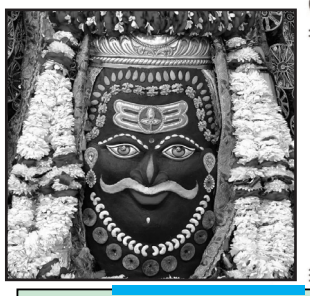
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From 16 lakh participants to 76 lakh: Khel Mahakumbh created a new sporting culture in Gujarat, says CM

Vadodara. (Agency)

Gujarat's annual sporting event has grown from around 16.5 lakh participants in 2010 to more than 76 lakh this year, but the state's next task is to turn the mass participation into athletes capable of competing on the international stage, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said on Friday.

CM Patel inaugurated the 2026 edition of Khel Mahakumbh in Vadodara along with Deputy Chief Minister Harsh



Sanghavi, with the state government announcing an expansion of support for promising sportspersons. Addressing the gathering, Patel said, "Gujarat has never lacked talented players. What they needed was the right platform and opportunities. Khel Mahakumbh has met this need and created a new sporting culture in the state." The CM said that Gujarat was "committed to identifying talented athletes," providing training suited to their abilities and "preparing them for international competitions."

Mamata Banerjee, Trinamool MPs Detained During Protest Near Delhi's Jantar Mantar

New Delhi. (Agency).

Former Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was detained on Saturday as she tried to join the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest in the Capital. The Trinamool Congress chief was detained along with several of her party MPs from South Avenue in central Delhi, where she sat on a protest at a bus stand after being stopped by police.

Banerjee and five of her party MPs, including Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen, were detained and taken away in a police bus. Mamata Banerjee sat with a



band-aid on her mouth during the protest. "The government is misbehaving with us," Banerjee said in a video statement from inside the police bus. "We the INDIA alliance will continue to fight to strengthen people's voice," she added. Several other opposition and student leaders were also detained as they tried to join the Jantar Mantar protest. Former Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and CPM MP John Brittas were among those detained by police and taken to the detention centre at Chhatrasal Stadium. Mamata Banerjee had arrived in Delhi on Friday to join the Opposition protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. She was part of the INDIA bloc delegation that met President Droupadi Murmu on Friday evening to demand Kumar's sacking.

PM Modi-Amit Shah duo rattled by youth protest, says Congress, seeks CEC's exit

Congress accused the Centre and the Chief Election Commissioner over the voter roll revision row. It said the protest crackdown and disputed SIR process had deepened concerns over electoral trust.

New Delhi. (Agency).

The Congress on Saturday alleged that the "PM-HM duo" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah was "extremely nervous and rattled" by a peaceful youth protest, and said Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation had become a "moral imperative". The party also called for the suspension of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), claiming it had already disenfranchised nearly 14 crore Indians and that stopping it was necessary to restore public faith in the election system. The remarks came on a day when the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) was set to lead a protest at Jantar Mantar against the CEC.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the national capital had been turned into a fortress and that armed security personnel were deployed across the city. "The PM-HM (Narendra Modi-Amit Shah) duo is extremely nervous and rattled by a peaceful protest by youth deeply concerned with the planned stealing of their Constitutional right to vote guaranteed by Article 326," Ramesh said on X.

He alleged that there was "incontrovertible evidence" that Kumar had faithfully carried out the orders of the "destructive duo" after his appointment. Ramesh also said that in



December 2023, a law giving the CEC lifelong immunity was pushed through Parliament when 145 Opposition MPs had been suspended.

"The resignation of the CEC, who has lied to the Supreme Court itself, has become a moral imperative. But it is only the first step to reclaim the very foundations of our democracy, which is so very essential for fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of all people, especially the youth," he said. Ramesh further said, "The suspension of the SIR that has already disenfranchised nearly 14 crore Indians is essential to restore public faith and trust in our election system." The CJP has called the proposed demonstration against the CEC over allegations of voter-list manipulation during the SIR of electoral rolls and changes relating to Form 6, which is used for voter registration. On Friday, Delhi Police detained around 150 protesters who were trying to reach Jantar Mantar for the proposed CJP protest against the CEC. Sources said the protesters were detained across the New Delhi area, where police were also using drones to monitor the movement of people attempting to reach the site. Police have denied permission to the CJP to hold the demonstration at Jantar Mantar, citing security considerations and procedural requirements, and have stepped up vigil in the city to prevent any breach of peace.

In sum, the Congress used the planned protest to sharpen its attack on the Centre and the CEC, while the police moved to stop the demonstration in the capital amid heightened security and claims over the SIR and voter-list changes.

Ahmedabad: Goa Trip During Husband's Wife-Swapping Demand Turns Into Alleged Nightmare, 37-Year-Old Woman Accuses Husband of Threatening Gang Rape and Murder

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad: A serious case involving allegations of domestic violence, sexual abuse, dowry harassment and criminal intimidation has come to light in the Chandkheda area of Ahmedabad. A 37-year-old married woman has lodged a complaint with the Chandkheda police, accusing her husband, father-in-law and sisters-in-law of subjecting her to physical and mental harassment. According to the complaint, the husband allegedly demanded that she participate in wife-swapping during a trip to Goa. When she refused, he allegedly assaulted her and threatened to have her gang-raped by five of his friends and killed. The complaint also contains serious allegations against her father-in-law, who she claims demanded sexual relations from her during a period of family distress.According to the woman's account, the incident involving the alleged wife-swapping demand occurred during a trip to Goa with her husband. She has alleged that her husband asked her to agree to a sexual arrangement involving the exchange of partners. The woman reportedly rejected the proposal, stating that she was unwilling to participate in such an arrangement. Following her refusal, her husband allegedly became aggressive, assaulted her and issued threats against her safety. She has claimed that he threatened to send five of his friends to sexually assault her and subsequently kill her if she did not comply with his demand.The alleged threats have emerged as one of the most serious aspects of the complaint. The woman has reportedly told the police that she feared for her safety because of her husband's alleged conduct and the threats made against her. The exact circumstances of the incident, the sequence of events and the evidence supporting the allegations will be examined during the investigation.The complaint also names the woman's father-in-law and sisters-in-law, alleging that she faced harassment within her marital household. One of the most serious allegations concerns the father-in-law's alleged demand for sexual relations. According to the woman's complaint, her husband had suffered an accident and was reportedly bedridden for a period. The family was allegedly experiencing financial difficulties at the time, and the woman claims she approached her father-in-law seeking support. Instead, she has alleged, he demanded sexual relations from her. The allegation is part of the complaint and remains subject to police investigation.Apart from



the alleged incidents involving sexual coercion and threats, the woman has accused her in-laws of repeatedly harassing her over dowry demands. According to her account, the pressure for money began after the marriage and continued through repeated disputes and demands. She has alleged that her husband frequently quarrelled with her while under the influence of alcohol, creating an atmosphere of fear and insecurity in the household.The woman has also alleged that her husband subjected her to sexual acts against her wishes. These allegations, together with the reported physical assault and threats, form part of the complaint submitted to the police. The investigation will need to establish the nature of the alleged acts and determine whether they constitute offences under the applicable law.Another important allegation relates to the woman's jewellery and personal property. She has claimed that her husband sold her jewellery, which formed part of her stridhan, on the pretext of arranging money for the purchase of a house. Stridhan generally refers to property and valuables belonging to a woman.

BR Ambedkar's grandson backs CJP protest, calls Delhi curbs dictatorship

Prakash Ambedkar backed the CJP protest against the Election Commission and condemned curbs in Delhi. He said suppressing a peaceful agitation threatens democratic rights and could deepen unrest.

Mumbai (Agency).

Dr BR Ambedkar's grandson and Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi chief Prakash Ambedkar on Saturday backed the Cockroach Janta Party protest against the Election Commission in New Delhi and accused the Centre of using "dictatorship" to curb a peaceful agitation. Calling for a gathering at Hutatma Chowk in south Mumbai, he said the right to protest was being obstructed through curbs on movement and police action. Ambedkar also criticised the Congress for not bringing Opposition parties together on the issue and said Rahul Gandhi should invite all parties and organisations to join the agitation. He said the matter should not be seen only through the lens of electoral gains and losses, and that voters would decide whom to elect in the next polls. The VBA leader alleged that restrictions on transport services, including cancelled trains and the closure of metro stations, were meant to stop people from reaching Delhi for the protest. "Political parties have the right to protest, but the way attempts are being made to suppress this agitation amounts to dictatorship," said Ambedkar, the grandson of Dr BR Ambedkar. He claimed that people were being stopped at barricades and forced to walk several kilometres to reach the protest venue, and said notices and arrests were being used to discourage participation.



Cowardly: Supriya Sule condemns crackdown on protesters in Delhi

New Delhi. (Agency).

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) MP Supriya Sule on Saturday condemned the detention of protesters who gathered in Delhi to participate in the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) agitation at Jantar Mantar, calling it a "cowardly act by any government".

Speaking to India Today Group Consulting Editor Rajdeep Sardesai at the India Today Conclave Mumbai 2026, Sule said the agitation was peaceful and criticised the government's handling of the protesters. "It was a very peaceful agitation that they were going to participate in Delhi. I personally feel it was cowardly of any government. I condemn this," Sule said. Her remarks came after Delhi Police detained nearly 500 people who gathered in the national capital on Saturday to participate in



an agitation called by the CJP leadership against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. CJP leaders Abhijit Dipke, Sourav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were also detained from an Air India flight shortly after landing in Delhi to attend the protest. Sule also drew parallels between the restrictions imposed in Delhi and the Emergency declared in India in 1975, describing the situation in the capital as an "unannounced Emergency". Authorities imposed restrictions to prevent the gathering from escalating, with security personnel deployed and metro station gates closed. Around 250 trains were cancelled, while an internet blackout was imposed in parts of central Delhi at night.

Recalling accounts of the Emergency, one of the darkest chapters in India's democratic history, Sule questioned how the situation in Delhi differed from the restrictions imposed during that period.

Speaking at the India Today Conclave Mumbai 2026, Supriya Sule compared the situation in Delhi to the Emergency of the 1970s, describing it as an "unannounced Emergency."

9-month-old boy drowns in bucket while mother washes clothes

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A nine-month-old boy drowned in Bhangrola Thursday morning while his mother was washing clothes. The child's parents, who work as daily-wage labourers, rushed him to a hospital but he could not be saved and the doctors declared him dead.

The incident occurred around 11 am under the jurisdiction of Kherki Daula police station. A police officer said the hospital alerted the police about the incident, following which a team from Kherki Daula police station reached the hospital and initiated proceedings."The mother found the child upside down in the bucket. She informed her husband and took the child to the hospital. We received information from the hospital and sent a team to the spot," a police officer said.The child's body was sent for a postmortem examination to ascertain the circumstances surrounding his death. After the examination, the body was handed over to the family for the last rites.

Police said no complaint had been filed by the family in connection with the incident. "No criminal case has been registered in the matter. Inquest proceedings under Section 194 of the BNSS have been undertaken," police said. They have not indicated any suspicion of foul play in the incident so far.

OBC students have time till Oct 31 to apply for post-matric scholarship

Noida.(Agency)

The district administration has announced deadlines for applications and verification under the post-matric scholarship and fee reimbursement scheme for Other Backward Classes (OBC) students, excluding minority backward classes, for the 2026-27 academic session.

According to the schedule released by the district backward class welfare department, students pursuing higher education must submit their scholarship renewal applications by Oct 15, while fresh applicants have until Oct 31 to complete online registration and submit their applications.Educational institutions have been directed to verify and forward eligible students' renewal applications by Oct 25. The deadline for verification and forwarding of fresh applications by



colleges and other institutions is Nov 10.

The schedule also covers fresh applicants studying in pre-matric and post-matric classes from grades 9 to 12. Schools and educational institutions must verify and forward their applications by Oct 15, the department said.District backward class welfare officer Lavesh Kumar Sisodia said all educational institutions in the district had been instructed to inform eligible students about the application process and ensure that forms were submitted within the prescribed timelines.

Long queues, few seats: What ails this Aadhaar centre in Greater Noida

Noida.(Agency)

Poor management and inadequate facilities at an Aadhaar Seva Kendra in the basement of Blue Sapphire Mall are making theprocess an ordeal for the people visiting the centre for enrolment, address and name corrections, photograph updates and other documentation services. Long queues form outside the centre as people wait for tokens. Visitors alleged that even after waiting for hours, they often fail to get their work done in a single day and are forced to return. The basement centre also lacks adequate seating and fans.

On Friday afternoon, 71-year-old Naval Kishore Tiwari and his wife took turns to stand in the queue outside the centre as they waited to collect a token for their five-year-old granddaughter. "We are here to enrol our granddaughter for Aadhaar. She needs it for her admission in school next year," he said.

A knee injury restricts Tiwari from standing in one place for too long. So, he was left with no other choice but to let his wife take his place. Every 15 minutes, he left the queue, took support of a wall and rested while he kept watch on his granddaughter. There were no seats.Tiwari, like many others who were waiting for a token, was unaware that he could book an appointment to avail the services. The centre attracts visitors from nearby housing societies and surrounding villages. The lack of adequate seating arrangements and fans adds to their difficulties. Visitors also complain of poor ventilation and overcrowdinSeveral private agencies operate alongside the centre and provide assistance for Aadhaar-related services, marriage certificates, passports, visas and other documents."My infant son needs to be fed, and there is not even enough space to stand," said Habitpur resident Raadha. "It is difficult to breathe. Imagine what it is like for my son. There is no fan, no ventilation, and I have nobody to look after him." For Raadha, this was the third time in two months that she had made the trip to the centre, carrying her infant with her.

Achieve Your Dreams" Highzlights the Role of Physiotherapy in Restoring Movement and Independence

Mahanagar Metro Desk

World Arthritis Day is observed to raise awareness about arthritis and other rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs), which can affect joints, muscles, bones, mobility and overall quality of life. The 2026 theme, "Achieve Your Dreams," highlights the aspirations of people living with these conditions and emphasizes that timely diagnosis, appropriate treatment, rehabilitation and social inclusion can help them pursue their personal, educational, professional and recreational goals.World Arthritis Day was established in 1996 by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI). Today, international awareness initiatives are promoted through organizations including the European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR), patient advocacy groups and the Arthritis Foundation. The campaign draws attention to the importance of understanding these conditions and improving access to comprehensive care. According to Dr. Amit M. Patel (Ph.D.), Professor and P.G. Guide in Musculoskeletal Sciences, who is also associated as a committee member with international health organizations, arthritis management should extend beyond pain relief to preserving function, independence and participation in everyday life. He explains that arthritis does not necessarily mean giving up personal ambitions. With appropriate medical care, individualized rehabilitation and sustained self-management, many people can continue working towards meaningful life goals. Arthritis encompasses several conditions, including osteoarthritis and inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis. Common symptoms include joint pain, stiffness, swelling and restricted movement. Persistent symptoms, prolonged morning stiffness, unexplained joint swelling or progressive difficulty performing daily activities warrant timely medical assessment. Early diagnosis is particularly important in inflammatory arthritis, where prompt treatment can help limit joint damage and long-term disability. Physiotherapy plays a central role in arthritis rehabilitation. Therapeutic exercise, including strengthening, range-of-motion activities, bal



ance training and low-impact aerobic exercise, can improve physical capacity and help people manage symptoms.

the Spirit of Shakti, and the Pride of Our Culture

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Rupesh Solanki, Bhachau

Navratri is a unique festival in Indian culture, celebrating devotion, strength, values, and joy. This sacred festival of nine nights is not limited to the worship of Goddess Durga; it also inspires us to illuminate our lives with truth, courage, and righteousness.As soon as Navratri arrives in Gujarat, the vibrant colors of traditional Chaniya Cholis, traditional Kediyas, the rhythmic beats of drums, and the enchanting sounds of Garba fill the atmosphere with joy and enthusiasm. Garba is not merely a dance; it is a living symbol of our folk culture, collective unity, and deep faith. Today, Gujarat's Garba has earned a distinctive identity across India and around the world.Navratri conveys an important message about respecting and honoring the power of women. If we worship Goddess Durga on one hand but fail to give equal respect to girls and women on the other, our devotion remains incomplete. The worship of Shakti becomes truly meaningful when girls receive education, women enjoy safety, and every woman is treated with dignity and respect.In this age of modernity, Navratri celebrations are becoming incingly grand. However, preserving our traditions, dignity, and cultural values



is equally important.

BROS NA GARBA' REVIVES THE SOUL OF TRADITIONAL NAVRATRI

Mahanagar metro Desk

HMEDABAD | NEWSIn an era where festival celebrations are increasingly dominated by commercial extravagance, loud modern beats, and high-decibel entertainment, Niche Experience is stepping forward to reclaim the true heart and soul of Gujarat's grandest festival. Curated by Kamna Vyas, the founder of Niche by Kamna who has spent the last 6 to 7 years pioneering experiential cultural storytelling, the upcoming event "Bros Na Garba" promises an immersive journey back in time to experience Navratri in its purest and most authentic form.Returning to Our RootsUnder the evocative theme "Garbo Jevo Pehla Hato" (Garba, Just Like It Used to Be), this cultural thematic event stands as a conscious movement toward tradition, sacred devotion, and genuine community togetherness. Historically, Garba was much more than an extravagant party or a trendy social gathering; it was a deep, heartfelt expression of devotion, spiritual alignment, and



cultural togetherness. Bros Na Garba aims to recreate that exact sacred atmosphere, offering an alternative to the noise and superficiality of modern commercial grounds.

Foreign Liquor Worth ₹72,151 Seized from Millet Field

Mahanagar metro Desk

HMEDABAD Vadtal/Nadiad: The Kheda-Nadiad Local Crime Branch (LCB) seized foreign liquor worth ₹72,151 during a raid near the Kishorpura Kans culvert in Vadtal. Acting on a specific tip-off, police searched a millet field and recovered liquor bottles of various brands allegedly hidden for illegal sale.The accused, Shailesh alias Gidhdo Jagdishbhai Parmar, a resident of Vadtal, reportedly fled after spotting the police team. Police have launched a search to apprehend him and are investigating the source of the liquor and the possible involvement of others in the illegal

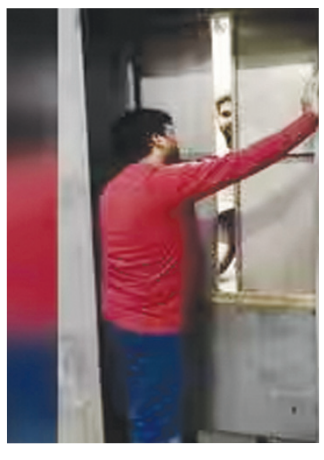


trade.The seizure has raised concerns about the illegal storage and distribution of foreign liquor in and around Vadtal, an important religious pilgrimage centre in Gujarat. The LCB's action is part of efforts to curb illegal activities in Kheda district. Further details are expected as the investigation progresses.

Lifts snag, trap residents three times in Greater Noida West condo in a week

Noida.Agency)

Two residents of Ajnara Homes in Greater Noida West were trapped in lifts of L tower within hours on Friday morning, days after 14 people were stranded in another tower, renewing concerns over lift safety and maintenance in the society. Residents blamed the builder for poor maintenance, leading to frequent lift malfunction incidents.The first incident occurred around 6 am, when a woman took the lift to her 20th-floor home after picking flowers for puja. It stopped on the 18th floor, dropped to the 9th floor, and stopped. The woman claimed that she was not carrying a mobile phone, so she tried to use the alarm bell and intercom, but neither worked.She banged on the door, but no guard was nearby. "I was too scared by now, as I had spent nearly 5 minutes inside the lift. Since it was early morning, there was no help available," said the woman, who did not wish to be named. After pressing the buttons for several floors, she got out on the 3rd floor. She waited for a few minutes before taking the lift home, "fearing all the way lest it should stop again", she said.Within 1.5 hours, another resident got stuck in another lift of the same tower. Resident Pankaj Pandey, who lives on the 4th floor, told TOI that he was woken by cries for help around 7.30 am. "A resident who had taken the lift from the basement was stuck inside the elevator on the floor and was banging the door for help.



Hospital ordeal ends for Gurgaon worker who lost forearm in machine

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 35-year-old worker, who lost her right forearm in an accident and remained stuck in hospital over unpaid bills, was finally able to return home on Thursday evening. Soon after TOI highlighted the plight of Sanju Devi, her employer Richa Gupta cleared the outstanding medical expenses. In another gesture of support, a TOI reader approached Sanju and gave her Rs 10,000 to help her cope with the immediate financial difficulties.Having undergone three surgeries following the Sept 25 accident, she had been struggling not only with her injuries but also with the uncertainty surrounding her hospital bills and her family's future. Returning home in Dhankot has brought the "much-needed relief" after days of physical pain and emotional distress. "Now, I have to figure out how to rebuild my life, support my family and ensure my children's future despite everything that has happened," Sanju told TOI, adding, "Being stuck in the hospital because of unpaid bills was extremely depressing. Amid unbearable pain, the trauma of losing my hand and the uncertainty over when I would be able to go home made things even harder."

Sanju's husband Prahalad said her employer Richa negotiated with the hospital, which offered a discount and brought the final bill down to Rs 7.5 lakh. "After several days of uncertainty, my wife was discharged around 8pm on Thursday and we could finally bring her



home," Prahalad said. Richa said Sanju had been like a family member to her, having worked with her for nearly six years. "It took me some time to arrange the money, but I was always trying to resolve the matter," Richa told

Sanju's challenges are far from over. "We can focus on her recovery. But the loss of her forearm has left her facing an uncertain future, with questions over her ability to work, our children's education and the family's financial stability still weighing heavily on us," said Prahalad, who works as a labourer and has health issues.

NEWS BOX

Rs 42-crore chit fund fraud victims move Andhra Pradesh HC for refund

VIJAYAWADA (Agency).
Nearly 300 people from four mandals in West Godavari district's Tanuku region thronged the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday, hoping to recover their money allegedly lost in a Rs 42 crore chit fund fraud. The victims arrived in buses and vans at their own expense, carrying payment receipts and passbooks issued by the company. The rush followed assurances from police that the accused father and son were willing to repay the money collected from them through chit funds.However, when their anticipatory bail petition came up for hearing in the afternoon, the accused informed the court that they were withdrawing it. The court permitted the withdrawal. Subsequently, the victims surrounded the accused's car as they attempted to leave the High Court premises, leading to tense scenes. Police eventually escorted them to the Tulluru police station after dispersing the crowd with difficulty.

Over 8,500 candidates file nominations for Odisha student union polls

BHUBANESWAR (Agency).
University and college campuses across the state were abuzz with poll fervour as over 8,500 candidates filed nominations on Friday for the October 15 student union elections, with student organisations putting up an impressive show of strength through rallies and processions. Higher Education department sources said over 8,500 candidates filed nominations, including 8,325 in colleges across the state. Of the total nominations received from colleges, 1,175 were rejected, leaving 7,168 valid forms. Candidates at prominent universities and colleges arrived in large processions to submit their nomination papers.

Hundreds of candidates backed by the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Biju Chhatra Janata Dal (BCJD) and National Students' Union of India (NSUI) filed their nominations across 13 universities, including Utkal, Rama Devi and Ravenshaw, and over 300 colleges.

The All India Students' Federation (AISF) also fielded candidates at Utkal University in Bhubaneswar, Maa Manikeswari University and 35 other colleges across Puri, Khurda, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Malkangiri, Sundargarh, Bhadrak, Ganjam and other districts. Drumbeats and traditional musical instruments reverberated during the nomination process, as student groups mobilised supporters in large numbers to demonstrate their strength.

ABVP national executive council member Biswajit Patra said the outfit is reaching out to students with an agenda of campus development and restoring students' voices on campuses. "The students' voices had been suppressed for the last years. We will restore it," he added. AISF state president Sanghamitra Jena said the organisation was highlighting demands for social security, free bus services for all, quality education, regularisation of staff and timely filling of vacant teaching posts in colleges and universities across the state.

Repatriate 23 crew members stranded on tanker: Odisha HC to Centre

CUTTACK(Agency).
The Orissa High Court has directed the Centre to make immediate arrangements for the disembarkation and repatriation of 23 crew members, including 20 Russian nationals, stranded aboard the Cameroon-flagged crude oil tanker MT Unity at Paradip anchorage since May. In an order passed on October 6, Justice RK Pattanaik held that the vessel qualified as an 'abandoned vessel' under the Merchant Shipping Act, as its owner had failed to discharge its statutory obligations towards the crew. The vessel has remained under detention pursuant to court orders in connection with maritime disputes over alleged unpaid bunker fuel dues.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Istyagin Evegeny Nikolaevich, the master of MT Unity. The crew members, who have been stranded for months, were allegedly left without adequate supplies of basic necessities, including food and drinking water. Justice Pattanaik said the crew "cannot be left abandoned indefinitely till the maritime claims are settled". He rejected the argument that their replacement and repatriation should be left to the shipowner, contracting parties or insurer. Directing the Union government, the Shipping Master (Kolkata), the Mercantile Marine Department (Kolkata) and the Director General of Maritime Administration (Maharashtra) to "immediately take charge of the situation", Justice Pattanaik ordered arrangements for the crew's disembarkation, replacement and repatriation without further delay. He said the expenses incurred in the process could be recovered from the shipowner or its agents as a maritime claim.

UP eases building map, plot approvals in industrial development authority areas

Lucknow (Agency).
In an attempt to simplify the process of approvals for building maps and plots in areas under industrial development authorities across the state, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Friday gave the go-ahead to the implementation of the Model Building Regulations, 2026. In a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Cabinet approved 39 proposals related to development, industrial investment, agriculture, employment, technology and public welfare.

The move to implement the Model Building Regulations, 2026, is being seen as crucial for accelerating urban expansion, infrastructure development and private investment, in line with the state government's goal of achieving a one-trillion-dollar economy. The new regulations will ensure better utilisation of valuable land suitable for development and will encourage private investment across various sectors, including manufacturing, tourism, IT/ITeS, logistics, healthcare, education and real estate, the government said in a statement. Also, the Cabinet approved the renaming of Bhadohi district as Sant Ravidas Nagar Bhadohi, days after CM Adityanath announced this during his visits to Varanasi and Bhadohi. It also okayed the proposal to implement the Uttar Pradesh Interest Waiver Scheme-2026, under which interests and penalties on outstanding dues arising under various tax laws will be waived up to December 31, 2025. The relief will remain effective for three months, it was stated, adding the scheme will cover



outstanding dues under the Uttar Pradesh Sales Tax Act, 1948; Central Sales Tax Act, 1956; Uttar Pradesh Entertainment and Betting Tax Act, 1979; Uttar Pradesh Trade Tax Act, 1995; Uttar Pradesh Entry Tax Act, 2007; and Uttar Pradesh Value Added Tax Act, 2008. Besides, cases covered under the rules relating to entertainment tax and the Uttar Pradesh Cable Television Network Rules, 1997, will also fall within the ambit of the scheme.

Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna said, "The scheme is being introduced to waive interest and penalties levied on outstanding dues up to the stipulated date. It will provide relief to taxpayers with pending dues under the relevant tax laws."

Sustainable aviation fuel

The Cabinet approved the implementation of the Uttar Pradesh Sustainable Aviation Fuel Manufacturing Promotion Policy-2026, with a stated view to promote decarbonisation in the aviation sector, strengthen energy security, encourage private investment and innovation, and create new green employment opportunities in the state. It also emphasises developing new value chains in rural areas and diversifying farmers' income by promoting sustainable aviation fuel production using locally available feedstock such as agricultural residues, municipal waste and non-edible oilseeds. Uttar Pradesh has abundant agricultural residues, including rice husk, wheat straw and sugarcane bagasse, which can be used to produce sustainable aviation fuel through technologies such as pyrolysis and gasification, the government said.

Is Bharuch's Jami Masjid a Jain temple? Gujarat High Court seeks Centre's response

Ahmedabad (Agency).
Months after the Archaeological Survey of India warned of possible damage to Bharuch's historic Jami Masjid amid a campaign to reclaim it as a Jain religious site, the dispute has reached the Gujarat High Court.

Five petitioners have sought a declaration that the protected monument is a Jain temple, alleging damage to artefacts and apprehending further harm to an "idol of Tirthankar Mallinath".

Justice Nisha M Thakore, hearing the petition filed by Hari Shankar Jain and four others on Friday, asked the Union government and other central authorities to obtain complete instructions on the petitioners' submissions and submit a response on October 13, the next date of hearing.

The petitioners told the High Court that they belonged to the "Jain Hindu community" and worshipped Mallinath. Their counsel alleged that images, artefacts and sculptures at the monument had been damaged, placing photographs and a video showing the idol before the court. They sought urgent interim protection, citing the possibility of further damage to the idol.

The plea seeks a declaration that the structure recorded as a mosque in ASI records is, in fact, a Jain Hindu temple. The petitioners relied on the monument's alleged historical background and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, arguing that the ASI was legally obliged to preserve and protect the structure and its contents, citing a Madhya Pradesh High Court judgment in support of their case. During the hearing, counsel for the central authorities submitted that the protected monument had been maintained strictly in accordance with the law. The court noted that the petitioners had approached the High Court without first moving the relevant authorities.

Police follow CCTV trail, crack Rs 3.70-crore gold heist at Nadiad station in 24 hours

Vadodara (Agency).
A bag containing gold worth over Rs 3 crore disappeared from the premises of the Nadiad railway station on October 3.By the next day, CCTV footage at a railway station foot overbridge took the police on a trail of a Rs 3.70-crore gold haul to Viramgam. A former railway employee and three others were arrested within 24 hours of the alleged theft and the goods recovered, police said on Friday. The Western Railway's (WR) Vadodara division cited the case on Friday to emphasise that CCTV surveillance has helped uncover 55 cases of passenger-property theft in 2026 so far. A total of 68 accused have been handed over to the Government Railway Police (GRP), while stolen property worth Rs 3.83 crore has been recovered, the WR said in a statement.In the Nadiad case, the passenger



was allegedly robbed of his bag containing around 2.710 kg of gold and other valuables worth Rs 3.70 crore on the station's foot overbridge. A case was registered with the GRP in Nadiad. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) examined footage from cameras across the station and nearby areas, tracking the suspects' movements and reconstructing the routes they took while fleeing in separate vehicles. The footage and details of the suspects were shared with the GRP, helping Gujarat Police apprehend all four in Viramgam with the stolen property. The GRP arrested them on October 4, according to the WR statement.

Bag stolen from train, accused held

In another case, CCTV footage helped investigators identify a suspect in the theft of a passenger's bag from an air-conditioned coach of the Saurashtra Mail between Surat and Nadiad on August 12. The bag, belonging to the passenger, reportedly contained gold jewellery, cash and other valuables worth Rs 11.71 lakh.After examining footage from multiple stations, the RPF shared the suspect's details with the GRP, which arrested the accused on August 19.

Himachal wildlife department decides to keep all 7 monkey sterilisation centres operational

In the absence of grants through CAMPA, which were provided earlier, the dept will explore other schemes to get funding to continue with the sterilisation process

Chandigarh(Agency).
Departing from its earlier stance to shut five out of seven Monkey Sterilisation Centres (MSCs), following the exclusion of the rhesus macaque from the schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Himachal Pradesh Forest & Wildlife Department has decided to keep these facilities operational and has initiated efforts to get funding to continue with the capture and sterilisation process of monkeys.

The Himachal Pradesh Zoo & Conservation Breeding Society (HPZCBS) has been managing these seven MSCs in



Shimla, Kangra, Mandi, Hamirpur, Sirmaur, Chamba and Una districts since 2007. According to officials, the proposal to close the five centres — Bakani in Chamba, Paonta Sahib in Sirmaur, Boul in Una, Salapar in Mandi and Sastar in Hamirpur districts — was discussed at the 22nd Governing Body meeting held on October 7, 2025, and that the rationalisation of the facilities was being considered in view of the reduced workload.

It was also decided to continue with the Tutikandi centre in Shimla and the Gopalpur centre in Kangra, operating alongside the rehabilitation and animal rescue facilities, depending on operational requirements and future decisions. APCCF (wildlife)-cum-CEO, HPZCBS, K Thirupal said, "The wildlife department has almost closed the sterilisation of monkeys since 2024, given that primates are not scheduled animals for over one year. But now there are demands to include the monkeys back on the list of scheduled animals.

"The monkey menace has also increased in several states, including Himachal Pradesh. In such a scenario, we have decided to continue these MSCs operational and have been making efforts to get funding to continue with the sterilisation programme." According to officials of the Shimla Municipal Corporation, Shimla records 50-55 cases (figures are collected from government and private hospitals) of monkey attacks every month.

After 4 years as acting Punjab DGP, Gaurav Yadav gets regular charge

Chandigarh (Agency).
The Punjab government on Friday appointed 1992-batch IPS officer Gaurav Yadav as the regular Director General of Police (DGP). Yadav had been serving as the officiating DGP since July 2022. His tenure shall be for a minimum period of two years from the date of assumption of charge of the office, as per an order issued by y Home Secretary Alok Shekhar.

The appointment comes more than three months after the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), in a letter dated July 1, shortlisted three IPS officers from a panel of 14 communicated by the state government as suitable for appointment to the post of DGP. The three officers empanelled by the UPSC included Yadav, Special DGP Sharad Satya Chauhan and senior IPS officer Harpreet Singh Sidhu, all from the 1992-batch. Yadav is the junior-most of the three. While Chauhan, the senior-most, hold the charge of Chief Director, Vigilance Bureau; Sidhu, who returned to state last year after serving on central deputation as Additional DGP of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), has been awaiting a posting. Sidhu retires on May 31, 2027, Chauhan on March 31, 2028, and Yadav on April 30, 2029.

After assuming the charge, Yadav called on Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and briefed him on the internal security and law and order in the state. He said the state police "is committed to maintaining peace, harmony and public safety, and to help build a safe, secure and drug-free Punjab". He said that gangsters and anti-social elements have no place in the state. "Wherever they hide, whether anywhere in India or abroad, Punjab Police will arrest them and bring them to justice. Operations against gangsters and their networks will be intensified," he said, adding "anti-national elements will not be allowed to succeed in their nefarious designs". Recently, CM Mann chaired a high-level review meeting and directed further intensification of the 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' (war against drugs) campaign, Yadav said, adding, "together, all departments of the Punjab government, Punjab Police and the people will take this campaign to its logical conclusion". The Punjab and Haryana High Court on October



1 had directed the Punjab government to appoint a regular DGP in accordance with the Supreme Court's directions and asked the Chief Secretary to file a compliance affidavit by the next date of hearing on October 13. The court had observed that an ad hoc arrangement for the top police post "ought not be allowed for an indefinite period" and noted that the appointment was important for maintenance of law and order. The court order had come on a PIL filed by advocate Nikhil Thamman, who questioned the continuation of Yadav as DGP on additional charge since July 2022.Earlier, in February, the Supreme Court had directed Punjab and other states to follow the prescribed procedure for appointment of regular DGPs. In March, the court warned Punjab and other states that they could face action under the Contempt of Courts Act for withholding the UPSC recommendations for appointment of DGPs. The Supreme Court's intervention had come amid concern over states continuing with acting or officiating DGPs instead of making regular appointments. The court had also empowered the UPSC to remind states to send proposals in time and, in cases of persistent delay, move the Supreme Court for enforcement. Punjab subsequently sent a list of 14 eligible IPS officers to the UPSC in April.

Riddles automatons in the court

Proponents of artificial intelligence have long championed its use in litigation as a means to achieve frictionless access to justice and consistency in outcomes. They see the deployment of large language models (LLMs) in courts as a natural culmination of our century-long effort to make the judge more than just the mouth that pronounces the word of the law—but a cog in a system that should, at least collectively, travel past the idiosyncrasies of individual men.

Despite the concerted efforts of the administrative State to systematise, they say, a judgement today is as impelled by an individual judge's pathologies as it is by law. This turn towards systematisation, which had taken root in the late 19th century with our engagement with law as a coherent body of principles uncovered through systematic analysis of case law and legislation, would only be strengthened by the use of AI.They claim that the impending shift towards broader adoption of AI would finally create a system that is resistant to our many pitfalls. An LLM does not tire by the day's end, nor does it carry the irritation of a previous matter into the present, or bring arguments from home into the court. It does not discriminate between lawyers based on their standing, nor can it be a lawyer's champion on the Bench.Whatever may be held against it, AI, when trained properly, the thinking goes, it may help reduce overt arbitrariness, if not totally eliminate it from adjudication. However, their central claim is not that AI would ever be a better judge than humans. Rather, the argument reveals the continued push for creating the type of judge that we always wanted and never managed to produce: general, indifferent and blind to the person standing before it.While there may be some truth to this, the behaviour of these automatons is still wildly unpredictable: their functioning is learned rather than specified, meaning the manufacturer lacks the control to monitor their inference—the phase where a trained AI model processes our prompts through its neural network to calculate and generate an output—and the operator lacks control over their actions.

They have no compass to navigate life, even if they were ever to make sense of it. And unlike us, whose ethical judgement arises from reasoning, social conditioning and empathy, AI is a product of pure logic dictated by statistics. Which brings us to the question of integrating AI into litigation and high-stakes decision-making.

Let us take one of the oldest and most-used devices in ethics and moral science: the trolley problem, which has become a subject in its own right. A runaway trolley will kill five people, but you have the option to divert it so that it kills one. Generations of students have been asked whether they would pull the lever to divert the trolley, or they would push a heavy man onto the tracks to stop it, or they would jump off to save themselves the trouble. We have heard hundreds of answers to this question, and each one is produced by the same sharp, resistant intuition the thought experiment was designed to manufacture.

What if the trolley were to be an autonomous car? Every assumption immediately goes for a toss. The machine does not decide alone. It has been hardwired through training and datasets. The company had chosen certain traits to dominate others. Its engineers and the company's supplier ecosystem would have pushed to bring the machine into the market. As such, when a car is set to make the decision, it is not facing the choice that humans clamber with—the decision was already made years back and only the consequences are in the here-and-now. In many ways, such decisions are not responses to the live moral conundrum but results of distribution. They are rules—and, in the case of LLMs, ones whose basis we cannot trace.

A new US-China order takes shape

Beijing is likely to press ahead with its aim of hollowing out the Indo-Pacific strategic construct

ONE should assess the outcome of the recent summit meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Washington DC as the midpoint in a year-long continuum. It commenced with their meeting in Busan on October 30, 2025, and will conclude with their talks on the margins of the US-hosted G20 summit in Miami in mid-December. Another meeting has been proposed during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference in Shenzhen (China) in mid-November.The Busan summit was a truce with a finite validity. It set the stage for the May 2026 Beijing summit, which announced, for the first time, "a constructive relationship of strategic stability". Busan paved the way for a more bounded phase of US-China geopolitical rivalry.The phrase "strategic stability" harks back to an earlier, though short-lived, commitment to reciprocal "strategic reassurance" in 2009 in the initial phase of the Barack Obama administration. China had then declared its red lines — Tibet, Xinjiang and Taiwan — and, for the first time, extended its "core interests" to include the South China Sea.This was also the origin of the short-lived "G2" narrative, projecting the US and China as joint stakeholders in upholding the international order. The US appeared to have acknowledged Chinese interests in the South China Sea, but later announced its "pivot to Asia". This evolved into the Indo-Pacific strategy with India as a key component. We now see signs of the reduced salience of the Indo-Pacific in US strategy under Trump 2.0. The Indo-Pacific Command has reverted to its previous name, the Pacific Command.

The Quad grouping of India, Australia, Japan and the US has been downgraded. Japan and South Korea, which are critical US allies in the region, face uncertainty and lack of credibility in US treaty assurances. Taiwan has an even more uncertain future because it is becoming increasingly likely that the US will not intervene in its defence in case of a Chinese military invasion.There is a revival of the erstwhile G2 framing today, but in terms which carry greater traction than in 2009. The forthcoming summits in Shenzhen and Miami might indicate whether this time round, the geopolitical shift presaged in 2009 has become definitive.I do not see the Washington summit as mostly pomp and ceremony with meagre substantive outcomes. There were ominous political developments during the visit which have further decreased the significance of the Indo-Pacific in the US strategic calculus. The most important relates specifically to Japan but will reverberate across the region, including India.At the welcome ceremony for Xi on September 24, Trump said that the two countries' common interests had "even made us allies in World War II. Look at the greatness that we had together fighting in World War II." Trump repeated this creative version of history at the banquet for Xi when he invoked the Flying Tigers or the American volunteer pilots who flew vital supplies in aid of the forces of the Republic of China (ROC) under President Chiang Kai-shek during the war.The ally Trump spoke about were the forces under ROC and not under the Chinese Communist Party. ROC forces were battling the Japanese aggressors on one side and the Communist forces on the other. What China has been doing in recent years is to project a fictional historical continuity between the ROC and the People's Republic of China (PRC).It was on November 25, 2025, that Xi used this narrative in a phone conversation with Trump. He is reported to have said: "China and the US once fought side by side against fascism and militarism, and should now work together to safeguard the outcome of World War II." He further argued that Taiwan's return to China was a key part of the post-war order.That Trump has acquiesced in this carefully calculated Chinese framing is politically significant and has implications for the Indo-Pacific.



China has succeeded in shifting the fundamental narrative of US-China relations from the post-Nixon transformation in 1972 to the post-World War II order of 1945. Their partnership derives from the shared custodianship of the post-1945 order, in which Japan's status is that of a defeated nation. The acute discomfort of one of the staunchest US allies is palpable.

In his remarks at the welcome banquet, Xi made this narrative explicit: "Chinese and American people stood shoulder to shoulder in a fight against Japanese militaristic aggression." He added, "Such a friendship, forged in blood and fire, will surely live on through generations."Some analysts have dismissed the US acquiescence to this framing as rhetorical, designed to extract trade and other concessions from China. On the contrary, these semantic shifts portend a more consequential strategic shift in the US-China equation. A "co-victors" framing is the scaffolding for a possible grand bargain, but on Chinese terms. This is a bargain which puts Japan in the category of a historical adversary and the restitution of Taiwan as the unfinished agenda of the post-World War II arrangements among the victors.

One should expect China to press ahead with its aim of hollowing out the Indo-Pacific strategic construct, put Japan on the defensive and corrode the opposition to unification with the mainland in Taiwan by highlighting the lack of credibility of US security assurances to the island.The US Fact Sheet on the Washington summit has tried to recover some of the ground lost to China by using this formulation: "Since World War II, the US forward military presence has preserved a free and open Indo-Pacific."This may be a belated rearguard action by some elements within the American administration. If the trend line is confirmed and carried forward in Shenzhen and Miami, then countries like India, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and Australia further afield may need to acknowledge the altered geopolitical landscape and explore ways in which they can best safeguard their interests together.This will require a mix of engagement and constrainment in dealing with a more confident and assertive China. It will also involve leveraging the still formidable US power in the region, wherever and whenever possible. Navigating this complex landscape will test India's diplomatic skills like never before.

Different paces for voter restoration across states

In a way, the Karnataka voter is in a better position than those in many other states as no voter has been deleted yet from the roll

As several states contend with anomalies thrown up by special intensive revisions and courts hear related cases, the Karnataka government has taken the Election Commission head-on. Last week, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar led a sit-in at Chief Electoral Officer V Anbukkumar's office, demanding action against officers and political operatives filing Form 7 in bulk to seek removal of a large number of members of the Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Other Backward Classes who form the Congress's electoral base. There are allegations that a BJP BLA in Ballari sought to have 7,561 voters removed from the rolls, with similar cases reported in other parts of the state. The CEO later ordered district election officers to initiate legal action against false declarations. The police registered FIRs against BJP workers over-filing removal applications, setting off a political row.In a way, the Karnataka voter is in a better position than those in many other states as no voter has been deleted yet from the roll, with the CEO confirming that officers will conduct hearings before deciding on Form 7 applications. In all, over 43 lakh notices were issued and 91,278 applications received until October 4.Ever since it began, the SIR process has been fraught with fear and suspicion, with voters categorised under 'logical discrepancies', 'no mapping' and 'anomalies'. Over the past week, some of these issues were sorted under pressure from street protesters, court hearings and opposition parties upping the ante.In Delhi, where about a third of the electorate was removed, the pace of restoring legitimate claimants has picked up pace with special camps being organised. In contrast, West Bengal's 27 lakh deleted voters remained disenfranchised. Tribunal judges hearing their pleas reported glitches with the Election Commission's portal, which did not allow them to issue notices or upload documents. These voters are unlikely to benefit from the Supreme Court's order for 'mopping up left-out voters'. In a happy departure, Keralam managed a largely non-controversial SIR despite a substantial migrant population. Telangana is considering a move similar to Karnataka's to address its own citizens' grievances.



Hearing the case of a 'left-out' family, the Bombay High Court's Goa bench came down heavily on the EC for excluding eligible voters and questioned the very purpose of the SIR exercise. If indeed the SIR proves to be more of political exercise than a genuine voter count, then every state's rolls will deserve a thorough review.

Getting on a cycle to ride over bumps on the way

The central bank has cracked the whip to mop up excess liquidity and tame price pressures. Though lending rates are likely to jump quickly, deposit rates may be sluggish to respond

The credit policy has four main points of interest. The first is the repo rate, as it sets the tone for what banks can do on the deposit and lending rates that affect both savers and borrowers. The second is the stance—which can be neutral or accommodative, or indicate a withdrawal of accommodation. It is a nebulous concept that is of interest more to a market player. One is not sure if it means that in future rates can go up or down. It does not refer to liquidity, as central banks always ensure that there is adequate liquidity.The third and fourth points of interest are the forecasts of GDP and inflation rate. In these uncertain times, these are even more important than usual as they provide important signals. Normally, forecasts would hold good for at least six months. But with the external environment being quite volatile, views can change every two months. Therefore, these forecasts acquire more importance. Even a 10-basis-point change in forecast in these two variables can signal whether the growth potential or inflation perspective has changed.

Against this background, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee has opted for an increase in the repo rate by 25 bps. The decision has been quite unanimous, which is not surprising as in the past, too, there has been a tendency for all six members of committee to form a group-think. Rarely has there been dissent, with just a few instances of only one member holding an opposite view. Further, the stance has changed to calibrated tightening. This is a new concept brought in, and one can guess that there will be more rate hikes in the coming months. It has been explicitly stated that rate cuts are off the table and there will be hikes or status quo in future. This is significant from the point of view of markets, which were still uncertain of the timing of the rate hikes. There will be conjectures, however, on how many more rate hikes would be in the offing.What can one make of these decisions? First, this is the beginning of a series of rate hikes—possibly another two by March 2027. Going by an inflation forecast of 5.2 percent for the year, the terminal repo rate in this cycle should be at least 6 percent, which will yield a real rate of 1 percent, which should be acceptable. There are, however, varying estimates of what this ideal real rate should be, ranging from 1.5 percent to 2 percent. The impact of this rate hike will get transmitted automatically to the lending rates as nearly two-thirds of loans are linked to the external benchmark, which is the repo rate or Treasury bill and the government security rate. It would need to be seen whether some banks choose to give concessions to enhance market share, especially for personal loans that tend to increase during the festival season. However, on the deposits side it would be interesting to see how banks react. There has been a deluge of dollars due to the foreign currency scheme for non-residents which has been converted into rupees by banks. This has lowered the banks' dependence on bulk deposits; and access to the certificates of deposits market has come down. In such a situation, there could be fewer compelling reasons for banks to increase deposit rates which, in turn, will mean that transmission of the repo rate hike can get sluggish at this end. It will be banks which have fewer surplus that will tend to raise deposit rates at the retail end. Therefore, the transmission part would have to be observed, and it looks like there will be time-lags involved given the current situation of surplus liquidity in the system.

The GDP forecast has gone up from 6.7 percent to 7.1 percent while inflation assessment for the future is up from 5 percent to 5.2 percent. The upping of the GDP forecast is something that was expected as the quarterly growth number came in at 7.8 percent for the first quarter (April-June 2026), which was much higher than expectations. It is expected that Q2 will also register similar growth as the base year change has led to substantial declines in GDP numbers for Q1 and Q2 of 2025-26, which will prop up the number for this year. But beyond the first half of the current year, there will be a slowdown as the monsoon failure will have an impact on both agricultural production as well as rural consumption, which will be watched closely as the kharif crop is harvested October onwards. The change in the RBI's forecast for GDP growth is aligned now with what most global agencies did in the last month or so, given the rather impressive performance of the real economy. The forecast for inflation is rather interesting. It has been put at an average of 5.2 percent for the year; but that for the next few quarters is significant. The forecast for Q3 is now at 6 percent, which will moderate marginally to 5.7 percent in Q4. Further, for Q1 of the next year, inflation is to increase to 5.6 percent. Hence, after Q2, which has gone past, inflation will average 5.8 percent for the next three quarters.For the year, the RBI has projected core inflation—which is the non-food and non-fuel calculation—at 4.4 percent. These numbers probably factor in the higher food prices that will evolve as the kharif crop gets affected by the sub-normal monsoon. There can be an upside here in case the oil marketing companies decide to increase fuel prices—which have been held back after the first hike a few months back.



On liquidity, the RBI has not announced any specific measures. The surplus in the system today is over ?5 lakh crore and there were expectations of the central bank announcing open market operations—where the RBI sells securities to banks. It is clearly adopting a wait-and-watch approach on this, and has only maintained it will work towards aligning overnight call rates with the repo rate. This means that there will be close monitoring of liquidity with variable-rate reverse repo operations to absorb surpluses. The surpluses could also reduce in case credit growth picks up further. The RBI policy, always something to look forward to for a succinct overview of the economy, comes just after the Union finance ministry released its own view. The sense one gets is that the economy is doing well and the main risk factor is rising inflation, which the monetary policy is seeking to address.

9 reasons why you're

Constantly Worn out



Do you struggle to get out of bed, feel constantly drained and rely on pick-me-ups like coffee and sugary treats to get you through the day?

If so, you're far from alone. Research reveal that one in three of us admit we're permanently worn out because of the pace of modern life. A survey by a vitamin company revealed that a whopping 97% of us claim we feel tired most of the time and doctors' records reveal that 10% of people who visit them complain of unexplained tiredness. So much so that doctors have even created a handy acronym — TATT (Tired All The Time). Here, experts point to some of the causes and how to deal with them.

No Exercise

Avoiding exercise because you're tired actually makes you feel worse. Regular exercise makes your heart and lungs work more efficiently, delivering oxygen and vital nutrients around the body. Remedy: Next time you're tempted to flop on the sofa, force yourself up for a brisk 10-minute walk — you'll feel more alert.

Lack of sleep



Recent research shows many of us survive on so-called 'junk sleep' — the kind when we wake up frequently throughout the night. It doesn't replenish our energy levels as well as long stretches of continuous sleep do. Remedy: Develop good sleep hygiene. Go to bed on time, avoid staring at screens an hour before bed time. If sleep evades you, have a relaxing bath and a cup of warm milk. Throw in some easy reading, as that helps.

Caffeine addiction

Although we think of caffeine as a pick-me-up, it actually makes us feel more tired once the initial surge wears off. This is because our brain chemistry doesn't like being interfered by stimulants, so it releases chemicals to dampen down the alert response. Drinking coffee even six hours prior to bedtime meant poorer quality kip. Remedy: Avoiding caffeine will increase energy levels in the long run. But cut down gradually to avoid headaches and irritability.

Iron deficiency

Figures show that around one third of women are low on iron often due to heavy periods. Some have low enough iron levels to be anaemic. If you pull down your bottom eyelids and the inner rim looks pale rather than pink, it's an indicator. Remedy: Include plenty of iron-rich foods in your diet, such as lean meats, dark green vegetables, pulses and dried fruits, and pair them with foods like citrus fruit high in vitamin C.

Dehydration

Losing even as little as 2 per cent of your body's normal water content can take its toll on your energy levels. As we get older we lose our thirst reflex. Also, working in an air-conditioned office, going for a long walk can lead to depleted fluid levels. This causes blood pressure to drop and not enough blood gets to the brain or muscles. It results in headaches, fatigue and loss of concentration. Remedy: Try to drink water every two hours. If you need encouragement, add mint, basil, lemon or cucumber to liven its flavour.

Sugar Overdose

Sugary energy drinks and snacks like biscuits, chocolate and crisps cause sharp spikes in blood sugar levels that can leave you tired. Remedy: Swap to low-sugar foods. Avoid white carbs such as bread and pasta which quickly convert to sugar in the body. Choose wholegrain carbs such as granary bread, wholemeal pasta and brown rice.

Missing out on protein

Surviving on fruit and salad might feel worthy, but avoiding protein will leave you exhausted, as it's a vital energy giver. Remedy: Eating a minimum of a palm-sized amount of protein with meals and eating seeds and nuts or nut butters can prevent tiredness. Meat, fish, cheese, tofu, beans, lentils, yogurt, nuts and seeds are good sources of proteins.

Storing on stress

While a little stress helps to keep us on our toes, long-term stress exhausts the body leaving us emotionally drained. Remedy: When stress strikes, instead of going frantic to fix things, try to slow down and take a break. Call a friend, walk the dog or do some yoga.

Sluggish Thyroid Having an underactive thyroid —which means it's not making enough of the hormone thyroxine — is a surprisingly common cause of unexplained fatigue, especially in middle-aged women. Other symptoms of a thyroid condition include excessive thirst, weight gain and feeling cold. Remedy: See your doctor and take a a blood test. For an underactive thyroid, a simple once-a-day tablet can correct the problem — and most people get their normal energy levels back soon after starting the treatment.

Top 5 healthiest alcohol Drinks



Plan to go drinking but afraid you may gain weight? Fret not! There are alcoholic drinks that have less calories and that do not make you gain weight as much as their counterparts. We give you top five healthiest alcoholic drinks to try this weekend.

Healthiest Alcohol Drinks
Vodka Soda

Hip hop artists endorse it as the 'cool quotient drink', but the Russians believe it is a cure to all their problems and they might just be on to some thing. In several cultures, Vodka is used as an alternative medicine. Consume no more than 1-2 units (30ml each) of Vodka at one go.

Healthiest Alcohol Drinks
Bellini

Bellini is prepared with champagne orange or peach juice. Champagne is rich in antioxidants which is beneficial for your skin. When you add orange or peach to champagne you are adding vitamin A, B and C to your drink. The juices are good sources for calcium, riboflavin, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, niacin and thiamine.

Healthiest Alcohol Drinks
Red wine

Indians have opened up to drinking wine. It is no longer associated with just the Italians and the French. From rosy cheeks to a happy heart, wine was and is a popular beverage. Red wine is considered the fountain of youth by many thanks to the high level of antioxidants. A great accompaniment for romantic dinners, wine will boost your body's defenses, build bones and balance blood sugar levels. Red wine can also increase women's libido too.

White wine

Red wine may be popular, but white wine has health benefits too. While red wine has antioxidant resveratrol, white wine has hydroxytyrosol which is an important antioxidant and effective for clearing blockages.

Guinness

Though beer gives you a beer belly, Guinness has less calories than regular beer. There are 128 calories in 35ml of Guinness beer. This beer also has the same number of antioxidants as red wine. This beer can help reduce and flush out blood clots and improve heart problems.

Simple ways to purify your Indoor air



Nine out of 10 people globally are breathing poor quality air. Yet, oblivious to the dangers of indoor pollution, when we speak of pollution we only refer to outdoor pollution. Jayati Singh, Business Head, Air, Philips India adds, "Indoor air is 3-5 times more polluted than the outdoor air because it is a mix of outdoor pollution that comes in through windows and doors as well as indoor pollutants like dust, cooking fumes, allergens, incense, cigarette smoke and pet dander."

According to a recent survey conducted by Artemis Hospital under the Clean Air India Movement, due to unhealthy indoor air quality, about 31 per cent of the survey respondents had some kind of airway disease and 46 per cent people were found to have symptoms suggesting a respiratory disease.

Dr Amol Kumar, Pulmonologist, from iCliniq says, "Indoor air pollution is wreaking havoc on the sleeping patterns of people, thus leading to multiple ailments. The right home air purifier can help us sleep better and prevent sinus and breathing problems as it will remove dust and allergens from the air and leave us breathing easier and even reduce snoring."

Here are some easy ways to prevent your indoor air from getting worse:

Monitor indoor pollution

You can download a pollution mapping mobile application to monitor air inside your house. Also, keep your windows and doors closed in the wee hours and early morning, as that is the time when pollution is at its worst.

Use chimney to filter cooking fumes

Researchers have established that cooking fumes are cancerous and contribute greatly to contaminating indoor air. While cooking, always keep the exhaust fan on (and use chimney). Also, it is important to clean grease traps on regular intervals.

Avoid smoking indoors

Smoking is a big health hazard and it can permeate into your environment. So it's best to avoid smoking indoors and you are also advised to wash your hands and face after smoking.

Keep air-purifying plants

Houseplants can help you purify indoor air. They absorb particulates in the air and then process it into oxygen via photosynthesis. Plants like chrysanthemum (Garden mum), spider plant, weeping fig and peace lily are some of the indoor plants you can consider keeping at your home.

Change bed linen regularly

Change your bed sheet and pillow covers at least twice a week and always use clean blankets. Regularly washing curtains is also a healthy practice to prevent indoor air pollution.

Avoid moisture from getting trapped

Clean your house well and prevent moisture since dust and mites strive on moisture. High moisture inside the house leads to mold growth and is also associated with respiratory issues. Use exhaust fan while cooking and even in the bathroom after shower; put the clothes' dryer outside, don't put too much water in houseplants and make sure there are no leaky plumbing to prevent mold. Get your electronic devices, especially air conditioners serviced regularly and use dehumidifier.







Extraordinary health benefits of Black Pepper

From an omelette, pasta to a vegetable stir fry, black pepper can enhance the taste factor.

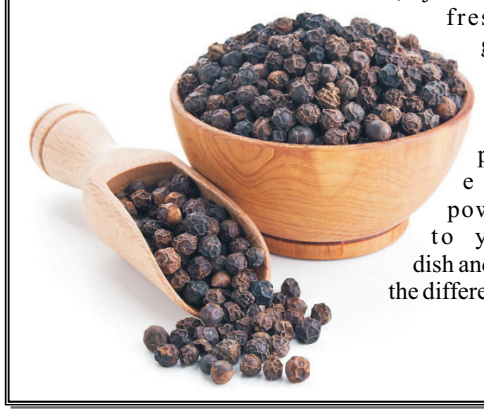
Black pepper has more healthy properties than most people know about. Black pepper is a spice that has the potential to make food more beneficial when used in various recipes and as a table spice. In Kerala, many start their day with a cup of black coffee with a pinch of black pepper powder. The aroma of freshly ground black pepper is difficult to ignore.

We get our black pepper from the pepper vine that can grow in tropical climate. The pepper vines actually bear fruit-small white flowers that turn into berries called peppercorns. And the peppercorns are collected as whole berries or as ground black pepper.

Research studies have shown that black pepper has quite a handful of healthy properties.

It has the ability to enhance the function of the digestive tract. Black pepper is a great way to combat this. More than just a spice, it has been shown to improve digestion and stimulate the secretion from the taste buds. This taste bud stimulation tells the stomach that it's supposed to increase its own digestive juices, namely hydrochloric acid. This, in turn breaks down protein in the stomach, improving the process of digestion.

Black pepper is known to have a great amount of antioxidant properties. It also has benefits against bacterial growth, particularly in the intestinal tract.



So, just add freshly ground black pepper powder to your dish and see the difference.

What's your walking Personality?



It's time to change the adage from 'what you wear says a lot about you' to 'how you walk says a lot about you'. That's right. Researchers from the UK have found that people make judgments about an individual's personality based on his walk. Remember James Bond's suave stride or John Wayne's iconic swagger? Theories say that Wayne's walk may not have been so much about confidence and being macho, but his need to control his lanky body better. If you use the Monday slouch on most days, watch out! It may reveal that you are insecure and heading for a burnout. Of course, you can't judge a book by its cover, but body language experts say that walking styles definitely give away secrets about an individual. Here are a few key gaits and their interpretations...

KEY GAIT TYPES

Saunterer

Here's a non-pretentious soul, someone who loves to grab the day on his terms. A man or woman-about-town, this is a great communicator, someone who likes so reach out and have conversations while ambling. It's said to be one of the most ideal ways of walking.

The Power Strider

Have a strong lunging step? You're someone who loves to hit ground running. You are able to multitask and can focus on what is at hand. The study says this gait is mostly seen at the workplace. Unfortunately, power striders also expect others to keep up with them.

The Stomper

These folks press their feet down hard on the ground while walking, not so much due to body weight, but because of a persistent nature. They like to hit the concrete hard and can be childish or even easily prone to anger.

Egg-shell walker

A cautious, tight-lipped personality, this person takes calculated steps. This pattern of walking as if on eggshells, could arise out of a worried mind. The walking style is light, but deliberate. He or she gives of signals of being shy and aloof, too.

The foot dragger

How many of us have adopted this style? Studies say if this gait is repetitive it denotes a person who is listless, devoid of energy, sad and unable to detach from stress and worries.

Daytime sleep-walker

thinker. This is someone who's lost in thoughts and noise and other distractions become white noise to him or her. If you call out to such a person and get no reply, don't take offence.

The skulker

Watch out for this type! Here's someone with a predatory nature who likes to prowl about looking for another's weakness. At the workplace, you'll find this character skulking in the background, trying to eavesdrop on others' conversation.

30 minutes = zero stress

Scientists say a stroll can be one of the most effective ways to bust anxiety and stress. Brisk walking boosts endorphins and activates neurons in the brain that can soothe the mind and body. Walking meditation is also catching on as a daily wellness practice.

A British study that rated walkers' gaits found that a slower longer stride meant more internal dialogue, a looser gait denoted extroversion and a tighter one was about a more closed personality.

Here's how to walk right

First, adjust your posture, keep your head and spine straight.

Do not lean forwards or backwards.Make sure the shoulders do not hunch.

Don't let the arms tighten; swing them naturally.

Breathe steadily and pick up a calm pace.

Nordic walking, the new body toner?

Imagine you are going skiing minus the snowy slopes. That's Nordic Walking (also called ski walking), a fast-catching trend. It involves applying pressure on the ground with poles, which tones the arm muscles, chest and back. Nordic walkers are fitter and torch more calories (40% more than regular walking).

Inside Delhi's makeshift detention centres: former Kerala CM, content creators, actor and journalists

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

Delhi. (Agency)

Former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Actor Raj Zutshi. Social media content creators filming reels. Fifteen journalists covering the protest. And a middle-aged man who said he was taking a relative to the hospital when the police stopped him in central Delhi. They were among hundreds of people picked up by the Delhi Police and transported in buses and vans to makeshift detention centres across the capital ahead of the Cockroach Janta Party's October 10 protest at Jantar Mantar. The police set up these centres across all 13 districts, including Chhatrasal Stadium in north Delhi, about 13 kilometres from Jantar Mantar, and Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Bawana, around 38 kilometres from the protest site. At Chhatrasal Stadium around noon, everyday activities at the sports complex continued alongside the detention operation. Athletes were still practising as police buses brought in detainees. Near the entrance, a large pavilion tent was being prepared to provide meals, drinking water and refreshments to police officers and Central Armed Police Forces personnel deployed at the site. Inside the complex, police vehicles stopped near the arena while officers collected details from detainees. Sources said Pinarayi Vijayan had been detained that morning near Kerala House, on Jantar Mantar Road, and was inside the stadium complex. AR Sindhu, a CPI(M) party worker, spoke from inside a police vehicle carrying detainees. She alleged that women protesters' clothes were being torn and said the police appeared uncertain about where to take the group next. "Women's clothes are being torn… the police don't know where to take us. Abhi hamein Burari leke jayenge," she said, meaning that they would now be taken to Burari. Sindhu said the group had been moved repeatedly since being detained. "This is the third place where we have been mistreated. Since we were detained, they have been taking us around from one place to another. This is the second place they have brought us to, and now they are telling us to leave from here as well," she alleged. The movement of detainees continued through the morning. Around half a dozen people had arrived at the stadium before 11 a.m., but the same group was later seen



leaving in a Delhi Police bus. Actor Raj Zutshi was among four or five detainees in a van that departed the complex. Another bus soon arrived, its occupants chanting, "Vote chor, gaddi chor!" and "Inquilab zindabad!"

Around noon, another group said they had been picked up at New Delhi Railway Station and Chelmsford Road, in central Delhi. Fifteen journalists covering the protest were subsequently brought to the stadium. Newslaundry journalist Anmol Pritam said that 15 journalists had been detained. Sources in the Delhi police said that Newslaundry and Scroll journalists who had been detained were released in the afternoon. Pritam said, "While we were reporting, all journalists were detained. Four of us were reporting at the New Delhi railway station together. They picked us up from there and brought us here in this bus."

Inside the same bus, another detainee shouted that their phones had been taken away. A further bus carrying protesters entered the complex later, marking the seventh major vehicle carrying detainees to the venue since the police action began that morning. The group was taken to a government school in Shalimar Bagh that was also being used as a detention centre. At Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Bawana, the athletic area had been cordoned off to accommodate detainees.

Fix lights, install CCTVs: Delhi University's directions to colleges to ensure women's safety

Delhi. (Agency)

Repair non-functional lights, install CCTV cameras and prune trees that obstruct visibility — these are among the measures the University of Delhi has asked colleges and hostels to take to improve women's safety, officials said on Friday. The university has also asked authorities to identify poorly lit areas and other security gaps and submit a list of concerns by October 12. The directions were issued after an online meeting convened by the university's Proctor on Friday. The meeting was attended by college principals, deans, directors, heads of departments, hostel provosts, wardens and resident tutors to discuss women's safety across the university, including its colleges, departments, faculty areas and hostels.

The directions come amid student protests across DU following the alleged gang-rape of a 17-year-old girl by men posing as police officers at Aastha Kunj Park near the Lady Shri Ram College for Women (LSR). Students from several DU colleges have held marches demanding better security, improved street lighting and safer public spaces, including areas around college campuses. Further, college principals and senior officials have been asked to assess their respective premises and identify blind spots where visibility is obstructed. The measures include repairing faulty lights, installing additional streetlights in poorly lit areas and strategically placing CCTV cameras. Overgrown trees that block light and visibility are also to be pruned. "All relevant authorities have been asked to submit detailed lists of issues related to women's safety and security by October 12, 5 pm," an official statement issued by the Proctor's office said.

Cab cancellations, Rs. 100 e-rickshaw rides, barricades: Delhi protestors struggle to reach Jantar Mantar

Delhi. (Agency)

Cops stationed at operational metro stations closest to Jantar Mantar, vehicle checks at city borders, hundreds of detentions, and massive police deployment centred in Central Delhi and fanning out across the Capital: all efforts are currently underway to prevent any protestors from reaching Jantar Mantar. These scenes played out across different parts of the Capital on Saturday afternoon, and as of 1:30 PM, no protestors had been able to reach the Jantar Mantar, the announced site of the protest called by the Cockroach Janta Party, All India Students' Association and others.

At Connaught Place

At the heart of Lutyen's Delhi, close to Jantar Mantar, Connaught Place was deserted, except for the presence of security personnel, on Saturday morning. Most routes around Sansad Marg, Connaught Place and Jantar Mantar were barricaded by 9 AM. Between 2000-3000 police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) were gathered around Parliament Street police station alone. About a hundred police personnel were gathered at each layer of barricading. Vehicles have been diverted away from this Central Delhi fortress since the morning, and around 270 people, who police say had come into the area at night, have been detained. This includes around 70 people who were detained outside the prominent Gurudwara Bangla Sahib near Connaught Place. According to police, these people had spent the night in the gurudwara ahead of the called protest. Through Saturday morning, they remained inside the gurudwara premises while a large number of police personnel waited outside. When they came out in the late morning, they were detained by the waiting police.

At Patel Nagar metro station

Amid the closure of 45 metro stations, one of the closest operational metro station on Saturday was the Patel Nagar station, which is around a one-and-half hour long walk to Jantar Mantar. There were over a dozen CISF personnel deployed inside the station, and 20 police personnel stationed outside.

Hotels asked to turn away guests, CP to be shut: Clampdown ahead of CJP's protest



Delhi. (Agency)

Several hotels in Central Delhi have been asked by the Delhi Police to turn away certain guests, including people carrying IDs with Delhi addresses and students and youngsters arriving from outside the Capital in light of the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) call for protest on October 10 against the Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The New Delhi Traders Association (NDTA) has also issued an advisory asking shops, offices and restaurants in Connaught Place to remain closed on Saturday as a precautionary measure ahead of the protest at Jantar Mantar.

Hotels asked to refuse service at Paharganj

At least six hotels in Paharganj, a busy accommodation hub near New Delhi Railway Station that caters to students, backpackers, families and other travellers looking for affordable rooms were asked to refuse service to young guests from other states and people from Delhi. The neighbourhood is around 3-4 km from Jantar Mantar, where the protest is expected to take place on Saturday. Hotel owners said they had received instructions from police personnel or messages circulated among hotel owners' groups regarding restrictions on accommodating guests ahead of the protest. At Hotel De Cruise, the manager said, "Two beat officers visited the premises on Wednesday and instructed them not to provide rooms to youngsters and students arriving from outside the state. We were also asked to inform the police if such guests arrive"Hotel Sapna reported a similar visit by police officers on Wednesday and said it was complying with the instructions. At Exotica Inn, staff said they had been told not to accommodate guests carrying IDs with Delhi addresses on Friday.

Mobile internet blackout in central Delhi till 10 pm for anti-EC stir

Delhi. (Agency)

A 24-hour mobile internet block has been ordered in central Delhi – from 10 pm tonight – ahead of the Cockroach Janta Party's Saturday protest at Jantar Mantar to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Mobile internet services will be blocked within a four km radius from the Janpath-Kartavya Path crossing, Manishi Chandra, the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi Police (Special Cell), said in a notification released this evening.

Massive protests are expected in central Delhi and other parts of the city with CJP supporters and members, democracy activists, and opposition parties and lawmakers taking to the



streets to demand Kumar quit over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision, i.e., the voter re-verification exercise. Delhi Police and the central government have rolled out a multi-level security blanket over the national capital – a 37-point dragnet, sources told The Indian Express earlier today – to limit the impact of the CJP and opposition's protests.

The dragnet includes extensive deployment of paramilitary forces, i.e., around 23,000 troops from the Central Armed Police Force and around 5,000 Delhi Police personnel, as well as heavy barricading of roads leading to Jantar Mantar. Widespread restrictions have been imposed on travel into and around Delhi, particularly in the central districts, with cops warning ride aggregators like Uber and Ola to be wary of picking up 'suspicious' persons travelling to Jantar Mantar. Trains arriving at New Delhi and Hazrat Nizamuddin railway stations will be cancelled from 4 am to 2 pm on Saturday.

CJP protest in Delhi: 600 low-floor buses, cops wearing body cameras in security plan

Delhi. (Agency)

Around 600 low-floor buses to speed up the movement of detained protesters and police personnel wearing body-worn cameras to record interactions with protesters – these are among the measures Delhi Police has put in place as the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) insists on going ahead with its proposed protest at Jantar Mantar on Saturday despite being denied permission. The multi-layered security plan divides the city into 23 zones, with deployment of senior officers, border pickets, and reserve forces to prevent protesters from converging on Lutyens' Delhi and other sensitive locations. The emphasis, officers added, is on preventing an unauthorised gathering while exercising maximum restraint in dealing with protesters. At the heart of the arrangement is a strengthened security grid around New Delhi district, where Jantar Mantar is located. Around 22 officers of Deputy Commissioner of Police-rank are being deployed in the district to



supervise arrangements at key locations and respond to emerging situations. A substantial number of women police personnel will also be deployed to manage crowds. Low-floor buses, having a lower boarding height than conventional buses, will help police personnel push detained protesters into the vehicle. The arrangement is intended to facilitate their movement from pickets and other locations, said sources. According to officers, each picket will have buses available alongside personnel from a reserve force.

Body cameras at flashpoints

Police personnel wearing body-worn cameras will be deployed at identified flashpoints and pickets to record their interactions and protesters, said officers. The footage is intended to provide a record of enforcement during the operation and ensure accountability in the handling of crowds. Delhi Police has recently procured additional body-worn cameras for its personnel.

Jantar Mantar CJP protest: 45 Metro stations shut, traffic curbs in 30 areas

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has closed entry and exit gates at 45 stations from 9 pm on Friday until 6 pm on Saturday. Interchange facilities will remain available at all affected stations except New Delhi Metro station.

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi is bracing for a sweeping security clampdown ahead of CJP's protest at Jantar Mantar, with 45 Metro stations shut, 245 trains cancelled and traffic restrictions planned at 30 locations. Commuters entering Delhi from neighbouring areas of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and other adjoining regions have been advised to factor in possible delays and allow extra time for their journeys. Those travelling through Central Delhi, particularly those heading towards railway stations, inter-state bus terminals and the airport, have been advised to plan their journeys in advance and keep additional travel time in hand. The police have also urged people to avoid non-essential travel in areas likely to be affected by traffic restrictions. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has closed entry and exit gates at 45 stations from 9 pm



on Friday until 6 pm on Saturday. Interchange facilities will remain available at all affected stations except New Delhi Metro station. The restrictions span several corridors. On the Yellow Line, affected stations include Patel Chowk, Central Secretariat, Rajiv Chowk, New Delhi, Jahangirpuri and Haiderpur Badli Mor. On the Red Line, these include Inderlok, Netaji Subhash Place, Seelampur, Welcome, Shahdara and Rithala. The Blue Line will see closures at Mandi House, Barakhamba Road, Ramakrishna Ashram Marg, Jhandewalan, Supreme Court and Indraprastha. On the Pink Line, affected stations include Lajpat Nagar, Ashram, Majlis Park, Yamuna Vihar and Khazuri Khas. Stations on the Violet and Magenta lines will also face restrictions. JLN Stadium and Lal Qila on the Violet Line, and Patel Nagar and Akshardham on the Blue Line, are the nearest open Metro stations to the protest area. Earlier, 57 Metro stations among the overall 227 across Delhi were listed to be closed.

Traffic curbs at 30 locations

The Delhi Traffic Police has identified 30 locations across New Delhi and Central Delhi where diversions and restrictions may be introduced from 6 am on Saturday, depending on the law and order situation.

The locations include Mandi House, Jhandewalan, Patel Chowk, Rail Bhawan, Windsor Place, Dhaula Kuan Flyover and Lodhi Road Flyover, as well as intersections around Connaught Place and Jantar Mantar, among others. Further, traffic is likely to remain heavy at Delhi's borders as police personnel conduct checks on vehicles and people entering the Capital.

Netflix may layoff 5% of workforce by next week: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

Streaming Giant Netflix is planning to cut nearly 5 per cent of its workforce, a move that could affect hundreds of jobs at the company, a report claimed, citing people close to the matter.

The report from Puck News said the company, that had roughly 16,000 full-time employees at the end of last year, will make the official announcement of job cuts probably as early as next week.The last major round of layoffs at Netflix came in 2022, when the company trimmed hundreds of jobs amid slowing growth and subscriber losses.

The job cuts are being considered as Netflix faces growing competition in the streaming industry, with media companies consolidating and Google-owned YouTube attracting an increasing share of viewers and advertising spending.

Meanwhile, Netflix has diversified into advertising, live programming, and gaming beyond its traditional subscription business.

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, according to a report in May.Oracle has begun a fresh round of layoffs as the software giant looks to reduce payroll costs while simultaneously committing tens of billions of dollars to expand data-centre capacity and meet surging demand for artificial intelligence computing, according to reports.The latest layoffs come after a significant reduction in Oracle's workforce earlier this year. Company filings show that Oracle's employee count declined by around 21,000, or 13 per cent, during the fiscal year ended May 31, 2026. The company had approximately 141,000 employees before the latest round of cuts.

Religious, spiritual & astrology apps see nearly 30cr downloads in Jan-Sept

New Delhi. (Agency)

From listening to bhajans and reading the Bible to finding the direction of Mecca or discovering what the stars have in store, Indians are increasingly turning to smartphones for matters of faith and fortune. Religious, spiritual and astrology apps recorded nearly 30 crore downloads in the first nine months of 2026, emerging as fast-growing segments of India's app economy.

According to data shared exclusively with TOI by market intelligence firm Sensor Tower, astrology apps registered 15 crore downloads between Jan and Sept, a 75% jump over last year. Religious and spiritual apps clocked 14.6 crore downloads, up 47%. Together, the categories surpassed their combined 24.8 crore downloads in the whole of 2025 and touched nearly 30 crore downloads.ote following a softer session on Wall Street.The digital devotion wave is cutting across religions. Sanatan Status Bhajan Mantra topped the religious and spiritual category by average monthly active users, followed by YouVersion Bible App, which offers Bible reading and audio content, and WeMuslim, which provides prayer timings and Qibla direction. Sri Mandir, offering online pujas and devotional services, ranked fourth, while Muslim Pro, which provides Quran reading and prayer-related features, completed the top five.

The diversity is also reflected in user growth. Sanatan Status Bhajan Mantra saw its average monthly active users jump 109% year-on-year, while YouVersion recorded 24% growth and WeMuslim 39%. Muslim Pro grew 5%, although Sri Mandir witnessed a 20% decline.

US trade talks steady, visa curbs may help India: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi. (Agency)

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday that talks with US for a trade deal were progressing steadily and the two sides were working on the fine print, while asserting that tighter access to H-1B visas can benefit India by encouraging skilled professionals to stay back, bringing more tech work to the country and boosting the startup ecosystem.

The minister's comments come days after USTR Jaimeson Greer said that a deal was not imminent, and FM Nirmala Sitharaman stated that talks had hit a plateau. "Going by what the US itself has said, it has nothing more to add or offer, and the fine print is being worked out," Goyal said at the ET Startup Awards 2026 held in Bengaluru on Friday.

"The key issue is how the US will give us the comparative advantage we had agreed upon in Feb. That requires legal expertise, which AI cannot provide, because this goes beyond the textbook. That is what we are working on," he said.

The trade minister, who just returned from US, said several American companies had outlined their plans for India as they looked to tap the Indian talent pool and highlighted the cost advantage here. "Look at the entire ecosystem and you will realise that every H-1B visa not granted is a big win for India," Goyal said.

Tighter H-1B access could give Indian startups, particularly in deep technology, greater momentum, he said, adding that the sector had significant room to grow in India. Goyal said he had never raised the issue of H-1B visas or green cards in his conversations with US as immigration was not directly related to trade, although the movement of people to deliver services was important.

SEBI revises regulations for calculation of settlement amount, introduces fast-track route

Under the Settlement Regulations, 2026, settlement terms will comprise the settlement amount, disgorgement of wrongful gains where applicable, and remedial and regulatory terms (previously called non-monetary terms).

Kolkata. (Agency)

Markets regulator SEBI has notified new regulations that revise how settlement amounts are calculated, and introduced a fast-track route for lower-value cases up to Rs 10 lakh. The revised formula for settlements and fast-track route aims to make the framework simpler and more predictable, the regulator said in a notification.Under the Settlement Regulations, 2026, settlement terms will comprise the settlement amount, disgorgement of wrongful gains where applicable, and remedial and regulatory terms (previously called non-monetary terms).It separately provides for disgorgement of wrongful gains, avoiding such amounts being double counted when calculating settlement.The new formula ties the settlement amount to a base amount linked to the minimum penalty prescribed for the violation under securities laws. Stage of proceedings, regulatory action, gravity of the violation, aggravating factors and mitigating factors will decide the base amount, besides legal costs involved.While wrongful gains, loss avoided or loss caused to investors are avoided from calculation of base amount, they will instead be disgorged separately.Besides monetary thresholds, the nature of violations, including certain



disclosure-related violations, will decide whether the cases will take the newly introduced fast-track settlement route."Fast track settlement shall be of two types -- violation-based fast track settlement and monetary threshold based fast track settlement," the regulator said as per reports.When the settlement amount is below or equal to Rs 10 lakh, the cases will move directly from the internal committee to a panel of whole-time members.

SEBI will issue a notice to the entity in the violation-based fast-track settlements offering an opportunity to settle the matter by paying the amount specified in the notice. Panel of members will pass the settlement order after payment of the settlement amount.The regulations also cover settlement of cases involving misrepresentation of financial statements or diversion of funds, subject to appropriate remedial and regulatory measures, including disclosures and retrieving diverted funds.

Gold surges : Check Prices in Delhi, Mumbai, and other cities

New Delhi. (Agency)

Gold is experiencing an upward trend on Saturday, currently standing at Rs 15,142 per gram for 24-carat purity on October 10, 2026. Rates for 22K and 18K gold are Rs 13,880 per gram and Rs 11,357 per gram, respectively.

Gold rates hiked by Rs 71 for 24K purity, Rs 65 for 22K purity, and Rs 54 for 18K purity in comparison to October 09, 2026.Softer US dollar and easing treasury yields have supported Gold since they influence the metal's opportunity cost of holding. When dollar is stronger and interest rates are high, yellow metal weighs down due to the increased opportunity cost of holding.Gold experienced volatility in the previous weeks due to inflation concerns and continued expectations of the Federal Reserve raising interest rates further. However, the latest report suggests



lower chances of a rate hike during the October meeting after Federal Reserve policymakers indicated that "There is no need for urgency" after the softer US data.Oil prices also tumbled amid resilient supply from the Middle East as US President Donald Trump said that he would not attack Iran before the mid-term poll. He also suggested talks with Iran towards ending the conflict which has till now caused major disruption to the crude supply particularly through the Strait of Hormuz.Also, Saudi has unexpectedly cut November crude prices for Asia despite raising them for parts of Europe. At the same time, G7 countries also agreed to release 100 million barrels of crude oil and diesel from emergency stocks following pressure from US President Donald Trump. These developments has also held the oil prices.Following the US Federal Reserve's decision to raise the policy rate by 25 basis points during the September 15-16 meeting, gold weakened.

TCS withholds quarterly bonuses for senior staff after missing targets

New Delhi. (Agency)

Senior staff at India's Tata Consultancy Services will miss out on quarterly bonuses after the company failed to meet performance targets, according to an internal memo seen by Reuters, the first time in at least two years all variable pay was withheld for some workers.

"For associates C3A grade and above, there will be no QVA (quarterly variable allowance) this quarter. This decision was taken after careful consideration as our performance for the quarter fell short of internal targets," said Sudeep Kunnumal, chief human resource officer in the memo.Associates in C3A and above grades are employees with typically 7-10 years of experience up to senior-level management. The junior-level employees will get 100 per cent of the eligible pay, the memo added.Mails sent to TCS did not elicit a response. Employees, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said typically the company awards 50-100 per cent of variable pay and it is the first time in at least two years that the company has explicitly said no bonuses shall be awarded.This comes as the country's largest IT firm reported its weakest September-quarter sequential



revenue growth in three years, signaling continued pressure on traditional IT services demand even as AI-related revenue jumped nearly 20 per cent. The uptick in AI revenue, however, was cheered by investors on Friday as the stock rose as much as 6.2 per cent.India's $315 billion IT sector is also facing uncertainty stemming from the Trump administration as it suspended major IT outsourcers including TCS, Infosys, HCLTech from a key green-card program on Thursday, widening a crackdown it says targets fraud and protects American jobs.

Starlink row: Musk again targets "Prime Minister Ambani"; urges him to consider his case

Kolkata. (Agency)

The public spat between Elon Musk and the Indian government seems to be getting uglier with the world's richest man now addressing Mukesh Ambani as "Prime Minister Ambani", accusing him to trying to protect a monopoly and sarcastically asking him to consider allowing the satellite internet service to compete in India. Musk's sharp attack has come as his Starlink awaits the defence clearance from New Delhi without which he cannot roll out his satellite internet services in India.

How the spat is growing

Over the past two days, Musk has kept sharpening his words. Musk had asked if "Ambani is the real boss of India" in a spot on X, which he owns too. On Friday evening, he shot off another post. "Dear Prime Minister Ambani, Please accept my humble apologies for not realising that you are the real boss of India. Naturally, you would prefer to maintain your monopolistic exploitation of the great people of India, but would you nonetheless consider allowing Starlink to compete?" he wrote.

Jyotiraditya Scindia's clarification

That Musk is unlikely to keep quiet and wait for the final clearance seems unlikely. For this latest salvo has come soon after Union communications minister Jyotiraditya Scindia stated that the government does not permit monopolies in any sector. He has also asserted that three players have received satcom licences and not one, contrary to impression. And those who have got the licence will start their operations once they satisfy the security requirements and milestones.

Three firms to get a licence so far

These three entities are Elon Musk's Starlink, Reliance Jio's venture Jio Satcom and Bharti-backed Eutelsat OneWeb. Amazon's Kuiper has also expressed interest to enter this market. "Let me set the record straight. For us, the Department of Telecommunications, we are technology agnostic… Our job is to be able to provide the bouquet of services to every single customer. It is for the customer to choose in a free market which service he or she prefers, and within that service bouquet, which company's service he or she prefers," Scindia asserted at a briefing at the India Mobile Congress here."We are very clear on our stand. There are three parties that have got a licence; as and when the government decides the charge system on the revenue basis, that spectrum will be assigned to them, and as and when they individually fulfil the security conditions, they can start operations," the minister added.

Musk's pitch to change lives

One of Musk's pitches is that his company has a footprint in a very large part of the globe.

India's forex reserves dips almost $13 bn; both foreign currency assets and gold fell

India's foreign exchange reserves fell by $12.952 billion to $734.606 billion in the week ended October 2. Reserves also fell by $18.343 billion in the previous week, according to RBI data released on . Foreign currency assets fell by $10.664 billion to $604.747 billion, while the value of gold reserves declined by $2.288 billion.

Kolkata. (Agency)

India's foreign exchange reserves have declined for the second week on the trot. According to data released by the RBI on Friday, the country's foreign exchange reserves fell by $12.952 billion to $734.606 billion in the week ended October 2. Previously, reserves had declined by $18.343 billion in the week ended September 25, falling to $747.557 billion. Amidst this continued decline in foreign exchange reserves, foreign currency assets and gold reserves have also declined.

Two successive declines

According to RBI data, India's foreign exchange reserves declined by $12.952 billion in the week ended October 2, bringing the total to $734.606 billion. The previous week also saw a decline of $18.343 billion. The total foreign exchange reserves for the week ended September 25 were $747.557 billion. This marks two consecutive weeks of significant declines in foreign exchange reserves.

Reserves peaked in September

India's foreign exchange reserves reached an all-time high in the week ending September 4, reaching $785.706 billion. According to the RBI, banks received a significant amount of foreign currency under a special concessional swap arrangement for deposits held by non-resident Indians. Through this arrangement, banks raised a record amount of approximately $133 billion. This historic level in foreign exchange reserves was achieved.

Shortfall of $10.66 billion

Foreign currency assets constitute the



largest portion of the foreign exchange reserves. They declined by $10.664 billion in the week ended October 2, bringing the total to $604.747 billion. This asset also includes funds held in other currencies, such as the euro, pound, and yen. Changes in the value of these currencies against the dollar also impact the dollar value of foreign currency assets.

Gold reserves declined too

According to RBI data, the value of India's gold reserves declined by $2.288 billion during the week, bringing the total to $106.413 billion. Gold is a significant component of foreign exchange reserves. Changes in its value impact the country's total foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves, along with foreign currency assets, declined this week

India's status with the IMF has declined

The SDR increased by $15 million in the week ended October 2, bringing the total to $18.656 billion. Meanwhile, India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) declined by $15 million, dropping to $4.789 billion. Changes in these different components of foreign exchange reserves have impacted the country's overall reserves.

NEWS BOX

Ernakulam St Mary's Cathedral celebrates centenary, traces a century of faith and perseverance

KOCHI(Agency).
One of the oldest Malankara Orthodox churches in the region, Ernakulam St Mary's Cathedral, is celebrating its centenary year. The church's history resonates with the conviction and perseverance of the early faithful who, despite hardships, remained steadfast in their beliefs and nurtured generations rooted in Christian values and traditions.The church was the result of the dream of devotees for a place of worship in the city. Many of them had to rely on distant parishes to fulfil their spiritual needs.
In 1922, on 28 cents of land near Ernakulam Boat Jetty, a small church was built. According to church sources, the project was undertaken by prominent figures, including P V Philip, Rao Sahib, P K Varghese, M I Varkey and M A Chacko.
The first Holy Qurbana (Mass) was celebrated by Fr Geevarghese, then vicar of Ayyampilly Church, on October 6, 1926. He was assisted by Fr M P Peter, who later became Pathros Mar Osthathios, known as the Malankara Gandhi, and Fr Murikkal Yakub, who was the first vicar.

Bengaluru parks not friendly to persons with disabilities

BENGALURU(Agency).
An audit of more than 120 public parks across Bengaluru has found gaps in accessibility at entrances, pathways, facilities, signage and play areas.
Only 34.8% of the parks allow users to enter without encountering a barrier, while 36.2% have a ramp at the entrance. These are among the findings of the Bengaluru Parks Observatory, an interactive dashboard launched on Friday by Pacta, a Bengaluru-based law firm and policy think tank. Funded by the Australian Consulate and building on Pacta's existing work on parks and accessibility, the dashboard is billed as India's first citizen-audited accessibility dashboard for public parks. The dashboard was launched at a multi-stakeholder meeting attended by civic-tech groups, urban planners, disability-rights organisations, corporates, academic institutions, parents and persons with disabilities. Participants said while the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, requires public authorities to make public spaces accessible, there was no consolidated, park-level assessment of accessibility across Bengaluru's parks.
Conducted between June and July, the survey involved volunteers physically visiting more than 120 parks and assessing each against a common accessibility checklist developed by Pacta. The checklist covered entrances, pathways, signage, play areas, maintenance, facilities and operations. Every submission was geotagged and mapped to the respective city corporation.Under the entrance category, 36.2% of parks have a ramp, while 46.4% have a step-free main entrance. Only 34.8% allow wheelchair users to enter without encountering a barrier. Under the pathways category, 62.3% of parks have pathways smooth enough for independent wheelchair use, while 71% are free of obstructions such as parked vehicles, vendors or debris.

Bengaluru plans five police commissionerates, 21 new stations

BENGALURU (Agency).
Six police stations from Bengaluru Rural district and one from Bengaluru South district will be brought under Bengaluru's five police commissionerates. In addition, 21 new police stations -- seven each for law and order, cybercrime and traffic -- along with six women's police stations, are planned. The Finance Department, however, has approved only 11 new police stations so far. Currently, Bengaluru City Police has 11 law and order divisions and four traffic divisions, each headed by Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCP). Under the proposed restructuring, the five commissionerates will have a total of 14 law and order divisions and five traffic divisions. According to the final structure of the five police commissionerates accessed by TNIE, the five commissionerates — Central, North, South, West and East -- will be headed by officers of Inspector General of Police (IGP) or Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP) rank. The commissionerates will function under the Chief Commissioner of Police.
Six police stations from Bengaluru Rural district -- Sarjapura, Jigani, Attibele, Anekal, Bannerghatta and Suryanagar -- will come under the DCP (Electronics City) division of the Bengaluru South Commissionerate, while Kaggalipura police station, currently under Bengaluru South district police, will come under the DCP (South) division. Meanwhile, the East Commissionerate will have new police stations at Kasturinagar (RM Nagar), Kodathi and Bidarahalli, along with two other police stations whose names are yet to be decided. In West Commissionerate, Andrahalli and Kadabagere will be new police stations under the DCP (Peenya) division.

'How can we leave our home?': In Lucknow, 5,000 families bear the worst of flooding



Lucknow(Agency).
On Thursday afternoon, Soni Kashyap walked along a street filled with knee-deep water in Lucknow's Faizullahganj, hauling a blanket, an LPG cylinder and ration. She was taking them to a relative's house, where she and her family are sheltering after their home went under water. "Khet bechkar ghar banaya hai. Kaise chhod dein? (We sold our agricultural land to build this house. How can we leave it?)," she said For over a week, the swollen Gomti has submerged parts of the state capital, affecting around 5,000 families — nearly 25,000 people — in Faizullahganj, Dawood Nagar, Loharmau. The flooding is the worst the city has seen in nearly two decades, with the impact extending beyond these neighbourhoods. On Wednesday, waterlogging was reported around Phoenix Palassio Mall and Ekana Stadium, along Shaheed Path and in parts of Gomti Nagar Extension.Public spaces along the river were also affected. The 65-acre Rashtriya Prerna Sthal was inundated, with water submerging parts of its grounds and garden pathways. The complex houses 65-foot bronze statues of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. The riverfront, the CG City Urban Wetland and Nau Sena Shaurya Vatika have been closed to visitors until further orders as a precautionary measure, officials said. Classes at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Lucknow, were suspended for the third consecutive day on Friday after floodwater inundated the campus and entered its power substation, disrupting electricity supply. IIIT Lucknow officiating director Manindra Agrawal said the campus has largely been vacated.

How the flood started

Trouble began towards the last week of September, around 100 km upstream, after a spell of heavy rain in the Gomti's upper catchment areas that travelled downstream to Lucknow over several days. Speaking to The Indian Express, Anil Garg, Principal Secretary, Irrigation Department, said, "The river's catchment areas are spread over Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, Lakhimpur Kheri and Sitapur districts that witnessed exceptionally heavy rainfall between September 22 and 27. Normally, the rainfall over five days would be around 15 mm. This time it was around 150 mm, with some places receiving nearly 257 mm."The water took several days to travel downstream to Lucknow, with officials saying it normally takes around 10-12 days to reach the city from the Pilibhit region, even after rainfall there has stopped.Additional District Magistrate (ADM) (City) M P Singh, the nodal officer overseeing relief operations in the affected area, said around 2,250 houses had been affected in one stretch, while nearly 1,600 people had been affected in Barawan Kala and Jaita. Another 1,000 people were affected as water levels rose over the preceding.

TN put on notice over disciplinary action against erring government officials

MADURAI (Agency).
The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Friday directed the state to file a comprehensive report containing details of disciplinary proceedings initiated against erring officials of all departments in the state, the current status of the proceedings, and the actions taken against them.
A bench of Justices P Velmurugan and KK Ramakrishnan passed the order after taking a serious view of the delay in appointing an official to conduct a departmental inquiry against officials who allegedly swindled Rs 2.35 crore sanctioned for monthly assistance for students of Adi Dravidar Welfare hostels in Sivaganga district. The case has been adjourned for a month. The issue came up when the bench was hearing a Public Interest Litigation filed by A Sakthivel, state president of Suthanthira Tholilalar Katchi, seeking a CB-CID probe into the issue. During the



hearing on October 6, the bench noted that though the charge memo was issued to the officials in December 2024, no inquiry officer has been appointed even after a lapse of over 20 months. The court then directed the disciplinary authority concerned to appear before it in the next hearing.
But when the matter came up for hearing on October 8, the additional advocate general informed the court that a G.O. was issued on October 7 to appoint an inquiry officer in the case. The judges, however, insisted that the disciplinary authority appear before the court and offer an explanation. On Friday, after the state informed the court that the disciplinary authority had already retired from service, the judges issued the above direction. According to petitioner Sakthivel, the state government had sanctioned over `2.35 crore for the students of Adi Dravidar Welfare Hostels in Sivaganga district to buy essentials from 2017 to 2023, but the money was swindled by officials.

SI recruitment scam: ED carries out searches in 10 places in Odisha, Bengal

BHUBANESWAR (Agency).
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted searches at 10 locations in Odisha and West Bengal in connection with the alleged police sub-inspector (SI) recruitment scam.
Sources said the ED searched properties linked to the alleged mastermind of the scam, Sankar Prusty, his close associates, Suresh Nayak and others. "The ED is probing the money laundering aspect of the scam. More details, including any seizures, will be shared in the coming days," an official said. Sources said the



agency searched eight locations in Odisha and two in neighbouring West Bengal. The examination, conducted by the Odisha Police Recruitment Board (OPRB) and scheduled for October 5 and 6, 2025, was awarded to ITI Limited, a Kolkata-based central public sector undertaking (PSU).
However, ITI Limited sub-contracted the work to Bhubaneswar-based Silicon Techlab, which, in turn, handed over key tasks to Panchsoft Technologies. Panchsoft was headed by Prusty, while Silicon Techlab was promoted by Nayak.
Sources said the question paper was allegedly leaked by individuals associated with the entities engaged in conducting the examination. The candidates were allegedly promised access to the question paper for payments ranging from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 30 lakh each.On October 30 last year, police intercepted three buses carrying 114 candidates near Ichchapuram, near the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha border. The Crime Branch initially investigated.

Kolkata model held in extortion case as police probe 11 'false rape complaints'

Sent to 14-day judicial custody after bail plea rejected on Oct 6

Kolkata(Agency).
What began as a probe into a rape complaint against a Kolkata dentist has turned into a case of alleged extortion by a 31-year-old model and television actor. Police said that they have identified 10 rape and sexual harassment complaints lodged by her against 13 other people since 2024. The alleged victims of extortion include doctors, film directors and a national-level table tennis player.
During the investigation, police said five of the 11 complaints were filed in 2026.The first case of alleged extortion was filed by the dentist's wife leading to the arrest of the model-actor on September 18. She is currently in 14-day judicial custody after her bail plea was rejected on October 6.he meeting but they refused to comment.
Rubbishing the allegations, Tirthankar Roy, the lawyer representing the model-actor said, "She lodged a complaint against a doctor. He was taken into custody and the police filed a chargesheet. As far as I know, as a mark of retaliation, the doctor's wife filed a counter-complaint with the court where she alleged her husband was a victim of extortion, following which the model was arrested. This is a ridiculous complaint." A dentist's complaint, and what followed The dentist's wife approached the court alleging her husband had been falsely implicated in a rape case. The model was arrested on charges registered under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) relating to extortion by threat and criminal conspiracy, following



a petition under Section 175(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). According to the complaint, the woman, who had earlier been a patient of the dentist, allegedly began harassing and threatening him from December 2025 and demanded money. She allegedly threatened to implicate him in false cases if he failed to meet her demands.
A senior Kolkata Police officer said the investigation has revealed what "appeared to be a pattern"."She has two cases of extortion against her filed by aggrieved parties against whom she has allegedly lodged false rape cases. It has been learnt that she has till date filed 11 such alleged false cases of rape and sexual harassment against about 14 persons. Further investigation is being carried out," the officer said.

Rajdhani Express cancelled, police 'detain' Gujarat activists ahead of Jantar Mantar 2.0

Ahmedabad, Vadodara(Agency).
The Kerala High Court has allowed a candidate disqualified by the Travancore Devaswom Board to provisionally take part in the interview for selecting the melsanthis, or head priests, of the Sabarimala Sree Dharmasatha temple and Malikappuram Temple.
A bench of Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan V and KV Jayakumar passed an interim order permitting 56-year-old Rajeev MP to appear for the interview scheduled to take place tor 1201 ME.After hearing the arguments, the court said that, in view of the facts and circumstances of the case and the records produced by the petitioner, he had made out a case for an interim order."In view of the matter, there shall be a direction to the respondent Nos. 1 (Board) and 2 (Devaswom Commissioner) to permit the petitioner also to participate, provisionally, in the interview for selection to the post of melsanthi, Sabarimala-Malikappuram Devaswoms, for the year 1202 ME (2026-27), proposed to be conducted on October 7, 2026," the bench said.

Planning to go to Delhi, activist & friends detained in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad-based social worker Ashwin Vaghela and 54 others had planned to head to Delhi on Friday to participate in the protests called by the CJP and other groups at Jantar Mantar on October 10.
In fact, they had made plans to travel through different modes of transport, but, on October 9, the Ahmedabad city police detained Vaghela and three other leaders of his group in his house.



"I was in the Naroda area on Thursday evening when the police came at 5 pm and took me to the Crime Branch office. They detained me till 9 pm and then dropped me at Gomtipur police station and told us we would be released the next day," Vaghela said.
However, once news of these detentions spread, a crowd gathered at Gomtipur police station and sat in protest. "The police asked us to give in writing that we would not go to Delhi for the CJP protest, only then they would let us go home. But I told them that we were going to go to the Delhi protest anyway. We were at the police station till 2 am and have been under house arrest since then."This was the situation across homes and workplaces of several activists in Gujarat as police either took them to the police stations or placed them in detention at home, guarded by two or more personnel, allegedly to stop them from travelling to Delhi. Reports of similar action by the police have been reported from multiple states in the country.

SFI leader and HC advocate under 'house arrest', GHCAA backs her

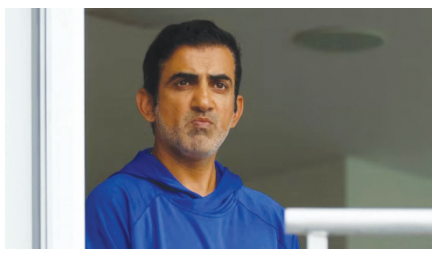
Advocate and sarpanch of Vadvasa village in Sabarkantha district Satyesha Leuva was among those detained.Leuva, who is the all-India vice-president of the Students' Federation of India (SFI), and one of the organisers of the Ahmedabad protest, faced multiple police hurdles to even reach the city as she was put under house arrest.

NEWS BOX

We want what you want: Gautam Gambhir's 2nd pitch plea in 10 days after Ranchi run fest

PUDUCHERRY. (Agency)

It was just 10 days ago in Guwahati that Gautam Gambhir made this statement. He had seen his Indian side pull off a sensational chase of 406 runs in just 43.3 overs. On that day, a total of 811 runs were scored in 93.3 overs.said Sujeet in a virtual interaction.Now, on October 9, he witnessed another run fest in Ranchi. A total of 501 runs was scored in just 38.3 overs as West Indies reached 250 with ease and set the record for the second-highest run chase in T20I cricket. Apart from Roston Chase, all the bowlers from both teams leaked runs at an economy rate of over 10. While dew can be considered to be a factor, the question of competitive wickets raised its head once again.And for the second time in a matter of 10 days, Gambhir advocated for an even contest



between bat and ball. Speaking at the post-match press conference, the Indian coach said that he understands the demand of the fans.Gambhir said that the careers of bowlers are being put at risk by such conditions, and he wants to see better cricket."Don't you want a good competition between bat and ball? We want what you want," Gambhir remarked in a press conference after the match. "If you only want to see only sixes and fours, then we want to see that too. If you want an even contest, then we want that too.

"These bowlers are our bowlersTheir careers are also at stake. They have worked very hard to get into the dressing room. It's not like they haven't worked hard. So if there is even competition, it will be good. And we will get to see better cricket too.""

'WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT A WAY'

However, Gambhir was quick to point out that the surface could not be held solely responsible for the result. He acknowledged the West Indies' batting prowess but stressed that India must find ways to defend big totals against a formidable batting line-up, even when conditions are not in their favour.

You're a fast bowler, bowl like one: Gambhir wants Mayank Yadav to stick to his guns

Gautam Gambhir has a clear message for Mayank Yadav: trust your pace and bowl like a fast bowler. After a difficult outing in Lucknow, the India pacer bounced back in Ranchi, taking three wickets in the powerplay against West Indies.

New Delhi. (Agency)

In T20 cricket, where batters are constantly looking to attack, bowlers are often forced to rely on variations to stay ahead of the game. Slower balls, cutters and changes of pace have become essential tools, but Gautam Gambhir believes there is a point where a fast bowler must stop trying to outsmart batters and trust what comes naturally.

IND vs WI, 2nd T20I: Highlights | Scorecard

The India head coach made his expectations clear after Mayank delivered an impactful spell against West Indies in Ranchi, repeatedly crossing 140 kmph and ripping through the opposition's top order in the powerplay. Gambhir's message was simple: Mayank is a fast bowler, and he must bowl like one.He is a fast bowler, he needs to bowl like one, he is not a slower bowler. If you can bowl 150 kph, bowl at 150 kph, if you can bowl at 120 kph, bowl at that pace. When you are a fast bowler, it is your responsibility to bowl fast. That's what he did and that's why he was successful," Gambhir said at the post-match press conference.

The comments came after Mayank produced the kind of performance that reminded India why his pace is such a valuable weapon. Having struggled to find his rhythm in Lucknow, the young pacer returned with greater clarity in Ranchi, relying on his natural strengths rather than getting caught up in too many variations.

A LESSON FROM LUCKNOW

Mayank's previous outing had been a difficult one. Despite being familiar with



the conditions from his time with Lucknow Super Giants in the Indian Premier League, he struggled to make the desired impact and finished among India's most expensive bowlers.The pacer appeared to be trying too many things, mixing up his pace and altering his lines without finding the control or effectiveness he needed. In a format that rewards unpredictability, variations are important, but they can become counterproductive when a bowler loses sight of his biggest strength.

For Mayank, that strength is his ability to generate serious pace and trouble batters with the new ball.

PACE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

In Ranchi, Mayank returned to that formula. He repeatedly bowled above 140 kmph and immediately put the West Indies batters under pressure.

He struck twice in successive deliveries, removing Kamil Pooran and Shimron Hetmyer, before returning in the final over of the powerplay to dismiss Rovman Powell, who had looked in good touch. West Indies lost three wickets inside the first six overs, handing India early control of the chase.

Brazil to Uruguay showed India the gap. Can a longer ISL close it?

Kolkata. (Agency)

You can train how much you want, but at the end of the day, it is about the matches. The more games you play, I think that will help the players."

Akash Mishra's words ring true even three days after India's friendly window against Panama, Brazil and Uruguay came to an end. The games against Brazil and Uruguay exposed just how unforgiving the highest level can be, while also underlining the India defender's point about the need for more matches.India drew 1-1 with Panama, lost 4-0 to Brazil and then went down 6-1 to Uruguay, conceding 11 goals across the two matches against the South American heavyweights.The results themselves were hardly a surprise. Brazil and Uruguay arrived with players accustomed to a speed, technical quality and competitive pressure that Indian footballers simply do not encounter often enough. What was more revealing was how the games changed. India could stay



in the contest for periods, frustrate Brazil for much of the opening half-hour and even level against Uruguay through Anirudh Thapa, but once the opposition found another gear, the margin for error reduced significantly.If the results were unforgiving, the decision to host this block of three matches was not controversy-free either. The AIFF withdrew from the inaugural FIFA ASEAN Cup because its schedule clashed with the friendlies, giving up a tournament that would have offered competitive matches for the national team.Instead, India played three exhibition games, with the federation spending crores to bring overseas teams to India at a time when Indian football was already dealing with financial constraints.But that does not make the friendlies a mistake. India needed to see this level, because playing only opposition closer to their own ranking will not prepare them for the football they ultimately want to play. Mishra had made that point before the window began, when he said India could not approach these matches simply as a learning exercise.

Belief and partnerships: How Shai Hope shaped West Indies' chase in Ranchi



New Delhi. (Agency)

Shai Hope has found a happy hunting ground in India, and his latest masterclass in Ranchi was built on a familiar foundation: belief, calculated aggression and the value of batting partnerships.The West Indies captain struck an unbeaten 102 off just 45 balls to lead his side to a stunning six-wicket win over India in the second T20I on Friday, completing a record chase of 250 to level the five-match series 1-1. It was the highest successful T20I chase against India and the second-highest overall in the format.

IND vs WI, 2nd T20I: Highlights | Scorecard

Yet, for Hope, the defining feature of the innings was not just the power hitting that dismantled India's bowling attack, but the partnerships that kept the chase alive."Thing about cricket, I really believe that we need to bat a lot better in partnerships. It's something that we tend to lack every now and again," Hope said after the match.

BELIEF IN THE CHASE

West Indies' pursuit suffered an early setback when Mayank Yadav struck twice in successive deliveries, dismissing Kamil Pooran and Shimron Hetmyer. With 250 required, the visitors needed composure as much as firepower.Hope found that balance alongside Sherfane Rutherford, with the pair adding 120 runs off just 54 balls to transform the contest. Rutherford's 84 off 37 deliveries, featuring seven fours and seven sixes, allowed Hope to pick his moments without losing "Then obviously Sherfane came and did what he did, playing really well with the bat now and just gave us that spark that we needed to get over the line today."

India's fielding needs to improve: Dinesh Karthik flags worrying decline



NAGOYA. (Agency)

India need to raise their fielding standards if they want to win major tournaments, former India wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik has warned, pointing to a decline that has persisted despite the team's recent successes. With the 2027 ODI World Cup approaching, India have limited time to address an issue that could prove costly when the margins become finer.

Speaking on Cricbuzz after India's six-wicket defeat to West Indies in the second T20I in Ranchi, Karthik questioned the team's standards in the field. India had posted 249/5, with Sanju Samson scoring 82 off 41 balls, but West Indies chased down the target with nine balls to spare. Shai Hope struck an unbeaten 102 off 45 deliveries, while Sherfane Rutherford made 84 off 37 balls to help level the five-match series 1-1.

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"No doubt, 249. If you start thinking it's going to be a hard match, then you really need to look at yourself. But fielding has been an issue for some time now. Because we have won the ODI series and the Asian Games, it has gone a bit unnoticed. But even in the final of the Asian Games, they didn't field well. In England, they didn't field well. In Ireland, they didn't field well either. So, it has been an issue," Karthik said."They have let go of the previous fielding coach, and I'm sure it has come at a point when they felt he wasn't able to get the team to the next level. Now, it is Shubhadeep Ghosh, the newly appointed fielding coach, and I think he will be under the scanner. Your job is to make sure Team India fields better than it did before. If you're not able to do that, you will face the heat," he added.

Chahal on comms, India struggling: If Bhuvi can return, why not Yuzi?

New Delhi. (Agency)

When the news broke that Bhuvneshwar Kumar was returning to the Indian team after four years, his former teammate Yuzvendra Chahal was also in Lucknow. But while Bhuvneshwar was making headlines for his comeback, Chahal was nowhere near the dressing room. He was out in the middle, microphone in hand, discussing the game as a pundit rather than preparing to bowl for India.For a leg-spinner once synonymous with India's white-ball attack, it is a curious second innings. These days, Chahal remains connected to Indian cricket through his voice rather than the googlies and top-spinners that once left batters searc

IND vs WI, 2nd T20I: Highlights | Scorecard

That was the scene in Ranchi, too. Before the second T20I, Chahal interviewed his former partner in the famous 'Kul-Cha' combination, Kuldeep Yadav. The subject?



Kuldeep's achievement of going past Chahal's T20I wicket tally.hing for answers.Kuldeep's response brought back memories of a time when the two wrist-spinners operated in tandem, tying batters in knots and making life miserable for opposition teams. He admitted he was not entirely pleased with the milestone, not because of the achievement itself, but because he wished Chahal were still alongside him in the Indian team"I'm not particularly happy about it. I would have preferred it if we were playing together, because we could have broken many more records together. But it also feels good to watch you from the other end now. Whenever you're around, there's always a great atmosphere while playing, and I also get to learn a lot about bowling from you. I'll always be grateful for that," said Kuldeep..It was a heartfelt tribute to a former partner. But after India's struggles in the second T20I in Ranchi, it also left fans asking an uncomfortable question: why is Chahal watching from the commentary box when India are searching for answers with the ball?India's bowlers had a difficult night on a surface that offered little respite.

NZ vs IND: Injuries pile up for New Zealand as star pacer ruled out of India tour

New Zealand pacer William O'Rourke has been ruled out of the India tour as he recovers from hamstring and calf injuries. The precautionary call adds to the Black Caps' injury list and keeps the quick in view for the Australia tour in December.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The injury bug seems to have hit New Zealand hard ahead of the India tour. After losing both Mark Chapman and Zak Foulkes, they have lost a star pacer for the ODIs and Tests against India. William O'Rourke has been ruled out of the entire India tour as he continues his recovery from injuries to his left hamstring and calf.

New Zealand Cricket confirmed that O'Rourke, who was being considered for the ODI and Test squads, will miss the assignment as a precautionary measure. The decision has been taken with the upcoming



four-Test series against Australia in December in mind, as New Zealand look to ensure the pacer is fully fit for the tour.The setback also delays O'Rourke's return to home international cricket, having last played on home soil in April 2025. A stress fracture in his back kept him out for the following summer before he returned to action during New Zealand's tour of Bangladesh in April. The pacer featured in all three ODIs on that trip after spending seven months on the sidelines."It's obviously disappointing for Will to have to miss such a marquee tour at home against India," said New Zealand coach Rob Walter."He was set to feature in both the ODI and Test series, but following subsequent discussions, we all agreed it was best for him to take some more time to rehabilitate both injuries and safely build up his bowling loads."Our pace bowling resources will be critical over the next few months, so we're taking a conservative approach to Will's return to ensure he's fully fit before he takes the field again.""Ideally he'll be able to return for Canterbury in the Plunket Shield in late December, and in a perfect world he'll be ready to go for the opening Test against Australia in Perth on December 9."O'Rourke subsequently played all three Tests against England in June. However, he suffered a hamstring tear on the final day of the third Test in Nottingham. His recovery was then interrupted by a calf strain sustained during a training session in late August.

The fast bowler had already been left out of New Zealand's squad for the five-match T20I series against India, which begins on October 22. The Black Caps have also had to make changes to that squad.

Aneet Padda

Joins Rumoured BF Ahaan Panday At Sister Alanna's Baby Shower, Fun INSIDE Video Goes Viral



Actress Aneet Padda and Ananya Panday brought out their playful side as they indulged in a fun game at Alanna Panday's baby shower.The two actresses were seen enjoying the light-hearted moment, embracing their inner child as they took part in the game at the special gathering.

A video that has gone viral on social media captures Ananya Panday and Aneet Padda participating in a fun game at the baby shower. In the clip, both can be seen along with others standing in pairs, holding a sheet between them and passing a toy to the person on the opposite side. Ananya and Aneet also joined the playful activity, offering a glimpse of their camaraderie as they enjoyed the fun game.

Alanna Panday's recent baby shower saw several guests arrive in their stylish best, turning the celebration into a fashionable affair. Ananya made a playful style statement in a shimmery pink skirt paired with a white T-shirt featuring the word 'Auntie', adding a fun touch to her look for her cousin's special occasion.



'Musafir Cafe' fame Vedika opted for an elegant all-white ensemble, keeping her appearance chic and understated. Karishma Tanna also embraced the classic white look. Aneet on the other hand, kept her look casual yet fashionable in a chic white halter-neck top paired with blue jeans.

Meanwhile, Sonam Kapoor made an elegant appearance in a stunning white dress at a fashion event.Social media influencer Alanna Panday and her husband, Ivor McCray, announced on August 8, 2026, that they are expecting their second child.

The couple shared the news through an Instagram video featuring their son, River, accompanied by the caption, "One more to love."

The 30-year-old is the daughter of Deanne Panday and Chikki Panday, who is the brother of actor Chunky Panday. Expressing her excitement about becoming a grandmother for the second time, Deanne commented on the announcement post, writing, "Grand ma for the second time god bless you."

Katrina Kaif

Seemingly Breaks Silence Amid Postpartum Trolling: 'Be Your Own Biggest Cheerleader'



Katrina Kaif has been facing online scrutiny over her post-pregnancy weight ever since her appearance at the Ambani family's Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations in Mumbai last month. Amid the trolling, the actress has seemingly addressed the conversation around beauty standards and self-care through her recent comments. She highlighted the importance of not letting the constant chatter on social media affect one's self-worth. The new mom emphasised that true confidence stems from embracing oneself rather than seeking everyone's approval. On October 8, Katrina was in London to celebrate one year of her beauty brand Kay Beauty in the UK.

Katrina Kaif indirectly reacts to online trolling amid body-shaming

While interacting with the beauty influencers at the event, Katrina Kaif, who dished out major boss babe energy, emphasised the importance of not allowing online narratives to shape one's sense of self-worth, particularly in an age where everyone seems to have an opinion to share. She said, "I think we really need to be careful of letting the narrative on social media affect our self-worth and inner value because there are so many opinions out there. If you start catering to all of them, it really hampers your ability to make choices for yourself.

Speaking about how criticism can influence personal choices, Katrina pointed out that constantly responding to public opinion can make it harder to move forward. She explained that allowing every comment or criticism to guide her decisions could have prevented her from making progress in life. She added, "There are times when the world is going to celebrate you, and other times you have to really be your own biggest cheerleader."

She also highlighted the importance of embracing oneself through different stages of life, acknowledging that confidence and self-image can fluctuate. While there may be days when people feel their best, there are also times when they may struggle with how they see themselves. She stressed the need to accept oneself in the present while recognising that personal growth is a continuous journey.



Soon after the video was shared online, her fans were seen reacting to her positive approach. One fan wrote, "Well said!" Another fan commented, "Such wise words." A third fan wrote, "The queen has spoken." Others were seen dropping red hearts in the comments section.

AICWA Slams Tanushree Dutta Over 'Evil Dead' Remark After Nana Patekar's Death: 'Cheap Publicity'



The All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) has strongly criticised Tanushree Dutta over her reported reaction to Nana Patekar's death. The veteran actor died at the age of 75, following which Tanushree seemingly referred to him as "evil dead" while speaking in a social media video.AICWA Founder and President Suresh Shyamlal Gupta condemned the remark and described it as an attempt at "cheap publicity". The organisation issued a detailed statement objecting to Tanushree's choice of words at a time when members of the film industry were mourning Nana.

AICWA Calls Tanushree Dutta's Remark 'Insensitive And Shameful'

"AICWA strongly condemns Tanushree Dutta's 'Evil Dead' remark on the passing of legend Nana Patekar," the association said in its statement.While paying tribute to Nana, AICWA referred to his Padma Shri honour as well as his social initiatives. The association also cited his work through the Naam Foundation for families of distressed farmers and referred to what it described as his service during the Kargil War.

It extended condolences to Nana's family before turning its attention to Tanushree's remarks.

"At such a time, Tanushree Dutta's statement on social media, in which she used the words 'Evil Dead', is deeply objectionable, insensitive and shameful. AICWA strongly condemns it," the statement read.The association further said that making such remarks following a person's death was against "basic humanity".

'You Should Have Kept A Check On Your Tongue'

AICWA also objected to Tanushree discussing her professional commitments while reacting to the news."Until today, no one in our film industry has made such a statement after someone's passing. You are the first, and we pray you will be the last," the organisation said.It added, "People in this industry know what to say on such an occasion and when to stay silent. You should have kept a check on your tongue."The association also took aim at Tanushree's reference to her upcoming events in Lucknow and London, arguing that the occasion was not appropriate for promoting professional plans.

Bipasha Basu Slams Viral Paparazzi Video, Says They Ignored Her 'Thank You'



Bipasha Basu is back to work after taking a break from acting to focus on motherhood. The actress has been shooting for her upcoming web series in Mumbai. A video of her outside a studio started doing the rounds, with some people claiming that she was angry with the paparazzi.

Bipasha was recently spotted outside a Mumbai studio when she noticed photographers waiting for her. She asked them to make way for her as she headed inside. However, after a social media page suggested that she had lost her cool, the actress decided to clear the air herself.

Sharing the video on her Instagram Stories, Bipasha questioned the background music added to the clip and explained that she was simply trying to get to work on time. She wrote, "Please tell me what is this background music? Someone is going to work and likes to be on time but just because we question your presence doesn't mean I am angry. You choose to ignore my thank you at the end conveniently. Anyways I have no issues with paps ever. Most of them are very respectful towards me always."

The actress made it clear that she has no issues with the paparazzi and feels that most photographers are respectful towards her. She also pointed out that the video did not include her saying thank you at the end.Meanwhile, Bipasha is gearing up for her acting comeback with Hansal Mehta's upcoming web series Barabanki. She was last seen in Dangerous, which also starred her husband, Karan Singh Grover, in 2020. After six years away from acting, she is now ready to return to the screen.

According to a report by Mid-Day, Bipasha started shooting for the series in Mumbai in August. A source also revealed that the actress agreed to the project soon after Hansal narrated the story to her.

NEWS BOX

Brazilian police kill suspect who held 13 children at knifepoint in school

SAO PAULO.(Agency)

Brazilian police killed a man Friday after he held 13 children at knifepoint for more than two hours at a school in the southern city of Curitiba, authorities said. None of the children were injured.Parana state police spokesperson Leticia Martins told journalists outside school CMEI Sao Braz that the man jumped one of the walls, broke into a classroom and kept children and staffers as hostages.She did not disclose how the suspect was killed or the ages of the children involved.“(The suspect) also threatened to pour gasoline onto himself and others, our negotiating teams were in place, but saw no alternative but to neutralize him,” said Martins, who did not say whether the suspect had expressed a specific reason for his actions.The suspect poured a liquid that smelled like gasoline in the classroom and repeatedly threatened to light it. Other students left the school unharmed before the kidnapping began, Martins said.The incident took place in the middle class region of Sao Braz in Curitiba, a city of 1.8 million residents located 400 kilometers (248 miles) south of metropolis Sao Paulo.Local police commander Alexandre Lopes Dias told journalists the suspect was identified as a man who suffered from schizophrenia, but did not reveal the man's identity or how he was killed.“We entered the classroom using a very tactical approach, with little risk for the children,” Dias added.Local media showed footage of tearful parents outside the school waiting for information as the negotiations between the suspect and police were ongoing. Minutes after two explosions, officers emerged carrying some of the children outside.

Magnitude 7.6 earthquake strikes Panama, triggering tsunami warning and evacuations

PANAMA CITY.(Agency)

A powerful magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck Panama on Friday morning, shaking buildings as far away as the capital and prompting evacuations, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The quake was centered about 10 kilometers (6 miles) southwest of the remote community of Pitaloza Arriba, near Panama’s southern tip, the USGS said. It struck at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles).Tremors were felt in the capital Panama City, where buildings shook and people evacuated into the streets. Visibly shaken residents gathered outside as they waited for news of the quake’s impact.

“We felt it very strongly. It knocked things over in the kitchen, but we’re okay, though we’re very scared," Rosendo Domínguez, 60, who is from Herrera province, where the earthquake struck, told The Associated Press by phone. “Everyone is outside, scared.”Aftershocks continued to shake the streets on Friday shortly after the quake. The National Weather Service issued a tsunami warning Friday for the coasts of Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Guatemala.Omar Smith of the National Civil Protection Service urged the public to remain calm. He told the Telemetro Reporta news channel that damage was concentrated in the central provinces of Veraguas, Herrera and Los Santos.He said there were no reports of damage in the capital, which is known for its hundreds of skyscrapers.

Panama lies along the “Ring of Fire,” the line of seismic faults encircling the Pacific Ocean where most of the world’s earthquakes occur.

October 7 scars push Israel's first-time voters to right

Roughly 550,000 Israelis aged between 18 and 22 will be voting for the first time in October, according to Israel's Channel 12.

Nir Am, Israel.(Agency)

Like hundreds of thousands of Israelis, Amihai will be of voting age for the first time since Hamas carried out its attack on October 7, 2023. When he casts his ballot this month, he has one priority above all -- security.From a field overlooking the sprawling ruins of the northern Gaza Strip, the 18-year-old says he plans to vote for a far-right party at the ballot box, three years after the deadliest day in Israeli history."I'm voting based solely on security -- not for whoever will help me buy an apartment in 10 years, but for whoever can guarantee that I'll even still be alive here in 10 years," he told AFP.



Amihai, from Shomria in southern Israel, was speaking less than two kilometres from Gaza, swathes of which have been flattened by Israeli bombardment since the war with Hamas erupted in 2023.He was attending an event calling for Jewish settlement of the Palestinian territory, and said that on October 27 he would be casting a vote for the ultra-nationalist party of National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir."After October 7, I want death for the terrorists, I want the terrorists here to suffer in prison, I want there to be deterrence," the teenager said, alluding to a recently passed death penalty law that applies to Palestinians.Sporting a cap and T-shirt in support of the minister, Amihai said he also wanted "emigration from Gaza, that the people of Gaza will be dying to leave" -- another policy advocated by government ministers in recent months.Roughly 550,000 Israelis aged between 18 and 22 will be voting for the first time in October, according to Israel's Channel 12.In a recent poll commissioned by the channel, 74 percent of first-time voters described their policy views as right or centre-right -- an even higher share than the broadly right-leaning public at large.Real future'The trend stands in contrast to many Western democracies where young people are among the most left-leaning voters -- with some in recent years motivated by outrage over Israel's actions in Gaza.But the right-wing turn of Israeli Jewish youth has been building for around two decades, said pollster and analyst Dahlia Scheindlin."Older people... remember the hope of reaching full, comprehensive peace agreements with the Palestinians," Scheindlin told AFP."Anybody who's an 18-year-old now, his or her entire political consciousness is under (Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu, it's a very ultra-nationalist environment," she said

Peace is not in people's minds.".

At a gathering of young activists for the centre-left Democrats party in Tel Aviv last month, 18-year-old Gili said she felt society had turned its back on peace.

Panama rocked by 2 powerful earthquakes and multiple aftershocks, prompting evacuations

PANAMA CITY.(Agency)

Two powerful 7.7 and 6.6 magnitude earthquakes and a series of aftershocks roiled southern Panama Friday afternoon, collapsing buildings near the epicenter and prompting evacuations across the country.The earlier quake, felt as far away as neighboring Colombia, was centered about 10 kilometers (6 miles) southwest of the remote community of Pitaloza Arriba, in the central province of Herrera, the USGS said. It struck at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles).

The USGS initially reported the first quake as magnitude 8, then revised it to 7.6 and later to 7.7.Visibly shaken residents of Panama City, the capital, gathered outside as they waited for news of the quake’s impact on Friday.

“We felt it very strongly. It knocked things over in the kitchen, but we’re okay, though we’re very scared," Rosendo Domínguez, 60, who is from Herrera province, where the earthquake struck, told The Associated Press by phone. “Everyone is outside, scared.”

Multiple aftershocks continued to rattle Panama, including several measuring magnitude 5.8, 5.5 and 5.2. Seismologists at the University of Panama recorded more than 45 aftershocks, though many were too



weak to be felt.Calls for calm and reports of collapsed buildingsDespite the strength of the successive quakes, Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino said authorities had not documented anyone killed as of Friday evening, though he cautioned that could change in the coming hours or days.“Nobody was ready, and no one is ever ready for this type of disaster,” Mulino said, after calling for calm earlier in the day.

Images of crumbling buildings and deep fissures slicing through roads added to fears across a region battered by a series of devastating earthquakes in recent months.Two back-to-back 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes roiled Venezuela’s La Guaira state in June, killing more than 6,500 people and leaving 17,000 homeless. In August, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake in Colombia killed at least 289 people.The notably lesser toll in nearby Panama may have been due to the country's strict building codes, especially governing construction of skyscrapers in the capital, said Carlos Valdés, head of the Seismology Department at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.Omar Smith of the National Civil Protection Service said on the Telemetro Reporta news channel that damage was concentrated in the central provinces of Veraguas, Herrera and Los Santos and there were no reports of damages in Panama City.

India tells UN it will not bow to Pakistan's nuclear blackmail

World.(Agency)

India on Friday used its Right of Reply at the UN General Assembly's First Committee to hit out at Pakistan, saying nuclear weapons must not be treated as "routine instruments of statecraft" and asserting that New Delhi will "not bow" to nuclear blackmail. Responding after Pakistan raised Jammu and Kashmir during the plenary meeting on Disarmament and International Security, India said its capabilities are defensive and shaped by its security environment.

Delivering India's response, Anmol Sher Singh Bedi, Senior Adviser (Disarmament) at the Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, said Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of India. He also said India does not seek conflict, but warned that a lack of accountability for reckless actions keeps fuelling crises in the region.

"We call for India's illegally occupied territories to be vacated and returned," Bedi said. "India has always stood for peace and continues to seek peace with one and with all. However, if there is no accountability for reckless actions, then peace rarely becomes a pause between crises," he said. He said India's capabilities are "defensive in nature" and are not directed against any state. "We heard concerns about escalation. These are legitimate concerns. However, these are best judged by conduct over time. Nuclear weapons must not be treated as routine instruments of statecraft," he said. "A posture that relies on nuclear overhang to limit the consequences of subconventional activity raises the risk of escalation and not the prospect of restraint," Bedi added.Referring to Pakistan's approach, Bedi said crises in the region have often followed a "recurring pattern: first, provocation; second, denial of responsibility; and third, appeals for restraint once a response has been made".

Trump slams Norway over Nobel snub, claims he deserved eight Peace Prizes for wars he says he settled

Washington.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump on Friday lashed out at Norway for not awarding him the Nobel Peace Prize, claiming he deserved eight prizes for the eight wars he said he had settled.Addressing a rally in Syracuse, New York, Trump also claimed to have saved 50 million lives by preventing nuclear-armed India and Pakistan from going to war.

“The United States of America, represented by me as your president, should have received the Nobel Peace Prize, but didn’t. And this is an indelible stain on the country of Norway, and those people that made such a disgraceful and embarrassing decision,” Trump said.

“The Nobel Peace Prize has been forever discredited by a handful of radical ideologues who are anti-democracy and really enemies of civilisation. We will not forget, Norway, that you didn’t give this prize,” he added.The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Navi Pillay, the South African former UN human rights chief, for her work on justice and accountability for war crimes and genocide. Trump dismissed her as someone “nobody ever heard of”.“The Nobel Prize was given out today (Friday) to a liberal person who works at the United Nations, who nobody has ever heard of. I've never heard of the person, but congratulations anyway,” Trump said.He then listed the conflicts he claimed to have resolved, adding that he was working to end two more — the wars involving Iran and Russia and Ukraine.“We will not forget Norway, that you didn't give this prize with the greatest record in history — eight wars, we should have had 8 Nobel Prizes for each war — but that you didn't give the Nobel Prize for Peace to the United States of America,” Trump said.Trump also claimed to have prevented Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons and averting a wider conflict.

“Additionally, I stopped Iran from having a nuclear weapon and blowing up the entire Middle East and ultimately far beyond the Middle East, including Europe, perhaps the US and I saved more lives than anyone in history,” he said.Four US presidents have received the Nobel Peace Prize: Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Jimmy Carter and Barack Obama. Obama won the award in 2009, his first year in office.Trump has repeatedly criticised Obama's Nobel win, arguing that his predecessor “got a prize for doing nothing”.

US-India Forum Defends Green Card, H-1B Programmes Amid Crackdown On Tech Firms

World.(Agency)

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) has defended the economic contribution of employment-based immigration programmes in the United States, warning against overlooking the role of skilled foreign professionals as the Trump administration intensifies scrutiny of green card sponsorship by major technology companies.In a statement issued on Friday, USISPF described the Green Card and H-1B programmes as among the United States' most significant economic policy success stories, arguing that they have helped drive innovation, create jobs and strengthen the country's global competitiveness.The intervention comes after the US administration announced the suspension of eight major technology companies from the Permanent Labour Certification (PERM) programme, a key step in the employer-sponsored green card process.

The affected firms include Microsoft, Adobe, Cognizant, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, HCL Technologies and Capgemini. The administration has cited alleged fraud and misuse of immigration pathways in taking action against the companies."The Green Card and H-1B programs are among the United States' most significant economic policy success stories," USISPF said, highlighting their contribution to American growth, technological advancement and business development.USISPF Highlights Economic Contribution

Citing an analysis of 2022 US Census Bureau data, the forum said the legal immigration pathways had generated $2.1 trillion in combined household income, contributed $382.9 billion in federal taxes and $196.3 billion in state and local taxes, while leaving $1.6 trillion in spending power.The statement also pointed to the achievements of immigrant innovators recognised at a White House ceremony where President Donald Trump presented the National Medals of Science and the National Medals of Technology and Innovation to leading scientists and technologists.

Five of the six recipients, according to USISPF, were born outside the United States. The forum cited their achievements as evidence of the contribution of immigrant talent to American innovation and prosperity.The organisation said it supported the administration's efforts to prevent fraud and abuse in immigration programmes, particularly following the US Department of Labor's recent action concerning PERM.

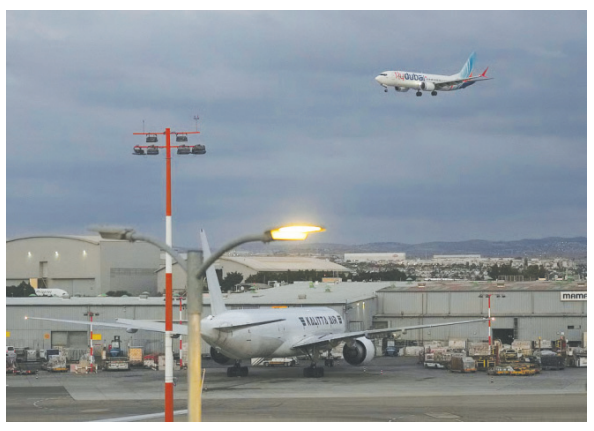
FlyDubai co-pilot intended to crash plane into Tel Aviv airport, UAE prosecutor says

An Omani suspect allegedly sought maximum casualties, UAE prosecutors said. Most of the 174 passengers on the flight were Israeli.

JERUSALEM.(Agency)

The axe-wielding co-pilot who attacked the captain of a FlyDubai flight to Tel Aviv last month intended to seize control of the airplane and fly it into the passenger terminal at Israel’s main international airport, authorities in the United Arab Emirates said Friday.The suspect, an Omani national, did so “with the intention of causing the greatest possible number of human casualties,” the UAE’s top prosecutor said in a statement carried by the state news agency WAM. Most of the 174 passengers on the flight were from Israel.The statement said the co-pilot “drew inspiration” from the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States and used two previous flights from Dubai to Tel Aviv to “familiarize himself with the flight route and the airport.”

It said none of FlyDubai's security or professional checks had indicated that the pilot, who was identitifed by The Associated Press as 29-year-old Hamam al-Hammami, harbored extremist views or plans to carry out



an attack.Hammami “admitted that he had acted alone, without the involvement of others,” the statement said, adding that he “provided a detailed confession outlining his motives and the stages of planning and execution” in the presence of his lawyer. It also suggested he was radicalized at a mosque in Australia while attending the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in 2017.

The update from the public prosecutor Friday was the most comprehensive since the UAE took over the investigation shortly after the incident on Sept. 30. FlyDubai is a government-owned airline.The crisis unfolded suddenly in the skies above Jordan and Saudi Arabia, when Hammami attacked the captain, Smit Machchhar, with a crash axe in the cockpit. Bloodied and beaten, Machchhar managed to open the cockpit door, alerting passengers and crew to the assault.

Passengers detained Hammami and helped steady the aircraft, which had plunged roughly 14,000 to 16,000 feet in less than a minute. Two reserve pilots then guided the plane to an emergency landing at Tabuk airport in Saudi Arabia.