh dungi," she said.She went a step further and referred to Komal as "pati chor" while commenting on the rumours linking her to Govinda.

Rakhi Reacts To Sindoor Question

During the interaction, the paparazzi also asked Rakhi about Komal reportedly sporting sindoor.

Rakhi responded with another sarcastic question: "Han, Chichi bhaiya ke naam ka sindoor?"She also joked about her long-standing admiration for Govinda and demanded that the actor return Rs 65,999 to her, claiming she had spent that amount watching his films over the years.

NEWS BOX

US Woman Accused Of Spying For China, Surveilling Taiwan President's Son

Washington.(Agency)

US authorities arrested a California woman on Sunday and accused her of spying on a son of Taiwan's president at the behest of Chinese officials, the FBI said.The FBI arrested Wanying Zhang, also known as Heather, at Los Angeles International Airport on Sunday before her planned departure to China, the agency said in a statement. Authorities charged Zhang, 34, of Irvine, California, with acting as an unregistered foreign agent. Zhang surveilled a son of Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te, the FBI said. The agency did not directly name Zhang's alleged target but later shared a New York Post report identifying him as Lai Ting-yu, a US resident.

The Justice Department said Zhang travelled to Seattle in 2025 at the direction of Chinese officials and subsequently sent them photos, video and licence plate information of the Taiwanese leader's son and his family.Zhang used tradecraft to avoid detection and never notified Washington that she was acting for a foreign government, Bill Essayli, the first assistant US attorney for the Central District of California, said in a statement.

The Chinese embassy in Washington and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States did not immediately respond to a request for comment.It was not immediately clear whether Zhang has a defence attorney. She will appear on Monday in a Los Angeles federal court, Essayli said.Lai and his Democratic Progressive Party champion Taiwan's separate identity from China, a position that frequently angers Beijing, which views the island as Chinese territory.

OpenAI's Sam Altman Says AI Benefits Warrant Accepting Some Risks

Washington.(Agency)

OpenAI Chief Executive Sam Altman said the benefits of artificial intelligence justify accepting some risks and argued the technology should remain broadly accessible to the public.

"We believe that the world should accept some bad things happening for the benefits of this technology and people having the agency," Altman said in an interview with Politico's technology-focused newsletter Decoded.Altman said there remained a fundamental difference in worldview between OpenAI and rival Anthropic on AI regulation, adding, "I think there's a lot of daylight."

"I disagree, but I understand the perspective of people who are like, 'This technology is going to get so powerful, and it's so dangerous that a single lab in San Francisco should have it and make sure nothing bad happens, and kind of figure out how to dole out the benefits,'" Altman said.He called that "a completely unacceptable trade-off" that runs counter to the "lighter-touch regulatory stance" backed by OpenAI."I wouldn't take a trade of saying, 'We'll make sure there's no major hacks, there's no misuse of this technology, there's zero scams, there's zero all the other bad things that will happen,'" Altman said. "Because I think people will do tremendously -- orders of magnitude more -- good stuff than bad stuff."Altman's remarks come amid a growing debate within the AI industry over the pace of development and the risks posed by increasingly capable systems.

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei in September published an essay calling on the industry to slow down to "pace the frontier", a stance that Altman publicly endorsed. Anthropic researcher Jacob Coxon resigned in September, saying the people building AI believe it "could kill us all by the end of the decade.

Brazil heads to a runoff election after Bolsonaro and Lula fail to garner a majority of votes

BRASILIA: Sen.(Agency)

Flávio Bolsonaro, an ally of U.S. President Donald Trump, and Brazil's incumbent President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva will face off in a runoff Oct. 25 for the top job of Latin America's powerhouse economy after neither won a majority in Sunday's vote.The country's electoral court in Brasilia said neither the 80-year-old incumbent, seeking his fourth non-consecutive term, nor the 45-year-old son of former President Jair Bolsonaro would garner the majority vote needed for an outright win.The court had Bolsonaro with just over 56 million votes to Lula's 53.7 million, with 99.8 percent of the vote reported. The next presidential term is set to begin Jan. 5.The winner will be in charge of Latin America's biggest economy and a population of 214 million. A win for Bolsonaro would increase U.S. influence in Latin America. If Lula wins, Brazil will keep its distance from Washington and continue to deepen its relationship with China.Lula faces a tough battleFlávio Bolsonaro addressed the press and a small group of supporters, including some wearing green and yellow Brazil jerseys and one woman wrapped in the Israeli flag, outside his Brasilia house.

"Brazil wants change, that's the reading of what happened today," Bolsonaro said. "It's the end of the Workers' Party era," he added, in a reference to Lula's party.

Lula, seeking to be encouraging ahead of an uphill battle to beat Bolsonaro in the runoff, said the result was "unexpected" as he had thought he could win in the first round."Tomorrow we start a new campaign," Lula said. "I am very good in the knockout stage. We will see who has the best plan."Both Lula and Bolsonaro will have three weeks to reach



moderate voters who did not support them in the first round. Augusto Cury, a writer who finished in third place with 3.4 million votes, said he would not endorse either in the runoff. Ronaldo Caiado and Renan Santos, two candidates who garnered about 5.3 million votes combined Sunday, have previously said the same.

In the campaign ahead, Lula is expected to try to capitalize on the popularity of his social policies and his rival's many legal woes.Image problems for both candidates

While the once widely popular Lula saw his approval ratings plummet during his third term, standing up to the U.S. gave him a boost. And he still enjoys a strong base of supporters who credit his social policies for improving millions of Brazilians' lives.But the incumbent faces a tough battle because of an affordability crisis and a corruption scandal that ensnared the same justice who led the investigation into Bolsonaro.

Christa Pike's lawyer says she has not regained consciousness since her failed Tennessee execution

world.(Agency)

Christa Pike has remained unconscious and on a ventilator at a hospital in the four days since her failed execution in Tennessee, and her prognosis might not be known for days more, one of her lawyers said Sunday.ittle has been released about Pike's condition since Wednesday night's execution attempt. She has since remained hospitalized under guard as doctors try to get the massive dose of the barbiturate pentobarbital out of her system.When asked whether she ever regained consciousness after the execution attempt, Assistant Federal Defender Stephen Ferrell, Pike's lawyer, said on CNN's "State of the Union": "Not that I am aware of."Lawyer says Pike's medical decisions are being decided by someone else

Pike, now 50, was 18 when she and her boyfriend tortured and killed a classmate, Colleen Slemmer, in a jealous rage in 1995. She became one of the youngest women to be sent to death row.Tennessee prison officials gave Pike two doses of the lethal injection drug on Wednesday night. The pentobarbital didn't kill her, but her lawyers said her arms were burned and blistered from the caustic drugs.

Pike gave someone her medical power of attorney and that person is protecting her privacy, Ferrell said.

"I'm not sure what all they may have told that person," Ferrell said.

Pike's attorneys have not identified who is making Pike's medical decisions. They said they may not know for several more days whether or not she can recover."We don't know right now, and we may never know what sort of torture she endured during that process, where her consciousness was, what physical pain there was — what mental torture she went through," Ferrell said.A spokeswoman for Pike's defense team said in a statement early Sunday that "we appreciate all respect for Christa's rightful privacy."

Pike's lawyer says Tennessee needs to be more open about executions

Pike's execution was delayed for more than eight hours Wednesday as the U.S. Supreme Court considered, and ultimately overturned, a federal appeals court ruling to halt her lethal injection so judges could thoroughly review whether the jury that sentenced her to death should have considered sexual abuse she said she suffered as a child.

Her attorneys asked a court Friday to order Tennessee prison officials to preserve any written records, communication, images or video from the execution.

Tennessee, like many other states with capital punishment, keeps many details about executions secret from the people involved to details about how the drugs are manufactured or obtained or any tests done on their quality.

US withdraws all bomber planes from UK airbase: Pentagon

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

The Pentagon confirmed reports Sunday that the United States has withdrawn all B-1 bomber planes from Royal Air Force Fairford, the UK airbase where a suspicious incident triggered nearby evacuations.

A statement from a Pentagon official said "we can acknowledge now that all U.S. bombers that were deployed to RAF Fairford have re-deployed to their



home stations in the United States."The statement noted that "operational security precluded us from confirming the movement of our assets and forces in real-time."Police were called to the base in southwest England last Sunday after a local farmer reported a group of men with several vans engaged in "suspicious" activity.

The scare forced evacuations at 85 homes near the airbase, which was used to launch strikes on Iran.Speculation about the motives behind the incident ranged from terror threat to fuel thievery, as energy prices in the UK hit record highs this week.

Investigators said they did not find any explosives in the vans, but instead "a quantity of petrol was recovered," National Counter Terrorism Policing head Lawrence Taylor said.The five London-based Britons arrested in the incident, all men in their mid-20s, were released on bail, drawing rebuke from Washington.

"I wouldn't have done that," US President Donald Trump told reporters, as his Secretary of State Marco Rubio alleged a "foreign actor" was involved.

Iran's embassy in London has said it "categorically rejects and strongly condemns" speculation that Tehran was involved.Security at the base had reportedly been heightened recently.Britain gave Washington permission in March to use Fairford for "specific defensive operations into Iran," and US bombers and other planes have since been seen taking off and landing from the base.Fairford is the only airbase on Britain's mainland used for this purpose.

Flavio Bolsonaro: Brazil's Political Heir In His Father's Shadow

World.(Agency)

Flavio Bolsonaro inherited his father's surname and powerful political base. But without the fiery style that helped Jair Bolsonaro energise and reshape Brazil's right, he has struggled to emerge from his shadow.



The family brand was potent enough to propel Flavio Bolsonaro to the front of a presidential race, edging past leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who he will face in an October 25 runoff.The 45-year-old senator was little known nationally before his jailed father anointed him as his political heir, and he had never expressed ambition to follow in his footsteps.Despite a campaign marred by scandal and a corruption investigation, Flavio Bolsonaro scored 47 per cent in Sunday's election against Lula's 45 per cent.e House official described to ensuring a safe future.In interviews, he describes himself as a "more moderate Bolsonaro," but says his father will always be "my compass, my point of reference.""I know I look like him. But it's hard to compare Pele's son to Pele," he said at a Rio de Janeiro rally.

While Jair Bolsonaro's incendiary style is controversial, it fired up the right and helped him go from fringe lawmaker to president in 2018.Despite his absence under house arrest for plotting a coup after losing Brazil's last election in 2022, Jair Bolsonaro's legacy has loomed large over the campaign."I would like to have Jair on the ballot. Since Jair isn't there, I'm going with Flavio," said Marco Antonio da Rosa, a 21-year-old law student at the Rio rally.

"Agent Promised Rs 1.2 Lakh Salary": Telangana Worker Stranded In Oman

world.(Agency)

A migrant worker from Telangana's Nirmal has alleged that he was duped into working for a company in Oman after an agent promised him a job with a good salary.

Borubonthala Nagesh, a farmer from Kotha Tarlapadu village, said he travelled to Oman after an agent from the Jagtial district promised him employment. Nagesh, however, alleged that he was forced into domestic work after he landed in Oman.

In a video appeal from Oman, he also said he has not been receiving adequate wages or proper food and is facing difficulties returning home."An agent took Rs 80,000 from me, promising a salary of Rs 1,20,000 and saying I would not have to pay rent. But after I came here, there was no proper work, the company is not good, and I am facing serious difficulties.

I am only being paid Rs 75 daily, and I have no proper income or support," he said in an SOS video."The agent has cheated me and left me in a very difficult situation," he said, and urged the Telangana government and the Centre to intervene and bring him back to India.

Telangan Citizens And A Job Scam In Oman

His case comes amid growing concerns over overseas recruitment fraud involving workers from Telangana.

MEA data presented in Parliament shows that Telangana recorded 339 complaints related to fraudulent overseas recruitment in the last three years, placing the state among those reporting the highest number of such complaints nationally. Most complaints were linked to unregistered or illegal recruitment agents.Oman has also emerged as a significant destination in migrant-worker grievance cases.

Gulf countries have received more than 80,000 complaints involving abuse, exploitation and workplace grievances between 2021 and 2025, with Oman accounting for about 13,000 complaints.In August, a 45-year-old woman from Warangal, who allegedly endured 25 days of confinement and harassment in Muscat after being taken there on a tourist visa on the promise of a job, had returned to India.

The woman, Mohammed Mahamuda, had travelled to Muscat on July 16 after an agent promised her domestic work.

However, after reaching Oman, she was allegedly handed over to a sub-agent who seized her mobile phone and passport, confined her to a room and forced her to work against her wishes. She also alleged that she was subjected to harassment and physical assault during her confinement.

UAE had shared details about FlyDubai flight with Israel, including pilots' names and nationalities

TEL AVIV.(Agency)

Authorities in the United Arab Emirates shared with Israel a list of passengers and crew ahead of the FlyDubai flight on which a pilot attempted to seize control of the Israel-bound aircraft and crash it, regional officials said Sunday, raising new questions over how the attacker evaded detection.With the investigation underway, preliminary details about the incident have highlighted several major security lapses. Officials already have said the Omani co-pilot had been barred from flying by his own country because of concerns about his extremist views. It also remains unclear how a citizen of Oman, an Arab country that has no diplomatic relations with Israel, was allowed to fly a planeload of Israelis to Tel Aviv.

The UAE, which is leading the investigation, said the co-pilot attacked the flight's captain with the cockpit's crash ax and tried to take control of the plummeting plane in a "terrorist attack" Wednesday. His actions nearly crashed the flight with 182 people on board before the Indian captain managed to open the cockpit door, allowing passengers and others to rush in and subdued the attacker.Israel did not raise concerns about passengers and crewThe regional officials said Emirati authorities had shared information about the passengers and crew, including their nationalities. Israel hadn't raised red flags on any passenger or member



of the crew, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters about the probe.

The Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security agency, said the Transportation Ministry is responsible for vetting passenger lists from foreign flights. Transportation Minister Miri Regev told Israel's public broadcaster Kan that the security agencies are responsible for flight security and that her ministry wasn't given a list of passengers or any warnings.

Sharing the list is standard aviation procedure. But the head of aviation security at the Transportation Ministry, Dvir Rubenstien, told Army Radio that the ministry relies on local security checks and does not have the tools or the ability to run checks on each passenger on every flight.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday that Israel has long-standing agreements with foreign carriers to keep pilots from flying into the country if they are citizens of nations that don't maintain diplomatic relations with Israel.Australian police said Sunday that counterterrorism investigators were looking into the attacker's possible connections to Australia.

The passengers who halted the attack and helped regain control of the aircraft have been hailed as heroes in Israel.

Questions being raised about security failures

But as the initial euphoria of the rescue has subsided, officials have begun to raise difficult questions and trade accusations about the security blunders that could have led to a major disaster.Ahead of the elections at the end of the month, some opposition candidates have seized on the security failures to highlight what they perceive as negligence on the part of Netanyahu and his supporters.