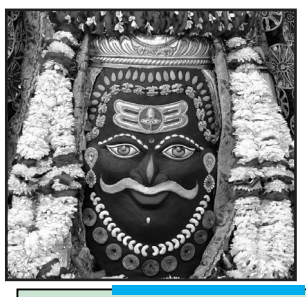
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Karnataka to GST Council: Share revenue with local bodies

New Delhi. (Agency)

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that the Karnataka government would submit a proposal to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council to share GST revenue with rural and urban local bodies. He said the government would take necessary steps to improve the financial position of gram panchayats and further strengthen decentralised governance.The CM said that the State Government had taken note of the decline in gram panchayat revenue following the withdrawal of their power to levy taxes on industries by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB). The law allows 30% of the property tax collected by the authority to be shared with gram panchayats. He directed officials to provide complete details of the property tax collected by the authority so far and the amount distributed to gram panchayats.

Speaking at a meeting of the Karnataka State Decentralisation Planning and Development Committee on Wednesday, the CM said a committee would be constituted under the chairmanship of the RDPR Minister Eshwar B Khandre to examine the recommendations of the Fifth State Finance Commission on fund allocation and administrative reforms.

'Hallmark of Modi govt is to silence victims': Rahul on detention of Ankita Bhandari's parents

Karnataka. (Agency).

"Yesterday, Priyanka and I met these parents. Even before the results of that investigation came in, the appointment was rushed, and the parents asking questions were picked up in the dead of night," Gandhi said."This is the hallmark of this government: silence the voices of the victims, remove those who ask questions," the Lok Sabha LoP said, adding: "the fight for justice will neither be silenced nor stopped."

The Congress stands with Ankita Bhandari's family, and will continue to stand with them until they get justice, he asserted using the hashtag 'Justice For Ankita Bhandari'.

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The Congress stands with Ankita Bhandari's family, and will continue to stand with them until they get justice, he asserted using the hashtag 'Justice For Ankita Bhandari'.Ankita's father threatened to launch a nationwide agitation if the government did not accept their demand. Her family has been alleging that Gautam played a key role in Ankita's death."We give a 24-hour ultimatum to the government for the cancellation of Dushyant's appointment.

"Boundary Has ToaOnly when women are healthy, educated, and empowered is the nation's present secure: CM Yogi Be Stable":

Yogi Adityanath highlighted Uttar Pradesh's progress in girls' education, maternal healthcare and women's empowerment since 2017, citing improved school facilities, lower dropout rates and expanded educational opportunities.

New Delhi(Agency).

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath described Maa Bhagwati in her Skandamata form as the embodiment of affection, maternal love and nourishment. He said that the worship of Maa Skandamata conveys the sacred message that the nation's present can be secure and its future bright only when women are healthy, educated and empowered.

In a post on X, the Chief Minister said that before 2017, previous governments focused on nurturing their own political families instead of empowering daughters. He added that maternal healthcare and girls' education in the state had suffered due to gross neglect and corruption. Poor hospital conditions, shortages of medicines and inadequate facilities for institutional deliveries had pushed maternal and infant mortality rates to alarming levels.

The Chief Minister said that the double-engine government had transformed the situation over the past nine and a half years.



Earlier, lakhs of girls in the state were forced to drop out of school due to the lack of basic facilities. However, over the past 9.5 years, the government has established a comprehensive framework for women's safety and welfare, covering every stage from a girl's birth and education to safe motherhood.

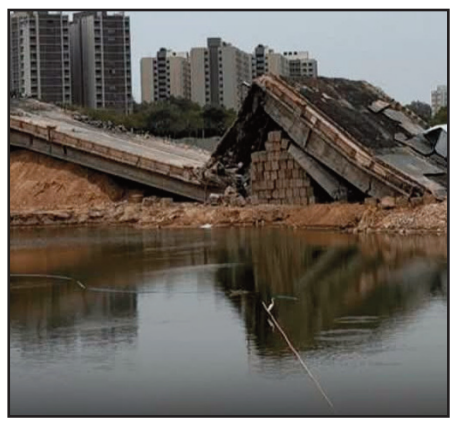
Highlighting the changes since 2017, Adityanath said that under Operation Kayakalp, the coverage of basic facilities in primary schools had increased from 36 per cent to over 96 per cent. The school dropout rate had also declined from 20 per cent to less than 3 per cent.

He added that Atal Residential Schools are providing modern, world-class residential education to girls from workers' families and disadvantaged sections of society. Meanwhile, the expansion of educational facilities up to Class 12 in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas is enabling more girls to complete their schooling.The Chief Minister said that investing in girls' education was an investment in strengthening their confidence and securing the future of the state.

₹241-Crore Subhash Bridge Project Sparks Controversy in Ahmedabad as AMC's Proposed ₹12-Crore Early Completion Incentive Comes Under the Scanner

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad, Gujarat: A major controversy has emerged over the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's (AMC) proposed eight-lane Subhash Bridge project across the Sabarmati River, estimated to cost ₹241 crore. The reported provision of an additional ₹12 crore as an incentive for the contractor to complete part of the project ahead of schedule has raised questions about public expenditure, tender conditions and accountability in municipal infrastructure projects.While Ahmedabad continues to face traffic congestion and growing demands for better civic infrastructure, the proposed incentive has triggered a broader debate over whether contractors should receive additional payments for early completion when timely delivery is already an essential project obligation.₹241-Crore Project and Proposed ₹12-Crore Incentive Under ScrutinyThe new eight-lane Subhash Bridge project is intended to improve traffic movement in Ahmedabad. According to the details cited in the report, the project has a stipulated completion period of 24 months, with a provision under Clause 19.20 of the tender for an incentive reportedly amounting to ₹12 crore if specified work is completed ahead of schedule.The proposed incentive is equivalent to approximately 5% of the project's estimated cost.The arrangement has raised several questions about the financial terms of the contract. Is the incentive justified by the potential public benefits of opening the bridge earlier? What specific milestones and conditions must the contractor meet to qualify for the payment? Has the AMC conducted a detailed assessment of the financial and public-interest implications?These questions require transparent answers from the civic administration. The precise conditions of the tender and the eligibility criteria for the incentive need to be examined before any conclusion can be drawn about the legality or propriety of the proposed payment.Delays in Infrastructure Projects Raise Accountability Concerns-The controversy has also revived concerns about delays in bridge and flyover construction across Ahmedabad. Residents frequently face traffic diversions, congestion, inconvenience and pollution when major infrastructure projects remain incomplete.Critics argue that the municipal administration must apply consistent accountability standards to contractors. If early completion attracts financial incentives, the public deserves clarity on the penalties imposed for delays, the enforcement of contractual obligations and the mechanisms used



to prevent cost overruns.A transparent record of project timelines, revised completion dates, penalties and final expenditure would help establish whether the existing contractual framework adequately protects public funds.Hatkeshwar Bridge Controversy Highlights the Need for Stronger OversightThe controversy surrounding Ahmedabad's Hatkeshwar Bridge remains a reminder of the importance of construction quality, independent technical inspections and accountability in public infrastructure projects.The Subhash Bridge project therefore raises questions beyond its financial cost. The quality of construction materials, compliance with engineering standards, independent safety assessments and long-term structural durability will be critical to ensuring that public investment delivers lasting benefits.Experts and civic observers emphasise that infrastructure projects must be evaluated not only on the speed of construction but also on safety, quality, transparency and value for money.Who Will Be Held Accountable for Public Expenditure?The proposed ₹12-crore incentive has placed the focus on the AMC's tendering and contract-management practices. Public representatives and civic authorities face demands to explain the rationale behind the incentive, disclose the relevant contractual provisions and clarify how the payment would benefit residents.The key questions include whether the incentive is supported by a transparent cost-benefit assessment, whether independent oversight will verify the completion milestones and whether the contractor will remain fully accountable for construction quality and structural safety.Public money must be spent under clear contractual safeguards, with independent verification and effective enforcement of obligations.Transparency and Accountability Remain EssentialThe Subhash Bridge project is expected to play an important role in Ahmedabad's transport infrastructure. However, its success will ultimately depend on more than the speed at which construction is completed.

RSS Invites Ex-Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar To Dussehra Event In Nagpur

New Delhi(Agency).

Former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has been invited to the RSS' annual event to be organised on Vijayadashmi in Nagpur next week.According to the RSS,



Dhankhar has been invited as a guest for the event which is organised every year on Vijayadashmi to mark the organisation's foundation day. This year's event, to be organised at Nagpur's Reshimbagh Ground on October 20, will also mark closing of the RSS' centenary year.Sanjay Gupta, Editor-in-Chief of Dainik Jagran, will be the chief guest at the event to be addressed by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, the Sangh said.This year, the invited guests for the Sangh's Vijayadashmi celebration, marking the conclusion of its centenary year, will be former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Yaniv Revach, Israel's Consul General for the Midwest India region," the RSS said.

On Dhankhar being invited to the event, the Congress took potshots at the Modi government, saying that the "ecosystem is at war with itself".

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said even though Dhankhar has got an invite from the RSS, the government is yet to allot him a house that he is entitled to since he resigned suddenly in July last year.

"Difficult": Chennai Auto Drivers On Chief Minister Vijay's Free Bus Scheme

Chennai. (Agency).

For an hour, ten auto-rickshaw drivers waiting at a stand in Chennai's Ashok Pillar area did not get a single passenger. They blame the expansion of free bus travel for women by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's government, saying more commuters are opting for buses, leaving them with fewer rides and dwindling earnings.



A Pakkiri, a worried auto driver said that there many like him in Chennai who have seen their business drop by 50 percent. "I used to get 10 to 15 trips daily. Now I get 5 to 6 trips only".

"The expansion means women have more connectivity and even those working women who can afford earning fifty thousand or above avoid the auto and take the bus," he added.

N Babu, another auto driver shared the impact is being felt at home also as dwindling earnings make it harder to meet household expenses, provide for their children and repay vehicle loans.

"One driver even recently committed suicide recently unable to manage", he claimed.P Nagoor Gani said he was dependent mainly on street pick ups and not on Ola or Uber. "It's getting difficult."

The complaints come as the TVK government recently expanded a popular welfare scheme of the previous DMK government. The MK Stalin-government had introduced free bus travel for women on ordinary government buses in 2021.

Vijay's government has extended the benefit to additional services, including express and rural buses, fulfilling a key poll promise.

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Dozen masked men drag youth, thrash him in market, break both legs

Noida.(Agency)

Around a dozen masked men allegedly assaulted a 22-year-old man, hitting him repeatedly with sticks and iron rods before dragging him by a leg along a market road, leaving both his legs fractured in Dabua Colony, Faridabad, Tuesday night.The four-minute assault, captured by a shop's CCTV camera, took place around 10.30pm near a mosque on Dabua-Ghazipur road when Sagar, a Dabua Colony resident, was returning home with a friend from a shop.The footage shows the attackers surrounding Sagar and knocking before assaulting him. Even as he appeared unconscious, the men continued hitting him intermittently and dragged him by his leg along the road. The attackers also threw stones towards shops in the market during the assault.Several people can be seen standing at a distance in the footage but none intervened. According to his family, Sagar's legs were fractured, and he suffered serious injuries on his head and elsewhere on the body."Sagar's friend fled," police said, "later, family members rushed the unconscious youth to hospital. Doctors referred him to Delhi for further treatment because he was in a critical condition," police said.Police suspect the assault may have stemmed from a dispute involving Sagar's friend. "A preliminary investigation has indicated that the friend had an altercation with some youths a few days before the attack during which Sagar was also present," an officer said.

Daily wager crushed to death by truck near his house in Greater Noida

Noida.(Agency)

A 30-year-old daily wage labourer was crushed to death after a container truck ran over him near his house in Surajpur in Greater Noida on Tuesday night.

Police said the driver fled the spot and abandoned the truck at a repair yard nearby. He has been absconding since then, an officer added. Police have seized the truck as part of the investigation.

The deceased, Kuldeep Prajapati, was a resident of Shivrajpur village. According to police, the accident occurred around 8.30pm when Prajapati was sitting at a tea stall near a road crossing near his house. The truck, allegedly being driven rashly, ran over him and left him critically injured.Locals told police the truck driver fled the spot without arranging for medical assistance for the victim. He drove the truck to the repair yard and escaped from there.After receiving information from local residents through the emergency helpline number 112, a police team rushed to the spot and took Prajapati to a nearby hospital. However, he was declared brought dead on arrival.A case has been registered at Surajpur police station against the unidentified truck driver under relevant provisions of BNS pertaining to causing death by negligence and rash driving. Police said efforts are under way to identify and arrest the driver and examine the circumstances that led to the accident.

Meanwhile, the manager of the truck repair yard extended financial assistance to the victim's family after he came to know that the driver had abandoned the vehicle there.

Three arrested with 165kg ganja worth 1 crore in Greater Noida

Noida.(Agency)

An interstate drug smuggling gang was busted by a joint team of police and the anti-narcotics bureau with the arrest of three men and the seizure of more than 165kg of ganja, worth approximately Rs 1 crore in the market, police said.Police have found that the three, Dinesh Pal, Sameer Kumar and Ravi Kumar Sahni, procured ganja from Bhubaneswar in Odisha and transported it through Noida to sell it in Delhi. An officer said they received a tip-off on Wednesday that they would be transporting a consignment that day and intercepted them near Kudi Kheda crossing on the road connecting Dadri to Lal Kuan.

A truck fitted with a secret compartment used to conceal the drugs, a car, four mobile phones, Rs 1,980 in cash and a debit card were also recovered from the accused.Pal, Kumar and Sahni are all originally from Bihar and now live in different localities of Delhi and Bihar.According to police, Sahni is in charge of bringing the drugs from Odisha while Pal and Kumar sell the contraband to both wholesale and retail customers in Delhi. They used to buy the ganja for about Rs 15,000 per kg and sell it at nearly four times that price to make a substantial profit."The accused were attracted to a lavish lifestyle and wanted to make money quickly to meet their expenses and aspirations. Our investigation has revealed that they invested their earnings in vehicles and property," said DCP (Central Noida) Pravin Ranjan Singh.

Police said Pal, allegedly the gang leader, had purchased an SUV, the truck used to transport the contraband and another car that was being operated as a taxi in Delhi. SHO (Badalpur) Vijay Gupta said the truck's secret compartment had been constructed around two months ago on Pal's instructions to avoid police finding out about the drugs they were transporting. Sahni had allegedly purchased a house in Mustafabad, Delhi, using profits earned from the drug trade.We are investigating their supply chain and identifying other people connected with the network," Gupta said.Police records show that Pal had previously been arrested in a narcotics case in 2021 involving approximately 250kg of ganja, and had spent around 15 months in jail.

ONGC MEHSANA FACES MAJOR OIL PRODUCTION CRISIS AS DAILY OUTPUT FALLS TO 5,100 BARRELS

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Mehsana, Gujarat: Concerns are mounting over declining crude oil production from the Mehsana Asset of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in North Gujarat. According to the figures cited in the report, daily crude oil production has fallen from approximately 6,000 barrels to 5,100 barrels, raising questions about the long-term productivity of the region's mature oilfields.The Mehsana Asset reportedly has 1,198 operational oil wells. The decline in production has drawn attention to the challenges associated with ageing wells, changing reservoir conditions and the increasing proportion of water extracted alongside crude oil.Daily Production Drops by 900 Barrels-The reported decline from 6,000 barrels to 5,100 barrels per day represents a reduction of approximately 900 barrels daily. The development could affect the asset's production performance and operating economics. Mature oilfields often experience declining output as recoverable reserves diminish and extraction becomes more challenging.Water Content in Extracted Fluid Reportedly Rises to 80%Another major concern highlighted in the report is the reported increase in water content in the fluid extracted from the oil wells. The figures suggest that water now accounts for approximately 80% of the extracted fluid, while crude oil makes up the remaining 20%.A high water cut can increase production costs because the extracted water must be separated from the oil, treated and managed according to environmental requirements. However, the reported ratio needs independent verification, as water content can vary significantly between individual wells and production fields.Rising Water Management Costs Put Pressure on Operations-The handling of produced water requires specialised treatment facilities and appropriate disposal or reinjection systems. These processes involve infrastructure, energy and operational expenditure.As the proportion of crude oil in the extracted fluid decreases, the cost of producing each barrel of oil can rise. This can create additional financial pressure on mature oilfields, particularly where production volumes are declining.Advanced Technology May Help Improve RecoveryIndustry practices such as Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR), reservoir management, well rehabilitation and further exploration may help extend the productive life of mature oilfields.



Woman (25) found dead at in-laws' house, father alleges murder over Rs 25L dowry demand

GURGAON.(Agency)

A 25-year-old woman, who had allegedly been harassed over dowry, was found dead in Farrukhnagar on Tuesday.

Her family has accused her husband and in-laws of assaulting and strangling her, even as the in-laws told police she had consumed poison.A case was registered against the victim's husband, Gautam Sharma, his father, Bijender Sharma, who retired from Indian Air Force, and his younger brother, Ashu Sharma.According to the complaint filed by the deceased's father, Anil Sharma, a resident of Khera village in Hapur district of UP, his daughter Bhavna married Gautam on Dec 16, 2023. The couple also had a son. The family alleged that Gautam and his family harassed her over dowry and demanded Rs 25 lakh. The complainant stated that the family had paid Rs 2.5 lakh in cash a few months earlier.It said that Bhavna had been staying at her parental home for around five months because of the alleged harassment. Her brother, Ajay Sharma,



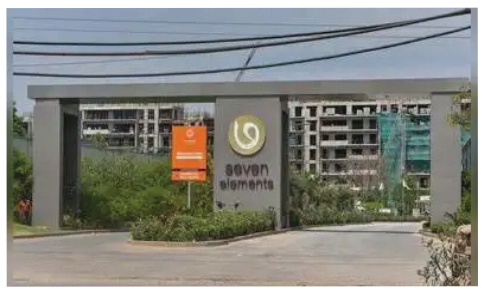
said Gautam took her back around Raksha Bandhan, promising to live separately from his parents and take responsibility for her. Ajay alleged that the abuse resumed within a few days of her return.Ajay said the family spoke to Bhavna on Tuesday afternoon. According to him, she told her father that Gautam was beating her and that he was strangling her. Ajay said his father subsequently spoke to Gautam, who denied that anything had happened and claimed that Bhavna wanted to return to her parental home.Bhavna's elder sister, Rashmi Sharma, said her sister had called their father at around 3.30pm, complaining of physical assault and asking to be taken home.

Rashmi said she tried to contact Bhavna but could not get through. She alleged that Gautam later answered a call, after which his mother took the phone and reassured the family that there was no problem. At 4.47pm, the family learnt that Bhavna had been taken to hospital and was declared dead, Rashmi said.Ajay said the family was later informed that she had died after consuming poison, a claim they dispute.

ED attaches assets worth Rs 136.4 crore in Ocean Seven Buildtech case

GURGAON.(Agency)

Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday provisionally attached immovable and movable assets worth around Rs 136.4 crore in the Ocean Seven Buildtech Pvt Ltd (OSBPL) case under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.The attached assets include land parcels at Bilonchi in Jaipur and at Kotputli-Behror in Rajasthan, and a residential plot in Sector 102 in the city. The movable component comprises balances of Rs 69,06,133 in five bank accounts held by the company, its promoter Swaraj Singh Yadav and his wife Sunita Swaraj. With this, the total value of assets attached in the case has risen to around Rs 188 crore.ED's investigation is based on FIRs registered by Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan police, alleging cheating, criminal breach of trust, forgery and criminal conspiracy in the company's real estate projects. The latest attachment arises mainly from two FIRs concerning the company's Rajasthan projects: an FIR dated Dec 7, 2025, registered at Daulatpura police station in Jaipur (West), and another one dated Nov 23, 2025, registered at Paniyala police station in Kotputli-Behror.



According to the agency, OSBPL collected more than Rs 118 crore from plot buyers in four projects: Amber Garden at Bilonchi, Jaipur, and Kot Farms, Kot Residency and Kot Industrial Estate at Kotputli-Behror. The money was collected between Dec 2006 and March 2015, on the promise that the projects would be developed and handed over within three to four years. In Amber Garden, collections began in Dec 2006, years before the company applied to Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) for approval of the project map.Site inspections by JDA and revenue authorities found that the projects were never developed and the sites remain largely vacant. Many buyers who paid in full, and some who received registered conveyance deeds and possession letters, were never given possession, and their plots were never demarcated.ED said the funds were diverted instead of being used for development. They were spent on buying office premises for the company in the city and on advances towards other projects. The agency also found that about 39 acres owned by the company and its promoters were transferred to close associates or third-party entities between June and Sept 2025, after the FIRs were registered.

Cow on road leads to crash, helps kidnapped salesman escape; two arrested

GURGAON.(Agency)

A cow suddenly coming in front of a speeding car proved to be a boon for a 23-year-old salesman allegedly kidnapped by a group of five to six men over an old dispute in the city. The white Hyundai Creta, in which Vicky alias Roni was being taken towards Hisar after an assault, met with an accident along Hansi-Barwala road allowing him to escape, police said.Two men, Nitin (20) and Khush alias Manjeet (19), were arrested Monday in connection with the Oct 7 incident, and police are trying to identify and nab the remaining accused.

According to police, the incident came to light on the night of October 7, when Sector 93 police post received information that five to six men travelling in a white Creta had assaulted a youth at Garhi Labour Chowk and forcibly taken him away. A police team reached the spot and the victim's family was informed. Vicky's father submitted a written complaint on Oct 8.

In his complaint, the father said that Vicky worked as a salesman and had a dispute a few months earlier with a youth, Prince, over sales-related work. Since then, Prince and his associates had allegedly been harbouring a grudge against Vicky and had threatened to kill him.The complaint stated that Vicky had gone to Garhi to meet a friend on Oct 7. Around 10 pm, his friend called the family and informed them that five to six men had arrived in a white Creta at Labour Chowk about an hour and a half earlier, assaulted Vicky and abducted him.A case of kidnapping and act done by multiple persons of BNS was registered at Sector 10 police station. During the investigation, police learnt that Nitin operates a taxi in the city, while Khush alias Manjeet works as a Rapido rider.ACP Crime Naveen Sharma said that a few days before the incident, Vicky and his friend, Sachin alias Kalu, had a dispute with Nitin and Prince. Police said that this was behind the incident.

Unable to clear Rs 16 lakh land dues, brothers stab Ghaziabad trader to death

Noida.(Agency)

Police arrested three people on Wednesday for allegedly stabbing a hardware store owner to death and dumping his body in Mandola forest on Sunday night. The main accused, Bilal (27), was arrested following a gunfight during which he sustained a bullet wound to the leg. Two other accused, Gulzar (24) and Farmaan (28), were later arrested from Tronica City.On Monday, Vinod Gupta (42) was found stabbed to death in Mandola forest. His family reported him missing the same day when he did not return home after leaving his shop on Sunday evening and could not be contacted.

Gupta's son Kartik, the complainant in the case, alleged that Gupta closed his shop and called his wife around 8pm to tell her that he was accompanying Bilal for some work and would return soon. When Gupta never got home, the family confronted Bilal, who was with the other accused. They claimed to have dropped Gupta off near his home in their car.The family noticed cut marks above Bilal's lip and grew suspicious. When questioned, Bilal allegedly claimed he had a drunken fight with a friend and needed stitches for an injury sustained during the tiff.On Monday morning, the family approached cops with their suspicions, and Gupta's body was found hours later.ACP (Loni) Ram Kishan said that police teams began an investigation. During checks in the Tronica City area on Wednesday, cops flagged down a speeding motorcycle, but the rider attempted to flee towards Khanpur, with cops giving chase. The accused opened fire and was injured during retaliatory firing before being taken into custody.

.Police seized a knife, a country-made pistol, one live cartridge, two spent cartridges and a motorcycle from Bilal's possession during the arrest. He was taken to the hospital and is in stable condition.During questioning, the accused identified himself as Bilal and named his brother Gulzar and their cousin Farmaan in the case.

Cops rescue woman who jumped into Hindon after fight with husband



Noida.(Agency)

A 27-year-old woman was rescued after she allegedly jumped into the Hindon barrage in Indirapuram on Wednesday after a fight with her husband, a sub-inspector. Police and the SDRF team responded promptly and pulled her to safety within 10 minutes. She was admitted to Yashoda Medicity Hospital, where her condition is stable.DCP (trans-Hindon zone) Rijual said that around 1:30 a.m., a commuter dialled the emergency number and told the cops that a woman had jumped from the barrage. Police immediately dispatched a response vehicle to the spot. Soon, a police team from the Indirapuram police station, along with SDRF, also reached the barrage. "A rescue operation was started and within ten minutes, we took the woman out of the water. Immediately, we sent her to the hospital for treatment," he said.

A senior police officer said the woman's husband is a UP police sub-inspector and is currently deployed in Hathras district. He had come home on leave on Tuesday, and at night they had a fight. After that, the woman left the house in Pratap Vihar around 12.30am.

Gujarat High Court sets aside Congress corporator's caste certificate cancellation order

Vadodara.(Ajency)
She won Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's Kubernagar ward by 101 votes in April this year and faced a criminal case over alleged forged school records. Then, in August, her caste certificate was cancelled by the state.
Now, Congress corporator Kalpana Navlekar-Kodekar has won relief from the Gujarat High Court, which on Tuesday quashed the cancellation order for being passed in "gross violation of natural justice". In an oral judgment, Justice Nisha M Thakore set aside the August 6 order passed by the Joint Director of the Developing Castes Welfare Department against Kodekar. The court considered submissions of Kodekar's counsel Senior Advocate Yatin Oza and held that the authority had acted in "gross violation of principles of natural justice" and disregarded directions issued by the High Court in July during an earlier round of litigation.

Stick to guidelines on litigations: Karnataka HC to Bengaluru Development Authority

BENGALURU.(Ajency)
The High Court has directed the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) to strictly adhere to the 11 guidelines and circular placed before the court, along with the affidavit filed by the commissioner, in all cases filed by the BDA.
Any deviation from the circular and guidelines should be viewed seriously, and appropriate action should be taken against the officer(s) instrumental to such violation, the High Court cautioned.
A division bench of Justice DK Singh and Justice TM Nadaf passed the order to set right the anomalies and systemic failure in conducting the court cases, while allowing appeals filed by the BDA against the orders dated March 7, 2024 and August 18, 2023, passed in two separate writ petitions. Through the order concerned, a notification for acquiring two different pieces of land near Gubbalala in Bengaluru South Taluk for the formation of a road from Kanakapura to Banashankari and further extension of Banashankari 6th Stage Layout was quashed. While allowing the appeals filed by the BDA, the division bench said the scheme for Banashankari VI Stage having been substantially implemented and having been upheld in several cases, the contention of senior counsel appearing for the land owners that the BDA cannot form island layouts on small pockets of land, such as the lands involved in these cases, has no ground.

Bengaluru: Domicile certificate delays hold up site applications in Karanth Layout

BENGALURU.(Ajency)
Delays in obtaining 15-year domicile certificates slowed the application process for sites in the Dr K Shivaram Karanth Layout, with only 2,639 applicants completing their submissions despite 9,442 having paid the registration fee and generated challans.
A senior BDA official said the required documents, particularly the 15-year domicile certificate, must be submitted. Initially, the Revenue Department hesitated to issue 15-year certificates and instead provided 10-year domicile certificates. "This caused confusion among many applicants. As soon as this issue came to the BDA's notice, it resolved the matter through discussions with the Revenue Department," the official said.
"Furthermore, to ease the process, the authority is currently allowing applicants to submit proof of 10 years of domicile, with documents verifying the remaining five years to be submitted later," the official added.

Police announce Rs 25,000 reward for 'influencer' wanted in Lucknow cafe owner's death

- Police suspect the three left the state soon after learning that a murder case had been registered against them.



Lucknow.(Ajency)
Lucknow police has announced a reward of Rs 25,000 for information leading to the whereabouts of model and social media influencer Shraddha Dubey, her sister Rashmi and their driver Tanveer Ali alias Danish. The three are wanted in connection with the death of 27-year-old cafe owner Shiva Sharma, who fell from the fourth floor of an apartment in the city's Hazratganj area last week.
Sharma was reportedly in a live-in relationship with Shraddha. His family has alleged that he was pushed from the building. "The three are wanted by us, and after they went untraceable, a reward of Rs 25,000 each has been declared on them," said Lucknow Deputy Commissioner of Police Vikrant Vir. Police are conducting raids to trace them. Shraddha, a native of Rae Bareli district, was living in a rented accommodation at Awadh Green Apartment in Hazratganj. A police officer said they gathered information on her background and learnt that she was married but living separately from her husband. Police suspect the three left the state soon after learning that a murder case had been registered against them.
During the preliminary investigation, police collected CCTV footage from the apartment, which showed Sharma falling from the building. Statements of people connected to Sharma and the accused are being recorded. According to police, a postmortem examination recorded 10 injuries on Sharma's body. The report stated that his death was caused by a fall onto a hard surface. Police said the accused's phone records placed them near the apartment.
Their alleged roles in the incident, however, will be established after further investigation and the recording of their statements. The deceased's family lodged a complaint at Hazratganj police station, alleging murder and naming Shraddha, her sister, their driver and two unidentified persons.

Meerut 'blue drum' murder case: Wife Muskan, lover Sahil get death sentence



Lucknow.(Ajency)
A Meerut court Wednesday sentenced Muskan Rastogi, 26, and Sahil Shukla, 28, to death for the murder of her husband, Saurabh Rajput, whose dismembered body was found in a blue drum filled with liquid cement at their home last year. Muskan was allegedly in a relationship with Sahil. Hours before the verdict was pronounced, Muskan made a plea to officials at the Chaudhary Charan Singh District Jail to let her see her elder daughter, whom she had not seen since the day she was jailed. The eight-year-old is living with Muskan's parents in Meerut. Jail authorities asked her to write to her parents, requesting that they bring her daughter to the jail. "Muskan had asked for permission to write a letter on Tuesday. We have given her paper and a pen, and we will forward the letter to her parents," said Meerut jail superintendent Viresh Raj Sharma. No one from her family has come to meet her in jail. She gave birth to her second child, a daughter, in March this year.
Saurabh's family said they are satisfied with the verdict. His elder brother, Rahul, said the question of why she killed him remains unanswered.
"The court held Muskan guilty, but I have one question for her — why did she kill my son? If she was in court, I would have asked her this publicly," Saurabh's mother, Renu Rajput, had said after the court held the couple guilty on September 30.
Additional District Government Counsel, Meerut, Ashwani Goel, said Muskan and Sahil appeared before the court through a video call and the court sentenced them to gallows. They were represented by defence counsel Rekha Jain, who was appointed through District Legal Service Authority.

A love marriage, then murder

Saurabh, 29, and Muskan married in 2016. They were in love and eloped together to pressure their families into agreeing to their marriage. Soon after the wedding, police claimed, Muskan pushed Saurabh to move out. The couple rented a home of their own in Brahmpuri, and their daughter was born in 2019. Saurabh was then working in the Merchant Navy; in 2019 he quit the job and became a sales manager at a mall in London.
Around the same time, officials had said, a chance meeting outside a bakery in the locality ended with Sahil and Muskan, who were schoolmates, getting into a relationship. Sahil was an online shares trader who worked mostly from home. In 2025, the prosecution said, Saurabh flew down from London on February 24 to celebrate two birthdays with his family — Muskan's on February 25 and their daughter's on February 28. On the night of March 3, Muskan allegedly laced Saurabh's food with intoxicants, causing him to fall unconscious.
Muskan then called Sahil over, and the two allegedly stabbed Saurabh to death, cut his body into several pieces and sealed the remains in a drum of liquid cement, which police said had been bought in advance. The two were arrested on March 19 last year.

A Rs 5-lakh deal, a 50-year-old groom: UP police stop 16-year-old's wedding

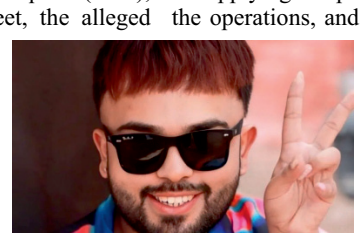
Lucknow.(Ajency)
A 16-year-old girl was allegedly set to be married off to a 50-year-old man in Sambhal, with her parents agreeing to the match for Rs 5 lakh, police said. The wedding, scheduled for Thursday, was stopped after child protection groups alerted the police. Station Officer Sanjay Kumar told The Indian Express that the local child protection organisation Prayatna alerted police on Tuesday evening about a minor being forced to marry an older man. A police team reached the house, which belonged to the alleged middleman, and found the girl there. Her parents and the middleman had fled, Kumar said.
The girl was taken to a One-Stop Centre before being placed in the care of the district Child Welfare Committee (CWC) on Wednesday. After the marriage was stopped, the CWC handed her back to her parents after obtaining an undertaking that any further attempt to arrange such a marriage would invite legal action, Kumar said. 'Taken on pretext of attending a ceremony' In her statement to police, the girl said her family had taken her to the house on the pretext of attending a ceremony. She learnt that her marriage was being arranged only after reaching the venue, where preparations were already underway. She told police that the haldi ceremony was scheduled for Wednesday and the wedding procession for Thursday. The girl said her parents were farm labourers and the family was poor. She is the eldest of five siblings — three girls and two boys. None of the children attends school, she told police.
Prayatna had received the alert from Just Rights for Children (JRC), an organisation working on child protection. Jitendra Parmar of JRC told The Indian Express that a local resident had informed the organisation about the proposed marriage between the minor and a 50-year-old widower. According to Parmar, police and volunteers found that the rituals were already underway when they reached the house. While the girl's parents and the middleman had fled, the middleman's wife and children were present with the girl.

Murdered anti-drug activist's family calls Punjab Bandh; all Opposition parties, farmer bodies extend support

Chandigarh.(Ajency)
A chemist, who allegedly shot dead anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota in Punjab's Mansa, was on Wednesday arrested from Salasar in Rajasthan even as a mob brought in a bulldozer and demolished his medical store before setting it ablaze while authorities pulled down a portion of his house citing alleged "unauthorised construction".
Jhota's family, which has refused to cremate his body, called a Punjab bandh on Thursday with the Opposition parties in Punjab, including Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal, BJP, Akali Dal Waris Punjab De, apart from the Samyukta Kisan Morcha and the government employees' unions extending support to it.
Bathinda Range DIG Harjit Singh said chemist Ashwani Kumar is being brought back to Punjab. He said an FIR has been registered against two persons two persons based on a complaint filed by Jhota's father Bhim Singh. According to the FIR, Bhim Singh was on his way to meet a lawyer when he heard gunshots. He rushed towards the spot and saw his blood soaked son running past Ashwini's medical store.
Bhim Singh alleged that as his son ran away, Ashwani, carrying a pistol, followed him and fired shots in front of him. He also alleged that Ashwani and his associates had conspired to murder his son.

Mad Sandhu murder: Man accused of supplying weapons to shooters arrested

Amritsar.(Ajency)
The Punjab Police, in a joint operation with the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), Wednesday arrested Jobanpreet, the alleged main conspirator behind the murder of social media influencer and makeup artist Madhu Sudhan Sandhu, popularly known as Mad Sandhu, from Mumbai. Confirming the breakthrough on social media, Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said, "Initial investigations reveal that Jobanpreet was operating under the instructions of handlers based on foreign soil."



DGP Yadav elaborated on his involvement, noting, "He is accused of playing a pivotal role in supplying weapons to the shooters, funding the operations, and providing other logistical support." He also disclosed that during the arrest, the police recovered a cache of lethal arms from the accused. "Three pistols, five magazines, and eleven live cartridges were seized from the possession of the accused." The murder took place on October 3, when Mad Sandhu arrived to pick up his car from a car-washing point located on Loharka Road in Amritsar.

IIMA invites applications for 2nd batch of Blended MBA in Business Analytics & AI

Ahmedabad.(Ajency)
THE INDIAN Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) announced admissions to the second batch of its two-year Blended MBA Programme in Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (BPGP: BA & AI) under Krishnamurthy Tandon School of AI on Wednesday. Developed for working professionals and entrepreneurs, the programme aims at addressing the growing need for business leaders who can interpret complex data, evaluate emerging technologies, and apply analytical thinking to strategic and operational decisions.
The announcement was made at a function organised on the IIM Ahmedabad campus in the presence of Prof Bharat Bhasker, Director, IIMA; Prof Diptesh Ghosh, Dean (Programmes), IIMA; Prof Anindya S Chakrabarti, Chairperson, BPGP: BA & AI, IIMA, among others.
Prof Bharat Bhasker, Director, IIMA, said, "One of the most important things we teach at IIM Ahmedabad is how to examine a problem carefully before arriving at a decision. Today, managers have access to increasingly sophisticated analytical tools, but they must still understand the assumptions and limitations behind the answers those tools produce. Through the second batch of this programme, we intend to strengthen that combination of technical competence, independent thinking, and managerial responsibility in aspiring business leaders." In November 2025, IIMA announced the launch of its pioneering two-year Blended MBA Programme in Business Analytics and AI. Chandrika Tandon, philanthropist and, Grammy-Award-Winning Musician, and alumna of IIMA's PGP Class of 1975, who has established the Krishnamurthy Tandon School of AI at IIMA in March this year joined the event virtually shared, "We have powerful tools, but tools alone will not tell us which problems truly deserve attention. When we envisioned the Krishnamurthy Tandon School of AI, we wanted the emphasis to remain on people, institutions, and purpose."



Missing in India: The aesthetics of beautiful minds

This column is full of stories. Many people today may think of anecdotes as part of an obsolescent past. Stories, however, can be life-giving and form a fruitful pedagogy. This article is an attempt to use stories to create a new sociology of science. I want to illustrate that stories are not just imbued with an aesthetic value; they add to our sense of knowledge, too.Between the 1960s and 1990s, science in India had a certain charm, a sense of magic, and a certain sense of aesthetic. One of the best examples I can think of is the work of scientists in the Raman group. One thinks in particular of K S Krishnan. Here are two stories I found while working on my book on the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research's National Physical Laboratory.The first one occurred in the early 1950s. Krishnan, NPL's first director, is driving into office one morning in his old Studebaker car. He suddenly stops and jumps out excitedly as he sees a bunch of men cutting a tree in the NPL campus. He rushes towards them and asks, "Why are you cutting it?" They say, "The contractor and the architect asked us to, as the tree is asymmetrical."Shocked with the reply, Krishnan stood still for a while before replying, "I, too, have studied symmetry. You create symmetry not by cutting down a tree, but by planting a third one." Krishnan celebrated this sense of aesthetic that dominated science.I still remember Jawaharlal Nehru rushing from Parliament to the NPL office to gossip with Krishnan, with Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar following close behind. They were among the scientists of that era who gave science a sense of celebration, a sense of eccentricity.

At that time, ecology almost served as science. And aesthetics almost served as a part of the ecology of justice.One of the best stories I can think of in this context is one my father told me. We were sitting one evening out in the garden in Jamshedpur when the Tata Steel plant started pouring out slag, the molten-red by-product. A few minutes later, the nearby forest went up in flames as the tribals, while doing shifting cultivation, had set it on fire. My father watched the two phenomena—the forest fire and the molten steel—and suddenly said, "Each needs to respect the other—both need to survive, to talk to each other."He pointed out that if the tribal didn't survive along with Tata's tale, a deep sense of ecological defeat and injustice would be created. It must be noted that Tata Steel, in its early years, had a department of 'tribal metallurgy' that could polish steel in an exceptional, age-old way.

This sense of aesthetic and eccentricity dominated science in that era. It was not regimented. And in this context, I want to bring up a third series of idiosyncratic narratives.One of the first stories is from a time I was sitting with my uncles—astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar and meteorologist C Ramaswamy—and my father C Visvanathan, the metallurgist.

All of them were busy talking away till they suddenly pounced on the archaeological nature of the Indus Valley problem. They kept talking about it for hours. My aunt, who was sitting quietly listening to them for long, finally turned to me and said, "Look at these boys. They're like voracious sparrows pouncing on data. They seem utterly happy. The only intrusion they seem to allow is the cup of coffee." Indeed, for them, science was a source of happiness, a celebration.The same kind of story comes up when we talk about the extraordinary scientist that was Satish Dhawan. Once, physicist G N Ramchandran came to meet Satish and made outrageous demands, yelling for an hour. Satish listened patiently and agreed to most of it. One of the younger scientists asked Satish, "Why are you tolerating him?" Satish smiled and said that his work and his tantrum offered a similar order of resilience. "When your tantrum reaches the quality of his science, I'll tolerate you too."Another story is about Amulya Reddy, one of the great authorities on intermediate technology and an innovator of biogas. I once met Amulya outside my sister's sari shop. He was delighted with the saris he had bought and proceeded to talk at length about their aesthetics. For him, expounding on a sari or on science was an aesthetic exercise. Science, in a deep way, was a kind of aesthetic responsibility to such people. When you think of each of their stories, you realise the depth in a fundamental way.

Time to audit the auditor of electoral rolls

The Election Commission's notes in late September amounted to first denying the problems and then announcing their solutions. Apart from an independent probe into its decisions and halt to SIR rollout while the probe is conducted, a state-by-state account of every deletion is needed.



"The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference and undernourishment."
— Robert M Hutchins

Before entering public life as people's elected representative, I spent years in classrooms as a professor and came to politics later than most. So, before anyone ever stood in line to vote for me, I was, like any other citizen, simply a voter—standing in line before dawn to cast a ballot that generations before me had fought to win. I never imagined that a day would come when I would realise how easily voters and their votes can be taken for granted, rendering the very foundation of democracy helpless.So when I say that what is unfolding at the Election Commission of India frightens me, I do not say it as a politician reaching for a headline. I say it as someone who has watched for several months the quiet unmaking of the one institution every Indian is taught to trust without question. On September 23, the ECI issued a press note declaring, "All decisions, including special intensive revisions, were outcomes of unanimous decisions of the full commission". It spoke about dissent in general terms and never engaged with the objections that had been raised earlier. A second note was issued three days later following a meeting, which went some way towards addressing the questions raised. But its omissions were equally telling: some questions were answered directly, others subtly reframed, and several left entirely unaddressed. Let's start with what the note does say. On the lette to the Cabinet Secretary, the note says it was only about an officer on deputation, not policy or IT. The same note admits that an officer on deputation issued orders that two of the three commissioners overruled. Yet the note does not say who allowed the officer to issue those orders, why the two commissioners were not told, or what action has been taken.

The note also stresses that th special intensive revision order of June 2025 and its schedules were approved unanimously by the full Commission. But no one has said otherwise. Our concern is with what came after: decisions taken and work reassigned without two of the three commissioners being told. On those, the note offers no such assurance. It defends what no one questioned and stays silent on what they did. Now, let's see what the note does not say at all. It does not say whether the two commissioners agree with the revised versions, or whether their objections were withdrawn or ignored. It says nothing about the Chief Election Commissioner. The most revealing part is the list of 'decisions'—agendas will be circulated in advance, minutes will be issued, directions given by commissioners be followed and new IT systems will be discussed before approval.These are basic rules of any functioning institution. If the ECI had to decide to follow them, it is because they were not being followed. The first note spoke of strong "internal checks and balances". The second admits those checks had to be put back. It does not say when they lapsed, who let them lapse, or whether decisions taken in the meantime will be reviewed. The ECI cannot deny the problem and announce the solution the same week. Even the solution is weak. The review of the ECINET portal, as mentioned in the second note, will be headed by a senior officer of the commission, with one outside expert. There is no deadline, no defined scope and no promise that the report will be made public. The institution is being asked to investigate itself. The concern is not only about how the system is being reviewed. It is also about what the exercise has meant on the ground. Let me speak of the state I represent, because these numbers are not abstractions to me. Tamil Nadu had 6.41 crore electors on its rolls as of October 27, 2025. Following the SIR, that number had fallen to 5.67 crore, a deletion of nearly 74 lakh voters. No one disputes that electoral rolls need periodic cleaning; the DMK has never argued otherwise. What we object to is the manner in which this revision has been conducted. A clean roll and a rushed one are not the same, and 74 lakh is too large a number to have been arrived at carelessly. Each one is a mother, a daily-wager, a first-time voter, an elderly citizen who has voted faithfully for years, suddenly told their voice no longer counts, being tagged 'absent' or 'duplicate'.

DKM president M K Stalin as said what needed to be said plainly: the CEC must go. An institution that has undermined its own credibility cannot be allowed to preside over elections, when the very people appointed to check its power are locked out of the room.We are not asking for outrage for its own sake. We are asking for a court-monitored, independent investigation into every decision; an immediate pause on further SIR rollout until that investigation is complete; and the removal of a CEC who has lost the confidence of his own colleagues, let alone the public's. I would add one more thing the second note should have given us and didn't: a public, state-by-state account of every deletion and why, and a way to restore a wrongly-deleted name that does not put the burden back on the citizen. Every Assembly election held after a compromised SIR will carry a shadow over its result. The issue is about whether citizens can trust that their names will remain on the electoral roll, and that when something goes wrong, there will be a transparent way to find out why and put it right. A democracy does not die in a single dramatic moment. It dies quietly, one deleted name at a time, while those responsible issue press notes insisting nothing is wrong.

RBI's moves to shore up rupee patches on long-term weakness

While the move is expected to reduce volatility in dollar demand, analysts believe it could deplete forex reserves



The RBI finally came out guns blazing to defend the weakening rupee. The sweeping measures announced during the weekend—an attempt to curb speculative trading, manage dollar demand and reduce volatility in the foreign exchange market—were some of the most aggressive moves seen since 2013. Incidentally, the measures came just when Robert E Hall and Michael Woodford were awarded the Nobel Prize in economics for their macroeconomic stabilisation models that aim to help central banks and governments manage booms, recessions and shocks. Following the RBI announcement, the rupee surged more than 1 percent on Monday, pulling away from the key 97 level against the dollar and further rallied 82 paise to reach 94.96 in early trading on Tuesday. Analysts expect the Indian currency to gain ground and stabilise in the 93-94 range provided there are no unexpected macroeconomic shocks.One of the measures is a special window that reduces the need for State-run oil marketing companies to purchase dollars directly from the spot market. While the move is expected to reduce volatility in dollar demand, analysts believe it could deplete forex reserves. The RBI also tightened hedging rules to manage currency market pressures besides introducing a forex risk reserve for lenders of a certain value for the first time.

In all, the currency is down 6 percent so far this year, although Governor Sanjay Malhotra maintains that the rupee is undervalued. As the rupee depreciated in recent weeks, the central bank exhausted $43 billion of the $143 billion raised via a special deposit window and borrowings under a swap facility during August. But the central bank's dollar sales failed to lift the sentiment, with the rupee settling at 96.73 last Friday, with the one-year forward racing past 100.Perhaps this prompted the RBI to go all-out. Though the measures helped the rupee recover nearly 2 percent in two days, sustained stability will depend on the steadiness of crude oil prices, global bond yields and foreign capital flows. The biggest factors piling pressure on the Indian currency are surging crude prices and capital outflows that resumed in September. If the Brent benchmark remains above $100 for longer, the RBI would need to deploy other policy tools to defend the rupee. But they too would be stop-gap measures until India's trade deficit undergoes a meaningful correction.

India must stay engaged with the US

Rubio's upcoming visit will be a reality check on the trajectory of the troubled relationship

THE India-US relationship is going through a turbulent phase, but this is not something new. The world's largest and oldest democracies have a history of bitter estrangement and prickly engagement over the decades. Currently, a number of contentious issues need to be addressed.US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is scheduled to arrive in New Delhi on October 19; the visit is aimed at emphasising the strength of the partnership. US officials have described India as one of America's most important strategic partners/allies, citing President Donald Trump's relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.On the ground, the picture is more opaque. In Jodhpur last week, six US F-35As flew for the first time as part of Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 with around 200 American personnel, the first such deployment. At the closing press conference, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, when asked if Washington had offered the F-35, replied with a remark that made headlines: "Your people don't even let us go near the aircraft, and you are talking about selling it to us."The IAF Chief clarified that no formal offer had been made, despite what President Trump had said earlier in the year, while the visiting US defence officer, Gen Kevin Schneider, indicated that current classification guides prevented closer cockpit access. This vignette captures the current India-US moment: high symbolism, low transfer.

Three tracks form the core of the bilateral and all of them are under stress. On the official Track 1, the language has moved from "strategic partner" to "indentured servants". On October 8, at a White House Task Force to Eliminate Fraud press meet, US Vice President JD Vance announced the suspension of eight firms from green card sponsorship under the Permanent Labour Certification (PERM) programme — TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HCLTech, Cognizant, Capgemini, Microsoft and Adobe. He disparagingly said the US could not lay off American workers and then replace them with foreign indentured servants.The response of India's Ministry of External Affairs on October 9 was unusually sharp: "We believe that such descriptions are unwarranted and ignore the fact that Indian professionals in the United States are highly educated and skilled contributors to its economy." It added, "Resorting to terminology that carries painful historical and colonial legacy connotations is deeply offensive."The semantic choice matters. Roughly 70 per cent of the recent H-1B visa approvals have gone to Indians who enter the US workforce as highly skilled human resources. Calling them "indentured" in 2026 reopens a historical chapter in a callous manner. Washington may say that India is among its strongest partners, but its Vice President is using the vocabulary of the plantation for the partnership that built Silicon Valley.

The second strand is the statutory sword. On September 18, President Trump signed the SRIA (Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act), which authorises tariffs up to 100% on top importers of Russian oil and gas. India, which bought roughly 2.1 million barrels per day from Russia in August, is squarely in the US crosshairs.

On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York last month, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told Rubio precisely this: "Reiterated India's interests and concerns with regard to SRIA. Also discussed the Gulf and Ukraine situations." Rubio's readout omitted SRIA and spoke of "building on the US-India strategic partnership."That asymmetry and the irony that the US has now concluded a diesel supply arrangement with Russia (with temporary sanctions relief) have compelled New Delhi to caution Washington that the use of SRIA against India could affect bilateral ties.

Yet this US law now hangs like the sword of Damocles — not imposed, but usable at any moment to exert pressure on Delhi over energy. SRIA is bipartisan, backed by Congress, and it signals a structural shift in Washington from strategic altruism to economic nationalism.



With the Red Sea and Strait of Hormuz disruptions already squeezing Saudi supplies, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman admitted what the industry already knew: India-US trade talks have "reached a plateau."The third track is military hardware, which was seen as an indicator of the relationship's robustness, but is a case of high on joint exercise and low on critical technology transfer.Admiral Samuel Paparo, Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command, recently concluded a six-day India visit, his second this year. He said military ties would remain insulated from trade friction, but the reality is that equipment and tech transfer remains sluggish.The GE F-414 engine co-production for LCA Mk2/AMCA (advanced medium combat aircraft) is at the commercial/negotiations stage three years after the 2023 announcement. The MQ-9B, Stryker and P-8I procurement is progressing, but at a bureaucratic pace, even as China has reportedly discussed or offered around 40 J-35 stealth fighters to Pakistan.Given this turbulence and setbacks, Delhi needs to make an objective and prudent assessment about the way ahead. The US remains India's largest export market, the largest source of advanced technology and the anchor of the Indian diaspora that remits ideas and capital.The critical policy approach for India is to revisit the central assumption that has guided the bilateral relationship since 2005: India and the US have corresponding security objectives vis-a-vis China, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. That assumption is no longer valid.

The Trump-Xi meeting in Washington last month eased US-China trade tensions (via an extension of the existing trade truce). It is evident that the US will now weaponise trade and tariffs, while monetising security imperatives in ways that leave allies and partners like India exposed.

India describes itself as a "resident power" in the Indo-Pacific, seeking freedom of strategic action without a bloc mentality. The US increasingly wants bloc discipline when this suits it and flexibility when it deals with Beijing. India is not a trusted partner but a swing power in a multipolar bargain — which is the status of many major US allies. Rubio's visit is more than a review — it will be a reality check on the trajectory of the troubled India-US relationship.

10 ways to make your Life More Romantic



Here are tips to bring back some fun into your relationship

Sometimes we get so busy with our work that we don't get time to express our love to the most important person of our life. So here are some tips to bring back the romance into your marriage.

Spend quality time

Sometimes you maybe in the same room for hours but not talk to each other simply because you are busy with your own work. If you are alone with your husband make sure you spend the time talking to him.

Arrange for a date

If you have kids, arrange for a baby sitter and go out on a date. If he enjoys dancing then you can hit a nice place where you can shake a leg. If your man would like to indulge in some games take him to a bowling parlour. Believe it this will work like a charm.



Be the chef

Food is the easiest way to a man's heart. So, cook a great meal comprising of the dishes he likes. But if you aren't convinced about your culinary skills don't try and experiment, order food from his favourite restaurant and then set up some candles for a romantic candlelight dinner.

Leave love notes

Whether it's leaving some love notes around the house or SMSes or email, write him a lovey-dovey note. Men may pretend to be tough but they do like to know that they are on your mind.

Express it loud

Though you may have sent him a love note or email, there's nothing like professing your love every now and then. Do let him know that after all the years as a married couple you are still very much in love with him.

Shower him with attention

Dote on him once in a while. Praise him for his hard work. Men love attention though they may claim otherwise. Praise him for his taste in clothes or perfumes, he's sure to like it a lot.

Plan a surprise vacation

If you are not likely to get any alone time in the city, plan a vacation. Depending on the kind of time you both can spare, take a long or short trip. You could take him out to the place he's always wanted to go.

Find ways to spend time together

It could be while travelling to or from work or just going shopping together or even a long drive after dinner. If you can't head out for a vacation just find ways to be in each other's company.

Let him spend time with his gang

Yes, you should spend some time together, but your man will really appreciate it if you let him spend an evening with his buddies. Ensure that you don't call him during the time when he is with his friends.

Appreciate things he does

Even if it's something simple, try and tell him how much you appreciate his help around the house. More then the praise and attention that you shower on him, it's this appreciation that will make him fall in love with you all over again.

Dos and don'ts of writing professional e-mails



Whether you are applying for a job, internship, loan, grant, applying for admission in a college or just writing an e-mail for business or job related communication, these tips will help you give your mails a professional touch

When you are writing a professional e-mail, you have to be very careful about a few things or you might appear very immature or inexperienced. In professional e-mails, you cannot let your personality show as much as you do in personal mails. Professional or business-related e-mails have to be crisp and to-the point and should contain only relevant information. Read the tips below...

1. Professional presentation is a must

Being over-creative and over-innovative is a strict no-no. Use standard formats and standard fonts for professional e-mails. Using varied colours of various font sizes in one mail is just going to portray you as an amateur. Yes you can convey your individuality but through content and not through wrapping.

2. Keep your e-mail id simple and straight

The first and the foremost thing that could help you establish a professional image is your email address. Do not try to be extra creative, clever or confusing. Yes, your e-mail id should portray your professional capacity but in a simple way. It can either be your full name or your middle initials or something related to your profession but not something irrelevant like sexycelina@gmail.com.

3. Always use a professional e-mail signature

As a professional person, you want to leave a lasting impression on a recipient and a key point of knowing how to write professional emails is how to sign off. Your signature is your identity and is left in every message. If you are seeking employment, it is vital to include your name, contact details and alternative phone numbers. This is all part of representing yourself as a professional and finding common ground with other professionals.

4. No emotions or emoticons in e-mails

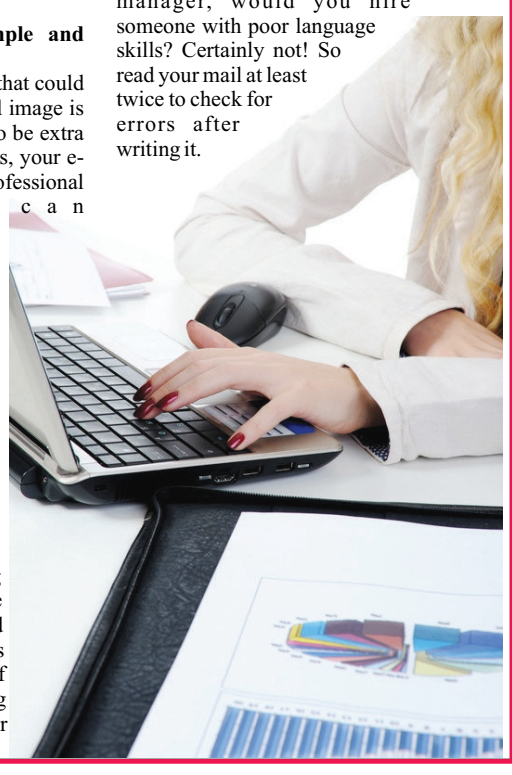
There is a lot of difference between sending a casual text to a friend and sending a formal mail. In casual chats, we frequently use smileys and emoticons to express what we are feeling. For any professional e-mail, this kind of expression may be considered very inappropriate. You will certainly not put a happy face in the subject of your e-mail when applying for a job. One important tip when writing professional e-mails is that you should allow emotions to dictate your writing. Whether you are happy, sad, frustrated or annoyed, first calm down before you write an e-mail. And even after writing it, double check before you hit the send button.

5. Be careful when using humour

There is a fine line between the between humour and sarcasm and this is very difficult to achieve in writing. There are chances you will be misinterpreted or misunderstood which may not only make you sound very personal but also ruin your image. The same goes for abbreviations or acronyms, frequently used today. Do not use it until you are very sure they will be well-understood.

6. Run a grammar and spell check

Do check your standard of grammar and spellings when writing a professional e-mail. Spelling and grammar errors can portray you as a bad communicator. Remember, first impression is the last impression. If you were a recruting manager, would you hire someone with poor language skills? Certainly not! So read your mail at least twice to check for errors after writing it.



Smart plan for a less stressful week

Always pressed for time? Here's a Saturday to Sunday plan to make your life simpler

Do you often feel overloaded, and end up working late to meet deadlines? Or are you spending the day battling one crisis after another? The problem may be in your time management skills. When we manage our time well, we are more productive at work, and our stress levels are lower. Here's a weeklong guide that'll help you work, not efficiently, but effectively.

Saturday: Sort the mailbox

Electricity bills, telephone bills, bank statements, sundry invoices and other promotional letters sum up to nearly 1,000 pieces of mails every year. Being surrounded by clutter can sap away at your productivity.

So, choose one spot at home to sort out your papers on a weekly basis. Ideally, sit in front of the computer and stock the table with stamps, envelopes, pens, 'In,' 'Out' and 'File It' folders, so you can work at top speed. Ask yourself, what's the worst thing that could happen if I don't keep this junk mail? If you're willing to live with the result, then toss it in the bin so you can get to the important paperwork quickly.

Sunday: Catch up on sleep

Do you scramble through the week to get your eight hours of snooze? Medical experts point out that chronic sleep deprivation has a huge impact on memory, creativity, concentration and problem solving skills — and it can double the length of time it takes you to accomplish a task. If you want to be productive tomorrow, getting eight hours of sleep tonight needs to be way more important than sending those mails that can wait until morning.

Monday: Do the tough job first

After a long, relaxed weekend, walking to office on a Monday morning can be quite challenging. It is found that people spend 75 per cent of their time on a Monday doing only 20 per cent of work. Besides, distractions, interruptions and unnecessary tasks chew up the remaining five per cent. So, to boost productivity, pick the toughest, most unpleasant task you need to accomplish first. Once you knock that off your list while you're still fresh, focused and working at good speed — everything else will seem like a breeze in comparison, and that will help you stay on track all day.

Tuesday/Wednesday: Avoid social media

According to Mayo Clinic researchers, women spend at least one out of every seven minutes at work checking, and responding to, social media messages. Going online several times daily can cut your productivity by 25 per cent or more. To protect yourself, schedule specific times when you'll log on and limit how long you'll stay online when you do. To start with the socialmedia detox, check mails and long on to social networking sites only once a day.

Thursday: Trim the to-do list

Is dragging work home with you eating into your free time? People spend at least 75 per cent of their day doing tasks they feel are important though they could have delegated, or ignored most of them. Each morning, divide your day's to-do list into two categories — things you could do, and things you must do. Mark the more important ones as, 'A' and the less as 'B'. Be ruthless and put as much as possible into that easily-ignored could do list. Then tackle your tasks in reverse order, so you start with the must-do's, first, and only bother with the could-do's if you have time.

Friday: Tidy your home

There's no question it takes time to clean out overflowing closets, tables,and the mess that has accumulated in the kitchen. However, you could lose even more precious time if you don't spend time cleaning up the mess. According to a British research team, women spend up to 188 hours every year looking for things they've misplaced — like keys, remote controls, passports, and matching shoes. While your home doesn't have to be perfectly organised to prevent this frustration, start by getting rid of the things you no longer use or value, so you'll have easier access to what you actually need.

Saturday: Make an errands list

Once you're done sorting out your mails, make a trip to your local market. If you are one of those who run to the grocery store two or three times a week,this weekend visit could save you at least an hour every week just by combining your errands into one big trip. And, instead of writing what you need on a scrap of paper, create a blank grocery list — with headings like fresh veggies, fruits, meat, canned goods and dairy products. Photocopy it and stick a fresh copy on the fridge each week.



Bath salts for a glowing skin



Bath salts not only exfoliate your skin and relieve muscle tension, but also heal common problems such as eczema, psoriasis and rashes. They cleanse and brighten your skin as well.

The benefits

When used in their natural form, bath salts contain minerals and nutrients that keep your skin soft, smooth and supple. Says beauty expert Farheen Shaikh, "Bath salts contain Magnesium, Sodium and Bromide. They get easily absorbed in your skin pores and purify it, thus improving its radiance, texture and tone."

A good relaxant

Bath salts ease muscular tension and help remove fatigue. They also remove toxins from the body and promote a feeling of well-being.

Choose the right one for your skin

Dry and flaky skin:

Use a bath salt which will boost your skin's radiance and increase moisture. Almond or orange bath salts work the best for you.

Tired and dull skin:

Rosemary or peppermint will provide a cooling sensation, which will improve blood circulation and perk up your skin's appearance.

Puffy skin and cellulite:

Mineral or seaweed bath salts are your best bet. They have negative ions, which pull in minerals and nutrients into your bloodstream and help flush toxins.

Pick the right one

Always pick a bath salt that is not lumpy. Says beauty expert Nikos Narkissos, "They should contain natural ingredients and nutrients. Blue and purple bath salts are soothing, while yellow and orange are energising.

Grain size also matters. For example, finer grains dissolve quickly and work well as scrubs and exfoliants."

Types of bath salts

Orange: These are fresh, crisp and tangy. They work wonders for your skin and also lift your mood.

Lavender: Relaxing, therapeutic and curative, they provide relief from tension and stress.

Dead Sea: Apart from their healing properties, they also make your skin glow.

Eucalyptus: Has curative properties, which ease stiff muscles and also reduce pain.

Cinnamon: Known for antibacterial properties, it flushes impurities from your system and refresh your pores. They also tone your skin.

Green Tea: For a softer and problem-free skin, these work wonders.



Ways to make lip gloss last longer

Lip gloss looks beautiful but it has a short life as it wears off quite easily. Read on to know how to make it last longer

Lip gloss is every woman's basic necessity. It's shiny and glamorous and adds volume to any lip colour. But the only problem is that it doesn't last longer and smudges off quite easily. But that doesn't mean that you stop wearing it. Just keep in mind not to wear it on bare lips. We suggest you some tips to make your lip gloss last longer and look beautiful.



Use a lip liner

Before you apply any lip gloss, outline your lips with a lip liner of the same colour and fill in a bit. It will prepare a base for your lip gloss to adhere to. It not only makes the lip gloss last longer but also avoids any smudges. It also makes you lips look fuller.

Try out a lip stain



Applying lip stain beneath lip gloss is another smart trick as it is not sticky. When you apply a coat of lip gloss over lip stain, its dry formula will absorb the gloss. Another benefit is that it will moisturize your lips and give it a sheer, which you can flaunt.

Final step, lipstick

Sometimes even long-wear lipsticks fail to give long-lasting finish and effect. This is why, many use lipstick and lip gloss together as it makes a strong combination. Apply a layer of gloss over lipstick to make your lip colour last longer.

Keep your make-up

Brushes clean

Women tend to have elaborate make-up sets but they often forget the importance of keeping the application brushes spick-and-span for hygiene and longevity.

Femalefirst.co.uk reports that the market offers specialist make-up brush cleaners from leading brands like MAC. Even if they are a little costly, they work very well.

A gentle foaming cleanser may also be used.It is vital to remember that the water you use for cleaning is clean. Put the brushes under the tap and lie them flat to dry since if the water seeps into the handle, the bristles can become loose.



5 benefits of using Eye Pillow

Eye pillow not only soothe your eyes after a long, tiring day at work but also benefit you in a couple of other ways. Here are a few...



1. Eye pillows are not only designed to soothe and relax tired eyes but the aromatic effect of essential oils and herbs that are infused in the flax seeds help calm and rest the mind.
2. Flax seeds sewed in delicate muslin cloth of eye shaped frame ensures perfect amount of acupressure needed by the eye to revitalize and freshen the vision.
3. Essential oils and herbs that are used in our variants of eye pillows work for a particular therapeutic purpose. For e.g. Eucalyptus eye pillow is excellent for people suffering from headaches caused by cold and provides relief from sinus whereas Lavender eye pillow reduces anxiety and insomnia.
4. Common properties of eye pillows: Relieves irritated, itchy and burning eyes caused by over exposure to television, sitting in front of computer screens. Sedates the nerves, relaxes the mind and balances the body.
5. A slight refrigerated eye pillow cools the eyes further. Place the eye pillow in refrigerator prior to use in the sealed zip pouch.

Delhi to see heavy rain, strong winds as IMD puts capital on orange alert

Delhi.(Ajency)

Delhi witnessed overcast skies on Thursday morning as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert warning of light to moderate rain, thunderstorms and lightning across the national capital. The IMD stated that intermittent lightning and gusty winds were expected, signaling likely rainfall across multiple areas of the city. The weather office issued an orange alert, predicting light to moderate rain, accompanied by thunderstorms or lightning and winds with speeds ranging from 30-40 kilometres per hour gusting up to 50 kilometres per hour, in many places till 12.50 pm on Thursday (Oct 15). The minimum temperature was recorded at 23.3 degrees Celsius, 3.7 notches above normal—while daytime temperatures are projected to dip to a maximum of around 29 degrees Celsius, said the IMD.

Connaught Place's Moets, Sagar Ratna see surge in customers after INDIA bloc leaders' visits

Delhi.(Ajency)

For two consecutive days last week, two restaurants in Delhi's Connaught Place became an unusual backdrop to the INDIA Bloc's political meetings.

With opposition leaders having gathered over lunch at Sagar Ratna, Janpath and Moets Restaurant at CP's K Block, the attention appears to have spilt beyond politics,

with people stopping to click photographs outside the establishments and the establishments witnessing renewed curiosity around the venues.

The visits have given the restaurants a moment in the public spotlight, turning familiar dining destinations into talking points for passersby.

At Moets, the management said the arrangements for the political gathering had required the restaurant to temporarily keep its regular business aside, with the entire establishment reserved for the visiting leaders. Speaking to the newspaper, Harish Chandra, General Manager at Moets, said that the restaurant received a call late on the night of October 7, informing the management that around 75-100 people were expected for lunch the following day. Given that the restaurant has a seating capacity of about 80, the management initially discussed accommodating the guests in batches.

85% of network worked on Oct 10: DMRC to SC

Delhi.(Ajency)

In an affidavit filed before the apex court, the DMRC said over 85% of the metro network—258 stations—remained fully operational, accessible and functional for commuters.

It also noted that entry and exit were restricted at only 45 out of 303 stations, accounting for 15% of the entire network, from 9 pm of October 9 till October 10.

The DMRC affidavit explained that the entry and exit regulations were undertaken pursuant to assessment of law enforcement agencies and in accordance with their directions.

The affidavit was filed in connection with a contempt plea alleging wilful disobedience.

While hearing a plea against the closure of various metro stations and cancellation of trains to Delhi in view of the protests in the national capital, the top court had directed the Centre on October 9 to ensure that there was no "complete prohibition" of the movement of metro and trains coming to Delhi.

A separate affidavit was also filed in the apex court by the DMRC chairperson, who said the October 9 order was complied with in letter and spirit. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant—which had earlier directed DMRC and others to file compliance affidavit—is scheduled to hear the plea on Thursday.

Ambedkar University suspends 10 students after clashes during protest

Delhi.(Ajency)

Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) suspended 10 students following clashes between protesters and security personnel at its Kashmere Gate campus on Tuesday evening, barring them from entering university campuses pending a detailed inquiry.

The clashes took place on the 16th day of an indefinite sit-in led by the All India Students' Association (AISA)-led AUD Students' Collective, which began over demands for basic infrastructure and faculty recruitment, among other things.



AISA has alleged a crackdown by the administration and that students were physically assaulted. Suspended students can't enter campuses: AUD

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the university said, "After reviewing the preliminary report of the Proctorial Board, CCTV footage and other visual inputs, the students have been placed under suspension with immediate effect for their alleged involvement in acts of indiscipline." The varsity has also prohibited the suspended students from entering its campuses during the suspension period and referred the matter to the Proctorial Board and Disciplinary Committee for further inquiry. It has been asked to submit the report in a week.

The suspension orders do not specify a fixed duration, stating that the students will remain suspended pending the outcome of the inquiry. The orders do not state whether the suspensions will be revoked once the report is submitted or will continue pending further disciplinary action.

What happened on Tuesday

Students had gathered at the campus's Wall of Democracy on Tuesday evening for a screening of a documentary, Jai Bhim Comrade. AISA alleged that security personnel tore down posters and bedsheets, switched off campus electricity around 6 pm and physically assaulted students attending the screening. Female students reported misconduct and injuries, including torn clothing and broken sandals, the student organisation said in its statement issued on Wednesday. AISA also alleged that one of the students was singled out and assaulted, and subjected to communal threats. The collective claimed that students threatened to force open the gates to ensure his safety, alleging that he was being held hostage by security personnel. AUD, in its statement on Tuesday, however, claimed protesting students caused damage to university property and engaged in scuffles and physical altercations with the female and male security personnel deployed on duty.

The varsity also alleged that officials attempting to initiate dialogue with the students were subjected to abusive behaviour. "Observing that the situation was becoming unmanageable, and keeping in view the safety and security of the campus and other students, the University Administration informed the police authorities," the statement said.

- The university has barred the suspended students from entering its campuses pending a disciplinary inquiry; AISA has alleged that security personnel assaulted students during a documentary screening.

Delhi's new protest sites: One booked for Ramlila, another strewn with debris

Delhi.(Ajency)

CBD Ground: Waste piles & Ramlila bookings

Tall grass and bushes cover large stretches of CBD Ground in Shahdara, with piles of waste lying along its edges. At another end, preparations for Ramlila events are underway, raising questions about the ground's readiness to host protests.This is one of the three alternative sites – the others are Burari Ground and Ramlila Maidan – alloted by the Delhi Police after Jantar Mantar was denotified as a designated protest site in the city.

An official of Shanghai Tunnelling Project Engineering Co, a third party company that worked for



the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), said the ground – located around 12 km from Jantar Mantar – was clean and well-maintained when the corporation handed it over to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). "The lack of maintenance by the DDA has made the area like this," the official said, pointing to the overgrowth and waste. The official warned that protests and police barricades could disrupt traffic in this commercial area, inconveniencing residents and commuters.An organiser said three Ramlila events were underway at the ground, drawing nearly 5,000 people daily. "The venue is booked until next month. It is unlikely that protests could be held there during this period," he added. Malls, wedding halls and a village nearby could add to congestion if large numbers of protesters arrived, he further said.

At 37, Delhi man suffered a heart attack. After 11 years, a stranger's heart saved his life

- Last month, the 47-year-old Delhi businessman underwent a heart transplant. He received a donor heart from a patient at PGIMS Rohtak, in a race against time that hinged on a green corridor and a family's decision to donate.

Delhi.(Ajency)

On September 17, a stranger's heart began beating inside Chanchal Yadav, transported nearly 100 km from Rohtak in Haryana to Delhi. It belonged to a 41-year-old man who had died in a road accident a day earlier. His family agreed to donate his organs, giving Yadav, a 47-year-old business owner from Delhi's Vikaspuri, a chance at a new life.

For patients like him, finding a donor heart is a long and difficult process. India performs roughly 225 heart transplants a year — against an estimated annual demand of nearly 50,000 — while Delhi recorded 14 transplants in 2024, as per sources in the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO).

11 years of waiting

For Yadav, the surgery followed 11 years of living with a damaged heart that began with a minor attack in 2015. "I didn't even realise it had happened," he said. "We found out three months later, by which time heart damage was already done." He watched as his world slowly shrank. First, he had to give up playing sports. It was his passion — volleyball,



badminton, running, whatever kept him on his feet. "Iss beemari ne mujhe 11 saal sports se dur kar diya (This ailment distanced me from sports for 11 years)," said Yadav.

Then he struggled to even walk. "Every movement started getting curtailed. There were restrictions on everything," he said. "Gradually, I had trouble even walking. I used to feel exhausted doing the smallest things."In 2023, Yadav was placed on the transplant waiting list. By the time he reached Fortis Hospital, Shalimar Bagh, in June 2026, doctors found his heart functioning at a fraction of what it should. Dr Dinesh Kumar Mittal, the senior cardiac surgeon who would go on to lead Yadav's transplant, said, "A heart transplant becomes necessary when the left ventricle — the heart's main pumping chamber — stops functioning properly, falling below 20% of its total capacity." In patients who need a transplant, this can fall to as low as 10-15%, he said, adding, "At that stage, even walking becomes difficult." In July this year, doctors implanted an automated implantable cardioverter-defibrillator — a small device fitted under the skin that delivers an electric shock, jolting a dangerously irregular heart back into rhythm and buying extra time as he waited for a donor.

Soon after the procedure, Fortis called to ask whether he could undergo a transplant immediately. "But I told them I need to rest my body first," Yadav recalled. A donor heart, 95 km away — and a race against time The wait finally ended on September 17.At 8.50 am that day, the transplant coordinator at Fortis Hospital, Shalimar Bagh, received a message from the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO). A heart was available, matched to a B-positive recipient. But the donor, a road accident victim, was at PGIMS Rohtak, 95 km away.

In 3 weeks, over 77,000 households register for Delhi's rooftop solar scheme

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL), which serves North and Northwest Delhi, received 26,788 applications, while BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), covering South and West Delhi, recorded 23,925 registrations.

Delhi.(Ajency)

More than 77,000 households have registered for Delhi's rooftop solar scheme since its launch over three weeks ago, officials said on Wednesday, crossing one-third of the government's target to install 2.3 lakh solar power units in the city by March 31 next year.

This marks a significant increase in interest in rooftop solar installations in the Capital, which had only witnessed 29,718 solar connections installed by BSES and Tata Power – with a combined capacity of 472 Mwp (Megawatt-peak) – before the scheme was launched.



Since September 21, 77,614 applications have been received on the portal. The highest number of registrations, 27,197, came from areas served by BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL), which covers East and Central Delhi.

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL), which serves North and Northwest Delhi, received 26,788 applications, while BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), covering South and West Delhi, recorded 23,925 registrations.Power Minister Ashish Sood said the response, particularly from rural areas and unauthorised colonies, showed growing interest in rooftop solar installations. "This shows the immense trust and enthusiasm of our citizens," he added.

Officials have attributed the slow adoption of rooftop solar in the past partly to the existing electricity subsidy. Eligible consumers receive free electricity for consumption of up to 200 units a month, reducing the incentive to invest in solar systems. The high initial cost of installation and difficulties in securing agreement among residents of group housing societies have also posed hurdles in the way of adoption of the scheme.

The Delhi Solar Policy offers additional subsidies to reduce the cost of installation. Under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, the Centre provides a subsidy of up to Rs 78,000 for rooftop solar systems of up to 3 kW. The Delhi government has announced an additional subsidy of up to Rs 78,000, taking the total subsidy to Rs 1.56 lakh for eligible consumers, making the installation almost free of cost. Further, the government has increased its subsidy for rooftop solar installations serving common facilities in group housing societies from Rs 2,000 to Rs 11,000 per kW, up to a capacity of 500 kW. Eligible installations can also receive central assistance of Rs 18,000 per kW.

Special Summary Revision Camps in Gautam Buddha Nagar on Oct 17, 24

Delhi.(Ajency)

Special Summary Revision Camps will be held in Gautam Buddha Nagar on October 17 and 24, with a special focus on eligible voters who have been left out after the final electoral roll was published on April 10 following a Special Intensive Revision exercise in Uttar Pradesh.

This follows a direction from the state's Chief Electoral Officer that such camps be conducted. Booth Level Officers (BLO) have to be present at each polling booth from 10 am to 4pm on both the days. On Wednesday, election officers in the district met supervisors, asking them to immediately coordinate with the BLO's in their respective areas and inform them that new voters now being added to the electoral roll under special circumstances are no longer required to provide information related to the SIR.



This comes amidst an ongoing row over the alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise involving deletion of over the 13 crore names from the draft rolls in 30 states and Union Territories. An investigative report, published by The Indian Express on September 23, pointed to an internal rift within the Election Commission. This newspaper also reported that the Election Commission directed the 20 states and Union Territories where the exercise had concluded to run a "special drive" to enrol voters "left out" of the rolls. While 2.05 crore names were struck off following the 166-day SIR exercise in UP, roughly 3.6 lakh from Gautam Buddha Nagar did not make it to the final electoral roll, while the draft had 4.4 lakh voters removed. "A sufficient number of Form-6s will be available for new voter registrations, and applicants must attach their latest photograph, date of birth, and proof of address with the form," said an officer.

The officer added that the focus will also be on first-time voters, and that all Indian citizens born before January 1, 2009, and aged 18 years and above, should be included on a priority basis. The focus will also be on women, while physical verification of voters aged 80, and details of third-gender citizens will be recorded or appropriately marked. "Whenever a person fills out Form 6, it is added to the local BLO's cart on the app," a BLO said.

IMF backs India's GDP data revamp, says rupee pressure is no sign of failure

- It described the weapons as strategic, implying an intent to arm them with nuclear warheads, but did not specify whether they were launched from an actual submarine or an

New Delhi.(Ajency)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has backed India's recent changes to its gross domestic product (GDP) data, saying the revised methodology follows good practice. It has also said that pressure on the rupee should not be seen as a sign of economic failure, as India entered the energy shock with strong economic fundamentals, reported The Economic Times.Speaking at a press briefing in Bangkok on Thursday, Krishna Srinivasan, Director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department, said India had entered the shock with strong growth and fiscal discipline and had responded well to the challenges.The rupee has gained for four consecutive sessions after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced measures on October 10 to curb its fall.

RUPEE PRESSURE REFLECTS GLOBAL FACTORS, SAYS IMF

Srinivasan said pressure on the rupee does not mean that India's economic growth and currency performance are disconnected.The exchange rate depends on global interest rates, investor risk appetite and oil prices, he said. As a major oil importer, India has been affected by the energy shock.

He added that currency movements should not be treated as a measure of whether an economy is succeeding or failing.The IMF's Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and the Pacific, released on Thursday, noted that



several emerging economies faced currency pressure following the energy shock. It said some of this pressure had eased over the past few months and listed India among the countries that had intervened in foreign exchange markets.The IMF's World Economic Outlook also highlighted the wider global challenges, noting that benchmark interest rates in advanced economies had climbed to multi-decade highs, increasing borrowing costs for emerging markets. Exchange rates have also remained volatile, particularly in Asia.The IMF's baseline forecast assumes oil prices of around $96 per barrel in 2026, with the Strait of Hormuz reopening from March 2027.

RBI MEASURES HELP RUPEE RECOVER

The RBI introduced a special window on October 10 to meet the daily dollar requirements of three state-owned oil marketing companies — Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum, according to PTI. The window began operating on October 12 and will remain in place until further notice.The measure takes the companies' dollar demand out of the spot market.

Jio IPO price band announced: Issue size 8% higher than Hyundai Motor issue

Kolkata.(Ajency)

Jio IPO price band has been announced. Jio Platforms, the digital and telecom arm of Reliance Industries, has set a price band of Rs 1,065-1,119 per share for its IPO. At the upper end of this price band, the company could raise approximately Rs 30,213 crore, making it the largest IPO in India to date. The IPO will involve the issuance of up to 27 crore new equity shares, each with a face value of Rs 10.

When will the Jio IPO open?

Subscription for the Jio public offer will open on Wednesday, October 21, and close on Friday, October 23. According to a regulatory filing by Reliance, bidding for anchor investors will take place on Monday, October 19. The filing states that the IPO committee of the Jio Platforms board approved this price band during a meeting held on Wednesday. Eligible employees bidding under the employee reservation quota will receive a discount of Rs 54 per share.

Minimum lot size

Investors must bid for a minimum of 12 shares, with subsequent bids required in multiples of 12. Based on the upper end of the price band, the cost for one lot will be Rs 13,428.

Consumer durables buck FPI exodus in FY27; festive demand to test momentum

New Delhi.(Ajency)

The consumer durables segment saw foreign portfolio inflows worth ₹9,901 crore in the ongoing financial year (FY27), with positive trend seen in four of the six months. This comes even as FPI selloff hit a record ₹3.07 trillion this calendar and swelled to ₹1.76 trillion in the ongoing financial year.Analysts believe premiumisation, rising disposable incomes, housing demand and low penetration of appliances has kept the consumer durables segment on FPI radar.

A deeper analysis shows that consumer durables was among the three top sectors in terms of FPI inflows this fiscal, only behind services and consumer services. "Despite overall selling, selective exposure reflects expectations of structural growth, improving product mix and stronger earnings visibility, alongside resilient domestic consumption," said Ravi Singh, chief research officer from Master Capital Services.

Figma sees design as key differentiator as AI lowers coding barriers: CEO Dylan Field

New Delhi.(Ajency)

As AI makes coding faster and lowers the barriers to building software, the value in technology development will increasingly shift towards design, where understanding users, business needs and cultural context will remain critical, Figma CEO and cofounder Dylan Field said.

Field, who is visiting India for the first time, said the country's pragmatic approach to technology adoption stood out compared with San Francisco, where experimentation often generates considerable noise. Indian companies were focused on identifying what would advance their businesses and deliver tangible returns, he said.

"Some people here might already be ahead of people in San Francisco. There is a lot of noise there, with people trying a lot of things. Some of those things are great. They will be the future. But there is also a lot of noise that does not work out," Field said.

Ai's ability to perform tasks with verifiable outcomes, such as mathematics, cybersecurity and coding, is advancing rapidly. But designing systems that are maintainable, extensible and aligned with business needs remains more complex, he said.

SEBI proposes SME-only IPO route for firms valued up to Rs 1,000 crore

Mumbai.(Ajency)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Wednesday proposed a major revamp of the SME initial public offering (IPO) framework, including restricting SME-platform listings to companies valued up to Rs 1,000 crore, easing fundraising norms and reducing compliance requirements to improve market efficiency. Under the proposals, companies with a valuation of up to Rs 1,000 crore would be required to list



only on SME platforms. Firms valued between Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 4,000 crore would have the flexibility to choose between SME and mainboard listings, while companies with valuations exceeding Rs 4,000 crore would be eligible to list only on the mainboard platform.The market regulator has also proposed tightening profitability requirements for SME IPO candidates. Companies seeking an SME listing would need to report an average annual operating profit of at least Rs 3 crore. However, loss-making firms could still access the market provided that qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) subscribe to at least 75 per cent of the net offer, offering an alternative route for high-growth businesses.

In another key proposal, EBI has recommended scrapping the mandatory 100 per cent underwriting requirement for SME IPOs. Instead, issues would need to achieve at least 90 per cent subscription, failing which investor funds would have to be refunded within four days.The regulator has also proposed doing away with the compulsory three-year market-making requirement for SME-listed stocks. Additionally, it suggested introducing one-share trading lots for SME stocks to improve liquidity and reducing the minimum application size for SME IPOs to Rs 1 lakh. At the same time, the minimum number of allottees in an SME IPO could be increased to 500 from the current 200 to broaden investor participation.

SEBI has further proposed removing the existing Rs 10 crore cap on funds that can be allocated for general corporate purposes, potentially giving issuers greater flexibility in deploying IPO proceeds.The consultation paper comes shortly after the regulator extended a temporary relaxation that allows companies to revise their IPO issue size by up to 50 per cent without filing a fresh draft red herring prospectus (DRHP). The relief, originally scheduled to expire on September 30, 2026, has now been extended until March 31, 2027.Introduced in April, the measure enables companies to increase or reduce the size of a fresh issue by up to 50 per cent after filing draft documents, helping issuers respond to changing market conditions without undertaking a fresh regulatory filing process.The extension follows representations from investment bankers and issuers, who cited subdued investor participation and heightened geopolitical uncertainties, particularly in the Middle East, as factors complicating capital-raising plans and valuation assessments.

IDBI Bank shares crash 7%: Why is the stock falling



New Delhi.(Ajency)

Shares of IDBI Bank fell sharply on Thursday, declining as much as 6.05% to Rs 84.97, after the government approved the sale of a controlling stake in the lender to Canada's Fairfax Financial Holdings.

The fall came despite the long-awaited deal marking a major milestone in the bank's proposed ownership transition, as investors weighed the transaction price against the stock's market valuation.The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the sale of a combined 60.72% stake in IDBI Bank by the Centre and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to a Fairfax-backed entity for Rs 52,878 crore. The deal involves the government's 30.48% stake and LIC's 30.24% holding in the bank.The immediate concern for shareholders is the price at which the transaction has been approved. Fairfax's bid of Rs 81 per share is below IDBI Bank's previous closing price of Rs 90.44. It is also lower than the Rs 100–110 per share range that market participants were reportedly expecting.

At Rs 84.97, the stock was still trading above the transaction price, but the gap between the market price and the approved bid has become a key focus for investors. The decline suggests that the announcement has not delivered the valuation premium some market participants had hoped for.

The price offered by Fairfax is central to understanding the stock's reaction. At Rs 81 per share, the deal value is about 10.4% below IDBI Bank's previous closing price of Rs 90.44.

Price rise makes sugar bitter and sweets expensive in festive season

Kolkata.(Ajency)

Is sugar tasting bitter at the onset of the festive season? It is quite likely given the fact that sugar prices refuse to come down, which is pushing the price of sweets higher just at a time when the consumption of sweets rises even in an increasingly health-conscious generation. Festive season is the time when the



consumption of sweets and desserts rise. But this time the price rise of sugar is also causing retail inflation to rise. Reports point to production concern amid due to uneven rainfall.

Price likely to remain higher

Reports state that sugar prices are likely to remain high in the coming months. Experts have said that any possibility of prices declining will depend on fresh sugar supplies and how high the input costs are. Government data suggest that inflation in sugar, confectionery and desserts have moved up to 13.8% in September on a YoY basis. This was only at 10.9% in August and 3.4% in January. Sugar prices have risen 29.8% YoY in September from 24.3% in August. Experts have attributed this rise to raw materials, including sugar.

Inflation in prepared sweets

Data also reveal an upward pressure in the prices of prepared sweets. Inflation in prepared sweets, which are not milk-based went up to 9.4% in September from a level of 7.3% in August. The pace of rise of candy prices almost doubled at 11.5% in September, compared to 6% in August. Inflation in ready-made food and other food products inched up from 9.6% in August to 10% in September. Experts said elevated sugar prices as well as edible oil and fuel costs are responsible for this.

The price rise has come just as India is enterig the festive season with Navratri, Durga Puja and Dussehra and Diwali. During this time every year, the demand for all types of sweets go up. In some sweets dry fruits are added and the prices of these ingredients are also rising.

There are concerns about cane yields following lower rainfall. This could adversely impact sugar production. Moreover a significant share is being chanelled to ethanol manufacture too.

The spectre of food inflation

Incidentally, food inflation has jumped from 6% in August to 7.7% in September. It has pushed up retail inflation from 4.8% in August to 5.54% in September. The RBI governor has repeatedly said that food prices could remain elevated on account of lower rainfall and the lingering El Nino effect. Kharif sowing has already suffered to some extent.

Sensex surges by more than 1,200 points, Nifty 50 by 340 points: What's driving the market

Kolkata.(Ajency)

Why the stock market surged today? On Thursday, October 15, benchmark indices—the Sensex and Nifty—were trading in the green (with gains of up to 1.66%), driven by factors including buying in IT stocks. At 11:40 AM, Sensex was at 73,986.34, up 1.65% or 1,204.45 points. On the other hand, Nifty 50 was at 22,967.60, up 1.52% or 344.90 points.

IT stocks zoom

Why did the stock market surge? Heavy buying in IT stocks was seen. Following strong results from HCLTech on Monday, the IT index rose by 1.5%. This brings the total gain for the index over the last three sessions to 7.8%.Amidst better-than-expected results and profit-booking in AI-related stocks, shares such as TCS, Infosys, HCLTech, and Tech Mahindra saw gains for the third consecutive session.

Asian markets lower

Asian markets opened lower on Thursday. Consumer inflation in the US came in higher than anticipated, strengthening expectations that the Federal Reserve might take action later this year. This news has also impacted global equity markets.

Value buying seen

With the market trading near a six-month low, 'value buying' (purchasing stocks at lower, attractive price points) was observed.The decline in crude oil prices improved the sentiments. Crude prices fell by more than $1 on Thursday. While the US is attempting to reduce petroleum transportation costs by easing restrictions on vessels, there remains a persistent risk of supply disruptions due to attacks on ships in the Strait of Hormuz. Investors factored in these risks, leading to a decline in oil prices.Brent crude futures fell by $1.76, or 1.75%, to $104 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures dropped by $1.02, or 1.07%, to $94.07 per barrel. Both benchmarks surrendered the gains they had recorded in the previous session.

Rupee gains against the US dollar

The Indian rupee opened 0.2% higher



against the US dollar at 94.92, compared to its previous close of 95.15. The dollar saw a decline after having reached an 18-month high overnight. The RBI helped stem the fall in the valoue of the rupee against the greenback.

Sensex weekly expiry

October 15 marks the weekly expiry for the Sensex. On the day of expiry, the market may experience significant volatility as traders square off or roll over their futures and options positions.

Man dies after exposure to chemical while shifting damaged containers near Elavur in Tiruvallur

CHENNAI.(Ajency)
A man died at Stanley Government Hospital on Wednesday after being exposed to triphosgene, a chemical used in the manufacture of pesticides. The deceased, identified as N Santhosh (24), got exposed to the chemical while helping to shift damaged containers from a lorry near Elavur in Tiruvallur on October 12. Two others were exposed to the chemical, and their condition is said to be stable.
The consignment of 1,000 boxes of triphosgene had been arranged for being transported to Hyderabad-based Orch Labs via Chennai Harbour by Balmer Lawrie Chemicals Division, a company based in Manali, police sources said. The container lorry carrying the consignment, driven by Venkatesan, reached the Elavur Integrated Check Post near Arambakkam around 1 pm, where some of the chemical containers were found damaged, and the driver stopped and approached a paint shop for help.

Telangana Police, EAGLE Force arrest three in Goa drug smuggling

HYDERABAD.(Ajency)
In a coordinated interstate operation, the EAGLE Force, working with Hyderabad and Cyberabad police and assisted by local police, apprehended three persons in Goa, part of an interstate drug smuggling network that investigators believe catered to over 1,050 consumers in Telangana.
The accused have been identified as Priteesh Narayan Borkar alias Babu alias Khali, Basharath Ahmed Dhagga alias Bilal alias Jahan Dhagga alias Mansur Ahmed, and Tharun.
Officials said the operation involved technical intelligence gathering, surveillance and coordinated field action to trace absconding suspects and investigate drug supply networks in Telangana. An EAGLE Force official told TNIE that investigators had identified a network supplying drugs to more than 1,050 consumers in Telangana and others in Andhra Pradesh. The figures are provisional and subject to verification, the official said.

Telangana: Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation plans Rs 12 crore construction waste plant

HYDERABAD.(Ajency)
The Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) plans a 200-tonne-per-day construction and demolition (C&D) waste processing plant at Rampally village in Keesara mandal. Spread across five acres in Ghatkesar Circle, the facility will cost Rs 12 crore and is expected to be completed in six months.
The project will be taken up under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 on a public-private partnership basis. The Union government will fund 40% of the cost, with the concessionaire investing the remaining 60%. The agency will operate and maintain the plant for 10 years from the date of commercial operation.
The facility aims to curb the indiscriminate dumping of construction debris along roads and on vacant government and public land. The concessionaire will manage collection, transportation, processing, recycling and disposal, using covered, GPS-enabled vehicles to transport waste from designated collection points, dumping sites and individual premises.

3 CCTV cameras in Thane leader Purnekar's office were off when he was killed

- **Police are probing whether they were deliberately disconnected or had been switched off to light a nearby Ganesh pandal.**

Mumbai.(Ajency)
THREE CCTV cameras at Shiv Sena UBT Vibhag Pramukh Pradeep Purnekar's Thane office that would have captured the assailants stabbing and shooting him dead, thereby proving to be strong evidence, were switched off when the murder took place in his office on September 29, sources said. While prima facie it appears that the switchboard powering the cameras was being used to light a Ganesh pandal near his office that led to the cameras not working, police are probing if there is more to it as the murder took place during the time the cameras were off. A source said, "We are trying to find out if the cameras were either deliberately disconnected or that the accused knew the cameras were off around this time and hence decided to attack him." The source said that one of the five arrested accused Pappya Shinde had done a recce of Purnekar's office a few days before the murder and may have spotted the



cameras. Meanwhile on Wednesday, for the second day in a row, Ravindra Shinde, husband of former Thane Mayor Meenakshi Shinde, was questioned by the Thane police at the Anti Extortion Cell office. He arrived at the office around 1 am and was not allowed to go till 8 pm. He was earlier questioned for eight hours on Tuesday. Sources said he was questioned in connection with his links with some of the accused who have been arrested. So far, the police said they have not zeroed in on the motive behind the murder.
The various angles police are probing include political rivalry, a building project redevelopment in Thane that both Purnekar and Shinde were eyeing and a girl, whom Purnekar had handed over to the police after she was found with two boys in the area, who was spotted in a CCTV camera near the office around the time of the murder. Purnekar had also given complaints on those supplying drugs in the area and the police are looking into that angle as well. Purnekar was shot and stabbed to death at his office on September 29 around 9.30 pm. A murder case was registered at the local police station and the probe was handed over to the crime branch SIT led by DCP Amar Sinh Jadhav. So far, the SIT has arrested five persons identified as Pappya Shinde, Nikhil Yadav, Nitesh Pawar and the key accused, Santosh Kanojia alias Talli and his aide Amit Singh alias Paplu, who were nabbed from Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh last week. Yadav and Pawar were produced before the court on Wednesday and remanded to judicial custody.

In unprecedented meet with V-C, SPPU professors object to 'external interference'

Pune.(Ajency)
In an unprecedented meeting, the Savitribai Phule Teachers Association and the non-teaching staff union on Wednesday gathered at the main building of the Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) and called upon Vice Chancellor Suresh Gosavi to object to alleged external political interference in university matters. Gosavi assured the staff that steps would be taken to protect their rights.
The meeting comes two days after an alleged case of moral policing at the university girl's hostel by two male students of the university and their illegal entry into the girl's hostel premises. Protests by girl students after the incident led to the Chief Rector and the Additional Rector of the hostel offering to resign. Both of these posts were held by professors of the university. However, according to the university administration, some media outlets falsely reported that the Rector



Soniya Nagrale had resigned while the Additional Rector Pravin Talat had been removed from the post. The teacher's association has alleged that the two male students were initially being protected due to political interference, while the resignation of the hostel rectors was done due to externally motivated protests by the girl hostel students of the university. An FIR was later filed against the two students Pramod Rathod and Omkar Gore by the university for criminal trespass. The professors initially gathered at the garden behind the main building of the university, and later shifted to the Dyaneshwar Hall where the Vice Chancellor was called to meet with them. Speeches were made by President of the association Professor Satish Pardeshi, Joint Secretary Professor Shraddha Kumbojhkar, Dhaneshwar Salunkhe of the non-teaching staff union, Professor Karishma Pardeshi, Professor Sandesh Jadkar, Professor Rajesh Gacche, and other staff members.

Traffic on NH-48 restored after protest at Kognoli toll plaza withdrawn

Pune.(Ajency)
Traffic on the Mumbai-Bengaluru National Highway 48 (NH-48) was restored on Wednesday evening after protesters withdrew their agitation at the Kognoli toll plaza in Karnataka, hours after the disruption prompted the Maharashtra Highway Police to divert vehicles onto alternative routes through Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur districts.
In an update issued on Wednesday around 6.30 pm, the Maharashtra Highway Police said the road had been cleared and traffic on NH-48 had resumed as usual. Vehicles that had been diverted due to the protest were also being allowed to return to the highway, and commuters no longer needed to use the alternative routes. The disruption was caused by an ongoing protest at the Kognoli toll plaza in Karnataka over demands concerning sugarcane prices, an increase in ethanol prices and other



related issues. Earlier on Wednesday, the Maharashtra Highway Police had advised motorists travelling from Mumbai towards Bengaluru via NH-48 to avoid the highway as far as possible until further instructions. The advisory followed continued disruption since Tuesday evening, with vehicles heading towards Belagavi and Bengaluru being diverted through the adjoining districts.
Two alternative routes had been suggested for passenger and goods vehicles. Both passed through parts of Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur districts before connecting to Belagavi in Karnataka. The highway is a key interstate corridor connecting Mumbai and Pune with Bengaluru and several industrial centres in southern India. It carries substantial passenger and freight traffic, and the disruption had inconvenienced motorists, bus passengers and transport operators travelling towards Karnataka.

Who is Saurabh Katiyar, IAS officer handed charge of MPSC amid paper leak row?

Mumbai.(Ajency)
When the Maharashtra government handed Mumbai Suburban Collector Saurabh Katiyar the additional charge of secretary of the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) on Wednesday, it placed an administrator with experience in tribal health and urban district administration at the centre of a controversy over the state's recruitment system.
A 2016-batch IAS officer of the Maharashtra cadre, Katiyar graduated from IIT Kanpur with BTech and MTech degrees before joining Qualcomm in Bengaluru. In an interview with Indian Masterminds



published in April, he said his interest in public service and the opportunity to work across different fields drew him to the civil services.
His administrative career has taken him from tribal development work in Dahanu to district-level assignments in Akola, Amravati and Mumbai Suburban. In Amravati, he worked on improving maternal and child health in Melghat, a tribal region that has long struggled with malnutrition and high mortality. As Amravati Collector, Katiyar focused on Mission 28, an initiative centred on the critical period around childbirth. The programme involved monitoring high-risk pregnancies, strengthening follow-up and working with frontline health workers to improve access to care. As Mumbai Suburban Collector, Katiyar has handled land administration and encroachment issues in one of the state's most densely populated districts. The role has also brought him under scrutiny from the Bombay High Court.

Karnataka HC issues notice to State, Centre on national criteria for 'per-child expenditure'

BENGALURU.(Ajency)
The Karnataka High Court issued notice to the state government and an emergent notice to the central government on a petition filed by the Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) seeking directions to formulate, notify and implement national criteria for 'per-child expenditure' (PCE) fixation as per the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, read with the Karnataka Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2012. Justice HT Narendra Prasad passed the order recently after hearing the petition filed by KAMS, representing its General Secretary D Shashikumar, a body of private, unaided English-medium schools across the state, in which it was also made an interim prayer that the court issue directions to the Commissioner for School Education to notify and implement PCE for the academic year 2026-27 within a reasonable time.
It was stated in the petition that both the Act and Rules of 2009 and 2012 have the statutory provision under Section 12(2) and Rule 8, respectively, which mandates issuance of notification every year specifying the PCE. The inaction on the part of the state authorities in not notifying the PCE is in glaring contravention of both the Act and Rules.

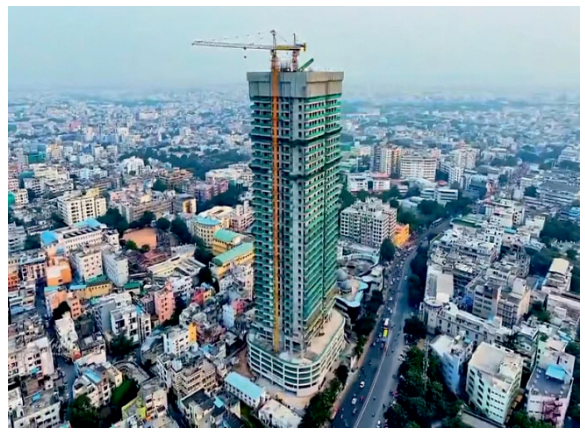
Karnataka's retail pharma organisation seeks withdrawal of medicine pricing disclosure

BENGALURU.(Ajency)
The Karnataka Pharma Retailers and Distributors Organisation (KPRDO) has urged the state government to withdraw a circular mandating the display of landing prices and maximum retail prices (MRP) of medicines, medical devices and consumables on billing invoices, citing legal, operational and patient-safety concerns.
In a representation to Food Safety and Drugs Administration (FDA) Commissioner K Srinivas, the organisation argued that the circular, issued under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act, 2007, could not be extended to hospital pharmacies operating under licences issued under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The organisation said the regulation of drug licensing and retail invoicing fell under the purview of the central government. It also argued that selectively requiring the healthcare sector to disclose procurement prices, while other retail sectors followed the standard MRP framework, was discriminatory.
KPRDO said medicine procurement costs fluctuated depending on manufacturers, distributors and volume-based rate contracts. Implementing batch-wise landing-price disclosures, it added, would place an operational and software burden on hospital information systems. The organisation further contended that existing mechanisms, including the Drugs (Prices Control) Order and the National List of Essential Medicines, were appropriate channels for addressing concerns over excessive medicine prices.

Telangana HC questions nod for high-rise building near Moazzam Jahi Market

Expressing reservations about the project at Gunfoundry in Abids, including its two cellar levels and five additional levels, Justice Vijaysen sought clarity on the implications of the construction.

HYDERABAD.(Ajency)
The Telangana High Court has expressed concern over the approval granted for a 35-storey high-rise in central Hyderabad, with Justice B Vijaysen Reddy questioning the permission given for the Meenakshi Elysia project near the historic Moazzam Jahi Market. Expressing reservations about the project at Gunfoundry in Abids, including its two cellar levels and five additional levels, Justice Vijaysen sought clarity on the implications of the construction.
The observations were made on Tuesday during the hearing of a writ petition filed by the Society for Crusade against Corruption, Hyderabad, challenging the building permission granted by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to Meenakshi Infrastructure Pvt Ltd in August 2022. The petitioner sought a halt to further construction, alleging that the civic body had granted permission without following the prescribed legal procedures or adequately examining safety requirements, potentially endangering the building and surrounding areas. Petitioner's counsel also alleged construction violations and



informed the court that another writ petition concerning the project was pending. After hearing the submissions, Justice Vijaysen directed the Registry to tag the connected petition with the present case. The court adjourned the matter to two weeks.

Kuldeep Yadav should've played in Hyderabad: India's bowling plans under scrutiny

Dhaka.(Ajency)

A 38-year-old man has been India's bowling plans have come under scrutiny after their 24-run defeat to the West Indies in the fourth T20I in Hyderabad, with former India pacer Varun Aaron questioning the team management's decision to leave specialist wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav out of the playing XI.

Aaron, who is also the bowling coach of Sunrisers Hyderabad, felt that the conditions at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium were suited to an additional spinner and that Kuldeep could have made a significant difference for the hosts. India stuck with an unchanged XI for the contest, but their bowling attack struggled to contain the West Indies, who

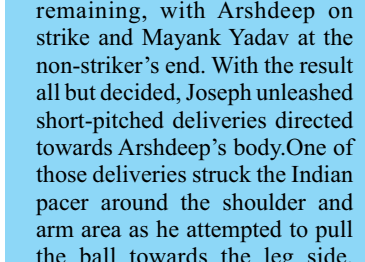


posted 247 for three before restricting the hosts to 223 for nine.ming poison, the family said. "Ultimately, poor bowling plans and a lack of batting awareness cost India the game again. India should have played an extra spinner. Kuldeep should have played on this wicket," Aaron said on JioHotstar.The surface in Hyderabad was not the flat track many had anticipated. The relaid pitch offered some assistance to the bowlers, with deliveries occasionally holding up during both innings. The lack of dew also meant conditions could have favoured a wrist-spinner, strengthening the argument for Kuldeep's inclusion.

MOTIE'S ROLE IN HYDERABAD

India went into the fourth T20I with Axar Patel and Naman Dhir as their only spin options. Axar returned figures of 1/45, dismissing West Indies opener Jewel Andrew in the powerplay, while Naman conceded 19 runs in his brief spell.

West Indies slammed for final over antics to target Arshdeep Singh in Hyderabad



Washington.(Ajency)

West Indies may have secured a 24-run victory over India in the fourth T20I in Hyderabad, but their conduct in the closing moments of the match drew criticism from former Bengal cricketer Shreevats Goswami. He questioned Shamar Joseph's decision to continue bowling short deliveries at Arshdeep Singh when India had no realistic chance of pulling off a comeback. India needed 35 runs off the final over and had just one wicket remaining, with Arshdeep on strike and Mayank Yadav at the non-striker's end. With the result all but decided, Joseph unleashed short-pitched deliveries directed towards Arshdeep's body.One of those deliveries struck the Indian pacer around the shoulder and arm area as he attempted to pull the ball towards the leg side. Arshdeep immediately appeared to be in considerable pain and went down, prompting the physios to rush out and assess his condition.Although Arshdeep eventually resumed batting, Joseph persisted with the short-ball approach. Another delivery missed the batter, but the Indian pacer was visibly struggling with the pain.

Vinicus Jr suspended for 4 games, to miss season's first El Clasico

- Vinicius Jr has been handed a four-match suspension by the Spanish Football Federation after pulling Nathan Saliba's hair during Real Madrid's LaLiga clash against Villarreal. The ban rules the Brazilian forward out of the season's first El Clasico against Barcelona.



SEOUL.(Ajency)

-Real Madrid forward Vinicius Jr has been handed a four-match suspension by the Spanish Football Federation's disciplinary committee for pulling the hair of Villarreal defender Nathan Saliba during their LaLiga clash. The punishment rules the Brazilian out of the first El Clasico of the season, with Real Madrid set to face Barcelona on October 26.

The disciplinary committee imposed a two-match ban for the red-card offence and added another two matches for his protests towards the referee, according to its report covering the eighth round of LaLiga fixtures. Vinicius will consequently miss Real Madrid's league matches against Sevilla, Barcelona, Racing Santander and Valencia.

The suspension is a significant setback for Real Madrid, who are already struggling to keep pace with Barcelona in the early stages of the league campaign. Vinicius has started all but one of Real's matches this season, but the Spanish giants have lost two of their eight league games and sit fourth in the table, six points behind their arch-rivals.

VINICIUS APOLOGISES AFTER RED CARD

Vinicius was sent off during Real Madrid's 1-0 victory over Villarreal at the Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday. The Brazilian, who came on as a substitute in the 52nd minute, was dismissed around 20 minutes later after a VAR review found that he had pulled Saliba's hair in the build-up to what he thought was Real's second goal. The effort was disallowed following the review.Spanish Football Federation regulations classify pulling an opponent's hair as violent conduct. Under Article 130, the punishment for violent conduct that does not cause injury can range from a one-match to a three-match suspension.Following the match, Vinicius apologised to his teammates and the club's supporters on social media, writing: "sorry to the team and the fans."However, the disciplinary committee imposed a four-match suspension, taking into account both the red-card offence and his protests towards the referee. The additional punishment means the 26-year-old will miss one of the most important fixtures on Real Madrid's calendar.

REAL MADRID FACE BARCELONA TEST

The first El Clasico of the season is scheduled for October 26, with Real Madrid travelling to Camp Nou to face defending LaLiga champions Barcelona. The match comes at a crucial juncture for Real, who have already dropped points in the league and find themselves chasing a Barcelona side that has made a perfect start.

Learning from Virat Kohli, 24-year-old Vicky Ostwal embraces the red-ball grind

Come on, Vicky.(Ajency)

The chant rang out from the Maharashtra dugout as Vicky Ostwal kept running in on a hot afternoon against Railways in their Ranji Trophy season opener in Palam, Delhi. There was no shortage of encouragement, but the left-arm spinner was hardly looking for a way out.



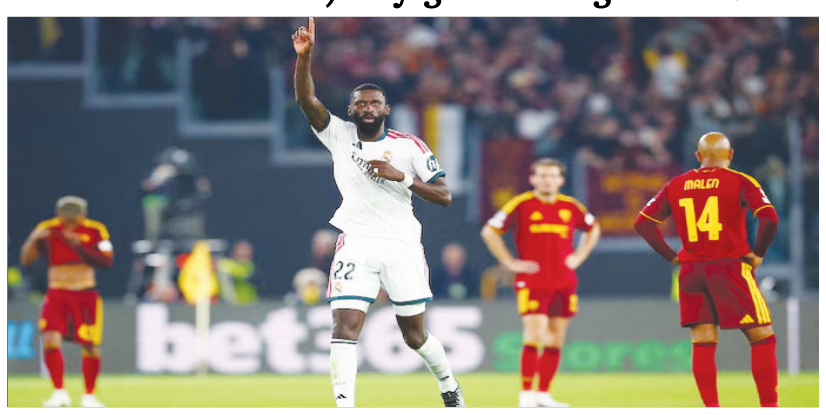
He wanted the ball, and he wanted another spell on Wednesday.Vicky Ostwal had already put in the hard yards in the first innings, bowling 24.2 overs and taking two wickets. He had also scored a valuable 50, batting with the tail to help Maharashtra reach 333 after Ankit Bawne's hundred. With a lead of 110 runs, the visitors had given their bowlers some breathing room on a pitch that was becoming increasingly difficult to bat on.

In the second innings on Day 4, stand-in captain Prithvi Shaw opted for a three-pronged spin attack, and Ostwal responded with 28 overs and five wickets as Railways were bowled out for 120. It was his third five-wicket haul in the Ranji Trophy, and a performance that underlined how much Maharashtra could ask of him.For a 24-year-old still establishing himself in senior domestic cricket, it was a substantial workload. Ostwal, however, seemed happy to take it on."I was really happy that I could contribute to the team's win with both bat and ball," he told reporters after Maharashtra's win with a beaming smile on his face."When you get an outright win in an away game, especially on a pitch like this, it is a good start to the season."The wickets made for a memorable afternoon, but the 50 was just as important. Ostwal has spent the past few years working on his batting, determined to be more than a left-arm spinner who could offer a few runs down the order. Against Railways, he delivered at a crucial stage, helping Maharashtra build a total that gave their bowlers the cushion they needed."I've worked a lot on my batting over the past two or three years. I've scored runs in the Under-23s and local leagues as well," he said."Last year, I was contributing with the bat, putting together partnerships with the top-order batters and scoring 30-odd runs lower down the order. But getting a 50 in a crucial stage of the first innings was a great confidence booster."

LOVE FOR RED-BALL CRICKET

Ostwal is not short of ambition. He considers himself a "pure all-rounder", pointing to hundreds in the Maharashtra Premier League and Cooch Behar Trophy as evidence of what he can do with the bat.

Champions League: Real Madrid win 7-goal thriller vs Roma, City go down against PSG



New Delhi.(Ajency)

Real Madrid produced a stunning late comeback to beat AS Roma 4-3, while Manchester City suffered a 4-2 defeat to Paris Saint-Germain in a pulsating night of Champions League action on Wednesday. Madrid scored three times in the final 10 minutes to overturn a two-goal deficit at the Stadio Olimpico, while PSG's first-half blitz proved decisive against the defending Premier League champions.

The night's action also saw Liverpool thrash LASK 6-3, with Bradley Barcola scoring a hat-trick, while Aston Villa recorded the biggest European victory in their history with a 6-0 demolition of Fenerbahce.

REAL MADRID STUN ROMA WITH LATE COMEBACK

Real Madrid staged a remarkable fightback to snatch a 4-3 victory over Roma, scoring three times in the final 10 minutes after falling two goals behind.

Marten de Roon put Roma ahead in the 20th minute, but Kylian Mbappe equalised five minutes later to keep Madrid in the contest. The hosts took control after the break, with Donyell Malen scoring twice in the 51st and 57th minutes to give Roma a commanding 3-1 lead.Madrid, however, refused to surrender. Carlos Espi pulled one back in the 82nd minute before Endrick restored parity three minutes later. Antonio Rudiger then completed the turnaround in the 90th minute, steering home Arda Guler's inswinging corner to cap a stunning late rally.

All three of Madrid's goals in the closing stages came from corners, underlining how the visitors found a way back into a contest that had appeared beyond them.

Faf du Plessis slams Durban Test scheduling, questions Cricket South Africa

MANAUS.(Ajency)

Former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis has questioned Cricket South Africa's decision to host the opening Test against Australia in Durban, arguing that the venue's history against the visitors and its poor crowd turnout should have prompted the governing body to reconsider its choice. His criticism comes after Australia secured a commanding 214-run victory at Kingsmead to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match Test series.Australia's win continued their impressive record at the Durban venue, where they had also beaten South Africa in 2006, 2009 and 2018. The latest defeat has added weight to Faf's concerns about the scheduling of the series, with the former skipper questioning why South Africa would begin such a high-profile contest at a ground where Australia have enjoyed considerable success.

"For me, there's a big question mark that I'd like to put to the decision-makers at Cricket South Africa. When you have such a poor record at Kingsmead in Durban, while Australia have an excellent record there — I think they've won their last four consecutive Test matches against us at the venue — why would you start the series there? You're effectively telling the opposition, 'Let's start at a venue"If you compare Durban with other venues in South Africa, such as Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Pretoria and Wanderers, South Africa and the Proteas have a much better record at those grounds. So that's my first question," Faf told Cricinfo. where you're most comfortable.'

DURBAN'S CROWD CONCERN



Faf also questioned Durban's ability to draw spectators for a marquee Test series, arguing that the atmosphere at the venue did not match the anticipation surrounding Australia's return to South Africa."Secondly, from a crowd perspective, Durban also has the lowest viewership numbers among South African grounds. There's all this hype and talk ahead of the first Test between South Africa and Australia, an iconic series, with Australia returning for the first time since 2018. Yet, there's no crowd. You look at the television and think, 'That's not good, man. I don't want to see that. I want to see a packed stadium watching this big series'," Faf added.His comments highlight a broader challenge for Test cricket: ensuring that major international contests attract healthy crowds and deliver the atmosphere their stature deserves. With Australia arriving as one of the strongest touring sides, the choice of venue has become an additional talking point following South Africa's heavy defeat.

PROTEAS IN FOR TOUGH CHALLENGE

The scheduling debate is particularly interesting given the historical head-to-head records at the other venues. Australia have won 10 of the 14 Tests played against South Africa in Cape Town, while the Proteas have enjoyed greater success in Gqeberha, formerly known as Port Elizabeth. South Africa have won four of the seven Tests against Australia at St George's Park, compared with Australia's three victories.

The second Test of the series is scheduled to take place in Gqeberha, followed by the third in Cape Town. South Africa will need to respond strongly in the remaining matches after their batting struggled to withstand Australia's attack in Durban. Gqeberha is the only venue in South Africa where the Proteas have won more Tests against Australia than they have lost.Australia's first-Test victory was built on Matt Renshaw's outstanding contributions with the bat and Josh Hazlewood's decisive bowling performance. Renshaw scored 190 in the first innings and followed it with 82 in the second.

Sanju Samson provides Arshdeep Singh injury update, says India charged up for final T20I

IOWA CITY.(Ajency)

Sanju Samson has provided an update on Arshdeep Singh after the India pacer suffered a painful blow to his shoulder during the fourth T20I against West Indies in Hyderabad. With the five-match series level at 2-2, Samson said India were charged up for the series decider in Bengaluru, while hoping Arshdeep would recover in time.Arshdeep was struck by a short-pitched delivery from Shamar Joseph in the final over of India's chase on Wednesday. The blow left the left-arm pacer in considerable pain, prompting the physios to rush onto the field to assess his condition."Arshdeep is putting ice on his shoulders. Hopefully he gets well soon. He got struck by a high-speed ball. Hope he recovers soon," Samson said during the post-match press conference.India needed 35 runs from the final over with just one wicket remaining when Joseph bowled a barrage of bouncers to Arshdeep, one of which hit him on his left shoulder. Many felt that the action was unsportsmanlike from Joseph, as Arshdeep could never have chased the runs down.Although the Indian pacer atempted to continue batting, he appeared to be struggling with the pain. India captain Shreyas Iyer eventually urged Arshdeep to retire, bringing the chase to an end as West Indies secured a 24-run victory to level the series.The incident also drew criticism from former Bengal cricketer Shreevats Goswami, who questioned Joseph's decision to continue bowling short at Arshdeep when India had little chance of completing the chase."What Shamar Joseph did in the last 3 balls against Arshdeep is not in the spirit of the game for me!" Goswami wrote on X, arguing that the West Indies pacer could have opted to bowl at the stumps instead.





After Janhvi Kapoor

Shriya Saran Slams Explicit AI-Morphed Pics: 'They Change Your B**b Size'

Recently, Janhvi Kapoor condemned an AI-altered video of her song Chuttamalle from Devara: Part 1. The video, which went viral, digitally manipulated her appearance to create sexually explicit imagery that was never a part of the original song. She slammed the 'criminal misuse' of AI to objectify women and called the video 'deeply violating' and 'bordering on sexual assault'.The incident once again raised AI misuse concerns, leading members of the film fraternity such as Jr NTR, Chiranjeevi and Khushbu Sundar taking a firm stand against the violation. Speaking exclusively to News18, Shriya Saran, who has also been a victim of AI abuse leading to the creation of morphed images of her, reacts to the issue that has become rampant.She points out that more often than note, it's the women, who bear the brunt, as their body parts become a talking point on the internet. "It's funny. Sometimes, I don't even know if it's me. They change the size of your b**s, suddenly the cape that you were wearing is gone or your a* looks bigger. You've to take it with a pinch of salt. Having said that, it's annoying and it's not right," she states."While AI has a lot to give us and a lot to help us with, there's also a lot it can change for us. It can lead to things that can be dangerous.



I think that applies to every technology. With time, we've to either learn to live with it or deal with it," she adds. With AI becoming part of an actor's life, Shriya notes that 'a lot of other things' have changed too from the time she made her debut in 2001 with Ishtam.

"We didn't have make-up vans. I didn't have one in my first three films. We would find a tree and sit under it and have our lunches together. It was beautiful in a way. The positive side is that I still remember my conversations with some of my co-actors and directors. We used to sit together and discuss life and books. Hum recorder laya karte the aur sab saath mein music sunte the," she says.

"Now, everyone has earphones and you don't even know what the other person is listening to. Cinema has changed a lot. The style of srytelling has changed a lot," she continues. But the most significant change, Shriya believes, is the growing presence of women in decision-making roles on film sets. "There are more women behind the camera than in front of it," she points out.The Drishyam and RRR actor adds, "There are women deciding the kind of story that needs to be told and what they should put money in. You can make as many women-oriented stories as you want but if the people behind the camera are all men, you can't really label them as a female-led film.

INSIDE Aneet Padda's

Fairytale-Themed Birthday Bash Ft Ahaan Panday's Special Gesture, Alia Bhatt's Appearance



Actress Aneet Padda, who won the hearts of the audience with her solid performance in Saiyaara in 2025, celebrated her 24th birthday on October 13. The occasion was made even more special by her co-star Ahaan Panday, who shared a heartfelt birthday wish for her on social media along with several candid pictures. Aneet's birthday festivities have now grabbed attention online, with glimpses of the celebration revealing a dreamy, fairytale-inspired setup attended by several familiar faces.



Inside Aneet Padda's birthday celebration

On October 13, Aneet Padda's Saiyaara co-star Alam Khan posted a few pictures from her birthday celebration on social media. Although the photos were subsequently deleted, fans had already saved and shared them online, giving a glimpse of the festivities. The party featured whimsical pink decorations and a fairytale-inspired theme. Ahaan Panday attended the celebration with his mother, Deanne Panday, while actress Alia Bhatt was also on the guest list.

Aneet and Deanne shared a playful moment in one of the pictures, posing together for a selfie with funny expressions. Pink and green balloons adorned the space, while the dessert table featured two eye-catching cakes, one shaped like a castle and the other a pink two-tier confection. Aneet celebrated her birthday in a fitted, short yellow dress. Ahaan, meanwhile, arrived in a black shimmery shirt and matching jeans. According to the viral pictures, Ahaan also created a special playlist for his rumoured ladylove, Aneet, and made sure to invite Alia since she admires her.A fan wrote on social media, "so ahaan literally curated a 5+ hours birthday playlist for his girl+ hosted a princess themed party+ castle themed cake anddd he invited alia as her bday present as she's her hero brb crying." Even the internet was impressed by Ahaan's sweet gestures for Aneet. Have a look at the pictures here:Meanwhile, Aneet was recently seen gracing Ahaan's sister Alanna Panday's baby shower in the city. She was seen bonding with Ananya Panday at the family event. The videos soon went viral on social media, sending fans into a frenzy.

On the work front, Aneet and Ahaan will reunite in Mohit Suri's untitled next. The film is set to go on the floors later in this month. Aneet also has Shakti Shalini with the late actor Nana Patekar.

Is Salman Khan Still A Virgin? Karan Johar Asks Internet-Breaking Question Again On Koffee With Karan Finale



Salman Khan is returning to the Koffee couch, and Karan Johar has wasted no time bringing back one of the most talked-about moments from the actor's previous appearance. In the new promo for the ninth and final season of Koffee With Karan, Karan asks Salman the same question that made headlines in 2013: "You still a virgin?"Salman says, "Control, yaar, brother. Control." He then asks Karan, "Ye aisa toh nahi hai na ki last season bol bol ke you got all of us to do Koffee With Karan?"

Why Salman Khan Said He Was A Virgin On Koffee With Karan

Salman's original virginity comment came during the opening episode of Season 4 in December 2013. At the time, Karan asked him about his relationships and whether he wanted to save himself for the woman he would eventually marry.Salman replied that he wanted to save himself for his future wife. When Karan asked directly if he was a virgin, Salman said yes and added that he had had friends, but no benefits. He also said he preferred sleeping alone. The exchange made headlines and became one of the show's most remembered moments.

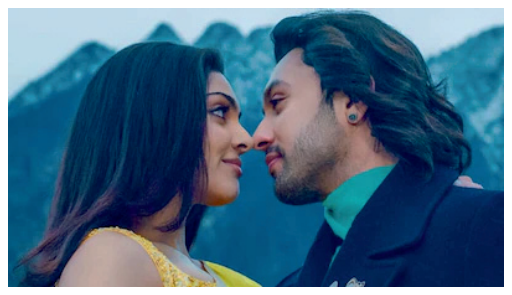
Salman Khan Tells Karan Johar, 'Karan, Tusi Na Jao'

The promo also plays on the duo's long association. When Karan promises that he is leaving the show, Salman jokes with a reference to their film Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, saying, "Karan, tusi na jao."Karan then tells Salman that he seems different and "just a lot more composed". Salman replies with a joke about taking his own advice: "All the advicees that I've given, there has come a time for me to follow my own advices."

Salman Khan Talks About Trolling And Paparazzi Culture

The conversation also turns to Salman's recent comments on Bigg Boss 20 about trolling and paparazzi culture. "Jisne ye phone mein camera, jisne banaya hai, woh agar kahin mujhe mil gaya."

Adhyayan Suman's Main Na Raha Mera Postponed, Film Avoids Clash With 'Several Releases'



Actor Adhyayan Suman, who will be next seen in the upcoming film 'Main Na Raha Mera', has shared that the makers of the film have decided to move its release date owing to the clutter at the box-office.The film, which also stars Divita Rai, will now release in cinemas on December 11, 2026. Earlier, the makers had booked October 23 for its release. However, looking at the fierce competition at the box-office, and the legion of films releasing over the course of next 3-4 weeks, the makers decided it's best to move its release to a later date.

Talking about the decision, Adhyayan Suman said, "'Main Na Raha Mera' is an extremely personal film for me, and we want audiences to experience its emotions the way we have envisioned them. With a story that explores love, heartbreak and the complexities of ego, it was important for us to find the right window for the film. October 23 had several releases lined up, and we felt that moving to December 11 would give us a better opportunity to bring the film to audiences with the attention it deserves".

The shift gives the romantic musical a relatively less crowded theatrical window amid competition from multiple releases lined up for October.

The makers have already unveiled the teaser, followed by the title track sung by Arijit Singh and the romantic number 'Shayad', voiced by Rekha Bhardwaj.

Producer Dharmesh Sangani said, "As producers, our responsibility is not just to make a film but also to ensure that it gets the best possible opportunity to connect with audiences in cinemas. October 23 was shaping up to be a crowded release date, and after careful consideration, we decided that December 11 would be a more suitable window for Main Na Raha Mera. The film has a strong emotional core, complemented by music that plays an integral part in its storytelling. We want to give it the right space to reach its audience".

North Korea says it tested cruise missiles designed to be fired from submarines

- It described the weapons as strategic, implying an intent to arm them with nuclear warheads, but did not specify whether they were launched from an actual submarine or an underwater test platform.

SEOUL.(Ajency)

North Korea says it has test-fired cruise missiles designed to be fired from submarines as it continues to expand its military capabilities during a prolonged freeze in diplomacy with Washington and Seoul.North Korean state media on Thursday said the military tested two types of such missiles in the country's eastern waters on Wednesday. The report described the weapons as strategic, implying an intent to arm them with nuclear warheads, but did not specify whether they were launched from an actual submarine or an underwater test platform.North Korean state media said the tests were aimed at assessing the readiness of the country's underwater combat systems, improving the Navy's ability to



carry out strategic missions and demonstrating the reliability of its nuclear deterrent.The South's military did not immediately comment on the tests.The launches extended a recent run in weapons demonstrations, including tests of various hypersonic missile systems on Sept. 20 and Oct. 3 that the North said were aimed at advancing its arsenal of weapons designed to overwhelm missile defenses in South Korea and Japan.

North Korea for years has been developing various ballistic and cruise missiles designed to be fired from underwater. It has also claimed progress in recent months in building a nuclear-powered submarine that it intends to arm with nuclear-capable weapons, as leader Kim Jong Un turns his focus to strengthening the navy after a decade of expanding the country's ballistic missile program.North Korea's potential acquisition of a submarine capable of operating stealthily for extended periods and launching missiles from underwater would be a worrying development for its neighbors as such launches would be difficult to detect in advance. But there have been questions about whether North Korea, a heavily sanctioned and impoverished country, has the resources and technology needed to build such systems.North Korea in recent weeks has also conducted live-fire drills and commissioned a new warship as leader Kim Jong Un continues to flaunt his nuclear weapons program while rejecting US and South Korean offers to resume long-stalled diplomacy.

'He Was Mentally Unwell': Family On Bangladeshi Man Killed Over 'Blasphemy'

Dhaka.(Ajency)

A 38-year-old man has been beaten to death by a mob in Bangladesh's Satkhira over allegations that he had hurt religious sentiments, police have said. Wahiduzzaman Shamim was targeted after several audio clips purportedly containing his 'blasphemous' remarks went viral on social media, according to a report by The Daily Star.

The report said police once rescued Shamim from the mob and admitted him to a hospital. But later at night, the group returned and took him away from the hospital to assault him again. The man's condition soon deteriorated, and he died on his way to another hospital.

Shamim became the target of the mob's anger after several of his audio conversations were shared on social media. Khairul Alam, a local, told Bangladeshi daily Prothom Alo that the recordings contained remarks that allegedly offended religious sentiments.

The audio clips sparked tension in the area, leading to the violence. The victim's family, however, has claimed that he had been behaving unusually for several days and was not mentally well.

'Special Day': How A Coworker Stopped US Teen's Hindu Temple Shooting Plot

Washington.(Ajency)

The US teen, who has been arrested for planning a violent plot targeting a Hindu place of worship in Illinois, Chicago, was one malfunctioning rifle away from becoming a mass shooter, according to police. Alexandros Paporakis, 19, who works as a cashier at Taco Bell in the suburban hometown of Palatin, had plotted to carry out a "mass shooting of Indian people" at a Hindu temple in Aurora.

Paporakis allegedly drove from his mother's home in Palatine to a temple in Aurora on Sunday, where he intended "to kill a significant number of Indians", NBC Chicago reported, citing police.According to the report, the suspect tried to open fire, but his gun jammed, forcing him to drive back home. There he "searched the internet trying to learn how to unjam his gun and called a colleague, informing them of (his) intent to carry out a mass shooting," police said.

"Risk To Her Safety Too Great": Indian-Origin Man Denied Bail In Stalking Case

Canberra, Australia.(Ajency)

An Indian-origin public servant in Australia has been refused bail after being accused of stalking and threatening a woman he met through a dating app. A court ruled that releasing him could put the woman's safety and wellbeing at serious risk. The accused, identified as 31-year-old Suyash Sinha, appeared before the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Magistrates Court on Wednesday, October 14, after police arrested him during an operation at his home.

According to ABC News, prosecutors opposed Sinha's release, claiming he had become obsessed with the woman and continued contacting her despite her repeated rejection. They argued that granting bail could put her safety at risk and that he might interfere with witnesses or evidence. The court also heard that the woman was frightened by his alleged behaviour and was experiencing symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).According to ABC News, despite allegedly saying to Mr Sinha, "I told you, I'm not interested.

'It mainly means fear': Prospect of Bolsonaro win looms large over Brazil's Indigenous

MANAUS.(Ajency)

Brazil's Amazonian Indigenous communities are watching with bated breath as presidential candidate Flavio Bolsonaro inches closer to power, recalling the damage wrought on the rainforest under his father Jair Bolsonaro. the suspected trafficking operation.The surname they share "represents everything bad for us," Inara Waty, leader of the Satere-Mawe people in the Amazonian city of Manaus, told AFP. "It mainly means fear," she said, her eyes filling with tears as she recalled life under the last Bolsonaro administration.Jair Bolsonaro governed the world's most biodiverse country between 2019 and 2022, a period marked by record levels of deforestation in the Amazon and backsliding in Indigenous rights.His son, the favorite in the October 25 runoff against leftist incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, says he would run a "Bolsonaro 2.0" presidency."The greatest way we addressed environmental issues was what we did during president Bolsonaro's administration," the senator said during an interview on the campaign trail.The candidate believes his father, currently serving 27 years for coup-plotting, "fought" against a "radical environmental agenda."He claims that extreme weather events that scientists attribute to man-made global warming are merely "cyclical."

'Question of life'

Like his father, Flavio Bolsonaro can count on the support of large-scale agricultural and livestock producers locked in land disputes with Indigenous communities. Bolsonaro allies were elected in seven of Brazil's nine Amazonian states earlier this month.

"They want land to plant soy, to keep their cattle. We want land to survive, to plant; we want the land so we can take care of it," said Waty.This divide makes the election a "question of life" for



Indigenous people, she added.A recent video posted online showed women from the Yanomami ethnic group accusing Flavio Bolsonaro of having ties to illegal miners."If the forest is destroyed, how are we going to live?" they shout, their faces adorned with paint. "We don't want to be killed again!"During Jair Bolsonaro's mandate, this community suffered invasions by artisanal gold miners known as "garimpeiros," whose activities triggered a humanitarian crisis.Flavio Bolsonaro has proposed treating the environment as a "strategic asset," including a pledge to end "illegal deforestation" by 2029.That point harks back to a similar, unfulfilled promise by his father, who instead oversaw soaring deforestation rates.That goal "is incompatible with (Flavio Bolsonaro's) environmental policy," said Adriana Ramos of the NGO Instituto Socioambiental.His campaign did not respond to AFP's request for information about his environmental program, nor a request for comment about Indigenous and environmental concerns.

Even worse'

One particularly painful moment for these groups was in 2019, when fires started by government-aligned landowners scorched the rainforest for weeks on end.Authorities at the time caused "daily madness for everyone," said Suely Araujo of the Climate Observatory NGO.The Amazon lost around 11,600 square kilometers of rainforest per year under Jair Bolsonaro -- almost 60 percent more than in the previous four years, official figures show.Lula's government slashed that figure by half in 2025 and expanded the limits of Indigenous lands. But it also faces criticism for backing oil exploration off the Amazonian coast.The climate has barely registered as an issue during this election campaign, although Brazil is vulnerable to the El Nino weather pattern, which causes drought and other erratic conditions in the region.The number of fires in Amazonas state skyrocketed in September and October this year compared to the same period in 2025.

US coach who recorded young gymnasts undressing is sentenced to 90 years in prison



IOWA CITY.(Ajency)

A once prominent youth gymnastics coach was sentenced to 90 years in prison Wednesday for secretly recording his young female students undressing and using the bathroom at a Mississippi gym, in a case that rocked the sport.US District Judge Kristi Johnson gave the maximum sentence possible to Sean Gardner, ordering that he serve 30 years in prison for each of the three federal child pornography production charges to which he pleaded guilty. The sentence likely amounts to life in prison for Gardner, 39.Gardner's arrest last summer by the FBI, first reported by The Associated Press, renewed questions about whether US gymnastics authorities had done enough to protect athletes from sexual abuse at the hands of an influential coach.Gardner pleaded guilty to placing a hidden camera in a bathroom at a gymnastics studio in Purvis, Mississippi, between December 2017 and April 2018 to record his students.Investigators say he created videos showing close-up images of at least 10 minors naked or undressing, which they recovered from his computers years later while investigating claims that he sexually abused gymnasts in Iowa.Several of his former students at Chow's Gymnastics and Dance Institute in West Des Moines, Iowa, have alleged to police and in civil lawsuits that he used his position to prey on them.

Brazil's Senate approves shorter 40-hour workweek in major win for Lula ahead of runoff

SAO PAULO.(Ajency)

Brazil's Senate approved a constitutional amendment Wednesday to reduce the country's maximum workweek from 44 to 40 hours without a salary cut, a move backed by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who hopes it will boost his standing against Flávio Bolsonaro in the Oct. 25 presidential runoff.

Lula is expected to sign the shorter workweek into law next week after the measure passed the Senate in two rounds of voting with the same result: 75 to 1 out of 81 members. The sole vote against it came from former Vice President Hamilton Mourao, who served under President Jair Bolsonaro.Flávio Bolsonaro, who opposed the initiative until early this week, voted for it remotely as he campaigned in southern Brazil. Analysts and politicians say his allies in the Senate stopped blocking the popular move so he wouldn't be hurt in his neck-to-neck race against Lula.The amendment gives businesses 14 months to adopt the shorter workweek, which was a key sticking point in the negotiations. Many business leaders and lawmakers wanted the changes to be made gradually over 10 years.

The constitutional amendment establishes a 40-hour weekly limit and two rest days without reducing pay. More than 37 million workers could benefit from the new rules, according to the government.

"When You Are Given Gifts, You Take Them": Trump On Accepting Qatar's Air Force One



Washington.(Ajency)

President Donald Trump showed off the new Air Force One and defended accepting the luxury jet from the Qatari royal family as he campaigned for Republicans Wednesday in an economically struggling corner of rural Arizona.His first substantive comments after he got off the plane to address the airport rally described learning that the Qataris had "the best of all the 747s." He said he called to ask the country's leader to borrow the aircraft before the emir offered it instead as a gift.Trump accepted the airplane last year despite strong bipartisan criticism, including from some of his staunchest Republican supporters."When you're given gifts, you take 'em, right?" Trump told the crowd in Bullhead City. "When they give you a 747 you say two words: 'thank you.

UK prosecutor labels Russell Brand 'ruthless sexual predator' as his sex assault trial begins

LONDON.(Ajency)

Russell Brand behaved as a "ruthless" sexual predator when he assaulted six women over a decade, a prosecutor said Wednesday, as she opened the rape and sexual assault case against the actor-comedian.Brand, 51, has pleaded not guilty to three counts of rape, three counts of sexual assault and one count of indecent assault. The charges involve six women and alleged offenses between 1999 and 2009.Prosecutor Riel Karmy-Jones told jurors at Southwark Crown Court in London that the six women, who don't know each other, were assaulted by Brand in "a hotel room, workplaces, a toilet cubicle in a bar and at his home address."She said Brand at the time had an "indiscriminate and voracious" desire for sexual contact, and "women were simply a means to an end."The prosecutor said Brand could be funny and charming, "a flirt with a huge sexual appetite — childlike in his expectation that his every desire should be met.""He was ruthless, he was calculating, he was manipulative. And, the prosecution say, he was a sexual predator," Karmy-Jones said.

Jury will hear from Brand's accusers later in the trialBrand listened intently from the dock as the prosecutor described each of the alleged incidents, including the earliest, in which Brand allegedly raped a woman in a hotel room during the Labour Party's annual conference in 1999.

Brand, then a rising stand-up comedian, was performing in a cabaret on the fringe of the conference in the English coastal town of Bournemouth.Two years later, another woman alleges, Brand tried to drag her into the men's bathroom at the office building where she worked. "There can be little doubt as to what Mr. Brand's intention was," Karmy-Jones said.A third woman alleges that Brand orally raped her in 2004 in the restroom of a London bar, telling her "Don't be a spoilsport" when she asked him to stop.The prosecutor said the other complainants include a woman who says Brand kissed and groped her at a London radio station



in 2004 or 2005, leaving her feeling "dirty and disgusting"; and a then-21-year-old fan who says Brand anally raped her at his home after she met him at one of his shows in 2009.She said the following year she exchanged text messages with Brand, telling him: "You treated me like an animal." He replied: "I'm sorry."The final complainant says Brand demanded a massage and pressed his face into her groin during the recording of an advertisement in 2009.