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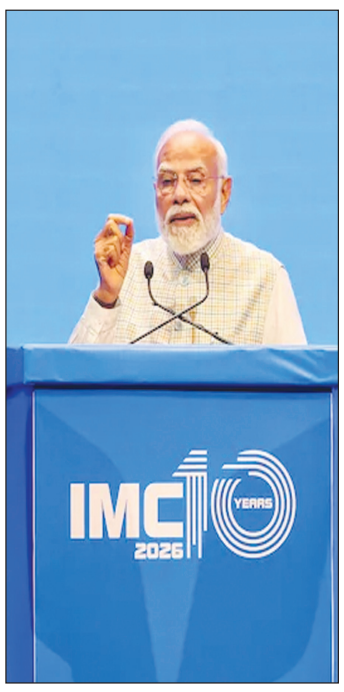
VOICE OF THE CITY, PULSE OF THE NATION

AHEMDABAD/GUJRAT
Friday, October 09, 2026

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"Mobile Phone Tool Of Good Governance"

PM Modi At India Mobile Congress



New Delhi (Agency)
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India's telecom sector has evolved beyond networks, spectrum and internet speeds with mobile connectivity emerging as a key enabler of governance and access to public services.
Addressing the 10th edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026 here, PM Modi said mobile phones had transformed over the past decade from conventional communication devices into important tools for delivering governance.
"Mobile phone has become a tool of good governance," he said.
Recalling the evolution of IMC, PM Modi said the event had played an important role in India's telecom journey, from the launch of 5G in 2022 to the country's hosting of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in 2024.
"In 2022, it was from this very platform that we launched 5G in the country. Then, in 2023, I spoke about how India was moving from 5G rollout towards 5G reach-out. And today, we are all seeing that 5G connectivity has reached every district of the country. Today, there are more than 5.5 lakh base stations in India, from where 5G networks are operating. And mobile internet speed is 10 times higher compared to 2022," the Prime Minister said.
"A decade back, the digital divide was a challenge. New technology was becoming a privilege," PM Modi said and added that the government sought to address this through the Digital India programme by placing the mobile phone at the centre of expanding digital access and public services.
PM Modi said the theme of this year's "Scale Without Boundaries" reflected India's own experience of expanding its telecom and digital infrastructure.He said the growth of India's telecom sector should not be viewed only through network speeds and spectrum but also through its impact on governance and citizens' access to essential services.

Before 2017, sports quota was focused more on influence than talent: Yogi Adityanath

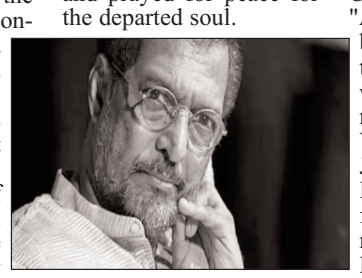
CM Yogi Adityanath said Uttar Pradesh's sporting culture has shifted since 2017, with merit and achievement driving recruitment and employment opportunities for sportspersons.



Lucknow(Agency)
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday highlighted the changes in the state's sporting culture since 2017, saying that merit, recognition of achievements and opportunities for talented sportspersons to serve the nation now form the basis of the "new sporting culture" in Uttar Pradesh.
In a post on his social media account, Yogi Adityanath said appointment letters would be handed over to 470 sportspersons selected under the skilled sportsperson quota in the Uttar Pradesh Police. The selected candidates include 43 Sub-Inspectors (Civil Police), 295 Constables (Civil Police) and 132 Constables (PAC).The Chief Minister said the opening of government service opportunities for sportspersons reflects the transformation witnessed by Uttar Pradesh since 2017. He said the sports quota was neglected before 2017 and recruitment discussions focused more on "recommendations and influence" than talent.
CM Yogi Adityanath said the double-engine government had connected sporting talent with employment and a secure future. According to him, more than 534 sportspersons have so far been directly recruited across various departments.
He added that the recruitment process for another 866 sportspersons in the Uttar Pradesh Police is also progressing.
The Chief Minister also spoke about the sports policy introduced after 2017 and the sporting culture that has emerged in the state since then. He said the transformation had made the youth and citizens aware of the new opportunities available to talented sportspersons.

Nana Patekar passes away at 75: Political leaders recall his films, Naam Foundation work for farmers

New Delhi (Agency)
Leaders from across parties and states on Thursday mourned the death of veteran actor Nana Patekar, who passed away in Goa at the age of 75. Manipal Hospital, Goa, confirmed that the actor was found unconscious at his Dona Paula residence and rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.



Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi called the news "extremely heartbreaking" in a Hindi post on X. He said the actor's roles had left an indelible mark on Indian cinema and on audiences, and sent condolences to his family, friends and supporters.
Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said Patekar's performances, his versatile contribution to cinema and his compassion for farmers and the underprivileged would always be remembered.
Priyanka Gandhi Vadra described the sudden demise as heartbreaking and prayed for peace for the departed soul.
Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said Patekar's natural acting left a lasting mark on Hindi and Marathi cinema, and called his death a great loss to the film fraternity. Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan said Patekar brought depth and authenticity to every character.
He recalled "Krantiveer" and named "Parinda", "Khamoshi", "Tirangaa", "Agni Sakshi", "Natsamrat", "Ab Tak Chhappan" and "Apaharan" among his best work. He also said the actor's association with the Indian Army reflected his patriotism.
YSR Congress chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said Patekar's versatile performances would be remembered. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy said his voice and performances earned him a special place in millions of hearts, and that his commitment to social causes showed his connection with society. Congress MP Kiran Kumar Chamala said his legacy would inspire generations.

SUPER EXCLUSIVE : Allegations of Crore Rupee Irregularities at IKDRC Ahmedabad

Mahanagar Metro Desk
Ahmedabad: Serious allegations of administrative and financial irregularities have surfaced at the Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre (IKDRC), Ahmedabad.According to documents and audit observations cited in the matter, questions have been raised over alleged backdated regularisation of employees, unusual salary revisions and appointments allegedly made in violation of government norms.A CAG audit observation reportedly questioned the financial and administrative basis of certain decisions at the institute. One case involves driver Jayendrasingh B. Darbar, who was allegedly given retrospective benefits linked to earlier years despite regularisation taking place in 2024.Questions have also been raised over salary variations, with figures cited at ₹36,890 in July 2024, ₹73,778 in August and ₹55,334 in September.The controversy has further intensified over allegations that certain drivers received salaries far above the limits prescribed under the Gujarat Health Department's September 13, 2022 Government Resolution.Meanwhile, questions have been raised over the termination of long-serving "Arogya Mitras" and the treatment of existing employees.The matter has prompted demands for an independent high-level inquiry, review of all allegedly irregular appointments and recovery of any public money found to have been improperly paid.Mahanagar Metro has called upon the Gujarat Health Minister and senior Health Department officials to clarify their position and ensure a transparent investigation.The allegations remain subject to verification by the competent authorities, and the responses of IKDRC and the concerned officials are awaited.



BJP MP Kangana Ranaut approaches Delhi HC against AI-generated, obscene content on social media

New Delhi (Agency)
Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut on Thursday approached the Delhi High Court seeking removal of AI-generated and obscene content about her circulating on online media.
Justice Vikas Mahajan issued summons to the defendant parties on Ranaut's lawsuit for protection of her personality rights and indicated that an interim order would be passed in the matter.
The court also said it would pass an interim order on a separate personality rights lawsuit by Telugu actor Vijay Deverakonda, as it issued summons on it.
Deverakonda's senior counsel alleged unauthorised commercial exploitation of the film star's personality by third parties through various means, including sale of merchandise bearing attributes of his persona.
The senior counsel further said there were AI-generated social posts, instances of impersonation, false endorsement and use of foul language.



Ranaut's lawyer objected to the existence of sexual and pornographic graphic content, fake news as well as AI-generated content wrongly attributing statements to the BJP leader.
The lawyer said while there were also memes and other objectionable satirical content, he was not pressing for relief against them at the stage of interim relief.
Several public figures, like actors Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan and Salman Khan, Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, journalist Sudhir Chaudhary, podcaster Raj Shamani, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and cricketer Abhishek Sharma, have previously approached the high court seeking protection of their personality and publicity rights.

Kumaraswamy alleges Shivakumar used 'sting operation' to remove Siddaramaiah as CM, Congress rejects claim

New Delhi (Agency)
Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy on Wednesday alleged that Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had used a "sting operation" against his predecessor, Siddaramaiah, and that it was instrumental in his removal from the CM's post.
KPCC Media and Communication Department chairman Ramesh Babu, however, dismissed Kumaraswamy's allegation, terming it politically motivated and baseless.
Reacting to Shivakumar's reported warning to his Cabinet colleagues about possible sting operations, Kumaraswamy alleged that the former was himself an "expert" in conducting such operations and was now using the issue to keep his ministers under control."Congress leaders themselves have told.

'If he has courage, resign': BJP chief Nitin Nabin hits out at Rahul Gandhi over EC protest

New Delhi (Agency)
BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Thursday hit out at Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi over his protest against the Election Commission, accusing him of having an "anarchic mindset" and saying he should resign if he had the courage, according to ANI.



Nabin questioned Gandhi's criticism of the poll panel, saying the same Election Commission had conducted elections in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
"If he has the courage, Rahul Gandhi should first submit his resignation!" Nabin said, according to ANI.He also accused Gandhi of providing "shelter to infiltrators" and alleged that efforts were being made to grant them rights over the country's resources, wealth and land.
"I firmly believe that the resources of India, the wealth of India, and the land of India belong to the people of this country. We will not allow infiltrators to have any rights over it," Nabin said, according to ANI.Nabin was speaking in Varanasi, where he and Uttar Pradesh BJP president Pankaj Chaudhary offered prayers at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple.Asked about the election season, Nabin said BJP workers remained active throughout the year."A Bharatiya Janata Party worker works 24x7. For them, every single day is work, and every single day is an election. We are not among those who show up only during election season," he said, according to ANI.

'Fight against dictatorship': Sena (UBT) urges AAP, DMK to set aside their differences

New Delhi (Agency)
With the AAP and DMK staying away from the INDIA bloc's protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, the Shiv Sena (UBT) on Thursday urged the two parties to set aside their differences with the Congress and fight against "dictatorship".
In an editorial in Shiv Sena (UBT) mouthpiece 'Saamana', the party said the entire country has been witnessing protests against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).
"But the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) have stayed away from it," it said.
The party said the AAP has differences with the Congress. "But the AAP and the Congress should at least come together to release the country from the shackles of dictatorship," the Uddhav Thackeray-led party said.
AAP's convenor Arvind Kejriwal has bitter experience with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the Election Commission. While Kejriwal was the chief minister of Delhi, he was put behind bars in a "false" case. Kejriwal's defeat was engineered by deleting names of voters from his constituency, it alleged.So it is not in the AAP's interest to stay away from the INDIA bloc, the party said.



Even if Punjab assembly polls, where the two parties are principal opponents, could be a matter of dispute, Kejriwal should take part in the fight against Modi and Shah, the Sena (UBT) added.
The DMK was defeated in Tamil Nadu and C Joseph Vijay's TVK came to power with the help of the Congress. This riled the DMK, the editorial said, adding, "But this stand of the DMK is not in the interest of the country."
The Sena (UBT) lauded the stand of Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal (BJD), which participated in the INDIA bloc's protest against CEC.The opposition offensive against the CEC picked up further pace on Wednesday as Rahul Gandhi led the INDIA bloc leaders' street protests in Delhi for the second consecutive day before being detained again along.

Man dies in hit-and-run accident in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A man succumbed to injuries from being hit by an unidentified vehicle while crossing the road near the Dhunela flyover along Gurgaon-Sohna road.

Mahendar, a resident of Chaturpur Madhai village in Uttar Pradesh, was injured in the accident on Oct 5. His son, Jaipuri, received a phone call from a person informing him that his father had met with an accident and was admitted to Acropolis Hospital, Sohna. The caller had obtained Jaipuri's phone number from Mahendar's diary before informing him about the accident.Mahendar was initially treated at Acropolis Hospital, from where he was referred to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi. Jaipuri took him to the Delhi hospital, where doctors declared Mahendar dead.

Police said information was received at Bhondsi police station from Acropolis Hospital on Oct 5.

"Head constable Amit reached the hospital. Medical staff informed him that Mahendar had been referred to Safdarjung Hospital. The police subsequently contacted Jaipuri on his mobile number. He informed the police that he was at Safdarjung Hospital with his father and would come to Bhondsi police station to submit his complaint," an officer said.Jaipuri went to the police station on Oct 6 and submitted a written complaint. After examining the complaint and the medico-legal report, police registered a case under sections 281 (rash driving) and 106(1) (causing death due to negligence) of BNS against the unidentified vehicle driver at Bhondsi police station.

Cable faults & overloading leading to frequent outages in Indirapuram

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Several localities of Indirapuram, including Abhay Khand, Gyan Khand and Nyay Khand, saw intermittent outages through Tuesday and Wednesday. While officials from the power department said work is on to restore electricity, residents of the affected neighbourhood said it has become a part of their daily routine and asked for a permanent redress before the festival season.According to a notice from Ravi Ranjan, junior engineer (JE) in charge of power supply for Abhay Khand, the disruptions are largely due to a fault or cable burnout affecting the 33 kV line in the Green Belt-1 substation. "The affected supply is currently being operated from the Abhay Khand substation as a temporary measure," he said. Ranjan added that the substation is currently overloaded, and staff are diligently working to restore power as quickly as possible.However, residents remained sceptical of the assurances. Arvind, a local, asked the authorities to share a likely timeframe for the restoration and once again reminded them of the urgency of the situation.

Jitendra Pandey, another resident, said the power cuts began at 9am and continued intermittently till 4am. He criticised the management of the power supply and said their oversight has led the situation to become worse.

On Wednesday, the situation escalated further, and Harish Kadakoti, who lives in Ward 79 in Indirapuram, said the residents were planning to meet the chief engineer of the power department to raise their concerns.Meena Bhandari, a former councillor from Abhay Khand, said the issue needed to be addressed before the Navratri festivities begin. "Many local organisers are now forced to rely on generators instead of the grid.

Phone breaks, Reels interrupted: Youth pushes his friend to death in Faridabad

Noida.(Agency)

A 12-year friendship ended in tragedy after a scuffle between two friends near Sirohi lake in Faridabad, allegedly triggered by a mobile phone being damaged while they were making a reel, left a 19-year-old youth dead, police said. The Crime Branch AVTS team arrested his friend, Mufeed alias Mannu, 20, on Tuesday and sent him to a two-day police remand.Rajkumar and Mufeed, both residents of Faridabad's Sirohi village, had been friends for around 12 years, according to the victim's family. Police said Mufeed called Rajkumar on the evening of Oct 4, following which the two went to the area near Sirohi lake to make a reel.When Rajkumar did not return home for several hours, his family began searching for him. They later went to Mufeed's house to ask if he knew where Rajkumar was. "Mufeed had been home while our child was missing," a family member said.

A police officer said Mufeed allegedly told Rajkumar's family that the youth had fallen into Sirohi lake while taking a selfie. The family informed police, who then conducted a search in the lake, but Rajkumar could not be found.On Monday evening, Rajkumar's body was found on Sirohi hill. His family noticed injuries on his face and body and suspected foul play. They alleged that he had been murdered by being pushed from the hill and named Mufeed, his father Jamshed and others in their complaint.The post-mortem examination found injuries on Rajkumar's face, including near the eyes, along with head injuries, police said. A case was registered under Section 103 (murder) of BNS at Dhauj police station, and the AVTS team of Crime Branch Sikrona took up the investigation.Mufeed was arrested on Oct 6. "During questioning, Mufeed disclosed that he and Rajkumar had gone to the area near Sirohi lake to make a reel," the officer said, adding that Rajkumar accidentally dropped Mufeed's mobile phone while the two were making the reel, damaging it. An argument followed and escalated into a scuffle.

A senior police officer said, "During the altercation, Mufeed allegedly pushed Rajkumar, causing him to fall down the hill. Mufeed then fled from the spot."

Mahanagar Metro Special Report: Allegations of Administrative High-Handedness in Ambaji

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ambaji: Serious allegations of administrative high-handedness have surfaced in Ambaji, the renowned pilgrimage town of Gujarat, where local landowners and traders claim they are being subjected to pressure and harassment in the name of the ongoing corridor development project.According to local landowners and shopkeepers, the administrator of the Ambaji Temple Trust, who also holds the position of Additional Collector, has allegedly misused administrative authority to exert pressure on property owners who have not reached an agreement with the land acquisition agency over compensation.Why Barricading Where There Is No Agreement?The privately owned properties located in front of the main Shakti Dwar of Ambaji Temple reportedly fall within the land acquisition area of the ongoing corridor project. However, landowners and the concerned acquisition agency have so far failed to reach an agreement regarding compensation.The affected shopkeepers allege that, following the disagreement, administrative action has been taken against them in a manner intended to put pressure on them to surrender their properties.Tin Sheets Installed, Shops Effectively ShutAccording to the shop owners, large tin sheets have suddenly been installed in front of their establishments, restricting access and effectively forcing the shops to remain closed.The shopkeepers claim that the move has directly affected the livelihood of traders, workers and other people dependent on these businesses.They further allege that the barricading has been carried out in the name of security despite the fact that no construction work is currently underway at the particular location.Allegation of Selective and Discriminatory ActionThe incident has raised questions over the manner in which the administrative machinery is implementing the project.Local property owners have raised the following concerns:Barricading only at dputed properties:The landown ers al



lege that tin sheets have been installed specifically in front of properties where an agreement

Nidhi Shah Takes Indian Fashion to Paris

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Viramgam: After New York, Nidhi Shah of 'ARNI Fashion' Captivates Paris Fashion Shows with Indian Jewellery and Traditional AttireGiving Global Recognition to the Grandeur of Traditional Jewellery — The Fragrance of Indian Culture (Vandna Nilkanth Vasukiya) Viramgam : After achieving success for the third consecutive year at a recently held fashion show in New York City, USA, with a



diverse theme based on Navratri Chaniya Choli designs, Ahmedabad-born fashion designer Nidhi Shah Vora, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, through 'ARNI Fashion Design', has once again showcased the essence of Indian culture on a global platform. at the "Milan Fashion Week" held in Paris, France, Indian models based in the United States presented traditional Indian bridal jewellery and attire, giving Indian cultural heritage a distinctive global identity. The presentation left people of Indian origin as well as international fashion enthusiasts impressed, earning widespread appreciation. Nidhi Shah Vora, based in the United States, has demonstrated her fashion-designing talent and creative vision by showcasing Indian bridal jewellery designs and traditional attire in Paris, following her successful presentation in New York.

Woman lured into investing Rs 1 crore loses all in trading scam

Noida.(Agency)

A 57-year-old woman from Sector 41 allegedly lost nearly Rs 1 crore after being duped by cybercriminals who lured her into a fraudulent share market investment scheme, police said Wednesday. The suspects allegedly contacted the woman through social media and persuaded her to invest through a trading application promising high returns.The woman, a homemaker whose husband is retired from a private company, initially invested a small amount after being approached by the suspects. According to police, she was shown purported profits on the trading application, which convinced her that the investment was genuine.

Police said the woman subsequently transferred nearly Rs 1 crore to different bank accounts provided by the suspects between Aug 25 and Sept 29, 2026.

"Cybercriminals approached the victim through a social media platform and lured her into a trap of share market investment. The fraudsters promised her high returns if she started investing through their application," said a police officer involved in the investigation.

Investigators said the suspects used multiple unidentified mobile numbers to remain in contact with the woman and provided her with several bank account details for transferring the money. The transactions continued after the woman was shown increasing profits on the purported trading platform.However, when she attempted to withdraw the profits in late September, the suspects allegedly told her that she needed to deposit more money to complete the withdrawal process. They subsequently demanded additional payments under various pretexts.The woman then approached National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, following which her complaint was transferred to Noida Cybercrime Branch for investigation. Police have registered a case against the unidentified suspects under relevant sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including cheating and cheating by personation, along with provisions of Information Technology Act.

Students take to streets as 'land sharks' try to grab school land in Dankaur

Noida.(Agency)

Students of Bihari Lal Inter College in Dankaur took to the streets on Wednesday to protest against an alleged attempt to encroach on their school's land.According to a complaint submitted by the management, a group allegedly attempted to forcibly occupy a portion of the school's land on Sept 19. The incident took place around 8pm after which the management contacted police and other officials. Cops arrived at the school and stopped the men, but a boundary wall of the school was completely damaged, the complaint said.

"The school was built 78 years ago, in 1948, and was recognised by the state govt. The institution has been run from the same premises without interruption. Then, why are land mafias suddenly encroaching on it? The administration must look into this," the principal of the school, Mahekar Singh, said.Police said the buyers had started



construction on the school's land on Wednesday when a group of students removed the newly laid bricks, prompting a protest. The school currently has around 1,800 students enrolled.The management has now sought police protection to rebuild the damaged boundary wall and take legal action against those allegedly involved in the incident.A senior officer at Dankaur police station said two men from Nawada village had bought a plot of land adjacent to the school and when they started construction at the site on Wednesday, the principal and manager of the private school raised an objection and informed the cops.

"They said that the land is caught in a legal dispute and the matter is pending before the sub-divisional magistrate. When we got the call, a police response vehicle and a team of cops went to the spot. They counselled both parties and told them to maintain peace and ensure the status quo regarding construction on the disputed land," the officer said.Students who had gathered at the spot were pacified and sent back to the school. "The revenue department has been asked to take necessary action. Peace and order are currently maintained at the site," he added.The SDM said a report has been sought from both sides.

Homebuyers can claim compensation for delay even after taking possession: Punjab and Haryana HC

Gurgaon.Agency)

Punjab and Haryana high court has ruled that taking possession of a flat or executing a conveyance deed does not extinguish a homebuyer's statutory right to claim compensation for delayed possession under Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act. Justice Jagmohan Bansal held that the promoter's liability under Section 18(1) of the Act is mandatory and cannot be overridden by contractual terms or reduced merely because a buyer accepted possession.However, the court laid a limitation principle: although Rera prescribes no specific period for filing such complaints, buyers cannot approach the authority indefinitely. For cases where possession and conveyance have taken place, three years from handover would be a reasonable period, subject to exclusion of the Covid period from March 15, 2020 to Feb 28, 2022, the court said, while deciding 47 appeals filed by Emaar India against homebuyers of Gurgaon Greens in Sector 102.

The court rejected Emaar's argument that execution of a conveyance deed ended the contractual relationship and barred buyers from approaching Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HRera) for interest on delayed possession.

HC noted that, unlike Section 19(8) of the Act, which expressly allows reduction of an allottee's interest liability by mutual agreement, Section 18(1) contains no provision permitting waiver or reduction of the promoter's liability through an agreement.Accepting possession and executing a conveyance deed, by itself, does not amount to waiver of the right to claim interest for delay, said the court, adding that the liability crystallises when the home is handed over, giving the allottee the right to approach the authority if the promoter has not discharged it.assaulted people in the lane and damaged three-four vehicles parked there.

4 reminders in 3 months but 21 Ghaziabad schools yet to adhere to bus safety norms

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The transport department plans to take enforcement action against 21 schools whose buses have failed to meet prescribed safety norms. The department has issued notices and directed all schools to ensure compliance. Officials said the schools were sent four reminders in the past three months but did not comply with the safety norms.Enforcement teams will now begin checking school buses from Wednesday at major intersections and along school routes across the city. "Schools have been given sufficient opportunity to comply with the safety requirements. No further extension will be given," an official said.



During the enforcement drive, buses found operating without the required safety arrangements or documents may face penalties and other action under the applicable rules. Officials said enforcement would continue until all school buses operating in the district comply with the prescribed safety norms.Legal action could be initiated against the schools concerned, officials added.Under the prescribed norms, school buses are required to be equipped with CCTV cameras, GPS tracking systems, panic buttons, first-aid boxes, fire extinguishers and emergency exits/windows. The vehicles must also have valid fitness certificates, while drivers and conductors are required to undergo character verification.The action comes against the backdrop of a wider transport department crackdown on school-vehicle safety in Ghaziabad. TOI had earlier reported that the department had issued notices to 215 schools for failing to complete police verification and health checks of school-bus drivers.The inspection drive was also examining mandatory safety equipment and documents, including fitness certificates, permits, insurance, fire extinguishers, first-aid kits, CCTV cameras and GPS systems.At the time, officials said only 1,660 of around 2,300 school vehicles registered with the department had complied with the driver-verification requirement.

Thai woman accuses Kanpur 'husband' of Rs 60 lakh fraud, hiding another marriage

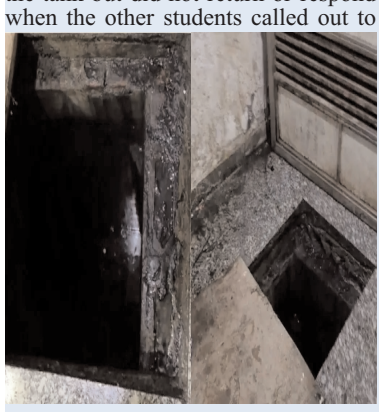
Lucknow. (Agency)
Travelling 3,000 km from Thailand to Kanpur, a 35-year-old woman went looking for the man she said she married — and the Rs 60 lakh she had lent him. The man, a tannery businessman named Mohammad Irfan, had stopped answering her calls and cut off contact. When she went to his Kanpur home, she allegedly discovered that he was already married and had children. The woman approached Kanpur Police on Tuesday, alleging that Irfan and his family members assaulted and threatened her when she confronted him and pressured her to convert to Islam.



Based on her complaint, Kanpur Police arrested Irfan and registered an FIR against him at Anwarganj police station under charges including assault. Police also invoked provisions of the anti-conversion law against him. "We have arrested Irfan in connection with the case. The woman's allegations are being examined, and necessary verification is being carried out," said Assistant Commissioner of Police, Kanpur, Manjay Singh. He added that Irfan has admitted to marrying the woman and is being produced before the court. The woman has been sent for medical examination and the report is awaited. 'We got married two years ago' According to police, the woman, who runs a restaurant and a canteen in Thailand, met Irfan through social media around four years ago.

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

Lucknow. (Agency)
Four students died after inhaling suspected poisonous gas inside an unused underground water tank at a gurukul in Mathura's Vrindavan late Tuesday night, when a group of students went into the tank to investigate a foul smell, police said. Two owners of Maharishi Panini Sanskrit Gurkulam have been taken into custody. The incident came to light after 11.30 pm. Mathura Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Shlok Kumar, told The Indian Express that preliminary investigation so far has revealed that a group of students were cooking food on the ground floor of the ashram when a foul smell wafted out of the water tank nearby. The water tank, about 15 ft deep, was unused and was covered with a concrete lid.
The SSP said the students initially tried to get rid of the smell by removing the small amount of water inside the tank with a bucket. One of the students then volunteered to go inside. He climbed down the stairs built into the tank but did not return or respond when the other students called out to



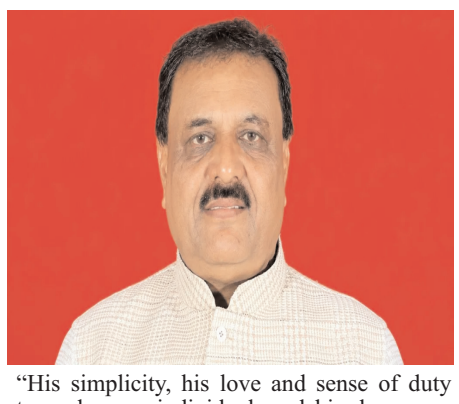
him. Four others went down one after another in an attempt to bring him out. All of them fell unconscious, causing panic among other students waiting outside. Staff members and local residents then pulled all five students out of the tank, the SSP said.
A police team had rushed to the gurukul by then. Policemen tried performing CPR and gave first aid to the students, but it did not help; they were all rushed to the hospital. Four of the students — Manu Katare, 21, of Jabalpur; Vishu and Aryan, 18, of Meerut and Kaushambi; and Devansh, 17, of Vidisha — died during treatment in the early hours of Wednesday. The fifth student survived and is currently stable, Kumar said. SSP Kumar said they are waiting for families of the victims to file a complaint so they can register a case.

Senior Congress leader and former Amreli MP Virji Thummar dies

Thummar was elected to the Assembly multiple times and played an active role in the cooperative sector of Amreli district

Ahmedabad. (Agency)
Senior Congress leader and former legislator Virji Thummar died on Wednesday at the age of 67. Known for raising his voice for farmers in Saurashtra and fighting for their issues, Thummar was battling cancer for some time now. Born in Amreli on May 31,1959, Thummar, a commerce graduate, was elected to the Assembly for the first time in 1990 from the Babra constituency on a Janata Dal ticket. He won from the constituency again in 1995, but on a Congress ticket. Thummar was elected to the Lok Sabha from Amreli in the 2004 elections. He also served as Congress MLA from the Lathi assembly constituency in Amreli between 2017 and 2022. He had contested the 2022 Gujarat Assembly elections from Lathi, but lost to the BJP candidate.In the organisation, he worked as Congress general secretary, vice president and state president of the Kisan Congress. He also played an active role in the cooperative sector of Amreli district. His daughter Jenny Thummar, a Congress leader, is also active in politics. She was president of the Gujarat Pradesh Mahila Congress and unsuccessfully contested as a Congress candidate from Amreli seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

'Senior warrior'
Condoling his demise, general secretary of All India Congress Committee, Randeep Singh Surjewala said the "Congress family has lost a mighty banyan tree from our midst."He wrote on X: "The news of the passing of Virjibhai Thummar—a vital pillar of the Gujarat Congress, senior leader, former MP, and former MLA—has left everyone's eyes moist and hearts heavy with grief. With his demise, the Congress family has lost a mighty banyan tree from our midst."



"His simplicity, his love and sense of duty toward every individual, and his deep connection to farming and agriculture will forever be etched in people's hearts. My heartfelt condolences to the family members and all dear ones and supporters. Especially to his daughter and Congress leader, Jenny Thummar—may God grant you strength, and may Veerjibhai's blessings and values forever guide your life's path," he added. Paying tributes to the senior leader, Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee president Amit Chavda said "Virjibhai raised his voice to address the people's issues" and that his demise is a "great loss for the entire Gujarat and the Congress family".
"His simplicity, spirit of service, and unwavering dedication to public service will always be remembered," Chavda said. Congress Legislative Party leader in the Assembly Dr Tushar Chaudhary said the Congress has lost a "senior warrior". Several senior Congress leaders are expected to attend his funeral procession to be held on Wednesday evening.

Forced bigamy, Gujarat woman's bold escape, and a chilling 'purification'

Woman, lover forced to perform sexual acts in public, filmed while doing so; man claiming to be her husband among 9 arrested by Surendranagar Police

Ahmedabad (Agency)
When the police team entered the house in Surendranagar in Gujarat's Saurashtra region, they saw a woman cooking at the stove. She seemed to be just another rural housewife, making lunch. But the officers knew she was not any woman – she was a woman whom they had seen in a horrific video that had been circulating in the area. As the woman turned toward them, the officers saw that the right side of her face and her right hand were swollen, and her eye was bruised. "As soon as she saw us, she broke down in tears, and started to plead with us to take her away from there," Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Vedika Bihani told The Indian Express on Wednesday (October 7). On Tuesday, ASP Bihani and her team had rescued the battered woman who had undergone a brutal, humiliating, public ordeal the previous day at the hands of a man who claimed to be her husband, and members of the man's extended family. Bihani and her team from the jurisdictional police station had managed to locate the woman less than an hour after Surendranagar Superintendent of Police (SP) Premsukh Delu received a call on October 6 morning from a community leader who told him about a certain video circulating on social media. The purported video, shot in a semi-rural locality of Surendranagar, showed an alleged "purification ritual", in which a woman and her alleged lover were subjected to abject humiliation in public, SP Delu was told. The video had allegedly been shot around 9 am on October 5. Police said it showed nine persons, including two women, forcing the victimised woman and her alleged lover to engage in sexual acts while being tied with rope.



The acts in the purported video included making the man lick the woman's private parts, followed by making the woman urinate in a vessel and the man being forced to drink the urine, police said. All nine accused, including the man claiming to be the woman's husband, have since been rounded up. Police officers said they had been booked under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 (BNS) relating to gangrape, voluntarily causing hurt, and wrongful confinement, as well as sections of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act).
All the accused are members of the extended family of the man who has been claiming to be the husband of the woman, police said. Notably, police said that the prime accused in the case cannot be legally considered to be the husband of the victim, considering that he already had a wife and children in his home in Vapi city of Valsad when he married the victim. "The complainant woman was married in a traditional manner to the main accused in this case, and had gone to live with him in Vapi. But she ran away from there, and came back to live with her lover," ASP Bihani told

Varanasi woman says in-laws concealed husband's HIV status before marriage, four booked

Lucknow. (Agency)
A 27-year-old woman in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi has accused her in-laws of concealing her husband's HIV status at the time of their wedding, claiming they got him married off to her for dowry even as he was undergoing treatment for the disease. Based on her complaint, the Varanasi police have registered a case against her husband, in-laws and brother-in-law, who are residents of Mau district.
In her complaint, the woman alleged that her in-laws threatened her with serious consequences if she disclosed her husband's medical condition to anyone. She also accused her father-in-law of attempting to sexually assault her and her mother-in-law of supporting him.



The FIR was registered under the Dowry Prohibition Act, and charges of assault or criminal force to outrage a woman's modesty, voyeurism, cruelty and others.
"The victim has produced medical documents in support of her allegations, and we are verifying them," said an officer posted at the police station concerned. The woman told the police that she got married to the man in February 2024 and that her parents spent around Rs 20 lakh on the wedding. A few days after the marriage, she learned that her husband was infected by HIV and had been undergoing medication and treatment in Mau, she claimed.
The woman further alleged that when she questioned her in-laws about her husband's medical condition, the family members confined her to a room, assaulted her and threatened her with serious consequences. She claimed they told her that if she disclosed the matter to anyone in her parental family, they would kill her. She further alleged that her in-laws later demanded Rs 5 lakh from her fami-

5 trekkers missing amid heavy snowfall in Himachal's Dhauladhar Range traced

The trekkers had set out from Bir in Kangra district on October 5 and were scheduled to reach Bharmour in Chamba district on Wednesday. When they failed to arrive, an alert was sounded.

Shimla. (Agency)
Five trekkers, who went missing in the higher reaches of the Dhauladhar Range in Himachal Pradesh, were traced hours after they failed to arrive at a designated point, officials said on Thursday. The trekkers were heading towards the remote Bada Bhangal



tribal area, which has witnessed heavy snowfall over the past two days. The trekkers have been identified as Ankur Malani, Satyam Sabu, Pawan, Shyam R and Tarun Rathi, all believed to be between 28 and 35 years of age. Their native places are yet to be confirmed."A local resident conveyed through the satellite phone that the trekkers were found at Bada Banghal. They are expected to come to an area with mobile connectivity by evening," Vikas Sharma, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Bharmour, said. According to the administration, the trekkers had set out from Bir in Kangra district towards Rajgundha on October 5. From Rajgundha, they were expected to trek towards Bada Bhangal and scheduled to reach Bharmour in Chamba district on Wednesday. However, when they failed to arrive at the designated point, an alert was sounded. "When they did not reach Bharmour as scheduled, a woman who was to receive them contacted the Bharmour administration and informed officials. The Bharmour administration passed the information to us. We have alerted our teams and are coordinating efforts to trace them," Sankalp Gautam, SDM, Baijnath, said earlier on Thursday.

Punjab orders blue, yellow paint for 3602 more schools, 'AAP flag colors', Opposition had alleged

A similar order issued in December last year had kicked off a political row after the Opposition parties had alleged that the decision was political, as the blue and yellow were the colors of ruling AAP's flag.

Ludhiana. (Agency)
Nine months after a similar decision had kicked off a political storm in the state, the Punjab education department has issued a fresh order to paint at least 3602 government schools in the state in the shades of yellow and blue. An amount of Rs 80.45 crore has been released to the schools for the work, says the letter. According to an order issued by the Director General of School Education (DGSE) dated October 1, at least 3602 schools in the state will be whitewashed and color coded in the shades of yellow and blue. The order also has an attached graphical pictorial representation of how the school will look after paint, which shows the outer building painted in shades of yellow and blue.
A similar order issued in December last year had kicked off a political row after the Opposition parties had alleged that the decision was political, as the blue and yellow were the colors of ruling AAP's flag. In December, 852 schools were covered under the new colour code. The fresh order to paint 3602 schools has come when the assembly elections in Punjab are less than six months away. According to the order, the outer buildings of the schools, including verandah and corridors, have to be painted in a combination of "egg custard" and "enamel rhapsody" shades, which the Opposition parties have alleged are similar to the colors of AAP's flag. The whitewashing and color coding of 3602 schools will be done under the "Converting Govt schools into Smart Schools scheme", and will cost Rs 80.45 crore. These include 764 high schools, 411 middle, 1,895 primary and 532 senior secondary. The highest 334 schools will undergo



color coding in Amritsar district, followed by Patiala 326, Bathinda: 117, Fatehgarh Sahib 131, Ferozepur 164, Gurdaspur 240, Hoshiarpur 236, Jalandhar 231, Ludhiana 261, Sangrur: 144, Ropar: 80, Tarn Taran 192 among others.When contacted, Aravind Kumar MK, Director General of School Education (DGSE), Punjab, confirmed that the October 1 order has been issued by his office.
In December, the DGSE had told IE: "There is nothing political behind the choice of the colors. Schools are just undergoing routine renovation and whitewash."

West Asia again tests limits of military power

On September 30, the last American troops assigned to the mission against Islamic State left Iraq—23 years after the invasion. Baghdad celebrated, but the harder question remains: can the State disarm militias on its own soil?

Across West Asia, the same gap between military power and political authority persists. Israel holds most of Gaza but has not ended Hamas. Washington has choked Iran's oil exports but cannot force a deal. Riyadh can bomb Yemen but has not broken the Houthis' hold on Bab al-Mandeb. The thesis is simple: force wins battles, not political settlements.

The withdrawal followed a timetable negotiated before the current war with Iran. After departing in 2011, American forces returned in 2014 to fight Islamic State. The latest exit allows Iran-aligned factions to claim victory. But Iranian dominance is hardly assured—Iraq's competing interests and nationalism matter. Even so, the test is whether Baghdad can bring armed factions under effective State authority by its revised June 2027 deadline.

That task goes beyond collecting weapons. Some factions are embedded within publicly-funded security institutions while maintaining independent command structures and economic interests. Kurdish concerns about lost air defences and surviving Islamic State cells compound the risks. At the same time, Iraq's dependence on Iranian gas and on dollar access via its central bank's New York Federal Reserve account preserves the leverage of both Tehran and Washington.The Iran war makes this transition hazardous. US-Israeli attacks began on February 28, killing Iran's supreme leader and damaging its military capabilities. April's ceasefire ended 40 days of full-scale fighting, but diplomacy failed to secure a durable settlement. Meanwhile, Tehran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-backed system has survived, despite sanctions and a US maritime blockade. Its capacity to threaten neighbouring infrastructure remains significant.Tehran's internal divisions now complicate negotiations, while reports of a third American carrier group heading towards the region and Iran's preparations for renewed fighting underscore the risk. Neither diplomacy nor military pressure has secured an exit yet.

At Hormuz, more oil is flowing. American protection along routes through Omani waters, alternative pipelines and ship-to-ship transfers have helped exports recover. Yet attacks persist, refined-product flows remain weak, and gas shipments lag well below normal levels. Restored volumes do not signal restored security. For that reason, the G7's planned release of 100 million barrels from emergency stocks may cushion prices, but it cannot resolve the insecurity that keeps freight and insurance costs high.At the other end of the Arabian peninsula, Houthi advances along Yemen's Red Sea coast have strengthened their leverage around Bab al-Mandeb. Their gains are both territorial in Yemen and strategic against Saudi Arabia. Coastal control lets them threaten the waterway's southern approaches; it does not confer sovereignty over the strait or indicate that all shipping has stopped.

The geography leaves Riyadh exposed. Its East-West pipeline bypasses Hormuz by carrying crude to Yanbu, but tankers sailing from there towards Asia still have to navigate the Bab al-Mandeb. Moreover, the pipeline's disruption by drones launched from Iraqi territory illustrates how the fronts overlap. An alternative route offers limited reassurance, as its infrastructure and exit remain vulnerable.For Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, this threatens the confidence underpinning Vision 2030. Investment and tourism require stability;

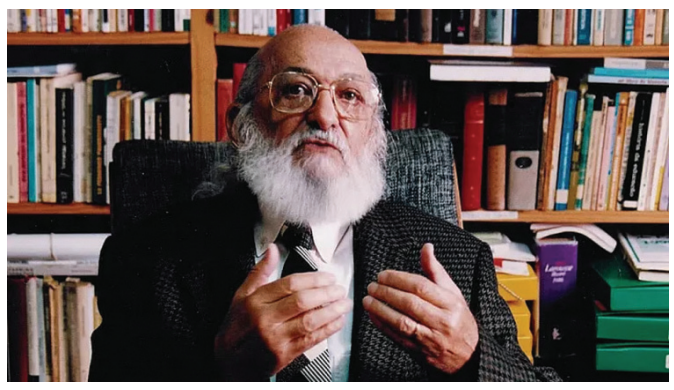
Students need to challenge stasis

There is something deeply unsettling about the state of education in India today. What we are witnessing on the streets and within educational institutions across the country are not isolated disturbances; they are symptoms of an anxiety that can no longer be ignored.

Never before have so many young people entered universities, competed in examinations, accumulated degrees and been asked to dream of a better future. Yet beneath this unprecedented expansion lies a growing unease. Students worry that a flawed or manipulated exam can alter their lives overnight; that recruitment processes may remain uncertain for years; that the cost of education and living will keep rising; and that, even after doing everything society has asked of them, there may be no place waiting for them.This is why Paulo Freire feels remarkably contemporary. Reading Pedagogy of the Oppressed alongside Pedagogy of Hope offers us more than a critique of education. It gives us a language to understand the unease of India's students and, perhaps, to recognise that what appears as student unrest may also be a deeper crisis of an educational system that has expanded access without necessarily expanding agency, dignity and hope.Freire begins with a deceptively simple proposition that education is never only about knowledge, it also shapes how we understand ourselves and the world around us. It tells us whose knowledge counts, which questions are legitimate and what kinds of authority should go unquestioned. His famous critique of the "banking model of education" is more profound than a criticism of dull classrooms. In this model, the teacher deposits knowledge and the student receives it. The student learns to reproduce rather than interrogate, to remember rather than investigate, to answer rather than ask.

The danger is not simply that such an education produces unimaginative students but it can also make the existing social order appear natural. If knowledge always comes from above, perhaps authority does too. If the student's role is to receive, perhaps the citizen's role is also to obey and this has particular resonance in India, where education is simultaneously an instrument of emancipation and a mechanism through which inequalities can be reproduced.For crores of young Indians, education remains the most credible route out of inherited disadvantage. But the quality of schooling, access to technology, command over English, coaching opportunities, university networks and even the ability to remain in education for longer are distributed unequally. The promise of merit therefore often hides very unequal starting points and the dominant section of the society prefers to ignore it.The exam system makes this contradiction especially visible as a student may spend years preparing for a competitive exam only to confront a leaked paper, a postponed test, a cancelled result or a recruitment process that seems to have no predictable end. When this happens, the student is not merely facing an administrative inconvenience. Something more fundamental is shaken within them and that is the belief that effort will be met with fairness.

This helps explain the intensity of student anxiety across the country. We often describe it as an individual psychological problem, as pressure, stress or fear of



failure. But some of that anxiety is institutional, as it is produced by uncertainty in the systems on which young people have been asked to build their lives.

Consider the message conveyed by repeated disruptions in exams and recruitment. Students are told to work harder and compete better, as though success depends entirely on individual effort. Yet no amount of preparation can compensate for a cancelled exam, an unavailable vacancy or an arbitrary institutional decision. The individual is made responsible for outcomes that are, in significant measure, systemic.Freire helps us see why this matters. Domination does not always arrive in dramatic form because it can be embedded in procedures that appear neutral and in arrangements that are described as simply "the way things are". The most powerful hierarchy may be the one nobody is encouraged to question. That is why student protest deserves to be understood differently.

When students protest exam irregularities, recruitment delays, unaffordable accommodation or discrimination, their anger is often dismissed as impatience or political provocation. But what if the protest is itself a demand for education to honour its promise?A university cannot ask young people to trust institutions while giving them repeated reasons not to. Nor can it tell students that merit is the great equaliser while ignoring the unequal conditions under which merit is produced and judged.

Seen this way, the apparently separate grievances of students begin to acquire a common thread. The demand for a fair examination, a timely recruitment process, affordable education or a dignified campus experience is also a demand for institutional credibility.And this is where Pedagogy of Hope becomes essential because, for Freire, hope is not passive optimism but the conviction that history remains unfinished, that the present is not destiny. Hope begins when people understand that institutions and social arrangements made by human beings can also be changed by human beings.

This is precisely what education should cultivate, yet much of our educational culture teaches the opposite lesson. Students are encouraged to secure a degree, clear the exam, obtain employment and move ahead. The emphasis is overwhelmingly on adaptation: learn the rules, perform well, compete successfully. There is nothing wrong with preparing young people for employment. However, the problem begins when employability becomes the sole purpose of education.A democratic university must also teach students to ask why the rules exist, whom they serve and whether they can be improved. It must make room for disagreement without treating disagreement as disorder and it must allow students to discover that questioning an institution can sometimes be a way of strengthening it.

This also changes how we should thin about the anxiety of India's students. Their restlessness may not simply be a failure of resilience. It may reflect an acute awareness of the distance between the promises made to them and the opportunities actually available.We tell young people that education will transform their lives. They are therefore entitled to ask whether the institutions entrusted with that education are worthy of their trust. A student who questions a recruitment delay is not necessarily being disruptive. One who challenges discrimination is not necessarily being divisive. And one who demands accountability from a university is not necessarily hostile to the institution or to the rule of law. More often than not, dissent is simply the first language of citizenship.Freire's lasting contribution is to remind us that learning can serve two very different purposes. It can teach people to adjust themselves to an existing reality, or it can give them the intellectual and moral resources to question and transform it. At this juncture, can we really deny that India needs the latter?

Our students do not need institutions that merely prepare them to survive the world as it is. They need the intellectual freedom to imagine a fairer and more just world, and the confidence and capacity to participate in creating it. That is learning against the status quo and that is what makes a democracy worthy of its citizens.

Let due process reveal if key ECI calls were taken by consensus

The Supreme Court has, for now, refused to pass any ex parte order against Kumar, instead issuing notices to him, the ECI and the law ministry to file their affidavits before the next hearing on October 27

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi became the face of the opposition's protest in Delhi on Tuesday against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and his controversial special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Climbing atop multi-layer steel barricades and waving the tricolour, he personified the national political resistance against SIR, having consistently attacked the poll body for years over what he called 'vote theft' under Kumar's watch as CEC. Rahul then slipped out of the police cordon and entered the premises of Akashvani Bhavan, adjacent to the Election Commission of India's office, along with sister Priyanka and others. They were later briefly detained. However, there was no untoward event, unlike the pitched battles and police firing during the campaign against the NEET-UG paper leak a few months ago.The mass mobilisation came a day after the Supreme Court denied having allowed the ECI to modify the statutory Form 6, the document used for voter enrolment, in its May 27 judgement on Bihar's SIR. A declaration attached to Form 6 became contentious after



the other two election commissioners, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, reportedly objected to it. However, the ECI later claimed the declaration was part of the Bihar SIR, which had been upheld by the Supreme Court. The court also refused to pass any ex parte order against Kumar, instead issuing notices to him, the ECI and the law ministry to file their affidavits before the next hearing on October 27. It further sought the file notings on all SIR-related orders to verify whether they were unanimous. If any decision was taken unilaterally, the court assured it would annul it.

The file notings could possibly unravel differences of opinion within the ECI on critical SIR-related matters and how they were reconciled, if the poll body's claim that all final decisions were taken by consensus is anything to go by. Chances are they would also reveal the "naraz fufa" (disgruntled uncle) who allegedly leaked the rumblings within the ECI to the media. Kumar can only blame himself for the perception of arrogance in his dealings with the opposition so far. Files ought to show whether or not he gave equal respect to his fellow election commissioners. Let the relevant official records speak for themselves. That's worth waiting for.

Three years on, Israel has less leeway

The world is speaking up against the illegality of Israeli actions after 2023 Hamas attack

THE third anniversary of the October 7, 2023, massacre in Israel comes at an unusual time. Opposition parties are asking Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to respond to allegations that Egypt and the UAE had warned him about an imminent attack by Hamas just days before it happened. His refusal to allow an independent State Commission of Inquiry has only fuelled speculation about what he knew about the attack and when he knew about it.

With the Israeli elections coming up on October 27, the near-tragedy of the flydubai flight to Tel Aviv last week has also been thrown into the political scrum. The Opposition in Israel is calling the episode an intelligence failure, even as Netanyahu is co-opting the undoubted valour of Capt Smit Machchhar to present himself as the resolute leader in the face of a 9/11-type suicide mission.For Netanyahu, the forthcoming elections are more than a matter of political survival. They are also his "stay out of jail" card as he faces criminal charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust in Israeli courts and an arrest warrant for war crimes issued by the International Criminal Court. Opinion polls predict a close race. In a development that reminds us of events closer to home, Israel's Supreme Court announced a unanimous verdict on October 2, overturning a decision of the Central Elections Committee to disqualify two Arab-majority parties from running in the elections.October 7 also reminds us that it is almost a year since US President Donald Trump announced the Gaza Peace Agreement in Sharm el-Sheikh on October 25, 2025. It secured the release of all Israeli hostages but has failed to alleviate the plight of the Palestinians, who continue to face near-daily attacks despite the supposed ceasefire. Israel has taken effective control of the fertile eastern part of Gaza through its 'Yellow Line' buffer zone, with Netanyahu boasting



that he has instructed the Israeli Defence Forces to expand this newly occupied zone from 60% of Gaza to 70%.

Even before October 7, 2023, the two million inhabitants of Gaza lived in one of the most crowded places on earth, barely 41 km long and 6-12 km wide. It was called the world's largest open-air prison because land, air and sea access were controlled by Israel. And now, the same population has been squeezed into ramshackle tents on a narrow coastal strip without access to sanitation, healthcare or education. Google Maps contrasting the period before and after October 7 are a stark reminder of the destruction wrought in Gaza by Israel's genocidal campaign. The aim, articulated frequently by several Israeli leaders, is to "encourage the voluntary departure of Palestinians."Meanwhile, the pogroms being launched by extremist Jewish settlers against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank with much the same objective have become the latest flashpoint. The intent behind the tenders for the controversial E1 settlement envisaging 1,200 Jewish homes in its first phase is clear. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich says E1 will eventually take the Jewish settler population in the West Bank to one million and definitively "bury the idea of a Palestinian state."

Much of this is happening in plain sight. And the ripples are now being felt in faraway Washington DC. For decades, strong bipartisan support in Congress had given Israel a unique diplomatic cover that even allowed Netanyahu to defy the wishes of an incumbent US President and make his case against Iran directly to a joint session of Congress. That bipartisan support has clearly frayed.A Bill in the US Senate requiring the President to report to Congress on increasing violence in the occupied West Bank was narrowly defeated (51-47) on September 29, with as many as 46 out of 47 Democrats voting in favour of the proposed legislation. The politicians are listening to their voters. A Pew opinion poll in July revealed that 60% of American adults have an unfavourable view of Israel, with those under 30 expressing a more favourable view of the Palestinian people (58%) than of the Israelis (32%). Among young Democrats, the gap is even starker — 72% favour Palestinians and just 26% prefer Israelis.

Clearly, the world is watching, and beginning to speak up loud and clear against the manifest illegality of Israeli actions. The recently concluded 81st session of the UN General Assembly saw France, the UK, Italy, Denmark, Spain, Ireland and half a dozen other European countries condemn the expansion of illegal settlements and threaten trade restrictions and other sanctions against products and services emanating from these settlements. These countries have traditionally been some of Israel's staunchest allies, rather than the Asian or African states that could be airily dismissed as the usual suspects.

India, historically one of the most vocal supporters of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, has been largely missing in action, even though we continue to provide financial, medical and technical aid to the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah. Our expanding defence and intelligence partnership with Israel is, of course, a vital part of our national security architecture; our categorical denunciation of the 2023 Hamas terror attack was the right thing to do. But speaking up against the horrors in Gaza and the occupied West Bank and calling out the illegality of the attack on Iran is also the right thing to do.

Get rid of Stress instantly at Work

With so many things happening at work and in one's personal life, it is natural for us to get stressed out.



There are many ways of relieving stress, like getting a massage at the spa or unwinding in the bathtub, but these are time consuming. When you are at work, it helps to know some instant stress-busters that will take the edge off and help you maintain your cool. Here are a few stress busters that work instantly.

Listen to music: Just play some music when you notice your stress level rising or feel that you are on the verge of losing your cool. Music is a good distraction, which reduces muscle tension and cuts the stress hormones. Maintain a groovy play list that will lift your mood instantly at work.

Dial a friend: The quickest way to put a smile back on your face is by calling a loved one. This releases a feel-good hormone called oxytocin, which lifts your mood instantly. Keep your phone handy the next time you feel the stress rising.

Scribble a note: When you feel overwhelmed, it helps to write down your thoughts. Make a note of the things that need to be done and adopt a step-by-step process, listing down the way that you would want to go about the task.

Take a walk: Sometimes the best way to relieve stress is to just walk it out. Pull yourself away from your work station and go out and get some fresh air. It clears your head and helps you think straight. Even a two-minute walk can work wonders.

Reward yourself: You can do this in many ways — treat yourself by going shopping, watch a movie or go out for a nice meal. Even planning a fun activity while at work for the end of the day can take the load off.

Get some chocolates: A lot of people binge when they are stressed out, but we are not encouraging that. You can perhaps have a piece of your favourite chocolate or an ice cream, which will distract you from your current situation instantly.

De-clutter your desk: More often than not, this provides a much-needed distraction when one is stressed out. Get rid of the unwanted things that you have been collecting over time. You will be amazed at how much this helps in keeping you calm.

Play a game: Take a break and play a game online or on your phone. Killing a few of those angry birds virtually will bring a smile on your face and take your attention off the problems at work.

Do a few stretches: Taking a few minutes off and doing some stretches will help loosen your muscles and drive the tension away. Massage your neck and shoulders lightly, and feel the difference instantly.

Drink water: Drinking water helps calm your nerves. So, if you are on the verge of losing your cool at work, start drinking some ice cold water before you get into an argument or get ready to have a face-off.



Signs that you are stressed out

Sleep problems

Hair fall, with dandruff

Fatigue

Muscle tension

Upset stomach

Memory loss

Losing your appetite, or gaining weight

Change in sex drive

Reduced immunity

Kids can cook too!

From assembling lasagna to creating fun salads and desserts, more children are taking over in the kitchen today



Parents usually shoo their tots out of the kitchen, but studies show that involving kids in the preparation of meals actually opens their minds and makes them likely to try new foods. They taste, touch, feel, smell and see, so the five senses get heightened. The whole experience can also build joy and act as a positive reinforcement. "The eating habits kids form in the first ten years of their life, lasts with them a lifetime; a great way to get kids connected with healthy food is to allow them to cook it," says food consultant Rushina Munshaw-Ghildiyal.

Not kidding!

So what are kids cooking? "Practically everything," she says. "Today's kids are way ahead of us - they know their pepperoni from salami and parmesan from their mozzarella." Is there a gender difference in cooking choices? "Well, most girls lean toward baking, cupcakes etc, but boys are messier and they also make pasta and noodles and ready- to-eat stuff. My son bakes bread too. What they cook also depends on their age - six-year-olds can't do fire-based cooking; for them, it's more assembly-style stuff. They can put together a lasagna, toss pasta and salad, roll out dough or make a sandwich. Older kids however, can do anything from a cookbook. They make schezwan



potatoes or firecracker noodles (colourful noodles in a healthy schezwan sauce) and a 12-year-old can do a tasty biryani."

Adds actress Tara Sharma, "My kids are quite little - two and four - but they really enjoy doing little things like making rotis and rolling atta, helping me make cup cakes etc," says Tara, who feels that exposing her kids to cooking helps them get interested in food, although she doesn't let them near any of the more serious stuff.

She also admits her kids are proud of what they prepare. "Cooking is good because even at a young age, they get confidence to do so. My granny makes pancakes and now they know how to do it themselves!" exclaims the proud mum.

Safety tips!

Parents should encourage children as early as possible to begin using kitchen equipment safely. Use special starter's stools, work with a plastic knife or give children play kitchens and play food. All of that is a good pace to start with little kids. You can allow them to stir things or buy them scissors instead of a knife.

-Let a child first use a plastic knife to get used to holding and using it right.

-Keep a small fire extinguisher and first-aid kit handy.

-Let kids chop on a non-slip surface.

-Have them wear kid gloves, especially when using a hot oven or if they are near dish.

-Always tie long hair to prevent it from falling into the food or catching fire.

-Wear an apron to protect the clothing.

-Never leave any cooking unattended.

Fanstasy foods that jump out of books...

-Hot scones with clotted cream and jam

-Wobbly jellies

-Treacle tarts

-Crumpets

-Peppermint toads

-Butterbeer cake pops

-Pumpkin pasties

-Candyfloss cupcakes

-Kidney pie

Advantages:

-The bonding time apart, you are also imparting a culture when cooking with your child.

-It makes kids develop a healthy attitude toward greens and other vegetables.

-Cooking builds self-esteem.

-Children know the difference between junk food and what has nutritional value.

-It makes children willing to try new foods.

What does your Sleeping position say about you?

Whether sprawled sideways across the bed or curled into a ball, we all have our preferred position when drifting off into a peaceful slumber.



But is there more to this than just personal comfort? Our body language while we sleep can reveal several aspects of our personality. Find out what your sleeping position says about you...

Fetal position: Curled on to one side with legs bent

What this says about you: Those who prefer sleeping in this position are known to have a tough exterior, but are actually shy and sensitive. Over time, they ultimately relax and become more social.

Log: Lying on the sides with legs stretched out and both arms resting on the sides

What this says about you: People who sleep in this position are social, easy-going and trusting. But they are also prone to gullibility.

Yearner: Sleeping on the side with both arms stretched out in front

What this says about you: Known as having an open personality, people who sleep in this position are prone to suspicion and cynicism. They are slow at making decisions, but once a choice is made, they stick to it.

Soldier: Lying on the back with both arms stretched out at the sides

What this says about you: People who sleep like this are disciplined. They set high expectations for themselves and others, and are generally quiet and reserved.

Freefall: Lying on the stomach with head turned to the side and arms curled near the pillow What this says about you: This style of sleeping reflects that the person is social and brash. But they are also inwardly nervous and sensitive to criticism.



Starfish: Stretched out on the back with legs sprawled and arms stretched up near the head What this says about you: These people make friendship a priority and dislike being the centre of attention. They prefer listening to the problems of others and go out of their way to assist those in need.

8 Top reasons why men Cheat



What makes men cheat? Dr Anjali Khurana, relationship counselor, dug through past research on male infidelity, and has even counseled couples and has arrived at the conclusion that most answers are from the wife's point of view. Here, some of his findings:

1. Disturbance in the marriage as the primary reason

When there are regular fights at home with his wife, which are left unresolved, a pattern sets in wherein he continues to be unhappy and 'disturbed'. In this kind of a scenario, either he can fight or he can flee. When he looks for an affair, he is looking to flee from dealing with the issues in the marriage, and be comfortable with that 'other person'. It is telling oneself that the problems do not affect anyone and life can continue in a better way with a parallel support.

2. Cheating men report boredom led to the affair

Some men may find the routine of a married life to be tedious and dull. These men find it easier to shift dominance or primacy to another relationship and feel the spark outside to be a thrilling option; instead of finding ways of charging their marriage. It becomes present moment for gratification versus the hard job that they will have to do in their marriage to resolve an issue. The extra-marital relationship provides them with a readymade and fresh experience, which is appealing enough to take the risk.

> There are reasons galore why men pull wool over the eyes of their wives. Oftentimes, it's out of spite and neglect, while the other times, it's because they feel they will never be caught.

3. Cheating men love to experiment sexually

Sex has always been and will always be an integral part of a marriage. While some men are quite content spending the rest of their lives having sex with the same wife for many years, others prefer to experiment more as a need, rather than as an option. They want to sleep with many women, many times, and therefore do not think twice before an extra-marital alliance. It perhaps makes them feel sexually powerful and more adept than others.

4. Cheating men are emotionally dissatisfied

When their wives are too busy with their own lives, working or bringing up children or even looking after in-laws and parents, emotionally, men are left high and dry. But men are emotionally driven beings too. They want their wives to show them that they're appreciated, and they want women to understand how hard they're trying to get things right. Most men consider it unmanly to ask for a pat on the back, which is why their emotional needs are often overlooked. Sometimes the couple may not be compatible so however much the wife may do, the man will always find something to complain about.

It may also happen that the woman he cheats with is his co-worker or boss, someone who praises him, looks up to him, and compliments his efforts. That's another reason why it's so critical that he feel valued at home.

5. Cheating men have a history of EMR

Some men, in their childhood, may have witnessed cheating in their parent's marriage. This somewhere gives them a message that it is okay to cheat, even though deep inside they know this is wrong. All of us learn from our parents, so taking the risk is good enough. This acquired learning also happens through cheating resorts taken by elder siblings, neighbours, peer group and everybody who has been impacted. Sometimes as teenagers and young adults, some men have had multiple relationships, these men either intentionally or accidentally end up going back to their ex-girlfriends. The other lot goes back to their past style of having multiple relationships. It is well said, what a mind thinks, achieves. So there are females also who are either consciously or unconsciously looking for such men.

6. Cheating men have wives who cheat

Men also take revenge with their cheating wives, by having multiple relationships themselves. Even if their wives are guilty and come accept their extra-marital relationships, some men continue with their tricks. This is mostly done by men who don't want to forgive their spouses.

7. Cheating men think it to be 'divorce'

Some men are willfully adulterous and use it as a means for acquiring divorce. The law also considers adultery as a fair ground for the wife to seek a divorce. The man is cheating openly and is in a non-receptive mood, taking the wife's feelings of frustration to an all-time high. Although this percentage is less but it is there.

8. Cheating men need to be needed

When men feel that they are not needed by their wife anymore, they look out for some other woman, who can understand them and make them feel special. As an obvious outcome of a new relationship, they get that feeling from the other woman. And suddenly when they are showered with attention, which they haven't received in a very long time in their marriage, they toss their hands in the air and get deep into the new hot and happening relationship.

5 winter must do's for girls



Winter is the time to enjoy and soak up in the sun. And especially women need to make most of the fun quotient that winter has in store for them.

Long drive

Road trips are really fun in winter. Whether it's that adrenaline pumping bike ride or a joyful car ride, long drives and lunch and snack stopovers are really fulfilled things one can really enjoy in a group.

Fun in the sun

A beach holiday with a bevy of young girls is also a nice idea. Put that sun screen on and enjoy the sun kissed beaches and the sparkling blue waters while on that perfect beach vacay.

Trekking

If you love adventure, then trekking is what you can do the best. Seek the company of experts in the field and have a field day.

Winter shopping

This needs the company of only your wallet. You can pick your favorite winter colours and make a splash by indulging in shopping fiesta. If you enjoy shopping in a group, it can be more fun.

Travelling

Winter is the ideal time to travel in India. Plan your trip. If you do not want to travel to far away places, choose a travel destination nearby. A heritage site visit in winter is also a good idea. You will come back home with a treasure trove of stories to tell your family and friends.





Signs he is ready to have a Baby

You want to have a baby but you're not sure whether your husband is on the same page. Instead of asking him directly, check for these signs that will tell you whether he too wants to start a family

1. He is financially stable

What about his career? Is he settled in a good job? Is he ready to take the responsibility? Once he is in a good job and has it all going smooth, that's the time he starts thinking about kids. For a baby, it is very important for you to be financially stable as a couple. Bringing up babies is an expensive affair and before you plan one you have to make sure you are capable of paying those bills. Once you are sure of financial stability, check for the signs given below.

2. He mentions 'when we have kids...' often

Do his day-to-day conversations include 'when we have kids...'? If he uses this phrase often, he is ready to have a family. Moreover, he may also talk about baby names he likes or what it would be like to have a baby at home. This means that he's already thought of having a kid. A guy who doesn't want to have a family will never mention anything about babies or kids.

3. He has a plan in mind

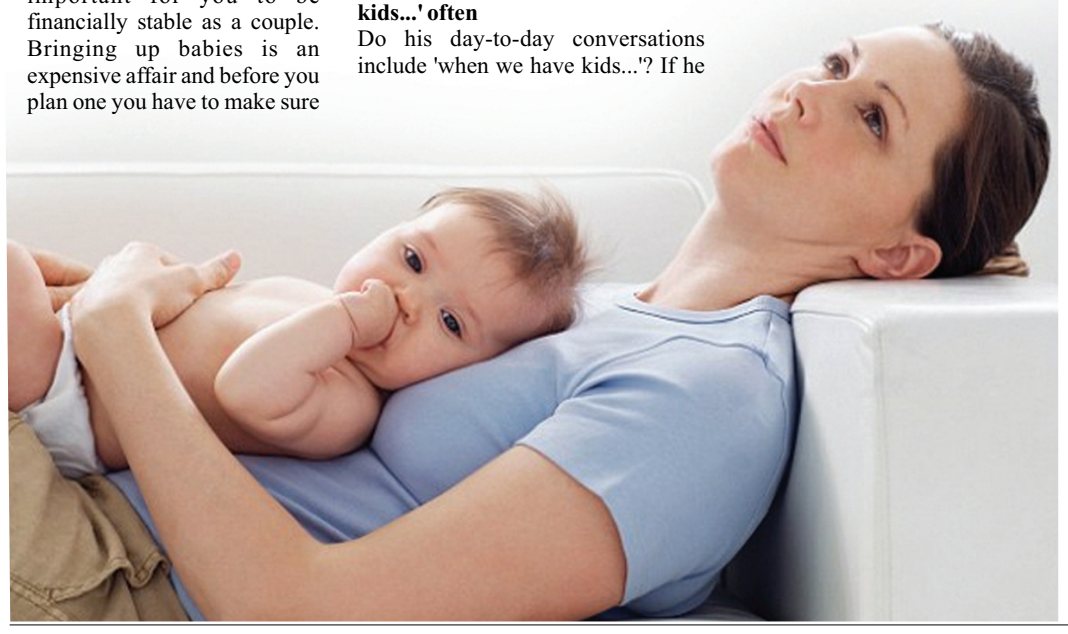
Having babies requires a lot of planning. If your husband or partner frequently says that he is planning to buy a bigger house or invest in a good car before having a baby, he is clearly interested in having a family. It is great that he is planning it well.

4. He talks to his parents about being grandparents

Notice what he says when he is around his parents of your parents. It is not normal for a guy who is not ready for a family to constantly talk about babies or about parents being grandparents when with parents. If he does discuss parenting and grand parenting, you two are definitely on the same page.

5. He often offers to babysit his nieces or nephews

Has he started practicing the skill to handle babies already? When he frequently asks to babysit, he may want to know what it is like spending a lot of time with babies. He may want to make sure whether this is something he really wants. This is a clear sign that he is thinking about his family.





5 Ways to make reading fun for your kid

With other attractive options like television and laptops, the habit of reading often takes a backseat among children.

Here's how you can make reading fun for your kid.

Read out aloud

Studies show that regularly reading out loud to children not only helps them enjoy the book better but also produces significant gains in their reading comprehension, vocabulary and decoding of words. Whether your children are preschoolers or preteens, it will increase their desire to read independently.

Surround kids with reading material

The reading material should be easily accessible in your house. If your child has a book lying around, he/she is more likely to pick it up and begin to read rather than reach out for the television remote.

Be a reading buddy

It is likely that your child will start reading if he/she sees you reading too. So, establish a daily 15 to 30 minute time when you grab a book and cozy up with your kid to read.

Encourage reading activities

Who says reading only means sitting in a corner with a book? Encourage your children to read on-the-go too. You could ask them to spell out hoardings on the road or read menu cards at restaurants.

Go shopping for books

Instead of bringing books home, involve your child while shopping for books. It will also help you understand the kind of books that the child likes.



Poll body to hold camps for displaced voters in Delhi

New Delhi (Agency)
Amid the row over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the Delhi poll body on Wednesday announced special camps for electors left out of the draft roll, including those displaced by recent demolitions. According to the Chief Electoral Officer, the camps will be held on October 9 and 11 at polling stations across the city. Booth-level officers (BLOs) will go door-to-door to identify eligible voters and help them apply through Form 6. The camps will cover residents displaced by demolitions. They can approach the camp nearest to their new address



and apply through Form 6.
The CEO's office said an elector whose name does not figure in the draft roll can apply with documents during the claims and objections period, extended till October 30. The final roll is scheduled for December 4. Electors marked absent, shifted, dead and duplicate (ASDD) during BLO verification can also apply through Form 6. The ASDD list has been uploaded on the CEO's website.
More than 33 lakh electors were issued notices for verification. EC had directed states and Union territories where SIR was completed to undertake special drives for eligible left-out electors. The poll body is also verifying draft-roll voters who received notices during SIR.
As of Wednesday, more than 13.62 lakh cases involving non-mapping and logical discrepancies had been verified. The August 31 draft roll excluded around 47.56 lakh names from Delhi's previous electorate of about 1.45 crore; around 97.5 lakh electors were included. Delhi has received over 4.11 lakh Form 6 applications and more than 3.34 lakh Form 8 applications.

Delhi records most polluted October first week in 3 years

New Delhi (Agency)
The capital has recorded its most polluted October first-week in three years, with the average Air Quality Index (AQI) settling at 171 this year, as the city's air quality dipped after withdrawal of monsoon. The average AQI of 171 during the first seven days of October is the highest since 2023, when the figure was 176, according to an analysis of official data by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). This October, AQI stood at 166 on the 1st, 174 on 2nd, 171 on 3rd, 187 on 4th, 184 on 5th, 179 on 6th and 136 on Wednesday, with the seven-days average at 171.
Over the last six years, the average AQI for the first seven days of



October was 112 in 2021, 141 in 2022, 176 in 2023, 155 in 2024, 117 in 2025 and 171 this year, with October 2026 having the second most polluted first-week, after 2023, during the six-year period. Delhi's AQI stood at 136 on Wednesday, in the 'moderate' category, according to Central Pollution Control Board data.
The Air Quality Early Warning System has forecast that Delhi's air quality is likely to remain in 'moderate' between October 8 and 10. The prevailing ventilation index below 6,000 square metres per second, coupled with an average wind speed of less than 10 kmph, is considered unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants.
As many as 70 stubble-burning incidents were detected on Wednesday, including 15 in Punjab, 11 in Uttar Pradesh, seven in Rajasthan and 37 in Madhya Pradesh, according to data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

Death toll in Delhi building collapse rises to 4, more feared trapped

Delhi building collapse in Seemapuri: Four-storey building developed cracks during Tuesday's earthquake

New Delhi (Agency)
A day after a four-storey building collapsed in Northeast Delhi's New Seemapuri Wednesday afternoon, police officials said one more body was recovered in the wee hours of Thursday, taking the death toll to four. On Tuesday, when Delhi experienced earthquake tremors in the evening, the building had developed cracks, officials said.
Rescue operations still continue at the site, with officials saying that they fear that 1-2 people might still be trapped. A Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) official said that 75% of the debris has been cleared but it might be a couple of hours more before the area could be fully cleared The collapse took place near the Idgah Machhli Mandi



area. Four fire tenders were rushed to the spot. Within minutes of the collapse, residents started pulling people out of the rubble and took them to hospitals. "The building measured 225 sq ft. Some people have been rescued and sent to hospitals, but we suspect that two to three people are still trapped under the debris. They are talking… rescue operation is underway," DCP (Northeast) R P Meena said. In a statement, the MCD described the structure as a ground-plus-three-floor building located in a jhuggi jhopri area on about 25 square yards of DUSIB land. It said the building was around 20-25 years old and occupied. The building stood next to the mosque in the densely packed locality. The boundary wall of the mosque also collapsed in the impact, while walls of an adjoining building were damaged, the MCD added. Officials said demolition work was being carried out in the adjoining building. Three- and four-storey structures surround the mosque on three sides, leaving little open space. Much of the debris fell inside the mosque compound, said local residents.

DDA begins process to rehabilitate 45 slum clusters housing 1 lakh people

The slum clusters in Badli, Shahdara, Pitampura and Tilak Nagar house the largest number of households to be considered for rehabilitation.

New Delhi (Agency)
The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Wednesday initiated the process of rehabilitation of more than one lakh slum dwellers, in what is seen as one of the first big movements under the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD)-2047.
The agency floated Request for Proposals (RFP) for appointment of three Transaction Advisors for preparing feasibility reports for 15 projects covering 45 slum clusters across the city.
The clusters comprise approximately 21,229 households spread over 135.74 acres of land. The slum clusters in Badli, Shahdara, Pitampura and Tilak Nagar house the largest number of households to be considered for rehabilitation. The move comes over three months after Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a meeting on slum rehabilitation in the city and directed the DDA and the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) to issue tenders for five slum clusters within 45 days, and to float tenders for at least five public-private partnership (PPP)-based rehabilitation projects every month.



A DDA spokesperson said that the transaction advisors will assess rehabilitation requirements, development potential, infrastructure needs, financial viability and suitable implementation models for systematic and sustainable implementation of the projects.
The government claims that there are about 675 slums in the Capital. Of these, around half are set up on land owned by various Central agencies, such as Railways, Land and Development Office (L&DO), and the DDA. The nodal agency for rehabilitation of these slums is DDA. The rest are located on land owned by the Delhi government, where the nodal agency is the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), which comes under the Urban Development Department.

Recent changes to rehab framework
How Delhi handles slum rehabilitation has undergone big changes over the past couple of months. Amendments were made to the city's slum policy, making slum dwellers eligible for getting a flat in place of their current home. Changes were also made in the MPD-2047. In a bid to attract participation of private developers in slum rehabilitation, developers were allowed to build taller buildings on slum land parcels and sell a higher proportion of that land for profit.
Transferable Development Rights (TDR) were also introduced in the MPD-2047. In the 'free sale' component, a developer may not be able to use all the development rights available to build flats, shops, or offices for profit because of the size or location of the land parcel in question, or due to height restrictions. Under the new TDR mechanism, these unused development rights can be used on another plot, or sold to another developer.

SIR of electoral rolls: Delhi poll commission to hold special camps for displaced, 'left-out' voters

New Delhi (Agency)
The Delhi Election Commission on Wednesday announced that it will organise special camps on Friday and Sunday to enroll electors who were displaced by recent demolitions in the Capital and did not make it to the draft roll. Amid an ongoing row over deletions of names during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has directed the 20 states and Union Territories, where the exercise has concluded, to run a "special drive" to enrol voters who were "left out" of the roll. The Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said that a special drive is being conducted in the Capital as per the poll body's



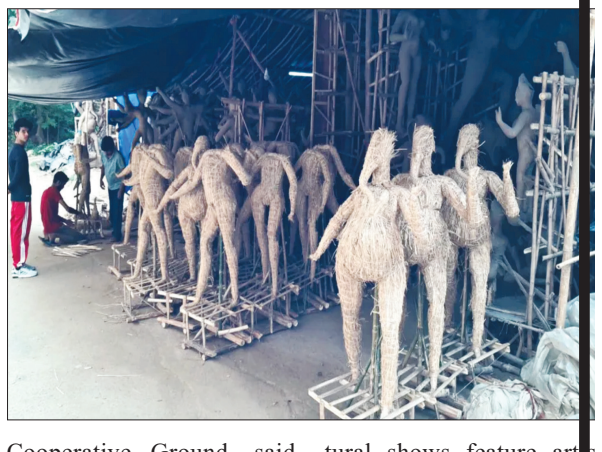
instructions, to enrol people whose names were excluded despite them being eligible. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will carry out house-to-house visits to identify such electors to facilitate their enrolment through Form 6. The special camps on Friday and Sunday will be held at all polling stations across the city. "Special camps will also be held for those electors who have been displaced after demolition of their colonies recently. Electors of such colonies are requested to visit the Camps at their new place of residence to enrol themselves in the electoral rolls," a statement by the CEO said. These camps are being organised in the Capital every weekend since September 20. Multiple such camps have also been set up to cover homeless people, the transgender community, and sex workers.Camps were organised on Wednesday as well at universities and colleges to ensure maximum enrolment of young electors.
Delhi had 1.45 crore electors before the SIR began. Names of 97.5 lakh electors made their way to the draft electoral roll published on August 31. Forms of around 47.5 lakh were marked uncollectible, with the BLOs marking them absent, shifted, dead, have duplicate entries, or due to other reasons — and their names were subsequently struck off the voter rolls.
One-third, or around 33.1 lakh electors, on the draft roll were sent notices and asked to prove their eligibility to stay on the electoral roll. While 13.79 lakh electors got notices because they could not locate themselves to the electoral roll published after the last SIR, 19.33 lakh were said to have "logical discrepancies" in their enumeration forms. By Monday, nearly one-third of the 10.28 lakh of the electors who had gotten notices had been verified. This is a sharp uptick in the number of notices disposed of compared to a week back.

'Bhakti is getting lost': How Durga Puja at Delhi's CR Park has changed

From door-to-door chanda to corporate sponsorships, CR Park's Durga Puja has grown into a large-scale operation — and not everyone is happy with what that has brought.

New Delhi (Agency)
Devyani Rudra, 60, recalled her earliest memories of Durga Puja from Chittaranjan Park's J Block: helping her mother, cutting vegetables for bhog — the traditional community meal offered to the Goddess and distributed as prasad — and joining the neighbourhood's cultural programmes. "Earlier, only 50 to 100 people would turn up for the pujas," she said.
Rudra and her family moved to CR Park from Delhi Cantonment in 1975. Back then, it was known as the East Pakistan Displaced Persons Colony, established as part of the government's rehabilitation efforts for those uprooted by Partition. It housed only 15-20 families, mostly government officials. The celebrations later shifted to Mela Ground and the Shiv Mandir in 1976, now known as Kali Mandir.
Five decades later, Durga Puja has become a much larger affair. The colony now has nearly 50,000 residents and hosts around 10 major community pujas, besides several private household celebrations. Lakhs of visitors from across Delhi-NCR descend on the neighbourhood. But as the festivities kick off on October 16 this year, some of CR Park's old residents feel the celebrations have moved away from the intimacy of a festival once centred on the community.

What does a puja cost?
At Kali Mandir, the annual Durga Puja budget is around Rs 1 crore to Rs 1.5 crore, while other major CR Park pujas have annual budgets of around Rs 80-90 lakh. The temporary pandal and tent structure at Kali Mandir alone costs around Rs 25-30 lakh, said Jaya Ray, a member of the Kali Mandir Society and its Durga Puja organising committee.
The bhog operation costs Rs 30-40 lakh. "The kitchen serves at least 7,000 people within about four hours on a single afternoon, with 300-500 kg of food prepared on 10 wood-burning stoves," Ray added. The five-day cultural programme, featuring dance, music, orchestras and other performances, costs another Rs 5-10 lakh. The Mandir committee also spends on printing, decoration, logistics and the salaries of priests and support staff who work through the year. At other venues, the scale is similarly large.Narayan Dey, secretary of the Mela Ground Durga Puja Samiti, said during the festival, the committee runs a daily langar serving around 10,000 meals. Its pandal has expanded to around 180 feet by 85 feet.
Saurav Chakravorty, General Secretary of K-Block



Cooperative Ground, said that they see a daily footfall of around 1-1.5 lakh people during the festival while cultural shows feature artists who fly in from Kolkata or Mumbai.

Centre approves Rs 65 crore for geo-spacial based survey of unauthorised colonies

New Delhi (Agency)
Nearly three months after Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta wrote to Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal requesting an assistance to regularise unauthorised colonies, the Centre has approved Rs 65 crore under 'Delhi Revenue and Imaging Survey Spatial Technology Initiative' (DRISHTI) for GIS-based survey and mapping of such colonies. Delhi government is implementing the PM-UDAY (Pradhan Mantri-Unauthorized Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana) aimed at granting property rights to residents of the city's over 1,500 unauthorised colonies. Moreover, PM-UDAY cells in 13 districts, and a headquarter, will be set up to expedite registration of properties in unauthorised colonies.

Delhi government is implementing the PM-UDAY (Pradhan Mantri-Unauthorized Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana), aimed at granting property rights to residents of the city's over 1,500 unauthorised colonies.

The geographic information system (GIS) survey is required under PM-UDAY scheme to verify, map and authenticate property boundaries and geo-coordinates within Delhi's notified unauthorised colonies.



The technology-driven survey will make mapping of properties more transparent, systematic and time-bound. The project has an estimated total cost of Rs 65 crore, of which Rs 52 crore, or 80 per cent, will be provided as grant from the Urban Development Fund (UDF) of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the CMO said. The remaining Rs 13 crore, will be contributed by Delhi government's revenue department that will be responsible for implementing the project, said. The initiative will help make the mapping and documentation process related to properties under PM-UDAY scheme more systematic and time-bound. The chief minister said the PM-UDAY scheme is not merely a process of issuing property-related documents but also an important means of providing legal security over homes and property rights to lakhs of families living in Delhi's unauthorised colonies.

Sensex, Nifty open lower after RBI's tighter policy stance; TCS gains

New Delhi. (Agency)

Benchmark indices opened lower on Thursday after the Reserve Bank of India raised the repo rate by 25 basis points and shifted its policy stance to "calibrated tightening" a day earlier.

Continued pressure from higher crude oil prices and foreign selling also weighed on sentiment, while investors turned their attention to corporate earnings, with TCS and Reliance Industries in focus.The Sensex was at 72,440.59 at 9:22 am, down 198.11 points or 0.27%. The index opened at 72,668.00 and touched an early high of 72,693.97. The Nifty 50 was also trading lower, with the broader market coming under pressure after Wednesday's RBI-led decline.

TCS, IT STOCKS BUCK THE TREND

IT stocks were among the few pockets of strength in early trade. TCS rose 2.48%, HCLTech gained 2.11%, Tech Mahindra advanced 1.82% and Infosys climbed 1.64%.The gains come as investors turn their focus to the September-quarter earnings season. TCS is scheduled to report its quarterly results today, making the stock a key focus for the market.The Nifty IT index rose 1.96% in early trade, making it the strongest-performing major sector.

RELIANCE IN FOCUS

Reliance Industries was trading marginally lower, falling 0.17% in early trade.The stock remains in focus after gaining strongly over the previous two sessions. Investors are also watching the company ahead of the potential listing of Jio Platforms later this month.The Nifty Oil & Gas index, however, fell 0.49% as crude oil prices remained elevated.

Indian equity markets open flat; financial shares drag

Kolkata . (Agency)

Domestic equity benchmarks opened largely flat on Thursday with Nifty opening around 22,600 mark as gains in IT and pharma stocks were offset by weakness across financial, FMCG and auto stocks. Similarly, Sensex started at 72,668, up 29.30 points or 0.04 per cent.Sector-wise, Nifty IT, Nifty MidSmall Healthcare, Nifty Pharma were top gainers with advancing up to 0.59 per cent.

Meanwhile, metal, consumer durables and chemicals also traded marginally higher.

On the other hand, Nifty Financial Services ex-Bank, Nifty FMCG slipped up to 0.38 per cent.

Market experts said the RBI's calibrated tightening stance could put pressure on equity valuations as higher interest rates make fixed-income investments relatively more attractive.

They also expect investor preference to shift marginally towards relatively interest-inelastic sectors such as pharmaceuticals.Experts noted that growth stocks have continued to attract investor interest despite high valuations, while value stocks have remained subdued."Sustained selling by foreign investors in large-cap stocks, coupled with the US 10-year Treasury yield staying above 5.3 per cent, could keep large-cap stocks under pressure," they added."Yesterday's multiple attacks at 22574 calls for an extended period of consolidation, before setting a direction. Though considerably weakened, the 23100-220 view is still in play, with downside marker at 22439," according to them.

Eutelsat OneWeb awaits final approvals, says India infrastructure is ready

New Delhi. (Agency)

French satellite communications services provider Eutelsat OneWeb is ready to launch operations in India, with infrastructure already in place, and is awaiting government approval of security clearances, said Neha Idnani, regional vice-president, Asia Pacific, Eutelsat OneWeb.Asked about the timeline for the launch of satellite communication (SatCom) services in India, Idnani said spectrum allocation and security clearance processes were moving smoothly.

She added that the company's infrastructure was fully ready for launch. "I'm confident all of the regulatory and licensing work that we've been working with the Government of India is through, we are fully ready from an infrastructure standpoint to go live," she said.Today, we believe satellites should be an extension to terrestrial networks and not a replacement of terrestrial networks. The strong terrestrial backbone that you have in countries like India cannot and shAlthough Eutelsat OneWeb primarily operates on a business-to-business (B2B) model, the company will focus on consumers as the ultimate beneficiaries of the technology, she said."The last-mile beneficaries would still be the villages, the unconnected parts of the country through an extension of the terrestrial infrastructure," she added. Idnani said satellite communication would be particularly useful where terrestrial connectivity was technically or commercially unviable. This includes airplanes, maritime operations and remote hinterlands where fibre networks cannot be deployed commercially, she said. SatCom could also provide complementary connectivity during disasters and serve as backup infrastructure to improve network resilience.ould not be replaced by satellites," Idnani said.Addressing concerns over the pace at which Elon Musk-owned Starlink is launching satellites into low Earth orbit (LEO), Idnani said India and the wider Asia-Pacific region, which accounts for more than 50 per cent of the global population, should not be concerned as the region remains a front-runner in innovation and technology.

UPI MDR rollout may be delayed until festive season ends: Report

NPCI is considering delaying the 0.4% MDR on UPI transactions above Rs 2,000 after requests from merchants and payments firms. The proposed deferral reflects confusion over category-wise charges and concern over festive season costs.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The implementation of a 0.4% merchant discount rate (MDR) on UPI transactions above Rs 2,000 could be delayed until after the festive season, with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) considering a postponement to January 2027, reported Moneycontrol.

The report, citing two sources, said NPCI has received requests from merchant bodies, fintechs and payments companies to defer the rollout, with concerns around varying MDR rates, their applicability across different transactions and the readiness of businesses for the new system.NPCI is expected to take a decision within the next two days as discussions are underway with the finance ministry, the report said.

The 0.4% MDR was fixed by the UPI Steering Committee last month for transactions above Rs 2,000 and was scheduled to come into effect from October 15, 2026. MDR is the fee paid by merchants to banks for processing digital payments. At 0.4%, the charge would work out to Rs 8 on a Rs 2,000 transaction and Rs 40 on a Rs 10,000 transaction.

WHY THE ROLLOUT COULD BE DELAYED

According to the report, several payment industry bodies and merchants have asked NPCI to postpone implementation until the festive season is over.



One source told the publication that the government is also concerned that MDR could raise the cost of doing business during the festive sales period, at a time when inflation is already putting pressure on consumers.There are also concerns that higher transaction costs could eventually be passed on to consumers by merchants.The report said the industry is worried that consumer sentiment could weaken ahead of the festive sales season as rising inflation affects purchasing power.

UPI MDR RATES ARE NOT THE SAME FOR ALL TRANSACTIONS

A major issue behind the request for a delay is the complexity around how MDR will apply to different types of UPI payments.Unlike card payments where rates are relatively uniform, UPI has different rates for categories such as utility payments, loan repayments and capital market transactions.This has led to questions among payment companies and merchants over which transactions will attract the 0.4% charge and which will be subject to different rates or flat fees.

From PNB to Bank of Baroda: These 5 banks raise lending rates after RBI rate hike

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50% on Wednesday, October 7. Hours after the rate hike, several banks started raising their benchmark lending rates, making loans slightly more expensive for borrowers.Punjab National Bank (PNB), Bank of India (BoI), Indian Bank, Bank of Baroda (BoB), and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) are among the lenders that have announced changes to their lending rates, according to a PTI report.

The rate revisions are linked to the RBI's decision to increase the repo rate from 5.25% to 5.50%.

PNB RAISES REPO-LINKED LENDING RATE



PNB has increased its Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) from 8.10% to 8.35%, effective October 8.In a corporate filing, the bank said the revision followed the RBI's repo rate hike. The revised RLLR includes a Bank Strategic Premium (BSP) of 0.35%.

PNB, however, has kept its Marginal Cost of Lending Rate (MCLR) and Base Rate unchanged.

BANK OF INDIA RAISES LENDING RATE TO 8.35%

Bank of India has also revised its Repo Based Lending Rate (RBLR) following the RBI's decision.

The bank's RBLR has increased from 8.10% to 8.35%, effective October 7.According to the bank's filing, the repo rate component has risen from 5.25% to 5.50%, while the markup has remained unchanged at 2.85%.

Amazon layoff spree continues; nearly 1000 jobs cut globally, Indian employees hit amid festive sales

New Delhi. (Agency)



Online retailer Amazon has announced fresh round of job cuts impacting fewer than 1,000 white-collar employees, as per online news reports. Amazon's fresh lay off spree has hit operations across the United States, United Kingdom and India, said a Reuters report.The reduction in Amazon workforce comes at a time when the e-commerce company's Prime Big Deal Days shopping event was underway in India. Amazon initiated the cuts, primarily in customer service and selling partner services, to restructure its Stores business, which oversees its core e-commerce operations. As per Reuters, the affected workers received notifications and began sharing the news on internal Slack channels. This move follows a much larger restructuring that eliminated approximately 30,000 corporate jobs between last year and January 2026.Earlier, in April, a report by TradingPlatforms said that global tech layoffs are accelerating in 2026, with more than 80,000 jobs already cut in the first quarter and total losses likely to exceed 3 lakh this year, led by companies like Oracle, Amazon, and Meta.

TradingPlatforms noted that the latest wave of layoffs builds on a broader post-pandemic correction, with over one million tech jobs lost globally since 2021 as companies recalibrate hiring after the Covid-era expansion.The US remains the worst-hit market, accounting for nearly 77 per cent of global layoffs so far this year, with over 61,000 job cuts across 62 companies.

The report highlighted that companies are increasingly restructuring operations to prioritise AI investments, streamline costs and improve efficiency, even as many continue to report strong financial performance.

Zerodha's Nithin Kamath on IPO boom amid market fall: IPOs are a full-on party

New Delhi. (Agency)

The broader stock market may be facing pressure, but the IPO market is telling a very different story. Zerodha founder and CEO Nithin Kamath has pointed out the sharp gap between the performance of newly listed shares and the wider market.

According to data shared by Kamath, a majority of mainboard IPOs launched over the past year were trading above their issue prices as of October 6.

'IPOs ARE A FULL-ON PARTY'

Kamath highlighted the unusual contrast between the primary and secondary markets in a post on X.

"The only bullish corner of the market right now is IPOs. The broader market has been steadily falling. The numbers may not fully show it, but it certainly feels like a bear market. IPOs, on the other hand, are a full-on party," he said.He pointed to the strong performance of recent listings and the rush of activity in the IPO market."Most recent listings have done well, and you can see it in the rush of activity. I don't remember the last time we saw such a stark divergence between the primary and secondary markets. Strange are the times we live in," Kamath added.According to the data, of the 125 mainboard IPOs listed between October 2025 and September 2026, 67.2% were trading above their issue prices as of October 6. The group recorded a median return of 24.7%.The gains were spread across different levels. Around 17.6% of the IPOs were trading 0-25% above their issue prices, while 18.4% had gained between 25% and 50%.Another 17.6% of the newly listed stocks were up between 50% and 100%. As many as 13.6% had more than doubled from their issue prices.This means investors who got into several of these IPOs at the time of listing have, so far, seen strong gains compared with the broader market.

The latest numbers also show a significant improvement compared with the previous one-year cohort.Among the 95 mainboard IPOs listed between October 2024 and September 2025, only 47.4% were trading above their issue prices. The median return for this group was negative 9.4%.The performance was stronger for the October 2023 to September 2024 cohort, which had 88 IPOs. Around 54.5% of these stocks were trading above their issue prices, while the median return stood at 8.6%.

Compared with these earlier cohorts, the latest group has delivered a much stronger median return and a higher share of stocks trading above their issue prices.

GST Council meeting 2026: Arrest powers, ITC, refunds and registration on agenda

The 57th GST Council meeting in New Delhi is set to examine arrest powers, ITC, refunds and registration rules. The proposals would shift attention from rate changes to easier compliance and fewer disputes.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The 57th GST Council meeting begins in New Delhi on Thursday with a broad set of proposals aimed at changing how businesses and taxpayers interact with the Goods and Services Tax system, with the focus shifting from rate rationalisation to compliance and process reforms.The Council is expected to consider changes to GST registration, return filing, input tax credit (ITC), refunds and dispute resolution, along with proposals to change the way tax enforcement works, including the arrest powers of GST officers and the threshold for launching prosecution.The meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, is being held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. It was originally scheduled for September 12 and was later moved to October 7 before being rescheduled again to October 8. The formal agenda has not been made public.The meeting comes more than a year after the 56th GST Council meeting in September 2025, when the government undertook a major rate rationalisation exercise under GST 2.0This time, the focus is expected to be less about GST rates and more about making the tax system simpler, faster and more predictable for taxpayers.

Here are the key issues on the table.

GST OFFICERS' ARREST POWERS

One of the most closely watched proposals is a possible overhaul of GST enforcement and arrest provisions.The proposal under consideration could take away the power of GST officers to arrest taxpayers without judicial authorisation, requiring a court's approval before an arrest can be made. The proposed



changes are aimed at distinguishing deliberate tax evasion and serious offences from routine compliance disputes..The Council is also expected to consider raising the threshold for launching criminal prosecution from Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore and narrowing the circumstances in which GST-related offences can lead to criminal proceedings.The issue has already emerged as a point of contention, with Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh opposing the proposal to remove or significantly restrict tax officials' arrest powers.

This could therefore be one of the more contentious items before the Council.

Jitendra Motwani, Partner – Tax Practice, Trilegal, said the proposed decriminalisation, judicial oversight of arrests and keeping routine ITC and classification disputes outside the criminal process would be a step towards treating honest taxpayers as partners rather than suspects.He said the proposals could reduce litigation, although the actual relief would depend on implementation circulars and how the change.

INPUT TAX CREDIT: CAN GENUINE BUYERS BE PROTECTED?s are followed at the field level.

Another major item is input tax credit, particularly cases where a genuine buyer loses credit because the supplier has failed to deposit tax or comply with return-filing requirements.

Beat cancer, then lost his jaw: How a 3D model helped rebuild it

Mumbai. (Agency)
Arvind Tagare survived cancer. Then came the second fight. The 49-year-old retired engineer from Indore was diagnosed with Stage III cancer of the right buccal mucosa, the inner lining of the cheek, in March 2024. Extensive surgery and multimodality treatment followed. When it ended, he was left with a major defect in his jaw and face, restricted mouth opening, and an oronasal fistula, an abnormal opening between the mouth and nose that sent food and liquids up into his nose.

"After going through cancer treatment, I thought the hardest part of my journey was over, but living with the changes to my face and difficulty eating, speaking and swallowing was another challenge. I wanted to regain not only my appearance but also the confidence to live my everyday life normally. The doctors explained how 3D technology could help rebuild my jaw according to my own facial structure, which gave me hope," Tagare said. Once a PET-CT showed he was disease-free, doctors at SSO Cancer Hospitals moved to rebuild his jaw. Left alone, the fistula could have led to worsening regurgitation, poor nutrition and progressive facial disfigurement, said Dr Amit Chakraborty, lead head and neck surgical oncologist at the hospital.

As drought takes effect, rice prices shoot up in Karnataka

BENGALURU. (Agency)
Drought in Karnataka has begun to impact rice production and its prices, with retail rates of several varieties of rice rising by Rs 25-30 per kg over the last three months.

One of the major rice-producing states, Karnataka is expected to see lower production this year as sowing in June was low. With harvesting beginning in November, traders and industry experts anticipate tighter supplies in the coming months.

Paddy is grown largely in Tungabhadra and Cauvery river basins, including Raichur, Koppal, Ballari, Vijayanagara, Mysuru, Mandya and some parts of Malnad. Karnataka normally cultivates paddy in around 13 lakh hectares annually, but this year, it has reduced by over four lakh hectares due to severe drought in both basins.

The price of Sona Masuri variety in the wholesale market has increased from Rs 50 per kg to Rs 75 to Rs 80. Similarly, Kolam rice, which was around Rs 75 per kg, is reaching Rs 100.

Paddy's high water use raises concern as dams run dry

AB Patil, president of the Institute of Agricultural Technologists and former agriculture adviser to the State Government, said paddy is one of the highest water-consuming crops. To produce 1 kg of paddy, it requires 3,500 litres to 4,000 litres of water. With dams running dry, farmers at the tail end of canals will not get water.

It is better for them to grow crops like pulses, oil seeds or ragi, but not paddy, he suggested.

Prof MB Rajegowda, agrometeorologist and former registrar, University of Agriculture Sciences, told that paddy sowing in Karnataka occurs in June /July, while harvesting stretches from October to November and sometimes to December. But this year, sowing has reduced drastically.

Chembur tree collapse: After Vihaan's death, panel frames urban forest policy to prevent tree-related disasters

The first of the four reports is a fact-finding report, while the other three are policy documents aimed at preserving and protecting Mumbai's green cover

Mumbai. (Agency)
The independent committee probing the Chembur tree collapse that killed 11-year-old Vihaan Srivastava will submit four reports to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), including one on an urban forest management policy aimed at preventing similar incidents. Vihaan died after a peepal tree collapsed on his school bus on June 30. The first of the four reports is a fact-finding report, while the other three are policy documents aimed at preserving and protecting Mumbai's green cover. Two documents have been submitted, and the remaining two are expected to reach civic chief Ashwini Bhide by October 10, officials privy to the developments said. The draft urban forest management policy seeks to lay down a charter for civic departments involved in tree management in Mumbai, officials said. The committee has also submitted guidelines for post-calamity management to help mitigate crises during disasters."In order to ensure that such disasters don't happen in the future, the report recommends organised efforts across departments and suggests policy recommendations for urban forest, tree conservation, amongst other aspects," a source said.

"The reports submitted so far lay down a detailed urban forest management policy, which can serve as a charter for several civic departments that work on and around the tree zones of the city. The policy will outline detailed analysis and norms, while policy guidelines for post-calamity management will also be included," the source added.

Civic officials privy to the development said the report also found that the collapse was triggered by multiple factors, involving a mix of man-made and natural causes.`The one-member committee, comprising noted botanist and former Mumbai University Vice-Chancellor Dr Sanjay V Deshmukh, was appointed in July. The committee was appointed two weeks after Mayor Ritu



Tawde rejected the preliminary investigation report, saying the earlier report failed to adequately examine the gravity of the incident and lacked recommendations for stringent action.

That preliminary inquiry gave a clean chit to the civic roads and gardens departments. It imposed a Rs 7 lakh penalty on the contractor and consultant carrying out road works around the tree, holding that excavation had weakened its roots and caused the collapse.

After appointing Dr Deshmukh, the civic body said the new committee would review the methodology adopted by the earlier inquiry committee. Civic sources said officials involved in drafting the previous report were also interviewed while preparing the new report.

GST Road among stretches that may turn into mobility corridor

The DPR for the two stretches is now being re-tendered after CUMTA cancelled the earlier bid due to technical issues. A pre-bid meeting for the fresh tender was held on Tuesday.

Shimla. (Agency)
The Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) has proposed more stretches, including the Grand Southern Trunk (GST) Road and Velachery-Tambaram Road, to be transformed into 'Model Urban Mobility Corridors' under the second phase of the project. The authority has decided to prepare detailed project reports (DPRs) for the proposed corridors, for which tenders are expected to be invited this week.

Under Phase 1, CUMTA has already proposed transforming the Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR) and Pallavaram-Thoraipakkam Radial Road into model urban mobility corridors. The DPR for the two stretches is now being re-tendered after CUMTA cancelled the earlier bid due to technical issues. A pre-bid meeting for the fresh tender was held on Tuesday.



The Phase-1 proposal covers 25 km of OMR from Madhya Kailash to Kelambakkam and 7.4 km of Pallavaram-Thoraipakkam Road from Pallavaram Bridge to Thoraipakkam junction.

Under Phase 2, CUMTA has proposed Taramani Link Road, Marmalange Bridge-Wallajah Road, Velachery-Tambaram Road and GST Road for similar interventions.

The objective is to develop primary mobility corridors linked to railway stations, MRTS stations, metro stations, bus terminals and bus stands, thereby improving last-mile connectivity and multimodal integration. Public spaces under flyovers and grade separators, above subways and roads integrated with parks will also be upgraded, an official said.

According to a CUMTA document, the DPR will focus on reducing or maintaining the status quo of annual per capita greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector by promoting walking and cycling, discouraging private vehicle use, reducing vehicle idling at intersections and easing traffic congestion. The total length of the roads to be taken up for the Phase-2 will be known once the tender is floated.The proposed corridors will prioritise non-motorised transport and public transport, while incorporating comprehensive road safety measures and urban development alongside the road network.A CUMTA official said the authority would prepare the DPRs, while the state highways department would implement the projects. For OMR and Radial Road, civic works for the model corridors will be taken up after completion of metro rail works and are expected to take around two years, since the road would be damaged again if the upgrades are done before completing the metro works.

Upgrades proposed

Uniform carriageways with green medians Dedicated service lanes Rehabilitation and widening of culverts and bridges Grade separators Pedestrian facilities Traffic calming measures Green corridors Designated bus bays and stops Parking facilities and cycling infrastructure

Bengaluru East civic chief orders speedy road works, pothole repairs in Varthur-Gunjur areas

The top official also said in locations where land acquisition is not required for road development, officials must utilise the available road width effectively without waiting for other land acquisition cases.

BENGALURU (Agency)
In the backdrop of Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda pulling up KRDCL officials for the slow pace of road work during an inspection in Varthur-Gunjur roads last week, Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar on Wednesday conducted a site inspection of various infrastructure works being undertaken within the limits of Bengaluru East City Corporation, including land acquisition, removal of road encroachments, shifting of utility services and traffic management. During the inspection, he reviewed the current status of the works, ongoing projects and pending projects, obtained details from the officials concerned and directed them to prioritise urgent works and complete them at the earliest.



"The progress of ongoing road and flyover works in the Varthur and Gunjur areas was reviewed. Officials were directed to take necessary measures to avoid delays and complete the works at the earliest and immediately repair potholes and ensure smooth and safe vehicular movement," he said.

The top official also said in locations where land acquisition is not required for road development, officials must utilise the available road width effectively without waiting for other land acquisition cases. Temporary measures such as laying gravel should be undertaken to provide a motorable road and facilitate traffic movement.He also reviewed the Varthur Flyover and other road projects and directed officials to expedite the acquisition process. "Where landowners are willing to hand over the required land, the authorities should take possession of the land at the earliest and facilitate commencement of the development works. They should take further action as per the applicable rules related to Transferable Development Rights in the Gunjur Palya area."He instructed officials to coordinate side-drain works with the road development works. Wherever necessary, pipelines and pipe culverts should be provided to ensure smooth flow of rainwater.

KPSC recruitment scam: Former chairman, member remanded in ED custody till October 19



Lucknow. (Agency)
A special court on Wednesday remanded former Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) chairman Shivashankarappa S Sahukar and member BV Geetha in ED custody till October 19, in connection with the alleged veterinary officers' recruitment examination scam.

The CCH4 Special Court (Special Court for cases filed by CBI and ED, and cases under PMLA) allowed ED to question the two accused until October 19. The agency had sought the custody of Sahukar and Geetha, citing evidence of extensive manipulation of examination results, illegal collection of money from candidates and a wider recruitment racket allegedly involving more than 13 KPSC examinations since 2022.

Sahukar and Geetha were arrested from their respective residences in Sanjaynagar's Dollars Colony on Tuesday night. The arrests were part of ED's investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) into allegations of large-scale bribery and illegal money transfers linked to KPSC recruitments.

According to the ED, candidates were allegedly charged between Rs 30 lakh and Rs 40 lakh for question papers and answers, while selected candidates were allegedly asked to pay up to Rs 70 lakh to obtain the entire question paper in advance. The agency told the court that discrepancies in examination results pointed to manipulation.It cited cases where highly meritorious candidates, including those who had cleared the Indian Forest Service (IFS) examination and won gold medals in graduation, scored around 350 marks, while candidates with comparatively low scores in their degree examinations allegedly.

'Clean South Mumbai doesn't mean clean Mumbai': Bombay High Court's reality check for BMC

Blasting the Mumbai civic body over 'filth' in the city, the Bombay High Court remarked that a 'clean South Mumbai doesn't mean entire Mumbai is clean'.

Mumbai. (Agency)
Expressing displeasure over inadequate waste management measures across the city, the Bombay High Court on Wednesday pulled up the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), observing that cleanliness in some parts of South Mumbai did not mean similar steps had been taken across the city. "Everywhere there is filth… Only because Worli is clean or South Mumbai is clean, or Nariman Point is clean, that doesn't mean entire Mumbai is clean," a bench of Justices Girish S Kulkarni and Neela K Gokhale orally remarked. The bench was hearing a plea raising concerns about waste disposal at the Kanjurmarg landfill, as well as garbage dumping on city streets and beaches. "Once the system is in place and the citizens are also sensitised, one day will come that they will stop doing (throwing garbage on streets). And we are looking at Mumbai to be converted into that kind of city where people themselves will go and throw everything in the dustbin… That will happen as we do it when we go (abroad), because there are deterrents, there are cameras, but here (in Mumbai) there is absolutely no worry," Justice Kulkarni said.

Even as senior advocate Anil Sakhare, appearing for the BMC, claimed that the "situation had improved", the HC said it "did not find a very high progress" by BMC ward officers in addressing "problematic areas" related to health and hygiene at public places, hill slopes, pavements and streets. The HC sought a comprehensive affidavit detailing the steps taken by ward officers to ascertain the "correct position" on the ground, as well as measures taken on Gandhi Jayanti as part of the 'Swachhata Abhiyan'. The judges also said that while travelling to the Maharashtra Judicial Academy in Uttan, Bhayander, they had noticed a plastic-strewn hill near a municipal school in Jogeshwari. "Can we believe that this is Mumbai? Simple cleaning will take no more than one day. Nothing has happened. It is unbelievable," Justice Kulkarni said, seeking immediate corrective measures. The bench indicated that it may call ward officers from a few western suburban wards during the hearings, citing "a lot of chaos" related to waste management in their areas. The judges further indicated that they may soon visit the Kanjurmarg facility for a second round of inspection. The bench will also hear submissions on redressal of complaints regarding odour and environmental pollution from the site at the next hearing on October 22.



NEWS BOX

Fight Sujeet Kalkal, fight: How Indian wrestler turned adversity into Asian Games gold

PUDUCHERRY. (Agency)

Comebacks have always been a part of Sujeet Kalkal's life. Two years ago, the Indian wrestling sensation missed his chance to compete at the Paris Olympics.

On his way to Kyrgyzstan for the Asian Olympic qualifying tournament, the 23-year-old was left stranded in Dubai for three days after floods disrupted his travel. With every passing minute, his Olympic dream slipped further away. By the time he finally reached Kyrgyzstan, the opportunity was gone.atch series against the West Indies.Fast-forward to the Asian Games in Nagoya, and Sujeet found himself in an eerily familiar situation. This time, however, the stakes were even higher. It was the final of the men's 65kg freestyle wrestling event, and the gold medal that had been within



touching distance was suddenly slipping away.Against Tajikistan's Abdulmazhid Kudiev, Sujeet was trailing 2-9. The clock was ticking down, and only something extraordinary could have saved the Indian wrestler.A comeback of epic proportions saw Sujeet end India's eight-year wait for a wrestling gold at the Asian Games.

The Indin unleashed an eight-point scoring spree to overturn a 7-2 deficit and move 10-9 ahead, leaving Kudiev scrambling for answers. With the clock running down, Kalkal kept his composure, defended his slender advantage and completed a stunning comeback to clinch Asian Games gold.His victory also placed Kalkal in an elite group of Indian wrestlers. He became only the third Indian to win the men's 65kg freestyle gold at the Asian Games, joining Yogeshwar Dutt, who triumphed in 2014, and Bajrang Punia, the 2018 champion.

Ravindra Jadeja's cryptic response to BCCI's post after Ajit Agarkar's exit sparks buzz

Team India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja's response to BCCI's post for the vacant selector's position has sparked a buzz among cricket fans.



New Delhi. (Agency)

Star India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja left Indian cricket fans guessing with his cryptic response to BCCI's X post inviting applications for the vacant seat on the senior Indian men's selection committee after Ajit Agarkar's exit. Agarkar left the chief selector post after his tenure ended.While Pragyan Ojha is currently serving as the interim head of the selection panel, BCCI on Tuesday invited applications for the one vacant position after Agarkar's exit. Jadeja took to X to respond to BCCI's post about a selector vacancy and asked about the procedure to apply for the role.

Jadeja's response came as a surprise to many, as he is not known to be regularly active on X. He last responded to a post from his former India teammate R Ashwin on X in February this year. Thus, Jadeja's response to the BCCI's post left many stumped.

Rift between Jadeja and Agarkar?

Jadeja's response to BCCI's X post has gone viral and led to speculation regarding a potential rift between him and departing chief selector Agarkar. Jadeja and Agarkar never had a public standoff, but the former India chief selector did play a role in keeping Jadeja out of the ODI setup.

Jadeja was excluded from India's ODI squads for the Sri Lanka series in 2024 and the Australia series in 2025 during Agarkar's tenure as chief selector. He made his comeback to the ODI setup this year and was part of the recently concluded three-match ODI series between India and West Indies.Despite Jadeja being dropped frequently from the ODI squad, Agarkar had in the past insisted that the all-rounder remained an integral part of the setup. Jadeja, who retired from T20Is alongside Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in 2024, currently plays Tests and ODIs for India.

While his place in the ODI squad is far from certain, Jadeja continues to be a vital cog in India's Test line-up. It remains to be seen if the left-arm all-rounder will remain part of India's plans for the 2027 ODI World Cup, with the likes of Axar Patel, Washington Sundar and Nitish Reddy competing for the all-rounder spots in the side.

Just instinct: Virat's new avatar better than 2016 peak Kohli, says AB de Villiers

New Delhi. (Agency)

Right after the recent Thiruvananthapuram ODI against the West Indies, Virat Kohli said that he has put himself in a new gauntlet, where he can still elevate his game to a new level."I've got a challenge at this stage of my career to kind of up the ante and play a gear or two higher," said Kohli.For the fans who saw the destruction caused by him on that night, it will be music to their ears. On his way to scaling mount 15,000 ODI runs, the Indian star took apart the Windies bowling with ease. He hit 10 fours and nine sixes on his way to scoring 139 off just 88 balls.This showed a significant change in approach for Kohli, who is now just playing one format internationally and the IPL. It wasn't evident last year after announcing his Test retirement as he had two ducks in Australia and salvaged the series with a fifty.But during the South Africa series, something clicked and the change was in full force. Since the start of the three matches against the Proteas, Kohli has amassed 854 runs from his 12 ODI innings at a strike rate of 117.63. His unbeaten 139



in the opening ODI against the West Indies in Trivandrum was the latest standout performance in a remarkable run of form.

In fact, Kohli has piled up 825 runs across his last 10 innings alone. That tally puts him among the most prolific 10-innings stretches in ODI history, with only six such sequences producing more runs. Remarkably, two of those six belong to Kohli himself, coming during his sensational runs in 2012 and 2018.So is this version of Kohli better than his prime?

Well, AB de Villiers believes it to be the case.'RELAXED AND COMPLETELY FREE'

Speaking to Sports Today in an exclusive chat, De Villiers said that the current avatar is a better version because of the fact that Kohli seems to be relaxed and compleltely free.

The South African legend said he show glimpses of the current version during the Champions Trophy 2025, but felt the Indian star got stuck and went back to the old habits."Yeah, that's a good question. It's difficult to say. I think it is a better version because of the way he's so relaxed. And out there in the middle, you can almost see he's completely free," said De Villiers.

Virat Kohli remembers Nana Patekar; fans revisit actor's love for cricketer



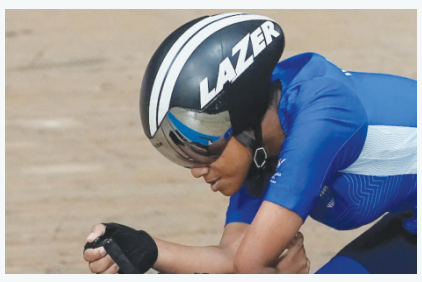
New Delhi. (Agency)

India cricket star Virat Kohli paid a touching tribute to Nana Patekar after the legendary actor passed away on Thursday, October 8. Patekar was found unresponsive at his residence in Goa after reportedly suffering severe chest pain. Medical personnel at Manipal Hospital later pronounced him dead at 5:20 am.Kohli penned a note on his official X account, hailing Patekar as a true legend of Indian cinema and said his work and legacy will live on for generations."A true legend of Indian cinema. His work and legacy will live on for generations. Rest in peace, Nana Patekar ji. Om Shanti," said PaThis certainly touched the hearts of Indian cricket fans, who made Patekar's video on Kohli viral once again. The legendary actor, during an interview, said that Kohli was his favourite cricketer and when he got early, he w"Virat is a player I love very much. He's someone I'm very fond of. If Virat gets out early, I don't know, yaar, I just don't feel like eating," said Patekar in the viral videoouldn't feel like eating food at all.tekar.

SACHIN, CRICKETING WORLD REMEMBERS PATEKAR

Apart from Kohli, Sachin Tendulkar also posted a touching tribute to Patekar after his death. The Indian legend said Patekar was a straightforward person and his work had the same honesty."I remember Nana Patekar as a very straightforward and grounded person. His work had that same honesty to it. Whether it was in Marathi or Hindi, he always brought something very real to the characters he played. Very sad to hear about his passing. My condolences to his family and loved ones. Om Shanti," read Sachin's statement.

Omitted Para Asiad cyclists plan protest, Sports Ministry firm on criteria



NAGOYA. (Agency)

Cyclists who have been omitted from the upcoming Para Asian Games has decided to stage a protest against the actions of the sports ministry. SAI has cleared only one para cyclist for the upcoming games in Japan, sticking to its long-standing selection criteria. The disgruntled cyclists plan to hold the protest at the

The cyclists left out of India's Para Asian Games squad have raised discrimination allegations, but SAI has maintained that selections were based strictly on performance. Arshad Shaik, a Paralympian, is the lone cyclist to have secured the Ministry's approval for the Games, which begin in Aichi-Nagoya on October 18. This is the second time athletes have complained about the Earlier on Wednesday, Para-shooters sought an urgent independent inquiry into alleged financial corruption, extortion and manipulation in the selection process for the Para Asian Games

The cyclists who are protesting the selections are expected to meet Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) CEO N S Johal at the SAI office, where they plan to present their grievances and seek clarity over the selection process.selection process for the Para Asiad.We have been in Leh preparing for the Asian Para Games all this while, we didn't even know that our names have been omitted," road cyclist Prashant Arkal, who is among the omitted ones, told ."The Government's approval lists only one athlete for Para Cycling even though we have spent from our own pocket to meet the qualification criteria," Arkal said.Apart from Arkal, Pavan Kumar Kommoji, Sameer, Vasani Babubhai, Shashruti Vinayak Nakade and Lisha Das are the other cyclists who have been omitted.

Bhuvi is back at 36. But where are India's next-gen T20 fast bowlers?

New Delhi. (Agency)

Bhuvneshwar Kumar is back in India's T20I set-up, nearly four years after his last appearance in the format. At 36, the veteran seamer will be part of the pace attack for the five-match New Zealand series in October alongside Arshdeep Singh, Mayank Yadav and Prince Yadav, with Jasprit Bumrah rested.

There is nothing particularly surprising about the selection on one level. Bhuvneshwar has been rewarded for doing what a player outside the national set-up is expected to do: perform. He has been excellent for Royal Challengers Bengaluru over the last two IPL seasons



and has continued to demonstrate the new-ball control, swing and experience that have made him one of India's most dependable T20 bowlers.But his comeback also throws up a larger question. Why, after four years of looking for India's next generation of T20 fast bowlers, does a 36-year-old who last played for the country in 2022 suddenly become the answer when Bumrah is rested?

And those two are Arshdeep Singh and Jasprit Bumrah.

Hardik Pandya, who has been used extensively as a fast-bowling all-rounder, and Shivam Dube also cross the 20-match mark. But among specialist fast bowlers, the gap between India's established pair and everyone else is striking.

History that lasts forever: Ronaldo's touching Insta tribute to Messi after farewell

Cristiano Ronaldo paid a heartwarming tribute to football rival Lionel Messi after the icon retired from international football on Tuesday, October 6. Messi played his final match for Argentina against Benin.



New Delhi. (Agency)

Cristiano Ronaldo paid the ultimate tribute to Lionel Messi after the Argentina superstar played his final game for the national team on Tuesday, October 6. Messi starred for the Albiceleste against Benin at the Monumental in his international football swansong, scoring a goal and setting up two assists.Once the match was done, Messi put up a lengthy post on Instagram, saying that he already missed wearing the jersey of Argentina. The 39-year-old said that it was the right time for him to move on from the national team and paid tribute to his family and teammates.Messi also fondly remembered the late great Diego Maradona, saying that the football icon was the one who helped make Argentina a force in the sport.

Many of the current and retired footballers paid their tribute to Messi, with Ronaldo leading the way with a touching message to his one-time rival on the field.The Portuguese star replied to the post, saying that history created by Messi will live on forever and also sent a hug to him.

"Leo, so many years defending your country and a history that will last forever. All my respect for what you have achieved with Argentina. A hug," said Ronaldo.This was not the first time that Ronaldo has sent a message to Messi on Instagram. He offered his condolences and support to the Argentine star after his father, Jorge, passed away in August.

RONALDO VS MESSI: A RIVALRY THAT DEFINED FOOTBALL

The Ronaldo vs Messi rivalry is widely considered to be one that has defined football in the modern era. The rivalry started in 2007 when both men were fighting with Kaka for the Ballon d'Or.

Since then, for the next 10 years, every single FIFA Best Player award and Ballon d'Or was shared between the two. The rivalry gained momentum when Ronaldo joined Real Madrid and was going up against Messi's Barcelona in Spain with every El Clasico being considered as the marquee game in club football.Despite the rivalry, both men have always shown respect to each other on and off the field.



Alia Bhatt

Enjoys Fun-Filled Spain Vacay With BFF Akansha Ranjan And Her Girl

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt is currently enjoying a vacation in Mallorca, Spain with her bestie Akansha Ranjan Kapoor and their girl gang. Akansha recently shared a series of photos on her Instagram account, giving fans a sneak-peek into their getaway. From soaking up the Spanish sun in chic bikini looks to dressing up for glamorous evenings, Alia's vacation photos are sure to give you major holiday goals.

Alia Bhatt Looks Stunning In Pics From Spain Vacay With Her Girl Gang

Alia and Akansha are making the most of their sun-soaked getaway in Spain with their friends. In one of the pictures, Alia can be seen seated on a balcony with her friends, soaking in the breathtaking views of the sparkling blue waters and beautiful hills in the backdrop.

Another photo captures the 'Alpha' actress enjoying a fun-filled motorboat ride with Akansha and another friend. The vacation album also features the friends unwinding at a café, enjoying yacht rides and soaking up the



scenic beauty of Mallorca. In one picture, the entire squad is seen posing together at a stunning rocky cove.

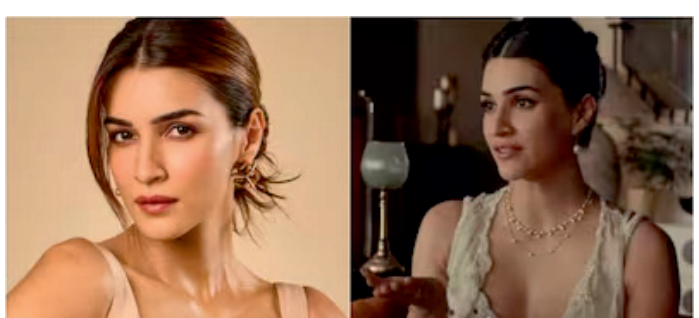
Alia served major vacation style in a red bikini paired with a white bandanna, while other pictures see her turning up the glam in a white bikini layered with a delicate white lace cover-up. The friends also dressed up for a beautiful evening against the backdrop of a picturesque hilltop town, with Alia looking stunning in a beautiful red gown."This and nothing else," wrote Akansha, while sharing the photos.

On the work front, Alia was last seen in the action thriller 'Alpha' where she starred alongside Sharvari Wagh as part of the YRF Spy Universe. She will next be seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's upcoming epic film Love & War, co-starring Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal. It is scheduled for theatrical release in January 2027.Reports also suggest that Alia and Sanjay Leela Bhansali have been in discussions about potentially reviving their shelved project Inshallah after completing Love & War. However, there has been no official confirmation regarding the project, and the development remains speculative.

Kriti Sanon

Viral Raksha Bandhan Ad: Actress Says Her Choli Became Prime-Time Debate: 'I Couldn't Believe'

Kriti Sanon has spoken about the backlash over her Raksha Bandhan advertisement, revealing that she never expected her outfit to become a subject of prime-time television debates. The actress discussed the controversy on Kareena Kapoor Khan's What Women Want Season 6 and recalled how much attention her "choli" received.



Speaking to Kareena, Kriti said, "I couldn't believe… when my choli had become like a 6 people panel discussion on prime-time news." Kareena reacted, "I know."

Kriti Sanon on her Raksha Bandhan ad controversy

The controversy began after GIVA released its Raksha Bandhan advertisement featuring Kriti Sanon. In the ad, she wears an Indo-Western outfit while celebrating Raksha Bandhan by tying a Rakhi to her brother and her pet dog.

Some social media users slammed Kriti's outfit and said it was inappropriate for a traditional festival. Others questioned the way Raksha Bandhan was presented in the advertisement, including the absence of traditional elements and the inclusion of her pet.

Kriti had reacted to the backlash on Instagram and questioned why women are still judged by their clothes. She wrote, "Also, when will we stop telling women what to wear? Ethnic fashion has evolved over the years, yet a woman's respect for her culture is still measured by her clothes. Culture and traditions are in her heart, not in her neckline!"

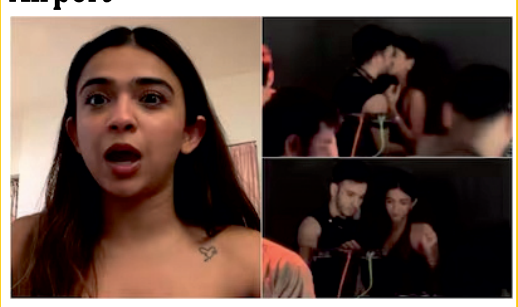
Kriti continued the conversation on women and clothing

Kriti later shared more posts about women, clothing and patriarchy. One of the posts she reshared read, "Guys, it's not Men vs Women," while criticising patriarchal and misogynistic attitudes. While she did not directly mention the GIVA advertisement in that post, it came during the discussion around the backlash she had received over the campaign.

On September 27, Kriti Sanon also posted about women's safety and the world daughters deserve. Days later, she shared another post about victim-blaming and clothing. It read, "'Was it my fault?' Asked the short skirt. 'No, it happened to me too,' replied the Burkha…"



Apoorva Mukhija Breaks Silence On Viral Kissing Video, Recalls Breaking Down At Heathrow Airport



In her latest vlog, Apoorva Mukhija aka The Rebel Kid, opened up about the moment she found out that her kissing video with Amin Jaz had surfaced online. She revealed that the video was from a year ago, and they had no clue they were being recorded. She also recalled how she broke down at Heathrow Airport after being flooded with messages about the viral clip.

Apoorva Mukhija Breaks Silence On Viral Kissing Video With Amin Jaz

Apoorva Mukhija has addressed the viral kissing video with Amin Jaz, revealing that the clip was from a private party that took place around a year ago. She recalled the circumstances under which she first found out about the video. She said she had been travelling from Turkey to New York, and had a layover in London when she received messages about the clip.

Apoorva said neither she nor Amin knew they were being recorded at the party. "One of my videos from a year ago has gotten leaked. So this video was like a private moment between me and another guy. And we did not know that we were being recorded. This was at a private party," she said.

'My Entire WhatsApp Was Filled With Messages', Says Apoorva

Apoorva recalled being shocked when she realised that it had surfaced online."Aur ye video bohot purani hai. 1 saal purani hai aur ab aayi hai baahar (And this video is very old. It's about a year old and has surfaced now)," she said.

She said that by the time she landed at London's Heathrow Airport, her phone was filled with messages from people asking whether she had seen the video. "My entire WhatsApp is filled with messages saying, 'Did you see this?'" Apoorva recalled.

'This Is The First Time My Parents Saw That Video'

The situation became even more overwhelming for Apoorva when she realised that her parents had also seen the clip. "This is the first time my parents saw that video. They did not know I had a boyfriend. They had no clue," she said.

The revelation, coupled with the sudden circulation of the private video, left her extremely distressed. "So I have lost my mind," Apoorva said while recalling the moment.

Kunickaa Sadanand's Mother Passes Away, Actress Mourns Loss: 'You Will Always Be Alive In Hearts'



Actress Kunickaa Sadanand's mother Kalyani Sadanand passed away at the age of 83 in Goa. On Tuesday, the actress took to her Instagram, and shared a throwback picture of her mother, as she shared the news with her followers. She also penned a long note in the caption, as she expressed her gratitude to her mother for her guidance, and the confidence that she gave her.

She wrote, "My Mumma, I love you , thank you for everything you have given me , the love, the guidance, the confidence to dream and dare the world, the looks, the personality, the strength to endure what life bestows on me. My darling Empress Mrs Kalyani Sadanand, you will always be alive in the hearts of the ppl you touched, friends and family remember you as this fun loving joyful friendly person , who always had something nice and witty to share".

She further mentioned, "I'm sure you are happy to be united will your siblings and your loved ones.

Rest in Peace my Mumma, you fulfilled all your responsibilities with utmost love and care, as a wife, a mother, sister ,a grand mother, and all the other relationships in your life".Her last rites will be performed in Goa and later the other rituals are to be performed in Mumbai.

On the professional front, the actress earlier spoke about the issue of delayed payments for new TV actors. The 'Bigg Boss 19' star revealed that the issue has been going on ever since the boom in the television industry.

She added that the payment often ends up getting delayed by 45 to 90 days. Explaining the core reason behind the delay, she said that the whole corporate system leads to a delay in the payment as the channels first receive money from the advertisers, which then goes to the producers.

NEWS BOX

Syria says northeast pipeline damaged in sabotage attack

WORLD.(Agency)

Syria's state petroleum company said on Wednesday that an oil pipeline in the country's northeast was damaged in a "sabotage attack", the third such incident in recent weeks.Years of civil war before the fall of longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad in late 2024 devastated Syria's oil, gas and electricity sectors, with the country becoming heavily reliant on imports to meet its needs.

In a statement, the Syrian Petroleum Company said the pipeline near "the Tal Hamis area in Al-Hasakah Governorate was subjected to a sabotage attack at 6:00 am on Wednesday, October 7, resulting in damage to the pipeline".It added that maintenance crews were working to "isolate the damaged section and begin repair and maintenance work"..The company said authorities arrested the alleged perpetrators and referred them to the judiciary.

On September 29, sabotage targeting a gas pipeline in eastern Syria caused an explosion, according to state news agency SANA.And in early October, an explosion at a gas pipeline near the capital Damascus took three power stations offline.The incidents come after demonstrations last month over rising fuel prices, which authorities linke

FBI Arrests ISIS Sympathiser For Plotting Mass Shooting At Mall Of America

wold.(Agency)

The FBI has arrested an 18-year-old man who had been plotting to carry out a mass shooting at the Mall of America near Minneapolis in the name of ISIS, according to court filings. He was arrested on Tuesday after an FBI undercover agent sold the Minnesota man, Sheikhdoon Abdullahi Mohamud, an AK-47, ammunition and magazines for $600, according to the complaint. Mohamud told the informant he planned to use the items to kill 30 to 60 people at an event at the mall in late October.

ohamud was charged with one count of knowingly receiving a firearm and ammunition in order to commit an act of terrorism. His lawyer did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

According to the complaint, Mohamud told an FBI source on various messaging platforms that he intended to travel overseas to fight on behalf of al-Shabaab, a designated foreign terrorist organization. He said if he couldn't travel, he planned to conduct a mass shooting. He later said he wanted to join ISIS. He also allegedly expressed support for a man who rammed a truck into a crowd in New Orleans on January 1, 2025, killing 14, before being killed in a shootout with police.

In July, Mohamud allegedly said he wanted to kill 30 to 60 people at the Mall of America because he claimed its owners were Jewish, and he wanted to kill non-Muslims. He told the informant he planned an attack for October 24 because there was a "Hmong Arts Celebration" that day at the mall.He also allegedly expressed support for a man who rammed a truck into a crowd in New Orleans on January 1, 2025, killing 14, before being killed in a shootout with police.In July, Mohamud allegedly said he wanted to kill 30 to 60 people at the Mall of America because he claimed its owners were Jewish, and he wanted to kill non-Muslims. He told the informant he planned an attack for October 24 because there was a "Hmong Arts Celebration" that day at the mall.

The Mall of Amrica is the largest mall in the United States, with a theme park, an aquarium and more than 500 stores.

El Nino will intensify, then peak in December: United Nations

The last El Nino contributed to making 2023 the second-hottest year on record and 2024 the all-time high at around 1.55C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average.

GENEVA.(Agency)

El Nino will intensify even more before peaking in December, the United Nations said Thursday, warning it could be among the strongest witnessed since at least 1950.The naturally occurring weather phenomenon is set to bring higher temperatures to much of the planet, the UN's weather and climate agency said, with its impact compounding the effects of man-made climate change."El Nino will continue to intensify ahead of its forecast peak in December," the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in its monthly Global Seasonal Climate Update."It is likely to bring above-average temperatures to much of the globe and shift rainfall patterns, increasing the risk of drought and floods in different regions."El Nino warms surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, bringing worldwide changes in winds, pressure and rainfall patterns.It typically takes place every two to seven years and lasts around nine to 12 months.Conditions oscillate between El Nino and its opposite La Nina, with neutral conditions in between.

El Nino 'strengthening rapidly'

"Sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific are forecast to increase to record levels during October-November-December 2026, reflecting the strengthening of the El Nino event which will drive weather patterns and impact economies, ecosystems and communities across the globe," the WMO said.The forecast is based on consensus across 13 leading national and international meteorological centres."El Nino is firmly established and strengthening rapidly,"



said WMO chief Celeste Saulo."WMO forecasts indicate a near-100 percent likelihood that it will persist through February 2027, potentially being one of the strongest since at least 1950."

Saulo explained that El Nino does not add new heat to the planet, but releases heat being stored in the ocean."The ocean it's drawing from is the warmest we've ever measured it. There is simply more heat available to release," she said.

Sea temperatures record

The index which measures sea surface temperature anomalies across the central-eastern equatorial Pacific -- the region at the heart of El Nino -- increased from 1.6C above normal in June to 2.5C above normal in August.For October-November-December, the anomaly is forecast to reach approximately 3.7C above normal.This would be the highest since observations began, eclipsing the previous record of 2.6C set in 2015-2016.The last El Nino contributed to making 2023 the second-hottest year on record and 2024 the all-time high at around 1.55C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average.While El Nino usually peaks between November and February, the resulting spike in temperatures typically comes later.This El Nino is already hitting some regions hard, including in Central America, where animals and crops are dying from drought.

Christa Pike is angry and confused after surviving execution attempt, attorney says

NASHVILLE.(Agency)

Christa Pike was "angry and confused" in the hours after regaining consciousness following Tennessee's failed execution attempt, first asking, "Where am I?" her lawyer said Wednesday.Pike, believed to be the first person to survive after receiving lethal injection drugs during an execution, stunningly woke up as plans were being made to remove her from life support, just six days after she was strapped to a gurney in the death chamber, said attorney Randy Spivey."But on Tuesday, to the shock of everyone ... Christa woke up and began talking," Spivey said.Pike, who was sentenced to death for the 1995 beating and stabbing death of classmate Colleen Slemmer, is aware of what happened to her, at least up to a point, Spivey said.Many questions remain, though, about her prognosis for recovery and whether Tennessee will make another attempt to execute Pike, now age 50.Her lawyers said Wednesday that she has suffered enough and want the governor to commute her sentence. A judge in Nashville told the state on Wednesday to save evidence from the execution attempt as Pike's attorneys try to find out more.The failed execution on Sept.



30 has renewed scrutiny of how states carry out the death penalty, in particular the use of lethal injection. Texas on Wednesday carried out the first execution in the U.S. since Tennessee attempted to put Pike to death.

Pike faces a long recovery, lawyer says

Pike's legal team said she still can't move her arms or swallow and has some cognitive confusion. She also has pneumonia and a blood clot in her arm, Spivey said. Her hands were extremely swollen when they saw her Tuesday in the hospital, shackled to a bed, he added.Her prognosis remains unclear and she has a long road to recovery, he said."She is angry and confused about everything right now," Randy Spivey said during a news conference following a court hearing about preserving evidence.Spivey, who was not with Pike when she woke up, was told her first words were, "Where am I?" and "Who are you?"

Pike's attorneys want evidence preserved

The Death Penalty Information Center says Pike is the first person to survive after receiving lethal injection drugs during an execution.At the hearing Wednesday, a judge told the state that the Tennessee Department of Correction needs to save evidence including "anything that was in the actual room."

'Fake News': Russia On Reports Of 2nd Plague Death Amid Outbreak Concerns

Moscow.(Agency)

The death of a worker at a plague research laboratory in Siberia last week has raised global concerns, with Russian media suggesting hundreds of people were under quarantine and being tested for any possible symptoms amid outbreak fears. However, as the World Health Organisation pressed Moscow for more information about the cause of death of 28-year-old Darya Shipilova, Russia's health regulator rushed in to say that there was no risk of an epidemic breaking out in Siberia. Shipilova, an employee of the Irkutsk Anti-Plague Institute, died last Friday from pneumonia of an as-yet unestablished origin, prompting international concern, including from US President Donald Trump. Amid growing scrutiny over the matter, unconfirmed Russian reports claimed a second death occurred in the region connected with the possible plague outbreak. But Moscow has dismissed the reports as fake news and urged people to rely on their health watchdog for credible information. When asked about reports of a second case, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that "the vast majority of what the media is reporting regarding this situation is false information.



"It's Crime": Elon Musk Claims 'Oligarchs' Stalling Starlink's Entry In India

Washington.(Agency)

US billionaire Elon Musk has claimed that "certain oligarchs" are blocking Starlink's satellite communication services in India to maintain their monopoly in the country. Musk made the remarks while responding to a post by the DodgeDesigner handle on X about the alleged non-availability of mobile coverage in over 11,000 Indian villages.

"Unfortunately, we are being blocked by certain oligarchs in order to maintain their monopolistic chokehold on the Indian people," Musk posted on X.

"You can guess who they are... This is a crime against the people of India!"An account operating under the name of DodgeDesigner, which is known for posting information related to Elon Musk and his firms, has alleged, "11,256 of India's listed villages still lacked 4G coverage as of May 2026."The account claimed "India needs Starlink" and shared information about telecom connectivity problems in the rural areas of the country.

Starlink's India Ops

The development comes hours after a senior official of Musk-led SpaceX announced that the company's satellite communication arm, Starlink, is ready to start services in India.Speaking at India Mobile Congress 2026, SpaceX's Starlink Business Operations Vice President Lauren Dreyer said the company has made an investment in setting up the required infrastructure to serve the Indian market."We've built our Starlink operations specifically for India in recognition of Indian security requirements and other regulations, establishing controls at every layer for India, and keeping Indian user data within India," she said.The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has granted licenses to three companies, including Starlink, to provide satellite communication services in India. However, the satcom companies need spectrum and security clearance to start their services."We've already made the investment and built the existing ground infrastructure here, 20 gateway sites comprising hundreds of antennas, and we've established the operations to be ready to serve India," Dreyer said.

Musk Shares Old Padcast

DodgeDesigner posted a clip of Musk's old podcast with Zerodha founder Nithin Kamath, where he talked about starting Starlink operations in India.

"It's been nearly four years since Starlink applied to operate in India, and it is still waiting to launch. The government should grant the remaining approvals as soon as possible so Starlink can bring high-speed internet to India's remote and underserved communities," the post claimed.

White House Denies Trump Suggested Iran Should "Take Out" US Cities

World.(Agency)

The White House pushed back Tuesday after Democrats accused President Donald Trump of suggesting Iran should "take out" the major US cities of Los Angeles and San Diego.Viral footage showed comments by Trump at a midterm elections rally in Nebraska on Monday, where he said high oil prices from the Iran war were justified by



the need to stop Tehran getting nuclear weapons."It's a little bit high. It's a small price to pay for keeping the world safe, keeping our country safe," Trump said.

"They can take out a ity. Let them take, let them take out Los Angeles, let them take out San Diego. This is a very small price to pay, and it's going to be over with very soon."

Democrats -- who control the state of California where both Los Angeles and San Diego are located -- accused the 80-year-old Republican president of encouraging Iran to hit the two urban centers.

"Donald Trump is now saying our foreign enemies should 'take out' Los Angeles and San Diego. He is deranged and dangerous," California Governor Gavin Newsom said on X."The nuclear annihilation of an American city is no laughing matter," Hakeem Jeffries, the Democratic minority leader in the US House of Representatives, said on X.But the White House insisted Trump was talking about the threat posed by Iran, branding it a "media freakout" that was "not rooted in reality.""He was clearly stating US cities would have been threatened if a nuclear Iran hadn't been stopped," White House Communications Director Steven Cheung said on X.

The White House's Rapid Response account on X took issue with a Los Angeles Times headline saying Trump had suggested "letting Iran 'take out' Los Angeles and San Diego.""No, he didn't, you buffoons. He was saying the US is fighting to STOP Iran from having the ability to take out LA and San Diego with a nuclear weapon — which they would if they had the chance," it said.Trump is hitting the road in the last month before the midterms amid Republican fears that voter anger over the Iran war and high prices could cost them control of Congress.

US Said China Was Priming A Trade Superweapon. Then It Vanished

The LOGINK platform promised to streamline global shipping by providing a digital system to exchange logistics data from customs authorities, ports and third-party transport services, replacing paper processes.

Beijing.(Agency)

Four years ago, the United States warned that China was poised to unleash a trade superweapon: a state-backed digital dragnet that would rapidly expand across the globe and give Beijing unprecedented insight into the flow of international cargo.The LOGINK platform promised to streamline global shipping by providing a digital system to exchange logistics data from customs authorities, ports and third-party transport services, replacing paper processes.

Instead, the venture suffered a stunning reversal, reported here for the first time. Its flagship global partnerships have stalled, it dropped out of an international maritime association, and it has become mired in domestic lawsuits over unpaid bills, according to interviews with more than 20 shipping industry insiders and officials, as well as a Reuters review of legal filings.



When a reporter visited LOGINK's operations hub in the coastal city of Wenzhou in September, the offices appeared abandoned: lights off, reception bare, computer cabling stripped out.Calls and emails to LOGINK went unanswered. China's transport ministry declined to answer questions. The ministry in June, however, issued a policy document calling for the system to be connected to more domestic data streams.

LOGINK's international retreat is a setback for Beijing, which has been engaged in a battle with Washington to control the physical infrastructure and technologies underpinning global shipping, a sector that carries 80% of world trade. The platform's decline will be welcomed by the US, which contributed to LOGINK's reversal in fortunes by "naming and shaming" those who used the system, said Randall Schriver, chair of a US Congress commission that issued a report on LOGINK in 2022.Reuters could not establish why the platform championed by China's cabinet as a "key project" abruptly went dark and spiraled into financial and legal troubles. The timing of its retreat, however, coincided with US efforts to pressure allies and organizations that had made tentative steps to collaborate with LOGINK as it pushed for global expansion.