mahanagarmetro.com
@mahanagar_metro @mahanagar_metro @mahanagar_metro

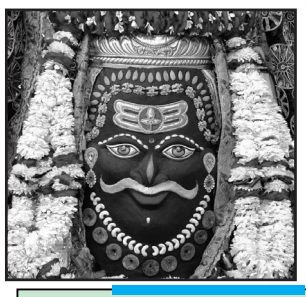
TUESDAY

MAHANAGAR METRO

VOICE OF THE CITY, PULSE OF THE NATION

AHEMDABAD/GUJRAT
Tuesday, October 13, 2026

MAHANAGAR METRO
For News Coverage, Press Releases & Advertisement Bookings, Please Contact Our Office
PAWAN MAKAN
+91-9638877700
mahanagarmetro7@gmail.com



Dasara a confluence of four guiding lights: Karnataka CM Shivakumar

MYSURU. (Agency)

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday described Mysuru Dasara as a confluence of four guiding lights – strength, knowledge, culture and equality – and said strength leads to achievement, knowledge to development, culture to equality and equality to peace.Speaking at his maiden Dasara celebration as CM, Shivakumar defended his decision to organise Kambala as part of this year's Dasara, stating that it recalled the cultural traditions of the Vijayanagara period. The programme is being held despite criticism, he said.

"Removing the thorn of ignorance with the thorn of knowledge is education, while removing the thorn of unrighteousness with the thorn of righteousness is Dasara. Seeing God in a temple is devotion, but seeing God in human beings is humanity," he said.Shivakumar said the tradition of Dasara was started by Vijayanagara rulers and carried forward by the Mysuru Wadiyars, who transformed it into a platform for promoting art and culture, rather than restricting it to religious rituals. During the past four centuries, the festival adapted to changing times and evolved into a celebration that brought people together, he said. Mysuru city grew through.

Local body elections an acid test for coalition govt: CM Chandrababu Naidu

VIJAYAWADA. (Agency).

Underscoring the critical importance of grassroots governance ahead of local body elections, Chief Minister and TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu has directed ministers, legislators, and key party functionaries to treat the upcoming polls as a major test of leadership performance, and ensure a sweeping victory for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).Addressing a virtual conference with district party presidents, MPs, MLAs, constituency observers, and key leaders on Sunday, he stated that the electoral outcome should surpass the vote share recorded during the 2024 general elections, which will serve as the primary criterion for evaluating leaders' performance over the next 50 days without exemptions.

Highlighting candidate selection parameters, Naidu stressed that tickets will be allotted based on winning prospects, honesty, efficiency, and social re-engineering, warning that non-serious efforts or superficial participation by leaders will not be tolerated.Exhorting the ruling coalition cadre to channel the spirit of the 2024 election victory, he declared that a decisive blow struck by the NDA in the local body polls should force the opposition YSRCP to permanently shutdown.Asserting that the NDA government holds the moral right to seek votes after fulfilling its key promises, he accused the opposition of repeatedly approaching courts to stall elections, and block statutory reservations for Backward Classes (Bcs).

Rahul Gandhi targets PM Modi ahead of INDIA Bloc march, asks 'Why is Delhi jailed?'

Gandhi said protests against alleged vote theft and the Election Commission had grown into a public movement in Delhi over the past four to five days.

New Delhi (Agency).

Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Monday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of protecting Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, saying the INDIA bloc's march to the Supreme Court would highlight the issue.

Addressing a press conference at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters in New Delhi ahead of the march, Gandhi said protests against alleged vote theft and the Election Commission had grown into a public movement in the capital over the past four to five days."We want to show the country that the government, PM Narendra Modi, is protecting Gyanesh Kumar," he said, adding, "The question is: Why is Delhi under siege?"Gandhi said he and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had written to the Chief Justice of India (CJI), expressing concern over what they described as threats to democracy and electoral fairness. He added that the CJI had responded and directed them to file a petition."Today, INDIA bloc leaders and I will go to the Supreme Court together and file this petition," he said.The Congress leader also accused the CEC of facilitating alleged 'vote chori' and claimed that sections of the police and security forces supported the Opposition's agitation. He alleged that the government was using security restrictions to prevent people from reaching the capital.



Questioning the heavy security deployment, Gandhi said Delhi had been turned into a fortress, with thousands of police personnel stationed across the city. He added that the Opposition's strategy was different from the government's show of strength.

The Congress had called for a 'Chalo Dilli' march from Connaught Place to the Supreme Court to protest against the functioning of the Election Commission.Meanwhile, security was tightened across central Delhi, with barricades installed at several locations and Delhi Police, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Rapid Action Force (RAF) deployed. Entry and exit at certain Metro stations were also scheduled to remain restricted until 4 pm on October 12, according to security arrangements.

Gujarat University Book Purchase Controversy: ₹4.14 Lakh for 1,000 Copies, VC Neeraja Gupta Under Scrutiny as Questions Mount Over Procurement Approvals and Financial Accountability

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad: A controversial book-purchasing transaction at Gujarat University has raised serious questions about financial transparency, administrative accountability and the use of institutional funds. An investigation by Mahanagar Metro into the reported transaction has brought attention to an alleged purchase of 1,000 copies of a book reportedly written by, or associated with, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Neeraja Gupta, for which the university is said to have paid ₹4,14,000.The reported expenditure has prompted questions about the circumstances under which the purchase was initiated, the officials who authorized the transaction, the procurement procedures followed and the safeguards applied to ensure that the university's financial interests were protected.The controversy has drawn attention to the importance of transparent governance in higher education institutions, particularly when purchases involve publications associated with senior university officials. The central issue is whether the reported transaction was supported by a legitimate academic requirement, approved through the appropriate administrative channels and processed in accordance with the applicable financial regulations.Although the allegations warrant scrutiny, the precise facts must be established through original university records, including the purchase order, invoice, payment documentation and approval file.THE BIG QUESTION: DID THE VICE-CHANCELLOR APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A BOOK ASSOCIATED WITH HERSELF?At the centre of the controversy is the allegation that Gujarat University used institutional funds to purchase copies of a book written by, or associated with, its Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Neeraja Gupta.The circumstances surrounding the reported transaction raise an important question about the separation of personal interests from official decision-making. If a university purchases a publication associated with one of its senior officeholders, it becomes particularly important to establish whether the decision was independently evaluated, whether the expenditure served a genuine academic purpose and whether all applicable conflict-of-interest safeguards were observed.Universities regularly purchase books for libraries, research programmes, academic departments and educational activities. However, such expenditure should be supported by documented institutional requirements, reasonable pricing and proper authorization. Where the author or



publisher has a connection with a senior university official, additional transparency may be necessary to demonstrate that the decision was made in the institution's best interests.Mahanagar Metro has raised questions about the reported purchase and the approval process associated with it. The original documentation must establish whether Dr. Gupta personally initiated, authorized or influenced the transaction and whether any applicable disclosure or recusal requirements were followed.The distinction is important: the purchase of a book by itself does not establish misconduct. The decisive factors are the circumstances of the transaction, the applicable rules, the decision-making process and the documentary evidence.₹4,14,000 FOR 1,000 COPIES: THE REPORTED FINANCIAL TRANSACTION UNDER SCRUTINYAccording to the information cited in the allegations, Gujarat University reportedly purchased 1,000 copies of the book for a total expenditure of ₹4,14,000.The reported figures translate into an average cost of ₹414 per copy. This calculation provides a starting point for examining the transaction, but it does not independently establish whether the price was resonable or whether any financial irregularity occurred.REPORTED TRANSACTION DETAILSInstitution: Gujarat University, Ahmedabad-Official named in the allegations: Vice-Chancellor Dr. Neeraja GuptaReported quantity: 1,000 copiesReported total expenditure: ₹4,14,000Calculated average cost per copy: ₹414Key issue under examination: The purchase authorization, procurement procedure, invoice and payment approval.Several questions arise from these reported figures. What was the exact title of the book? Who wrote and published it? Was the price determined through competitive quotations, a tender or another permitted procurement method? Which department requested the purchase, and what academic purpose justified ordering 1,000 copies?

Asaduddin Owaisi's UP Seat Picks For Yogi Adityanath vs Akhilesh Yadav

Lucknow(Agency).

Akhilesh Yadav had challenged Yogi Adityanath to contest from Ayodhya. The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, in turn, urged his Samajwadi Party rival to also fight from Ayodhya, saying the two should settle the contest "face to face".

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, or AIMIM, chief Asaduddin Owaisi has another political play in mind for the two leaders. Urging the rivals to step out of their comfort zones, he suggested two different constituencies for the two heavyweight leaders. "If both Akhilesh Yadav and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh are so popular and liked, then the Chief Minister should come and contest from Sambhal, and Akhilesh should go and contest from Gorakhpur. God willing, the people and AIMIM will defeat them in both places," Owaisi, speaking in Hindi, told .

"Arey bahut bada maja aa jayega, lad le Sambhal toh, hum hara denge. Gorakhpur bhi lade, wahan bhi haar jayenge (Oh, it'll be a blast. Try and contest in Sambhal, we'll defeat you. We will defeat them in Gorakhpur also)," Owaisi said.

When asked if the BJP's "80-20" narrative would hold sway, Owaisi dismissed the discourse often cited by Chief Minister



Yogi Adityanath, declaring that the real political battle in the state will be "99 vs 1."

"The real competition in the upcoming election will actually be '99 vs 1'. The 99% represents the poor citizens of Uttar Pradesh, while the 1% represents those who have captured 40% of India's wealth. So, the 80-20 scenario isn't going to play out; it will be a 99% versus .

"Law And Order Not My Domain": Chief Justice On Protests Against Poll Body, Delhi Curbs

New Delhi. (Agency).

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Monday said the situation arising out of recent protests in Delhi was "not his domain".

"Ye law and order ka mudda hai. Ye mera vishay nahin hai (This is a law-and-order issue. It is not my domain)," he said in Hindi when asked by reporters about recent protests in Delhi and the restrictions imposed across the national capital.He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in Delhi.The national capital in the last few days has seen a series of protests to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged



illegalities in the Special Intensive Revision of voter rolls, among other issues.Over the weekend, Delhi had turned into a fortress, with the Centre deploying over 20,000 security personnel in view of a protest called by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders.45 metro stations were shut on Saturday and intensive checks were conducted at the city's border points.Thousands of people were detained, including top CJP leaders and four former chief ministers, during the demonstrations against Kumar.

"Supreme Court's Doors Open"

On INDIA bloc's protest march and their demand to meet him, the Chief Justice said that the doors of the Supreme Court are open for everyone. He, however, expressed his inability to meet the Opposition leaders over alleged electoral irregularities, stating that they should approach the court by filing a petition as the matter is already sub judice."

Delhi has recently seen a series of protests to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged illegalities in the Special Intensive Revision of voter rolls, among other issues.

SUV ploughs into elderly couple sleeping on footpath in Gurgaon, 63-yr-old woman dies

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 63-year-old woman died and her husband suffered grievous injuries when a Toyota Fortuner mounted a footpath near Airia Mall on Sohna Road early on Sunday and ran over the couple as they slept. The SUV then crashed into a crane parked on the pavement. Its occupants allegedly abandoned the vehicle and fled.

The deceased, Chiranji Devi, and her husband, Nathu Ram (66), had come to the city from Mahoba district in Uttar Pradesh on Oct 8 in search of work. Unable to find a place to stay, the couple had been sleeping on the pavement. Their son, Kailash Kumar, who works as a mason, filed a police complaint.The crash occurred around 6am. Preliminary investigation suggests the Fortuner was travelling from Badshapur towards Sohna when its driver lost control near the mall and veered onto the footpath. The impact triggered the SUV's airbags.Witnesses told police that a young man and a woman were inside the vehicle and fled after the collision. A local alleged that the SUV was speeding and its occupants were drunk. Police said they were still probing if anyone was intoxicated and trying to find out who was behind the wheel.A team from Badshapur police station rushed the injured couple to hospital after receiving information about the crash. Chiranji succumbed to her injuries, while Nathu Ram remains under treatment.Police seized the damaged SUV and removed it from the spot using a crane. An officer said the Fortuner was registered in Gurgaon and a notice would be sent to its owner on Monday. The owner will be questioned to establish who was driving the vehicle.

25 firms set to pump in Rs 3k crore, generate 9k jobs near airport

Noida.(Agency)

Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) has issued letters of intent to 25 companies to set up industrial units near Noida airport, paving the way for Rs 3,155 crore in investment across nearly 95 acres. The projects are expected to generate more than 9,000 jobs, bringing a major employment boost to the region as industries expand around the airport.The proposed units span automobile manufacturing, electronics, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, printing and packaging, handicrafts and apparel. Officials said the demand for industrial plots in Yamuna City has risen considerably since Noida International Airport began operations on June 15.YEIDA CEO RK Singh said 11 companies would set up units in Sector 8D, eight in Sector 29, three in Sector 24, two in Sector 6 and one in Sector 28. The projects will be located in designated industrial areas, including Apparel Park, Handicraft Park, Medical Devices Park and Pharma Park.Gainwell Commosales has proposed the biggest investment — Rs 497 crore — for an integrated engineering and manufacturing project on 20 acres of mixed-use land. It is expected to create 850 jobs.Multitex Filteration Engineers plans to invest Rs 282 crore in a heavy fabrication unit on five acres, generating an estimated 350 jobs. Cyno Lifesciences has proposed a Rs 206 crore drugs and medicines manufacturing unit on 2.5 acres, expected to employ 150 people.

Woman, lover arrested for killing husband

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A woman and her boyfriend were arrested on Sunday for allegedly murdering her husband, Anshul, in Khoda Colony. Police said the man shot Anshul dead with a country-made pistol on Saturday. The two accused had allegedly been in a relationship for the past two years and wanted to marry each other.

The accused were identified as Nisha (30), a resident of Vandana Vihar in Khoda, and Pappu alias Ganga Bhagat (35), a resident of Khiri. They were booked under Section 103 (murder) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and relevant sections of Arms Act.

ACP (Indirapuram) Suryabali Maurya said police arrested the two on Sunday based on a tip-off. An illegal .315-bore country-made pistol allegedly used in the murder was seized at Pappu's instance.

Police received a complaint from Anshul's sister in the early hours of Sunday. She said Anshul and Nisha, who had a love marriage in 2015 and have two children, lived in a rented room in Vandana Vihar. Both worked at a stitching company in Noida. Pappu, the husband of their maternal cousin, had also been living with them.

In her complaint, Anshul's sister alleged that Nisha and Pappu had developed a relationship. Anshul had complained about their relationship several times, but the family had settled the matter internally due to social stigma. She alleged that the two wanted to eliminate Anshul so they could marry each other.

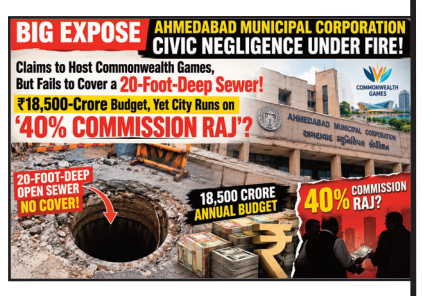
The ACP said Pappu told police that his first wife had died and his second wife lived in their village.

According to the ACP, Pappu told police that he and Nisha had planned the murder about a week earlier. He allegedly procured a country-made pistol and cartridges from his village, which the two hid in the room.Anshul had taken two days' leave from work, while Nisha continued working, police said. On Saturday, when Anshul was alone at home, Pappu allegedly went to the room around 1pm to have a meal. After eating, he took out the pistol and fired two rounds at Anshul before fleeing. Anshul died on the spot, police said.Pappu allegedly told Nisha about the murder on the phone. The two had been in continuous contact on Saturday, the ACP said.

₹18,500-Crore Budget, But an Open Sewer Remains a Threat: Ahmedabad Civic Administration Faces Tough Questions

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad, Gujarat: The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) is facing serious questions over civic safety and administrative accountability following a tragic incident involving a young girl and an allegedly uncovered, approximately 20-foot-deep sewer. The incident has renewed concerns about the maintenance of public infrastructure and the safety measures in place to protect residents from preventable accidents.Despite Ahmedabad's reported ₹18,500-crore municipal budget and ambitions to establish itself as an international destination for major sporting events, questions are being raised about whether basic civic infrastructure is receiving adequate attention. Residents are demanding answers about how such a potentially dangerous hazard could remain exposed and what steps the administration is taking to prevent similar incidents.The controversy has also brought allegations of a '40% commission system' into public debate. These allegations require independent investigation and documentary evidence before any wrongdoing can be established. Questions concerning municipal expenditure, procurement procedures and the quality of public works deserve transparent examination.Mayor Hitesh Barot and the concerned AMC officials are facing calls to clarify the circumstances surrounding the incident, establish responsibility through an impartial inquiry and provide appropriate assistance to the affected family. Residents are also demanding a citywide inspection of open manholes, uncovered drainage chambers and other dangerous locations to ensure that immediate corrective measures are taken.The incident has highlighted a fundamental question about urban governance: can Ahmedabad pursue international recognition and major sporting events while residents continue to raise concerns about basic public safety? The municipal administration must respond with clear explanations, verifiable records and concrete action on the ground.Mahanagar Metro will continue examining the questions surrounding the reported incident, civic infrastructure maintenance and administrative accountability.Editorial note: Verify the incident, the reported sewer depth, the budget figure and the allegations of corruption through reliable documentation and official responses before publication.



Silence Sometimes Speaks Louder Than Words

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki, Bhachau, Kutch Not everything needs to be expressed in words. Sometimes, tears welling up in the eyes, sadness on the face, and silence resting on the lips convey things that even a thousand words cannot express. When a person speaks, their words can be heard, but when they remain silent, understanding the pain in their heart requires a sensitive and compassionate soul.In today's world, people have numerous ways to communicate. Through mobile phones, social media, and messages, we remain connected with people across the globe. Yet, somewhere along the way, the warmth of communication in our closest relationships is gradually fading. We hear the words spoken by others, but we often fail to make an effort to understand their feelings.Sometimes, a person suddenly becomes quiet. Someone who once laughed and talked freely begins to prefer solitude. We are quick to label them as a changed person, but perhaps their silence hides pain, disappointment, unfulfilled expectations, or emotions left unexpressed.Silence is not always a sign of weakness. Sometimes, it is an attempt to save a relationship; at other times, it is a way of protecting one's self-respect.



'Unofficial house arrest': After release, YouTuber Dhruv Rathee claims cops still stationed outside Gurgaon home

GURGAON.(Agency)

YouTuber Dhruv Rathee, who was prevented by police from joining Saturday's Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest, described his detention as an act of'kidnapping'.

Rathee, an Indian citizen who lives in Germany and came here for the protest, said in a video post he was released by cops around 3am on Sunday after being held in detention for over 20 hours without access to a lawyer or phone.

He also alleged his parents were manhandled during the detention, accusing the Centre of creating an "unofficial Emergency".In the video, posted at 11.19am on Sunday, Rathee alleged that he was forcibly taken from his bedroom without even being allowed time to wear his slippers. He also claimed that he was assaulted and had sustained injuries all over his body."These people have literally sent 'gundas' to kidnap me. There were more than 50 'gundas' outside my house... I was dragged from my bedroom like a criminal," he said.

According to sources, Rathee returned to his parents' house in Kendriya Vihar, Sector 56, on Sunday morning amid police presence, with around 50 personnel in plain clothes gathered near his apartment complex.The detention came amid protests in Delhi led by the CJP demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The demonstrations on Saturday were met with extensive security arrangements, barricading, traffic restrictions and detentions of protesters.

Recounting the events of Saturday morning, Rathee alleged that around 20 men in plain clothes entered his house around 7am while he was still asleep. His mother, who opened the door after hearing a commotion outside, was allegedly pushed aside as the group entered the house and moved towards his bedroom."Before I could react, these people literally kidnapped me. The operation did not follow procedure expected during an arrest or detention. They literally dragged me out of the bedroom, took me down the stairs.

Festive beats, sleepless nights: DJ noise rattles NCR homes till 3am

Noida.(Agency)

With the onset of festivals — Navratri and Ramlila — and the wedding months, loud celebrations with DJ music have returned. Residents, who are passing "sleepless nights" and getting headaches, claim "daily assault" till 2-3am."It's high time a unified rule is enforced and the DJ vehicles playing past 10pm were impounded," Akshay Kapoor from Noida said, adding that different sectors are facing these problems, which remain "unaddressed". A senior police officer said that the noise from the DJs must be under 75 decibels. "We will act after getting complaints about it. All the places, including banquet halls, have already been asked to stop music after 10pm," the officer said.Thundering music, leading to the vibration of the glass doors and windows, crosses the permissible sound/noise limits — 55 dB(A) during the day (from 6am to 10pm) and 45 dB(A) at night (from 10pm to 6am) — in residential areas. Even areas with hospitals are not spared, where a 100-metre radius around hospitals is classified as a silence zone as per Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB).The sound limits — set by UPPCB — in these sectors should never cross the levels of ambient sound like that of a standard conversation between two people standing at most three feet apart. However, residents say that the heavy bass sound from DJ sets and loud firecrackers that go well past the prescribed limits have kept them awake hours past their bedtime. The elderly with health conditions and children remain the most vulnerable in such situations.While Harish Singh claims hospitals are not spared as the situation is the same near Fortis Noida Sector 62, Som Ranjan from Ghazipur, UP border had similar complaints. "They can't even think about common people's inconvenience. Max Hospital, Yashoda Hospital, and many hospitals are nearby, still, no action on them. Police are stationed all night, but there's no action," said Ranjan.





Residents cite lack of civic sense among people as the main reason behind this growing issue. In 2005, Supreme Court ruled that noise can adversely affect the right to life, and that states must make provisions to confiscate loudspeakers and amplifiers that create noise beyond the permissible limit.

47 buses seized, 76 challaned in 3-day drive in Noida

Noida.Agency)

Forty-seven buses were seized and 76 others were fined for different violations in a three-day enforcement drive. The drive — from Oct 9-11 — was conducted at key locations in Noida and Greater Noida, including Mahamaya Flyover, Sector 62, Zero Point, Dadri and Badalpur area.Assistant regional transport officer (ARTO), enforcement, Udit Narayan Pandey said, "Operation Kavach drive was aimed to crack down on buses operating illegally or without proper documents or fitness in the city." The drive was conducted in compliance with the directives of UP govt and transport department. Officials arranged alternative buses to take passengers to their destinations.The transport department had also conducted a three-day drive between Sept 28-30 and seized 52 buses after nine people were killed in a bus fire incident on Yamuna Expressway on Sept 23.



Transport department officials said that the seized buses will not be released merely upon payment of fines or penalties. "To ensure passenger safety, all the buses will undergo detailed technical inspections. The buses will be released only after being found fit and safe in accordance with automotive industry standard (AIS-119) norms," the ARTO said. AIS-119 has been prescribed for the safety of sleeper coaches. It lays down technical requirements for them, including the design and arrangement of berths, emergency exits and other safety features. "If any bus fails to meet the prescribed standards, its registration and fitness certificate will be suspended," Pandey said.

Gaps in monitoring Faridabad forest patch cleared of encroachments, but it's a dumpyard now

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Forest land in Khori from which encroachments were removed is now strewn with waste, raising concerns over environmental damage and whether the cleared area is being protected. Mixed waste has been dumped across an open stretch surrounded by vegetation, bringing the focus back on whether the land cleared during the eviction drive is being monitored.UD Gujjar, a Khori resident, said, "Around 10 truckloads of garbage by Municipal Corporation of Faridabad (MCF) had been dumped on the land and that waste was being unloaded at night." He also pointed to garbage accumulating at several other locations in the area."It is the same site where MCF removed settlement and now they are dumping waste. This area falls within the same forest land covered by Supreme Court's order," said Rahul Bhadana, another resident."We will write to MCF regarding the issue and take action. Non-forest activities in forest land will not be tolerated," a Haryana forest department official said.TOI contacted MCF for its response, but commissioner Yashendra Singh had not responded at the time of filing.

Supreme Court had ordered the deolition of all structures in Khori village, a settlement in Faridabad that came up over several years by encroaching on protected Aravali land. In its June 7, 2021, order in Sarina Sarkar & Ors. vs State of Haryana & Ors., the court directed MCF to remove all encroachments from the forest land within six weeks.

The corporation's CEO and forest department secretary were asked to oversee implementation and submit separate reports on the action taken. The state and police were directed to support the eviction, including forcible removal where necessary, with the Faridabad superintendent of police responsible for ensuring police protection.The dumping also highlights the challenge of protecting cleared land in Aravalis from fresh encroachment and other damaging activities. In Dec 2021, environmentalist Lt Col Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi (retd) had approached Supreme Court alleging that construction was continuing on protected Aravali land despite court orders in the Khori case.



NEWS BOX

SCCL skill centre places 112 youth in Foxconn, L&N

PEDDAPALLI (Agency).
Over the past two years, more than 500 candidates have secured employment through SCCL's skill development centre. The latest batch of 112 candidates is set to join Foxconn and L&N, reflecting a shift in employment opportunities in coal belt regions, where vocational training is opening doors to jobs beyond the mining sector.The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has facilitated employment for 112 candidates from coal mine-affected areas through its skill development centre at the GVTC in Ramagundam Region-I.Of the 127 women who attended interviews conducted by Foxconn, 87 were selected for jobs at its manufacturing facility in Hyderabad. They will work in the assembly of Apple AirPods and other electronic components. The first batch of 55 women left Godavarikhani for Hyderabad on Sunday to join the company. SCCL officials of Ramagundam Region-I organised a programme to mark the occasion.Meanwhile, 25 of the 27 male candidates who attended interviews for solar technician.

31 UoH researchers feature in world's top 2% scientists list

HYDERABAD (Agency).
Thirty-one researchers from the University of Hyderabad (UoH) have featured in the 2026 Stanford-Elsevier list of the world's top 2% scientists, placing the university third among Central universities after Banaras Hindu University and the University of Delhi.Released on October 7, the list recognises researchers based on citation impact across disciplines. Of the 31 researchers, 25 feature in the career-long category, based on citations up to the end of 2025, while 18 are included in the single-year category for 2025. Twelve feature in both.Those in both categories include Profs Goverdhan Mehta, Anunay K Samanta and R Chandrasekar from Chemistry; A S Raghavendra, M N V Prasad and M K Arunasree from Life Sciences; Satish N Srirama, Nagender K Suryadevara and Dr Odelu Vanga from Computer and Information Sciences; Sharika Nandan Kaul from Physics; Soma Venugopal Rao from ACRHEM; and Pramod K Nayar from English.
The career-long category also includes Profs K D Sen, M Periasamy, Deevi Basavaiah, Samudranil Pal, Samar Kumar Das and D B Ramachary from Chemistry; Attipalli R Reddy and Appa Rao Podile from Plant Sciences; Niyaz Ahmed from Biotechnology; D Narayana Rao from Physics; Alok Singh from Computer and Information Sciences; Satish R Shetye from Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences; and Surya Prakash Tewari from ACRHEM.
The single-year category includes late Prof Sarada D Tetali, Prof Rahul Kumar and Dr M Muthamilarasan from Plant Sciences; Prof G Vaitheeswaran from Physics; Prof Karumuri Ashok from Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences; and Dr Goutam Karmakar from English.The database draws on Scopus citation records and covers 20 broad fields and 174 subfields.

Kadapa PhD scholar gets replies to RTI queries after a decade

KADAPA(Agency).
In a striking illustration of systemic administrative inertia under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, a research scholar in YSR Kadapa district has begun receiving official responses to his RTI queries filed in 2015, nearly a decade later in 2026—long after he completed his academic thesis, submitted his research findings, and earned his doctorate.Tummuluru Suresh Babu, who currently serves as an Assistant Professor (Contract) in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Yogi Vemana University, submitted formal applications under Section 6(1) of the RTI Act in 2015 across 46 public offices in the district.The filings were an integral part of his doctoral dissertation titled "Implementation of Right to Information Act-2005: A Study in YSR Kadapa District," conducted between 2012 and 2016.The queries sought performance data, operational metrics, and compliance records from vital administrative bodies, including the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), APSRTC, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), STEP, Forest Department, Panchayat Raj, District Education Office (DEO), Employment Exchange, and the BC Welfare Department.While a few offices responded within the statutory 30-day window back then, several key departments ignored both initial applications, and subsequent first appeals.Unable to wait indefinitely for public officials to comply, Suresh Babu completed his study using available data, and was officially awarded PhD degree on September 5, 2017.

AQI hits '425' at Bandra Kurla Complex: Why the Mumbai's air is worsening this early

Mumbai (Agency).
Mumbai's air quality deteriorated to unhealthy levels nearly two months before the onset of winter. On Sunday morning, the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 425, categorised as 'Severe', while areas such as Chembur, Deonar, Kurla, Mazgaon and Navy Nagar also recorded elevated pollution levels on the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) dashboard.Mumbai's AQI typically deteriorates around Diwali and remains elevated through the winter. This year, however, experts have warned that residents could be exposed to unhealthy air for a longer period due to El Niño-related climatic conditions, which can alter global weather patterns and influence monsoon rainfall and temperatures. Civic officials, however, maintained that the readings were not uniformly severe and attributed the spike at BKC to a possible malfunction in the monitoring system.

Mumbai's deteriorating air quality

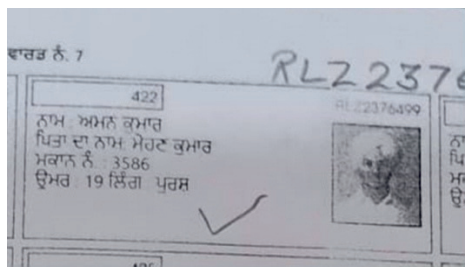
Mumbai's overall AQI entered the unhealthy range for the first time on October 2, a day before the India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced the withdrawal of the monsoon. In the 10-day period since then, the city recorded AQI levels above 100 on at least three days — October 2, 8 and 10. On Sunday morning, Mumbai's overall AQI stood at 101, placing it in the 'Moderate' category under CPCB standards.
At the local level, several monitoring stations recorded elevated AQI readings on multiple days. Navy Nagar and Deonar recorded seven days each with unhealthy-range readings, followed by BKC with six days, Chembur and Malad with four days each, and Kurla and



Siddharth Nagar in Worli with three days each.The CPCB dashboard showed that over the past week, AQI readings at these locations ranged between 120 and 199, with PM2.5 and PM10 identified as the primary pollutants.
According to CPCB standards, AQI readings of 0-50 are categorised as 'Good', 51-100 as 'Satisfactory', 101-200 as 'Moderate', 201-300 as 'Poor', 301-400 as 'Very Poor' and readings above 400 as 'Severe'."This year, Mumbai is experiencing an El Niño pattern of climate, as a result of which wind speeds have slowed down considerably while temperatures remain hot and humid. This is preventing air circulation, causing pollutants to settle in the lower atmosphere and leading to a rise in pollution levels," Gufran Beig, atmospheric scientist and chair professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), told The Indian Express.
On Sunday morning, BKC recorded an AQI of 425, categorised as 'Severe'. The CPCB dashboard identified PM10 as the primary pollutant. This was the first time since 2023 that the station's readings had crossed the 400 mark."PM10 generally comprises dust particles displaced from roads and construction sites. It is possible that a source nearby is emitting dust that is not being monitored," Beig said.Civic officials, however, attributed the spike to a possible malfunction in the monitoring equipment."The AQI monitoring station recording a reading above 400 is maintained by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). There appears to be a malfunction in its PM10 sensor, which is why the readings are unusually high. We have informed the institute and asked it to replace the sensor immediately and stabilise.

Congress flags Bhagat Singh photo in Ludhiana SIR voter roll; EC calls claim misleading

Ludhiana (Agency).
The Congress Sunday said that the photograph of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh, who was hanged to death by the British in 1931, was put against the name of a voter in the SIR draft rolls of Ludhiana district.However, denying the claim, the Ludhiana district election office said that the claim was "misleading", and that the incorrect image was in fact "corrected" during the SIR.Punjab state electoral office is set to publish the final voter rolls on Monday following the SIR exercise. The draft rolls were published on August 13.Sanjay Talwar, Ludhiana Congress district president (urban) and former MLA from Ludhiana East, said that "there was a suspected discrepancy in the voter list for Booth No 38 of the East constituency, where the photograph of Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh appears instead of the



actual voter's photograph at serial number 422. Additionally, issues regarding incorrect photographs have come to light at serial numbers 5, 69, 397, 410, 747, 750, 983, and 990."He added, "If so many irregularities can be detected during the inspection of just one booth, it is crucial to conduct a thorough scrutiny of the voter list for the entire constituency. Therefore, the voter lists for all 235 booths in Ludhiana and the East constituency should be examined to determine the extent of incorrect photographs or other errors present."
Referring to the concerns raised by Rahul Gandhi regarding alleged vote theft and irregularities in voter lists, Talwar asserted that such errors cannot be taken lightly. "In a democracy, the vote of every eligible citizen holds significance, and all information recorded in the voter list must be accurate. Such matters require an impartial inquiry to ensure that no questions arise regarding any voter's rights," he said.
Ludhiana MP Amrinder Singh Raja Warring wrote on X: "This was the only thing left to witness…! A photograph of Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh Ji has been affixed in front of a voter's name in the Ludhiana East voter list.

El Niño-induced drought triggers mass exodus from Kurnool villages

KURNOOL(Agency).
A severe wave of rural distress triggered by monsoon failure and El Niño-induced drought conditions has sparked mass distress migration across Kurnool district, leaving entire villages deserted as thousands of farming families depart in search of daily-wage livelihoods.Nearly 10,000 agricultural families have already packed their belongings, and left their native habitations on hired auto-rickshaws, State transport buses, and trains. Local sources estimate that at least another 50,000 families are preparing to abandon their villages soon after the upcoming Dasara festival.The crisis is particularly acute across the drought-hit western divisions of Adoni, Yemmiganur and Pathikonda, where consecutive crop failures have destroyed agricultural employment, and left small farmers trapped under mounting debts.Labourers and small landholders across 12 severely affected mandals—including Alur, Pathikonda, Aspari, Nandavaram, Kosigi, Chippagiri, Kowthalam, Yemmiganur, C Belagal, Kodumuru, Adoni and Mantralayam—are migrating en masse to major urban hubs like Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Vijayawada, Guntur, Chennai, Bellary, Mumbai and Delhi to seek employment at construction sites, industrial units, and distant agricultural fields.

Over 80% of Kurnool's farmlands are totally dependent on seasonal rainfall

The present agrarian crisis stems directly from acute rainfall deficit compounded by El Niño phenomenon, as over 80 per cent of Kurnool's agricultural land relies entirely on seasonal rainfall.

'Mandi or river?': When farmers' golden harvest floated in Punjab and a boat entered

As rainwater flooded Punjab's Fazilka mandi, exposing poor procurement arrangements, farmers and arthiyas protested against Punjab govt over lack of storage facilities and inadequate drainage mechanism

Ludhiana(Agency).
Hours of downpour since the wee hours of Sunday in the Malwa region of Punjab have left several anaaj mandis inundated, and submerged several tonnes of freshly harvested paddy in 3 to 4-ft-deep water.Farmers and arthiyas estimate the losses into several crores of rupees, and have demanded compensation from the Punjab government.
In the worst-affected Fazilka, ripe paddy grains were seen floating in 4-ft rainwater as the mandi was entirely flooded.The infuriated farmers and arthiyas (commission agents), led by district arthiya association president Sanjeev Sachdeva Goldy, and activists from farm unions such as Bharatiya Kisan Union (Lakhowal), BKU Dakonda, etc, sat on protest outside the flooded mandi and questioned the AAP-led Punjab government over poor paddy procurement arrangements.
They said neither the Punjab government made any arrangements to store the harvested paddy, nor is there any mechanism to drain rainwater standing in the mandi, leaving their produce submerged.Standing in knee-deep waters with drenched paddy grains in his hands, Sachdeva said: "For the first time, we had to



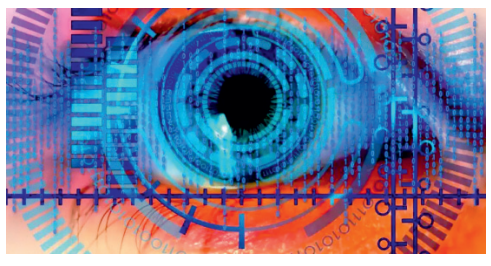
bring a kishti (boat) to the mandi as all roads around have been submerged. Also, we protested with the boat to make authorities understand how bad the situation is. Farmers' hard-earned harvest is floating around. We estimate a loss of at least Rs 20 crore in Fazilka alone."
"The infrastructure at the mandi has not been upgraded since it was constructed in 1971. The government, local MLA and Deputy Commissioner are responsible for what farmers and arthiyas are facing today at the Fazilka mandi." he said.The Centre provides financial backing in the form of RBI-approved Cash Credit Limit (CCL) to procure wheat and paddy harvests in Punjab, but it's the responsibility of the state government to ensure proper infrastructure at mandis, gunny bags, lifting, storage, and crediting the amounts after purchase.

54 impersonators, 172 bank jobs: How CBI used iris scans to crack exam racket

Mumbai(Agency).
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) told a special court in Mumbai on Saturday that a match in iris scans had shown that "dummy candidates" had appeared in exams for different public sector banks. The CBI alleged that the scan conducted during the examination process held in various states had matched the arrested accused, who were not the real candidates for the banking jobs.The CBI has arrested four persons so far, while an FIR filed on August 20 named 135 accused, including impersonators and recruits who are employed now in banks, for alleged cheating in exams held between 2020 and 2024.

How it came to light

Candidates for jobs at various public sector banks and regional rural banks are selected through a Common Recruitment Process conducted by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS). In 2025, the autonomous body undertook a data analysis, photo comparison and biometric matching of candidates in exams conducted by it for the past five years in a bid to strengthen the integrity and ensure the sanctity of the exams.
The analysis found that photos uploaded at the time of registration were morphed by merging the photos of the impersonators. The IBPS flagged the use of old photos; it found the same impersonators repeatedly appearing for interviews, the registration of their biometrics, and them attending document verification events at the banks before their appointments.
"Once the joining letters are collected by these impersonators, the candidate who has not participated in the whole process joins the bank. This modus operandi makes it difficult to detect at any of the above-mentioned stages of the recruitment process," the IBPS complaint said. It then wrote to the various banks seeking a re-verification of the biometrics.
The process flagged mismatch and irregularities in the biometrics, with a total of 257 suspects flagged from among the selected candidates. Of these, 180 were



working in various banks across India. The analysis also led the IBPS to identify 54 impersonators who had appeared for more than one candidate in these exams, aiding nearly 172 in getting the jobs. The IBPS then took action against 180 working candidates and 177 other remaining candidates, debarring them for life and directing the banks to take action as per service rules.

FIRs and arrests

The first action was taken in Madhya Pradesh in December 2025, when 19 bank officials of the state's Gramin Bank were suspended. The IBPS filed a complaint with the local police and the probe was also done by the CBI Anti-Corruption Bureau, Bhopal, which filed two FIRs in December 2025 and April 2026. An FIR was filed on August 20 by the CBI's Mumbai Special Task Branch, naming a further 135 persons.On October 8 and 9, the CBI arrested four persons and produced them before a court in Mumbai.
The CBI's special public prosecutor, Gaurav Srivastav, told court that accused Vishwa Bhaskar appeared for an exam for two candidates — Sanjiv Kumar Bharati and Santosh Kumar Bharati; accused Abhishek Kumar appeared as Harimohan Meena and Manish Kumar as Amit Kumar, and that the candidates'.

The battle lines coming into focus around Protests 2.0

The summer and autumn of unparalleled protests by political and 'non-political' groups in Delhi, Mumbai, Prayagraj and elsewhere have the Union government over a barrel. Singly or collectively, the demonstrations and ambushes, once the hallmark of the BJP's conduct when it was in the opposition, have demolished the myth of profound 'Chanakya neeti sutras' at work in the government's movesThe government's only counter was predictable: the uninhibited use of police force without exception to name and fame. The Gandhi siblings and their compatriots, the Trinamool Congress's dynamic MP Mahua Moitra, Gen Z's icon and All India Students' Association's president Neha Bora and the youths who congregated for a second season of sit-ins at the national capital's Jantar Mantar—everyone was quarry for the cops.

If pellet guns were not yet whipped out after their use in the July protests was excoriated, accusations of sexual violence surfaced. Young women and boys were allegedly pawed by the cops. Yet the protestors' resolve to pressure the government until their demand for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation was agreed to was beyond question. Every blow apparently sent a surge of adrenaline rushing through them.

However, it is a given that when one political party assumes (or self-assumes) the leadership of dissent against the government, differences are bound to arise both from the exigencies of a particular situation or the captaincy's zeal to appropriate the stage front, left and centre, and allow associates a side role.The INDIA bloc went into the protests as a supposedly cohesive front, because its constituents TMC and RJD took maximum hit from the Election Commission's roll revision. The Samajwadi Party waits with bated breath as voter lists in Uttar Pradesh are vetted and scrubbed before next year's Assembly polls.The Congress stirred out of a semi-somnambulant state—its indifference to the mass deletions of electors in West Bengal was conspicuous—after the Cockroach Janta Party's massive display of strength. The wake-up call could not have come a day too early.The Gandhis reckoned that if they stayed aloof and allowed the roaches to crawl away with the limelight—although for public consumption, the CJP stays avowedly non-political—the Congress might as well acquiesce 2029 to the BJP. Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra took the stewardship, and have since demonstrated they are second to none in staring down the cops and provoking retaliation, unmindful of being roughed up and detained indefinitely.Indeed, the zeitgeist of Protests 2.0 was captured in the siblings' surprise walk-in at the Akashvani Bhavan to court arrest under a tree, Rahul's physical brush with the police and his ascent on the perilously-poised barricades, and Priyanka lying down with a copy of the Constitution in hand.Meanwhile, the visceral hatred harboured over decades by the BJP towards the Gandhis spilled over.But attractive optics alone does not ensure a turnaround in a party's fortunes. Doubtless, by going upfront in their remonstrations, Rahul and Priyanka have charged up Congress workers. Rahul's 'Chhattron ki Goonj' campaign in various cities attracted huge crowds and laid the ground for his defiance on the streets—something few expected from a person brought up on a "dynastic sense of entitlement", as a political commentator remarked.Rahul has discarded his fallibilities and stepped out as a battle-hardened politician. But he still cannot snap out of his 'Ekla chalo' stance, the overweening sense to go alone with just a few aides behind him and little patience to reach out to Sonia Gandhi's peers, some of whom cannot be wished away despite their seniority.It is an arduous endeavour to raise a team overnight in a party like the Congress. It is packed with competing ambitions and interests, often working at cross-purposes. Rahul's colleagues had no idea that in July he had planned to lay siege to the PM's residence, and this week they were clueless of the siblings' detour to Akashvani Bhawan midway through the planned march to the Election Commission.

The Opposition steps up

THE GREAT GAME: Both sides must talk to each other and mend the communication lines that broke down long ago

IN the same week, this past week, that Narendra Modi celebrated 25 years of being in public office — first as Chief Minister of Gujarat and for the last 12 years as Prime Minister — Rahul Gandhi and his politics came of age.n his trademark white T-shirt and khaki cargo pants, the Congress leader climbed up upon the yellow barricades every Dilliwali is intimately familiar with and waved the tiranga. His sister, Priyanka, stood next to him and waved it too. One day later, she lay down on the street with a copy of the Constitution on her chest, daring the cops to pick her up. They did.This is one of those weeks in Indian politics where the rough and tumble has found its way to the headlines and remained there. Noida's Jewar airport is being renamed the Narendra Modi International Airport. The Delhi Police have not given permission to the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) to hold its march today, Saturday, to press for the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar. A Delhi High Court judge has told the Indian Youth Congress, which sought an urgent hearing on its plea to also hold a protest today, "what's the hurry?" The hearing will now be held on Monday.The CJP has said it's going ahead anyway, and wants to know why it's being denied the right to protest, a right enshrined in the Constitution — Article 19(1)(a) gives you the right to assemble peacefully and without arms, Article 19(1)(c) allows citizens to voice their dissent, hold rallies and collectively raise issues, while Article 21 protects life and personal liberty, which has widely been interpreted as the right to express grievances peacefully and with dignity.



Delhi is being turned into a fortress. About 23,000 police personnel have been asked to protect the capital. Trains, including from Varanasi to Delhi, have been cancelled. Metro stations have been shut. Borders have been closed off.Question is, why is the Centre, seemingly and suddenly, panicking? It comfortably holds the reins of power and nobody can touch it for the next two-and-a-half years. Yogi Adityanath is unlikely going anywhere — even if the Samajwadi Party and the Congress were to form an alliance, Yogi's BJP may be a tough wall to crack. As for Punjab, it's too small to matter electorally, with only 13 Lok Sabha seats, even though Punjabi josh remains a resplendent bellwether of the mood.

There's a one-word answer for this nervousness sweeping the heart of Delhi. Jobs. The government is keenly aware that it is on the back foot, perhaps for the first time in the 12 years it's been in power, because it doesn't fully have India's young on its side.To reiterate the statistics about India's infamously famous GenZ — as much as 27% of the population, every fourth person in the country, is in the age group of 15-29 years; as much as 52%, one in two persons, is below the age of 30; and 65% of the 140-crore population is below the age of 35.The NEET paper leaks and consequent trauma brought upon India's aspirational twenty-somethings, in retrospect, may have been the tipping point of this shape-shifting nation — when everything seems futile and it's not enough to have gone to India's top colleges, not even enough for you to make the assertion, "tum jaante nahin mera baap kaun hai"; when the US and Canada are closing their doors in your faces — they want your money for the college education they give you, but they don't want to give you jobs; and now, even the H-1B visa is out of bounds.What's more, as social media acquires a life of its own and the news happens in real time, TV anchors are discovering their own irrelevance. By the time 9 pm arrives, the nation already knows what you think it wants to know. Satire, slapstick and dark humour are being wielded like weapons in the hands of a million digital creators and have replaced the handful of prime-time influencers. Needless to add, the Constitution and all its Articles are also on Instagram.

The Supreme Court has finally said that "a complete shutdown is not the answer." Home Minister Amit Shah has already cancelled his visit to Manipur.

It is in the background of this ferment that the Congress party and the CJP have found their individual voices. At least the CJP's protagonists are all in their 20s and 30s — so what excuse does Rahul Gandhi, 56, have? Except his tweet to Elon Musk on the alleged crony capitalism in India today ("wait till you discover the other guy") has hit a nerve that has the government scrambling — the most suave minister in the government, Jyotiraditya Scindia, has been fielded to take on the criticism.

The Congress party has clearly shifted its own political strategy. From attacking the BJP's failures, it is now attacking its successes — challenging the 7.8% GDP growth; attacking the expanding infrastructure, especially roads; asking why China's Xi Jinping was invited to BRICS in the first place, considering China remains India's foremost antagonist; and "vote chori", with the rift in the Election Commission clear proof, if proof were needed, says the Congress, that India's democratic structure is being tampered with.

Certainly, the Congress and the CJP have the right to protest peacefully. Placards that say, "Gyanesh, it's done, bro", are hardly going to set the Yamuna on fire. The government must recognise that people have a right to disagree, dissent and differ. On their part, the Congress and the CJP must ensure their protests remain peaceful. For both sides to work towards this great middle, they must talk to each other and mend the communication lines that broke down a long time ago.At the end of the day, both sides must realise we only have one nation as well as one election that defines our voting lives every five years. Let's put back the 13 crore voters who have been deleted from exercising that fundamental franchise for one reason or another. Let PM Modi talk to us in his next 'Mann ki Baat' and reassure us that we all belong under the same umbrella — whether we vote BJP or Congress or AAP or Samajwadi or NOTA, None Of The Above. The citizen's anger must find a legitimate channel of expression; we are all painfully aware of the terrible consequences of its occasional repression in the past.

Mobility barriers lead to shared losses, base policies on evidence

India is right to reject the characterisation of its professionals as "foreign indentured servants". Such language is disturbingly offensive and ignores the contribution of generations of immigrants to American enterprise, research and innovation

The latest US restrictions on employment-based immigration marks another turn in a widening campaign against foreign talent which threatens to disproportionately affect Indian IT professionals and companies. The suspension of permanent labour certification applications—for Indian companies Infosys, TCS, Wipro and HCL, and American multinationals with large Indian presence such as Cognizant, Microsoft and Adobe—does not invalidate their existing H-1B visas. But it strikes at a crucial bridge between temporary employment and permanent residency

, injecting uncertainty into the lives of skilled workers and companies' recruitment strategies.With employment a potent issue ahead of the US midterm elections on November 3, the Trump administration is projecting immigration restrictions as protection for American workers. Vice-President J D Vance's charges that companies use foreign workers to displace Americans reinforces this narrative, but offers no evidence that shutting out skilled professionals creates sustainable employment gains at home. The wider context also entails bilateral trade negotiations, where visas can become another bargaining chip. Whatever the intent, its consequences extend beyond the immediate political theatre.India is right to reject the characterisation of its professionals as "foreign indentured servants". Such language is disturbingly offensive and ignores the contribution of generations of immigrants to American enterprise, research and innovation.

The gains accrue to the US economy as much as to the individuals who migrate.This must also be seen along with Elon Musk's criticism of India's telecom "oligarchs" while raising concerns about Starlink's licensing delays and market competition. The satellite-spectrum allocation involves complex considerations of pricing, security, interference and public interest. Though the billionaire's public criticism does not establish any regulatory unfairness, the broader debate on transparency should indeed involve consistent principles on competition, regulation and access. But the US cannot selectively invoke market competition abroad while defending immigration barriers at home.

New Delhi should respond with sustained diplomatic engagement, legal scrutiny and negotiations that protect its professionals without compromising its broader trade interests. Washington, meanwhile, must recognise that talent mobility and investment are not concessions to India.

They are vital instruments of American competitiveness that have fostered bilateral ties. The solution is to make regulation evidence-based and predictable. Neither jobs nor innovation are secured by raising arbitrary barriers. In an interconnected world, both countries stand to lose when political expediency overrides mutual economic advantage.

Lessons from Metro for the walking dead

Oscar Wilde almost said: The young know everything, the middle-aged suspect everything, and the old don't give a damn about anything!

As I find it a little more difficult to get out of bed each succeeding autumn morning, my mind (what's left of it, that is) inevitably wanders to thoughts of ageing. The process is very gradual and kind of sneaks up on you: the cells stop multiplying but continue dividing, not unlike the BJP; the telomeres stop communicating with each other a la Mr Gyanesh Kumar and his two colleagues; the joints protest loudly like Mr Kejriwal at any sudden move; the memory starts playing tricks like it does frequently with Donald Trump; and one begins to speak like Shashi Tharoor i.e. in words that no one understands, certainly not my sons, nephews and nieces fed on the two-syllable patois of Twitter and Instagram. So slow is this process, however, that one is not even aware of it.

And then one day, wham, it suddenly hits you full on the geezer. It can happen in different ways — you get up in the morning with a sinking feeling, and have to check the obituary columns to find out if you're still alive or dead, that ECG report when you take out that new health insurance policy, the moment when your son is blessed — is that the right word these days? — with his second child or third divorce. It can even happen as it did to Groucho Marx. You are standing grieving at the graveside of your batchmate, all alone because everyone else has left, when a chap sidles up to you and whispers: "Not much point in going back home, is there?"I usually travel by Metro since I need to reduce my family's carbon footprint which rivals that of Bigfoot or Godzilla, thanks to my wife Neerja. I seem to have spent my entire life following in her trail like an excited puppy: earlier it used to be so that I could spoon up the random smile, the casual word of endearment, the fleeting expression of affection — all too precious to be left discarded by the roadside.Now, however, I do it so



that I can switch off the fan, lights, AC, geyser or heater in her wake. She never puts them off because God himself once said, "Let there be light", and she's a deeply religious person. She has to say hello to her mom, sister and bevy of friends six days a week and — you guessed it — it can't be done over the phone because Airtel may tell everyone about it, and in any case they all have to see who is wearing which type of Banarsi saree that day. So she burns the hydrocarbons like Mr Mohammed bin Salman is giving it away for free in order to atone for blowing away Mr Khashoggi; not a recommended use of wind power.So here I was on the Delhi Metro one day; it was crowded and I was standing in the aisle hanging on to a strap like yesterday's washing. Suddenly, a pretty young girl got up from her seat and offered it to me with the words (I shall remember them till my dying breath): "Uncle, please take the seat." Uncle! When a beautiful member of the fair sex calls you Uncle, you just know that there's no point in going on living; it's the kiss of death and you now belong with the dinosaurs.

It was at that exact moment that I realised that I was now a prime candidate for the geriatric ward. I had boarded the train as a sprightly 75-year-old, but deboarded at Mandi House a broken relic. My metamorphosis was complete: I now belonged to the ages.

One year later, however, after 12 months of this fossilised existence, I must concede that things are not all that bad. Being a dodo has its upside. I no longer mind the aching joints when I wake up every morning because they indicate that at least I'm still alive. The best thing about getting old is that all those things you couldn't have when you were young, you no longer want, and therefore don't miss them anymore.I no longer fret and worry where my wife goes off in the evening, just so that I don't have to go along with her. The government respectfully refers to me as a "senior citizen" before asking me to line up for four hours in various queues. And most important of all, I'm gradually moving out of that lethal 'MeToo' zone which has felled many a perpendicular stalwart, if you get my drift. Though, if accused of unwelcome attention, I might well be tempted to follow the example of that zippy 81-year-old.

Standing in the dock, he could barely believe that he was being accused of unwanted advances, but could not hide that quiet smile that he was not that old after all. When asked by the judge, he even pleaded guilty! The judge, of course, was having none of this and fined him a thousand rupees for lying under oath! Or that other old dodger who was approached by this hooker outside a bar who propositioned him thus: "Hi, dad, I'm a great believer in barter: what do you say to some sex for some beer?" The ancient geezer thought for a long moment and replied: "What kinda beer you got?" Ah, the arrogance of old age!s Oscar Wilde almost said: the young know everything, the middle-aged suspect everything, and the old don't give a damn about anything! And that, dear reader, is the problem with the kiss of death: you're dead but don't know it. The walking dead.

Not just bad Superiors

people shun good bosses too



If you thought that a bad boss triggers employee exodus, you are probably wrong as workers leave good bosses too and use friendly terms as a source of future business or get key market information to boost their career ahead, an Indian-American professor has found.

According to Ravi S. Gajendran, professor of business administration at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, an organisation's former employees -- or "alumni" -- can potentially be important strategic assets in the future, provided they leave on good terms.

"If you have a good relationship with an employee who's left to join a client or competitor, you can leverage that relationship and potentially use them as a source of future business or as a back-channel source of information," Gajendran said in a university statement.

"Therefore, thinking of ex-employees as a strategic constituency is something more organisations should start doing," he added.

Using data from interviews with ex-employees, Gajendran and his co-authors found that among employees who quit, the quality of the boss-worker relationship is positively related to higher salaries and greater responsibility in a worker's next job as well as the goodwill they feel toward their former company."If you're making people happier, it should stand to reason that they're more committed to the organisation. But the numbers don't bear that out," the authors said.So why do workers leave despite having such a high-quality relationship with their manager?

"What we find is, if you have a good manager, they're going to invest in you, they're going to develop you, you're going to become a better, more competent employee, which also means you're more in-demand as a worker," Gajendran noted.

You could move up in the organisation but that path may not always be available."Managers also might not want you to go up internally because then they're losing a valued employee. So it means you're attractive to employers in the outside job market," the professor pointed out.

That is why people leave good managers, precisely because good managers invest in and develop their employees.

They typically get a better job with more responsibilities at their next employer.While that scenario might leave managers in a bind, Gajendran's research finds that there's a silver lining to valued employees leaving good managers.They are more likely to be open to a reunion with the organisation as a so-called 'boomerang employee', but they could also be a good source of information for the organisation," Gajendran emphasised."Our paper also shows that even employees who are leaving can be valuable somewhere down the line," Gajendran said.As a result, companies need to pay closer attention to the "off-boarding" process.According to the paper, it also helps if managers at least make an overture to retain employees, even if they think it's unlikely they'll accept the offer to stay.

Should you consider taking a Sabbatical?

Abbatical goes a long way to help rejuvenate one's life and career.

Preeti was getting bogged down by her mundane routine job. Her, otherwise, successful career was getting monotonous. Finding a way out of the boredom, she took a sabbatical for one year and spent it with her parents in a sleepy and quaint town in Himachal Pradesh. A year later, Preeti returned, feeling much rejuvenated and energised.

Like Preeti, you may also take a break and get a whiff of fresh air to escape the monotony and infuse fresh life in your work. Today's highly demanding job schedule and work load are most likely to create a sense of lethargy or monotony in one's working life. A sabbatical from the hustle bustle of the city life helps to recharge yourself.

But a sabbatical is somewhat more than a quick break. It is a prolonged break from one's professional job. It gives us the space and time to introspect on our personal and professional lives and evaluate ourselves. It gives us room to take a quick look at our career and long-term goals that are often neglected, thanks to the kind of pressure we need to undergo in our professional life.

Sanjeev Agrawal, vice president, operations and human empowerment, Impetus Infotech (India) Pvt Ltd says, "With job pressures on the rise in modern times, many employees are opting for breaks to rejuvenate themselves. Sabbaticals provide one such opportunity and help them address their personal issues, pursue their hobbies, acquire new skills and be more fulfilled. If used judiciously, sabbaticals can help individuals to emerge as refined professionals."

A sabbatical allows us to review our accomplishments and shortcomings, fix priorities and set goals in our life. It also helps us strike a perfect balance between our personal and professional lives. Rajeev Bhardwaj, VP HR, Sun Life Financial Asia Service Centre maintains, "A sabbatical can make a positive difference in one's life, but a lot depends on how an individual puts it to use. If taken positively, a sabbatical can turn out to be the turning point of one's life. One gets valuable time to take stock of their life, understand what they are doing and what they would like to do. Once clear about all these aspects, one can be at greater peace with one's self and not afraid or apprehensive of the unknown."

Find out how to save huge on CV fuel costMahindra RisePower in your pocket. Trade anytime, anywheretion for a sabbatical is typically one year and it leaves a deep impact on our personal attitude if taken in the right perspective. Bhardwaj suggests, "A sabbatical is a great opportunity to renew professionally and evolve into a satisfied and well-rounded individual. Such an opportunity can be used to address aspects of burnout or exhaustion, investing time in rebuilding one's self. Such de-stressing of the fatigued mind and soul can be done by engaging in hobbies and interests that might have taken a back seat, volunteering for social causes or even reading or teaching to fine-tune one's craft."

Normally, once we start working, we don't get enough time to renew and upgrade our skills and competencies.As the focus is purely on doing day-today work, one's output can quickly and without realising become stale. One may even end up losing the energy and effectiveness one had at the start. V Krishnan, executive director-HR, Dabur India Ltd says the objective of taking a sabbatical is key to serve the purpose. "If the purpose of the sabbatical is to improve your knowledge and gain skills that help you in performing your roles better and also add value to the organisation, it's a win-win situation," Krishnan notes.Professional success is a combination of competency, energy, drive and ability to reach out and achieve closure. During a sabbatical, one can look at these components and hone these elements to become a better professional and human being, asserts Bhardwaj. "With changing times, employers are also more receptive to employees who have taken breaks as against a few years ago. In fact, the concept of sabbaticals is gaining more and more acceptance across the industry," he adds.

A sabbatical helps you come back as a successful professional with a pronounced freshness in spirit, creativity and energy . It's all about self-renewal and self-growth. So go ahead, take that break and discover yourself, all over again!



Corporate philanthropy impacts employees positively

philanthropy brings in a positive impact on employees of businesses that actively partake in corporate giving, says a study.Giving enhances a business's reputation and strengthens a business's efforts toward corporate social responsibility and also benefits the employees, the study said.The way that firms choose to deploy those funds has a huge impact on the degree to which giving affects employees, the findings showed.Just saving is not enough anymoreMyUniverse"Specifically, the impact is stronger when firms donate to a few big and visible targets rather than to a wider range of charities chosen by the employees themselves," said Emily Block, researcher from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, US.By coupling donations with opportunities to volunteer, organisations can enhance the positive impact on employees, the study revealed.



Employees care about impact and they respond more positively to donations to larger, more strategic and more centralised targets, revealed the study, published in the Journal of Business Ethics.To examine how corporate philanthropy affects those inside the organization, the researchers analysed three years' of data on the attitudes of an average of 14,577 employees in 53 offices.

6 little changes that can take your Career to the next level in 2020



The much-awaited New Year is finally here. While you might have made resolutions to exercise daily, read 20 books before the year ends, splurge less on clothes or learn to play a musical instrument, but have you spared a thought about your professional life? In case, you are still figuring out what all you can do to climb up the corporate ladder in 2019, we have got you covered.

We have compiled a list of six small changes that can make a huge difference in your career. Apart from increasing your daily productivity and managing the stress levels at workplace, these habits would also help you to achieve a better work-life balance. Plus, these changes are quite easy to inculcate in your daily schedule, and are bound to give results even before you start realising.

We all procrastinate at work and it is not a serious issue till the time it starts to hamper your performance. Instead of delaying a task simply because it does not interest you, set a deadline and challenge yourself to complete it. Remind yourself that there is no point in escaping or delaying it and ultimately, you are increasing your own work burden. Make it a habit to prepare a to-do list every morning, and include a few boring tasks (that make you procrastinate) in it among the important ones. If not this, break your task into small, achievable steps, and push yourself to complete them.

Instead of stressing over all the tasks you have in your hand, learn to prioritise them and work accordingly. In fact, try to plan your work a day in advance, so that you already know the things you need to do once you reach office. Use your email calendar to mark all the important deadlines, meetings and other events. Trust us, you won't regret it.

Push yourself out of your comfort zone, and try to take up new projects that offer you learning opportunities. It would help you to address your weak areas, and challenge your existing skills. Commit yourself to give your best shot to whatever you are doing, and you will soon become your own source of motivation.

A constructive feedback hurts no one! Ask your peers to review your work and share their feedback. It will help you to accelerate your own learning and improve your knowledge level. Further, it would help to meet the expectation levels of your manager and make you a better team player.

You might not have realised it, but the pop up notifications on your mobile and desktop, especially from your personal social media accounts like Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, affect your concentration levels. As soon as you reach office, make it a habit to switch off all the app notifications and limit checking these during the day. Instead, spend time on all these apps when you are commuting or at home.

It is important to be ambitious and strive for professional success, but do not forget to appreciate what you have in hand. The next time you crib about your job, think about those who are sitting jobless at home, or those who have got fired due to cost cutting. You are definitely at a better position than millions and therefore, do not forget to count on your blessings every day.

10 career advice you wish your younger self knew

We all learn from our past mistakes and experiences, and later repent brooding—wish we would have known about this earlier...isn't it? And when it comes to professional life, some 'innocent' mistakes can cost you strained relationships with colleagues, and even your job, sometimes!

We got in touch with ten professionals from different walks of life and asked them the one advice they would like to give their younger self. Here's what they had to say...



1. "When I joined my first office, I used to think everyone is good-hearted and humble. I started considering a few colleagues very close and got deeply hurt when the same people started bitching about me behind my back after some time. That was my first learning in the corporate world, and that day, I made sure to not start trusting anybody and everybody in professional life."- Nitya Agarwal, 25

2. "I firmly believe one should not share their secrets and personal problems with anyone in the office. You never know what happens the next day in office and what the situation is. People may change and things may backfire anytime."- Nitish Mishra, 27

3. "I was really ambitious since day one of my professional life and used to think way more than required on how I can grow professionally and get a better salary package. I wish somebody would have advised me to just work hard and go with the flow; and that things fall in place eventually. Additionally, I would have surely advised my 21-year-old self to enjoy life to the core as the responsibilities only increase with time."- Spardha Pandey, 25

4. "Mine is pretty simple and effective. Bitching and gossiping won't make you popular. You need to prove your worth with your work."- Anurima Roy, 28

5. "My advice to myself would be to never stick to one field. Your initial years will shape your entire career. Be more experimental, don't stick to one particular field of work, be open to everything that you are capable of doing. Like if you joined a company as a stylist, be open to writing, doing events and even trying your hands at social media. This way, you will know your own capabilities, have options and even experience. Later, you can always stick to one thing and master that. But initial years, you should know all!"- Dhriti Sharma, 34



6. "I would advise myself to realise where my real talent lies. Don't go after salary for the initial years and focus on the larger picture. If you are good at what you do, you are bound to be successful. Struggle in initial years of professional life would be worth it."- Samaera Mohan, 29

7. "Initially, I used to get really apprehensive about what my colleagues think about me. I wish I could tell my 21-year-old self that it hardly matters what your office mates think about you. You should know your capabilities and where exactly you need to improve."- Ronika Bisht, 27

8. "It was my first job and I gossiped about my boss with my colleague in an online chat. Later, she showed the same chat to my boss, and I got fired! I would surely advice my younger self to not do that. I got really upset at that time but now, I laugh thinking about it."- Alka Behl, 32

9. "My advice would be to go out and socialise. Going out for office events, parties will help you network with the right kind of people. Getting to know new people will inspire you in so many ways, and it might help you at work someday. So don't just stick around your desk and say no to all parties and events!"- Navya Anand, 25

10. "I am still trying to inculcate this advice in my life, and it's a pretty common advice. One must leave all office-related stress at office, and chill at home. Taking work home or even thinking about office at home should be banned from one's life." Abhilash Kumar, 30

Storm in Delhi and its political climate as dissent breaks through barricades

For a city accustomed to political demonstrations, the atmosphere offered an unsettling inversion: a designated protest venue remained difficult to reach, while the surrounding roads became the stage for scattered expressions of dissent.

Newdelhi. (Agency)

The city was held hostage for second day in a row with yellow police barricades, guarded by thousands of police and paramilitary personnel taking over street by street in central Delhi. Stormy wasn't just the weather; Delhi's political climate too painted a similar picture.

What would otherwise have been a bustling Sunday, saw groups of protesters attempting to assemble and being swiftly intercepted by police. Even though the norms were relaxed and shops in and around Connaught Place were partly opened, the deserted look wasn't familiar to the eyes, especially in the festive season.Throughout the day, placards went up; slogans rose above the traffic; uniformed personnel closed in. At intervals, clusters of demonstrators broke through police barricades and dashed down the streets, prompting officers to give chase. Their attempts to evade the police were short-lived: they were quickly intercepted, surrounded and taken into custody. Some were pulled along the road by police personnel before being pushed into buses stationed nearby. Yet nothing dampened the spirit.

The tricolour waved high at the heart of the city, and so did the series of grievances. The difference between the state and the demonstrators is substantial, but the streets had become the place where that disagreement was being expressed visibly.For a city accustomed to political demonstrations, the atmosphere offered an unsettling inversion: a designated protest venue remained difficult to reach, while the surrounding roads became the stage for scattered expressions of dissent. The effort to prevent a large gathering did not silence the movement.

The state's responsibility to maintain public order and the citizens' right to challenge decisions they believe threaten democratic participation stood at crossroads. The collateral damage was the crawling traffic, the restricted movement, a disrupted weekend and a city almost under siege. Although the internet services were resumed, the heaviness of the empty streets was difficult to comprehend.

The barricades could restrict movement, and the buses could carry protesters away. Whether the underlying questions about electoral transparency can be resolved so easily is another matter. For now, the city questioned its right to disagree and dissent.



Delhi-NCR Sees Rain After Monsoon Withdrawal: 3 Weather Factors Explained

Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi and its neighbouring areas witnessed thunderstorms and heavy overnight rain, making Monday the wettest October day in four years, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD). The temperature also dropped to 18.7 degrees Celsius at Delhi's base station Safdarjung, which is 2.3 degrees below normal. The rain occurred even after the withdrawal of southwest monsoon from the region. According to IMD, monsoon's retreat doesn't mean a region will not witness rainfall, adding that there are several factors at play, including other weather systems, changes in wind patterns and moisture in the atmosphere.

The IMD's October 11 bulletin points to three factors from an active spell of unsettled weather across north India warning of rain in the region. These include a trough extending from northwest Rajasthan to northeast Madhya Pradesh, another trough stretching from a cyclonic circulation over central Pakistan towards north Madhya Pradesh, and a western disturbance over Himachal Pradesh.A western disturbance is a weather system that originates in the Mediterranean region and moves eastwards, bringing moisture and unsettled weather to parts of north India. It is particularly associated with winter rain over northwest India but can also affect the region during the post-monsoon period.The IMD bulletin also mentions two troughs. These are elongated zones of relatively low atmospheric pressure, while a cyclonic circulation involves winds rotating around a low-pressure area. Such features can encourage air to rise, leading to cloud formation and, when atmospheric moisture and other conditions are favourable, rainfall and thunderstorms.

No Coercive Action Against Punjab Officials In CBI Corruption Probe: Top Court

Delhi. (Agency)

The Supreme Court on Monday directed that no coercive action be taken against people linked to the Punjab government by the CBI, which is probing allegations of corruption against high-ranking officials.

The order came on the Punjab government's plea seeking a stay on a high court direction to the CBI to probe corruption allegations against people linked to the state government and submit a report within two months.A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and PB Varale issued notice to the Centre, CBI, ED and others. "We are not staying the FIR. We are saying no coercive steps may be taken," the bench said.Senior advocates Vikas Singh and Sidharth Luthra appeared for the Punjab government.Last Monday, the state government moved the top court against the Punjab and Haryana High Court's direction on a petition filed by advocate Nikhil Saraf. The allegations include cash for transfers and cash for getting favourable policies.The petitioner submitted that no action has been taken yet, even after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) sent communications to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government.

It was contended that the allegations warranted an independent investigation as it raised serious questions about the state government's functioning.The high court also directed the Punjab Police and the government that all documents pertaining to the case be handed over to the CBI.Assailing the high court's decision on various grounds, the Punjab government said the impugned judgment suffers from errors such as treating information shared under Section 66(2) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) as a direction that makes registration "inevitable", contrary to the 2022 decision of the apex court in the Vijay Madanlal Choudhary case.The plea said the high court's judgment directs registration of an FIR into decisions of public servants on transfers, tenders and policy without the previous approval mandated by Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, and faults the bureau for not associating a serving officer whom it could [illegible] enquire into without such approval.

FIR registered against sacked JNU professor Akoijam over sexual harassment charges

Delhi. (Agency)

Days after his dismissal as professor from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Congress MP Angomcha Bimol Akoijam has been booked on charges of sexual harassment and insulting a woman's modesty, according to Delhi Police officials.

Delhi Police has registered an FIR following a complaint by the Chief Security Officer of JNU, Delhi. The FIR dated October 11, 2026, has been registered at Vasant Kunj North Police Station under Sections 75, 75(1)(I), 75(1)(iv) and 79 of the BNS. The FIR details/gist mention the name of Congress Lok Sabha MP and JNU Professor Angomcha Bimol Akoijam. Investigation is underway.



Akoijam, a professor at the Centre for the Study of Social Systems under JNU's School of Social Sciences, was dismissed with immediate effect on October 9 following an inquiry into sexual harassment allegations against him, charges he has denied.According to reports, at least 11 female students had filed sexual harassment complaints against the professor in May this year. The complaints alleged that he invited students to his campus residence on the pretext of meetings or gatherings and attempted to sexually harass them. Some students had also alleged that he made obscene and inappropriate remarks in class.

A case has been registered against Akoijam, the Congress MP from Inner Manipur, following a complaint by JNU's chief security officer, police said. The FIR was registered at the Vasant Kunj North police station on Sunday under sections 75, 75(1)(I), 75(1)(iv) and 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deal with sexual harassment and acts intended to insult the modesty of a woman, among other offences. An investigation has been taken up, police said.Reacting to his dismissal on Friday, Akoijam had termed the action.

Delhi HC to hear pleas on Jantar Mantar closure on October 13

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi High Court has agreed to hear on Tuesday petitions concerning the alleged closure of Jantar Mantar as a protest site in the national capital and claims that protesters were harassed by outsiders during a demonstration over the weekend.



A lawyer mentioned the matter before a bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre and Justice Sanjay Sharma on Monday, arguing that peaceful protests were being curtailed as the authorities had not designated an alternative venue for demonstrations.When the counsel sought an urgent hearing on Monday, the bench noted that the Supreme Court was also examining the issue."Tomorrow. The Supreme Court is equally seized of the matter. Not only that, but the Supreme Court has called on the Union to file their affidavits also. Once the Supreme Court is seized of it, we have to see to what extent we can look at it again. That's why let us have it tomorrow," the bench observed.

The lawyer argued that the closure of Jantar Mantar had significantly affected the right to freedom of speech and expression.

"Today Jantar Mantar is also closed. There is no other place which has been earmarked by the executive to actually carry out a protest in accordance with law. Peaceful protests are being quelled today. This is absolutely going to be a black day. We have faced this in 1975," the counsel submitted.The court also agreed to hear on Tuesday a separate petition alleging that outsiders had entered a protest held over the weekend and harassed demonstrators.

Hundreds of people took to the streets on 10 and 11 October after the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) called for a protest against Chief Election. Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision .

Delhi High Court seeks police report on activist's illegal detention plea

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked Delhi Police to file a status report on a plea by civil rights activist Mohammad Wasiq Nadeem Khan, who alleged that he was illegally detained to stop him from attending a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar. The court issued notice on his petition, which also accused the police of constant surveillance and repeated phone calls.A bench of Acting Chief Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre and Justice Sanjay Sharma also questioned the conduct of the police personnel during the hearing. While noting that the police have the right to deny permission for a protest, the bench orally asked, "How can you enter the house of this man? You have your right to conduct your duty (but) how can you do it in such a way? Where is your cause to confine him?"Khan's counsel told the court that on September 29, two police personnel came to his residence-cum-office and restrained his movement through the day. The counsel alleged that Khan had been under constant surveillance and said this amounted to "harassment and arbitrary behaviour". The lawyer also referred to recent Supreme Court directions on ensuring free movement of people.

Appearing for the police, counsel said Khan was not detained in any manner and pointed out that he had travelled to Kolkata last week. The police sought time to place their stand on record and also assured the court that Khan would not receive further phone calls. The court was told that Khan had earlier sought permission to hold a protest at Jantar Mantar on September 29, which was denied. The police counsel said some personnel had visited him only for a "query" after receiving information that he was going to take part in the agitation despite the denial.Khan, the national secretary of the Association of Protection of Civil Rights and founder of the United Against Hate initiative, moved the high court last week. He alleged that police officials attached to Shaheen Bagh Police Station confined him at the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind headquarters in Abul Fazal Enclave on September 29 from around 9.30 am to 5.30 pm to prevent him from joining the protest. The protest had been called by APCR, the Monitoring Committee of Indian Muslims and other civil society groups against alleged repeated attacks on places of worship. Khan said he was neither formally arrested nor given written grounds for his confinement.

Before rushing to cut ribbons, Audit delayed projects

Roads, flyovers, bridges, Metro extensions, public spaces and other connectivity projects became part of Delhi's permanent physical infrastructure.

Delhi. (Agency)

In these columns we have been discussing the fallout of a good policy badly implemented. The immediate reference was the notification of the Master Plan for Delhi 2047, and the larger question was whether Delhi had learnt from the experience of its previous master plans. We had also argued that, ironically, some of the city's most enduring infrastructure has come not from the master plans themselves but from the legacy projects associated with major events.Delhi's experience with the Commonwealth Games is a case in point. The Games were controversial but it cannot be denied that the infrastructure created around them continues to sustain the city. Roads, flyovers, bridges, Metro extensions, public spaces and other connectivity projects became part of Delhi's permanent [illegible] infrastructure.

However, the fate of two delayed Commonwealth Games-era projects, Barapullah III and the Bhairon Marg underpass, offers an important lesson for the government now attempting to push delayed infrastructure back onto the fast track. A delayed infrastructure project is not merely a project whose completion date has been pushed forward, it's to be remembered that lapse of time changes the city around the project.A project designed to solve the traffic problem of 2010 cannot automatically be assumed to be the ideal solution to the traffic problem of 2026. This is precisely where the Barapullah III and Bhairon Marg experiences become instructive.The momentum behind several infrastructure projects weakened after the Commonwealth Games, particularly after the change of government in Delhi. Political priorities shifted. Infrastructure development [illegible] gradually took a back seat to welfare-oriented politics, or what has increasingly become a rather sober synonym for the politics of freebies. Projects that required sustained administrative attention and significant capital expenditure did not enjoy the same political urgency.



There was nothing inherently wrong with welfare spending. The problem was the false choice that Delhi's politics eventually created between welfare and infrastructure. A city cannot remain functional merely by distributing benefits toits residents. It has to build and maintain the physical systems through which those residents travel, work, study and conduct their daily lives.The BJP government that now runs Delhi appears determined to reverse that approach and put infrastructure projects back on the fast track. That is welcome but there is a danger in treating every inherited project as if its only problem were administrative delay. The Barapullah III experience should serve as a warning.When a project finally emerges after years of delay, the temptation is to celebrate its completion. There are ceremonies, speeches, photographs and political credit-taking. But for the citizen, none of that matters if the project does not deliver the promised improvement in mobility.Indeed, an ostentatious inauguration can become counterproductive. If a project opened with [illegible] before immediately.

SIP inflows hit all-time high of Rs 32,490 crore in September: AMFI data

Mumbai. (Agency)

Monthly mutual fund inflows through systematic investment plans (SIPs) hit a new all-time high in September, rising to Rs 32,490 crore from Rs 32,297 crore in August, according to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) on Monday. While total mutual fund industry assets under management stood at Rs 82.64 lakh crore and equity net inflow surged by 30.6 per cent to Rs 38,306.55 crore.AMFI data showed open-ended equity schemes mobilised Rs 74,831.96 crore during the month against redemption of Rs 36,525.41 crore.

Net AUM for equity schemes stood at Rs 37.54 lakh crore, while average AUM for the month stood at Rs 38,50,660.61 crore.Category-wise, small cap funds led inflow at Rs 9,038.57 crore from 3.03 crore folios, mobilising Rs 13,025.13 crore against redemption of Rs 3,986.56 crore.

Mid cap funds saw inflow of Rs 7,834.84 crore, flexi cap funds Rs 6,701.80 crore, large & mid cap funds Rs 4,271.22 crore and multi-cap funds Rs 3,859.55 crore.Thematic funds attracted Rs 1,800.07 crore, sectoral funds Rs 1,840.02 crore, focused funds Rs 1,390.84 crore, value funds Rs 1,290.89 crore and large-cap funds Rs 859.47 crore. Contra funds saw an outflow of Rs 97.88 crore and ELSS tax saver funds saw an outflow of Rs 662.14 crore.Net AUM for equity schemes stood at Rs 37.54 lakh crore, while average AUM for the month stood at Rs 38,50,660.61 crore.

Moreover, Exchange Traded Funds saw a net inflow of Rs 15,501.40 crore. Equity ETFs led with an inflow of Rs 9,959.96 crore, followed by gold ETFs at Rs 4,450.61 crore and silver ETFs at Rs 1,974.32 crore.

RIL shares erode more than 7% in a month: Can Jio Platforms IPO trigger a rise?

Kolkata. (Agency)

Reliance Industries share price is in focus in Dalal Street. The shares of India's most valuable company have been under selling pressure for the past one month. During this period, the stock has slipped by more than 7%. On Monday, October 12, at 1:15 pm, the company's stock was trading at Rs 1,156.20, down by 1.2%. In such a situation, the market is keeping an eye on the proposed IPO of Jio Platforms. The pressure on Reliance shares has increased after the figures for the valuation of the IPO came out lower than the earlier estimates. However, market experts are also looking at this fall from the perspective of the possibility of the company's value being unlocked in the long term.

Jio Platforms IPO probable price band

According to reports, the price band for Jio Platforms' IPO could be between ₹1,065 and ₹1,119 per share. Therefore, some investors are viewing the current decline in Reliance shares as an opportunity to enter at a lower price.The report states that Jio Platforms has been valued at about $114 billion, or ₹10.3 lakh crore. This is lower than previous estimates of $130 billion to $170 billion. This has dampened market expectations regarding valuation and put pressure on Reliance's stock.

Long-term value

But Jio Platforms' IPO could unlock long-term value for Reliance. The IPO is primarily designed to raise capital through the issuance of new shares. This is expected to represent approximately 2.9% of the company's equity after the IPO.

Dividends, bonus shares, stock splits of 13 scrips this week: TCS to Vedanta in focus

Kolkata. (Agency)

The stock market is likely to see several companies in the news for corporate action next week, between October 12 and 17, 2026. These companies include Tata Consultancy Services, Vedanta, Ola Electric Mobility, Anand Rathi Wealth and Bansal Wire Industries. These companies have set record dates for dividends, bonus shares, stock splits, rights issues, and share consolidation. Let's have a look at the schedule.

Dividends of TCS and Vedanta

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Vedanta have set October 14 as the record date for their interim dividends. For TCS, the dividend is listed at ₹12 per share and for Vedanta at ₹5 per share. Anand Rathi Wealth has set October 15 as the record date for an interim dividend of ₹4 per share. Meanwhile, Canara Robeco Asset Management Company has set October 16 as the record date for determining shareholder eligibility. The company has announced an interim dividend of ₹2 per share. To receive the dividend, investors must meet the eligibility criteria related to the record date. Before investing, please check the company's official announcement for the payment date and other conditions.

Stock split in two companies

Samor Realty and Bansal Wire Industries shares may be in focus next week due to a stock split. Samor Realty has set October 15th as the record date for splitting its ₹10 shares into ₹2 shares. Meanwhile, Bansal Wire Industries' shares will be split from ₹5 to ₹1, with a record date of October 16. A stock split increases the number of shares issued and reduces the face value per share. This does not automatically increase the total value of the investment; changes in market price are a separate issue.

IMF says AI boom is keeping global growth at 3%, Asia set to gain

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on Monday that strong investment in AI infrastructure was keeping global growth at around 3%, despite the pressure from an energy supply shock.

Kolkata. (Agency)

Artificial intelligence (AI) is doing more than changing how people work. It is also helping support global economic growth, with countries across Asia set to benefit from rising demand for the technology and the hardware needed to run it.International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on Monday that strong investment in AI infrastructure was keeping global growth at around 3%, despite the pressure from an energy supply shock, reported Reuters.Speaking at the opening of the IMF and World Bank meetings in Bangkok, Thailand, Georgieva said the AI investment boom was creating fresh demand and encouraging businesses to invest. This could give a significant boost to several Asian economies.

HOW AI INVESTMENT IS HELPINGASIA

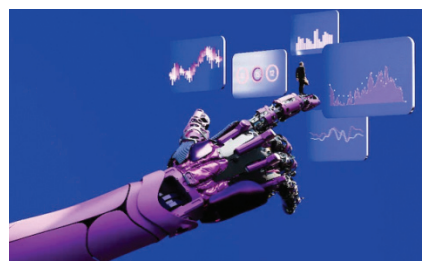
Georgieva said the AI boom could increase growth in advanced Asian economies by 0.5 to 1 percentage point. Emerging Asian economies could see a boost of 0.2 to 0.8 percentage point.Many Asian economies are benefiting because they supply the hardware and other infrastructure needed to develop and run AI systems. Thailand is among the countries that could gain from this growing demand.

"AI, love it, hate it. It's already here," Georgieva said.

She added that the shift towards higher investment was helping keep the world economy growing at around 3%, even as the energy supply shock weighed on growth.The IMF had forecast global growth of 3% for 2026 in July. The organisation is due to release an updated economic outlook on Tuesday.

AI COULD RESHAPE JOBS AND GROWTH

While AI investment is supporting economic activity, Georgieva warned that the technology would have far-reaching



effects on jobs, education, economic growth and government tax revenues.

She described AI as a "slow-moving tsunami", pointing to the scale of changes it could bring over time.According to Georgieva, the IMF estimates that AI could augment, downgrade or eliminate 40% of jobs over time. She also cited an initial study showing that 10% of jobs in the US already required AI skills.Routine and repetitive jobs were shrinking, while employment in lower-paying sectors such as construction and data centres was increasing, she said.Georgieva said AI was changing how people work and live. She also shared how she uses an AI assistant to receive a short daily message about her schedule.The US, China and India are the most important producers in the AI supply chain, she said, while several companies building the infrastructure needed for the technology are based in Asia.

ENTRY-LEVEL JOBS FACE PRESSURE

The impact of AI on employment was also a key concern raised at the meeting.World Bank President Ajay Banga said the development bank was looking at ways to use smaller AI systems to improve productivity in areas such as farming, healthcare and education, particularly in emerging markets.Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, who also spoke at the event, highlighted the pressure AI could put on job opportunities for graduates.

Stock markets open higher amid easing oil prices



MUMBAI. (Agency)

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty climbed in early trade on Monday, extending their previous session's sharp rally, amid easing oil prices.The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 178 points to 72,627.86 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 76.20 points to 22,591.45.From the 30 Sensex firms, Bharat Electronics, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Trent, Tata Steel and NTPC were among the major winners.Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel, ITC and Axis Bank were among the laggards.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, declined 1.45 per cent to USD 103.1 per barrel.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi traded sharply lower, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index also quoted lower. Hang Seng index traded marginally higher.

US markets ended higher on Friday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,568.90 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.On Friday, the Sensex jumped 879.09 points, or 1.23 per cent, to settle at 72,472.33. The Nifty rallied 288.65 points, or 1.30 per cent, to end at 22,520.45.

Rupee jumps 91 paise to 95.80 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The rupee rebounded sharply from a record low level, gaining 91 paise to 95.80 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday, after the Reserve Bank of India stepped in with several measures to contain volatility in the currency exchange market.

The Reserve Bank, on Saturday, announced several measures, including a dedicated dollar window for oil marketing companies through designated banks and higher costs for certain foreign exchange hedging transactions, to reduce dollar demand in the spot market and curb speculative positions.Forex analysts said that these measures are expected to help the Indian currency sustain pressure from elevated crude oil prices and a strong dollarThe RBI, in its October 10 circulars, barred authorised dealers from allowing traders to rebook cancelled rupee-linked foreign exchange derivative contracts, while continuing to permit rollovers on maturity subject to existing regulations

It also reduced the threshold for undertaking foreign exchange derivative transactions without establishing an underlying exposure to USD 5 million from USD 100 million, across authorised dealers and recognised stock exchanges.The central bank also introduced a Foreign Exchange Risk Reserve (FERR), requiring authorised dealers to maintain with the RBI, in cash, 20 per cent of the rupee equivalent of the notional amount of each rupee-linked foreign exchange derivative contract exceeding USD 2 million, where the transaction is undertaken to hedge current account exposures involving the purchase of foreign currency against the rupee.The RBI said the measures were aimed at strengthening market discipline and ensuring appropriate risk management while maintaining an orderly and transparent foreign exchange market.At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened stronger at 95.61 and pared some gains in early deals to trade at 95.80 against the greenback, registering a rise of 91 paise over its previous close.The Indian currency closed Friday's session with a gain of 17 paise at 96.71, a day after falling 13 paise to hit its lowest closing level of 96.88 against the dollar.Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading marginally lower by 0.08 per cent at 101.94.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 1.54 per cent but stayed elevated at USD 103.11 per barrel in futures trade.On the domestic equity market front, Sensex fell 20.00 points, or 0.03 per cent, to 72,452.33, while the Nifty was trading marginally up 7.95 points, or 0.04 per cent, to 22,529.85.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,568.90 crore on a net basis on Friday, according to exchange data.

EPFO clarifies EPS eligibility after Rs 25,000 wage limit hike: Who qualifies

Kolkata. (Agency)

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has clarified the eligibility rules for the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) after the monthly wage limit for mandatory provident fund coverage was increased to Rs 25,000 from Rs 15,000.In a post on X, EPFO explained how an employee's monthly wages and previous membership of the pension scheme affect eligibility. The clarification is important for employees who want to know whether they should be covered under EPS and whether pension contributions should be deducted.The revised wage ceiling, effective September 17, 2026, is expected to bring more than 51 lakh additional formal-sector workers earning between Rs 15,000 and Rs 25,000 per month under mandatory EPFO coverage.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR EPS MEMBERSHIP?

According to EPFO's post, employees earning monthly wages of Rs 25,000 or less can be covered under EPS, subject to the scheme's eligibility conditions.The graphic shared by EPFO explains that pension membership is mandatory for eligible employees earning up to the revised wage ceiling. The applicable contributions must be made in accordance with the rules.However, employees earning more than Rs 25,000 per month who were not EPS members previously are not eligible for fresh membership, as explained in the graphic.

This means that the revised wage ceiling does not automatically make every employee eligible for pension benefits. An employee's previous membership and the applicable EPS rules also play an important role.

WHAT DOES THE HIGHER EPFO WAGE LIMIT MEAN?

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has increased the monthly wage ceiling for mandatory EPFO coverage from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000, effective September 17, 2026.According to the details provided in the ministry's circular, the change is expected to bring more than 51 lakh additional formal-sector workers earning between Rs 15,000 and Rs 25,000 per month under mandatory coverage.

Eligible employees will receive social security benefits under three schemes: the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) and the Employees' DEPF helps employees build retirement savings through contributions from employees and employers. EPS provides pension benefits to eligible members, while EDLI provides life insurance benefits to eligible employees.eposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) scheme.The increase in the wage ceiling is intended to extend social security coverage to more workers who were outside mandatory coverage because their wages exceeded the earlier limit.

60% of borrowers have EMIs eating up family income. Is festive debt worth it

Festive discounts can make spending more tempting, while easy credit makes it easier to buy things without paying upfront. But when does convenient borrowing become a debt trap

Kolkata. (Agency)

A new phone for Diwali, a holiday with family or gifts for loved ones can make the festive season special. But when savings fall short, many people turn to loans or credit cards to pay for these expenses. The monthly instalment may seem small enough to manage, but the real cost can become clear only when the bills start adding up.According to data shared by Expert Panel, a debt and loan resolution platform, around 60% of borrowers have EMIs that either exceed or nearly equal their total monthly family income. What is more concerning is that 40% are taking fresh loans or using credit cards to manage existing EMIs.For households already struggling to balance their budgets, another festive-season loan could add to the pressure instead of making the celebrations more enjoyable.

WHY ARE PEOPLE BORROWING MONEY?

Not every loan is taken to fund shopping or a holiday. For many families, borrowing is a way to deal with emergencies or meet expenses they cannot avoid.According to the data, medical emergencies and health issues accounted for 26% of borrowing cases, making them the most commonly cited reason. Another 22% of borrowers took loans for family or personal expenses, including weddings and education. Business needs or job-loss-related requirements accounted for 18%, while household and daily expenses made up another 15%.These figures suggest that many people are already borrowing to meet essential needs. Adding festive spending to an existing list of financial commitments can make it harder to keep up with repayments.

The problem becomes more serious when a borrower's income falls or an unexpected expense arises. The data



shows that job loss or salary cuts accounted for 31% of cases where borrowers struggled to repay loans. A high EMI burden compared with income was cited in 28% of cases, while multiple loans or excessive borrowing accounted for 19%. Medical or family emergencies contributed to another 12%.

WHEN ONE LOAN LEADS TO ANOTHER

A new loan may look affordable when considered on its own. However, the calculation changes when personal loans, credit card dues and other monthly instalments are added to the household budget.The data also revealed that 40% of borrowers were using new loans or credit cards to manage existing EMIs. This means some borrowers are relying on fresh credit to keep up with repayments on money they have already borrowed.Over time, this can become a difficult cycle to break. A new loan may help cover an immediate expense, but it also adds another repayment to future budgets.Anurag Mehra, Director at Expert Panel, said festive spending is often driven by emotions, social expectations and the desire to make celebrations special. However, borrowing for these expenses can turn a one-time purchase into a long-term financial commitment.

NEWS BOX

Eroded by tides of time, Kerala's Raj-era weather system evokes concern

KOCHI(Agency).

At first glance, the rusty ladder, engulfed by a peepal tree, doesn't look like much. However, at one point in Fort Kochi's history, the iron ladder played a very important role, especially for the British Navy. It was part of the meteorological system which the British set up to track weather conditions in and around Kochi. However, the key remnant of Kochi's heritage lies in a shambles.

"The tree's thick roots and trunk have swallowed the iron platform and the ladder," says Mansoor Naina, a historian. "The remains of a stone wall that surround the structure continues to offer a semblance of protection." In the evenings, observers might have climbed the ladder to record wind speed and direction, he said. Older generations recall seeing an instrument resembling an anemometer at the top."Yes. The ladder connected to a platform, and on top of this structure was a pipe that had a weather vane-like structure with an anemometer," points out K J Sohan, former Kochi mayor and historian."A British officer would come at a stipulated time every day, open the gate of the enclosure, climb the ladder and take the readings.

All-night rites, 4,444-line song: Pallippana back in spotlight

Kerala(Agency).

As the sun rose over the ground near Sopanam School of Panchavadyam at Kandanakam in Edappal, Malappuram, on Sunday, a group of men and women began a collective effort to save a rare ritualistic art form, an effort that would continue until the next sunrise.For the next 24 hours, the artists immersed themselves in an elaborate sequence of songs, ceremonies and dance, bringing alive Pallippana, one of the rarest traditional ritual art forms of Valluvanad region that is rooted in the worship of Goddess Bhadrakali.Organised by the Sopanam School of Panchavadyam in association with the Thanjavur South Zone Cultural Centre, the performance was held as a Desappana, a ritual seeking the prosperity and peace of the region. A group of nearly 50 men and women artists helmed the various aspects, from preparation to performance.

"Pallippana demands extensive preparation and coordination. Every stage has to follow the prescribed ritual sequence, and sustaining the performance for 24 hours requires considerable dedication from the practitioners.This is why presenting it in its complete form — from one sunrise to the next — is significant," said Santhosh Alankode, director of Sopanam School of Panchavadyam.The ceremony revolves around Darikavadham Thottam Pattu, a ritual song cycle comprising 4,444 lines narrating the slaying of the demon Darika by the goddess. The performance includes Thiriyuzhichil (fire dance), Guruthi (ritual) and Valathu, or Pana Pidutham (dance by men) along with chenda melam and other musical events.Traditionally associated with Bhadrakali temples and sacred groves (kavu), Pallippana survives in fewer than 10 temples across Valluvanad region, where Malappuram, Palakkad and Thrissur meet. It is considered an important offering .

Karnataka excise department seizes tanker carrying 24,000 litres of liquor

BELAGAVI(Agency).

Excise Department officials seized a 12-wheeler tanker transporting 24,000 litres of liquor illegally near MK Hubballi town in Belagavi district on Saturday.The total value of the seized vehicle and liquor is estimated at Rs 32.40 lakh.According to the Excise Department, the seizure was made during a road patrol on the state highway connecting Holihosur village and MK Hubballi town at around 12.25 am.Officials intercepted a BharatBenz tanker bearing registration number KA-25-AA-3750 and found that it was carrying the liquor illegally.

The driver, Bandenawaja Nabi Saab Tiganibidari, a resident of Bolachikkalaki village in Vijayapura district, was issued a notice directing him to appear for questioning under Section 35(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.The department has also registered a case against the vehicle owner and submitted the first information report to the court, officials said.

The operation was conducted by the Bailhongal Excise Zone under the guidance of senior Excise Department officials, including the Additional Commissioner of Excise, Belagavi Headquarters; Joint Commissioner of Excise, Belagavi Division; Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Belagavi South District; and Deputy Superintendent of Excise, Ramdurg Sub-Division.

UP Congress takeover turns ugly as Ajay Rai's supporters clash with party workers



Lucknow(Agency).

The event to mark Aradhana Misra formally taking charge of the UP unit of the Congress was marred by a clash between supporters of the outgoing state president Ajay Rai and a group of party workers at the Congress headquarters in Lucknow on Sunday.Shoes were allegedly hurled, and abuses were exchanged on the premises of the party headquarters in the presence of senior party leaders.The incident took place before Misra and newly appointed working president Imran Masood formally took charge. Party leaders said Misra was not present in the office when the clash broke out.According to a senior Congress leader, who was present at the party office when the incident took place, the trouble began when Rai arrived with his supporters. Supporters of Congress corporator Mamta Chaudhary, who is also the president of the Central Zone Mahila Congress, and other party leaders were already present on the office premises. As Rai and his supporters arrived, the office corridors got overcrowded, leading to jostling among the people there. "The situation soon escalated as people started abusing and hurling shoes, leading to a scuffle," a party leader said.

Misra and other senior leaders later intervened to pacify the workers, following which the charge-taking ceremony was concluded.Later, speaking to the media, Mamta Chaudhary alleged that women workers accompanying her had been manhandled by Rai's supporters as they tried to push their way into the party office amid the crowd. She said none of the women workers had made any comments or used abusive language. However, she alleged that some of Rai's supporters not only abused the women workers but also slapped them and hurled shoes at them.Videos of the altercation surfaced on social media.Rai, who left the party office after the event, said he expected the party leadership to take action against those who had shown disrespect to senior leaders. Ajay Rai could not be contacted for a comment on the allegations.

Andhra's Kuppam airport to boost cargo connectivity for farm produce

SAMBALPUR (Agency).

The proposed Kuppam Greenfield Airport in Chittoor district is expected to serve as more than a conventional passenger airport, with a strong focus on domestic air cargo connectivity to facilitate the movement of agricultural, horticultural and floricultural produce and strengthen export-oriented agriculture in Rayalaseema.Envisioned as a logistics gateway for the region's agricultural economy, the airport is expected to complement the proposed Global Horticulture Hub (GHH) initiative by improving connectivity between horticultural production centres, markets, processing facilities and export channels. Faster transportation could benefit growers of flowers, fruits, vegetables and other perishable produce by helping them access distant markets while reducing transit times and post-harvest losses.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced the airport project in June 2024, underlining its potential to improve connectivity, facilitate agricultural and horticultural exports, and accelerate economic development in the Kuppam region. Its proposed cargo-oriented role assumes significance as Rayalaseema seeks to expand horticulture despite water constraints and recurring fluctuations in farm-gate prices.

The proposed Global Horticulture Hub aims to strengthen the horticulture value chain through investments in production, infrastructure, processing and marketing. If supported by dedicated cargo-handling facilities, suitable cold-chain infrastructure and reliable links to domestic and international logistics networks, the Kuppam airport could become an important component of this broader strategy.Unlike conventional passenger connectivity, air cargo operations could offer a specialised advantage for high-value, time-sensitive commodities, particularly cut flowers and select fruits and vegetables.

A fifth of Mumbai's open space is with elite clubs. Public access soon?

Mumbai (Agency).

Mumbai's gymkhanas on government land may soon have to pay market-rate rent, revised every five years, and a minimum licence fee of Rs 1.5 lakh for every event they host, a state committee has recommended. The panel also wants the government to be able to hold its own programmes on the premises, use the grounds during disasters or elections, and open the clubs to people who aren't members.The recommendations follow six months of inspections that, sources said, found illegal construction at several clubs, including an extension that blocked a building's emergency exit, and banquets, concerts and conferences held without the district collector's knowledge. The committee submitted its fact-finding report to the state revenue department



last month.

What the panel found

Nine teams of government officials visited each of the gymkhanas several times over the past six months, multiple sources told The Indian Express. Many clubs, they said, had altered their premises without approval, in violation of their lease and licence agreements. In one gymkhana, inspectors found that an additional swimming pool and restaurant area had been built. In another, part of the premises had been extended in a way that blocked the building's emergency exit, the sources said.Officials also said many clubs regularly rent out their premises for wedding banquets, concerts and private conferences. Sources alleged that much of this income is kept off the books so that more of the revenue stays with club members."The larger objective behind setting up the Gymkhanas was to promote a culture of sports. However, it has been observed that these Gymkhanas have become largely a recreational hub. Sporting events have not been held in many of these Gymkhanas for a very long time.

Tyre-melting factory smoke row turns violent, owner beaten to death in UP

Lucknow(Agency).

A mob protesting against smoke and pollution from a tyre-melting recycling factory in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur allegedly turned violent, killing its 38-year-old owner and injuring his business partner. The factory, which extracts oil and carbon by melting waste tyres, had been run for the last two years by Shamli native Arbeen Chauhan.According to the police, the violence erupted late Friday night when a group of residents from Kallarheri and neighbouring Sinauli villages arrived at the factory located outside Kallarheri village. The group demanded the unit be shut down, claiming the plant's heavy smoke caused respiratory problems among locals.The factory guard, Kishan Singh, was on duty when the group arrived, verbally abused him, and demanded the plant be closed. Singh phoned Chauhan, who arrived shortly after with his relative and business partner, Sadiq.Chauhan tried to reason with the group, but a heated argument escalated into violence. The accused allegedly attacked Chauhan and Sadiq with iron rods, sticks, and batons. The mob also allegedly smashed the windows of the owner's vehicle before fleeing the scene before the arrival of the police.The police rushed the injured factory owners, Arbeen Chauhan and Sadiq, along with an injured villager to the hospital. Chauhan later succumbed to injuries.Following a complaint lodged by the factory guard, Saharanpur police registered an FIR against 11 people at the Gangoh police station on charges including murder, rioting, attempt



to murder, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace, and mischief."We have arrested three persons in the case, and efforts are on to catch the others," said Shailendra Pratap Gautam, Circle Officer, Saharanpur.Circle Officer Gautam noted that one of the accused belongs to the family of the Kallarheri village Pradhan. He added that the injured villager undergoing treatment at the hospital is also named as an accused and remains in police custody."We have not earlier received any complaint about a dispute between the villagers and the factory owner. Villagers had also never earlier raised any problem about smoke emanating from the factory," Gautam added.

Pollution board and local responses

The factory is situated outside Kallarheri village and has operated for two years. Regional Officer of the UP Pollution Control Board, Saharanpur, Yogendra Kumar, confirmed that the unit was operating legally."It was operating after completing all formalities, and there is no residential house within a 1-km radius of the premises. We have not received any complaint earlier regarding.

Sonar, torpedoes, guarding coasts: Navy commissions indigenous INS Mangrol

Mumbai(Agency).

INS Mangrol, the third vessel in the Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) series, was commissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai Monday, strengthening the Indian Navy's ability to detect and counter enemy submarines in shallow coastal waters.Designed to operate in shallow and confined waters where larger warships may face limitations, the indigenously built vessel will help protect ports, harbours, and coastal approaches against underwater threats.Built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, INS Mangrol is equipped with advanced sonar, lightweight torpedoes and other anti-submarine systems that enable it to detect, track, and counter hostile submarines. With more than 80 per cent indigenous content, the vessel also reflects the Navy's push to strengthen domestic capabilities in warship construction and defence technology.During the commissioning ceremony, Vice Admiral Vatsayan said the Navy had commissioned 10 ships in 2026, with another eight expected to enter service by the end of the year."Our fleet currently comprises 151 platforms, including 131 ships and 20 submarines," he said."We currently have 42 ships under construction at Indian shipyards, while Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) has been accorded for another 69 ships, six submarines and 120 Fast Interceptor Craft. With these additions, our fleet is projected to grow to more than 170 platforms over the next few years, with a new ship being commissioned every 40 to 50 days. By 2034, approximately 60 per cent of our platforms are expected to be less than 10 years old on average," Vatsayan said.

Advanced sonar, torpedoes for underwater threats

The induction of the Mahe-class vessels is part of the Navy's efforts to bolster its coastal anti-submarine warfare capabilities and replace the ageing Abhay-class



corvettes, which entered service between 1989 and 1991.Their shallow-water design is intended to address the specific challenges of detecting and responding to submarines operating close to the coast, including around strategically important ports and maritime infrastructure.INS Mangrol is equipped with the Abhay hull-mounted sonar, lightweight torpedoes, an indigenous anti-submarine rocket launcher and the Mareech Advanced Torpedo Decoy System. Together, these systems help the ship detect and track underwater threats, engage hostile submarines, and deploy countermeasures against incoming torpedoes.Powered by three diesel engines and fitted with waterjet propulsion, the ship has high manoeuvrability, making it suitable for operations in shallow and confined waters. Beyond anti-submarine warfare, it can conduct underwater surveillance, low-intensity maritime operations, and mine warfare tasks.It can also work alongside maritime patrol aircraft, helicopters and other naval vessels to strengthen surveillance and anti-submarine operations.

NEWS BOX

After 19 seasons, Maharashtra's Ankit Bawne is still alive and chasing India dream

PUDUCHERRY. (Agency)

He swept Services left-arm spinner Arjun Sharma for a boundary, took off his helmet and let out a roar. Ankit Bawne pointed his bat towards someone in the dressing room, celebrating his hundred with an intensity reminiscent of Virat Kohli. It was the opening day of the new Ranji Trophy season, and the 33-year-old Maharashtra batter had just scored his 25th first-class century. He had celebrated hundreds before, but this one meant a little more. After a season that left him questioning his place in the game, Bawne had something to prove, if only to himself.The weather was pleasant at the Air Force Cricket Ground in Palam, Delhi, but the conditions were hardly conducive to free-flowing batting. The ball kept low, the pitch offered uneven bounce and Services' experienced bowlers made life difficult for Maharashtra. Every ten minutes, planes taking off from the nearby Indira Gandhi International Airport flew over the ground,

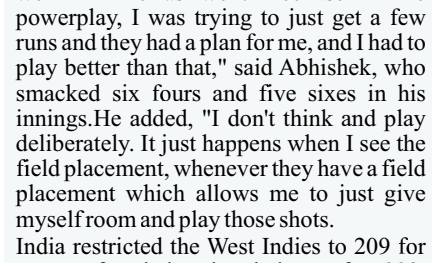


their engines drowning out the sounds of cricket. Through it all, Bawne remained composed, collecting singles and resisting the temptation to force the pace. When he finally reached three figures, however, the emotions came pouring out.

Ranji Trophy 2026-27: Day 1 roundup

Maharashtra finished the opening day at 287 for five, with Bawne contributing an unbeaten 105. Prithvi Shaw had provided the early impetus with a brisk 70, but it was Bawne who ensured Maharashtra had a strong platform despite the difficult conditions. For a batter who had spent nearly two decades making his way through the domestic circuit, this was more than a good start to a new season. It was a reminder of why he had stayed.

West Indies had a plan for me, but I had to play better than that: Abhishek Sharma



INDORE. (Agency)

India opener Abhishek Sharma said he had to find ways to counter the West Indies' plans against him after smashing a 30-ball 69 to power India to a 14-run win in the third T20I here.India took a 2-1 lead in the five-match series with Abhishek's quickfire knock, his 108-run stand for the second wicket with Ishan Kishan (37), and Arshdeep Singh's 3/44 setting up the victory in the third game here on Sunday.

Abhishek said the West Indies opening with off-spinner Roston Chase and their field placement on the off side prompted him to explore more scoring options.

"I wouldn't say it was deliberate, but it was there in my mind that they had a plan against me," Abhishek told reporters after the match when asked about his off-side strokes.(With the) off-spinner bowling against me, it was just a battle between him and me."I gave him respect in the first over because he is bowling really well in this series, so it is just the plan that went pretty well for me as well. Because in the powerplay, I was trying to just get a few runs and they had a plan for me, and I had to play better than that," said Abhishek, who smacked six fours and five sixes in his innings.He added, "I don't think and play deliberately. It just happens when I see the field placement, whenever they have a field placement which allows me to just give myself room and play those shots.

India restricted the West Indies to 209 for seven after being bowled out for 223. Abhishek said India wanted to be ruthless against the Caribbean side. West Indies is such a team that you can never say that the match is now on our side. This was on our mind because we saw in the last match that whichever batsman comes in, (with) the conditions that we have here, it is very easy for them to take the match to their side.

How Churchill Brothers raced against time to stun two-time ISL champions Mumbai City

Churchill Brothers had just 25 days of training before their maiden Indian Super League campaign, with late arrivals and visa delays adding to the challenge. They began with a 2-1 win over two-time champions Mumbai City FC at Fatorda.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Churchill Brothers had barely found their feet in the Indian Super League before they were asked to take on one of its established names.Three and a half weeks. That was roughly how much time the Goan club had to prepare for its return to the top tier of Indian football. Their preparations were rushed, their squad was still coming together and some of their foreign recruits had arrived only days before the season began.On Sunday evening, they faced Mumbai City FC, a two-time ISL champion, with a far more settled set-up. By the end of the night, Churchill had beaten them 2-1 at Fatorda, with Gaurav Bora and Sebastian Gutierrez scoring the goals that made their first appearance in the competition one to remember.

There was no guarantee that the work squeezed into those few weeks would be enough against Mumbai City's experience and they predictably controlled much of the first half and created the better openings. Churchill had to stay patient, keep their shape and wait for opportunities to come their way. They did exactly that after the break.

FROM TAKEOVER TO TEAM SHEET IN WEEKS

Churchill's route into the ISL was far from straightforward. In August, the Goan club acquired Jamshedpur FC's operating company from Tata Steel for a token Rs 100, taking over the contracts of 12 players and two coaches. That gave Churchill a way into the competition, but there was still a team to prepare for the season ahead.The transfer meant Churchill were not starting entirely



from scratch. Even so, getting ready for their first ISL campaign was a race against time. Some of their foreign recruits arrived late, while others were still awaiting visas.

With the opening fixture approaching, the club had to bring its players together and get them ready to compete.

Coach Dimitris Dimitriou knew just how much ground his side had to cover. In close to four weeks, Churchill squeezed in around 37 to 38 training sessions before taking on Mumbai City, a club far more accustomed to the demands of the ISLThose sessions had to cover the usual work of a pre-season, from fitness and tactical preparation to getting players accustomed to one another. But Churchill could not afford the luxury of a long build-up like they were easing into the season against an opponent of similar experience.Their first examination would come against a side coached by Manolo Marquez, who had previously worked with FC Goa and was even the Indian national team head coach, which means he knew Indian football inside out..

Naman Dhir and the making of India's next three-dimensional cricketer

Indore. (Agency)

Naman Dhir's emergence as a genuine threat with the ball presents an exciting opportunity for Indian cricket. In a format increasingly dominated by big-hitting, the 26-year-old from Ambala has shown the tenacity to become a genuine wicket-taking option. While his batting exploits first brought him into the spotlight, his off-spin could be what makes him a particularly valuable prospect for India's white-ball future.Dhir first came into the spotlight when Mumbai Indians picked him up for Rs 20 lakh ahead of the 2024 IPL season. He was primarily known for his batting, but the franchise believed in his potential enough to bring him back the following year by exercising its Right-to-Match card at Rs 5.25, underlining the faith Mumbai Indians had in his ability.

IND vs WI 2nd T20I: Highlights | Scorecard

His batting credentials received further validation in the Sher-E-Punjab



tournament, Punjab's T20 league, where he finished the 2026 season as the leading run-scorer. Representing the Amritsar Soormas, led by his India teammate Abhishek Sharma, Dhir amassed 655 runs in 10 matches. One of those innings was a remarkable 173, which came close to breaking the record for the highest individual score in the competition.

The numbers established Dhir as a quality batter capable of holding his own in the big leagues. But his bowling during India's ongoing T20I series against the West Indies has added another dimension to his game, one that could make him far more than just a middle-order power-hitter.

MORE THAN A BATTER

India's victories in Lucknow and Indore have offered two different illustrations of Dhir's ability with the ball. His performances have stood out even in a bowling attack featuring established names such as Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel.On his T20I debut in Lucknow, Dhir returned figures of 3/31 in his four overs. The conditions were not quite the batting paradise many had anticipated, but he showed the ingenuity to make an impact in a packed bowling attack. To do so on debut made the performance all the more impressive.

Abhishek Sharma's power comes with a plan, Dinesh Karthik explains why

New Delhi. (Agency)

Abhishek Sharma's fearless approach has made him one of the most destructive openers in T20 cricket, but Dinesh Karthik believes the left-hander is adding another dimension to his game. The former India wicketkeeper has praised the India opener's growing awareness and consistency, saying his ability to combine



aggression with smart decision-making sets him apart.Speaking on Cricbuzz after Abhishek's explosive knock against the West Indies in Indore, Karthik highlighted how the opener has evolved beyond power-hitting to become a consistent threat across conditions.

IND vs WI, 3rd T20I: Highlights | Scorecard

o;//"He's a fantastic opener. In him, India have someone who is extremely destructive against any attack. He can take it on in the big moments as well," Karthik said.He's got the skills, he's got the shots, and now he's become a consistent scorer of runs at that strike rate, which is what makes him so special," he added.

HOW ABHISHEK SHARMA SCRIPTED HISTORY VS WI

Abhishek smashed 69 off just 30 balls, including six fours and five sixes, as India posted 223 all out at the Holkar Stadium. His 108-run stand with Ishan Kishan, who made 37 off 18 balls.

Denied US visas, U23 wrestlers may get trials for Senior Worlds

CHENNAI. (Agency)

A couple of Greco-Roman wrestlers, who missed out on a chance to compete at the U23 World Championships due to non-issuance of visas by the US Embassy on grounds of age and employment status, may get an opportunity to make it to the senior Worlds squad by competing in selection trials. Women wrestlers, too, may get a similar opportunity if the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) are unable to procure their visas for the USA event. A decision in this regard will be taken by the federation on Monday.The U23 Worlds is scheduled in Las Vegas, USA from October 12 to 18 while the Senior World Championships will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan from October 24 to November 1.A total of five men Greco-Roman and as



many women wrestlers were refused visas by the Embassy a few days ago. Two out of five GR wrestlers — Samarth Gajanan Mhakave (60kg) and Dheeraj Kumar Malik (77kg) — are now in line to compete against selected wrestlers in their respective weight categories for the Worlds. "Harsh from Delhi and Luvepreet Singh of RSPB won the trials held to select the team for the senior World Championships in 60kg and 77kg respectively. The WFI will have a discussion and if a consensus is reached then each of these two wrestlers will be asked to compete in a bout for final selection," a WFI official told this daily.

Notably, Sumit Dalal and Aman represented the country in 60kg and 77kg, respectively at the 2026 Asian Games. Both returned without a medal from Japan even as other two Greco-Roman wrestlers, Nitesh Siwach (97kg) and Sunil Kumar (87kg) won a silver and a bronze, respectively. Two others in the national squad were withdrawn before the event because of alleged doping violations.

In the women's category, 50kg and 62kg weight categories could have selection trials. Parveen and Neha were selected for the U23 Worlds but so far, they have not been granted visas.

APL gaining more traction after archers' historic show at Asiad: APL chief Kamineni

Surge in viewership, interest from sponsors are few of the parameters the Director and Chairman of league has observed

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Season two of the Archery Premier League (APL) in Hyderabad could not have come at a better time. Just after Indian archers made history at the Asian Games by winning five gold medals in Japan, the league, filled with top-class players, has been gaining attention. Director and chairman of the league, Anil Kamineni, cannot be more happier than he is today with how the league is performing on all metrics.But this time last-year the story was completely different as Kamineni and his team set out to attract more people into the sport. A first in the world of archery, season one of APL featured 48 archers in six eight-member teams. Top international stars like 2024 gold medallist Elia Canales and World No 1 Ella Gibson also participated. The key objective was to set a base for the forthcoming season.

"The results of these recent Asian Games have shown that we are all going in the right direction as far as archery in India is concerned. And APL is also one of the reasons why it has helped us," he told this daily. While acknowledging the contribution of the Archery Association of India and the coaches, Kamineni believed competition against top-level archers and a reduced shot clock in the inaugural season has helped them do away with pressure. "Our objective was to make sure that they don't feel the pressure. Being with these international archers for so many days, training and shooting with them has helped them. And then easing the pressure by getting used to the 15-second shot clock has helped them too. So these two things have helped our archers very much and they also feel the same way," he explained.The 15-second shot clock is



something that archers have taken a liking to. This season, sudden-death rounds have brought excitement among fans and archers. Kamineni said that the league will keep exploring for ideas. "We are always thinking on how to make the league more exciting to the audience and tougher for the archers also. There are slight tweaks in the shootouts and teams get to name substitutes for each round," he said.

Kamineni also said that potential sponsors are in the waiting and expected more from next season. "Sponsors were decided much earlier than the Asian Games. But after it concluded, a lot of them have shown interest. I'm sure that having seen what our archers are doing and how it's becoming popular, I expect more sponsors in the coming season," he said.While Kamineni acknowledged the surge in TV viewership from last year, he stressed on the importance of popularising the sport by bringing children from remote and tribal areas to the stadium. "That is the most important thing. Even our anthem says 'Aao Banaye Archery Ko Mahan' (Come, let's make archery great). We hope they get inspired from it and down the line as we go, we hope to see more youngsters come into the league. This season, we have around 13-14 new players in the league. That should continue next season as well because they can improve their standards by playing with the top internationals," he said.

Nushrratt Bharuccha

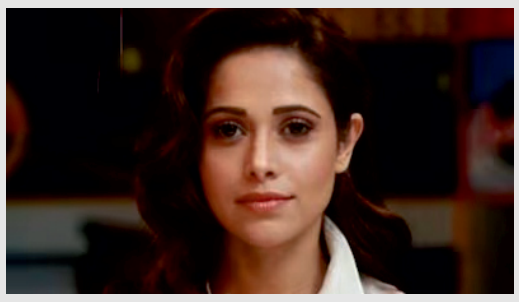
Shares First Update After Spine Fracture: 'Picture Abhi Baaki Hai Mere Dost'



Nushrratt Bharuccha has shared her first social media update since suffering a spinal fracture in an accident in Bali earlier this month. The actress, who was subsequently brought back to Mumbai for further treatment, posted a photograph from what appears to be her hospital room on Saturday, offering fans a glimpse into her recovery.The Instagram Story shows an empty reclining wheelchair placed by a large window as the sun sets outside. Without going into the specifics of her treatment, Nushrratt accompanied the image with a brief note about how her perspective had changed since the accident.The post marks Nushrratt's first personal update since news of her injury emerged.

Nushrratt Bharuccha Suffered A Spinal Fracture In Bali

Nushrratt had travelled to Bali for a work commitment that later extended into a work-cum-holiday trip when she met with an accident. Her team subsequently confirmed that she had suffered a fracture in her spine and was admitted to a hospital in Bali under medical observation.An official statement from her publicist had said that doctors were evaluating her condition and that arrangements were being made to bring her back to India for further treatment."At present, our immediate priority is her health and ensuring she receives the necessary medical care," her team had said, while requesting privacy for the actress during her recovery.The nature and exact severity of the spinal fracture have not been publicly disclosed.



Nushrratt Was Airlifted Back To Mumbai

Nushrratt was flown from Bali to Mumbai in an air ambulance on October 2 after receiving initial treatment and stabilisation overseas.Videos from her arrival subsequently surfaced online, showing the actress being taken from an ambulance on a stretcher. Family members and friends were seen accompanying her as she was moved into a Mumbai hospital for further medical care.

Her publicist had earlier said that Nushrratt would undergo spine surgery in Mumbai following further evaluation by doctors. Her team also indicated that the injury and subsequent recovery would affect some of her professional commitments over the following weeks.No detailed medical update regarding the surgery or a timeline for her discharge has been publicly shared so far.

Sanjay Dutt Admits He Ignored His Instincts In 1993 Arms Case: 'The Mistakes Were Mine'



Sanjay Dutt has spoken candidly about the decision that led to his arrest in 1993 and eventually resulted in his conviction under the Arms Act. Appearing on Shekhar Tonite with Shekhar Suman, the actor admitted that he had sensed something was wrong before agreeing to keep the firearms but ignored that instinct after convincing himself that holding on to them for a few days would not cause any trouble.Sanjay was arrested in April 1993 for illegally possessing prohibited weapons, including an AK-56 rifle, following the investigation into the Mumbai serial bomb blasts. He was later convicted under the Arms Act and ultimately served a five-year sentence.Looking back at the episode, Sanjay said he takes responsibility for his decision.Sanjay Dutt Says His 'Heart' Had Warned HimDuring the conversation, Sanjay drew a distinction between what his instinct had told him at the time and how he eventually rationalised the decision.

"The mistakes were mine. If your heart tells you something, you should listen to it. If your mind tells you something, don't accept it too quickly," he said.According to Sanjay, he had reservations when he first saw what he was being asked to keep."When that incident happened and I saw what was involved, my heart told me not to do it. But my mind said, 'Keep it for a week. What's the harm in that?'"The actor said he did not understand then how severe the legal consequences could become."I had absolutely no idea what the consequences could be. I often say every person who lives in any country should know the laws of the land," Sanjay said.

His remarks came as he revisited one of the most turbulent periods of his life, which eventually led to a legal battle lasting more than two decades.

'I Had To Be Strong For My Father'

Sanjay also recalled being handcuffed in front of his father, actor and politician Sunil Dutt, after the police arrived.For Sanjay, one of the most difficult parts of that moment was watching his father react to what was happening.

Vicky Kaushal Mocked After Pic With Katrina Kaif Goes Viral, Fans Ask 'Trolling Only Reserved For His Wife?'



Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif are in London as the actress celebrates one year of her beauty brand, Kay Beauty, in the UK. The couple was recently spotted posing with a fan, and a photo of the two has now gone viral on social media. However, it is Vicky's changed appearance that has caught everyone's attention.

The actor sported a thick beard, glasses and a cap, looking noticeably different from his usual appearance. His new look has prompted speculation online, with some wondering if he is preparing for his upcoming film Mahavatar.The photo has surfaced days after Katrina faced body-shaming comments over her appearance at a recent event. Now, Vicky is also facing comments about his looks, with some Reddit users pointing out the contrast between the reactions to the couple.

Vicky Kaushal, Katrina Kaif Spotted In London

The photo was shared by a fan page on X and shows Vicky and Katrina posing with a fan on a London street. Katrina kept her look simple in an oversized grey jacket and white shirt, with her hair tied back and minimal make-up. Vicky, meanwhile, wore a grey sweatshirt, a cap and glasses. His thick beard and fuller appearance made him look different from his usual self.

Katrina was in London to mark one year of Kay Beauty in the UK. The actress co-founded the beauty brand with Nykaa, and the anniversary celebrations included an event at Space NK's flagship store in Oxford Circus.

Reddit Reacts To Vicky Kaushal's New Look

Reddit users had mixed reactions to Vicky Kaushal's new look. One user joked, "Did Vicky forget to pack his shaving kit or what," while another said he looked like filmmaker Shoojit Sircar. Some also slammed his appearance. However, others pointed out the double standards in how Vicky and Katrina are judged for their looks. One user wrote, "No one will troll Vicky for his looks now tho.

Kangana Ranaut

Targets CJP Protesters Demanding Gyanesh Kumar's Resignation: 'Anti-National Forces'



Actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut has accused protesters demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation of being part of what she called "anti-national forces". Speaking to the media in Lucknow on Saturday, Kangana alleged that a conspiracy was underway to destabilise the country and said ordinary citizens were also beginning to question the protesters.

Her remarks came as the Delhi Police detained thousands of people ahead of a planned protest by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) at Jantar Mantar on October 10. The protest was called over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

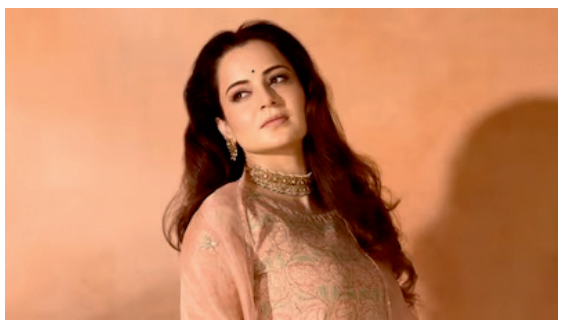
Kangana Ranaut Calls Protesters 'Anti-National Forces'

Kangana was asked about the police action against protesters during her arrival in Lucknow. The actor, who represents Mandi in Parliament, claimed that people were now recognising those involved in the demonstrations and questioning their actions.

"Look at how people are now exposing these anti-national forces. Leave the police aside, now ordinary people too will catch them and demand answers from them because people have started recognising them."Kangana was travelling to Ayodhya, where she said she planned to visit the Ram temple and offer prayers to Ram Lalla. She also said that forces were working to protect the country, while stressing that care should be taken to ensure citizens were not inconvenienced.

Why Is The CJP Protesting Against Gyanesh Kumar?

The CJP has demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities linked to the SIR of electoral rolls. The group has raised concerns about alleged wrongful deletions of voters and called for greater transparency in the revision process.The organisation had called for a large protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on October 10. However, police detained key members of its leadership before they could reach the planned venue.



The police action extended beyond the party's leadership. Thousands of people were detained across Delhi on Saturday, including students, lawyers and politicians. Most were released later in the day.

NEWS BOX

Man named Hitler Mussolini elected mayor in Peru, draws global attention

World.(Agency)

Despite winning an election to represent a district of fewer than 1,000 people, a Peruvian politician has attracted international attention because his name combines the forenames of two of history's most notorious fascist dictators — Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

Hitler Mussolini SimeÃ³n Flores, 45, won the mayoral election in Queropalca, a remote Andean district in Peru's Hunuco department, by a narrow margin, contesting on the ticket of the centre-left Ahora NaciÃ³n party.Flores secured 229 votes, accounting for 34.5 per cent of the 663 valid ballots cast, according to election results. His closest rival, Gaspar Benilde Osorio Zambrano of the right-wing Popular Renewal Peru party, received 204 votes, giving Flores a lead of just 25 votes.Queropalca, located in the province of Lauricocha, has an estimated population of just over 730, according to official data from 2024.

The district lies around 360 km (224 miles) from the capital, Lima.His unusual name has turned an otherwise low-profile local election into a subject of international curiosity. Peruvian outlet Peru21 described his candidacy as striking because his forenames are shared with "two of the most well-known figures of 20th-Century European totalitarian regimes".

NOT THE FIRST PERUVIAN POLITICIAN NAMED HITLER

Flores is not the first politician in Peru to attract attention because of a name associated with the Nazi dictator.

Captain Smit Machchhar to get Israel civilian heroism award after flight ordeal

Jerusalem.(Agency)

Israeli President Isaac Herzog has invited Captain Smit Machchhar to Israel to honour him with the Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism after he was injured while trying to stop his co-pilot from allegedly attempting to hijack a flydubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv, his office said on Saturday.Machchhar, an Indian national, was hurt during the mid-air incident on September 30. The aircraft, carrying 174 passengers and six crew members, was diverted to Tabuk in Saudi Arabia. Despite being seriously injured, he managed to open the cockpit door, allowing passengers and crew to overpower the co-pilot and avert a possible catastrophe. All passengers reached Israel safely later that day.

"Once Captain Machchhar regains strength, it will be my honour to award him, on behalf of the people of Israel, the State of Israel's Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism," a statement from the President's office quoted Herzog as saying. The honour for Machchhar would be a rare distinction for a non-Israeli.

Herzog announced the decision earlier this week at a ceremony honouring six Israeli citizens who were on board the flight with the same award.In a letter dated October 4, Herzog expressed "deep gratitude" for Machchhar's "exceptional courage and determination" in steering the flydubai aircraft to safety and averting a "catastrophe". "While the unfolding of events reads like a thriller, one can only imagine the true sense of terror and grave urgency that overwhelmed the cockpit as you struggled midair for your very being," he wrote. The letter did not mention the President's intention to confer the award on him.

4 dead, 6,70,000 without power as Hurricane Isaias batters southeast US

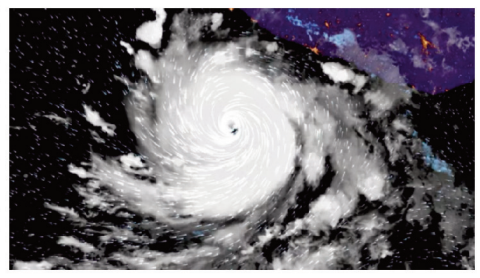
- Hurricane Isaias struck Florida and swept across the US Southeast, leaving four people dead and widespread outages. Even as the storm weakened, officials warned of flooding, tornadoes and prolonged disruption to power and transport.

World.(Agency)

Four people died after Hurricane Isaias made landfall early on Saturday, and about 670,000 residents in Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi were still without power as the storm weakened to a post-tropical cyclone, according to local authorities and electricity monitoring services.

Two of the deaths resulted from trees falling on homes, according to local media and authorities.Authorities in Florida had received no search and rescue requests shortly after landfall in a sign of limited impact, Governor Ron DeSantis said. But hazardous conditions remained and storm surges, flash flooding, damaging winds and a risk of tornadoes across parts of the US Southeast were expected, the National Hurricane Center said.The tornado threat is expected to continue on Saturday across parts of the Florida Panhandle, Georgia and the Carolinas, the NHC said.In Florida, power restoration was marked as a priority, authorities said, while highways, bridges and airports were reopening, and teams were assessing the damage.

"They're going to make assessments this morning, and I think that'll give us a good sense about the future for the rapidity of the power restoration," DeSantis told a press conference in Tallahassee. Some



16,000 utility linemen had prepared to respond to the storm, he said.

About 420,000 customers in Florida, 190,000 in Alabama, 43,000 in Georgia and 17,000 in Mississippi had no power as of midday Saturday, according to tracking firm PowerOutage.us.A separate storm on the Pacific Ocean, Rachel, was moving toward the coast of northern Baja California on Saturday, bringing wind gusts and increased tides, which left another 7,000 people without power in California.Alabama's emergency management agency said the downed trees and power lines made travel hazardous in Houston County, which is under a flash flood warning."Due to the impacts of Hurricane Isaias, all Houston County roads are closed until further notice," it posted on X.

A category 2 hurricane when it hit Florida's coast and the first of the 2026 Atlantic season, Isaias is expected to produce gusty winds well inland before weakening below gale force later on Saturday, the NHC said.On Saturday, oil and gas producer Shell SHEL.L said it was beginning to redeploy personnel to its Mars, Olympus, Ursa, Vito and Appomattox assets in the Gulf, whileChevron CVX.

Atlantic or Pacific to be renamed Trump Ocean? US President floats idea

World.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump has floated the idea of renaming either the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean as 'Trump Ocean' or 'Ocean of the Americas,' extending his push to put an American imprint on geographical names.

Trump made the remarks during a campaign rally in Clarksville, Tennessee, on Saturday, October 10, while speaking ahead of the November 3 midterm elections."We need a river. We need an ocean," Trump told the crowd, suggesting that either of the two oceans could be given a new name. "We call it 'Trump Ocean' or 'Ocean of the Americas,' something like that," he said, drawing laughter and applause, The Washington Post reported.Trump's comments came after he referred to his earlier decisions to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America and Lake Ontario as Lake America.

According to The Washington Post, the US President also suggested that he wanted an ocean and a major river to be renamed before leaving office."Before I get out, I think we should have an ocean. And we need a great river," Trump said, according to the newspaper.



A report by Fox News suggests that Trump floated the idea during a wide-ranging rally that combined campaign appeals with remarks on the economy, foreign policy and his administration's domestic agenda. Musician Kid Rock opened the rally before Trump addressed the crowd.

TRUMP'S EARLIER RENAMING MOVES

Trump renamed the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America last year, a move that sparked diplomatic tensions with Mexico and a dispute with the Associated Press over the use of the new name.

The news agency refused to adopt the name universally, prompting a legal battle with the administration over access to presidential events, The Washington Post reported.

In August, Trump also renamed Lake Ontario, which lies between the US state of New York and Canada, as Lake America. The move came amid tensions with Canadian leaders over trade and tariffs, the newspaper said.The President has also floated the idea of renaming the US state of New Mexico as 'New America'. Last month, he suggested the change, although he later said it would be up to the state's residents to decide whether to pursue it.

12 dead, 300 injured in Houthi strike on Riyadh airport; Trump calls it terrible

World.(Agency)

A third attack on Riyadh's international airport in a week killed at least 12 people and injured 309 on Saturday, Saudi authorities said, as Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for the strike, marking a major escalation in their campaign against the kingdom.The Saudi civil aviation authority said the dead included four Saudi nationals, two people from Bangladesh and one each from the United States, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Sudan and Egypt. Hospitals were overwhelmed with casualties arriving by ambulance and helicopter, with some of the injured in critical



condition, people briefed on the matter said.The attack came without warning, and Saudi Arabia's threat warning system did not issue an alert. The two earlier attacks on King Khalid International Airport this week killed four people and heavily damaged a Saudi commercial aircraft parked on the tarmac.Reacting to reports of the latest attack, Trump called it "terrible" and described the Saudis as "good fighters", while saying Washington was weighing its options.When asked whether Washington planned to join Saudi Arabia's strikes on the Houthis, the US President said, "We may. We're going to look at it. We just found out about the recent attack, so we'll make a decision. We move very quickly."

Three Indian survivors of Black Sea cargo ship attack leave for home

London.(Agency)

Three Indian nationals rescued from the Turkish-owned cargo vessel MV Royad Mammadov after it was attacked in the Black Sea earlier this week have left for India, the Indian Embassy in Bucharest said on Saturday.The mission said the three men — Sahil Sandhu, Ashwini Kumar and Harman Singh — departed for India on Saturday after receiving support from the embassy. The vessel, carrying corn from Ukraine's Izmail port to Ravenna in Italy, was struck on Monday while sailing in the Black Sea outside Romania's territorial waters.

In a statement, the embassy said, "Three Indian nationals, Shri Sahil Sandhu, Shri Ashwini Kumar and Shri Harman Singh, departed for India today (Saturday)." It added, "The Embassy provided all necessary support and assistance to facilitate their return. We express our sincere gratitude to the Romanian authorities, Constana County Hospital, and the Romanian rescue teams for their invaluable assistance, cooperation and support."Two foreign seafarers were killed in the attack and several crew members were injured. All three Indian nationals survived. One of them was injured and received medical treatment in Romania. The nationality of those killed was not immediately known.

The embassy had said on October 7 that its representative visited the three Indian nationals rescued on October 6 from the vessel in the Black Sea. Two were accommodated in a hotel, while the third was undergoing treatment at the County Hospital in Constanta. The mission had said all three were in stable condition. It also said it had facilitated essential items, including mobile phones, through the shipping company's local agent, while arranging Indian food through a local Indian restaurant. The embassy said it remained in close contact with the concerned authorities and continued to extend all necessary support.

According to the BIMCO-ICS Seafarer Workforce Report 2026, India has emerged as the world's second-largest supplier of seafarers, contributing 311,936 maritime professionals to the global shipping industry. The report estimates that India now accounts for 12.16 per cent of the global seafaring workforce, behind only the Philippines and ahead of China, the Russian Federation and Indonesia. The latest development in Romania marks the return home of the three Indian survivors after the Black Sea attack.

Man mauled to death by tiger after jumping into enclosure at UK wildlife park

World.(Agency)

A man was killed after entering a tiger enclosure at Yorkshire Wildlife Park in England and being attacked by the animal, South Yorkshire Police said on Saturday.

Police said they received reports at 1.35 pm that a man had entered the enclosure at the wildlife park near Doncaster. The attack resulted in serious injuries, and the man was pronounced dead at the scene despite efforts by medical personnel."Emergency services attended and sadly, despite the best efforts of medical personnel, the man was pronounced dead at the scene," South Yorkshire Police said in a statement.

"The man's family is aware and is being supported by specialist officers. Our thoughts are with them at this distressing time," the force said.

NO WIDER RISK TO PUBLIC: COPS

Addressing rumours about the tiger's condition, police said the animal was uninjured and remained inside the enclosure after the incident.

"Regarding rumours surrounding the condition of the tiger, the animal was uninjured and remained in the enclosure following the incident and there is no wider risk to the public," the force said.Police also acknowledged videos of the incident circulating online and urged people not to share the footage.

"We are aware of videos circulating online and we would encourage people not to share this distressing footage," the force said.

WILDLIFE PARK CLOSED AFTER INCIDENT

Yorkshire Wildlife Park was evacuated



following the incident and will remain closed until Sunday.The park said its emergency response procedures had been activated immediately and emergency services had attended the scene. It is working with the authorities to establish what happened."The safety and wellbeing of our visitors, staff and animals remain our highest priority," the wildlife park said in a statement on its website.

Christa Pike, who survived botched execution, back in prison after hospital stay

- Christa Pike, sentenced to death for a 1995 murder, awoke 'angry and confused' in the hospital this week with a long recuperation ahead after surviving the attempted execution on September 30, her lawyers said on Wednesday.

World.(Agency)

Death row inmate Christa Pike was released from a US hospital on Saturday and sent back to prison where she will continue receiving medical care following her botched execution attempt in Tennessee, her attorneys said.

Pike was discharged from a local hospital and is now at the Debra K Johnson Rehabilitation Center, where she has been housed for more than 30 years, said attorneys Stephen Ferrell and Luke Ihnen from Federal Defender Services of Eastern Tennessee, and Randy Spivey and Kelly Gleason from the Tennessee Office of the Post Conviction Defender in a joint release.Pike, sentenced to



death for a 1995 murder, awoke "angry and confused" in the hospital this week with a long recuperation ahead after surviving the attempted execution on September 30, her lawyers said on Wednesday. They previously believed she could be brain-dead.Pike, 50, had been taken from the execution chamber to a Nashville hospital, unconscious, critically ill and with severe arm injuries after two injections failed to kill her at the Riverbend Maximum Security Institution.A Tennessee judge this week ordered state officials to preserve all evidence related to their failed attempt to execute her, a development one of her lawyers called the "first of many steps to preserve and enforce her constitutional rights."Tennessee Governor Bill Lee suspended all executions for the rest of the year while investigators look into the botched execution .