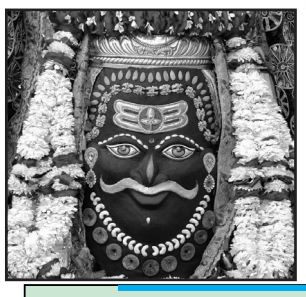
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Delhi police arrests journalist over fake video targeting ACP Vivek Bhagat

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi Police Cyber Cell has arrested a 24-year-old independent journalist for allegedly circulating a fabricated video that falsely depicted ACP Vivek Bhagat engaging in sexually inappropriate conduct with a woman during the recent protests.

Police said the video circulated on Instagram and Facebook was manipulated and falsely presented as CCTV footage. Bhagat's photograph, name and designation were displayed alongside the purported footage, giving



the impression that he was the police officer shown in the video. The Cyber Police case is separate from allegations made by a woman journalist against Bhagat, who has accused the officer of inappropriate conduct. The Crime Branch is looking into this complaint.

The accused, Nadeem Ahmed Ameen, was apprehended from Haryana's Mewat region on October 5. Police said they recovered a mobile phone allegedly used to circulate the video. Police said he works as an independent journalist and operates an Instagram news account, News Aina Today.

150 Bangladeshi immigrants flown out of J&K on IAF aircraft for deportation

Srinagar. (Agency)

As many as 150 Bangladeshi nationals who were allegedly living illegally in Jammu and Kashmir were airlifted on Monday to West Bengal's Bagdogra, from where they will be deported. The 150 are among 500 people who were detained from different parts of the



Union Territory during a survey to identify illegal immigrants and kept in a facility manned by the police. From Bagdogra, the 150 will be deported to Bangladesh, officials said.

This comes two months after a high-level committee on demographic changes, set up by the Union Home Ministry in May this year, visited Jammu and Kashmir for its first field visit. Police sources said that the batch of 150 immigrants was sent in an Indian Air Force aircraft. They would be handed over to the Border Security Force (BSF) and deported on October 7, sources said. J&K police have conducted a special exercise over the last few days to identify "illegal immigrants" in the Union Territory, sources said, adding that around 500 people – mostly from Bangladesh – were detained and shifted to the facility on the outskirts of Srinagar city.

8 BJP candidates file nomination for UP Rajya Sabha polls after big shake-up

The BJP filed nomingtions for eight Rajya Sabha candidates in Uttar Pradesh on the final day. The Samajwadi Party signalled it may avoid a contest, making an unopposed result likely.

Lucknow (Agency)

Eight BJP candidates filed their nominations on Tuesday for the Rajya Sabha biennial elections from Uttar Pradesh, while the opposition Samajwadi Party indicated it may not push for a contest in the October 16 polls. With two SP candidates having already filed their papers, the contest for 10 seats appears set to end without voting unless there is a last-minute change.

All eight BJP candidates submitted their nomination papers before returning officer Ajeet Verma in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other senior leaders. The BJP's selections, including two women, reflected a mix of caste and regional representation ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

The BJP candidates are Dharampal Singh, Prakash Pal and Shruti Gangwar from OBC communities; Vidya Sagar Sonkar and Priyanka Rawat from Dalit communities; and Radhakant Ojha, Gopi Krishna Pandey and Ram Pratap Singh Chauhan. "All the candidates filed two sets of nomination papers, each accompanied by signatures of 10 lawmakers as proposers," poll officer Ajit Verma told . The two Samajwadi Party candidates who have already filed their



nominations are veteran leader Ram Gopal Yadav and Reliance Industries executive Dhanraj Parimal Nathwani. There had been speculation that the SP might field a third candidate to force a contest, but party chief Akhilesh Yadav sought to end the suspense with a post on X before leaving for New Delhi to take part in the opposition protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. "Now, our focus is not on three, but on 403," Yadav said. The BJP quickly responded to the SP's stand. "The writing is clear. SP has conceded defeat for 2027 UP polls," Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak said. Earlier in the day, the BJP candidates gathered at the party office opposite the Vidhan Sabha and, after meeting senior leaders including the party's Uttar Pradesh in-charge Vinod Tawde, left to file their nominations amid drum beats and celebrations.

After filing his nomination, BJP OBC wing chief Prakash Pal said, "The selection of BJP candidates shows that only BJP truly respects PDA; SP's PDA narrative is bogus, and 2027 UP polls will prove it." With Tuesday being the last day for filing nominations for the 10 Rajya Sabha seats, the current line-up suggests that all 10 candidates could be elected unopposed.

Lawyers Intensify Protest Against Gujarat Rent Bill 2026: Congress Questions Judicial Independence and Warns of Difficulties for Poor and Middle-Class Tenants

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad: Opposition to the Gujarat Rent Bill, 2026, is intensifying as lawyers and Bar Associations across the state continue to raise strong objections to various provisions of the legislation. The Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee's Legal Cell has also opened a political front against the BJP-led state government, alleging that the new law is against the interests of poor, ordinary and middle-class citizens.Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee Legal Cell president and senior advocate Yogesh Ravani addressed a press conference and strongly criticised the government over the legislation. He described the Bill as unconstitutional and demanded its immediate withdrawal, alleging that several of its provisions could create serious difficulties for tenants and common citizens.According to Ravani, Gujarat Bill No. 22 of 2026 was passed by the Gujarat Legislative Assembly and published in the Gazette on August 31, 2026. He argued that certain provisions of the legislation raise serious questions regarding the separation of powers between the legislature, executive and judiciary.Ravani particularly objected to the provisions relating to the Rent



Authority and Rent Court. He pointed out that under Section 30, a Deputy Collector-level officer has been designated as the Rent Authority, while Section 33 provides for an Additional Collector-level officer to function as the Rent Court.According to Ravani, assigning judicial responsibilities to executive officers could raise questions about the independence and impartiality of the justice-delivery process. He argued that executive officers may face administrative pressures and questioned whether they would be able to independently handle rent disputes involving landlords and tenants. He also raised concerns over their experience in dealing with judicial and legal procedures.The Congress Legal Cell further criticised the use of provisions from the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, for implementing the rent legislation. Ravani questioned the suitability of applying provisions related to criminal procedure to rent disputes and argued that the government should establish a clear and appropriate legal mechanism specifically designed for such matters.Another major concern raised by Congress relates to the treatment of different categories of properties. Ravani alleged that the new legislation does not maintain sufficient distinction between residential properties, commercial premises and industrial buildings. According to the Congress, this could create practical and legal difficulties, particularly for ordinary residential tenants and economically weaker sections.Congress leaders claimed that a rent law should balance the legitimate interests of both landlords and tenants while ensuring a transparent, affordable and fair mechanism for resolving disputes. They also argued that ordinary citizens should not be forced into complicated or expensive legal procedures for routine rental disputes.The Congress has demanded that the BJP government reconsider the legislation and immediately withdraw provisions that it considers against public interest. Ravani also called upon the government to take the concerns of lawyers and Bar Associations seriously instead of ignoring the continuing protests.Dr. Manish M. Doshi, Media Convener and Spokesperson of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee, was also present at the press conference.With lawyers and Bar Associations continuing their opposition and the Congress intensifying its criticism of the government, the Gujarat Rent Bill, 2026, has become an important legal and political issue in the state. The controversy is expected to continue in the coming days, with the possibility of further developments on both the legal and political fronts.

Ex-Singapore Minister explains why foreigners feel more at home in India than China

Speaking alongside External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, former Singapore foreign minister George Yeo has said India's diversity, geography and civilisational openness give it a unique advantage in the world, allowing foreigners to find a sense of familiarity and comfort in the country that they may not experience in China.

Chandigarh (Agency).

Singapore's former foreign minister George Yeo has said India's diversity and long history of cultural exchange give foreigners a sense of comfort and familiarity that they may not experience in



China. Speaking in conversation with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at the 5th Kautilya Economic Conclave in New Delhi on Monday, Yeo said India's geographical position and its centuries-old interaction with different cultures had made it uniquely open to the outside world.

"It's not easy, I think, for foreigners to fully understand China, whereas India... has always been where the winds blew six months in one direction, six months in the other," Yeo said. He said the constant movement of people, cultures, spices and ideas across the Indian Ocean had shaped India into a reflection of the diversity found across the region.

'INDIA REFLECTS DIVERSITY AROUND INDIAN OCEAN'

"India, in a sense, reflects the diversity of the world all around the Indian Ocean rim, and it gives people a sense of comfort, of familiarity when they come to India, in the way which they may not feel when they go to China," Yeo said. He contrasted this with the experience of foreigners in China, saying they could feel like "a foreigner in the homogeneous sea." "In India, you can always find niches, comfort zones for yourself," he added.

Vijay's TVK 1st big test as Tamil Nadu votes in bypolls, brisk turnout so far

Voting progressed briskly in the Madurantakam and Dharapuram by-elections on Tuesday with only minor local glitches. The contests are being watched as TVK's first electoral test after taking power in May.

Patna (Agency).

Voting was under way in the SC-reserved Madurantakam and Dharapuram Assembly by-elections in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday, with polling progressing briskly and no major untoward incident or widespread technical failure reported. Polling began at 7 am and is scheduled to continue till 6 pm. According to Election Commission figures released at 11 am, Madurantakam recorded 35.55 per cent polling and Dharapuram 37.28 per cent. Election officials said polling stations in both constituencies had been seeing a steady flow of voters across age groups since morning, even as the contests are being closely watched as the first electoral test for the ruling TVK after it came to power in May. A few booths reported minor technical glitches, including brief delays linked to VVPAT or



EVM connections during the mock-poll process, but standby engineers cleared them before voting gathered pace. At the Thandarai polling booth in Madurantakam, voting was briefly paused after DMK agents alleged that indelible ink marks had been placed on the EVM button next to the TVK candidate's "whistle" symbol, potentially influencing voters. Election officers inspected the machine, resolved the issue and resumed polling.

At the Vilvarayanallur polling station in Madurantakam, DMK cadres accused local police of allowing ruling TVK workers to stand closer to the booth entrance than the distance permitted under the Election Commission's Model Code of Conduct.

Despite these brief interruptions, polling continued peacefully under heavy deployment of local police and Central Armed Police Forces. Long queues of women voters were seen outside polling stations in rural and semi-urban pockets of both constituencies.

Delivery worker killed in hit-and-run on Signature Tower flyover

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 37-year-old delivery worker was killed after an unidentified vehicle allegedly hit his motorcycle on the Signature Tower flyover Monday night and fled the spot, police said.The deceased was identified as Sunil Kumar, a resident of Sultanpuri, Delhi. Police said they received information about the accident following which a team reached the spot and found Sunil injured. He was taken to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead.According to police, the vehicle involved in the accident hit Sunil's motorcycle causing him to collide with the concrete barricades whose metal handrails were exposed. Sunil's body was pierced by the exposed handrails, they said. Police received information about the accident at 3:00am Monday and are now scanning CCTV cameras installed on and around the flyover to establish the sequence of events and trace the vehicle.The accident occurred on the flyover under the jurisdiction of Sector 29 police station. Police said they were also trying to establish Sunil's movements before the accident and whether he was travelling for work at the time.A case was registered under sections 281 (rash driving on a public way) and 106 (causing death by negligence) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Sector 29 police station.The body has been kept at the mortuary and the postmortem is scheduled for Tuesday. Police said the medical examination would help establish the exact cause of death.Police said the investigation was underway and the accused driver would be identified and arrested after the vehicle involved in the crash is traced.

Man killed while sleeping in a field, brother detained

Noida.(Agency)

A man was detained on Monday in connection with his brother's murder the night before. Bhole Shankar was found with his throat slit in a field in Neemka village late on Sunday night. Shankar had been sleeping when he was attacked with a sharp-edged weapon, police said.Locals found his body soon after the attack and informed police, who reached the spot and sent the body for a post-mortem examination. Results are awaited. Forensic and field teams were also called to the scene and collected evidence that could help establish the sequence of events and identify the circumstances surrounding the killing, police said.

Cops checked CCTV footage from cameras installed in the vicinity and questioned people familiar with the victim and his family. The investigation led cops to the victim's brother, who was detained on Monday as a suspect in the case. No official arrest has been made so far.Police said a motive has not been established yet. Investigators are also examining the circumstances that led to the alleged attack and whether there was any previous dispute between the brothers. The accused would be questioned in detail and further legal action would be taken on the basis of the evidence, they added.The post-mortem examination report is also expected to provide further details about the nature and timing of the injuries, police said, adding that they are examining all aspects of the case.

Docs use shockwaves to break up calcium in 76-year-old's blocked heart artery

Noida.(Agency)

A 76-year-old woman with a severely calcified blockage in a major heart artery has been successfully treated using a minimally invasive technique that uses controlled shockwaves to break up hardened calcium deposits before a stent is placed.

The woman had a severe narrowing in the proximal left anterior descending (LAD) artery, one of the heart's main blood vessels. These blockages can be difficult to treat because calcium deposits can stiffen the artery, preventing a conventional angioplasty balloon from expanding fully, and they may also prevent a stent from opening properly.

Doctors at Metro Hospital used a technique called intravascular lithotripsy (IVL) during the angioplasty. In the procedure, a specialised catheter is guided into the blocked artery. Once in position, it delivers controlled shockwaves to the hardened calcium deposits, modifying them and making the artery easier to open."The presence of extensive calcium can make it difficult to safely open the artery and achieve proper stent expansion," said Dr Sameer Gupta, senior interventional cardiologist and group director, cardiac cath lab, Metro Group of Hospitals.

"We used the Innvolution InnvoLith IVL system to deliver controlled shockwaves within the artery, modifying the calcium and creating a better pathway for treatment," he said.Doctors used the Innvolution InnvoLith 150-pulse dual-emitter IVL system. According to the hospital, its catheter has six electrodes that provide coverage around the artery, allowing the shockwaves to reach the calcified section.

Once the calcium had been modified, doctors performed balloon angioplasty and placed a coronary stent in the narrowed portion of the LAD artery. They then used optical coherence tomography (OCT), an advanced imaging technique that gives doctors a detailed view from inside the artery, to check whether the stent had opened properly."OCT confirmed excellent stent expansion and good apposition after the intervention," Gupta said.Doctors said the key challenge in the case was not simply placing a stent, but preparing a heavily calcified artery so that the stent could expand fully.The IVL helped address this problem by modifying the calcium before the balloon angioplasty and stent placement. The procedure is performed through a catheter and does not require open-heart surgery.Doctors said the technique can be particularly useful in technically challenging cases involving extensive calcium build-up in the arteries.

Nath Navya's Indomitable Courage Defying Disability:

With the Wings of Education, Her Dreams Can Soar High

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Bhachau, Kutch: Nath Navya, a student of Sitarampur Primary School in Bhachau, is emerging as an inspiring example of courage, determination and the power of education. Despite living with a physical condition such as Cerebral Palsy (C.P.), Navya has refused to allow her physical limitations to come in the way of her dreams. Her strong desire to learn, coupled with her self-confidence and determination, has become her greatest strength.During the academic year 2026–27, Navya has continued to actively participate in various educational activities at school despite limited functioning of her hands. She writes with the help of her feet and makes sincere efforts to remain engaged with classroom learning. Her enthusiasm for education and determination to achieve something meaningful have made her an inspiration for her classmates, teachers and the wider community.According to the available information, Navya has a 65 percent disability. However, her talent, confidence and willingness to learn are much greater than the physical challenges she faces. Rather than allowing her circumstances to discourage her, Navya continues to demonstrate that determination and the right support can help children overcome several barriers in their educational journey.The support provided by her family and the guidance of her school teachers are playing an important role in Navya's educational development. Their encouragement is helping her remain connected with learning and develop greater confidence in her abilities. For children like Navya, a supportive school environment can play a crucial role in ensuring that physical limitations do not become barriers to education and personal growth.For Navya's overall development, there is a need to provide a dedicated resource room, appropriate



educational materials, assistive devices and an accessible learning environment at the school. Such facilities can help children with disabilities participate more effectively in classroom activities and develop their skills according to their individual abilities.Supporting children with disabilities should go beyond sympathy. What they need is equal opportunity, appropriate resources, proper guidance and an enabling environment that allows them to become independent and self-reliant. Families, schools, administration and society all have an important role to play in creating such an environment.Navya's journey sends a powerful message that physical limitations may exist in the body, but they cannot limit the power of dreams. With the right opportunities, encouragement and support, children like Navya can overcome challenges, develop their talents and reach great heights of success. Her determination to continue learning despite the difficulties she faces is a reminder that true ability is not always measured by physical strength, but by courage, confidence and the willingness to keep moving forward.

NCAHP Notifies 2026 Regulations to Strengthen Quality, Transparency and Standardisation in Allied and Healthcare Education

Mahanagar Metro Desk

New Delhi: October 7, 2026: The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) has notified the Autonomous Boards and Central Assessment Committee (Establishment, Constitution, Functions and Powers) Regulations, 2026 under the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Act, 2021. The new regulatory framework seeks to strengthen quality assurance, transparency, institutional accountability and standardization in allied and healthcare education and professional regulation. The Regulations provide for the establishment and functioning of Autonomous Boards under State Allied and Healthcare Councils. These Boards will have defined responsibilities relating to education, institutional assessment, professional ethics and registration. Each Autonomous Board will comprise 10 to 20 members, including a President, with representation from recognised allied and healthcare professional categories. The Regulations also prescribe eligibility qualifications, professional experience, tenure and age requirements, along with provisions concerning declaration of assets, liabilities and conflicts of interest. The Undergraduate and Postgraduate Boards will facilitate implementation of standards for recognized courses, competency-based frameworks, faculty development, training and research, and will submit reports and recommendations to the respective State Council. The Assessment and Rating Board will examine applications for recognition and Letters of Permission, conduct institutional inspections, review annual disclosures, empanel assessors and assess and rate institutions. Assessment and rating information will also be made available in the public domain through the State Council website. The Ethics and Registration Board will verify professional documents and recommend eligible professionals for registration. It will support maintenance of State registers, implementation of professional ethics and conduct standards, and evaluation of complaints and violations, with recommendations concerning professional registration. A structured institutional inspection mechanism has also been prescribed. Three-member inspection teams comprising relevant Board representatives and empaneled assessors, with prior approval of the State Council, will verify compliance with minimum standards, maintain supporting records and evidence, and submit Institution Verification Reports. Safeguards have been included to prevent inspections where conflicts of interest exist. The rating framework provides for continuous monitoring and considers compliance with prescribed standards, academic excellence and innovative teaching, research output and impact, student discipline and the learning environment, student feedback, participation of students and faculty in academic, sports and social activities, and availability of sports and social facilities.

Lawyers Raise Strong Opposition to Gujarat Rent Bill 2026, Congress Calls It Anti-Poor and Anti-Middle Class

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad: Strong opposition continues to grow among lawyers and various Bar Associations across Gujarat against the controversial Gujarat Rent Bill, 2026, with legal professionals reportedly continuing their protests and strike over several provisions of the new legislation. The Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee's Legal Cell has also intensified its criticism of the BJP-led state government, alleging that the legislation is against the interests of poor, ordinary and middle-class citizens.Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee Legal Cell president and senior advocate Yogesh Ravani addressed a press conference and strongly criticised the state government over the provisions of the Gujarat Rent Bill, 2026. Ravani described the legislation as unconstitutional and demanded that the government immediately withdraw the law, alleging that several of its provisions could adversely affect tenants and ordinary citizens.According to Ravani, Gujarat Bill No. 22 of 2026 was passed by the Gujarat Legislative Assembly and subsequently published in the Gazette on August 31, 2026. He argued that certain provisions of the legislation raise serious questions regarding the separation of powers between the legislature, executive and judiciary.Ravani particularly raised objections to the proposed Rent Authority and Rent Court mechanisms under the new legislation. He pointed out that under Section 30, Deputy Collector-level officials have been designated as the Rent Authority, while Section 33 provides for a Rent Court at the level of Additional Collector. According to him, assigning judicial and quasi-judicial responsibilities to executive officials could undermine the independence of the judicial process.He argued that the Constitution provides for separate roles and responsibilities for the legislature, executive and judiciary, with the judiciary functioning independently to ensure a fair process of justice. Ravani alleged that executive officers could face administrative pressures while dealing with disputes and questioned whether they would be able to exercise judicial powers with complete independence.The Congress Legal Cell president also criticised several other provisions of the legislation. He claimed that the law relies on provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, which primarily governs criminal procedure, and questioned the appropriateness of applying such provisions in rent-related disputes.Another major concern raised by Ravani relates to the alleged lack of adequate distinction between different categories of properties.



Two per cent reservation for sportspersons in Karnataka government jobs

BENGALURU (Agency).

The Karnataka government issued an order providing 2% reservation for sportspersons in government jobs. The state Cabinet had earlier approved the same where 2% reservation will be provided to those sportspersons who have achieved excellence in sports in recruitment to state civil services.

Under the Karnataka Civil Services (General Recruitment) (Amendment) Rules, 2026, 2% of vacancies in direct recruitment will be reserved for eligible sports achievers across General Merit, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes categories. To qualify, a sports achiever must have been domiciled in Karnataka for at least 10 years and participated in specified sports or games at national or international events, besides representing Karnataka in at least one recognised national championship. It could be individual or as a team participation.The rules also provide for weightage marks based on sporting achievements while determining merit under the sports quota. In case of a tie, candidates who have achieved excellence in individual events will get priority over those from team events.

As per the notification, sports achievers can seek recruitment under the 2% sports quota even if they are eligible under other recruitment rules. Medal winners in the Olympics, Paralympics, Asian Games, Asian Para Games or Commonwealth Games can also apply. Candidates must possess the prescribed minimum educational qualification.

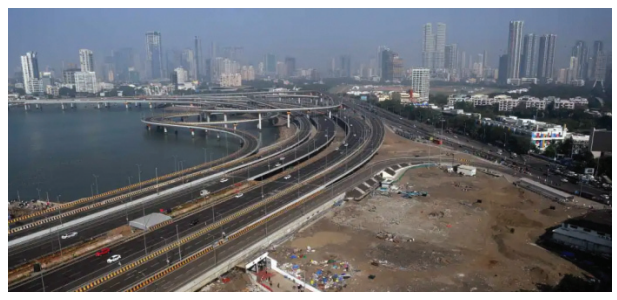
Where a candidate has multiple sporting achievements, weightage will be based on the highest achievement. For competitive exams, 50% of the written exam marks along with the marks awarded for sporting achievement will determine merit under the sports quota. For persons with disabilities, the 2% sports quota will apply only to posts identified under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.If sufficient eligible sports persons are not available to fill the 2 per cent sports quota, the remaining vacancies shall be filled by candidates belonging to the same category under the existing vertical reservation.

Amid heat and pollution, BMC prunes gardens budget even as 200 wait for repairs

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) records show that the budget allocated for the civic body's garden and trees department, which is responsible for developing and maintaining the city's green cover, has seen a consistent decline over the past five years.

Mumbai (Agency).

Mumbai is grappling with intense heat and poor air, but the city's most natural defence against both — green and open spaces — appears to be constrained by a severe funding crunch. Records accessed by The Indian Express show that at present, there is a requirement to construct and repair as many as 200 gardens and open spaces in Mumbai. However, the work couldn't be taken up due to financial crunch.Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) records show that the budget allocated for the civic body's garden and trees department, which is responsible for developing and maintaining the city's green cover, has seen a consistent decline over the past five years.According to the records, the BMC has received around 210 requests from elected representatives, including MLAs and corporators, for creating gardens, recreational grounds and playgrounds across Mumbai."Our department (garden and tree) has received requests for work worth Rs 710 crore. Since many of the requests are non-feasible and can't be executed on immediate basis, a technical assessment was carried out. It was found that the basic work in many of these gardens requires a funding of Rs 250 crore," an official told The Indian Express on the condition of anonymity.nistrative responsibilities.This amount is more than three times the Rs 68-crore budget allocated for the trees and gardens department for the current financial year.



Costly affair

Officials said the process of creating an open space is a multi-step method. After a land parcel is given to the BMC by the collector's office or the land and revenue department, the first step involves making the soil component fertile for grass plantation. Then utilities such as furniture, gym and playing apparatus along with compound walls are erected. Officials said that as a whole, the cost of constructing a new garden from scratch costs Rs 25-30 crore, while the cost of carrying out basic repair works costs Rs 4-5 crore as per the current rates."There are many gardens in Mumbai where no repair works have been taken up in a decade. In our latest survey, we found that there are recreational grounds where the walkways are broken, apparatus are stolen and toilets are defunct. Many of these spaces are either encroached or shut to the public," the official said.He also added that most of these gardens are located in wards M East (Govandi, Deonar), M west (Chembur), S (Kanjurmarg and Bhandup), L (Kurla) and K North (Jogeshwari). Most of these house the middleclass population.

Budget constraints

The civic body's data shows that the budget allocated for the garden and tree department has fallen by 62 per cent in the past three years. For the financial year 2023-24, the BMC had earmarked Rs 180.83 crore for this department. However, the final budget for the garden department for this year stands at Rs 68 crore, against Rs 200 crore proposed in the budget earlier this year.

"The final budget for the garden and tree department was cut down by 66 per cent in the final allocation as part of it was routed towards infrastructure works," another official told

Pune water cuts from October 16? Civic body awaits state directive

The Maharashtra Government has declared drought in various parts of the state, including Pune district, alerting citizens to use available water judiciously.

Mumbai (Agency).

A senior official of the Pune civic body said Tuesday they are likely to start weekly water cuts after the Maharashtra Government ordered local civic bodies and gram panchayats to reduce water supply by at least 10 per cent from October 16.

The state government order comes amid concerns over dwindling reserves, drought-like conditions and the risk of prolonged water stress linked to El Niño. The government has declared drought in various parts of the state, including Pune district, alerting citizens to use available water judiciously.The four dams, Khadakwasla, Panshet, Varasgaon and Temghar, which supply water to Pune city, are filled to their capacity, but their water is likely to be supplied to meet the needs of drought-affected talukas of Pune district.To ensure that the available water lasts till the start of next monsoon in July next year, the Pune civic administration has prepared itself for water cuts from October 16. If there is a water cut once



a week, then there will be no scarcity during summer," said Nandkishor Jagtap, in-charge of the civic water supply department, Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC)."However, the water cut will be considered only after written communication from the state government," Jagtap added.

He said PMC Naval Kishore Ram, Mayor Manjusha Nagpure, and other senior officers are not in town, so there will be no immediate decision on a water cut."There will be a review of the situation and discussion on the water management plan before it's implemented," said Jagtap.Meanwhile, the Pune civic administration has requested the Water Resource Department to reserve 21.34 TMC of water to meet the city's water demand until next monsoon. It also said that 11 villages were merged into the civic body in 2017 and 23 in 2021, increasing the population and the demand it must meet.

The Pune civic body introduced water restrictions from June 15 as a precaution against a possible rainfall shortfall linked to El Niño.

Don't interfere with 'right to azaan' at mosque if noise norms followed: Allahabad HC

Petitioners claim authorities were not allowing them to use loudspeakers for azaan despite court orders allowed it

Lucknow(Agency).

The Allahabad High Court has directed the authorities concerned to not interfere with the "right to five-time azaan" (Islamic call for a prayer) at a mosque in Saharanpur district, provided the noise pollution rules are complied with strictly.A writ petition was filed in the court in July requesting to direct the district administration and police to permit the mosque management to perform azaan five times at Ayesha Masjid in Pathed village of Gagalhedi area



and permit the use of loudspeakers for the purpose.

According to the petitioners, despite there being court judgments permitting the use of loudspeakers for azaan, the authorities were not allowing them to do so.The state government's counsel, however, submitted before the bench that the petitioners were not restrained from performing azaan as such but were only asked to use loudspeaker according to the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, which provide for certain level of sound in terms of decibel units.Citing a May 2020 Allahabad High Court judgment, the counsel maintained that certain timings have also been prescribed for the use of loudspeakers for the purpose of azaan.The 2020 judgment stated that azaan may be an integral part of Islam but the call through loudspeakers or other sound amplifying devices cannot be an essential part of the religion, warranting protection of the fundamental right under Article 25 of the Constitution.Therefore, under no circumstances sound amplifying devices can be permitted to be used between 10 pm and 6 am by the district administrations, it was stated.The 2020 order also maintained that in case any such application is filed before the authorities concerned, it may be dealt with in accordance with law, including noise pollution norms.The petitioners submitted that there was no question of violating any rule or the court order on the use of loudspeakers and their use during azaan will be followed strictly.

No Dussehra or Diwali here:Yavatmal's dry fields leave farmers counting losses

'Four chief ministers have come from Vidarbha, yet they could not resolve water crisis here'.

Bengaluru (Agency).

Last year, by the time Dussehra arrived, cotton had already reached the homes of farmers in Narsapur. This year, with the festival only days away, Ashok Dasreji Landge, 63, is still waiting for the bolls in his fields to open."Dussehra is on 20th and nothing yet," he says.



All 16 talukas of Yavatmal district in Maharashtra are experiencing severe drought conditions, all are under the "Trigger-1" drought category, issuing orders for 12 key concessions. Kalamb being one of these.Prolonged dry spells and deficient rainfall have left farmers facing severe drought. Fields that could produce 25-50 quintals of cotton in a normal season are yielding estimates of five to eight quintals, while some farmers expect barely 10-25 per cent of normal crop.Landge is part of a 10-member household comprising him and his wife, their two sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren. He owns seven acres, with the remaining land divided between two sons. His son Swaroop, 36, cultivates six acres.Landge spent around Rs 21,000 per acre and would normally expect five to six quintals of cotton. "But this year there is no production," he said.The family has already been forced to sell their livestock. Four cows and two buffaloes were sold for about Rs 60,000 because the animals could no longer be maintained.

Landge said insurance policies taken in earlier years have not yielded payments. His crop loan of Rs 2.10 lakh has remained overdue, while his son has an outstanding loan of about Rs 1.10 lakh.The family pledged household utensils to keep the cultivation going. "Diwali and Dussehra will come, but we will have to continue according to whatever the situation is," he said.At Dhanodi, 49-year-old Chitaman Vitthal Bhoyar is facing a similar crisis on his 3.16-hectare holding — one hectare under soybean, two hectares under cotton and 16 gunthas under tur. The soybean crop did not develop because of lack of water."In a good year, I would have got about 25 quintals of soybean. This year, I may get only five," Bhoyar said. "For cotton, I would have got around 35 quintals. This year, just seven to eight."His cultivation expenditure has reached about Rs 2.75 lakh, while total crop income may be only around Rs 90,000.

Pulling out a plant and showing the sparse pods, he said, "Look at this. What will come out of this?"His elder daughter is pursuing BSc Nursing in Yavatmal. Her fees for two years being Rs 1.25 lakh, of which he has paid about Rs 25,000.

When can police refuse permission for protest? Gujarat High Court to decide

Gujarat HC is hearing a petitioner whose application for protest against the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak was rejected by Ahmedabad Police at the height of the Jantar Mantar agitation in Delhi.

Ahmedabad (Agency).

Police around the country routinely refuse permission to organisations and groups to hold protests and demonstrations. The protesters sometimes go ahead anyway, contending that the refusal of permission is arbitrary.When and under what circumstances can police lawfully refuse to permit a protest? This is the question that a petitioner has asked the Gujarat High Court to clarify in an ongoing matter. The court is scheduled to take up the petition again on Wednesday (October 7).

What led to the petition?

This July, as the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP's) protest against the NEET-UG 2026



question paper leak and issues connected with the higher education system was taking Delhi by storm, 35-year-old Subodh Kumud called a similar protest in Ahmedabad.

The stated intention was to express solidarity with activist Sonam Wangchuk, who had been sitting on a hunger strike at Jantar Mantar, and other protesters who were demanding the resignation of then Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.According to Kumud's petition, filed before the High Court through Advocate B S Soparkar, Kumud emailed a 'Form A' application under the Regulations and Conduct of Assembly and Procession (Ahmedabad Police Commissioner Area) Rules, 1975, to police on July 17.He said that he intended to gather together about 50 people from 6 pm to 8.30 pm on July 20 in solidarity with Wangchuk, and as an extension of the Jantar Mantar protests. He said that no loudspeakers would be used.

According to the petition, Kumud was called to the Ellisbridge police station on July 19 to give a statement.

Bengaluru's Race Course Road closed for 60 days. Check alternate routes

Bengaluru (Agency).

The Bengaluru traffic police have restricted vehicle movement on Race Course Road and nearby stretches as white-topping and civic infrastructure work is underway and is expected to run until December.According to the traffic police, the Greater Bengaluru Authority began white-topping work on Race Course Road from Maurya Junction to Hare Krishna Road Junction on October 5.

They said in a press release Sunday that the civic body is also carrying out work on a new stormwater drain, sewage line, and utility infrastructure along the stretch.

"The movement of all vehicles on Rce Course Road, from Trilight Junction to Maurya



Junction and from Shivananda Junction to Maurya Junction, will be restricted," a traffic police officer said.All vehicles are prohibited from moving from Shivananda Junction to Maurya Junction.▪ All vehicles are prohibited from moving from Trilight Junction on Race Course Road towards Maurya Junction.

What are the alternate routes

• Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses, private buses, and heavy goods vehicles (HGV) travelling towards K R Market on Sankey Road will proceed straight from Windsor Manor towards the L R D E Junction, take a right turn at L R D E Junction, and proceed via Basaveshwara Junction.• All types of vehicles, including BMTC buses, private buses, and HGV vehicles, travelling towards Majestic on Sankey Road will proceed via Kumara Krupa Road to reach Shivananda Circle, take a right turn, then take a left turn onto S C Road, and proceed towards Majestic.

Raju From Alwar and the new professional cons

Raju From Alwar has just been upstaged by a 'recruiter', supposedly from the UK. Before my sons went to a boarding school in another town, they attended a local day school. Early mornings were a whirl of madness for their mother — getting them ready, giving them breakfast, checking if their bags were packed and homework done. Then came stage two of stress, which was my department: rushing to the car or bus, and hoping that the traffic was clear enough to reach the school gates on time.

Once all those hundreds of children had been deposited for the day, there was a collective of relieved parents and guardians who looked as if they had just been rescued from a conflict zone. The way back was more leisurely. One was patient with erring vehicles, and could even sit out a traffic jam. One could even smile or crack a silly joke or two. And then, for a while, there was Raju From Alwar to provide additional entertainment.

By that time, mobile phones had arrived. Somewhere on the way back home, I'd get a call. A deadpan voice would come on: "I am Raju from Alwar speaking. I operate a digging machine. I have located a hoard of old gold coins and need someone to invest and help me retrieve and sell them. Your name has been given to me. For just one lakh, you will be able to make one crore."

Assorted parents returning from school duty, and packed in the car, would then take over. Someone would pester Raju From Alwar for more details and then, there would be someone who actually thought that this was a genuine proposal and expressed his desire to invest in it. These calls continued for a few days, till that expressionless voice lost interest and hope in us. A couple of conversations revealed that there were several additional clones of Raju who had called other parents too. To the best of my knowledge, no one in my circle of friends invested in Raju From Alwar and his pot of gold.Now, let's fast forward to the present day. A seemingly genuine mail arrived a few days back from a supposed recruiter offering a position. The mail was well structured and the language polished. Research had been done and the supposed position on offer seemed too good to be true. The con has evolved and AI has stepped in as an able guide. It has become harder to tell the difference between the real and the fake.

Let's move on. In a world where scams run into thousands of crores and at a time of skyrocketing expenses for the common man, some things have actually become cheaper and far more accessible — telephone communication for one. Not so long back, STD booths lay thick across the country and were a fairly effortless way of earning for even a small but well-located establishment. For thousands across the country, this was a way of keeping in touch with their loved (or hated) ones. Privacy was limited and from an open room, or counter top, or from an inadequately soundproofed booth, the exchange of love and hate and everything in between could be heard.

Someone I knew added an STD phone to his existing business premises. Then one day, he told me the secret of how money was actually made. For a charge of, say, Rs 49, where a 50-rupee note was handed over, few if any customers would insist on the return of the change of one rupee. The vendor, even if his change box was rattling with coins, would ask for the exact amount to be tendered, and if that was not forthcoming, would keep that extra one rupee. Now that solitary rupee (or more) multiplied over a few hundred calls could add up to a decent amount. This, as one was told, was the 'malai', the cream of the business.In the absence of legal tender as change, there is still no shortage of those who will hand over a toffee or candy as change. Here, again, there is a hidden profit. The toffee/candy costs less than the amount to be handed back as change. Some years back, my wife, who was thoroughly irritated by a particular business establishment that dispensed candies as change on a regular basis, decided to do something about it. She bought something and as she was being handed back candies as change, she dug into her purse and counted out the requisite number of candies required to round off the figure. As she said: "If you can give these as change, you should also accept them.

Touchstones: A crisis of public morality

Safe in our gated colonies, our doors firmly shut against intruders and the outside world, all we care for now is our personal spaces



There is no point in repeating what all of us have been bombarded with of late: the row over the Election Commission and the spate of sexual attacks on single girls in parks and on our streets. I am appalled at what such reportage often implies, depending on which side you are on. Surely there are no debating points to be scored over what is clearly a crisis of public morality, but it's as if we have all sat back and let the screeching influencers, biased media and political parties battle it out. What about us? Do we have no agency at all?

Safe in our gated colonies, our doors firmly shut against intruders and the outside world, all we care for now is that our personal spaces are kept clean and safe. This is a terrible development and one so different from the world we grew up in. It frightens me to think that if our grandchildren lock themselves in (behind their devices, CCTVs and mobiles), what will they grow up to be? Contrast this with the noisy intrusive lives we had as children: people who kept an eye on the entire neighbourhood. Old grannies who would warn a working mother that a boy came to visit her daughter when she was at work or of a boy slyly smoking when the parents were out. Their sharp eyes missed nothing and heaven knows how many mental health issues they managed to keep away.In our days, boys who stalked girls or who lurked around were called eve-teasers. Their only 'weapons' were whistling or passing lewd comments: physical groping or sexual violence (especially on university campuses) was very, very rare. I was in the Allahabad University from 1968-72, a student of the English Department that doubled up as the Law faculty after 2 pm. In those days, we used to consider all law students goons and louts and although they would pass personal (often witty) comments, I do not recall any physical badtameezi. Of course, we girls walked to our hostel or to the university's library in a group to remain protected. Some of the comments that were passed by these guys still bring a smile to my face, but there was no flashing or groping that I can recall.The elephant in this room was the sexual violence within homes. In the large joint families we were part of, there was always a widowed great-aunt or an unmarried spinster who became the target of the horny men in the clan. When I acted in 'Monsoon Wedding', I realised how widespread this phenomenon was and how it was always shushed up to keep the family's good name intact. Uncles, boy cousins, even male servants did unspeakable acts of sexual violence against young girls and single women. To bring oneself to even speak about it was difficult and if one managed to find the courage to do so, chances were that your mum, older sister or an aunt would tell you to never say a word about it to anyone. What damage this did to so many young girls is a matter of enquiry by those sociologists who write and research such matters, but I can tell you that no joint family was pure in this sense.

Subjects such as child abuse, sexual violence, sexual orientation, mental cruelty to one's wife — all these were brushed under the carpet. I myself can only now at 75 find the courage to speak of this openly. Men were given the freedom to abandon their wives and children for some larger 'good', while women were forced to abandon all their ambitions and bury their talents in the service of the family and clan. All our great political icons from that era — Gandhi and Nehru included — were guilty of having relationships with other women while their own wives were virtually invisible outside the kitchens or women's quarters. Our traditional homes were divided into men's spaces and women's areas. The gol kamra belonged to the men and their male friends, while women were relegated to the courtyard, kitchen, puja room and the 'backside' of the house. Thus our very architecture was created to underscore separate lives and set free the real 'doers' from those (the women) who worked in the 'backroom'.To some extent, this was altered when colonial architecture created the Civil Lines areas for the sahib log and the shahar was kept well away from its carefully tended municipal precincts. Look at New Delhi today: the zone known as Lutyens' Delhi is a beautifully manicured area. However, the lanes and pavements around it are a glimpse into a 'basti' that is hastily covered up when an important foreign dignitary arrives or an event is organised. That old mindset will forever keep India and Bharat separated because that is how the old feudal and colonial state must remain despite freedom and the promise of an egalitarian state. For all the scorn heaped upon this zone, name me one politician (from any party) who wouldn't sell his soul to live there.

Finally, endorsing a recent Tribune article in praise of Dr Manmohan Singh on his birth anniversary. I hope this government will bestow him with the Bharat Ratna that he deserved and was never awarded, either by his own party or this one. No one can deny that this quiet, self-effacing doer would raise its worth.

Keralam Congress dissent could undermine UDF gains

Prakash's uncharacteristic public dissent exposes the state of affairs in the government. Over three months into governance, the Satheesan administration has yet to tie up some loose ends and get down to business

It's no secret that all isn't well within the Congress in Keralam. But after coming to power after a decade in opposition, the party was expected to overcome differences, deliver good governance and build on electoral goodwill. That isn't happening. Senior leader Adoor Prakash's criticism of V D Satheesan's style of functioning may be the first public censure of the Chief Minister from within the party. Murmurs of dissatisfaction have been apparent since the new government assumed office and are only growing louder. As UDF convener, Prakash is integral to its leadership, and his assertion that Satheesan is taking significant decisions unilaterally, without consulting the party or the coalition, cannot be dismissed lightly.This reflects more than internal party discord, signalling a troubling level of discontent within the alliance. Prakash cited the recent cabinet-rank appointments and delays in filling top positions in boards and corporations as evidence of this disconnect. He complained that the UDF is not meeting regularly, attributing this to the CM's failure, as chairman, to take the initiative.



Prakash's uncharacteristic public dissent exposes the state of affairs in the government. Over three months into governance, the Satheesan administration has yet to tie up some loose ends and get down to business. For one, it has been unable to appoint heads to several boards and corporations, a crucial task through which an alliance honours its agreements and ensures the administration runs smoothly. Besides, controversies surrounding Satheesan's sponsored private-jet trip, a minister's use of a borrowed Land Rover as the official vehicle and unofficial foreign trips by a few others, coupled with the CM's belligerent defence of these actions, have deepened dissatisfaction within the alliance.The public mood is also shifting, as the recent local body bypoll results suggest: the opposition LDF won 18 of the 38 seats, including seven wrested from the UDF. Prakash cited the results as evidence that both the Congress and UDF are weakening in Keralam. If the bypoll results are a warning sign, his remarks underscore persisting differences within. Having won an impressive mandate, Congress now has an opportunity to show what it can deliver. It must first resolve internal conflicts before they become common knowledge, while delivering on its promise of change and good governance to sustain its electoral gains and public support.

Parties Beware! Explanation is the New Vote Changer

The Indian who once watched politics and governance as spectacle is beginning to watch it as machinery. And he wants to know how the machine works

What has changed in India? The BJP, bolstered by Narendra Modi's image and with a bit of help from EC boss Gyanesh Kumar, seems to have missed it. The Indian villager always knew the government has rules. He must deal with the patwari, tehsildar, police station, block office, a ration shop or a panchayat by following procedures. What has changed now is that these rules are being explained to him. Gen Z has demystified governance: the hitherto of a minster, MP, chief minister or bureaucrat has come crashing down. Citizens understand the powerful are fallible and biologically like them: maybe not with money and limousines, but fallible nevertheless. Only Tamil Nadu chief minister Vijay gets it; he cancelled a previous RTI rule that the police don't come under its purview. The people have already seen the movie. They know what his role is.The CJP could fail, last or not: it may fail, because has-beens like Kejriwal and never-beens like Yogendra Yadav and Modi-baiter Mahua Moitra have joined the students, damn the age gap. Reuters Institute's 2024 India Digital News Report found 54 per cent of respondents used YouTube and 48 per cent WhatsApp for news each week. A 2024 YouGov-Mint-Centre for Policy Research survey of the 10,314 people across 200 Indian cities and towns found 47 per cent followed politics on social media; court cases become mass digital stories and trial by vox populi. A Supreme Court judgment concerning free speech, privacy, same-sex relationships, citizenship, reservations, religious practices, internet shutdowns, bail, or government powers can be clipped into Instagram reels, YouTube explainers, X posts and WhatsApp forwards within minutes. A young lawyer in Lucknow explains an Election Commission procedure on his phone. A Patna student takes apart a government notification in Hindi. A civil service aspirant compares a minister's statement with the relevant government document online. These are not necessarily English-speaking metropolitan liberals addressing an audience they regard as less educated. Increasingly, the people doing the explaining come from the same linguistic and social worlds as those watching them, speaking in Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and other Indian languages. Someone is explaining in a language shorn of officialdom, what the government can be empowered to do, what the citizen had hitherto believed, and what procedure any institution must follow. The Indian who once watched politics and governance as spectacle is beginning to watch it as machinery. And he wants to know how the machine works. Why does a name disappear from a voter list? Why is an examination cancelled? Why is a school teacher-less. The extraordinary part is rural India's political education has an updated syllabus increasingly being taught by young urban antagonists. Words such as Article 14, Article 19, Article 21, fundamental rights, due process, bail, habeas corpus, judicial review, sedition, UAPA, and contempt of court circulate far beyond law schools. But the paradox is they may know the names of constitutional provisions and court cases better, but could simultaneously get misinformation about what those provisions actually mean.Survey evidence shows youth protest participation is not a marginal phenomenon. A large Lokniti-CSDS youth found that about 15 per cent of Indian youth participated in a protest, while 26 per cent had in activities of student organisations. The fascinating development is the fall of awe: the judiciary has entered political conversation. Young routinely discuss whether a law is "constitutional", a court has stayed an order youth think is unfair, whether police action violates fundamental rights, whether a government has followed procedure, and whether Parliament has exceeded its powers. Despite memes and ditties, the agitations are necessarily anti-Modi: it is the diffusion of protest methods and expectations, and a united anti-government movement sweeping cities and rural India. An angry Gen Alpha gets voting rights in 2040: school protests are moving into rural India. Administrations are boxed-in: perform or lathi charge. The andhbhakts who refuse to open their eyes and label youth as dimagi Naxals talk about development not potholes, progress and sheets hiding slums from foreign dignitaries.The underlying question is the same: "This is a public service we are entitled to; why isn't the state delivering it?" Schoolchildren demanding a teacher or villagers demanding a road aren't protesting ideologically against the Prime Minister. Rural political dissatisfaction once had very direct vocabulary: Our road isn't built yet. Give us water. Give us electricity. Give us a school. The newer vocabulary is: Why isn't the government fulfilling its obligation? Who is accountable? What does the law guarantee? Why has money been allocated if the facility doesn't exist? But the question comes in the same form: Why? Under what rule? Who decided? And what can I do about it? Now, that is a very different citizen from the one the Indian state was accustomed to dealing with.







Homemade Face packs for glowing Skin



We all know that certain fruits are rich in vitamin and potassium. At times, we even pay huge sums of money just to get fruit facials.

But why do that when you can get glowing skin at home? Try these homemade face packs for beautiful skin now.

Banana face pack

Banana helps in making the skin dewy and fresh. Try this face pack for supple skin.

Directions Mash some banana and apply on your face and neck. If you're suffering from skin disorders such as acne and pigmentation, add some honey to it. Wash your face after 15 minutes.

Papaya face pack

This is extremely beneficial for tanning. Try this one out if you're tired of dark spots and tanned skin.

Directions Take a ripe papaya and massage on your skin. Leave it on for 15 minutes and wash it off.

Cucumber face pack

Best for dry skin, cucumber acts as a cooling agent.

Directions Grate cucumber and apply the juice on your face. You may also refrigerate the pulp and once it cools, use as an eye mask to treat dark circles.

Kiwi face pack

Kiwi is especially good if you want a natural glow on your face.

Directions Puree the kiwi and add some yoghurt to it. Massage onto your skin for a bit. Wash it off in 15 minutes.

Tomato face pack

Tomatoes help in skin whitening, tightening and curing pimples.

Directions Squeeze 2 teaspoons of juice from a ripe tomato. Add 3 teaspoons of butter milk to it and mix thoroughly. Leave it on for 30 minutes and wash it off.

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Hair packs for Winter

Your hair tends to suffer as well during the winter as much as your skin does. Here's how you can take care of it...

Apart from your skin, your hair also goes through its own set of problems during the colder months. If you are looking at keeping your mane healthy and strong, there are couple of hair packs that you must use during this season.

Aloe vera hair pack

Evenly apply aloe vera all over your hair at least once in a week. Keep this pack on for at least half an hour or so before you wash it off with lukewarm water. Aloe makes your hair soft and also makes it shiny.

Reetha hair pack

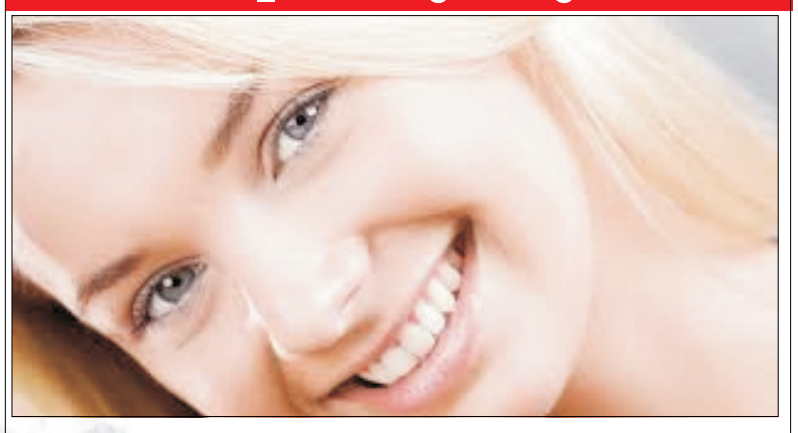
Reetha is not only known for reducing hair loss, but also protects your hair from losing its texture during the winter. Make a thick paste of reetha and apply this all over your hair. You can apply this pack at least twice a week depending on how damaged your hair gets during winter. Do not use shampoo while washing off reetha.

Henna hair pack

Mix henna along with curd and coffee or tea strain and keep it overnight in a copper bowl. Apply it before you wash your hair in the morning and keep this for approximately an hour or so. Once it dries off, wash off the paste off your hair.



Homemade cures for puffy eyes



Waking up with puffy eyes every morning? Here are some homemade cures for irritable eyes.

Potato Potato is extremely beneficial for puffy eyes. It has anti-inflammatory properties and helps cure irritation around the eyes. Grate a potato, place the pulp into a poultice. Keep this on your eyelids for about 15 minutes. This must be done almost every day without fail.



Cucumbers

Cucumbers are cooling agents and their astringent properties are meant to cure puffy eyes. Rest a slice of cucumber on each eye and relax for 5-10 minutes.

Green tea

Green tea is known to be a soothing agent for puffy eyes. It reduces swelling of the eyes. Dip 2 bags of your choice of tea in hot water for 3-5 minutes. Let it cool until the bags are comfortably warm. Close your eyes and place a tea bag over each eyes.

Slim Vada Pav



Looking for something tasty yet healthy? This Slim Vada Pav is a perfect dish for all those who want to satiate their hunger without compromising on taste. Made with mashed potatoes and home made paneer, tossed in a melange of spices, this Maharashtrian recipe is a sheer delight for foodies. This easy recipe can be made using a few ingredients and does not require much effort from your side. Served with a tangy chutney, this snack recipe can be enjoyed by people of all age groups and is quite delicious. Occasions like kitty parties, potlucks, picnics or game nights are apt to indulge in this vegetarian recipe and is sure to wreak major havoc on your taste buds. So try out this simple recipe at home and devour in its zesty flavours!

Ingredients of Slim Vada Pav

8 slices bread- white
4 medium boiled potato
10 curry leaves
1/2 teaspoon mustard seeds
4 tablespoon lemon juice
salt as required
1 litre low fat milk
2 cloves garlic
2 tablespoon coriander leaves
1/4 teaspoon powdered turmeric
1 tablespoon refined oil

How to make Slim Vada Pav

Step 1

Place a saucepan over medium flame and add milk in it. Bring it to boil and then remove from heat. Immediately add 2 tablespoons of lemon juice in the hot milk and stir it until the milk curdles. Let it stand for 10 minutes, then strain through a muslin cloth, making sure all the whey is removed. The excess milk is drained and the paneer is left behind in the cloth. Meanwhile, preheat the oven at 160 degrees for about 8-10 minutes.

Step 2

Now, heat oil in a pan over medium flame and add mustard seeds in it. Once the seeds begin to splutter, add chopped garlic, chopped green chilies and curry leaves in it. Saute these until the mixture turns aromatic and add the diced potatoes, turmeric powder and salt. Mix these well and make sure that the potatoes are soft. Transfer the mixture to a large plate and let it cool.

Step 3

Crumble the home-made paneer and combine with the potato mix. Now, add the chopped coriander leaves and remaining lemon juice to this mixture. Mash the mixture properly and make sure that there are no lumps in it. Now, place a pan over medium flame and, once it is hot, roast the bread slices in it.

Step 4

Spread the potato-paneer mixture on the roasted bread slices. Bake these slices in preheated oven for about 4-5 minutes. Once they turn crispy, remove them from the oven and transfer them onto a plate. Serve these hot with chutney or a dip, enjoy!



Recipe: Bengali Fish Fingers



Apopular and easy to make Bengali style appetizer/snack. These fish fingers are well suited for any occasion, party or can also be served as an evening snack.

Ingredients

White Fish Fillets - 300 gms, skinless, boneless
Eggs - 2
Fennel Seeds - 1 tsp
Cumin Seeds - 1 tsp
Mustard Seeds - 1 tsp
Nigella Seeds - 1 tsp
Fenugreek Seeds (Methi) - 1/2 tsp
Maida - 1 1/2 tblsp
Besan Flour - 1/2 tblsp
Red Chilli Powder - 1 tsp
Garlic - 3 cloves, crushed
Ginger - 1 inch piece, grated
Oil as required
Breadcrumbs - 1 to 2 cups
Coriander Leaves - handful, chopped
Salt as per taste

Method

- Combine the cumin seeds, fennel seeds, mustard seeds, nigella seeds and methi in a mixer jar.
- Grind them together and transfer to a bowl.
- Add the maida, besan, red chilli powder, garlic, coriander leaves, ginger and enough salt.
- Mix well.
- Beat the eggs in a bowl and add to the flour.



- Gently whisk until combined.\
Chop the fish fillets into small bite-sized pieces or strips.
- Heat oil in a deep frying pan.
- Dip the fish fillets into the batter and remove.
- Allow any excess to drip off and dredge it in the breadcrumbs, coating it fully
Gently slide them into the hot oil and fry until cooked through or crisp and golden brown.
- Remove and drain excess oil.
- Serve with chutney or sauce of choice.

17 unexplored, exotic Indian

Ingredients

Chef Manu Chandra suggests 17 homegrown ingredients that can up the quotient of any plate

I think as one matures as a chef, intrinsically it becomes easier to look around oneself to be inspired and innovate rather than looking too far. Something similar has been happening with me despite my years working abroad and at some stellar restaurants at that. The depth and variety of what is available in our country is often overlooked by the restauranting ethos and instead most embrace hard-to-find western ingredients in the development of their menus and offerings.

While it would be unfair to say that some chefs haven't already attempted and been trying to champion Indian ingredients, I still feel that we have a very long way to go and being able to develop our brand of adopted cuisines (much like France, America, Australia have done).

Here's a list of 17 of perhaps hundreds of relatively unseen or underestimated ingredients, which I feel would add a lot of spunk to any menu, cuisine notwithstanding. Bon appetite.

1. Bathua: A seemingly wild growing green always found in certain parts of North India. Bathua is a fantastic replacement for spinach, which has always been associated with contamination. It's delicious, earthy and lends itself to many applications.

2. Kachampoli: Almost never heard of outside of Coorg, this is India's answer to Balsamic Vinegar even though it's neither sweet nor made with grapes. Watch it transform a non-vegetarian dish with it's deep dark colour and lip-smacking tang.

3. Singhara: This absolutely delicious water vegetable is barely seen on any menu. Peeled and sliced, it would make the most wonderful salad.

4. Makhana: Lotus seeds that have been dried are an incredible way to thicken sauces and gravies after frying and powdering. It's a great snack too, albeit a little heavy.

5. Bhetki: Despite the battle between the sea fish vs the fresh water fish lovers, the glorious Bhetki stands out as an outstanding fish. Its suppleness is a close second to the phenomenally expensive and imported varieties of bass. I would pass up a John Dory for a good Bhetki any day.

6. Melon seeds: So used are we to seeing pine nuts on menus, that we often forget how delicious roasted melon seeds can be. I've found them equally enticing on pastas, salads and even desserts. A must try.

7. Bhut Jhalokia: Also known as the Naga chili, I find myself reading more about this in foreign media than seeing it in our own restaurants. It's got a kick that will make most people chuck out the imported bottles of hot sauce.



8. Gondhoraj lemon: By far one of my favorite citrus flavours, the perfumey fragrance from this north-eastern lemon can convert the simplest dish into a stunner. Infuse it in a little vodka, or try a sorbet with it. A lemon tart with some zest and juice from the gondhoraj can give key lime pies a run for its money.

9. Kalimpong Cheese: Almost Gouda like, this cheese from Sikkim probably has a very small production, but can fool the finest of gourmets. Watch it transform the most humble bake or a simple chili cheese toast, if you can get your hands on it, that is.

10. Rhododendron: Literally the rose tree, these beautiful flowers from the hills of Nainital and around, make for the most amazing drinks and coolers. Instead of lapping up artificial green apple syrups in martinis, it would be fabulous to see bartenders adapt to this refreshingly different ingredient.

11. Kashundhi: Bengali cuisine would be unimaginable Bengali cuisine. Try it in dressings, as a condiment on steaks and fish, or even a sandwich spread and English mustard may not seem so attractive after all.

without this. This sharp and well- rounded mustard still remains within the confines of Bengali cuisine. Try it in dressings, as a condiment on steaks and fish, or even a sandwich spread and English mustard may not seem so attractive after all.

12. Jaggery: For a country that almost knew no refined sugar, the jump to white sugar and caramel-coloured refined sugar seem odd. Jaggery in its many forms still makes for an excellent sweetener for confections and puddings. Some practice will get you stunning results.

13. Mustard and sesame oils: So here we are, a nation with a rich enough history of our own oils with arguably as many health benefits as some other oils; yet we look at the olive for gourmet reasons. Not true. Both sesame and mustard oils have amazing flavour characteristics and make some great dressings, sautes, marinades etc. Pick up a bottle of each for your kitchens today.

14. Aam Ada: This ginger root which has the most keen palates confused owing to its distinctively green mango flavour can be an amazing addition to soups, broths and relishes. It's again seen in very isolated cuisines, but I'm sure can gain a following as much as lemongrass if marketed well.

15. Indian Vanilla Bean: Many people will be unaware that some excellent Vanilla grows in the hills of Chikmaglur and Coorg and any place with coffee plantations. Substitute the sub par artificial essence with some caviar from a vanilla bean and watch a dessert move a step closer to Nirvana.

16. Golden Apple: As children one almost looked forward to apple season (yes, we ate seasonally as early as 20 years ago) for those incredibly juicy and sweet Golden Apples from Himachal. Today I'm hard pressed to find them. Instead I can easily settle for pretty, waxy and tasteless imported green and red apples. Eat an apple pie made from golden apples, and a whole generation may rethink the apple (edible) completely.

17. Gulkand: A stalwart of the pan shop, gulkand in all its rosy and sweet avatar can be an amazing ingredient. It's mellow yet lucid on the palate. Try it with cheesecake or with nuts and honey on warm almond cookies.

Nearly 1/3rd of electors in Delhi issued SIR notices now verified

This is a sharp uptick in the number of notices disposed of compared to a week back. In the period from August 31 to September 29, only 4.01 lakh notices had been disposed.

Delhi. (Agency)

As the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process continues in the Capital, nearly one-third of the electors (around 31%) who had to prove their eligibility to stay on the electoral rolls have been verified, data from the office of the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) showed on Monday, with over 55 days left to dispose of the rest of notices and objections.

This is a sharp uptick in the number of notices disposed of compared to a week back. In the period from August 31 to September 29, only 4.01 lakh notices had been disposed. Over the next one week, more than six lakh notices were disposed of, with the total figure reaching 10.28 lakh on Tuesday.

Election officials have attributed this increase to exemptions from in-person hearings for voters who received notices, changes in the portal in which they had to upload documents, additional deployment of officials and special camps. Delhi had around 1.45 crore electors before the SIR process of voter rolls began in the Capital. Among them, 97.5 lakh were included in the draft electoral roll, while around 47.5 lakh electors were classified as "uncollectible" – after the Booth-level officers (BLOs) found them absent, shifted, dead or having duplicate entries, among other reasons – and were struck off the roll.

Among the 97.5 lakh who did make it to the draft roll, one-third or around 33.1 lakh electors were issued notices to prove that they are eligible to be on the final roll. While 13.79 lakh electors got notices because they could not link themselves to the electoral roll of the last SIR, 19.33 lakh were flagged for "logical discrepancies" in their enumeration forms.

On the new changes, an Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) said, "Now, I don't need to call hundreds of people to my office everyday for hearings, right? BLOs are going house to house and where needed, electors can also forward their documents to the BLO on Whatsapp also." After its first meeting since The Indian Express reported on the rupture within the Election Commission, the poll panel had said last week that electors who were issued notices will not be required to attend hearings to prove their eligibility. "BLOs will visit the homes of such persons for collection of documents and thereafter upload them on the ECINet, for decision by the ERO. Such persons need not be called for hearing to ERO/AERO office," a statement from the ECI said.



Some BLOs, however, expressed disappointment with the deadline for disposal of notices, claims and objections getting extended to November 30. "I am also working in the school for 5-6 hours, after which now I have to again go door-to-door to collect documents. The deadline has also been increased by another month. It was supposed to be a three month exercise, but now it will last five months. Should we leave school work and do this full time only?" a BLO said.

After HC rap over depleting water table, Gurugram plans borewell phase-out

Delhi. (Agency)

Following scrutiny from the Punjab and Haryana High Court over the rapid depletion of groundwater and unchecked extraction across the district, Gurugram authorities on Monday drew up an action plan directing government departments to gradually discontinue the use of borewells and push industrial units to switch to tertiary-treated wastewater for operational needs. At a high-level review meeting chaired by Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) Chief Executive Officer P C Meena on Monday, departments currently reliant on groundwater were instructed to identify alternative



supply channels and phase-out tube wells, officials said. "All concerned agencies have been given a deadline of October 6 to submit detailed roadmaps outlining measures to cut extraction and scale up rainwater recharge. The district administration was also tasked with framing a comprehensive enforcement strategy to identify and seal unauthorised borewells across the city" GMDA spokesperson Neha Sharma said. Addressing the meeting, Meena highlighted the need to replace fresh groundwater usage with tertiary-treated wastewater from sewage treatment plants (STPs). Currently, the GMDA supplies 10 million litres per day (MLD) of treated effluent to the textile industry. Now, authorities plan to bring other industrial clusters under the treated water distribution network.

Delhi L-G Sandhu orders multi-agency safety measures for students

Delhi. (Agency)

Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu directed intensified police patrolling, better lighting and CCTV coverage around educational institutions and stronger last-mile connectivity as he reviewed student safety and campus security with vice chancellors of Delhi government universities and senior officials.

Sandhu said campus safety must extend beyond university gates to transit routes, public transport points and other spaces regularly used by students. He emphasised the need for sustained coordination among multiple agencies to create a safe and fearless academic environment, particularly for women students. The meeting was attended by vice chancellors and senior representatives of GGSIPU, DTU, NSUT, DPSRU, IGDTUW, DSEU and Ambedkar University Delhi, along with senior officials of Delhi Police, MCD, PWD, Education and Transport departments. University representatives raised concerns over last-mile connectivity, dark and isolated stretches, inadequate street lighting, malfunctioning CCTV cameras, traffic congestion, parking constraints and shortage of security personnel. They also flagged safety concerns around metro stations, DDA parks and vacant plots, liquor outlets near campuses, autos and e-rickshaws, open urinals and broken boundary walls, besides seeking dedicated Pink Booths on campuses.



After sexual harassment complaint, Delhi cop's additional charge withheld

Three women journalists have complained of alleged harassment during an October 3 protest near Jantar Mantar. One of them specifically named Delhi cop Vivek Bhagat

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi government has withheld a temporary posting given to Assistant Commissioner of Police Vivek Bhagat, who is accused of sexually harassing a woman journalist during a protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The government said Bhagat had requested that he not be given the charge of Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police until the allegations are fully investigated. The government said the proposal to confer the Additional Duty Charge (ADC) on 12 Selection Grade DANIPS officers, including Bhagat, was initiated on August 25, much before the present set of events, and the orders were issued after due approval on October 5. It clarified that this was a temporary arrangement with no financial benefit, and that officers assigned the charge could not exercise the statutory powers of the regular incumbents.



"Accordingly, the October 5 order is being modified in respect of Bhagat and will be reissued for the 11 remaining officers," the government said. Bhagat is currently posted as Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Connaught Place.

The complaints

The development came at a time when three women journalists had complained of alleged sexual harassment and manhandling during the October 3 protest near Jantar Mantar against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the revision of electoral rolls.

Eye on regulation of student housing, Delhi Govt holds meet with PG owners

Delhi. (Agency)

As the Delhi government works on a regulatory framework for students' housing accommodation in the Capital, Education Minister Ashish Sood on Monday held consultations with PG owners, operators and managers. Regulating private PGs, addressing safety concerns and expanding student housing have emerged as key components of the Delhi government's proposed 'Paying Guest Accommodation Regulation and Safety Bill, 2026', officials said on Monday. The law was proposed two days after a five-storey boys' private PG building collapsed in Southwest Delhi's Satya Niketan on September 6, killing seven people including five Delhi University students. Mandatory registration, safety audits, standard rental agreements and mechanisms to check arbitrary charges are among the measures being considered as part of the proposed regulatory framework, officials said. In a statement issued Monday, the government said the consultation with PG operators was aimed at understanding "operational perspectives" and addressing key challenges while prioritising student security and basic living standards.



Officials said that the need to address the challenges arises owing to the large outstation student population in Delhi, as at least six lakh students come to the Capital annually for higher education.

"Following the recent unfortunate incident in Delhi, the process of regulating PGs and formulating new laws for them is ongoing. Under this initiative, a few days ago, I had engaged to understand the concerns of the students and residents living in PGs. Today, I met with PG operators, owners, and managers to understand their perspectives and stakes," Sood said in the statement. "Before drafting any new law, our government is engaging with everyone through stakeholder consultations. This is true participatory governance—the very model of participatory governance we are working on," he claimed.

Swatantra Bhardwaj gets regular bail in Jantar Mantar assault case

Delhi. (Agency)

A Delhi court Tuesday granted self-styled influencer Swatantra Bharadwaj regular bail in a case where he allegedly attacked the father of a student protester who had participated in the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest in July.

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Saurabh Pratap Singh Laler of the Patiala House Court had earlier granted Bharadwaj interim bail for three weeks. ASJ Laler had then said that it would observe his conduct before considering his plea for regular bail.

A detailed regular bail order is awaited.

In its order granting Bharadwaj interim bail, ASJ Laler had said, "Weighing all circumstances, the Court takes into account that the applicant has been in custody for a little over 10 days… a period that should have afforded him time for reflection."

The case



Bharadwaj had purportedly admitted to attacking the father of the student protester at Jantar Mantar in a video. He was picked up by the Crime Branch officers from his house in Bulandshahr on September 4 and brought to Delhi after securing a transit remand.

On September 4, relevant sections pertaining to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (SC/ST Act), were added to an earlier FIR registered against Bharadwaj over the alleged attack, amid a protest by CJP supporters and the Indian Youth Congress, as well as Lok Sabha MPs Chandra Shekhar alias Azad and Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav. The same day, another FIR was also registered under sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and for criminal intimidation based on the protester's complaint alleging she had received rape threats from Bhardwaj's supporters.

Multiple groups, moving crowds: Why CEC protest became a challenge for Delhi Police

The agitation has seen student activists, politicians and civil society members making repeated attempts to march towards 'restricted areas' in Central Delhi over the past four days.

Delhi. (Agency)

What began as a protest planned at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on October 2 against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has, over the past four days, spread across central Delhi, with multiple groups attempting to march amid prohibitory orders and the Delhi Police registering more than nine FIRs.

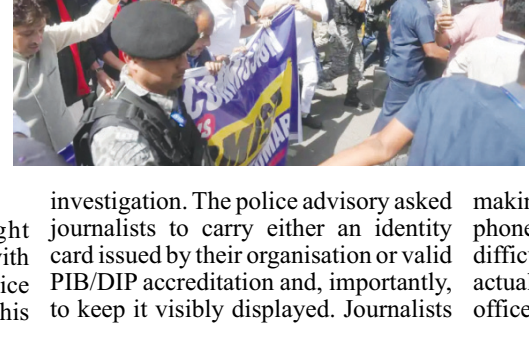
The police response has included denying permission for the march and deploying paramilitary personnel, local police from eight police stations in the New Delhi district and personnel from the Delhi Police Reserve Battalion. All roads leading to Jantar Mantar in the New Delhi district were also fortified with barricades and police personnel.

According to a police officer, the agitation has not been confined to a single conventional demonstration but has involved political parties, student organisations, activists, lawyers and other groups attempting to march towards restricted areas in central Delhi.

"The challenge is not merely about preventing a crowd from entering Jantar Mantar, which is already heavily fortified. It is about controlling multiple moving groups, preventing attempts to breach barricades, managing detentions and, simultaneously, dealing with a large number of people recording events on mobile phones and cameras," the officer said.

Advisory for media persons

The protests have also brought journalists into closer contact with police operations, prompting the police to issue an advisory on Monday. This came after three women journalists alleged that they were harassed by police personnel while covering the protests. Their complaints have been transferred to the Crime Branch for investigation. The police advisory asked journalists to carry either an identity card issued by their organisation or valid PIB/DIP accreditation and, importantly, to keep it visibly displayed. Journalists were to ensure that their presence does not obstruct police operations or the movement of law-enforcement personnel. They were also asked to maintain a reasonable and safe distance during tense situations and to position themselves so that they are clearly distinguishable from protesters.



Another police officer said the advisory was an attempt to create a clearer operational distinction between those covering the protest and those participating in it. "Because many of those protesting also sometimes start making videos, with a mic and mobile phone camera, it becomes extremely difficult for us to distinguish between an actual journalist and activists," the officer said.

Indians spend Rs 785/month on average to reach office: Survey finds 2 wheelers dominant mode

Kolkata. (Agency)

Two wheelers are the dominant mode of transport Indians use to commute to their office, a government survey has found. It has also said that Indian workers spend on average Rs 785 per month to attend workplaces. However, there is a wide variation of the cost incurred for travel between rural and urban workers. While the former spend only Rs 612 a month to travel to and from office, the expenditure rises to Rs 1,044 for urban workers. The survey results were released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in what was the first National Household Travel Survey. It was conducted between July 2025 and June 2026. The survey defined a trip only if it covered a distance of more than 1 km.

Gender divide in travel to work

There is a wide gap in the expenditure incurred by male and female workers in India, the survey found. While male workers spend an average of Rs 835 per month on commuting to and from fixed workplaces, female workers spent Rs 533 per month, or 36.16% less.

Rural-urban divide

There was a big gap in the travel expenditure between cities and villages too. According to the study, the average worker commute cost was Rs 785 per month, with workers commuting to a fixed workplace spending Rs 1,044 per month in urban areas and Rs 612 per month in rural regions.

Modes of travel

The survey found two-wheelers emerging as the single largest primary mode of transport for workers across the country. The dependence is lower in rural areas than in cities. While 37.1% of the rural commuters ride two-wheelers as much as 52.3% of the urban office-goers use this mode. Nationally, only 5% of the urban workers use mass rapid systems such as monorail and metro, suburban rail and trams. However, in Maharashtra and West Bengal these modes account for a lot of travellers — 20.7% in Maharashtra and 16.5% in West Bengal and 14.4% in Delhi.

Jewellery stocks: Kalyan Jewellers, PC Jewellers, Titan shine; know why



New Delhi. (Agency)

Shares of jewelry companies saw a significant rise on Monday. Buying interest was observed in jewellery stocks such as PC Jeweller, Kalyan Jewellers and Titan. Kalyan Jewellers stock climbed more than 5%, while shares of PC Jeweller and Titan Company strengthened by approximately 2.11% to 1.37%. This rally in jewelry stocks comes as the festive season kicks off in the country. Demand for jewelry is expected to rise due to festivals such as Dhanteras, Diwali, Navratri, and Dussehra. Additionally, there is market anticipation regarding business updates for the September quarter.

Boost from the festive season

The key season for jewelry buying has commenced with the start of October. Major festivals like Dhanteras and Diwali are approaching, a period that typically drives up gold and jewelry purchases across the country. Consequently, investors are already buying shares of jewelry companies. The market anticipates robust sales for these companies during the festive season.

Lupin launches fixed-dose triple-combination inhaler for COPD in India

New Delhi. (Agency)

Drug major Lupin has launched Formoflo-G MDI, which it describes as the world's first fixed-dose triple-combination metered-dose inhaler (MDI) for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), in India following approval from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).onthly outgo in a large plot-based township.In an exchange filing on Tuesday, the company said the inhaler combines glycopyrronium bromide, formoterol fumarate and fluticasone propionate in a single device for the long-term management and treatment of moderate to severe COPD. The product is available as a twice-daily, single-strength fixed dose.

The launch comes as Lupin seeks to strengthen its position in India's respiratory medicines market. The company said it ranked second in the respiratory therapy segment in India, based on IQVIA MAT March 2026 data.Lupin estimates that more than 55 million people in India live with COPD, a chronic respiratory disease that remains a major cause of death and disability. The company said the new formulation is aimed at expanding treatment options for these patients"Formoflo-G MDI reflects our commitment to addressing unmet patient needs through differentiated, high-quality therapies.

Sebi's Project Jagrook: What is 'Samajh Se Investing Simple' initiative?

New Delhi. (Agency)

Sebi has launched the 'Samajh Se Investing Simple' campaign under Project Jagrook to improve investor awareness, simplify investing and help people make more informed decisions while protecting themselves from financial fraud.The campaign was launched at Panjab University in Chandigarh on October 5, coinciding with the start of World Investor Week 2026. The initiative is part of Sebi's wider effort to take financial literacy and investor education to people through both physical and digital channels.spective, make up for the imbalance.Project Jagrook is designed as a nationwide financial-literacy campaign with a multi-lingual and multi-channel approach. Sebi is implementing it in collaboration with Securities Market Partners (SMPs), including stock exchanges, depositories, the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) and the National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM).

The broader objective is to make investors more aware of how financial products work, understand the risks involved and identify potential frauds before putting their money into an investment.

WHAT IS PROJECT JAGROOK?

Project Jagrook is a comprehensive investor-awareness and financial-literacy programme being driven by Sebi with its Securities Market Partners.The project was launched as a nationwide campaign that combines physical and digital methods of spreading financial literacy. It is focused on encouraging informed investment practices and preventing financial fraud.The campaign brings together Sebi and several organisations involved in India's securities markets. These include NISM, BSE, NSE, MCX, CDSL, NSDL and AMFI.The idea is to take investor education beyond traditional awareness programmes and reach people through



multiple platforms and in multiple languages.

WHAT IS 'SAMAJH SE INVESTING SIMPLE'?

'Samajh Se Investing Simple' is the investor-awareness and education campaign being undertaken under Project Jagrook.The campaign is aimed at making investing easier to understand by encouraging investors to learn about different investment products, their features and the risks associated with them.According to Sebi, the campaign encourages investors to verify the authenticity of investment platforms and payment requests before making transactions. It also seeks to promote informed and responsible investment decisions.The campaign is being conducted jointly by Sebi and its Securities Market Partners, including stock exchanges, depositories, AMFI and NISM.The theme also forms the focus of World Investor Week 2026 in India, which is being observed from October 5 to October 11.

Tata Trusts asked to respond by October 12 to Venu Srinivasan complaint over governance

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Maharashtra Charity Commissioner has asked Tata Trusts to respond by October 12 to a complaint filed by trustee Venu Srinivasan alleging governance lapses at the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), reported Moneycontrol.

The Charity Commissioner's letter was sent on Monday, the report said, less than two weeks after Srinivasan wrote to the regulator on September 24 seeking an inquiry into the administration and governance of SDTT.Srinivasan's complaint questions trustee appointments, decision-making at the trust and its involvement in matters concerning Tata Sons. It also questions Noel Tata's status as a perpetual trustee, according to the report.The development adds to governance-related disputes involving Tata Trusts and comes against the backdrop of a separate



dispute involving the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT).WHAT DID VENU SRINIVASAN ALLEGE?

At the centre of Srinivasan's complaint is the role of Tata Trusts in matters involving Tata Sons. According to the report, Srinivasan has alleged that Tata Trusts had taken a direct role in identifying, negotiating and seeking to implement commercial transactions involving Tata Sons.

He has questioned whether such involvement is consistent with the charitable objects of the Trust.His September 24 letter sought an inquiry into the administration and governance of SDTT. The complaint raised questions around how trustees are appointed, how decisions are taken within the trust and the Trust's involvement in matters concerning Tata Sons.The complaint also questions Noel Tata's perpetual trustee status, according to Moneycontrol's summary of the matter.

Sensex, Nifty rise as bank stocks gain ahead of RBI policy

New Delhi. (Agency)

Benchmark indices opened higher on Tuesday, extending the rebound from the previous session as banking and financial stocks gained on positive quarterly updates. Supportive global cues and easing concerns over aggressive US monetary tightening also helped sentiment, while investors remained focused on the Reserve Bank of India's policy decision due on Wednesday.

The Sensex was at 72,596.30 at 9:40 am, up 213.83 points or 0.30%. The index opened at 72,508.05 and touched an early high of 72,594.21. The Nifty 50 was at 22,596.75, up 43 points or 0.19%. It opened at 22,603.25 and touched a high of 22,628.10.

The gains follow a strong session on Monday, when the Sensex and Nifty rose 0.66% and 0.60%, respectively, after both benchmarks had suffered their eighth straight weekly decline. The rebound was supported by lower oil prices and softer-than-expected US jobs data, which reduced expectations of an aggressive Federal Reserve rate hike.

BANKING STOCKS LEAD GAINS

Banking and financial stocks were among the key drivers of Tuesday's early gains. The Nifty Financial Services 25/50 index rose 0.59%, while the private bank index gained 1.12% and the PSU Bank index advanced 0.22%.

Kotak Mahindra Bank was among the biggest gainers in the Sensex pack, rising 3.86%. Axis Bank gained 1.40%, while HDFC Bank rose 0.21%. Bajaj Finserv and Bajaj Finance also traded higher.

Trent was the top Sensex gainer, jumping 9.01%, while Reliance Industries rose 0.91% and IndiGo gained 0.63%.Banking stocks are also in focus after several lenders reported positive quarterly business updates, supporting expectations of continued credit growth in the financial sector.

RBI POLICY IN FOCUS

The RBI Monetary Policy Committee's meeting remains the key event for investors this week, with Governor Sanjay Malhotra scheduled to announce the policy decision on Wednesday.Dr V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Limited, said a 25-basis-point rate hike appears likely and has already been largely factored into market valuations."This uncertainty will weigh on the central bank when the RBI Governor announces the MPC policy decision tomorrow. A 25 bp rate hike appears inevitable in the context of rising inflationary expectations and the rising bond yields in most of the developed world," Vijayakumar said.

Rupee slips 4 paise to 96.39 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The rupee declined 4 paise to 96.39 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday over a rise in crude oil prices and sustained FII outflows.However, positive sentiments in the domestic equity markets and a weaker dollar index cushioned the local unit against further decline, forex traders said.At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 96.29 but fell to 96.39, down 4 paise from its previous close.The rupee depreciated 10 paise to close at 96.35 against the US dollar on Monday."The Reserve Bank has been protecting the rupee from its fall at 96.33 but the demand of dollar from FPIs and oil companies has not come down despite oil falling to USD 100.63 per barrel and dollar index to 102.12," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said.The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee began its three-day meeting on Monday and is likely to raise rates by 25 basis points, aligning with the central banks' hawkish stance amid escalating conflict in West Asia that poses risks for domestic inflation.The last repo rate hike was in February 2023, when the RBI raised the rate by 0.25 per cent to 6.50 per cent. It kept the rate unchanged through 2023-24 before beginning its rate-cut cycle in 2025. Currently, the RBI's policy repo rate stands at 5.25 per cent.Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the strength of the greenback against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 102.12, lower by 0.04 per cent.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 0.23 per cent at USD 100.6 per barrel in futures trade.On the domestic equity market front, Sensex advanced 120.22 points to 72,535.41 in early trade, while Nifty also rose 47.15 points to 22,603.10.Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,699.14 crore on a net basis on Monday, according to exchange data.



Why India is facing a night-time power crunch despite rising coal generation

Several states have sought extra electricity from the Centre as night-time supply tightens. The squeeze has exposed the limits of weak hydro, coal outages and thin storage after sunset.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Several states are seeking additional electricity allocations from the Centre to avoid power outages, particularly at night, as weak hydropower generation and maintenance at some plants tighten supply despite a rise in coal-fired generation, reported news agency Reuters.Rajasthan and Gujarat, among the leading renewable-energy states, have sought additional supplies along with Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Delhi, according to two federal government officials cited in the report.The Centre typically has access to around 14-15 GW of electricity from coal and hydropower plants that can be allocated to states during a shortfall.

But weaker hydropower generation has reduced the electricity available for redistribution.The Centre has already provided additional power to Punjab after some areas of the state faced outages of up to 14 hours a day in September, the officials said.The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media. The Ministry of Power did not respond to a request for comment.

WHY POWER SUPPLY IS TIGHTENING

The latest squeeze highlights the difficulty of meeting electricity demand after sunset despite India's rapid expansion of renewable-energy capacity. Solar power can meet a large part of daytime demand, but insufficient battery storage limits the ability to shift surplus solar generation into evening and night-time hours.Weaker hydropower generation has added to the pressure. According to the report, hydropower output fell 20% from a year earlier in



September following an El Nio-related decline in rainfall.Wind generation has also been weaker, while several coal-fired power plants are undergoing maintenance.Rupesh Sankhe, a research analyst at Elara Securities, told Reuters that the combination of weaker hydropower and wind generation, maintenance at coal plants and strong industrial demand had contributed to the shortfall.

POWER SHORTAGE HITS HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE AUGUST 2023

India's power shortage surged to 560 million kilowatt-hours in September, the highest level since August 2023.

This happened even as coal-fired generation increased sharply to meet strong electricity demand.Coal-fired power generation rose 13.3% in September from a year earlier, according to government data.However, the increase in coal generation has not been enough to fully offset the decline in hydropower and the loss of generation capacity due to maintenance.Nearly 41 GW of power plants were offline, according to Grid India data.At the same time, about 47% of coal-fired power plants had critical fuel stocks, equivalent to less than a quarter of their mandated coal supplies.

NEWS BOX

Bengal bypolls: AJUP chief Humayun Kabir arrested during Rejinagar voting

KOLKATA (Agency).

Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP) founder Humayun Kabir was arrested by the police in West Bengal's Rejinagar Monday after he accused them of interfering with voting at multiple polling stations, hours into polling for two Assembly bypolls in the state.

Kabir's son, Gulam Nabi Azad, is an AUJP candidate from Rejinagar in Murshidabad district."Humayun Kabir has been arrested. We will share the details later," said Anandajit Hore, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Beldanga, Murshidabad police district.Kabir went to his party office in Rejinagar at around 8 am and entered into an altercation with police personnel deployed there. As he approached the booths, the police told him he could not go near the polling booths because he is neither an agent nor a candidate.The MLA then accused the police of being partial. "The police are intimidating our workers, booth agents and voters. We will not leave the booths. There will be a direct fight with the police. The police are looting votes. I will not allow this," Kabir told reporters.

Thereafter, he was detained and dragged into a police car. He was later arrested.After the police registered several cases against him and his party leaders, Kabir said he would stay home and campaign through social media.West Bengal is voting in Nandigram and Rejinagar, with both seats having fallen vacant for different reasons.

The Nandigram seat was left vacant after Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, who won from two constituencies in the Assembly elections earlier this year, decided to retain his other seat.Rejinagar became vacant after Kabir resigned from the seat after winning from Naoda as well.

5 injured in accident on Pune-Mumbai Expressway's Missing Link; traffic diverted briefly

Pune (Agency).

At least five people were injured after a private bus collided with a container on the Pune-Mumbai Expressway's Missing Link (Connecting Link) on Tuesday morning.

The injured have been provided with necessary medical assistance, State Highway Police said.The incident led to the closure of the Pune-to-Mumbai carriageway, with traffic being briefly diverted through the Ghat section of the expressway. Traffic movement towards Mumbai was restored by afternoon, with the State Highway Police confirming that the situation has been brought under control.

The accident also brought into focus the restrictions on and violations by the vehicles on the Connecting Link. Containers are not permitted on the Missing Link, while buses are allowed to use the corridor. The container involved in the accident was therefore in violation of the restrictions applicable to the route.The Highway Police said official, detailed information about the circumstances of the accident will be shared after an initial probe. Motorists travelling from Pune towards Mumbai have been advised to follow the directions of the traffic police and use the Ghat section until the affected carriageway is cleared and reopened.

Developed plots for landowners: T readies sweeping land pooling policy

Hyderabad(Agency).

Faced with soaring land acquisition costs for major infrastructure projects, especially around Hyderabad, the Telangana govt is preparing to roll out a statewide land pooling policy that will allow landowners to receive developed plots instead of monetary compensation, a move aimed at reducing the financial burden on the exchequer while expediting project execution.The scheme is already being implemented for select projects, including the Musi riverfront development project and works being undertaken by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), Hyderabad Growth Corridor Limited (HGCL) and Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL).

Officials said the proposed law would empower HMDA, urban development authorities, district collectors and other authorities notified by the govt to implement land pooling schemes.Chief secretary Sanjay Jaju is said to be keen on adopting the model across Telangana as a win-win arrangement, enabling the govt to secure land for projects without massive upfront expenditure while allowing landowners to retain a stake in future development through serviced plots.

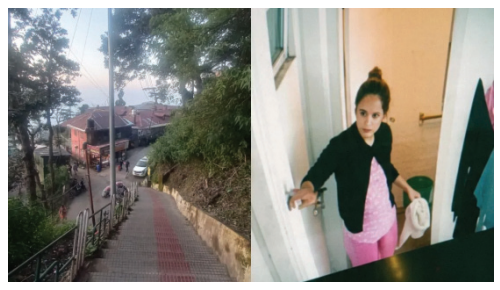
Midnight burglary in Shimla, loot snatched by officials, then silence

Early on September 8, the home of a 76-year-old was burgled in an upscale neighbourhood of Shimla. The trail led to a maid, a taxi and finally to four Uttarakhand officials accused of snatching the stolen jewellery

Shimla (Agency).

When she woke up at 8 am on September 8, Renu Baljees could suddenly feel something was off. For one thing, it was an hour and a half later than usual, and her body refused to move – unusual for this active 76-year-old. For another, her three-storey house in the upscale, picturesque Fingask Estate locality adjoining Shimla's iconic Mall Road was deathly quiet. Her first thought was: why didn't the alarm go off this morning?

But as she strolled through the house, the reason became increasingly clear: the battery to the alarm had been pulled out, and her cordless phone was missing. And once she stepped into another room, everything started to make perfect sense. The room had been completely ransacked. She had been robbed of valuables – later estimated to be worth Rs 1 crore."My phone was gone. I had no way of communicating," she ays. "I had a bell that connected me to my bakery on the ground floor; I rang it. The staff quickly came up. They found a maid lying unconscious after she was knocked down. Another maid was missing. All my valuables had been stolen." The missing maid, Karishma, who was originally from Nepal, had been hired only ten days ago.What followed was still strange. During the investigation, police found that Karishma and her three accomplices had allegedly been intercepted by uniformed personnel at Uttarakhand's Rudrapur while fleeing towards Nepal, and the jewellery was taken by the officials. The recovery of the jewellery from



Karishma wasn't, however, reported to the police.On September 22, police arrested four excise officials. They have now been released on bail. "We are investigating if there was an organised network involved," one officer says.

The burglary

Ever since her husband died in 1996, Renu knew how to live alone, caring for her two daughters and running the family bakery. Now 76, and with her daughters abroad, Renu increasingly relies on her staff: her assistants at the bakery and her live-in domestic help.

According to the police, Renu had placed a request for a maid through an online placement agency. She, however, denies this, claiming instead that she received "repeated WhatsApp calls from a man who claimed he could provide trustworthy help".On August 27, Karishma, a woman originally from Nepal, arrived at Renu's house with only a rucksack in tow. Slim, dressed in trousers and a T-shirt, with her long hair tied in a bun, she was unassuming – and fit right in.

"The man had shared a copy of the contract between him and me, along with Karishma's identity proof, on WhatsApp," she says. "But police verification was always on my mind, and I kept asking her for documents. She kept evading it by telling me she would send them to me later, and that her brother and sister-in-law would bring them when they came down on September 7, but it never happened. She also sent me her number, but that's been switched off since. Later, I realised that the copy of the contract and Karishma's identity proof have since disappeared from my WhatsApp chat."

A CCTV recording from the time of the burglary allegedly showed Karishma entering the house with three accomplices – all men — and leaving with what police suspect was the loot. The FIR initially estimated the jewellery to be worth Rs 1 crore, although Renu now claims that this value is conservative.

Parents arrested for repeated rape, sexual abuse of minor daughter in Gujarat

Ahmedabad (Agency).

A couple living in the Kutch district of Gujarat were arrested over the past weekend for the alleged repeated rape and sexual abuse of their minor daughter over a period of a fortnight in the second half of September.The horrific incident came to light only after the minor girl managed to get her hands on a phone and call police, which led to her rescue and the arrest of her parents, police officers said.However, even this happened only after the couple had succeeded in thwarting the complainant's attempt to reach police once, and cutting off ways for her to reach for help by switching off the mobile phone that she had used, officers said.Senior officers of the Kutch East Police have claimed that they have found evidence to support the minor's allegations in a phone that they seized from her mother. This evidence allegedly includes nude photos of the child, as well as photos of her with her father, the officers said..According to police officers, the complainant, who is in her early teens and the oldest among four siblings, was "caught" by her mother allegedly talking to a male friend in a North Indian state. The woman had allegedly complained about this incident to her husband.The minor told the police that the alleged abuse had begun the next day. She was not given food for a day, after which her father had allegedly raped her in front of her mother in the living room of their home.The entire sequence of abuse was repeated again and again during the latter half of last month, the complainant alleged – she was stripped and beaten before being raped, according to police officers.The complainant allegedly told the officers that on September 30, she had finally attempted to reach out to police from the home of a relative who lives in the same housing society. However, her parents had snatched away the phone and switched it off, she allegedly told police.This was followed by another day of abuse on October 1, and her mother allegedly took photos of the events, the complainant told police. But then she managed to escape again to her relative's home and to call the police helpline number 112.The minor gave the police her address, after which personnel from the jurisdictional police station reached her home and rescued her, police officers said.Mukesh Chaudhary, Deputy Superintendent of Police of the Kutch East Police, told The Indian Express that the father and mother of the complainant had been placed under arrest on the same day after the FIR was registered and evidence was found on the mother's phone that corroborated the account of the complainant.

Tiruttani man hacked to death outside home over daughter's relationship

CHENNAI (Agency).

A 41-year-old man was hacked to death by two masked men in front of his wife and daughter at Periyar Nagar in Tiruttani on Sunday evening, with police suspecting the murder could be linked to a harassment complaint he had lodged against four persons.

According to Tiruttani police, two unidentified men wearing masks entered D Yuvaraj's house and, in his absence, confronted his wife and 16-year-old daughter. They allegedly told them to call Yuvaraj and ask him to come home.

When Yuvaraj, who ran a petty shop near the old bus stand in Tiruttani, returned home, the suspects attacked him with knives outside the house before fleeing the scene, police said. Family members and neighbours rushed Yuvaraj to the Tiruttani Government Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. Police said a postmortem was conducted and the body was handed over to the family on Monday evening.

Harassment complaint and murder plot

During the preliminary investigation, police found that Yuvaraj's 16-year-old daughter was in a relationship with a 19-year-old college student from Palvedu village. A 17-year-old boy from her locality was allegedly in one-sided love with the girl and opposed her relationship with the college student.According to police sources, the minor boy allegedly formed a group with Roshi (25), Sushil (28), and Lawrence (31). The four allegedly went to the girl's tuition centre on September 25 and threatened her against continuing the relationship.

Subsequently, Yuvaraj lodged a complaint with Tiruttani police. Police said Lawrence and Roshi were detained for questioning last Saturday, while Sushil and the 17-year-old remain untraced.Police suspect that the two men who attacked Yuvaraj could be among those who were allegedly involved in the harassment incident. A probe is on.

What changes at IIT Bombay after student's suicide: 'Option to replace fans, more play areas'

IIT Bombay suicide: Appointment of student wellness secretaries in hostels, common play areas, and replacing hostel fans are some of the proposed changes

MUMBAI (Agency).

As students at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and Sahil Wakode's parents continue protesting days after the student's suicide on the campus, the institute has discussed proposed changes to the student wellness support system with the student representatives. With the appointment of student wellness secretaries in hostels, common play areas,

new measures against exam malpractices, and replacing hostel fans, IIT Bombay is set to overhaul its student wellness support system.IIT Bombay has also announced the appointment of an associate dean for student wellness and is expected to begin a phased rollout of the proposed changes this week. The institute's Dean of Students' Affairs communicated the new measures to IIT Bombay students on behalf of the director, Professor Shireesh Kedare.The new measures come on the heels of serious concerns raised by the IIT Bombay students following the suicide of Sahil Wakode.

Sahil Wakode died by suicide on September 18, hours after he was allegedly found using a mobile phone during a mid-semester examination, triggering massive protests on



the campus.

What changes at IIT Bombay?

According to the email, the institute held discussions with students and their representatives on academic, career, and wellbeing concerns to decide on a plan to ensure student wellness on the campus.

Under the proposed changes, the institute is working on a system to appoint student-wellness secretaries at the hostel level and identify committees where student participation can be increased.Meetings with heads of departments with greater student participation at the department level and strengthening support available to students have been proposed.IIT Bombay has also proposed play areas in the hostels. General secretaries, sports councillors and wardens will be consulted to identify suitable spaces and understand residents' concerns regarding this. The institute is also considering replacing hostel fans. While options have been identified, a final decision will be taken after students' feedback.Changes to the flexy mess system have also been proposed during the meeting.On academic matters, IIT Bombay has prepared first drafts of proposed deterrent measures against the use of unfair means during examinations.

Lucknow flooded, 40,000 residents hit: Trouble began hundreds of kilometres upstream

Lucknow(Agency).

For the past few days, Lucknow has received no significant rainfall. Yet large parts of the state Capital are flooded in the month of October. Faizullaganj, on the city's northern fringes, is worst hit, and the situation has been deteriorating with each passing day. At least 40,000 residents are affected.The reasons for the flood-like situation, affecting areas from Bakshi Ka Talab and Lucknow North through Faizullaganj towards Naimish, are the result of a chain of events.

Officials said the water inundating low-lying areas is largely the result of heavy rainfall in the upper catchment of the Gomti in the last week of September, with the river now carrying the water downstream to Lucknow."The Gomti river's catchment areas are spread over Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, Lakhimpur Kheri and Sitapur districts that witnessed exceptionally heavy rainfall between September 22 and 27. Normally, the rainfall over five days would be around 15 mm. This time it was around 150 mm, with some places receiving nearly 257 mm," Principal Secretary (Irrigation) Anil Garg said, describing the spell as extreme rainfall.The Gomti originates near Madhotanda in Pilibhit and flows through the upstream districts before reaching Lucknow.The "extreme rainfall" in the last week of September also flooded smaller rivulets and streams feeding the Gomti, resulting in a large volume of water entering the Gomti system.

How did this happen?

The water in a river system does not move instantaneously, Garg explained. Under normal conditions, it takes about 10-12 days for water to travel from the Pilibhit region to Lucknow, he added.This time, however, several days of exceptionally heavy rainfall meant that large volumes accumulated across the catchment and in the smaller streams before moving downstream. So, even after the skies over Lucknow cleared, the city continued to receive water generated much earlier and much farther upstream," the official said.



The high flow also takes time to move through the river. Since it takes 10-12 days for water from upstream to reach Lucknow, experts expect the water level to start receding after two days, as the peak inflow moves downstream."With the upstream areas of the Gomti receiving 25 per cent of the annual rainfall in just three days' time till September 27, and with water travelling at the speed of 1 km per hour, it took several days for the water to reach Lucknow, which is about 240 km from the point of origin," said District Magistrate Vishak G.Garg said the water generated after the September 22-27 spell continued moving downstream for several days, eventually heading towards areas such as Sultanpur.Lucknow's own share of record rainfallLucknow itself received around 150 mm of rainfall during the September-end brief spell, adding to the water flowing through the Gomti."The combined effect of local rainfall and upstream inflow pushed the river's discharge to around 1,100 cusecs," said Garg.To allow the excess water to pass downstream, all 10 gates of the Gomti barrage were opened, as holding back the water would have led to more problems, according to officials of the Irrigation Department.

NEWS BOX

India A vs Australia A: Sai Sudharsan excited to be back and play in 50-over format

PUDUCHERRY. (Agency)

The last time B Sai Sudharsan played a white-ball match was during the Vijay Hazare Trophy for Tamil Nadu in December 2025. The youngster, who made his India debut in the one-day format in 2023, has missed a lot of white-ball cricket in the last 18 months or so, except for the Indian Premier League, due to injuries and red-ball commitments.The 24-year-old, on Tuesday, will be back in action for India A in the List A format against Australia A here in Puducherry. Though he made a comeback in the two red-ball matches against the same opponent a few days ago, Sai Sudharsan is excited to be in the middle again in the 50-over format. "First of all, I was very excited to come back and play. When I played the



first day, that was when I felt how long I had been missing this feeling," he reflected on the eve of the match.For the Tamil Nadu batter, who missed the Sri Lanka Test series where Devdutt Padikkal scored two centuries, the journey back has been about writing his own story. He will play in a team which has many contemporaries like Ruturaj Gaikwad, Devdutt Padikkal, or Rajat Patidar, but Sai Sudharsan is not looking to compete with any of them. "I don't think I am looking to find a place anywhere. I have always been opening in 50-over and T20 cricket. So I look at it that way and try to give my best and perform so that the team wins from a good position. That's what I'm focused on. I feel mentally we have to understand that we are all writing our own story rather than playing against each other.

World Cup-winning captain Harmanpreet Kaur steps down as India women's team skipper

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's World Cup-winning captain and women's team stalwart Harmanpreet Kaur has announced the decision to step down from her role on Tuesday, October 6. Harmanpreet's decision comes after she guided India to the gold medal at the Asian Games 2026.Harmanpreet announced the decision via Instagram with a lengthy post, where she confirmed that she will continue to remain a part of the team and that she wanted to make the call to help the side get better. The call means that Harmanpreet will step down from the captaincy role in all formats of the game for India.The 37-year-old initially took over the role on a temporary basis in 2012 when she helped India win the Women's T20I Asia Cup. She went on to take over as the full-time captain in 2016 and ushered in an era of greatness for the Indian team.At 37, Harmanpreet's tenure as India captain has come to an end after she led the side across five Tests, 51 ODIs and 155 T20Is. The captaincy change followed a meeting in Guwahati involving



Harmanpreet, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana and head coach Amol Muzumdar with BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia, where the team's future plans were discussed. It is believed that Mandhana is in line to replace Harmanpreet as the new captain of the team across all three formats.

HARMANPREET KAUR STATEMENT IN FULL

"Today, I step down as captain of the Indian Women's Cricket Team across all formats."

"This is not an easy decision. It carries years of memories, emotions, sacrifices, and moments that will stay with me for the rest of my life.""I have given everything I had to this team and to Indian women's cricket — my blood, my sweat, my time, and many times, a part of my own game and personal ambitions. There were moments when I had to put my individual performance, my own growth, and what I wanted for myself aside, because I believed the team had to come first.""As a captain, I have had to make difficult decisions. Decisions that were not always understood, not always easy, and sometimes came at a personal cost. But every decision I made was with one intention - to make this TEAM better and to give other players the opportunity to grow, believe in themselves and become the best versions of themselves.""I have seen it all. I have seen the lowest moments, the heartbreak, the criticism, the doubts and the days when nothing seemed to go our way. And I have also experienced the highest highs - the victories, the celebrations, the pride of representing our country, and the moments that made every sacrifice worth it.""| leave the captaincy today with a heart full of emotions.

Jasprit Bumrah-less India face tough West Indies challenge in T20I series opener

New Delhi. (Agency)

India begin the post-Asian Games phase in T20Is against West Indies in Lucknow on Tuesday, October 6 with one obvious question hanging over the series opener. Can Shreyas Iyer's side deliver without Jasprit Bumrah?

Bumrah, who played a key role in India's successful Asian Games campaign, is not part of the squad for the five-match series. His absence puts greater responsibility on a pace attack that has plenty of promise but considerably less international experience.Catch all the action of the India vs West Indies T20I series on the Star Sports network and the JioHotstar app and website in India.The timing is interesting too. West Indies arrive with renewed confidence after producing a stunning performance in the final ODI in New Chandigarh. India had already wrapped up the ODI series before the visitors bounced back, meaning the T20I series gives both teams a fresh start.India, though, will enter the contest with plenty of confidence after retaining their Asian Games T20 title. More importantly, the series provides an



opportunity to test the depth of a side that is looking beyond its established stars.

CAN INDIA'S YOUNG PACERS DELIVER?

Without Bumrah, India's pace attack suddenly looks much younger. Arshdeep Singh is the most experienced member of the group, while Mayank Yadav and Prince Yadav bring plenty of intrigue but are still developing at international level. Nitish Kumar Reddy also gives India another seam-bowling option.Mayank's return will be one of the biggest talking points. The express pacer has had to battle repeated injury setbacks, but his pace remains an obvious X-factor whenever he takes the field. Prince, meanwhile, has taken an interesting route into the India set-up after initially being a net bowler.India bowling coach Morne Morkel believes opportunities such as this are important for building the team's next generation."Yes, it will be great for Indian cricket if we keep on growing that pool, keep on giving guys that experience, the taste of what it is to play in an Indian shirt. And also a nice opportunity for guys who were out of the loop for a while to come back. Mayank Yadav, he's back from injury. So, yeah, I look forward to seeing how he goes when he gets an opportunity.

85 medals at Asian Games 2026: Five big questions from India's campaign



New Delhi. (Agency)

India finished the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games with 85 medals, 21 gold, 27 silver and 37 bronze, to finish fourth in the continental standings. It was India's second-best medal haul at the Asian Games, behind the 107 medals at Hangzhou. But the 22-medal drop from the previous edition, and seven fewer golds, means there is plenty to examine beyond the headline number.The campaign also offered a more complicated picture of Indian sport. India sent a deliberately young contingent, produced 83 debutant medallists and won medals in 20 sports. At the same time, it exposed a gold-medal conversion problem, large participation gaps, questions around talent identification and significant differences in how India's sports programmes are delivering.A senior Sports Ministry official offered a clear defence of that approach: qualification standards should remain stringent, but federations must do more to build athletes capable of meeting them.The 85 medals are a substantial achievement. They also offer a useful report card on where Indian sport stands.1. DID INDIA GET THE YOUTH GAMBLE RIGHT?

The clearest experiment before Aichi-Nagoya was India's decision to go younger. Of the 501 athletes, 310 were Asian Games debutants, nearly 62 per cent of the contingent. Of those debutants, 83 won medals, meaning 26.8 per cent of the first-time contingent finished on the podium.The Sports Ministry had made the long-term objective clear before the Games.

"Young blood is coming in. They are inexperienced, but it's a good sign for the future. I am not speculating anything about medals, but I am sure our strength will be built

Asian Games: Mizoram amps up cash prize for hockey heroes Lalremsiami, Lalthantluangi



NAGOYA. (Agency)

Mizoram has honoured Asian Games gold medallists Lalremsiami and Lalthantluangi with a cash prize of Rs.40 lakh each for their contribution to India's women's hockey triumph in Japan. The two players returned to Aizawl on Monday, where they received a warm welcome after helping the Indian team secure the gold medal on October 2. Initially, Chief Minister Lalduhoma had announced a cash reward of Rs. 25 lakh for the female hockey stars.Chief Minister Lalduhoma felicitated the two players at a ceremony at the R Dengthuama Indoor Stadium, announcing that each would get Rs.25 lakh through the Mizoram State Incentive Cash Award scheme and another Rs.15 lakh under the state's flagship Bana Kaih initiative.

Lalduhoma said Lalremsiami and Lalthantluangi had made history by becoming the first athletes from Mizoram to win Asian Games medals. He said it was particularly significant that the state's medal tally at the continental event had begun with a gold.

The Chief Minister also congratulated the duo on securing qualification for the 2028 Olympic Games. Lalduhoma said hockey was among the sports covered under the 'Empowering Mizoram Sports' programme of the Bana Kaih scheme, citing the country's strong standing in the discipline at the international level.He also praised Lalremsiami for her achievements, including being named for the prestigious Arjuna Award and playing a key role in helping India qualify for the upcoming Olympic Games.In addition to this, Lalduhoma said that the Kolasib Diakkawn GSA playground is set to be named after Lalremsiami, who scored the winning goal for India in their Asian Games final against China."In recognition of her outstanding achievements, the government planned to name a hockey ground after her, and the Kolasib Diakkawn GSA playground is being identified for the purpose," he said.

Suryakumar Yadav snubbed, Mhatre named vice-captain for Mumbai's Ranji Trophy opener

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav was a notable omission from Mumbai's squad for their Ranji Trophy 2026-27 opening fixture. The 42-time Ranji champions also decided to name U19 World Cup-winning captain Ayush Mhatre as the vice-captain for the tie.Yashasvi Jaiswal was included in Mumbai's 16-member squad for the match as he looks to amp up his preparations ahead of the New Zealand tour later this month. Mumbai will begin their campaign against Chandigarh in a four-day clash, starting from October 11. The match is likely to be held at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.Mumbai and Chandigarh are part of Elite Group D,



which also features Haryana, Rajasthan, Railways, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

WHY SURYAKUMAR WAS OMITTED?

According to a Cricbuzz report, Suryakumar sent a message to the selectors, expressing his desire to be part of the squad. However, the selection committee decided not to pick him for the tie. The same report also states that selectors see Mhatre as a potential captain for the future, with the 19-year-old's leadership credentials making him a natural fit for their long-term plans. Mhatre, who guided India to the Under-19 World Cup title, has featured in just 13 first-class matches over the past two yearsMumbai chief selector Rajesh Pawar revealed the reason behind Suryakumar's omission.

Terribly sorry: Daniil Medvedev apologises after hitting fan with ball at China Open

New Delhi. (Agency)

Daniil Medvedev issued an apology to the fan he hit with the ball, which resulted in him getting defaulted during his semi-final clash against Novak Djokovic at the China Open. Medvedev said that it was an accident and expressed his desire to meet the fan and apologise to him in person.

Medvedev's China Open campaign ended in controversy as he was disqualified from his semifinal against Novak Djokovic after hitting a ball into the stands that struck a spectator. The incident occurred while Djokovic was serving for the match at 7-5, 5-3, with Medvedev hitting the ball away in frustration after it came back towards him, sending it into the first row and apparently hitting a fan near the eye.The spectator was given medical attention immediately and escorted away from the stands. Medvedev had a chat with the officials, who decided to default him."I feel terribly sorry for him



actually and I just hope he's okay," Medvedev said following the incident. "That's the most important. The rest, we move on. I just really care about him right now. Hopefully I can meet him and make up for it somehow."

'DIDN'T HIT IN ANGER'

Medvedev explained the circumstances leading to the incident and claimed that he didn't hit the ball in anger."It was 100 per cent an accident," Medvedev shared. "You can see that I didn't hit the ball in anger The ball was bouncing back, so I tried to just hit it anywhere, so it wouldn't go out of the court."When I saw the result, I felt horrible because, again, I don't think I was ever close to such a situation. The most important thing is I hope that he's okay, because you never know with these types of situations."

The incident overshadowed a clincial performance from Djokovic, who is one win away from his 102nd tour-level title. Medvedev praised the former World No.1 and rued some of his own missed chances.

"It was a tough match for me," Medvedev admitted. "He played really well. I felt he played like when we played our best matches. I had some opportunities, which I missed. He played incredibly, so I think he has big chances in the final."The incident meant that Medvedev was stripped off the 200 ATP ranking points and prize money from his China Open semifinal run, with reports estimating the lost payout at around USD 219,295.



Rakul Preet Singh

Slams Reports Of IT Raid, Illegal Remittance: 'Have Been Paying Taxes Since I Was 20'

Rakul Preet Singh has taken to her Instagram and slammed reports alleging her involvement in any illegal practices. Last month, reports claimed that the Income Tax Department had launched searches at several locations linked to Bollywood actor Rakul Preet Singh, her father-in-law and film producer Vashu Bhagnani, and Panorama Studios in Mumbai. Now, the actress has rubbished these claims, stating that she has been paying her taxes since she was 20 and is a law-abiding person of this country.

In her long note, Rakul Preet Singh wrote, "It's heartbreaking to see that there's a growing trend amongst the self-styled online reporters & some mainstream media journalists to sensationalise the news without verifying facts."She further, while addressing the report of the Income Tax raid, said, "Let's therefore set the record straight once and for all. The search was not pertaining to me. Let it be known that I am from the Armed Forces background & had no Godfather in the Industry. I have come up through sheer hard work & as a responsible, law-abiding citizen have been paying my due taxes since the age of 20 years."



Further stating that she is 'not involved in any kind of illegal foreign remittance in personal capacity or on behalf of any Production house', Rakul clarified, "I would also add here that I do not hold any Benami property on behalf of anyone anywhere in the country or abroad. Neither ANYONE has EVER gifted me any property at any time, nor do I accept such expensive gifts as a principle."

While asking the media houses to remove any story/article giving wrong information from their portal, Rakul said, "I urge all those who published these false, malicious and speculative reports to retract them and clarify the facts. I understand that everyone running a media business, however big, has their own commercial pressures. But it cannot come at the cost of facts. And certainly not at the cost of someone's reputation and livelihood," Rakul concluded.

Rakul Preet Singh's Work Front

Rakul Preet Singh will next play Surpanakha in Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana, with the actress recently beginning dubbing for the film ahead of its Diwali 2026 release. Ranbir Kapoor plays Lord Ram, Sai Pallavi is Sita, Yash plays Ravana, and Ravi Dubey plays Lakshman.

Bandish Bandits'

Shreyaa Chaudhry

Joins Ayushmann Khurrana In Mupapa, Set For February 2027 Release



Shreyaa Chaudhry has joined Ayushmann Khurrana in the upcoming film Mupapa, which is scheduled to arrive in theatres on February 19, 2027. The project marks another major film outing for the actress following her work in Bandish Bandits, The Mehta Boys and Dear MayaAlongside the film announcement, Shreyaa has also signed with YRF Talent for exclusive management, adding another development to her career as she moves into a new phase of Hindi cinema projects.

Shreyaa Chaudhry To Star Opposite Ayushmann Khurrana



Mupapa will be directed by Sameer Saxena and produced by Akshaye Widhani, CEO of Yash Raj Films, along with Posham Pa Pictures.Posham Pa Pictures was co-founded by Sameer Saxena, Biswapati Sarkar, Saurabh Khanna and Amit Golani. Mupapa will also mark the first theatrical collaboration between the studio and the production house.Apart from Shreyaa and Ayushmann's casting and the February 2027 release date, the makers are keeping details about the film under wraps for now. The storyline and the characters being played by the two actors have not yet been revealed.

For Shreyaa, the film comes after a run of performances across streaming and cinema.

Shreyaa Signs With YRF Talent

Shreyaa has also been signed for exclusive management by YRF Talent.The actress first appeared in Dear Maya in 2017, playing Ira. She later gained wider recognition as Tamanna Sharma in Bandish Bandits, a pop singer whose journey brings her into the world of classical music. She returned for the show's second season as well.Her other credits include the short film The Other Way and The Mehta Boys, in which she appeared as Zara.Mupapa now places her alongside Ayushmann in a theatrical film backed by Yash Raj Films and Posham Pa Pictures.

What's Next For Ayushmann Khurrana?

Ayushmann made his Hindi film debut with Vicky Donor in 2012 and later starred in films including Dum Laga Ke Haisha, Bareilly Ki Barfi, Shubh Mangal Saavdhan, Badhaai Ho, Andhadhun, Dream Girl, Bala and Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan.

Shivaleeka Oberoi Tears Up In Theatre After Spotting Abhishek Pathak's Sweet Note For Her In Drishyam 3



Watching your husband's film is one thing. Watching him thank you on the big screen, after everything you've been through together, is a whole different feeling. Shivaleeka Oberoi found herself getting emotional while watching Drishyam: The Conclusion in a theatre, thanks to a sweet surprise from her husband and the film's director, Abhishek Pathak.

Shivaleeka shared a video of her theatre experience on Instagram, where she can be seen reacting to a special note from Abhishek that appeared during the end credits. The filmmaker had dedicated a thank-you message to his wife, acknowledging her support through the long and difficult journey of making the film.

Sharing the video, Shivaleeka wrote, "I teared up when I saw this on the big screen. And judging by the messages I've been getting, I'm clearly not the only one who thought this was pretty special."She then opened up about what the journey meant to her and Abhishek. She wrote, "When you started this journey, there was so much that life was about to bring our way. There were sacrifices, difficult days, time apart, and so many moments that tested us. But through it all, I believed in you, in your vision and in what you were creating.Today, watching the world celebrate what you created makes every bit of it feel worth it. And sometimes I look at Aarika and think..how lucky is she going to feel one day knowing her father directed Drishyam. So incredibly proud to be your wife!"

The moment comes at a pretty big time for Abhishek, with Drishyam: The Conclusion having a strong start at the box office. The Ajay Devgn-starrer has crossed 175 crore in India in three days and is now heading towards the 200 crore mark.

The thriller has also earned praise for the way Abhishek has wrapped up the story. Ajay returns as Vijay Salgaonkar for what is being billed as his final outing in the franchise. Shriya Saran, Ishita Dutta, Tabu and Rajat Kapoor are also back, while Jaideep Ahlawat and Prakash Raj join the cast.Drishyam: The Conclusion, presented by Star Studio18, is produced by Alok Jain, Ajit Andhare, Kumar Mangat Pathak and Abhishek. The film released in theatres on October 2.

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



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

Sanjay Leela Bhansali And Alia Bhatt Planning To Revive Inshallah?

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

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

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

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

Why Was Inshallah Shelved?

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

NEWS BOX

Elon Musk Becomes Trillionaire Again As SpaceX, Tesla Shares Rise

World.(Agency)

The fortune of the world's richest person jumped by $65 billion on Monday to $1.04 trillion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, as the value of his stakes in SpaceX and Tesla Inc. rose. SpaceX shares are up 13% since the start of October while Tesla has gained 6.7%.It marks the first time in three months that the 55-year-old tech mogul's fortune has required 13 numerals. He became the world's first trillionaire in June when SpaceX surged in the wake of its record-breaking initial public offering, but quickly lost that crown as shares then slumped on concerns about the company's sky-high valuation.

As of late July, Musk's $600 billion-plus wealth decline from its peak exceeded the net worth of anyone who had ever been on Bloomberg's list of the world's 500 richest people, other than Musk himself.

The latest gains have been fueled by renewed optimism at both companies. On Monday, analysts at Morgan Stanley called SpaceX one of the cheapest ways to play "the strong optionality" of the space and intelligence sector, adding to a rally in which shares of the space, artificial intelligence and social media company have rebounded 58% from an August low.And last week, Tesla reported better-than-expected sales for the third quarter.

Musk's stake in SpaceX and Tesla makes up more than 98% of his net worth, according to Bloomberg's wealth index.

"Unacceptable": India On Sailor Injured In Russia Attack On Ship In Black Sea

Washington.(Agency)

At least two crew members were killed, and some others, including an Indian, were injured in a Russian drone strike on a Turkish-owned civilian cargo vessel in the Black Sea outside Romania's territorial waters. There were "three Indian nationals among the crew members", and "one of them has been injured and is receiving medical attention" after the drone strike caused a fire on the ship, the Indian Embassy in Romania said in a post on X.

"We have learnt of an attack today on commercial vessel MV ROYAD MAMMADOV in the Black Sea. As per preliminary information, there have been two casualties (foreign nationals) while some crew members have been injured and are undergoing medical treatment in Romania. It is further reported that there are three Indian nationals among the crew members," the post read.

"Mission is in close contact with the relevant authorities to ascertain further details about the safety and welfare of the Indian nationals," it added.

The mission said Indian Ambassador Manoj Mohapatra spoke with the Indian nationals aboard the cargo ship and confirmed that "all three are in good health.""Amb @manojifs spoke with the three Indian nationals receiving treatment at Constanta County Hospital. He also spoke with the hospital's chief physician, who confirmed that all three are in good health and receiving necessary care. The ambassador assured them of all possible assistance and support," the mission said.The mission said it is in close touch with the hospital authorities to check on the injured seafarer and is extending all possible support for the welfare and well-being of the Indian crew members.

India Reacts

India has reacted to reports of a Russian attack on a cargo vessel, saying the aggression is "completely unacceptable." Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said India has moved beyond advocacy and stepped up its efforts in recent months to resolve the Ukraine conflict by engaging in conversations with both Kyiv and Moscow.

Canada warns newcomers of AI-powered immigration scams, fake officials and job offers

- Among the common scams targeting newcomers are fraudsters posing as Government of Canada officials, phishing emails and text messages, computer virus scams, fake prize and contest offers, and tax-related fraud.

CHANDIGARH.(Agency)

The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has now warned newcomers and immigration applicants to remain vigilant about scams involving fake government communications, including AI-generated videos and voices that may appear authentic.This advisory comes amid complaints from a few people of Indian origin hailing from Punjab who were allegedly duped by fraudsters posing as immigration officials and offering guaranteed jobs in exchange for kickbacks.Warning newcomers about several common scams that can target people after they arrive in Canada, the advisory states that the scammers are using AI technology to create realistic content designed to mislead prospective immigrants and newcomers and has urged people to verify information through official IRCC channels and learn how to identify, report and protect themselves from immigration and citizenship fraud.

The IRCC further states that newcomers should be cautious of anyone promising jobs, visas or permanent residence in exchange for money and also warns that its employees will never ask people to deposit money into personal bank accounts, use gift cards or money-transfer services to pay fees, or threaten arrest or



deportation over unpaid fees.Among the common scams targeting newcomers are fraudsters posing as Government of Canada officials, phishing emails and text messages, computer virus scams, fake prize and contest offers, and tax-related fraud.Scammers may call or email while pretending to be government employees and claim the victim has violated immigration rules or failed to complete paperwork. They may demand payment and threaten deportation or loss of immigration status. This is a scam and warns that legitimate officials will not make such threats over unpaid fees. Scammers can also use technology to make a phone number appear legitimate," it adds.The advisory reads, "The fraudsters may send messages containing links to fake websites designed to steal banking information, passwords or other personal details.

Newcomers are advised not to click suspicious links or provide personal information without verifying the sender and website. They may claim that a person's computer has been infected and offer to fix it.They may then attempt to gain access to passwords or other private information.

Trump 'personally' believes Iran responsible for attack by Omani co-pilot on FlyDubai flight

world.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump on Monday (local time) said he "personally" believes Iran was behind the attack carried out by an Omani co-pilot aboard a FlyDubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv."I do. I personally do," Trump said when asked whether he believed Iran was responsible for the attack on the flydubai flight. He was responding to media queries on the White House premises.

The remarks came following the foiled mid-air hijacking and crash attempt aboard flydubai Flight FZ1073 on September 30, when Omani co-pilot Hamam al-Hammami attacked Indian Captain Smit Machchhar inside the cockpit.

The Omani co-pilot attacked Captain Machchhar with an axe in an attempt to bring down the aircraft. Despite suffering severe injuries, Captain Machchhar managed to unlatch the cockpit door, allowing passengers and off-duty crew members to enter and restrain the attacker.



The confrontation triggered a steep descent, with the aircraft dropping approximately 16,000 feet within two minutes before a hijacking distress signal was transmitted.

The aircraft was subsequently diverted and made an emergency landing in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, with all 180 occupants disembarking without injury.Reports published on Sunday by The Times of Israel said al-Hammami had planned to direct the aircraft into Israel's Ben Gurion Airport. The reports, citing Hebrew media sources, said the Omani co-pilot was detained and undergoing interrogation in the United Arab Emirates.According to the reports, al-Hammami told investigators that his alleged plan was to operate the flight routinely after incapacitating Captain Machchhar, obtain the mandatory landing clearances and then crash the aircraft into an airport facility or a stationed aircraft.The attack was thwarted after Captain Machchhar, despite being severely injured, succeeded in opening the cockpit door.

Chinese, Caribbean Women Among Contenders For Nobel Literature Prize

Stockholm.(Agency)

This year's Nobel literature prize could go to a Chinese or a Caribbean woman when it is awarded later this week, literary critics say, in a bid to diversify an award that has most often gone to Western male authors.There is no public shortlist for the Nobel, and with the deliberations of the Swedish Academy that awards the prize and the list of nominees remaining sealed for 50 years, Stockholm's literary circles engage in frantic guessing ahead of the announcement.The suspense will end on Thursday at 1:00 pm (1100 GMT) when the 18-member Swedish Academy reveals its pick.Antiguan-American author Jamaica Kincaid, 77, whose work explores Caribbean culture, family and identity as well as colonialism and race, has often been mentioned in Nobel speculation, as has China's Can Xue, whose avant-garde experimental writing has been compared to that of Kafka."It's about time for Jamaica Kincaid to get it," Victor Malm, culture critic at Swedish daily Expressen, told AFP."She has been mentioned for a long time," said Bjorn Wiman, culture editor at Sweden's largest daily Dagens Nyheter.Hungary's Laszlo Krasznahorkai took home the honour last year.Women Under-Represented

Kincaid's 1990 novel "Lucy" is an autobiographical tale of an embittered young girl who travels from the West Indies to the United States to work as an au pair. da Rosa, a 21-year-old law student at the Rio rally."It's exactly the kind of book where it's enough to read three lines to say: 'OK, we're talking about a Nobel laureate here'," Wiman said.Giving her the nod could also be interpreted as a political choice, given her fierce criticism of US President Donald Trump.

The Academy trod familiar ground last year when it honoured Krasznahorkai -- a male writer from central Europe, of which there are many in the Nobel annals -- and Wiman said the committee should "distance itself a bit" from that.The institution has long been criticised for the over-representation of Western male authors since the prize was first awarded in 1901.

Israelis scarred by October 7 struggle to see Gaza as anything other than a threat

SDEROT.(Agency)

One by one, Israelis peered through the tourist-style binoculars at the shattered Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, a distance of several football fields away, where buildings tilted in the rubble like broken teeth. The only noticeable movement was dust kicked up by Israel's military.The Israelis squinted for a few moments and gestured others over. The lookout is a rare place where they can confront the Palestinian territory firsthand, and some celebrate its devastation.An Israeli documentary released this year included one onlooker exclaiming, "Wow, destroyed beautifully." The Associated Press heard similar sentiments there.

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people in southern Israel and abducted 251 others, leading to a devastating war and, eventually, a fragile ceasefire.Three years on, a visit to the communities attacked that day made clear: It's too soon for many residents to see the Palestinians next door as anything other than a threat.Barbecue reminds one woman of 'the



smell of hell'The highway running parallel to Gaza, where militants gunned down people trying to flee, is dotted with memorials. Victims' smashed and bullet-pocked cars are assembled elsewhere, rusting and piled a half-dozen high. Portraits of young female military spotters, whose warnings about a potential attack were disregarded, mark their deaths that day.

One resident, Deganit Bar Hay, said she still can't barbecue because the smell of burnt flesh — "the smell of hell" — is a trigger.Globally, there is shock and condemnation over how Israel has conducted the war, and how Gaza remains in ruins and cut off from the world a year since the ceasefire. Over 74,000 Palestinians have been killed, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, and the vast majority of its 2 million residents live in rat-infested tent camps or among the debris. it was owned by a legitimate diesel delivery firm.

Cornell Students Stage Anti-Rape Rally In Support Of 'Jane Doe'

Washington.(Agency)

Cornell University students staged a mass rally on Monday voicing solidarity with a classmate whose gang-rape allegations have ignited a national uproar and demanding that the Ivy League school take firmer action against sexual violence on campus.The protesters called for an external inquiry into how Cornell's administration has handled the matter, independent hearings and uniform minimum sanctions for all sexual assaults on campus, and better training for campus police in responding to complaints of sexual violence and harassment.The alleged gang-rape victim, identified by the pseudonym Jane Doe, has said the university failed to adequately investigate and punish campus fraternity members who were involved.

Some demonstrators also called for the resignation of Cornell President Michael Kotlikoff and other members of his administration, saying their policies have perpetuated what protesters called a "culture of rape" on campus.In a lawsuit filed last month, Jane Doe said she was plied with drugs and alcohol and then sexually assaulted by several members of the campus chapter of the Chi Phi fraternity in October 2024 after she had become incapacitated.

Doe, who was 20 at the time, named seven Chi Phi members as defendants in the suit, along with the fraternity chapter, a local bar, her own sorority, and the university.

She had reported the alleged assault to police several weeks after the fact, leading to an internal university investigation and a law enforcement probe, but the local prosecutor declined to bring criminal charges in the case.Cornell, which has defended its response to the original report, shut down the Chi Phi chapter and imposed a range of discipline on the fraternity members involved, including expulsions and other sanctions.The men all denied any wrongdoing, some saying the sexual activity was consensual and others disputing their participation, the New York Times has reported, citing Cornell documents.The lawsuit criticised the university for having offered some of the alleged perpetrators a chance to mitigate their penalties by writing essays. The demonstrators on Monday demanded that Cornell expel or revoke the degrees of any student found complicit in the alleged gang rape.

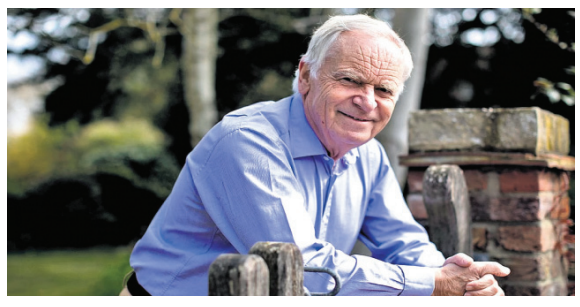
Prison Sentences, Not Topic Sentences'

New York Governor Kathy Hochul last Friday appointed the state's attorney general, Letitia James, as a special prosecutor to take over a newly reopened criminal investigation, saying she was "deeply disturbed" by how local authorities originally dealt with the case.

Best-selling British author Jeffrey Archer dies aged 86

TEL AVIV.(Agency)

British author Jeffrey Archer, who penned a series of best-selling novels, served as a Conservative MP and was convicted of perjury, died suddenly at 86, his publisher HarperCollins said.Archer died "suddenly and peacefully at his home between writing sessions" on Monday, HarperCollins said. His editor, Kate Elton, called him a "master storyteller and an editor's dream".The writer had been due to appear at Cheltenham Literary Festival this week to discuss "Adam and Eve", what he described as his final novel after 50 years of storytelling. It was due to be published Tuesday.



The Sun tabloid reported that he had been signing books for fans at an event in London on Sunday.Archer had revealed in 2014 that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

The author led a life as colourful as the characters in his novels, which sold over 300 million copies, according to his website.Talented and ambitious, he was a high flyer who could never quite escape the whiff of scandal despite a talent for bouncing back from humiliating setbacks.

Politics and sex were the ingredients which ensured hi success as a novelist. But in real life the combination led to the downfall of the man who once hoped to beome mayor of London.He was tried fr perjury and perverting the course of justice after a friend admitted he had supplied a false alibi during a libel case the peer brought against the Daily Star tabloid in 1987.Archer hadsued the newspaper over a claim he had slept with a prostitute, winning £500,000 in damages.

Ambitious from his earliest years, Archer used his charm and fund-raising abilities to climb almost to the top of the Conservative Party.He joined the Tories while a student at Britain's prestigious Oxford University and in 1969 won a resounding by-election victory to become a member of parliament at the age of 29.His parliamentary career came to an abrupt end in 1974 when he was brought to the brink of bankruptcy by the collapse of a Canadian industrial cleaning company in which he had invested.owever, with typical resilience he used his experiences as material for his first book "Not A Penny More, Not A Penny Less", published in 1975, the first of a series of blockbusters set in the worlds of high finance and politics.Panned by the critics, they nevertheless earned him a fortune and Archer nursed hopes of a political revival while using his contacts and persuasiveness to raise millions of pounds for the Tories.In 1985, his labours were recognised by then prime minister Margaret Thatcher, who named him Conservative deputy chairman, describing him as a model Tory high achiever.But a year after his appointment, he was forced to resign by what he described as a "lack of judgment" after sending £2,000 to a prostitute, Monica Coghlan.

He maintained he only paid the money to help her escape hounding from reporters by going abroad and sued the Daily Star for suggesting otherwise.In 1992 he was recommended by Thatcher's successor John Major for a peerage, entitling him to sit in the House of Lords, the upper chamber of parliament.In 1999, he launched a campaign to become the Tory party's candidate to become the first elected mayor of London.

But months later the claim emerged that he had asked a friend, Ted Francis to provide him with a false alibi against the Daily Star. This forced him to abandon his bid and he was expelled from the party.