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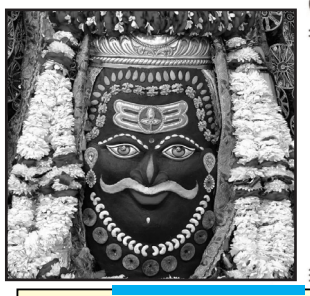
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Thursday, October 22, 2026

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+91-9638877700
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PM Modi urges unity against 'enemies of the country' at Delhi Dussehra event

New Delhi . (Agency).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged political parties to unite in the national interest and called on citizens to identify and defeat what he described as the "enemies of the country", as the government seeks to build consensus for the passage of the delimitation-linked Women's Reservation Bill.Addressing Vijayadashami celebrations at the DDA Utsav Ground in IP Extension, New Delhi, Modi also urged people to follow the motto of "Nation First", saying forces that harm the country, divide society and oppose its cultural values must be resisted."The forces that inflict harm on the country, the people who divide society and the mindset that hates our culture, all these are the enemies of the nation," he said.The Prime Minister's appeal for political unity comes amid the government's efforts to secure support for legislation linking the implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies to delimitation. It also comes against the backdrop of opposition protests over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and demands for the resignation of Chief Election.

President Murmu promulgates law on Ladakh hill councils

SRINAGAR (Agency).

Ladakh can now hold elections to eight hill councils for eight districts after President Droupadi Murmu promulgated the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDC) (Amendment) Regulation, 2026, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena said on Tuesday.Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena notified the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, 2026 with effect from October 19, paving way for creation of autonomous hill councils in all eight districts of the UT while leaders of Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), which are spearheading agitation for constitutional safeguards and UT-level elected body, have opposed the amendment to LAHDC Act alleging that hill councils powers have been curtailed and UT administration's control strengthened.

"I am pleased to announce that upon the promulgation of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, 2026, by President of India, I have notified the regulation with effect from 19 October 2026," LG Saxena said on Tuesday.

The regulation was promulgated by the President following Union Cabinet approval on October 14, and was implemented within six days.It paves the way for establishing Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) in all eight districts including the newly created Sankoo district.Under the amended provisions, the number of constituencies in each council has been rationalised from the earlier 26 seats to between seven and 24 seats.

Marco Rubio In Mumbai

S Jaishankar Calls For Zero Tolerance On Terrorism

The External Affairs Minister pointed out fresh prospects within the bilateral relationship spanning commerce, investment, technology and energy, noting that consistent communication alongside pinpointing shared objectives would establish a clear roadmap.

New Delhi (Agency).

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar appreciated visiting US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday for placing a wreath at the Taj Hotel's 26/11 Memorial, underscoring that New Delhi remains resolute regarding its right to defend itself against terrorism while expecting international partners to show zero tolerance towards terrorism as well.Speaking during the Freedom 250 reception hosted in Mumbai to commemorate the 250th anniversary of American independence, alongside Rubio and US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, EAM Jaishankar underlined that the global architecture is visibly undergoing transformation, prompting nations to adapt accordingly.



"Secretary Rubio, all of Mumbai, and indeed all of India, appreciate your laying a wreath today at the Taj Hotel's 26/11 Memorial. India also welcomes this administration's decision to extradite Tahawwur Hussain Rana, who was one of the key culprits. We are clear on our right to defend ourselves against terrorism and expect our partners to show zero tolerance towards terrorism as well," said EAM Jaishankar.

"As we mark this anniversary together, it is natural to reflect on the way ahead. The world order is clearly in transition, and countries are responding accordingly. Each one of us will naturally pursue our national interests. In such an era, expanding our convergence is key to deepening our ties," he added.The External Affairs Minister pointed out fresh prospects within the bilateral relationship spanning commerce, investment, technology and energy, noting that consistent communication alongside pinpointing shared objectives would establish a clear roadmap.He emphasised that both nations additionally have mutual responsibilities in strengthening regional peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific.

"Our ties have indeed come a long way. History records that many Americans were supportive of India's struggle for independence. After that, whether it was infrastructure and education or food, agriculture, and technology, our partnership has made a real difference to India's development. Conversely, Indian talent and Indian skills have helped shape the tech era in the United States. Of course, we've had our share of issues, including the manner in which we approach the world and its challenges. But in the last few decades, our partnership has steadily expanded, acquiring new dimensions and new facets. The Quad, Mission 500, Pax Silica, and the Forge Initiative are among some of the notable examples. Growth in the fields of energy, defence, and civil aviation has actually been striking," said EAM Jaishankar.Holding celebrations dedicated to the 250th anniversary of US independence in Mumbai, the External Affairs Minister remarked that the metropolis carries unique importance for the nation, alongside occupying a distinctive position.

JEFFREY EPSTEIN FILES SPARK POLITICAL STORM IN INDIA, OPPOSITION TARGETS UNION MINISTER HARDEEP SINGH PURI AS MINISTER DEFENDS PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS

Mahanagar Metro Desk

New Delhi: A political controversy has erupted in India following renewed international attention on documents, emails and photographs associated with the case of convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. The issue has brought Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri under political scrutiny, with opposition leaders raising questions about his reported interactions with Epstein and demanding greater clarity from the central government.The controversy has intensified amid the circulation and discussion of records relating to Epstein's extensive network of contacts. The case, which has drawn global attention because of the sexual abuse and trafficking of minors associated with Epstein, has repeatedly raised questions about the nature of his relationships with influential individuals in politics, business and other professional circles.However, the appearance of a person's name in documents, the existence of email correspondence or evidence of a meeting does not, by itself, establish involvement in criminal conduct. The nature and context of each interaction must be assessed separately on the basis of verified evidence.OPPOSITION QUESTIONS MINISTER'S REPORTED INTERACTIONS WITH EPSTEINOpposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, have raised the issue as part of their broader criticism of the central government. The controversy has prompted political questions about the minister's reported meetings and email exchanges with Epstein, as well as the circumstances in which those interactions took place.Opposition parties have argued that the disclosures warrant a transparent explanation, particularly because Epstein was associated with a criminal scandal that attracted international condemnation. They have also raised concerns about the possible implications of the controversy for India's international image and public confidence in political leadership.The issue has become another point of confrontation between the ruling establishment and the opposition, with political leaders seeking to establish their respective positions on the significance of the released material.At the same time, the allegations being raised in the political arena must be distinguished from established facts. References to professional interactions or correspondence cannot automatically be treated as evidence of participation in Epstein's crimes. Any claim of wrongdoing requires specific and independently verifiable supporting evidence.HARDEEP SINGH PURI REJECTS ALLEGATIONS, EXPLAINS PROFESSIONAL CONTEXTUnion Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has rejected allegations suggesting that his reported interactions with Epstein were connected to illegal or criminal activities. In his explanation, Puri has maintained that the interactions took place in a professional context and were associated with his international engagements.According to the minister's account, some of the interactions occurred during his association with the International Peace Institute (IPI), when he participated in professional engagements involving international figures and delegations.Puri has argued that these interactions should be understood in the context in which they occurred rather than being interpreted as evidence of criminal involvement. He has denied any connection between his reported meetings or correspondence and Epstein's criminal activities.The minister's defence centres on the distinction between professional contact and personal or criminal association. His position is that the available references to meetings and communications do not substantiate the allegations being directed against him.The explanation has become a central part of the political debate, with the opposition questioning the circumstances of the interactions and the minister maintaining that they have been misrepresented.WHY THE JEFFREY EPSTEIN CASE CONTINUES TO ATTRACT GLOBAL ATTENTIONJeffrey Epstein was a wealthy American financier whose criminal case exposed a wider network of contacts involving prominent individuals from different fields.





Two years on, key poll promises of Omar Abdullah-led J&K govt remain unmet

SRINAGAR(Agency).

As the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led National Conference (NC) government completed two years in power, major poll promises of the party, including restoration of J&K's special status and statehood and revision of the reservation policy, remain unfulfilled.Omar took oath as the first CM of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory on October 16, 2024, after NC won the first Assembly elections following the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A and the downgrading of the bifurcation of the erstwhile J&K state into two Union Territories by the Centre on August 5, 2019.The NC had announced 12 guarantees in its election manifesto, promising restoration of Articles 370 and 35A, statehood and implementation of the 2000 Autonomy Resolution.However, after the Assembly in its first session passed a resolution seeking restoration of special status, the Omar government has largely focused on the statehood issue.

Despite resolutions adopted at the first Cabinet meeting and during the recently concluded autumn session of Assembly, and Omar raising the issue with PM Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the statehood issue remains unresolved, and there is no certainty that it will be restored anytime soon.The government has also made no headway on its promise to revoke the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA). The detention of AAP MLA Mehraj Malik under PSA last year highlighted the government's limited ability to act on the issue.Employment remains another major challenge, as NC had promised one lakh jobs for youth and filling all government vacancies.



Rahul Gandhi Labels RSS "All-Male Cult", BJP Calls His Remarks Childish

New Delhi (Agency).

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's sharp attack on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has triggered a political firestorm and invited a strong retort from the BJP.In a post on X on Tuesday, Gandhi called the RSS an "all-male anti-constitutional cult" and alleged that the Sangh treated women as subordinate to men."The RSS is an all-male anti-constitutional cult that believes women are the property of men," he posted on X.Gandhi added that he enjoys fighting the RSS and also claimed that many of the Sangh's "own" women were also with him.

"I believe in Shiva-Shakti. That's why it gives me such joy to fight them. What's beautiful is that many of their 'own' women are on my side," Gandhi wrote.Launching an attack on Gandhi over his comments, BJP MLA in Maharashtra Ram Kadam called him ill-informed and pointed out that the RSS has a functional women's wing."Rahul Gandhi frequently makes remarks about the RSS. While he certainly has the right to engage in political accusations, counter-accusations, and sharp criticism, he should do so only after proper study. Is he unaware that the RSS also has a wing for women? It operates across the entire country, and women work within it with the same level of prominence as men," Kadam said.He added that such "childish" comments do not befit a Leader of the Opposition.



Telangana BJP chief N Ramchander Rao asked Rahul Gandhi how many women have got positions of prominence within his own party."Rahul Gandhi seems to be forgetting how male-dominated his party is. Wherever they are ruling, let him answer how many women chief ministers there are. BJP has got a woman chief minister.

Telangana BJP chief N Ramchander Rao asked Rahul Gandhi how many women have got positions of prominence within his own party.

Army man among three held for killing cousin's wife in land row in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Three men, including the alleged mastermind, have been arrested for the murder of a 34-year-old woman whose body was found with her hands tied and mouth taped at her home in Daulah village in Sohna on Oct 16. Police said a dispute over a land deal prompted the woman's husband's paternal cousin, Sandeep, to allegedly plot the murder with the help of two associates.The deceased, Neetu, was found dead by her husband, Prashant, a private school teacher, when he returned home with their children in the afternoon. He found household belongings scattered around the house and Neetu lying in the bathroom. He removed the tape, untied her hands and rushed her to a hospital, where doctors declared her dead.Police identified the accused as Sandeep (35), a resident of Daulah, Anuj Rana (29) and Avnish (30), both residents of Roorkee in Uttarakhand's Haridwar district.

According to police, Sandeep held a grudge against Neetu after she persuaded her husband to return Rs 1 lakh that Sandeep had paid as an advance for purchasing their land.

Mixer truck rams into police vehicle and double-decker bus near Aria Mall, FIR filed

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A mixer truck allegedly driven at high speed and in a rash and negligent manner rammed a police Bolero from behind before hitting a double-decker passenger bus near Aira Mall on Sohna Road Sunday afternoon.The collision damaged both vehicles, leaving govt Bolero unfit to be driven, though no police personnel were injured.

According to the complaint filed by SPO Jile Singh, who was posted asa driver at Nahar Pur Rupa police post under Sadar police station, the accident took place on Oct 18 when he was returning with other police personnel after dropping and handing over two accused in Bhondsi jail.

The police team included lady head constable Suman and home guards Sumit and Kuldeep.

12% streetlights faulty on UP Gate-Dasna DME stretch

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

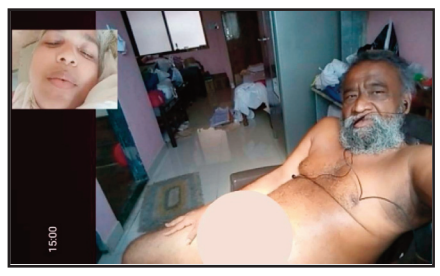
About 12% of streetlights on the 19-km UP Gate-to-Dasna stretch of Delhi-Meerut Expressway (DME) are non-functional, according to data provided by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in response to an RTI query.The stretch has 318 faulty lights out of 2,695 installed, while all streetlights on the other two sections of the expressway — Delhi to UP Gate and Dasna to Meerut — are functional, NHAI stated.Amit Gupta, who filed the RTI, said he had been following up with NHAI for two years over inadequate lighting on the expressway, where he frequently encountered dark patches while commuting. He said he lodged formal complaints but saw no satisfactory action.

Gupta had sought details of the total number of streetlights, including high-mast lights, installed across all three sections of the expressway, their functional status and the number of complaints received regarding streetlights over the past two years.

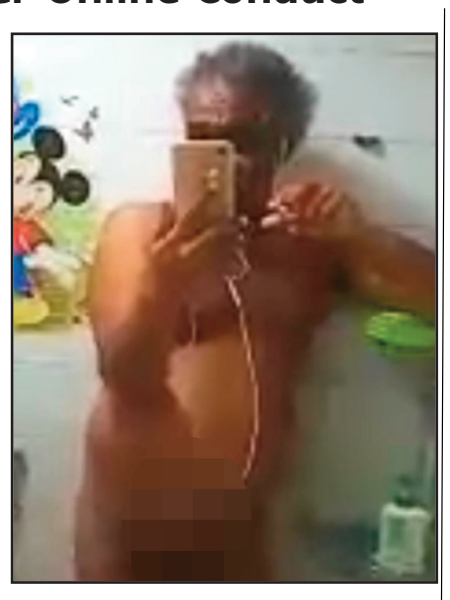
Jain Saint Sagarchandra Sagar Faces Serious Allegations Over Online Conduct

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad/Madhya Pradesh: Serious allegations concerning Jain religious figure Sagarchandra Sagar have sparked controversy, with questions being raised over alleged inappropriate online interactions, the safety and dignity of Jain nuns, and the use of religious donations. The allegations have prompted concerns among sections of the Jain community, while independent verification of the claims and a detailed response from the concerned individual remain important to establish the facts.QUESTIONS RAISED OVER CONDUCT AND RELIGIOUS RESPONSIBILITYJainism places great importance on initiation, self-discipline, renunciation and ethical conduct. Allegations involving an individual associated with a religious position can therefore raise serious concerns among followers and members of the community.In this case, claims about alleged inappropriate conduct have led to calls for transparency and an impartial examination of the available evidence. However, the allegations must not be treated as established facts without independent verification. Relevant documents, complaints, digital records and statements from the concerned parties need to be examined before any conclusions can be reached.ALLEGATIONS OF INAPPROPRIATE VIDEO CALLS AND ONLINE INTERACTIONSOne of the key aspects of the controversy concerns allegations of inappropriate video calls and online communications involving members of the Jain nun community. The claims raise questions about personal dignity, privacy and the protection of individuals who may have experienced harassment or coercion.If any individual has faced pressure, harassment, threats or misuse of private digital material, the matter warrants a fair investigation. Digital evidence



should be examined through appropriate legal procedures, while protecting the identities and privacy of the women concerned.At this stage, the specific allegations require independent corroboration, and no conclusion about individual responsibility should be drawn without verified evidence.QUESTIONS OVER THE USE OF RELIGIOUS DONATIONSThe controversy has also brought attention to allegations concerning donations and offerings received for religious purposes. Questions have been raised about the management of these funds and



whether their use has been adequately documented.Establishing the facts would require examination of the relevant financial records, donation accounts, expenditure statements and documents maintained by the concerned religious institutions.

Relationships Don't Break Suddenly... First, the Silence of Emotions Begins to Grow!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki Relationships do not break in a single day. Their decline begins when conversations become less frequent, emotions are no longer expressed, and distances between hearts begin to grow despite being physically close to one another. Everything may appear normal on the outside, but deep within, the warmth of relationships gradually begins to fade.There was a time when people eagerly waited to hear the voice of someone special. Even the smallest conversations brought happiness, a little displeasure carried a hidden touch of love, and talking to one particular person after a tiring day could bring peace to the heart. Today, our mobile phones contain countless contacts, and we have thousands of friends on social media, yet finding someone with whom we can speak openly from the heart has become increasingly difficult.Why has this happened?Perhaps we have learned to expect more from relationships than to nurture them. We want others to understand us, value our emotions, and stand beside us during difficult times. Yet, when someone else needs us, we often do not even have the time to listen to what they have to say.Relationships are not merely about living together. They are about making an effort to understand one another, having the generosity to forgive mistakes, and possessing the courage to hold each other's hands during difficult times.Even people living under the same roof can develop emotional distances. When family members sitting together at the same dining table become absorbed in their mobile phone screens instead of looking into one another's eyes, it is a sign that although comforts at home are increasing, the warmth of communication is gradually diminishing.We must remember that keeping relationships alive does not require expensive gifts; it requires giving one another genuine time and attention. Listening patiently when someone is distressed, giving someone an opportunity to explain their mistakes, and never considering another person's emotional expression a sign of weakness—these seemingly small gestures are what make relationships stronger.Disagreements arise in every relationship. Sometimes



words become harsh, sometimes ego comes between people, and sometimes misunderstandings take root in the heart. However, the true test of a relationship is not whether disagreements have ever occurred. The real test is whether both individuals are still willing to save their relationship even after a disagreement.Often, we realize the value of a relationship only after it has broken apart. The absence of someone whose presence we once took for granted creates a deep emptiness in our lives. It is then that we understand that some people do not enter our lives merely to accompany us; they become a beautiful part of our very existence.

AI videos, German singer link in case against man who died in Haryana jail

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A German singer, AI-generated videos and an alleged promise of marriage — all these preceded a fraud case against a 36-year-old man, who died in Bhondsi jail on Monday. Meanwhile, the family and friends of Akhil Maurya have disputed the allegations made by an Italian jewellery designer. They claimed that Italian woman Daniela de Pietri had approached Maurya first and sought a fair investigation into the case.

The woman had travelled to the city on Sept 28 to lodge a complaint against Maurya. She had contacted ACP (Cyber Crime) Gaurav Phogat through Instagram in July and alleged that Maurya had befriended her online, promised to marry her and sought money in the name of creating AI videos. According to the police sources, the money, which was sent through Western Union in Aug and Sept, mentioned that the purpose of the transaction was for "family support or living expenses".An autopsy was conducted under a magistrate's supervision on Tuesday. "The cause of death will be ascertained after the autopsy report," a police officer said. Police sources had earlier said that Maurya suffered a cardiac arrest on Monday morning. "His condition deteriorated, prompting jail authorities to take him to the hospital," they said.

According to the complaint lodged by Italian woman Daniela, she transferred €450 through Western Union on Aug 4 and another €450 on Sept 10. After conversion and deductions, Rs 67,297 was credited to Maurya's bank account through Muthoot Finance, police said. Family members have questioned why he would ask for money from her when he didn't ask from them. They also alleged that the woman had threatened Maurya over his work for others. They have alleged that the complainant's social media page was fake and AI-generated and disputed that she was Italian.

A friend of Maurya, requesting anonymity, said, "One can ask anyone in the area. Residents would say that he was one of the most innocent people around.

Discom to launch drive as 70% rural consumers fail to clear bills

Noida.(Agency)

The power department will issue notices to defaulting electricity consumers in the areas of Dadri, Jewar and Greater Noida, giving them two weeks to clear outstanding bills before disconnecting their supply. The discom is also expanding meter installation in rural areas, where around 70% of consumers have not cleared their dues, resulting in outstanding payments of more than Rs 80 crore.

PVVNL officials said that despite increasing power supply in the rural areas of the district from 16 hours to more than 20 hours a day, bill recovery has remained low. Of the approximately 1.5 lakh rural consumers, only 30,000 to 40,000 have cleared their outstanding dues."Despite our ongoing appeals to consumers to settle their outstanding bills, we have seen very little response. Consequently, we are now preparing to take decisive action against those who continue to default," an official said.The discom has begun issuing notices warning consumers to pay their dues within two weeks, failing which their electricity connections will be disconnected. "The aim is to encourage prompt payments while ensuring consumers are aware of the penalties for non-compliance," the official said.The department is also working to install electricity meters in rural areas, where many consumers are still billed on the basis of estimated average consumption. Officials said the absence of meters made accurate billing difficult, while efforts to install them had faced resistance from some consumers.

Complainant turns hostile, NGO founder acquitted in sexual harassment case

Noida.(Agency)

A special Pocso court has acquitted an NGO founder after the complainant said he had only scolded her and denied the sexual harassment allegation made in an FIR three years ago.

A 17-year-old girl who volunteered at the nonprofit organisation had filed a complaint at Sector 20 police station in 2023. She told the cops that on March 13 that year, the NGO founder had misbehaved with her and forcibly kissed her in his chamber. A case was registered against him under section 354A (sexual harassment) of IPC and 7/8 of Pocso Act. A medical test of the girl was conducted, and after an investigation, the police filed a chargesheet on June 13. On Jan 19 the following year, the court framed the charges, which the NGO founder denied, and he sought a trial.The prosecution presented the girl, her father and the person who wrote down the FIR as its witnesses. The girl denied the allegation of sexual harassment and said that the NGO's founder scolded her often. He forced her to do a lot of office work. When she complained about it to her mother, she was taken to the police station to file a complaint.

She told the court that she had not recorded any statement at the police station.

Despite Rs 8 crore plan, potholes persist across Ghaziabad

Noida.(Agency)

Pothole-ridden roads and unfinished repair work across Vaishali, Vasundhara and Shalimar Garden have become a major concern for residents ahead of the festive season, with increased traffic around markets likely to make commuting more difficult and raise the risk of accidents.For Bobby Kumari, a 24-year-old domestic worker who cycles from Indirapuram's Ahinsa Khand to her workplace, navigating the damaged roads is a daily challenge."I am not a rich person. I travel to work on my bicycle, and it is so difficult to ride through these roads and reach my destination. There is already so much traffic, and the potholes make the journey even harder. It feels like a daily fight," she said.Residents said deep potholes, uneven surfaces and stretches of road left dug up were affecting commuters, particularly cyclists, two-wheeler riders, pedestrians and the elderly. The concerns have grown with festive shopping picking up and markets expected to draw larger crowds.Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation has reportedly prepared a plan worth around Rs 8 crore to fill potholes and repair roads before the festivals. However, residents said little had changed on the ground. Officials could not be contacted for comment.In Vasundhara Sector 5, resident Gayathri Sharma said potholes had become difficult to avoid, even on frequently used stretches."It feels as though there are more potholes than road. There is a pothole every five metres. From Buddh Chowk to my sector, the entire stretch is full of potholes. In some places, the roads have been dug up and left in that condition. Now, there are potholes on top



of that," she said.In Vaishali, residents said the problem had persisted despite repeated complaints. Sunil Vaid, a resident of Sector 3, said the condition of internal roads in Sectors 1, 2, 3 and 4 was making daily travel hazardous.The markets are already crowded during festivals. With the roads in such a bad condition, the chances of traffic jams and accidents increase further," he said, adding that motorists often lost their balance and sustained injuries while negotiating deep potholes.

Firozpur farmers set to export, 700 tonnes of chillies to Dubai

Will earn Rs 2.68 lakh per acre — six times higher than wheat; increase acreage from 20 to 60; had exported 15 tonnes to Dubai in April

Jalandhar.(Agency)

After exporting 15 tonnes of green chillies to Dubai in April 2026, Firozpur farmers have planned to export 700 tonnes as they expanded their cultivation to 60 acres this year from 20 acres last season, expecting a return of Rs 2.68 lakh per acre — nearly six times higher than they used to get from wheat.

Firozpur-based Saragarhi Farmer Producer Company Ltd has signed an export contract with the same Indian company, which had handled their previous season's shipment to Dubai and opened overseas markets to domestic growers, at the agreed purchase price of Rs 29 per kg.

The farmers are cultivating the Gauri variety, with an expected average yield of 120 quintals per acre. As 60 acres under cultivation, they are set to harvest around 720 tonnes of green chillies. Saragarhi company's president Balwinder Singh said the growers not only increased the area under export-linked cultivation, but were also helping other farmers understand the production practices and quality protocols required to access overseas markets."Last year, we had harvested around 240 tonnes from 20 acres, of which



nearly 15 tonnes were exported to Dubai. Due to the West Asia war, containers were not available, and the export company sold the remaining produce in the domestic market, but paid us the same price as agreed for exports. This year, we will hand over over 700 tonnes of chillies grown on around 60 acres. Let's see how much the company can export. According to the contract, they will provide us the committed amount for our produce. We are also helping interested farmers understand the protocols and practices required to grow produce for export," Singh said.

He added that favourable weather could push yields to 150-200 quintals per acre, although the average was around 120 quintals. Saragarhi company has 11 members, while around 50 additional farmers have also been connected with the initiative, according to the farmers' group.

At the contracted price of Rs 29 per kg, a yield of 120 quintals would generate a gross revenue of Rs 3.48 lakh per acre. After deducting cultivation costs of around Rs 80,000, including seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, field preparation and labour, the estimated return is Rs 2.68 lakh per acre. Intercropping onion and garlic between chilli plants could help farmers recover part of their expenses through additional sales, Singh said.By comparison, Singh estimates that wheat yields around 22-24 quintals per acre. At the minimum support price (MSP), a farmer earns a net return of around Rs 40,000 per acre after expenses of approximately Rs 14,000. On these estimates, chilli offers substantially higher potential returns, making it an alternative for farmers seeking to diversify beyond the wheat-paddy cycle. Wheat and chilli are grown during overlapping periods in Punjab, making crop choice and the potential returns important considerations for farmers.

'Chennai airport jobs' fraud: Ex-AAI official cheats 12 people of Rs 23 lakh, arrested

CHENNAI.(Agency)

A 52-year-old former Airports Authority of India (AAI) official was arrested for allegedly cheating 12 people of 23 lakh by promising them jobs at the Chennai airport and its cargo terminal. The accused, K Kumari Kala of Kancheepuram, was remanded on October 14.

According to Airport police, the accused, K Kumari Kala of Kancheepuram, had worked as a senior superintendent at AAI before taking voluntary retirement in 2025. She later operated cargo transport vehicles on a contract basis, the police said. Kala allegedly claimed that she could secure permanent jobs at the airport and cargo offices for educated youths from 2021 to 2025. She collected between 1 lakh and 2 lakh from each person, mostly the children of drivers operating cargo vehicles, and gave them fake job application forms.

When the applicants, who did not receive jobs even after six months, questioned Kala, she allegedly told them that their applications had been sent to the AAI headquarters in Delhi. The victims later learnt that she had retired and had no authority to recruit staff. Following a complaint by one of the drivers, she was arrested.

Chennai sewerage board clears lines in 227 streets in a day

CHENNAI.(Agency)

As part of monsoon preparations, the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Metro Water) cleared blockages in sewer lines across 227 streets in a single day on Monday, covering 9.6 km, to remove of silt from 218 manholes.

The board has also appointed special monitoring officers, including supervising engineers and assistant executive engineers, to coordinate sewer maintenance works and ensure swift action in the event of complaints or disruptions during the rainy season. The officers will work in coordination with the respective area officials to carry out the operations.

According to a press release, desilting and maintenance works are being carried out across its 15 zones to prevent sewage overflow and ensure uninterrupted sewerage services. Meanwhile, the board has intensified the collection and testing of drinking water samples in the 15 zones. Residents can register complaints related to sewer blockages and other sewerage issues through the board's 24-hour control room by dialling 044-4567 4567 or the toll-free number 1916. Complaints can be sent via WhatsApp to 8144930308.

TN financial influencer dies by suicide; family alleges cyberbullying

CHENNAI.(Agency)

A 27-year-old finance influencer died by suicide at a villa near Muttukadu on Monday night, weeks after his Instagram page and YouTube channel with 1.5 million followers were blocked. Police are probing whether online harassment following recent allegations that he was offering financial advice and investment-related services without the SEBI registration may have contributed to his death.

The deceased, V Harish of Puducherry, ran the YouTube channel 'Finance with Harish', where he posted content on finance and investments. His five-year-old channel was reportedly mass-reported and blocked in September. He subsequently launched a new channel, which police sources said was also reported and blocked.

Police said Harish was found dead at the villa on Monday night. Though no suicide note was recovered, Harish's father J Vinayagam (51), in a police complaint, said his son had allegedly been subjected to cyberbullying by another YouTuber who he named as being responsible for Harish's death. Before his death, Harish had recorded a video in which he allegedly identified the YouTuber as the reason for his decision, he said in the complaint. Vinayagam alleged that he circulated defamatory content about his son through and thet Harish had been unable to cope with the mental distress.

Lucknow cafe owner death: Where police finally found model Shraddha Dubey

Shiva died on the night of October 9 after falling from the fourth floor of Awadh Green Apartment in Lucknow's Hazratganj area.

Nagpur.(Agency)

On the run for 11 days, model-influencer Shraddha Dubey, 30, wanted in connection with the death of Lucknow cafe owner Shiva Sharma, was arrested from a Nagpur flat on Tuesday along with her sister Rashmi Dubey and driver Tanveer Ali alias Danish, police said.

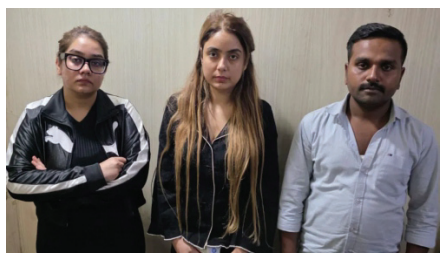
A joint team of the Lucknow Police and the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF), with assistance from Nagpur Police, arrested the three. They will be brought to Lucknow on a transit remand.

Shiva, 27, died on the night of October 9 after falling from the fourth floor of Shraddha's rented flat at Awadh Green Apartment in Lucknow's Hazratganj area. Shraddha, his alleged live-in partner, had been on the run since then.

The case attracted attention amid allegations by Shiva's family that he was thrown off the building. Based on a complaint by his mother, Ranjana Sharma, police registered an FIR against the three on murder charges at Hazratganj police station. After they remained absconding, police obtained non-bailable warrants against them and announced a reward of Rs 50,000 for information leading to each of their arrests. Amid the investigation, Hazratganj station house officer Vikram Singh was attached to the Police Lines, Assistant Commissioner of Police Rajneesh Verma was moved to the Crime Branch, and Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Vikrant Vir was attached to the Uttar Pradesh Police headquarters in Lucknow.

Nepal-Agra-Nagpur: Tracking the accused

A senior police officer said the three accused left for Nepal immediately after Shiva's death and stayed there for seven



days. Police claimed to have found footage of them crossing the border. They frequently changed locations, making it difficult for police to trace them. They returned to India recently.

Three days earlier, police traced the trio to Agra. However, by the time a police team reached the location, they had left for Nagpur by car. Police used their call detail records and other resources to trace the flat where they were staying in Nagpur. A raid led to the arrest of all three. The flat belonged to an acquaintance of the accused, police said.

A local police officer said Shraddha was hiding inside the flat located on Wardha Road in Nagpur city when she was traced and nabbed around 3.30 pm. Nagpur Crime Branch DCP Deepak Agrawal confirmed her arrest.

Police said the trio frequently changed their mode of transport and moved between locations without staying anywhere for long. Shraddha also often wore a burqa while travelling to conceal her identity.

"During questioning, we will connect the dots of their time on the run. Preparations are under way to bring them to Lucknow," the officer said.

Shraddha claims innocence; Shiva's family alleges harassment

While on the run, at least three videos of Shraddha surfaced on social media, in which she had claimed she was innocent. In the latest video circulated on Sunday evening, she claimed she had seen Shiva jump from the building. She alleged that police had obtained CCTV footage showing her near the Nepal border but had not retrieved footage from her apartment building.

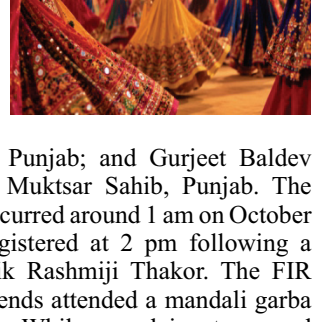
In the same video, Shraddha claimed she had known Shiva for about four months and that he had started visiting her home around two months ago. She also claimed Shiva had debts of Rs 16-17 lakh and had sought financial help from her.

6 bouncers held for assault on garba revellers at Navratri event in Gujarat

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

THE AHMEDABAD Rural Police on Monday arrested six security guards – bouncers – for the armed assault of several youths and aggravated rioting at a mandali garba event near Nasmed village near Thol Lake. The six bouncers, all from Punjab, many of whom were allegedly carrying sharp weapons, were arrested by the Santej police on Monday night, said Inspector S R Chaudhari. They were presented in court Tuesday.

These included Simranjeet Singh Prabhjeet Singh Bhatia (23) of Jalandhar, Punjab; Gujpreet Singh Sarabjeet Singh Bajigar (29) of Tarn Taran, Punjab; Indrajeet Singh Joginder Singh Ramgadiya (27) of Jalandhar, Punjab; Kashish Gurumat Singh Mistry (29) of Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab; Sukhwant Singh Kuldeep Singh Bhatti (33) of Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab; and Gurjeet Baldev Siddhu (25) of Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab. The incident allegedly occurred around 1 am on October 19. An FIR was registered at 2 pm following a complaint by Maulik Rashmiji Thakor. The FIR stated a group of friends attended a mandali garba near Nasmed village. While complainant scanned their entry passes on his phone, his friend Hiren Patel stayed back as the others entered. The FIR said a bouncer asked Hiren to enter the venue, but he insisted on accompanying Thakor. The bouncer argued with him, and another allegedly struck Thakor on the head with a sword hilt. Around 10 armed bouncers then allegedly chased and assaulted the group, injuring several people.



Newly-Laid Andhra Road Ploughed Up, Opposition, Ruling TDP Trade Charges

Tirupati.(Agency)

A political dispute has erupted between the ruling TDP-led NDA and the opposition YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh over the alleged destruction of a newly laid Rs 4.75-crore road in Andhra Pradesh, with Deputy Chief Minister and Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan and Minister Nara Lokesh blaming YSRCP leaders for damaging public infrastructure.

The opposition, on the other hand, has called it a result of an unresolved land dispute. The road, built under the government's Palle Panduga 3.0 programme, connects Ananthasamudram and Papakkagaripalle villages in Pullampeta mandal. Officials said around 100 metres of the road was allegedly ploughed up using a tractor barely a week after construction. After reviewing the incident with senior Panchayat Raj officials on October 19, Pawan Kalyan directed authorities to pursue stringent legal action against those allegedly responsible, including non-bailable charges where applicable and recovery of repair costs under the Revenue Recovery Act.

"Strict action must be taken not only against the perpetrators on the ground but also against the political handlers behind them," he told officials. An FIR had been registered following villagers' complaints.

Reports named local YSRCP leader Subba Reddy and another individual, Venkata Subba Reddy, in connection with the alleged damage. TDP National Working President and Minister Nara Lokesh condemned the incident, describing the alleged destruction as "an arrogant attack on the people", and urged the Tirupati district administration and police to take strict action and restore the road promptly.

Explosion In Under-Construction Bengaluru Building, Cops Suspect IED Used

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Two workers were injured after an explosion in an under-construction building in Bengaluru on Tuesday, with the police suspecting it to be an improvised explosive device (IED) blast.

The blast teared through the fifth floor of the multi-storey residential building on Jarmia Road in the Pulakeshinagar area.

Officers from the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), the Internal Security Division (ISD) and the bomb squad were rushed to the site for inspection.The two workers, who have currently not been identified, sustained serious head and facial injuries in the explosion, and have been admitted to a hospital.

"We got to know (about the incident) only from the hospital," Bengaluru police commissioner Seemanth Kumar told reporters on Wednesday.

He said the building was partially occupied and partially under construction. "We have formed multiple teams to find out what exactly happened," he said.He said that the items found at the blast site have been collected and sent for analysis.Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge also told reporters that they are investigating the incident.

"Whether it was a chemical reaction, whether there was an IED, or whatever it may be, we are investigating. Let the forensic report come," he told reporters.

CBI team reaches Punjab town for probe into anti-drug activist's murder

Anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota's killing on October 13 sparked widespread protests in Punjab, prompting CM Bhagwant Mann to hand over the probe to the CBI.

Mansa.(Agency)

A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team reached Mansa in Punjab late Tuesday night to investigate the murder of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota. The development came five hours after Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited Jhota's family, where he assured them of a thorough probe and said a CBI team would arrive soon. The CBI team contacted Mansa police authorities and took over the case files related to the murder. The team is scheduled to meet Jhota's family members on Wednesday.

"A CBI team has arrived in Mansa regarding the investigation of the murder case. We have interacted with them and handed over the case files. We will extend full cooperation to the CBI in the investigation," Pushpinder Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mansa, said. Jhota, 42, was shot dead inside a medical store in Mansa on October 13 during a confrontation with its owner, Ashwani Kumar, whom he had accused of selling addictive substances. The incident occurred while the anti-drug activist was livestreaming on Facebook. Kumar was subsequently arrested in Rajasthan.

Family yet to allow post-mortem examination

The killing sparked protests, with the family refusing to cremate Jhota's body. The agitation widened into a broader campaign seeking accountability from



the state government and action against officials alleged to have failed to address complaints concerning the accused.

Jhota's murder case was transferred from the Punjab Police to the CBI following demands from his family, with Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announcing the decision via a social media post on Tuesday. Marking the ninth day of their ongoing protest, the family has yet to allow the post-mortem examination of the body.

A region that can no longer afford endless conflict

West Asia is confronting a paradox. Never has the region possessed such military capabilities, defence systems and security partnerships. Yet its sense of security has never seemed so fragile. The US-Iran war, renewed fighting in Yemen, attacks on Saudi Arabia and the unresolved Gaza question are not identical conflicts. But their effects overlap. The danger is that each clash is weakening the region's ability to contain the others.

The war involving the US, Israel and Iran has exposed the limits of military force. Greater firepower can destroy facilities, weaken military capabilities and impose severe punishment. It cannot always produce political consent or lasting stability. Iran has demonstrated that even under intense pressure, it can threaten the systems supporting Gulf growth. The contest has therefore moved beyond military installations into the region's economic bloodstream.This is what makes the recent attacks particularly serious. Airports, pipelines, oil terminals and gas facilities are not minor targets. They support economic confidence. A Reuters investigation shows how precise strikes have hit Gulf systems since the conflict began in February. Even after repairs, investors, airlines, insurers and commercial firms remain doubtful. The ability to impose damage can become key power in its own right.

Saudi Arabia's problem is especially revealing. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's vision of transforming an oil-dependent economy into a diversified global hub requires tourism, investment and secure international links. Renewed Houthi attacks on Saudi airports and energy assets threaten precisely these assumptions. Reports of missiles directed towards Medina add a highly sensitive dimension, although responsibility for that incident remains disputed. The Houthis have denied targeting the holy cities—when religious emotions can worsen the crisis.

Gaza, meanwhile, remains an unsettled political and humanitarian wound. The ceasefire framework reduced major hostilities but has not delivered a lasting deal or meaningful reconstruction. Its wider importance lies partly in how the Palestinian question has influenced regional action, Houthi rhetoric and Arab diplomacy. A lull in one theatre does not remove the grievances or political calculations that can fuel conflict elsewhere.Former Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Talmiz Ahmad highlights a particularly important change: the 'use of connectivity'. Sea lanes, airports, pipelines and strategic chokepoints, created to enable growth, can be turned into instruments of force. He observes that while Iran has supplied advanced technology and influenced Houthi tactics, the movement has developed the ability to produce simpler drones locally. External backing and local change can make a non-State actor more capable, and possibly less manageable.

The Strait of Hormuz and Bab-el-Mandeb demonstrate how geography boosts this power. Damage need not close either passage completely to raise freight rates, insurance costs and energy prices. Offshore platforms, ports, harbours and loading terminals add to the weak spots. The lesson is not that powerful navies have become useless; it is that no navy can constantly protect every vessel and economic installation across the huge zone. The age of Somali piracy offered an earlier reminder of this hard reality.The Mecca Alliance, involving Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Türkiye, is now facing its first major test. Its members have announced steps to implement collective defence commitments. But an alliance's trust cannot be measured only by the military resources it assembles. Pakistan and Türkiye have different regional interests, domestic limits and relationships with Iran. More importantly.

State of the world and India's evolving role: Viksit Bharat 2047

This is the transcript of the talk by Gaurav Dalmia at the Defence Services Staff College on Oct 1st.



Good morning. It's a pleasure to be here. Before I got here yesterday, I had not realised DSCC Wellington was such a paradise. I'm inspired just to be here and to meet you.

The topic given to me is "the state of the world" and India's evolving role and how we will get to being "Viksit Bharat" or in other words, a developing country, by 2047. In the next hour, I will touch upon history, politics, economic and social trends, technology, business, some Indian philosophy, psychology and leadership, and literature. We can connect the dots in different ways, and form a view of where we are and where we are headed.

U.S. Navy Seals. I know America-bashing has become fashionable today, but there is a lot to learn from them. Let's talk about the U.S. Navy seals. You'll relate to them. They have one of the most gruelling programmes in the world, in and around the Great Lakes on the Canadian border near Chicago, at the naval base in Coronado in California, and for extreme training, in Alaska and in the Arizona desert. They test your limits and expand them. Now, a brass bell hangs at the centre of the compound. If a trainee wants to quit, he simply has to ring the bell three times. Retired Admiral William McRaven, at a graduation speech, famously told the cadets what they probably already knew: "Don't ever ring the bell". Persevere to life's hardships. It's true outside the armed forces. It's true for individuals as well as for society. And it's something we will need in our journey to "Viksit Bharat". On optimism. If you look at the polls from Globescan or Gallup or Ipsos, you'll see that Asia is the most optimistic part of the world. Net ratings, measured by the percentage that are optimistic less the percentage that are not optimistic, for China is +59, for Vietnam +55, for India +17. Europe is pessimistic. France is at -64, Germany is at -60. The US is at -26 overall but it's very skewed. Republican leaning people are at +8; the Democrat leaning are at -47. Life is self-fulfilling. These ratings will ultimately affect choices and that will in turn affect the future. Let's remember this as we move forward to being a developed country.

Takeaways from the Munich Security Council meeting. The Munich Security Council held its meeting in India in mid-February and they are having another meeting in the next few days in Delhi. In the last meeting, they had difficulty deciding on the takeaways from the meeting. The established powers had a view that the world had drifted too much. The Middle Powers thought more change was needed. A phrase used was "wrecking ball politics". There was a dominance of deterrence. The focus has shifted from whether to rearm to how fast can joint military procurement be expanded. Diplomatic efforts have been crowded out by military build-up and actions. Cybersecurity and non-state actors are gaining prominence. This is how the world's different defence establishments are thinking.Scholarships in Dubai. Let me take you to Dubai. The UAE government has reduced the number of scholarships to the UK. Not because the UAE is moving in the direction of an autarky. But because they believe that Emirati students in the UK, because of the prevalence of the Muslim Brotherhood on British campuses, face the risk of getting radicalised. Yes, radicalised in the UK. Imagine the change in the world. Or at least the change in perception.Unicorns. You've heard of unicorns in the world of business and tech. These are private companies with valuations exceeding $1 billion. There are between 1300 and 1500 unicorns in the world. Of these, about 130-odd are in India. The interesting trend is that increasingly unicorns don't need profits, don't even need revenues and sometimes don't even need employees to justify their valuation. Safe Superintel had less than 20 people when it was valued at $22 billion. That's more than a billion per emloyee. In 2012, When Facebook acquired Instagram for about $1 billion, it had just 13 employees. In 2014, WhatsApp had 55 employees when it was acquired for $19 billion. Today, there are at least 10 AI unicorns with less than 20 employees. That's the cocktail mix of intellectual property, mixed with a little hype. Hallucinations. You have heard of AI hallucinations. They are incorrect and sometimes completely fabricated responses that AI models generate. And they do this with full confidence. This happens because AI models work by predicting the most likely next word or token based on patterns, rather than verifying factual reality, and very often they are trained on faulty data. The irony is: When AI does it, it's a hallucination. When you and I do it, it's a damn lie!Financial bubbles. One can't talk about AI without talking about bubbles. Contrary to common perception, financial bubbles are engines of innovation. Noted economist Carlotta Perez has argued that bubbles are not market failures.

They are foundations of tech revolutions. Railways in the mid-1800's became a foundation of the modern economy. It was funded by a bubble-like frenzy. In the 1920s, there were about 250 auto companies in the US alone, all vying the prize of dominating a new consumer market. Most failed. But a new industry was created, and in the US, it consolidated into three. The radio boom of the 1920s had a similar story. One can argue there's AI-related irrational exuberance today. Certainly, there's good news with AI. But the mood is even better. Perhaps irrational. The tulip mania of the 1630s was an unproductive bubble, but most bubbles are productive. When I saw the premiums in the luxury watch market a few years ago – it's cooled off now – I was amused.

Railways rules against loud phones welcome, implement strictly

A typical railway journey can be an assault on the senses with families sharing meals, singing and playing games with little concern for fellow travellers

Train passengers can look forward to more peaceful journeys with the Indian Railways issuing an advisory to curb the playing of music or video on phone speakers and holding loud conversations on railway premises and in carriages. Southern Railway has gone a step further by imposing penalties on passengers who cause public nuisance with phone speakers. A first-time offender can be fined ₹1,000 by ticket-checkers who have been authorised to advise the public and raise awareness on the new rules. Repeat violators and those refusing to heed warnings can attract a fine of up to ₹5,000, imprisonment of up to six months, or both. Passengers can report disturbances to the railway staff or complain on the RailMadad portal.In the microcosm that is the train compartment, social behaviour of all kinds can be on unfettered display. Faced with complaints of loud conversations, objectionable ringtones and music, railway authorities had raised the issue as early as 2012, with an advisory to officials of all zonal railways to ensure smartphone etiquette, particularly in AC coaches. Steps are now being taken to raise awareness in stations by way of public announcements and posters.A typical railway journey can be an assault on the senses with families sharing meals, singing and playing games with little concern for fellow travellers. The menace that has grown manifold in recent years is watching videos without earphones. This uninhibited behaviour has been on show abroad and on flights, too.Limits need to be set at home first and it is timely that Indian Railways are attempting to curtail boorish behaviour. While this is a positive change, it remains to be seen if such strictures are enforced with success in all parts of the country. Earlier norms to pipe down after 10 pm on overnight journeys were often violated. Railway authorities have their hands full policing unruly behaviour and attacks on ticket-checkers are not unknown.In cities, this lack of phone etiquette is a bane in metros. Chennai Metro's institution of a steep fine for loud music-playing sparked a debate in Delhi, where the metro authorities have launched a social media campaign against such behaviour. The results have been mixed. Ultimately, we need to realise the serious discomfort loud noise can cause others. There is no upside in being proud to be loud.



Don't close the eyes to good sleep

Urban India loses more sleep during the festive season. But in an age when light and noise disturb us at all hours and our attention is monetised, we must protect our right to rest

Night-time festivities are in the air across the nation. While there are restrictions on the timing and use of loud-speakers, these are violated routinely. Staying awake for a good part of the night during festive seasons has been normalised, especially in urban India. Restaurants, gyms and food delivery apps remain open late into the night to cater to such customers. The epidemic of sleeplessness is now a major health concern.India is the first country to recognise sleep as a fundamental right. The Supreme Court, in a 2012 judgement unequivocally held that the right to sleep is included within the ambit of Article 21, which upholds the right to life and personal liberty. This decision was followed by the Bombay High Court while deciding that interrogation by enforcement authorities depriving a defendant of sleep is a violation of constitutional rights. However, many night revellers encroach on the right to sleep of other citizens without qualms.A case in point was that of a Manipuri musician residing in Delhi being fatally assaulted for objecting to high-decibel disturbance at night. The right to sleep can be meaningful only when people realise that they have a corresponding duty not to infringe on the rights of fellow citizens.A recent petition before the Bombay High Court highlights the problems caused by "light trespass". High-intensity artificial lighting during the night in residential areas disturbs the circadian rhythm not just of humans, but also of birds, animals and trees. Further, the phenomenon of extreme night-time temperatures also disrupts sleep. The impact on health and productivity due to lack of proper sleep has been well documented. Research has shown that sleep deprivation is associated with chronic fatigue, cognitive decline and mental distress. It is also linked to metabolic disorders. Despite this being common knowledge, there is a specific chronotype, mainly among the younger generation who choose to be night owls.



Excessive exposure to blue light due to prolonged screen time engagement, social media scrolling, erratic dietary habits, frequent travel and the hustle culture, which have become the norm also reduce sleep times. Even flexible work schedules that demand late night engagement disrupt the sleep cycle. In order to fix this problem, at least partly, European nations have introduced 'the right to disconnect' so that workers are not required to answer work related calls or emails beyond normal working hours. Many corporates, including some in India have acknowledged the productivity and sleep connection by having sleep pods or fixed nap times in the workplace. But the problem is deep-rooted and needs more dedicated attention than a series of quick-fixes.

Till a few decades ago, only a certain cohort of professionals and workers who were required to do late-night shifts suffered from sleep deprivation. Today around one-third of the younger working population report inadequate sleep. In the market, sleep supplements have displaced prescription medication. The availability of over-the-counter pills containing melatonin—a hormone naturally produced by the body—and magnesium has matched a growing demand. Medical professionals, however, caution against overuse of supplements without tackling the root cause of the problem.The sleep-tech industry also proffers solutions in the form of wearable devices that track and measure sleep. Sleep is thus being reduced to a competitive performance metric. It is also unclear how the knowledge of sleep patterns will help induce a restful night. In fact, several users are known to experience anxiety and hyper-vigilance as a consequence of sleep trackers. The industry has also spawned sleep coaches, whose recommendations include remixed platitudes like cutting down on screen time, following a calming routine and avoiding stimulants like caffeine. The fact is that while environmental disruption requires enforcement and administrative agencies to step in, at an individual level only personalised solutions would work, as reasons for insomnia are likely to be unique and distinct. Other than this, sleep hygiene and an emphasis on following a fixed sleep routine may be universally applicable. Irregular timings trigger a 'social jetlag'. It's a sign of the times that what is natural to even newborns is now an elaborate learning protocol. But this relearning can prove to be one of the most rewarding experiences. Sleep research has given us insights into liminal states of consciousness, including dreams. Trainers and sports coaches are known to use lucid dreaming techniques to develop skills and reinforce learning. In fact, a widely practiced problem-solving technique is to simply sleep over it.

Sleep is a preparatory state that catalyses creative work. Mornings after a good night's sleep are marked by alertness. To quote from David Henry Thoreau's Walden, "The Vedas say, 'All intelligences awake with the morning'." But we live in an age when artificial intelligence, responsible for an increasing number of functions governing our lives, never sleeps. Living creatures however need that kill-switch, sleep, to prevent being completely drained and run-down. Sleep defines our boundaries and is a reminder that the world can get by for a few hours without our active participation. It's no wonder that sleep vacations are gaining popularity.

Parent alert!

Your kid is watching you



If you are picking on your child for those little 'bad habits', ask yourself — am I the culprit?

Don't worry that children never listen to you; worry that they are always watching you. That's a Robert Fulghum quote that sums up parenting in a sentence. Want proof? Just observe your children while they play or go about their work and you will perhaps get a more than fair idea of yourself and your spouse! From early morning blues, to TV viewing, cell phone addiction, eating habits and handling stress, children exactly replicate your behaviour. Are you to be blamed for your lil' one's 'bad habits'? Read on to find out.

Do you shout and scream?

With growing workloads, increasing work tension and demanding family needs, most parents these days are busy, stretched and stressed out too. Very often they bring their tension and stress home and unmindfully burst out in front of their kids. And the 'smart kids' watch their parents 'carefully' and mimic them unconsciously. Agreeing to this, Rummy Azad Mahendra, who has two children says, "It's so true. There are times when I shout at my maids for certain things and I find my children doing the same. They feel, if their mother could behave like this, then it's fine with them too. I then tell them politely that it's not correct to follow me always or shout at elders. To bring in a change in them, now I have made it a practice not to argue, fight or shout in front of them."

Expert advice

If your kid does something good, praise him/her in public. If he/she does anything wrong, then parents should censure the child in private. Shouting can stress out a kid. Parents should not bring work tensions home and conflicts with spouse should be resolved in private and not in front of the children.

Addicted to your cellphone?

You may call it a trend or an addiction, chatting on the cellphone for hours has become a common practice. Kavitha Reddy, a busy mom, says, "My daughter keeps on telling me 'Mom, when you're at home, you're either sleeping or on the phone'. Moreover, these days she's insisting that I buy her a cellphone too. I think, I'll have to talk less on the phone now."

Sabina Xavier, who has two daughters, aged six and three says, "Though talking on the phone is not a major problem for my kids, watching TV definitely is. And the reason, I feel, is that I watch television after a day's hard work in the evening hours and that helps me relax and sleep. But my kids follow the same and that hampers their regular routine. Now, I realise that I must change my habit for the sake of my kids."

Expert advice

An hour a day is okay, but parents need to take care that whatever they are watching should be healthy and knowledgeable. Parents should select programmes for kids and see that they complete their homework before sitting in front of the TV. As for the phone, parents need to set and example and should stop talking for long hours on it.

Are you a couch potato?

Unhealthy parents tend to have unhealthy kids. That's a hard fact to digest. If you don't exercise daily or indulge in outdoor sports, there's a slim chance your child will do it. Says Rachna Mehta, who has two sons aged eight and seven years, "I'm not a fitness freak, but my husband is. He takes out the kids for swimming regularly and ensures they get their daily dose of exercise." However, another parent Kamini Saraf, says, "I have taken a fancy for Italian food of late and my son too loves all those pizzas and pasta. I think it's time to stop all this and at the same time start off an exercise routine for him"

Expert advice

Just as parents prioritise school activities and academic goals, they should also prioritise fitness as well. At least an hour of exercise is necessary. They can either play games, run around or do a workout — it just needs to be a physical activity. Encourage your children to do it.

Can't resist junk food?

It's very common these days to just fill up junk food like potato chips, French fries, burgers, etc., in kids' tiffin boxes or give them the same stuff as a snack at home. In fact, many parents are guilty of gorging on junk food themselves. Dr P Raghuram, who has two sons, aged 13 and seven says, "Though I have inculcated all good habits in my kids, junk food is their major distraction. They can't do without it and I've had a tough time making them understand that it's not good for their health. It's true that parents set an example for kids and thus their eating habits are very important." Another big mistake many parents make is to reward their kids' good behaviour with a treat like pizza, colas, fries, etc. So, naturally kids begin to perceive junk food as a treat and not a threat to their health.

Expert advice

Saying no to junk food will not work out if you do not add healthy food like vegetables and fruit to your daily diet. You'll have to balance it out. If a kid wants to have burger, you should give him a bowl of salad with it and not a cola or French fries. Moreover, even parents need to follow a healthy diet and make it easier for their kids to follow the same.

Are you sleeping enough?

Late night parties, TV shows and movies are what today's parents look forward to, after a hard day at work. And more often than not, children tend to follow suit. The result — kids find it hard to get up in the morning and even if they manage to get to school on time, most of them end up sleepy in class! Sirisha Mulpuru, who has two sons, one 12-year-old and the other 18, says, "I'm a movie buff and usually opt for late-night shows with my friends. Seeing that, my sons too pester me to take them along. I have no other option, but to give in to them. It affects his school as he finds it difficult to get up early in the morning. I think I'll have to work this out now. Yes, good or bad, kids do learn from their parents."

Expert advice

- Kids who are seven to eight years should sleep eight to nine hours
- Teens should sleep around seven to eight hours
- A regular time should be maintained
- A couple of hours relaxation can be allowed on weekends. But that should a rare exception.

Recurring dreams about

Your dead pet symbolic



Kelly was chasing a ball out of her kennel in the gathering dusk that cast a long shadow on the grass. Her eyes were gleaming with mischief. When Debasmita's dream abruptly ended the bitter reality about Kelly, her Cocker Spaniel's death dawned on her. Not even a year has passed since her pet's death and Debasmita has already dreamt dozens of times about Kelly, sometimes fully aware that she is never to return.

We don't mourn the death of a pet the way we do human beings, and that's probably where we go wrong. All our life we treat them like a family member with whom we share an unspoken bond, an unconditional love, but when they pass away we



simply bury them and pretend to move on with our lives. And bring to an abrupt halt the emotions we start considering as superfluous.

For those who have been deeply involved with their pets to the extent of spending sleepless nights tending to them when they were sick, have a cosmic connection with them, one that transcends the boundaries of life and death. And as much as we'd like to convince ourselves, these emotions like energy never leave us and stay bottled up deep within often finding manifestations in our dreams. Little wonder then that some of us too like Debasmita dream of our pet even in death. But when these dreams recur what are we supposed to interpret?

Experts stress on the nature of the dream and our state of mind when we are in the dream. Says holistic healer and dream analyst, Sheesham Bansal Aggarwal, "When you have been affected by an event, in this case the sudden death of a pet, the subconscious tries to clear it off by dreaming. Dreams in which you see yourself happily enjoying with your pet imply you can't come to terms with their death, and in your subconscious mind attempt to complete that thought."

But not all dreams are happy. If you see your pet suffer in it along with yourself, and wake up with a sense of loss, it's most definitely a negative dream that is indicative of a burdened subconscious. Adds Sheesham, "It is important to let go off the emotion; by clinging to it you are only nurturing negativity."

When the emotions are extremely deep-rooted, we may try to seek solace in our dreams and eagerly await one in which we can be together with our pet. But do such unions in dreams have a bearing on our real lives? Elaborates psychologist Dr Kamal Khurana, "Death of a pet is an emotional break off, and it's our mind's way of grasping the events by trying to complete that thought in semi-sleep state. But if such dreams have a disastrous effect on you to the extent of hampering your social life, it's time you corrected it."

Dr Khurana attests a lot of importance to dreams as bearer of signals. He suggests you recall your dream in your conscious time and get a closure to that thought. "Make up your mind on the kind of dream you'd like to have with your pet in it. If your resolve is strong you will dream such a dream, and that may bring some relief to your strained subconscious."

Agrees Sheesham, "Dream can cure dream if you can use it as a therapy. Soon after waking up pen down everything you can remember about the dream, the people in it, your pet's expression including your own state of mind. Repeat this exercise every time the dream recurs. Make notes of the pattern, and you'll be able to evolve a trend. Then think of a happy dream and you will dream it."

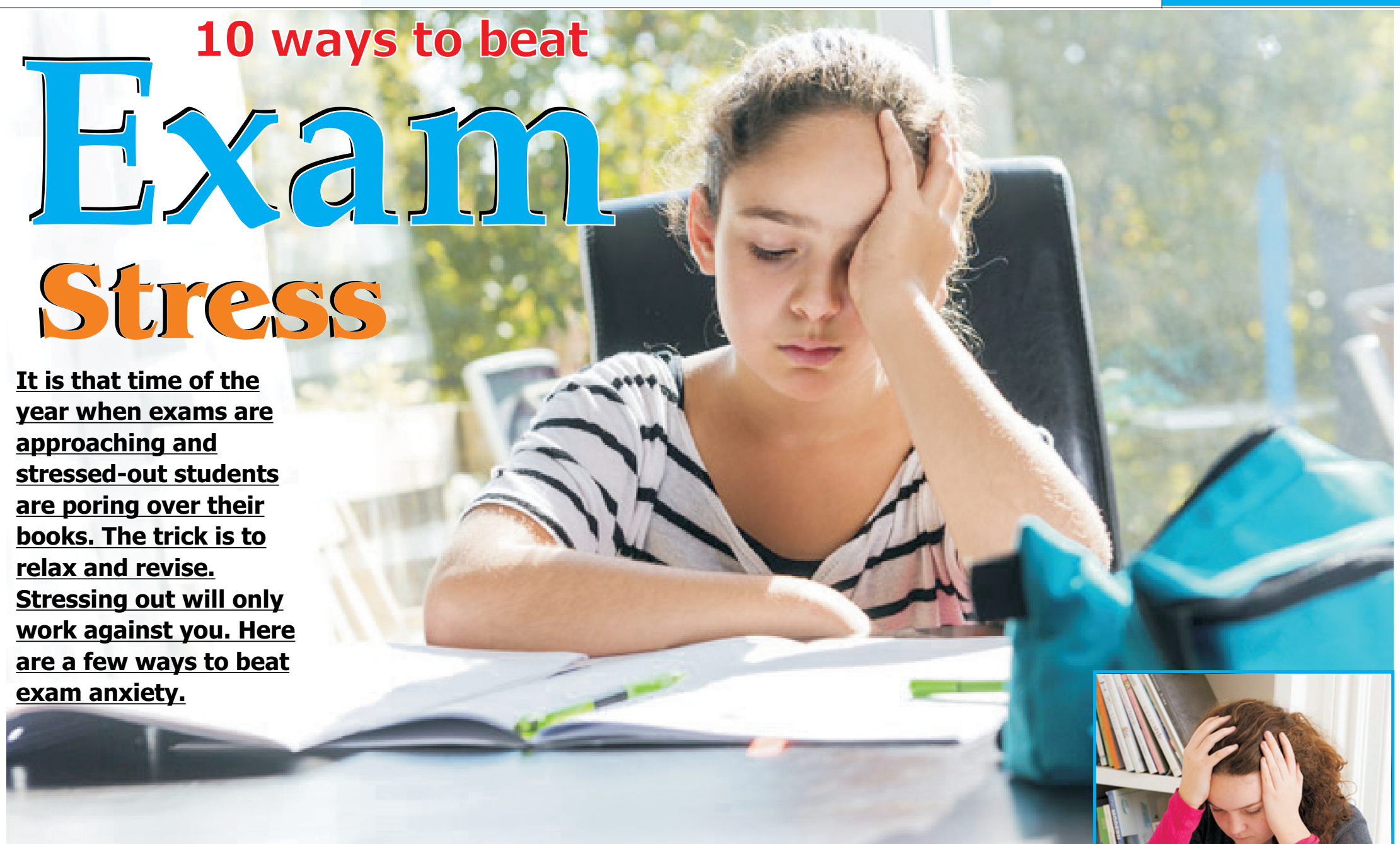
Talking out can be another way to deal with it, provided your confidante is at the same psychological level as you. Psychologist Dr Rajendra Barve shares an anecdote, "I had a tough Mumbai cop visit me regularly unable to recover from the death of his dog at his farm house. He so much as stopped going there because he was haunted by the memories. After several sittings I could convince him to go back to the farm house and try talking loudly to his pet, the way he would were the pet alive, and vent out his emotions." Often to fill the void, a new pet is quickly made to replace the old one. So, is it a good idea to bring home a new pet to overcome the lingering sense of loss?

Avers Dr Khurana, "You need to make up your mind to get a new pet instead of brooding over the death of the older one. Channelise you love by giving the new one the same name, and you will be healed." But Sheesham differs on this count from Dr Khurana, as she feels love on the rebound may not be the most ideal way. "Your subconscious will not evolve this way. You need to let go off the emotion however deeply-entrenched it may be," she asserts.

Like we hold prayer meetings on the death of a person, we should too on the death of a pet. Just as certain things remain beyond the grasp of science, it counts to simply meditate or chant a prayer for the peace of the soul.

10 ways to beat

Exam Stress



It is that time of the year when exams are approaching and stressed-out students are poring over their books. The trick is to relax and revise. Stressing out will only work against you. Here are a few ways to beat exam anxiety.

1 Start with embracing a positive attitude. There is no way to avoid an exam. If you let negative thoughts reign your mind, you will find it difficult to succeed. No one can encourage you more than yourself.

2 Set up a routine and follow it through. Wake up early to get more time during the day. Make a small to-do list and abide by it.

3 A change in the place of study helps. Try to find a few different study spots that you feel comfortable and productive in. The more bored or distracted you are by your environment, the harder it is to focus on your books.

4 One of the most common compromises that students tend to make during this stressful period is sleep. You need your eight-hours now more than any other time of the year. A well-rested body and mind will grasp information more easily.

5 Eat healthy and follow a balanced diet. Eat fresh, whole foods whenever possible and drink lots of water. Avoid sugary, processed snacks, which will spike your blood sugar and make you feel sluggish.

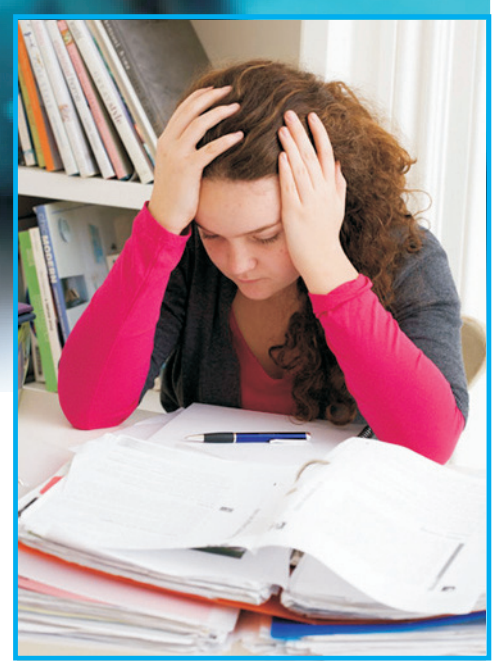
6 Everybody has that one friend who talks about how he has been studying for 20 hours. It is not the duration that matters. It is the quality. If you finish the same number of chapters in a shorter period time, you are the winner.

7 It is always easy to study the stuff that you already feel comfortable with when you should really be tackling the tougher parts that you aren't so familiar with. Mock tests are a great way to not only test your current knowledge but will help to identify the areas that need more focus.

8 It is important to revise. If you have already covered your portions, take time out to revise. But don't overdo it. Go slow and don't keep revising the same thing over and over again. If you have revised a chapter ample number of times, take a break and chill out. Don't be afraid of feeling confident.

9 Take a stroll after long study hours. Go out in the open and take in some fresh air. A walk in a park, by the lakeside relaxes the mind and body. Take a friend along if you want, but don't talk about exams and don't discuss chapters during this leisurely stroll.

10 Exercise to beat stress. Include a 30-minute workout into your daily routine. This will you to concentrate better while studying.



Study *links job problems to* Parenting



Parents, take note! If your kids have problems at work, you may be responsible to some extent for the trouble, according to a new study which found a link between parenting styles and workplace behaviour.

"It really is about both parents, but because mothers are typically the primary caregivers of the children, they usually have more influence on their children," said Peter Harms from University of Alabama in the US. Researchers studied manager-employee relationships in the workplace and found a link between parenting styles and workplace behaviour.

Their research was based on the work of John Bowlby , an early psychoanalyst, who argued that the way parents treat their offspring could have long-term implications for how their children approach relationships.

In particular, the work focused on how parents acted when their infants cried out for help.

Babies learn over time that they can either count on their parent to come to their rescue right away or they need to escalate to high levels of distress in order to get attention. Or, if babies learn that parents are not a reliable source of comfort, they stop making overt appeals for help. Individuals with reliable parents view others as potential sources of support.

These people are often categorised as having anxious or avoidant attachment depending on the style they adopted to cope with distress.

"Your boss is sort of like your parent," said Harms. The findings showed that when anxious followers were paired with supportive leaders, they were perfectly fine. But when they were paired with distant, unsupportive leaders, the anxiously attached employees reported higher levels of stress and lower levels of performance.

Things to keep in mind when you're travelling with kids



Travelling with kids is never easy. Whether you're travelling with one, twins or more, it can be a tedious and testy time for most parents. Here's what you need to keep in mind...

Carry enough toys to keep your child(ren) entertained during the journey. This means toys, colouring books, building blocks, books or puzzles — anything that will capture the attention of your child for at least a couple of hours. And don't forget to carry you child's favourite toy. The last thing you need is a full blown tantrum on the airplane because he/ she is missing her favourite teddy bear.

Don't forget to carry medication. Many children tend to suffer from motion sickness or an upset tummy especially while travelling and you don't want to be caught off guard in an unknown place with no medicines. Carry some bandaids as well.

While allowing your child to pack their own bag may seem tempting, avoid doing that unless you're okay with lugging around heavy luggage. Instead, let them help you with the packing so that they know exactly what goes into their suitcase.

Read up beforehand about the climate of the place that you're about to visit. This will give you a fair idea of what to pack and what you can skip carrying unnecessarily.

Always carry a hand sanitiser, antibacterial wet wipes and tissues in your handbag because you never know when the need arises. Not only will this ensure that your child is (relatively) germ-free but will also help in case of spillage.

As a parent you're expected to keep your child entertained during those long journeys, so in the rare case when your child does not want to play with his/her toys, make sure you have a stock of stories/ anecdotes that you can recite to them. It helps, of course, if you have a vivid imagination!



Mention Of Riots Outside India In CJP Leaders' Plea Hearing In Delhi High Court

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday pulled up the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das as they moved the court against the magistrate's order of extending their custody.

The court made some strong observations on the conduct of the CJP leaders, who were arrested on charges of violating their bail bond by attempting to protest at denotified Jantar Mantar. Questioning their actions, the court also made reference to protests and violence in other countries where student protests have turned violent."You are at the forefront (of the protest). When you break barricade, there are chances that more people may follow. There might be persons who may not be under your control," the court noted.

Justice Subramonium Prasad then referred to the violence and arson in other countries."We have seen it happened outside our country. What started as student protests turned into something with arson and burning of buildings."

Further slamming the CJP actions, the court questioned the "breach of bond" that the CJP leaders signed after their first arrest.They were then let off the same day after furnishing peace bonds of Rs 50,000. Das and Ranka were, however, apprehended again on October 14 after their attempt to stage the Tiranga protest at Jantar Mantar. They were sent to five-day judicial custody.

Student protests became arson: Court cites France riots during CJP leaders' hearing

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday referred to the ongoing student-led protests in France that escalated into arson and looting while hearing a case involving the arrest of Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka.The bench led by Justice Subramonium Prasad stressed that police permission for demonstrations was meant not merely to restrict protesters but also to prevent other people from joining and disrupting them.The remarks came as the High Court agreed to urgently hear a plea by the CJP leaders challenging the order extending their judicial custody, which ends today. The leaders, however, withdrew the plea after the court questioned why the petitioners had approached it instead of pursuing alternative legal remedies and waiting for the SEM to hear the matter.Ranka and Das were arrested on October 13 for trespassing into Jantar Mantar and unfurling the Tricolour. They crossed the police barricades and entered the site, raising slogans demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

During the hearing, Justice Prasad questioned the leaders' decision to enter Jantar Mantar after it had been denotified as a protest site and said, "Barricades are there for a purpose. When you go and break a barricade, the chances of more people coming there is — persons who might not be under your control."Referring to the student-led protests in France, the High Court said, "We are seeing this outside our country as well. What started as a student protest has become arson, looting... That's why you need police permission. It is not just to stop you, but also to prevent others from joining you and spoiling your name."Questioning whether holding the protest at the denotified site was serious enough to warrant proceedings, the court said the legality of the action was a separate issue that it would examine.

"You went there and broke the barricade. That issue we will see," the court said.During the hearing, the High Court also asked the CJP leaders their age. Das is 26 years old and Ranka 31."Then you are not Gen Z. What age group do millennials belong to?" the court quipped, observing that while the protest had initially been a student movement, its cause had since changed."People remain the same, but the cause has changed. The next question is: who are you, what are you, what is your association, and what is the purpose of the association? When there is an apprehension of a breach of peace and tranquillity, all these questions assume importance," it added.

'You broke bond very next day': Delhi High Court raps CJP's Das, Ranka over arrest pleas

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday questioned the plea filed by Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, noting that they had allegedly breached a bond to maintain peace a day after furnishing it.

Justice Subramonium Prasad, addressing their counsel Abhik Chimni, observed that the bond furnished on October 10 was allegedly breached the very next day, October 11. The judge said the High Court examines the decision-making process rather than the decision itself, unless the decision is so perverse that it "shocks the conscience".The court also asked whether authorities were entitled to demand stricter proof when the two had allegedly breached the peace bond for a second time by trespassing at Jantar Mantar and waving a flag.Questioning why the plea should be entertained, the court pointed to the alternative remedy of challenging the Special Executive Magistrate's October 19 order before an appellate court. It also noted that the outcome of the proceedings before the magistrate concerning the duo's custody remained to be seen.Chimni argued that the two should not have to spend another two days in custody, questioning the legality of the October 19 order. He contended that the magistrate lacked jurisdiction to extend their custody.During the hearing, Justice Prasad asked the ages of Das and Ranka. When Chimni said they were 27 and 31, respectively, the judge remarked, "So you're not Gen Z?" This led to a brief exchange over the age cutoff for the generation.Explaining his question, the judge said the initial protest had involved students and young people, including Gen Z, but the cause appeared to be changing while the same people remained involved.

"Suddenly they're talking about 'regime change', about 'ballot'… What is your purport, what do you do in your life otherwise… we will have to go into all these questions then," Justice Prasad said.

Das and Ranka have requested the Delhi High Court to allow them to withdraw their pleas challenging their custody proceedings.The High Court was scheduled to hear pleas by Saurav



Das, Ashutosh Ranka and All India Students' Association president Neha Bora Wednesday, challenging orders of special executive magistrates (SEM) against them.

CJP leaders' custody extended

Ranka and Das were arrested on October 14 for allegedly breaching security and entering Jantar Mantar during the protests. On Monday, the SEM extended their custody by two days, taking the total to seven days.

The order signed by SEM Ritu Raj, an ACP-rank officer with the Delhi Police, said that Ranka and Das's conduct did not inspire "confidence", that they have "no respect for law" and that they have habitually called for protests at a de-notified site. While being taken away, Das had termed the SEM a "police court" and said "there's no justice".

> Justice Subramonium Prasad questioned the pleas filed by Das and Ranka, noting that the bond they furnished on October 10, assuring that they would maintain peace, was 'breached' the following day.

Their key challenge

The two, who moved court on Tuesday, are challenging the grounds on which their sureties were rejected and the demand for fresh ones.As per the SEM order, two persons acted as the surety for Ranka and Das. For one person, the SEM court said that the photograph of the person did not match with the Aadhaar card. For the other person, the court said that basic details like parentage were not there.Das and Ranka, in their plea, argued that the SEM's grounds for rejection are contrary to the principles of personal liberty and shows "complete misapplication of the law".Their plea had sought an urgent hearing, including a possible night hearing, alleging violations of their fundamental right to liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Supreme Court stays CMRL bribery probe against Pinarayi Vijayan for a week

Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed for a week the investigation against former Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his daughter Veena T and her husband P A Mohamed Riyas in the alleged CMRL bribery case, the Press Trust of India reported.A bench of Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana allowed Vijayan and the others to approach a division bench of the Kerala High Court against an order passed by a single judge.On October 15, the Kerala High Court rejected applications filed by Vijayan, Veena and Riyas seeking permission to appeal against the single judge's October 9 order. The court held that "an accused in a corruption case has no legal right to be heard before registering the FIR".In their appeals before the High Court, the three claimed that the single judge had not heard them before directing the registration of the FIR.They also argued that the petition on which the single judge passed the October 9 order was in the form of a public interest litigation and should, therefore, have been heard by a division bench dealing with such matters.

According to PTI, the appeals were filed after the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau's Special Investigation Unit-1 registered two FIRs against Vijayan and his family members in connection with the case.On October 9, the Kerala High Court directed the bureau to register a case based on a report submitted by the Enforcement Directorate to the state police.The Enforcement Directorate had sought the registration of a case based on evidence gathered during its investigation and searches conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.The agency alleged that CMRL made fraudulent payments of Rs 2.78 crore to Veena's now-defunct company, Exalogic Solutions, under the guise of providing IT consultancy services.The Supreme Court's order pauses the investigation for a week and allows Vijayan, Veena and Riyas to challenge the single judge's order before a division bench of the Kerala High Court.

Delhi plans to halve e-rickshaw fleet, but will it ease traffic? Experts weigh in

Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi has proposed capping the number of e-rickshaws on its roads to 2.5 lakh, from an estimated 4.5 lakh to 5 lakh. But experts and e-rickshaw associations said this alone may not ease traffic congestion or road encroachment and could leave drivers without a livelihood.Rolling out a new regulatory framework aimed at improving road safety, curbing congestion and regulating the growing fleet, the state government has proposed making a digital E-Rickshaw Compliance Certificate (ECC) mandatory for all vehicles among other measures. It has invited suggestions from the public for 30 days before formally launching the scheme.E-rickshaw associations have planned to meet the Delhi government and request changes to the policy to ensure that drivers who lose their jobs due to the proposed capping are provided with alternative employment opportunities.

Uneven distribution

E-rickshaws are concentrated on some roads, while other areas with high demand have limited availability, according to unions and electric vehicle (EV) experts.Capping the number of e-rickshaws would be a setback for poor and unemployed people who have taken up driving as a means of livelihood, said EV expert Dinesh Goyal."An e-rickshaw, which is already categorised as a special-category vehicle, costs around Rs 1.5 lakh. After the cap is imposed, those looking to earn a living through driving with a relatively small investment may have to opt for auto-rickshaws or other commercial vehicles, which are much more expensive," he said.He added that if the government wants to tackle traffic congestion and road encroachment, it can regulate e-rickshaws through proper management and ensure their balanced deployment on roads.Goyal also pointed out that there is no cap on other vehicles: "Tell me, is there any cap on private cars or other private and commercial vehicles, whose



numbers are also increasing every day? Do they not contribute to traffic congestion?"

Concerns over drivers' livelihoods

Anuj Sharma, former chairman of the e-rickshaw committee at the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), said the government should have made arrangements for those who could lose their livelihoods before deciding to cap the number of e-rickshaws, given that the existing fleet is more than double the proposed limit of 2.5 lakh."Has the government made any arrangements or come up with a plan for those who will become unemployed? The policy should be implemented only after consultation with stakeholders, rather than being framed solely by government officials sitting in the Transport Department," Sharma said."We will, in fact, meet the government to put forward this request so that people don't lose their jobs. The government should ensure alternative employment opportunities if capping is implemented," Sharma said, adding the government could make changes to better manage the deployment of these last-mile vehicles.

Change of guard at SBKK: Gauri Keeling wants to 'put things in order' at iconic institute

Delhi.(Agency)

At the full-dress rehearsal of the Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra's (SBKK) flagship production 'Shri Ram', the 22-day Ramlila's 69th edition currently being presented at the institute's open-air arena in Mandi House, Gauri Keeling has a list of concerns and production notes.Sitting beside the institute's chairperson, Shobha Deepak Singh, Gauri, the new Vice Chairperson of SBKK and Shobha's younger sister, lists the 'issues' to Meenakshi Dass, the working trustee of SBKK and Shobha and Gauri's niece.King Janaka's beard is all wrong, the subtitles on the screen are crooked, and the moving lights are not working for her, Gauri saysThe older LED screens have given way to traditional sets and older compositions this time, and the chaupais (four-part verses from the Ramcharitmanas) have been brought back.At an institution that has presented the production for decades and is synonymous with the teaching and performance of Indian classical arts, such details are more than matters of stagecraft.They also have to do with the artistic vision and authority that has shaped the Kendra. For decades, that vision has been closely identified with Shobha, the institute's long-time artistic director, who has overseen the various productions and shaped them since taking over from art impresario Sumitra Charat Ram. Sumitra, the mother of Shobha and Gauri, played a key role in the revival of performing arts in post-Independence India.

"Back when my mother began, we were fully involved. All of us children were monkeys in the Ramlila when it was rehearsed in the basement of our Curzon Road residence," said Gauri, who learned how to sing and dance as a child.With Shobha getting on in age – and after her husband Deepak Singh, who helped her run the place, passed away a couple of years ago – most of the financial and cultural decision-making has been taken over by Gauri, who plans to work in collaboration with Jayant



Kastuar, Director of SBKK, and Dass.Gauri will also take over the major decision-making for Kamani Auditorium, the 55-year-old, 625-seater auditorium located next to SBKK, and one of the oldest auditoriums of its kind in the city."Shobha has done a wonderful job for about 25-30 years and will always have the respect of the chairperson of the institute but she can no longer walk around a lot, and cannot make certain decisions," Gauri told .The history of SBKK, she said, can be loosely divided into two eras – "the Sumitra Charat Ram era based on traditional writing, then post the '70s, the Shobha Deepak Singh era, which was more modern".

CJP's Sourav Das, Ashutosh Ranka withdraw petition against custody after court flags technical issues

> Cockroach Janata Party leaders withdrew their plea in the Delhi High Court challenging their detention orders after the bench questioned why they had not pursued alternative legal remedies. The court clarified that it had made no observations on the merits.

Delhi.(Agency)

The Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leaders on Wednesday withdrew their petition before the Delhi High Court challenging orders passed by the Special Executive Magistrate (SEM) in connection with their detention over a protest at Jantar Mantar.The development came after the High Court questioned why the petitioners had approached it instead of pursuing alternative legal remedies and waiting for the SEM to hear the matter. The court clarified that it had made no observations on the merits of the case.Advocate Abhik Chimni, appearing for the CJP leaders, informed the bench that the petitioners were withdrawing the plea. The Additional Solicitor General (ASG), appearing for the authorities, sought time to raise certain issues, pointing out that the petitioners had invoked Article 226 of the Constitution and argued for nearly an hour.The court said it had given the petitioners an opportunity to argue their case and suggested that they withdraw the plea and wait to see what transpired before the SEM that day.

ASG RAISES QUESTIONS OVER SURETIES, REPLY TO SEM

After the withdrawal was conveyed, the ASG sought to place certain aspects of the proceedings before the court. He said the petitioners had been given an opportunity to present their arguments and submit written submissions before the SEM in connection with the application for judicial custody. They had also been directed to file a reply but had not done so,



he submitted.The ASG urged the High Court to clarify that the withdrawal of the petition should not be treated as condoning the petitioners' failure to file a reply before the SEM.The bench, however, declined to intervene in the ongoing proceedings. "Let them follow the proceedings there. Why should we say anything?" the court asked.The ASG then questioned the petitioners' conduct, alleging that they had submitted sureties but later claimed in media interactions that they had not filed anything.

Sensex, Nifty rally up to 1% in early trade on IT stocks, firm global cues

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied up to 1 per cent in early trade on Wednesday, rebounding from the previous session's sharp losses as buying in IT stocks, Reliance Industries and firm global cues lifted investors' sentiment.The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 822.64 points, or 1.11 per cent, to 74,675.54 in the morning trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty advanced 217.65 points, or 0.95 per cent, to 23,106.60.Among the Sensex constituents, Infosys led the gainers, rising over 3 per cent, followed by Tata Consultancy Services (2.6 per cent) and UltraTech Cement (2.3 per cent).Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, ITC, Larsen & Toubro, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, and Asian Paints were also among the gainers. Bajaj Finance, Bharat Electronics Ltd, IndiGo, Trent, Eternal, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, NTPC, Maruti Suzuki India, Titan and Axis Bank were among the laggards. The Rs 30,213-crore Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Jio Platforms attracted 85 per cent subscription from the investors within minutes of opening.

Rupee rises 29 paise to 94.62 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The rupee appreciated 29 paise to 94.62 against the US dollar in early trade on Wednesday, supported by positive sentiments in the domestic market and support from the RBI.

Besides, the rupee got a boost from the foreign dollar inflows tied to the Jio IPO, which opened for public subscription on Wednesday, according to analysts.However, elevated crude oil prices and a firm US dollar capped the gains.At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened stronger at 94.78, and then gained further ground to touch 94.62 against the American currency, registering a gain of 29 paise from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee settled lower by 2 paise at 94.91 against the US dollar.The forex market was closed on Tuesday on account of Dussehra.

No Medical Insurance? You Can Now Pay Big Medical Bills In Monthly EMIs

New Delhi.(Ajency)

A medical emergency can put a family's savings under pressure, especially when it does not have health insurance. A hospital bill running into lakhs of rupees can force people to dip into their savings, borrow money or even delay treatment.

Therefore, medical financing is emerging as another option for such patients. Instead of paying the entire hospital bill upfront, they can spread the cost over monthly equated monthly instalments (EMIs). The arrangement can make a large expense easier to manage, although patients must weigh the interest and other charges before signing up.

Why Are Medical EMIs Gaining Importance?

The need for alternative ways to pay medical bills is significant in India, where many households still bear a large share of healthcare costs themselves.Gaurav Gupta, Co-Founder and CEO of CarePay, told NDTV that the absence of health insurance should not force people to postpone essential medical treatment because they lack immediate funds. "Six in 10 patients delay treatments, with 93 per cent of these delays linked to a lack of immediate funds," Gupta said.

Maharashtra sugar output likely to dip amid drought; ethanol production may drop 30%

According to estimates by the Agriculture Department and an expert committee, sugarcane crushing in Maharashtra is expected to decline to around 900 lakh metric tonnes this season from approximately 1,045 lakh metric tonnes last

New Delhi.(Agency)

Maharashtra's sugar production is expected to fall by nearly 10 lakh metric tonnes this season as irregular rainfall and drought-like conditions affect sugarcane output. Ethanol production is also projected to decline by around 30%, adding to the challenges faced by the state's sugar industry.Maharashtra Sugar Commissioner Dr Sanjay Kolte said sugar production is likely to remain between 89 lakh and 90 lakh metric tonnes this season, compared with 99 lakh metric tonnes recorded last year.

SUGARCANE CRUSHING LIKELY TO FALL

According to estimates by the Agriculture Department and an expert committee, sugarcane crushing in Maharashtra is expected to decline to around 900 lakh metric tonnes this season from approximately 1,045 lakh metric tonnes last season.With less sugarcane available for crushing, the average crushing season is also likely to become shorter. It could fall to around 90 days from 104 days last year, affecting the operations and revenues of sugar mills across the state.Last season, 210 sugar factories carried out crushing operations in Maharashtra. So far, 103 factories have received licences for the upcoming season, while the process of issuing licences to another 109 factories is under way.



ETHANOL PRODUCTION FACES CHALLENGES

Sugar mills in Maharashtra have invested crores of rupees in ethanol production facilities. The state's total installed ethanol production capacity is estimated at around 296 crore litres.However, actual production and sales depend on the availability of raw materials, central government policies and demand from oil marketing companies.

At the national level, ethanol demand from oil marketing companies is estimated at around 1,100 crore litres. Maharashtra accounts for approximately 100 crore to 120 crore litres of this demand.Around 9% of sugar is diverted towards ethanol production every year. However, restrictions under the Centre's current policy on ethanol procurement made from sugarcane juice, syrup and B-heavy molasses are expected to limit the options available to manufacturers.

As a result, mills may have t depend more on C-heavy molasses and grain-based ethanol production. Lower sugarcane availability and policy restrictions could put further pressure on ethanol producers and raise concerns about returns on investments made in distillery projects.

21 SUGAR MILLS OWE FARMERS RS 119 CRORE

Meanwhile, most sugar factories that operated last season have cleared their Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) dues to sugarcane farmers.

HDFC Bank probe finds two senior executives leaked confidential information

New Delhi.(Agency)

HDFC Bank's internal investigation has found evidence that two senior executives disclosed confidential business strategies and potentially market-sensitive information to outsiders, reported Bloomberg.The investigation is still underway, with the bank examining whether the information was misused, according to the report. The executives, who oversee key businesses and functions at the lender, have been formally informed of the findings. It was not immediately clear what disciplinary action would follow.An HDFC Bank spokesperson acknowledged the internal review but declined to comment on its findings or identify the executives involved.

"In line with our policies, an internal review into this matter is currently underway to gather and evaluate all relevant facts," the spokesperson said, according to Bloomberg. "Appropriate



action will be taken based on the findings, once the review is complete. The findings were reported to senior management, including some board members, earlier this year, Bloomberg reported.

HDFC BANK FACES LEADERSHIP CHANGES

The investigation comes at a sensitive time for HDFC Bank, which is preparing for a leadership transition amid recent boardroom differences and senior management departures.Anup Bagchi, a veteran of the ICICI Group, is set to take over as chief executive on October 27. He will succeed Sashidhar Jagdishan, who decided not to seek another term after six years at the helm.In March, then-chairman Atanu Chakraborty resigned, citing differences between his personal values and certain practices at the bank. An independent legal review commissioned by the lender subsequently said his concerns were not substantiated.Kaizad Bharucha, deputy managing director and one of the bank's longest-serving executives, has also asked to leave at the end of December.The report said .

Rubio meets Adani, Tata chiefs before heading to Jamnagar for Reliance refinery visit

New Delhi.(Ajency)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani and Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran in Mumbai on Wednesday morning before heading to Jamnagar in Gujarat to visit Reliance Industries' giant oil-refining complex, the world's largest single-site refinery, along with Vantara and giga factories being developed by the conglomerate.

Rubio, who arrived in Mumbai on Tuesday afternoon, first met Adani, followed by a meeting with Chandrasekaran, sources said.

Neither side released details of the meetings.Adani heads one of India's largest conglomerates, with interests spanning ports, airports, energy, logistics and infrastructure. The group has also been expanding its renewable-energy and manufacturing businesses, sectors that are central to India's ambitions to strengthen domestic supply chains and attract global investment.Chandrasekaran, who leads Tata Sons, the Tata Group's holding company, oversees a sprawling business empire with interests in automobiles, steel, information technology, aviation, electronics, and advanced manufacturing. The group has been investing in semiconductors and battery technology as India seeks a larger role in global technology and manufacturing supply chains.Rubio's Jamnagar itinerary brings the focus to Reliance's industrial complex.

When Rs 1,000 became Rs 50,000: Dhirubhai Ambani's Reliance story before Jio's mega IPO

New Delhi.(Agency)

In June 1985, Dhirubhai Ambani laughed at those who had earlier predicted that Reliance was a bubble waiting to burst. "I am the bubble that burst," Dhirubhai Ambani told India Today Magazine.By then, the textile manufacturer who had challenged India's established industrial houses had transformed the fortunes of ordinary shareholders. An investment of Rs 1,000 in Reliance's 1977 initial public offering (IPO) was worth over Rs 50,000 by 1985, apart from thousands of rupees in dividends. Those who invested Rs 2,000 and earned comparable returns could have become lakhpatis in less than eight years. Before today's arabpati or crorepati, being lakhpati was a dream for ordinary Indians.Dhirubhai Ambani, who built a business empire from humble beginnings, also helped ordinary middle-class Indians by introducing them to the wealth-creating potential of shares. By 1993, Reliance Industries had become India's largest company by sales.Nearly five decades later, Reliance is adding another defining chapter in its stock-market history.Jio Platforms, the digital and telecom arm of Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries, and headed by Managing Director Akash Ambani, opened its Rs 30,213-crore initial public offering (IPO) on Wednesday. The offering is set to become India's largest-ever IPO, surpassing Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,870-crore issue in 2024. Mukesh Ambani's son Akash Ambani is the Managing Director of Jio Platforms and Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm, its telecom subsidiary.Now, nearly five decades after the first IPO of Reliance Textile Industries (now Reliance Industries Limited or RIL) in 1977, its public offerings have grown enormously in size and scale, while its businesses have expanded from textiles to petrochemicals, energy, retail and telecommunications.Jio Platforms' IPO was fully subscribed within just 100 minutes of opening on Wednesday. It was the fastest among India's mega public issues.As of 1 PM on October 21, the grey market premium (GMP) of the Jio Platforms IPO stood at Rs 253.

Gold gets cheaper before Dhanteras: Buy now or wait for a bigger dip

Mumbai . (Agency)

India has entered the festive season, with Karwa Chauth, Dhanteras and Diwali lined up, while the wedding season is also getting underway. For those planning to buy gold jewellery or invest in the yellow metal, there is some relief. Gold prices have eased over the past few days, offering buyers a chance to purchase the precious metal at lower levels.

On Wednesday, October 21, MCX Gold was



trading at Rs 1,45,898 per 10 grams, down 0.42% at the time of writing around 11.30 am. MCX Silver was also under pressure, trading at Rs 2,09,028 per kg, down 1.16%.The recent decline comes as rising crude oil prices have fuelled inflation concerns, while investors await the US Federal Reserve's policy meeting next week for clues about the future direction of interest rates.But does this dip mean gold has become a good buy ahead of Dhanteras and Diwali? And could prices fall further, giving buyers a better opportunity to purchase jewellery?

WHY ARE GOLD PRICES FALLING?

Gold prices fell for a fourth consecutive session on Wednesday as higher oil prices raised concerns about inflation. Crude oil prices edged higher amid worries about supply disruptions in the Middle East, including risks to shipping routes in the Red Sea and threats to oil infrastructure in Saudi Arabia.Higher oil prices can push up inflation, making the outlook for interest rates more uncertain. Investors are now watching the US Federal Reserve's next policy decision closely, as changes in interest rate expectations can influence gold prices.

WHAT SHOULD GOLD BUYERS WATCH NOW?

The recent correction may offer some relief to buyers preparing for festive purchases. However, experts caution that gold prices could remain under pressure in the near term, with technical indicators pointing to further weakness.Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, said MCX Gold opened lower, near Rs 1,46,300, and was testing the support zone between Rs 1,45,300 and Rs 1,46,000.Immediate resistance is the Rs 1,48,000-1,48,600 zone, where Rs 1,48,000, previously support, now acts as resistance after Monday's brief reclaim failed. The next resistance zone is Rs 1,50,000-1,50,700," he said.On the downside, Ponmudi identified the Rs 1,43,000-1,43,700 range as the next important support zone.

SBI probes suspected dark web exposure of 3,897 customer records; no impact on business continuity

New Delhi.(Ajency)

State Bank of India is investigating the suspected exposure of 3,897 customer records containing personally identifiable information on the dark web, following alerts received from its threat intelligence service provider, the Defence Cyber Agency and CERT-In on October 16.A preliminary analysis of around 3.75 lakh records available on the dark web identified 3,897 customer records containing sensitive information, including registered mobile numbers, dates of birth, names, gender, email addresses and residential addresses, SBI said in the regulatory filing on Wednesday.The exposed information reportedly also included branch and Customer Information File (CIF) identifiers, lead IDs, and metadata associated with loan and lead records and other related files.It said a detailed investigation was required to establish the authenticity and completeness of the exposed data, determine the potential source and extent of the exposure, and assess the associated risks to customers and the bank.SBI said it had promptly activated its cyber incident response and containment protocols. It had also engaged an independent cybersecurity agency empanelled by CERT-In to conduct a comprehensive assessment and investigate the alleged compromise.

The incident has had no material impact on the bank's core business operations,



financial performance or business continuity, the filing said, adding that its core business functions continued to operate normally without disruption.

A detailed assessment is underway, and appropriate remedial and preventive measures are being implemented, it said. SBI aded that it was closely monitoring the situation and taking all appropriate measures in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements.

Fire breaks out at massive scrap godown in Mumbai's Andheri, 2 killed

Mumbai.(Agency)

Two people died and four others sustained burns after a fire broke out at a 16,000-square-foot scrap godown in the Saki Naka area of Mumbai's Andheri East on Tuesday evening.

According to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) disaster cell, the fire engulfed 60-70 commercial units and chawls located in a ground-floor and partly ground-plus-one structure.

Officials said two charred bodies were recovered from the site.

"The charred bodies are yet to be identified. Locals rescued all the victims before the fire brigade arrived at the spot, and they were transported to hospitals in private vehicles," an official told .

The officials identified the injured people as Taufiq Qureshi, 20, Jahid Qureshi, 20, Kamal Shah, 47, and Lalchand Gautam, 40. While Taufiq sustained 80 per cent burns, both Jahid and Kamal sustained 40 per cent burns, and Lalchand sustained 10 per cent burns. The blaze broke out at around 6.30 pm and was doused around half past midnight, the officials added.

TVK government completes 40% of stormwater drain works in Chennai in four months, says KA Sengottaiyan

TIRUCHY.(Agency)

Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management KA Sengottaiyan said on Wednesday that the TVK government had completed 40% of the stormwater drain works in Chennai that the DMK government had left unfinished within the past four months.

Speaking to reporters after a review meeting at the Tiruchy Collectorate on Wednesday, he was asked about the DMK's claim that the completion of stormwater drain works worth Rs 4,000 crore during its tenure had prevented waterlogging on roads during heavy rain in Chennai.

"The DMK government had failed to complete 40% of the works, and the TVK government had completed them after assuming office. Every political party has a responsibility to implement infrastructure development for the people during its tenure. Had these responsibilities been fulfilled properly, the present government would not have had to undertake such works over the past four months," he said.

Rajasthan Cong demands FIR over alleged assault on NSUI leader; Dotasra spends second night at police HQ

Rajasthan.(Agency)

Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra and other party leaders spent a second consecutive night at the Jaipur Police Commissionerate, insisting on an FIR over the alleged assault on NSUI leader Ritu Barala by Delhi Police personnel before ending their protest.

The standoff intensified on Tuesday night when police used mild force to disperse Congress workers gathered outside the commissionerate in support of the protest, amid slogans, scuffles and disruption of traffic in the area.

Dotasra, who has been camping at the commissionerate since Monday evening along with Barala and other party leaders, said they would leave only after an FIR was registered.

The Congress leaders had slept in a corridor of the commissionerate on Monday night and stayed there again on Tuesday after their demand remained unresolved.

The protest gathered momentum on Tuesday as a large number of Congress workers assembled outside the commissionerate, raised slogans and demanded registration of an FIR. Scuffles broke out between party workers and police on a couple of occasions, affecting traffic movement in the area.

Mumbai: 10-year-old booked for murder after CCTV shows she threw toddler into duct

- The 18-month-old went missing while playing with a cat outside her sixth-floor flat and was found in the basement. Police first filed an accidental death report. Her mother pushed for a probe, and CCTV allegedly showed a neighbour's child picking her up and dropping her into the duct.



Mumbai.(Agency)

A 10-year-old girl was booked for murder Tuesday after an 18-month-old baby was allegedly thrown into a duct inside a residential building in Mumbai, leading to her death. According to police, the incident came to light after they examined CCTV footage from the building following the child's death on October 14.The deceased was playing with a cat in the lobby outside her flat on the sixth floor when she went missing. Her family members searched for her and eventually found her unconscious and injured in the building's basement. She was rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival. Initially, the police registered an accidental death report. The family sought a detailed probe into the circumstances surrounding the toddler's death. During the investigation, the police examined CCTV footage which allegedly showed the 10-year-old girl allegedly picking up the toddler and throwing her into the duct on the right side of the lift before running towards her own house, the FIR said. The girl lives in the flat opposite the victim's residence.

The protective wall near the staircase is approximately 3.5 feet high and toddler was too short to climb over it on her own. Her mother requested the police to investigate the circumstances leading to her daughter's death.Police said that after the probe and instructions of Child Welfare Committee, the FIR was registered against the 10-year-old girl under 103 (1) (murder) of the BNS. A chargesheet will be filed against her, said a police officer.

Under a Mumbai forest, a tunnel machine digs 5 metres a day through ancient lava rock

Hard Deccan basalt has slowed Mumbai's first boring machine to 5.5 metres a day, and under 3 on bad days, as it cuts a 6.65-km twin tunnel beneath Sanjay Gandhi National Park. The Rs 6,600-crore tunnel is meant to cut a 90-minute east-west crossing of the city to 20 minutes by 2028.

Ludhiana .(Agency)

Mumbai: Deep beneath the hills of Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), a giant machine is slowly cutting through some of the hardest rock formations beneath Mumbai. Nearly two months after the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) began boring the Goregaon-Mulund Road (GMLR) tunnel, its first tunnel boring machine (TBM), named Tulsi, has excavated 183 metres. Hard basalt and changing ground conditions have forced engineers to closely monitor its pace.

Civic officials said the machine was advancing at an average of 5.5 metres a day, though progress on some days had fallen below three metres as engineers adjusted the cutting operation to ensure safety and prevent damage to the machine.

The proposed 6.65-km twin-tunnel system, a key component of the GMLR project, will pass beneath Film City and the forested hills of SGNP before emerging at Khondipada in Mulund. Of the total tunnel length, around 5.3 km will be excavated using TBMs, with the remaining stretches constructed using other methods. The tunnel will pass beneath an ecologically sensitive landscape, including areas near Tulsi and Vihar lakes. To minimise the impact on the forest, the alignment will reach depths of up to 160 metres beneath the hills. Officials said the depth was intended to protect tree roots and the water table. "Beneath the surface, the Deccan Trap basalt varies in quality. The rock is hard, with thick, sharp edges. Owing to these formations, the TBM cutting efficiency is monitored carefully to ensure that stability and progress are not hindered. If the blades are not controlled then there are chances that they may get damaged during the operation," an official told .



Basalt, a dense volcanic rock formed by the cooling of ancient lava flows, is the principal geological formation along much of the tunnel alignment. Its hardness and abrasive properties vary according to its mineral composition, texture and degree of weathering, making excavation more challenging.

The Japanese-made TBM, which began operations on August 17, has a cylindrical body and rotating cutting blades at its head. The machine breaks through rock as it advances, while engineers monitor the cutting process and ground conditions.

Excavation is further complicated by the tunnel's varying depth, which ranges from around 20 metres to 160 metres. The alignment is not straight, requiring adjustments as the machine moves through different geological formations.

"Another factor that adds up to the challenge is the tunnel is going to have a variable depth, which means the digging is not being done by following a straight line. Therefore, every inch forward is being assessed even though the average rate of progress is above 5 metres, on some days, we could dig less than 3 metres because we need to slow down the process for safety reasons, again picking up the pace the next day," the official said. A second TBM is expected to begin excavation later this month. The two machines will bore parallel tunnels to carry traffic in opposite directions. The BMC has planned a 21-month excavation period, targeting completion of the first tunnel by March 2028 and the second by June 2028.

The civic body had earlier deployed a Chinese-made TBM, Mavala, to excavate the 2.07-km Coastal Road tunnel connecting Marine Drive and Priyadarshini Park. TBMs have also been used to construct water-supply tunnels in the city.

AP local polls: SC directs SEC to examine YSRCP, others' complaints of being prevented from filing nominations

MUMBAI.(Agency)

In Andhra Pradesh local body elections matter, the Supreme Court's Special vacation bench on Wednesday has asked the AP election body to consider the complaints of YSRCP and other candidates over being prevented from filing nomination papers.

The top court's Special Vacation bench, headed by Justice Joymalya Bagchi and also comprising Justice V Mohana passed the interim direction on a plea filed by YSRCP and other candidates -- who moved the SC -- alleging that they were prevented from filing nomination papers by force and intimidation.

The petitioners said many candidates of YSRCP and other parties could not file nomination papers as they were stopped from entering election offices and nomination papers were not accepted. Hearing these submissions, the top court asked the AP State Election Commission to consider complaints and take decision as per law to ensure fairness. The court said election commission is custodian of free and fair elections and must examine allegations of prevention from filing nominations seriously. It disposed plea with direction to SEC to consider complaints of YSRCP and other candidates.

The bench directed the AP State Election Commission to take a decision by tomorrow on YSRCP's plea to extend the nomination deadline for Urban Local Body Elections wherever candidates where allegedly prevented from filing nominations due to violence. It also asked the APSEC not to publish the final list of candidates today (due date), and to defer it till October 25. The court also ordered the Director General of Police to ensure necessary protection to candidates, police bandobast and CCTV coverage at nomination centres. The principal opposition party in the State had approached the Court after the High Court refused to direct the extension of the nomination deadline. The matter will be considered on October 27, when the SEC and the State have will file their detailed compliance affidavits in this regard.

Bihar BJP plans campaign to counter opposition's 'vote theft' allegations

PATNA.(Agency)

The Bihar BJP has launched a multi-level campaign to counter the Congress-led Opposition's "vote theft" allegations over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and present its position on the exercise to the public.

BJP organisation general secretary Bhikhubhai Dalsania will lead the campaign, which aims to rebut the Opposition's allegations and highlight the party's stand on the electoral roll revision that began in Bihar ahead of last year's Assembly elections. Dalsania and state BJP president Sanjay Saraogi met party office-bearers, including district presidents, district in-charges and state-level functionaries, at the party office in Patna on Tuesday to finalise the campaign and assign responsibilities.

According to party sources, general secretary Dhananjay Sharma, Kumhrar MLA Sanjay Gupta and BJP vice-president Sheela Kushwaha will coordinate the campaign at the state level.

The campaign will include seminars featuring intellectuals, youth debate competitions and other public outreach programmes to counter what the party describes as misinformation about the SIR. The events will seek to present facts and explain the BJP's position on the revision of electoral rolls.

Boat capsizes during idol immersion in Kota; Two bodies recovered, search on for two others

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

KOTA: The bodies of two young men were recovered after a boat carrying seven people capsized during a Durga idol immersion ceremony in a canal in Rajasthan's Kota, with rescue teams resuming the search operation on Wednesday morning. The bodies of Suraj Singh (22) and Vikas Verma (22), both Kota residents, were recovered during the search operation that resumed at 5.30 am, ASP Kota City Subhash Chandra Mishra and SDRF officials Ekta Mahipal confirmed.

The search is underway for the two remaining missing youths, Rahul Joshi (18) and Ashu Joshi (19), who are cousins and residents of Sanjay Nagar in Kota city.The boat capsized near Steel Bridge under the Borekheda police station limits around 5.30 pm on Tuesday during a Durga idol immersion ceremony.

Of the seven people aboard, three -- Deepak, a woman identified as Maankanwar, and the boatman, Suresh -- managed to swim to safety and were rescued by passersby.

The search operation was called off at 11.30 pm on Tuesday in accordance with standard operating procedures (SOPs) and resumed at 5.30 am on Wednesday, Mishra said. The two recovered bodies were found close to each other, around 200 to 300 metres from the accident site, he said, adding that they were sent to a mortuary for post-mortem. Authorities confirmed that the search for the two cousins remains active in the nearby waters as the SDRF and NDRF teams continue their concerted rescue efforts.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and state Education Minister Madan Dilawar also visited the spot on Tuesday night and supervised the search operation.

Another student suicide in Mumbai hostel, month after Sahil Wakode died at IIT

Patil was found in his room on the second floor of Hostel 5 on the ICT's Matunga campus. The incident is believed to have occurred between 10 pm and midnight.

Mumbai.(Agency)

A second-year Chemical Engineering student at Mumbai's Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Siddhesh Patil, died by suicide in his hostel room on Tuesday night, in an incident that comes amid continuing protests at IIT Bombay over the death of another second-year student and concerns over campus mental-health support and institutional accountability.

Patil was found in his room on the second floor of Hostel 5 on the ICT's Matunga campus. The incident is believed to have occurred between 10 pm and midnight. A senior institute official confirmed the death, adding that the police had been informed and an investigation was underway.

The police received information that a 19-year-old had committed suicide. "A 19-year-old second-year Chemical Engineering student at the Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT) was found dead in his hostel room. We have registered an Accidental Death Report." The Matunga police said. The police said that they are yet to determine the cause of the death. "We have registered an ADR; we await the post mortem analysis to determine the cause of the death. We will record the statements of his family and friends to ascertain why he took extreme steps. We are investigating the matter," the police added. While the institute has not issued an official statement, Vice-Chancellor A B Pandit informed students and faculty members about the incident through a message circulated on campus. "The police have been informed, and they have prepared a statement from all concerned and have taken necessary steps to release his mortal remains to his family members," the message stated.

A classmate said Patil, who was from



Nashik, was undergoing treatment for depression with a doctor in the city. According to the classmate, Patil had spoken to his doctor on Tuesday night about wanting to end his life. The doctor subsequently alerted his parents, who contacted students in the hostel and asked them to check on him. "By the time we reached his room, he had died," the classmate said, adding that fewer students were on campus owing to the Dussehra festival.

Efforts on to host four consecutive WTA 125 events in India in 2028: TNTA president Vijay Amritraj

CHENNAI .(Agency)

As it stands, this edition of the Chennai Open, a WTA 250 event, will be the third and final edition. In order to capitalise on the growing popularity of World No 20 Alexandra Eala, the rising Filipino star, the governing body for women's tennis and Octagon, the tournament's license-holder, have decided to replace the Chennai Open with a maiden Tour-level event in Manila in the same window in 2027. Although Vijay Amritraj, Tennis legend and TNTA president is disappointed that the WTA 250 event will not be there, he said an effort was being made to host four consecutive WTA 125 events in India in early 2028. WTA 125 is a category of tournaments between the main WTA Tour and the ITF circuit. "The plan is to put four WTA 125s - one each in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Maharashtra - in January-February 2028. I have already brought this up and they have tentatively blocked some dates," he told select reporters on Tuesday.

80 SOMs list finalised: Usha, Gagan, Bindra among stars with athletics on top

CHENNAI.(Agency)

The Indian Olympic Association is slowly getting warmed-up for its election. Days after the IOA named the Returning Officer — Sanjay K Srivastava, a former Election Commissioner of Delhi and Chandigarh — the names of Athletes Commission, who would be eligible to contest elections, have been finalized. Soon, after the 80 Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOMs), too were finalized and updated on the IOA website. Some prominent names have applied and it would be interesting to see who would emerge as the eight SOMs after the election on November 9. The eight will have voting rights and would be eligible to contest IOA elections as well. Last edition, an SOM — PT Usha — went on to become the IOA president. Out of the eight two will be part of the all important Executive Council of 15.

Apart from Usha, Beijing Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra, Beijing bronze medallist Vijender Singh, London Olympic medalists Gagan Narang, Yogeshwar Dutt and Saina Nehwal have been part of the approved SOM roster.

Asian Para Games: Sachin Khilari wins gold as India sweep all three shot put medals

New Delhi.(Agency)

India won all three medals in the men's shot put F46 event at the Asian Para Games on Wednesday, with Sachin Sarjerao Khilari taking gold with a Games record.Khilari, a silver medallist at the Paris Paralympics, defended the gold he had won at the previous edition of the Games in China. He produced his best throw of 15.87m with his sixth and final attempt to set a new Games record.The earlier record was 15.67m.Mohd. Yasser won silver with a throw of 15.06m in the third round, while Parveen took bronze with 14.94m.

Khilari defends his gold

Khilari saved his best effort for his final throw, going past the previous Games record to finish on top of the podium.His victory helped India secure all three medals in the event, with Yasser and Parveen finishing second and third.

6 goals, 4 injuries: PSG outscore Barcelona in frenetic Champions League clash in Paris

- Paris Saint-Germain beat Barcelona 4-2 in a thrilling Champions League encounter in Paris. The high-intensity clash featured six goals, 40 shots

New Delhi.(Agency)

Paris Saint-Germain beat Barcelona 4-2 in a frenetic UEFA Champions League clash at the Parc des Princes on Wednesday, October 21. The match had everything attacking football at the highest level could offer, with the two teams combining for 40 shots in an end-to-end contest.Desire Doue was the standout performer as PSG outscored Hansi Flick's Barcelona in a game that swung from one end to the other. Barcelona looked breathtaking in spells, but struggled to sustain their dominance against a versatile PSG side that punished their mistakes.The high-intensity encounter also took a physical toll, with four players forced off with injuries. PSG's Ousmane Dembele and Marquinhos suffered hamstring injuries in the first and second halves respectively. Barcelona's Dani Olmo was substituted in the first half after an awkward fall following a strong shoulder challenge in midfield. Khvicha Kvaratskhelia also had to come off in the second half after picking up an ankle injury in a tussle with Barcelona right-back Xavi Espart.Both teams created chances in an entertaining first half, but Barcelona's poor final passes let them down in the opening stages. PSG, meanwhile, had more attempts on goal, including several from close range, but a brave Joan Garcia produced multiple saves to keep Barcelona in the contest.Barcelona repeatedly cut through PSG's defence with their slick passing, with Pedri pulling the strings in midfield. However, the movement in the final third between Anthony Gordon, Raphinha and Lamine Yamal lacked the finishing touch. Gordon endured a



particularly difficult outing, struggling to get past defenders, convert chances or provide the incisive passes Barcelona needed.

The deadlock was finally broken late in the first half when Doue cut inside onto his right foot and fired a low shot between two Barcelona defenders. Garcia, who had been outstanding until then, was wrong-footed and could not prevent PSG from taking the lead.Barcelona responded after the break, finding an equaliser in the 55th minute after working their way through PSG's defence with a series of passes. Teenager Xavi Espart took matters into his own hands, bursting into the box before unleashing a powerful close-range shot past PSG goalkeeper Matvei Safonov, who had kept the French side in the contest with his earlier interventions.

The match, already being played at a relentless pace, found another gear. Lucas Hernandez rose to head home from a corner and restore PSG's lead, only for Lamine Yamal to respond almost immediately. The Barcelona teenager dribbled into the PSG box, beat his marker and finished from close range to make it 2-2.Just as Barcelona appeared to be gaining the upper hand, PSG struck twice to take control. Vitinha scored with a strike from outside the box before Fabian Ruiz arrived at the far post to turn the ball home, stretching the hosts' lead to 4-2 and leaving Barcelona with too much to do.

Tamil Nadu's Rivaan Dev Preetham Shines in Karting Championship, Sets Record Lap and Qualifies for Global Events

New Delhi.(Agency)

Points mattered more than victory as Rivaan Dev Preetham of Tamil Nadu emerged as the overall champion in the Junior MAX category of the MECO FMSCI Indian National Karting Championship RMC India 2026, which concluded at the Meco Kartopia, Bengaluru, on



Sunday.Rivaan earned a ticket to the World Rotax Max Grand Finals to be held at the Kartódromo Internacional do Algarve circuit in Portugal from November 7-14. The global event will see 432 elite racers from 60-plus nations go head-to-head on one of Europe's most thrilling circuits.

This season has been good for Rivaan as he put in a standout performance at the FIA Karting Arrive and Drive Asia Pacific Championship 2026 in Macau (Sept 11–13). Racing against local champions, he climbed from P5 to P2 in Sprint 1, then P6 to P3 in Sprint 2, and finished P5 in the qualifying heats. In the grand final, he missed out on a podium finish from P5 despite weather delays. The big highlight was he set the fastest lap of the entire championship at 47.375s — an official event record. With this, he has qualified for the FIA World Cup that is being conducted in Malaysia the week after the grand finals in Portugal."It has been an exciting and challenging year. We lost some battles, but won the war. For me and my team, Msport, it's our fourth consecutive championship win together," a proud Rivaan told CE.

The competition was rigorous indeed. "The toughest competition through the season was my teammate Rishik (Rohit Reddy), and Rehan (Khan) also gave me some challenges," he added.However, solid preparation and training helped him throughout. "I train at KLUTCH which is an elite athlete fitness centre. They monitor my nutrition. Also, working with the simulator and watching races from all over the world help me gain skill and strength. We train at Meco Kartopia, Mika, and CoASTT tracks according to the race calendar. I've done some races abroad as well so that exposure helps greatly. In India, Armaan Ebrahim is my team principal; he guides and mentors me.

More than a lookalike: Shami's brother Mohammed Kaif chases his own cricketing dream

Nagoya.(Agency)

For a while, Mohammed Kaif could have passed for his elder brother without bowling a ball.Standing near the boundary during Bengal's Ranji Trophy 2026-27 match against Services in Palam, Kaif had people mistaking him for Mohammed Shami. The resemblance was striking enough to make spectators look twice. Put a cap on the two brothers, and telling them apart becomes even trickier.Kaif, 29, is used to the comparisons. He has grown up around Shami, practises with him and discusses bowling with him. But the resemblance has also provided material for a few jokes in cricket's dressing rooms."India were playing a Pink Ball Test match at Eden Gardens. I was standing downstairs, and Virat came by and started joking around, pretending not to know me or acting like someone else just to tease," Kaif recalled.

"He knows Shami bhai very well, so he was just pulling my leg for fun."

Kaif has also met Pat Cummins during one of the Indian Premier League seasons. Asked whether the Australian fast bowler greeted him with a "Hi, Shami", he burst into laughter.The joke works because the resemblance is real. Badruddin, the coach who has known Shami and Kaif since their childhood, has noticed it too."It naturally happens since they are brothers, and having watched him grow up, to some extent, he matches Shami. That's just a natural thing," Badruddin said.

At Palam, though, Kaif had a game to play. He did not feature in Bengal's season opener against Delhi in Kalyani, but came into the XI against Services after Akash Deep and Mukesh Kumar left for India A duty. Shami had asked to be left out, knowing the surface did not warrant him.On a surface where spinners dominated, Kaif was not required to bowl



long spells. He sent down four overs in the first innings without taking a wicket, then returned figures of one for seven in five overs in the second. His wicket, however, came at an important moment: he dismissed Ravi Chauhan leg-before-wicket when Services were 79 for one, chasing 209. Bengal eventually won by 61 runs.Kaif did not dominate the scorecard, but he remained involved, encouraging the bowling group from the boundary and staying ready whenever the captain called on him. His fielding, too, carried the energy associated with his elder brother.

Shreyas Iyer shuts T20I doors for Vaibhav Sooryavanshi: No chance he can walk in

- India captain Shreyas Iyer has a clear message for Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. The T20I captain has made it clear that with established openers Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson continuing to deliver, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has to



New Delhi.(Agency)

India captain Shreyas Iyer has made it clear that teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi will have to wait for his opportunities in the T20I side, with established openers Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson continuing to deliver at the top of the order.Sooryavanshi, who was picked for India's tours of England and Ireland earlier this year, has featured in only eight of the 21 T20Is the team has played so far. Despite his reputation as one of India's most exciting young batting talents, the 15-year-old has found it difficult to secure a regular place in the playing XI, with Abhishek and Samson firmly holding on to their opening slots.

Speaking ahead of India's five-match T20I series against New Zealand, Iyer stressed that Sooryavanshi's talent was not in question, but said the teenager could not expect to walk straight into the team while the current openers were performing consistently.

"It's important that a talent like him (Sooryavanshi) should always be happy around the dressing room," Iyer said."He is very young, he has more years to get opportunities. It's not like he can walk in right now, because our openers are scoring consistently, and they have won the World Cup."Abhishek and Samson played important roles in India's successful defence of the T20 World Cup title earlier this year, strengthening their positions at the top of the order. For Sooryavanshi, that means waiting for an opening in a side where the established pair continue to deliver.

WHAT IS THE MESSAGE TO VAIBHAV SOORYAVANSHI?

Sooryavanshi did get an opportunity to open the innings at the Asian Games, where Samson moved down to No. 3 to accommodate the teenager. The youngster scored 53 runs across two matches at a strike rate of 176.66, offering a glimpse of his attacking potential.However, he returned to the bench for the entire T20I series against the West Indies, prompting questions about when he might receive a longer run in the side.

Iyer said he had repeatedly encouraged Sooryavanshi to remain patient and trust his preparation rather than become frustrated by the lack of opportunities."I just keep telling him you will get the opportunity, if you be consistent about your processes, you have to wait sometimes,

we have got two fantastic openers, that's the conversation we have been having with Vaibhav," Iyer said after the fifth T20I against the West Indies was washed out.The series ended in a 2-2 draw, with Iyer acknowledging that India could have secured a different result had they bowled better in the second and fourth matches.

Harmanpreet Kaur fights back tears as she rediscovers joy in batting

MILAN.(Agency)

Harmanpreet Kaur had just produced one of her most commanding innings in recent times, but it was not the runs that nearly brought her to tears. During a mid-innings interview in Raipur, the former India captain spoke about wanting to enjoy her batting again, and her voice carried the weight of a difficult phase as she thanked WV Raman for a simple piece of advice: play the way you want to.The moment offered a glimpse into the significance of Harmanpreet's unbeaten 91 off just 41 balls against Zimbabwe on Tuesday. At 37, the veteran batter has experienced the highs of leading India and delivering match-winning performances, but her latest innings was about rediscovering the freedom to play her natural game.

India vs Zimbabwe, 3rd T20I: Highlights | Scorecard

"Just wanted to enjoy myself, just wanted to bat as long as possible, and glad that I was able to do that," Harmanpreet said during the mid-innings interview.The emotional moment came when she credited WV Raman who was also the interviewer, for his words of encouragement."The moment we came, you stepped in and you said, 'Now you do what you want to do,' and that's what I want to do, and really want to enjoy myself. Thanks for those words," she told him.It was a revealing admission from a player who has spent years carrying the expectations that come with being one of India's most recognisable cricketers. For Harmanpreet, the immediate priority was not to prove a point or make a statement. She simply wanted to spend time in the middle and enjoy batting again.



FINDING HER RHYTHM

The performance that followed her emotional interview was a reminder of what Harmanpreet can produce when she finds her touch.

Dia Mirza

Celebrates 25 Years Of 'RHTDM', Recalls Eighteen-Hour Workdays: 'Somehow It All Feels Like Magic'



Actress Dia Mirza took a trip down memory lane as her film 'Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein', popularly known as RHTDM, completed 25 years on Monday.Expressing gratitude to audiences for keeping the romantic drama alive in their hearts across generations, she poured her heart out.Taking to her social media account, Dia shared a video featuring throwback pictures, posters and behind-the-scenes memories from the film, which also starred R. Madhavan and Saif Ali Khan.The actress revisited her journey as Reena, the character she portrayed in the film, and reflected on how a project from the early days of her career continues to resonate with audiences even after two-and-a-half decades.Recalling the film's beginnings in October 2001, Dia wrote, "The papers called me 'Diya' and Maddy was 'Madhvan'. We had no idea what was about to begin. That's when you and I first met."

Reflecting on the demanding shoot, she added, "Eighteen-hour workdays, endless retakes, laughter, exhaustion… somehow, in my memories, it all feels like MAGIC… And the songs… 25 years later, they still find me everywhere."

The actress also expressed her gratitude for the affection audiences have continued to shower on the film. "But what has stayed with me the most is your love. So generous, so constant. You grew up with this film. And its songs. I grew up with you," she wrote.Looking back at the years that have passed, Dia acknowledged how much life has changed while the memories of the film remain close to her heart."We have lived, loved, lost and found ourselves again. But a part of me will always be that girl, dancing in the rain, believing in love. 25 years later, you still hold her in your hearts. And I will always hold you in mine," the actress added.In her social media caption, Dia further expressed her appreciation for the audience's enduring support, writing, "That 19 year old girl dancing in the rain is immensely grateful for the love and the generosity you have all bestowed upon us over these 25 years."She concluded the note with a heartfelt reference to the film, writing, "As as ever, Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein."Released on October 19, 2001, 'Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein' was directed by Gautham Vasudev Menon and produced by Vashu Bhagnani.



The romantic drama marked Dia's debut in Hindi cinema and Madhavan's official Bollywood debut. The film also featured Saif Ali Khan in a pivotal role and was a Hindi remake of Menon's Tamil film 'Minnale'.

Yami Gautam On Nayyi Navelli's Box Office Clash With Jailer 2: 'Getting Solo Release Window Is Difficult'



Yami Gautam's comedy horror film Nayyi Navelli released in theatres on October 16, a day after the release of Rajinikanth's highly anticipated film Jailer 2. With the two films arriving in cinemas around the same time, a fan recently questioned whether the release timing may have affected Yami's film. Responding to the comment on X, the actress acknowledged the challenges of securing a solo release while making it clear that sharing the release window with Rajinikanth was an honour.

What Did Yami Gautam Say About The Nayyi Navelli-Jailer 2 Clash?

An X (formerly Twitter) user wrote that while Yami's Nayyi Navelli was a good film, the timing of its release wasn't ideal. "Movie badhiya hai. Timing with Jailer2 was not optimum," read the netizen's post.Yami responded by pointing out that securing a release window with little competition has become increasingly difficult for filmmakers. She explained that getting a solo release, or even a window shared by just two films, is no longer easy."Nowadays to get a solo or just 2 films release window is difficult. It's very difficult to make a successful film today, hence I appreciate everyone' effort to have done their best And I couldn't be more grateful to audience for giving us a chance," she wrote.

'I Am A Huge Rajni Sir Fan', Says Yami Gautam

While the fan's comment focused on the impact of the box-office clash, Yami was quick to clarify that she had no complaints about sharing the release window with Rajinikanth.The actress spoke warmly about the Tamil superstar, saying she was among the millions who admire him. She added that releasing her film alongside him was an honour and that she was looking forward to watching Jailer 2 herself.

Deepika Padukone-Ranveer Singh Name Their 2nd Daughter Devi, Share Her First Adorable Glimpse With Big Sis Dua



Actors Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh have delighted fans by sharing the first glimpse of their second daughter, Devi Padukone Singh. The couple, who welcomed their little one into the family recently, also revealed her name in the heartwarming announcement. The special update has sent fans into celebration mode, with many showering the star couple and their newborn with love and blessings.On the occasion of Dussehra, Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh delighted fans by revealing the name of their second daughter in a joint social media post. The couple introduced their little one as Devi Padukone Singh, sharing an adorable family picture with the caption, "Of Love & Abundance… Devi Padukone Singh | देवी पादुकोण सिंह." The heartwarming photograph captures the family twinning in golden outfits. Deepika can be seen holding baby Devi in her arms, flashing her radiant smile, while their elder daughter, Dua, plants a sweet kiss on her baby sister's face. Ranveer, meanwhile, looks every bit the doting father as he poses with his girls. The picture makes for a beautiful family portrait. Take a look:Soon after they shared the post, it was flooded with sweet wishes for the little one. Bhumi Pednekar, Sharvari, Veer Pahariya, Sanjay Kapoor and Huma Qureshi dropped red heart emojis. Meanwhile, fans were over the moon to see the first glimpse. One fan wrote, "Dua and devi." Another fan wrote, "Cute family. Spoil us with more glims." One of the comments also read, "Big sis Dua & Li'l sis Devi." Others were seen dropping red hearts and evil eye emojis in the comments section.Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh tied the knot in a destination wedding at Lake Como, Italy, on November 14 and 15, 2018, with ceremonies held according to Konkani and Sindhi traditions.

Tiger Shroff

Firing: Vidyut Jammwal Questions Actor's Fans, Says 'Someone Should Have Caught The Attackers'



Vidyut Jammwal has expressed his shock over the Tiger Shroff firing incident. The actor took to Instagram and, while calling Tiger the 'bravest person', advised him to listen to the Bajrang Baan.In the video, Vidyut shared, "Tiger Shroff, you are the bravest person, but I want to tell your fans that everyone who goes to watch him play football and says, 'I am your biggest fan,' should have done something. Out of so many people, someone should have caught the attackers, or someone should have run after them."He further asked the Mumbai Police to take all the measures necessary to ensure that such an incident does not happen again and said, "Mumbai Police, yes, you will provide him with security, but this should never happen again. If such a mistake happens again, you will be the ones held responsible."

"And Tiger, Bajrang Baan is your favourite, right? Whenever I feel very lonely, I listen to it, and I know you listen to it too. I love you, brother!" Vidyut concluded.



When Did The Incident Happen?

The firing took place when Tiger Shroff was leaving a ground in Mumbai's Juhu at around 7 PM after finishing his football game. Shroff escaped unhurt, while a man identified as Firdaus sustained a gunshot wound to his left hand and was admitted to Nanavati Hospital.A gangster named Anil Pandit's social media post surfaced hours after the attack. While claiming responsibility, the speaker in the recording says, "I am Anil Pandit, Lawrence Bishnoi's younger brother." He then claims, "Regarding what happened at Tiger Shop in Mumbai today, I, Anil Pandit, and my elder brother Harman Sandhu take responsibility for it."The speaker further claims that Tiger Shroff had been warned earlier, saying, "We had explained this to him, but he did not understand.""Whoever in the entire film industry works separately from us or works together with Salman Khan, we will kill them. This is the first and final warning," the speaker says.

He then directly addresses Salman Khan, saying, "If you do not apologise to my elder brother Lawrence Bishnoi or to the Bishnoi community, then I will not even leave a dog at your house.

Drone strike on market in disputed region between Sudan and South Sudan kills at least 153

JUBA.(Agency)

A drone strike on a market in Abyei, a border region disputed by Sudan and South Sudan, hit a nearby fuel depot, killing at least 153 people and igniting a fire that was still burning Tuesday, a local official said. Yohanna Akol Ngor, the Abyei administration's caretaker information minister, blamed Sudan 's military for Monday's attack on Amiet Market, north of Abyei town."We have recorded 153 deaths," Akol told The Associated Press by phone Tuesday. He said the death toll continued to rise as the fire burned.The motive for the attack was not immediately clear, and the AP could not independently verify who carried it out.Sudan's military did not respond to a request for comment.Doctors Without Borders, known by its French acronym MSF, said more than 20 wounded people were brought to Ameth Bek Hospital, where MSF teams were working alongside staff from South Sudan's Health Ministry."So far we received over 20 patients, including several critical cases. Patients with burns were also admitted," said Dr. Christian Lindauer, MSF's medical activities manager at the hospital.

'Woke Up With Strangling Signs': Student Alleges Rape At Arizona Frat House

Washington.(Agency)

A report of sexual violence at a fraternity house has shocked yet another elite university in the United States, even before the fallout from the "Cornell 7" gang rape allegations has settled. A sorority member at the University of Arizona has come forward alleging that she was sexually assaulted by two men at a fraternity house in late August. The student approached the university's police department and reported that two men raped her at the Sigma Phi Epsilon house during a night of drinking on August 26. According to search warrant records posted by KOLD-TV in Tucson, the woman said she had consensually kissed one of the men at one point but doesn't remember agreeing to sex.
The sorority member told police that she remembered consuming tequila, including sharing a cup of the beverage with friends, witnessing two men sexually assault her, and even feeling one man's breath on her face. She said she woke up the next morning without pants and underwear on and noticed a difficulty in swallowing, a possible sign of strangulation, the records showed.

9-Year-Old US Boy Suffers Burns To 70% Of Body In Viral 'Fire Challenge': "He's In Unbearable Pain"

world.(Agency)

A 9-year-old boy in New Orleans, Louisiana, suffered burns to more than 70 per cent of his body after reportedly attempting the dangerous social media trend known as the fire challenge. The incident has prompted local officials to warn parents and children about the potentially life-threatening risks of such online challenges.
New Orleans Fire Department Chief Roman Nelson described the boy's injuries in a video released on Monday alongside New Orleans Police Department Chief Anne Kirkpatrick.According to a 2016 report published in the National Library of Medicine, the fire challenge involves a person using a flammable substance, such as rubbing alcohol or acetone.

France has a proud tradition of protesting, and sometimes people lose their heads

- **Passionate public protest is as French as "La Marseillaise," the 1792 anthem that enshrines the collective duty to fight**

PARIS.(Agency)

No nation does mass protests quite like France.When the French fight high fuel taxes, they don yellow vests and march. When angry farmers want better pay, hundreds of them drive tractors down the Champs-Élysées. And when museum workers want better tourist management, they strike and shut down the Louvre.Passionate public protest is as French as "La Marseillaise," the 1792 anthem that enshrines the collective duty to fight tyranny in the country's national identity. But this month, the most violent demonstrations in years — and tough policing — have raised concern about riots overshadowing hundreds of thousands of peaceful demonstrators marching against rising living costs and poor conditions in schools.On Saturday alone, at least 2,400 people were arrested after rioters in cities across France clashed with police, set cars on fire, stormed public buildings, looted stores and engulfed a historic city hall in flames. More protests could be in store."How can French people do this to France?" outgoing President Emmanuel Macron asked on Sunday. Nothing justifies the destruction, he added. "We all feel anger and shame."



But any student of French history would know that the nation's proud, loud and colorful protest culture has sometimes turned violent — starting with the beheadings of King Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette during the revolution that overthrew the monarchy in 1789.

A protest culture is born

Historians say the revolution was where the modern-day French tradition of civic engagement as a duty was born. The idea is that voting is not the only way to drive change; demonstration is considered a bedrock value, a way to make elites hear the populace and to defend freedoms. The moment a child becomes an activist is seen as a generations-old rite of passage. The right to protest is even constitutionally protected.
"It's a way to build collective identity and political community," said Magali Della Sudda, research director in political science at the French National Center for Scientific Research in Bordeaux.France's post-revolution history is not a solid story of protests and reforms, but of cycles of popular uprisings, repression, mobilization and political concessions. The tradition has turned tragic; In 1871, government troops cracked down on the new "Paris Commune," or municipal government, reportedly killing thousands.In some ways, collective action won — as in 1968, when student demonstrations and a general strike forced the government to grant concessions like an increase in the minimum wage.In more recent history, the "yellow vests" — "gilets jaunes" in French — demonstrated against a proposed fuel tax increase, and that broadened into protests over other issues like living costs and inequality.

Albanian police clash with anti-government protesters for the eighth day

TIRANA.(Agency)

Police fired tear gas and used water cannons to push back protesters Tuesday on the eighth straight day of violent anti-government demonstrations in the Albanian capital, Tirana.High school and university students demanding lower tuition fees, greater state investment in education and protesting corruption in the education system have joined a broader anti-government movement calling for the resignation of Socialist Prime Minister Edi Rama.For days, protesters have hurled rocks, flares, firebombs and fireworks at police who have used batons, water cannons and tear gas in clashes in the city center.
Albania is one of a number of European countries experiencing protests over rising fuel costs, discontent with the state of schools, declining public services and a housing crisis, including France and Italy. In Spain and Portugal, tent camps have sprung up to protest unaffordable housing, while a rally and a protest were also being planned in Greece on Tuesday evening and Wednesday.In Albania, the latest protests follow months of rallies organized by the so-called Flamingo movement, launched in opposition to a major luxury tourism development on Albania's southern coast linked to an investment firm founded by Jared Kushner, U.S. President Donald Trump's son-in-law."A wave of stones, an attempt to overthrow the government and change those in power through the imposition of violence — something that will never be allowed to happen, in any form or for any reason," Rama said after a meeting Tuesday with teachers and representatives of Tirana's schools.



He argued that legitimate concerns were being hijacked by people deliberately causing violence during the protests.This is a hybrid war that naturally works to the extent that it does because it is based on real concerns, not fantasies.

Team Trump's Tariffs, Visa Curbs Not Targeted At India: Marco Rubio

Washington.(Agency)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who is on a two-day visit to India, sought to assuage New Delhi's concerns regarding the Donald Trump administration's tariffs and US visa restrictions, saying the moves are not meant to "punish India" or are "targeted" at any country. Talking to The Indian Express, Rubio assured that the India-US trade deal, which has been under negotiation for more than a year and a half now, was "weeks, not months" away. "I think we're incredibly close. The way I would say it is, we are weeks, not months, away from, I think, finalising it. I think 99 per cent of the work is done... I feel very positive of the trajectory that it's on," he said.



On US Tariffs
The US Secretary of State acknowledged that Washington's threat to target nations buying Russian energy with up to 100 per cent tariffs could affect bilateral ties with New Delhi but insisted the move was not to "harm India". Pointing to the waiver announced by President Trump last week, Rubio said, "None of these tariffs are meant to punish or harm India. They are part of a broader foreign policy that, unfortunately, involves a war going on between Russia and Ukraine that we would like to see come to an end."And I'm sure you saw it in our media and our political system (that), when the President issued those waivers and did not impose the tariffs required under a law passed by our Congress, he got criticism for doing it. But one of the reasons why he didn't impose them is because he understands.

French PM to meet unions as government prepares for more protests

PARIS.(Agency)

France's prime minister plans to meet unions on Wednesday to discuss security and has vowed a "massive" police deployment at protests, following riots in the past week that led to curfews and arrests.
The eurozone's second-largest economy was rocked on the weekend by some of its worst rioting in recent years, just six months before voters head to the polls to elect a successor to President Emmanuel Macron.
Sebastien Lecornu will meet with representatives from five unions on Wednesday morning to discuss "ways and means to guarantee the essential freedom to demonstrate" according to a letter sent to the organisations, which noted some were attempting to subvert the protests with "unacceptable acts."
More protests centred over rising living costs are planned on Saturday, organised by the "Yellow Vest" movement and high school students, with another called for November 5 by labour unions.
School students have not been invited to the Wednesday meeting.Images of clashes, mobs looting stores and public buildings set ablaze last weekend prompted several countries, including the United States, China and Germany, to issue travel advisories for their citizens in France.Facing angry lawmakers in parliament, Lecornu acknowledged that the security response had fallen short and promised a stronger approach ahead of the new wave of protests.

Arrests and investigations -

French authorities announced on Monday partial curfews in Paris and other cities, and Lecornu said fresh ones would be imposed on Tuesday where needed.The nighttime curfew in the capital, from 2100 GMT Tuesday, applied to Republique square in the centre-east and Les Halles shopping district in the centre.A ban on public gatherings was also ordered for the Champs-Elysees, near several public buildings, and at train stations.

Zelensky, US hail 'productive' talks to end Trump feud

OSLO.(Agency)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and the United States hailed "very productive" talks in Oslo on Tuesday amid efforts to draw a line under a bitter feud between Kyiv's leader and US President Donald Trump over the war with Russia.After talks with Trump's envoys in the Norwegian capital, Zelensky thanked Washington for the resumption of US intelligence of looming Russian strikes on civilian targets and energy plants.
Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff is now due to head from Oslo to Russia for talks with President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday in a bid to end Russia's four-year-old war on Ukraine.The positive tone followed days of tensions between Kyiv and Washington since Trump struck a diesel-supply deal with Putin, and furiously called for Zelensky to be replaced after Ukraine refused to stop hitting Russian oil refineries."We are thankful that intelligence works," Zelensky told reporters in Oslo. "I'm speaking about early warning, what is very important for our people, for children, adults, civilians, because we can hear when ballistic is coming."Flanked by Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store and Finnish President Alexander Stubb -- a golfing buddy of Trump -- Zelensky said it was "important that we keep the conversation going."A US official told AFP after the talks that Zelensky held "very productive and constructive discussions" with businessman Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, who took part remotely due to the flu.



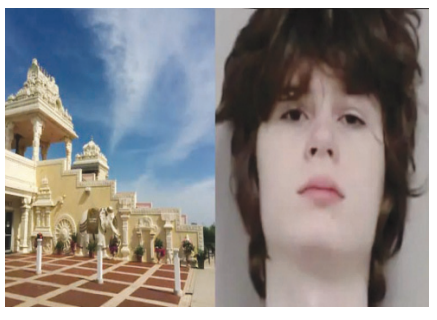
Make a deal' -

But Trump kept up the pressure, saying at the White House that he wanted Zelensky to "make a deal" with Russia, which is escalating strikes on Ukraine as a bitter winter looms.
Trump, who last week called on Zelensky to resign, also criticized Zelensky for not accepting the terms he said he had offered during their infamous televised row in the Oval Office in February 2025.Relations plunged back into a deep freeze earlier this month after Trump suddenly announced his deal with Russia for diesel, as part of his efforts to lower oil prices sent soaring by his Iran war.
Ukraine reacted with dismay after Trump also waived sanctions against Russia's war machine and appeared to once again pivot to Putin.
The feud spiraled as Zelensky accused Trump of weakness, and then alleged that the United States was deliberately withholding vital intelligence and delaying the delivery of vital interceptor missiles.Ukraine has also reported a reduction in speeds on Starshield, the US military satellite system which it uses for battlefield communications and strikes on Russian-occupied territory.Trump has denied ordering a reduction in speeds on Starshield after Musk -- whose company SpaceX developed it -- said the order could only have come from the White House.But the Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday that it was indeed Musk who ordered the slowdown in the military-grade version of Starlink.

105 US Lawmakers Urge FBI Hate Crime Probe Into US Temple Mass Shooting Plot

Washington.(Agency)

A bipartisan-free Democratic-led group of 105 US lawmakers has urged the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to investigate an attempted mass shooting at a Hindu temple in Aurora, Illinois, as a potential federal hate crime, citing concerns over anti-Indian, anti-Hindu and broader anti-South Asian hostility.
Alexandros Paporakis, 19, was arrested on October 11 for plotting a mass shooting at the Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) temple.Led by Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, the lawmakers sent a letter dated October 20 to FBI Director Kash Patel seeking details of the Bureau's investigation into the alleged plot at the Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) Hindu temple.They also called for greater scrutiny of credible online threats against Indian Americans, Hindu Americans, Sikhs and other South Asian communities.Krishnamoorthi and his family were worshipping at the temple when the alleged attempted attack occurred on October 11, according to a statement issued by the congressman's office.The alleged combination of targeted racial hatred, a religious setting, and preparations for mass violence demands a comprehensive federal response," the lawmakers wrote, urging the FBI to ensure that potential hate-crime violations receive explicit attention.The letter was signed by members of Congress from across the country, including the entire Illinois House Democratic delegation, every Indian American member of Congress, and senators Dick Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Andy Kim and Chris Van Hollen.Alleged plot raises concerns over targeted violenceAccording to prosecutors, Alexandros Paporakis, a resident of Palatine, Illinois, drove to the



temple on October 11 intending to carry out a shooting but fled after his rifle allegedly failed to fire.Statements from local police departments and the FBI's Chicago field office said Paporakis was arrested that day and subsequently charged with making a terrorist threat and unlawful possession of weapons.Prosecutors allege that he authored an eight-page manifesto expressing white supremacist views and describing violence against people of Indian descent at a Hindu house of worship