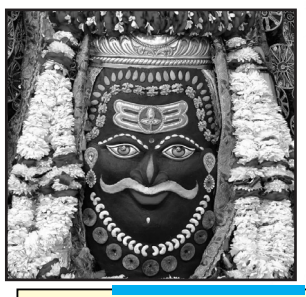
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'You stand for what is true': Priyanka Gandhi as son Raihan's protest photographs taken down

New Delhi . (Agency).

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has publicly backed her son, visual artist and curator Raihan Rajiv Vadra, after many of his photographs of recent protests were taken down from his debut exhibition in Delhi.

Priyanka Gandhi wrote in her X post said, "When someone with power becomes afraid of the expression of another, he doesn't know it, but he has already lost the very power he is trying to protect.""You stand for what is true and everything beautiful will find its way to you. I am proud of you, always will be," she added.Raihan was asked to remove or replace 74 photographs hours before the exhibition was scheduled to open. Many of the photographs were related to recent protests by students and young people in the national capital.

By the evening, barely 35 exhibits remained. Authorities also raised objections to the blank frames that had replaced the photographs taken down.The exhibition, titled No Idea Is Final, thus faced last-minute changes ahead of its opening, with several photographs no longer on display.

YSRCP is using litigation to obstruct development: Andhra Pradesh CM

VIJAYAWADA (Agency).

Chief Minister and TDP supremo N. Chandrababu Naidu accused the YSRCP of using litigation to obstruct development projects, welfare initiatives and elections. Referring to the Supreme Court verdict, he alleged that the opposition party was distorting court rulings to create confusion.Addressing the Ministers, MLAs, MPs, candidates and booth-level workers through a teleconference on Wednesday, the Chief Minister claimed that the YSRCP had filed around 60 petitions in the High Court and Supreme Court over issues including electoral rolls and BC reservations.He also alleged that nearly 300 petitions had been filed to obstruct the Mega DSC recruitment process aimed at providing jobs to unemployed youth.

He accused YSRCP leaders of approaching courts and writing letters against major projects such as Amaravati and Polavaram. Describing former Chief Minister YS Jagan Maohan Reddy as a "criminal litigant", Naidu said such political conduct created hurdles to development and the delivery of welfare benefits.The Chief Minister further alleged that while the TDP was engaged in selecting candidates for municipalities, the YSRCP was conspiring to create disturbances during the elections. He called on alliance leaders to expose what he termed the opposition's excesses and explain the government's achievements to voters.Naidu directed the TDP leaders to work towards ensuring the victory of NDA alliance candidates in the upcoming .

INDIA bloc to discuss 'vote chori' protests, November 1 rally at online meeting

Kharge to chair meeting as Opposition steps up demand for CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation over alleged electoral irregularities and SIR of voter rolls

New Delhi (Agency).

An online meeting of the INDIA bloc will be held on Thursday evening to chalk out a roadmap for protests over alleged electoral irregularities, with the Opposition pressing for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation and planning its next steps in the "vote chori" campaign, PTI reported citing sources.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge will chair the meeting, which will also review preparations for the INDIA bloc's rally in Delhi on November 1, they said.The Opposition's campaign has intensified amid allegations of irregularities in the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The INDIA bloc has accused the poll body of facilitating electoral manipulation and demanded Kumar's resignation, with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleging that the CEC was not the only person responsible for the alleged wrongdoing.The Opposition's demand for Kumar's resignation gathered momentum following reports that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had recorded objections on at least 14 occasions over the preceding 10 months, mostly concerning decisions and orders related to the SIR exercise. The Election Commission has maintained that differences of opinion during institutional deliberations are normal.



On October 12, Rahul Gandhi urged Kumar to resign and "turn approver", alleging that larger forces were behind the alleged electoral wrongdoing. Gandhi also claimed that 200 government officers were in touch with the Opposition and passing on information.

"On October 12, INDIA bloc leaders and activiststook part in a 'March for Democracy' in Delhi amid their 'vote chori' campaign. Separately, Rahul Gandhi, Kharge and nine other Opposition leaders filed a joint petition in the Supreme Court challenging the SIR of electoral rolls and alleging large-scale voter deletions and irregularities."

The following day, Gandhi hosted INDIA bloc leaders for tea at his residence. After the meeting, the Opposition vowed to continue its campaign and take the fight against alleged electoral malpractice to its "logical conclusion".The Thursday meeting is expected to discuss the next phase of the campaign ahead of the November 1 rally.

IKDRC Ahmedabad Faces Administrative Crisis as Retired Officials' Reappointments and Alleged CAG Audit Concerns Put Director Dr. Pranjal Modi's Leadership Under Intense Scrutiny

Mahanagar Metro Desk

New Delhi: The Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre (IKDRC), located on the Civil Hospital campus in Ahmedabad and recognised for its specialised kidney treatment services, is facing questions over its administrative functioning and the alleged dissatisfaction among employees. Concerns have reportedly emerged regarding the reappointment of retired personnel to key administrative positions under Director Dr. Pranjal Modi.The controversy raises important questions about administrative accountability, recruitment procedures, the distribution of responsibilities and the management of one of Gujarat's prominent kidney treatment institutions.Multiple Responsibilities Under the SpotlightDr. Pranjal Modi is an experienced surgeon, but questions have reportedly been raised about the administrative responsibilities handled alongside his medical duties. According to claims attributed to hospital sources, he oversees approximately six senior administrative responsibilities in addition to his clinical work.This has prompted questions about whether the concentration of multiple responsibilities in one office could affect administrative efficiency and oversight.Critics have also questioned the reported appointment of retired personnel to important administrative positions. However, the applicable rules, appointment orders and official explanations would need to be examined before determining whether any procedure was violated.Retired Officials in Key Positions: Questions Over CAG ObservationsConcerns have been raised about retired personnel reportedly serving in important positions, including Officer on Special Duty to the Director (OSD), Administrative Officer and Accounts Officer.The controversy also refers to alleged observations by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) concerning the past work or administrative decisions of certain personnel.The nature and status of any such observations must be verified against the relevant audit reports. An audit observation does not, by itself, establish misconduct or prove wrongdoing. The concerned officials should be given an opportunity to respond to any specific allegations.Reappointment After Retirement: Accountability and TransparencyThe reported reappointment of retired employees on a contractual basis has raised questions about the applicable recruitment rules, approval procedures and accountability mechanisms.Key issues requiring clarification include:- Whether the appointments were made in accordance with applicable government rules.- Whether the required approvals were obtained before the appointments.- Whether the selection process was transparent and based on institutional requirements.- Whether adequate safeguards exist for financial decisions and administrative accountability.- Whether complaints raised by permanent employees have been formally examined.The fact that an employee has retired does not automatically exempt that person from legal or contractual accountability. Any alleged irregularities must be assessed under the applicable laws, service conditions and contractual provisions.Employee Dissatisfaction and Administrative ConcernsAllegations have also been raised concerning staff transfers, the handling of employees' demands, financial decision-making and the treatment of hospital personnel.According to the claims presented, some permanent employees, junior doctors and nursing staff are dissatisfied with aspects of the administrative system. These concerns warrant examination through documented complaints, official records and responses from the hospital administration.If substantiated, shortcomings in administration could affect staff morale and institutional efficiency. An impartial review would help determine the nature and extent of any problems.What Is the Way Forward? Should the Director Resign?The central question is whether the current distribution of clinical and administrative responsibilities is serving the institution effectively.Several measures could be considered:1. Review the appointments of retired personnel to determine whether they comply with the applicable rules and institutional requirements.2. Examine any verified CAG observations and establish whether corrective action has been taken.3. Assess the Director's administrative workload and consider appointing a qualified, full-time administrative officer where necessary.4. Establish a transparent mechanism for addressing employee grievances, transfers and financial decisions.5. Take appropriate action if an independent review establishes violations of rules or misconduct.



'NDA will form govt in Punjab': Amit Shah slams Oppn, says protests will achieve nothing

New Delhi (Agency).

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday targeted Opposition parties, including the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), saying protests and demonstrations would achieve nothing and asserting that the NDA would form the next government in Punjab. Inaugurating projects worth Rs 8,941 crore aimed at cleaning the Yamuna in Delhi, Shah asserted that the BJP would seek a mandate from people in 2029 after rejuvenating the river.In a blistering attack on the Congress and AAP, Shah said the Opposition parties had accused the ruling dispensation of EVM tampering and vote theft, but had been out of power in many states for decades.Shah, detailing plans to clean the Yamuna, also accused the previous Congress and AAP governments in Delhi of allowing sewer water discharge into the river and said the BJP government had now managed to reduce the discharge.Attacking AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal, Shah said the "politics of excuse" would not save the AAP in the upcoming Punjab Assembly polls.

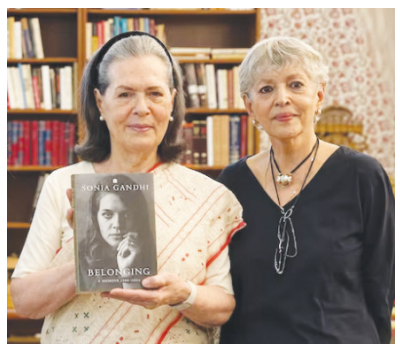


People in Punjab want an NDA government, he said, claiming that the AAP would be routed in the polls.Shah also asserted that the prevailing drug trafficking menace would be ended after the formation of an NDA government in Punjab.

Hello everyone: Sonia Gandhi makes Instagram debut, shares 1st look of new book

New Delhi (Agency).

Sonia Gandhi made her Instagram debut on Thursday to share the first look of her book 'Belonging: A Journey of Love', describing it as a story of "love, duty, loss and finding a place to belong". Within minutes of her joining, the veteran Congress leader already racked up over 4,500 followers."Hello everyone, I am truly grateful to share this moment with you all. The first look at Belonging: A Journey of Love. It is a story of love, duty, loss and finding a place to belong. I look forward to sharing it with you," Gandhi captioned her post. She is following just three accounts: Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and the Congress's official page.The video shows an excited Gandhi receiving a copy of her memoir, which will hit the shelves on November 10, and unwrapping the cover to unveil the first look of the 544-page book.The former Congress chief then flips through the pages before stopping at one featuring a collection of childhood pictures of her children, Rahul and Priyanka. "Lots of pictures, Priyanka," she is seen telling the Congress MP.



SONIA GANDHI'S MEMOIR AND THE CONTROVERSY

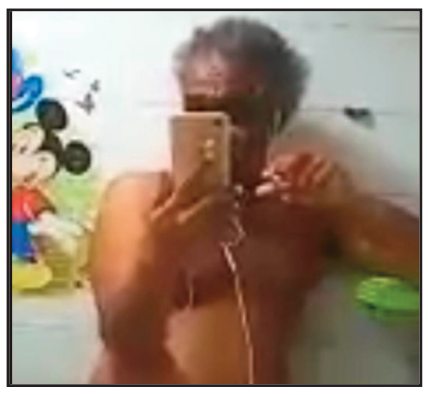
The memoir, which revisits her early years in Italy and her own account of her political journey, ran into controversy in August after Penguin Random House India (PRHI) decided not to publish the book after a disagreement with Gandhi's team over proposed "editorial changes".It sparked a political controversy, with Congress alleging that Penguin India sought the removal of passages relating to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the RSS and India-China relations. It claimed Penguin India's decision was under pressure and the move was nothing.

Sonia Gandhi shared the first look of her debut book, 'Belonging: A Journey of Love', as she joined Instagram on Thursday.

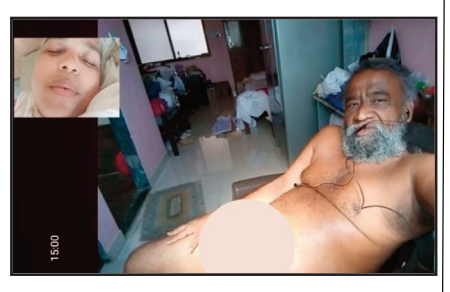
Jain Community Protests Sagar Chandra Sagar Row

Mahanagar Metro Desk

GUJARAT/SURAT: Jainism, a faith founded on the principles of truth, non-violence, celibacy and non-possession, is facing difficult questions following allegations and controversy surrounding an individual identified as Sagar Chandra Sagar. Discussions within sections of the Jain community have raised concerns about religious discipline, institutional accountability and the protection of female ascetics.The controversy has also prompted calls for greater transparency from religious organisations and for allegations of misconduct to be investigated through appropriate legal channels.What Is the Controversy About?According to claims circulating on social media and information being discussed publicly, serious allegations have been levelled against Sagar Chandra Sagar,



who has been described as a Jain religious ascetic. Reports and online posts have also referred to allegedly objectionable photographs associated with the controversy.These claims have generated concern among members of the Jain community. However, the authenticity of the circulating material, the circumstances in which it was obtained and the allegations themselves require independent verification. Any conclusions about wrongdoing must be based on verified evidence and a fair investigation.The wider issue extends beyond one individual. It raises questions about the mechanisms through which religious institutions address allegations of misconduct, protect vulnerable members and maintain public confidence.Questions About Accountability Within Religious InstitutionsMembers of the community are calling for religious leaders, trusts and organisational representatives to address the controversy transparently.These questions deserve serious consideration. At the same time, criticism should be directed at established facts and documented institutional failures rather than assumptions about an entire religious community.Safety and Dignity of Female AsceticsThe



protection, dignity and personal safety of female ascetics are central concerns in the debate. Religious institutions have a responsibility to maintain appropriate safeguards, provide confidential reporting mechanisms and ensure that complaints can be examined without intimidation or retaliation.If any individual has experienced coercion, harassment, exploitation or abuse, the matter should be handled sensitively and referred to the appropriate authorities.

found dead at home after alleged assault on Dussehra

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 35-year-old vegetable vendor was found dead on his bed at his home in Jamalpur village Wednesday, a day after he was allegedly assaulted during a dispute over onion prices in nearby Kasan village on Dussehra.Police suspect he may have suffered an internal head injury during the assault, but are awaiting the postmortem report to establish the cause of death. The deceased, Atmaram, lived in a slum settlement in Jamalpur and earned his livelihood selling vegetables in nearby villages. "On Dussehra, he had gone to Kasan to sell vegetables when an argument allegedly broke out with a man over bargaining for onions. The dispute escalated, and Atmaram was assaulted, according to the information available," a police officer said. He allegedly suffered injuries to his head and leg but managed to return home. In pain, he went straight to bed without telling anyone in the family about the incident or the extent of his injuries."On Wednesday morning, when Atmaram did not wake up for a long time, his family members tried to rouse him. They became alarmed when he did not respond despite repeated attempts and found him dead on the bed.

Court rejects 'habitual offender' argument, grants bail to man accused of molesting minor

Noida.(Agency)

A special POCSO court granted bail to a man accused of molesting a minor after noting that he had no criminal background. The minor told police and a magistrate that the accused had entered her house while her parents were away and offered to marry her. She alleged that he threatened to kill her if she refused.

The girl's mother had filed a complaint at Dadri police station on Oct 5, alleging that the man had molested her daughter. She told the cops that around 1pm that day she and her husband had gone for work when a neighbour came to their home and molested her daughter. An FIR was registered against the man under BNS sections 74 (use of criminal force against a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty) and 351 (3) (aggravated form of criminal intimidation) and Section 7/8 of the POCSO Act (Sexual assault against a child). Police arrested the man and sent him to judicial custody on Oct 7.Defence advocate Farid Ahmad said the accused neither committed molestation against the woman's daughter nor threatened her.

Ghaziabad transporters seek cut in one-time road tax on light goods vehicles

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Ghaziabad Mahanagar Goods Transport Welfare Association has asked the RTA to reduce the one-time road tax on goods vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of up to 7,500 kg. Owners must pay the tax for 15 years, although diesel vehicles are permitted to operate in NCR for only 10 years and cannot operate there afterwards. Ghaziabad RTO department has forwarded the request to the transport commissioner in Lucknow for a decision.

In Uttar Pradesh, the one-time road tax (OTT) for goods-carrying vehicles with a gross vehicle weight (GVW) for light vehicles is 3% of the vehicle's cost for weights up to 3,000 kg, and 6% for weights between 3,000 kg and 7,500 kg, as updated under the Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Act.

When a Person Is Valued Not for Their Character, but for Their Money...

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Author: Rupesh Solanki There was a time in society when a person's identity was defined by their values, speech, behavior, and character. More importance was given to how good a human being was than to how much wealth they possessed. However, over time, the standards by which people are judged seem to have changed. Today, in many places, people are respected not for their personality or character, but for their financial status.People who have money are listened to attentively. Those who own large houses, expensive cars, and hold prestigious positions often find themselves surrounded by crowds. On the other hand, a person living a simple life may possess a wealth of experience, a sincere heart, and a humane nature, yet often receives less recognition than they deserve. This situation raises a serious question about the changing mindset of society.Does money really make a person great?The importance of money cannot be denied. Financial stability is essential for living a comfortable life. Money helps us meet our family's needs, provide our children with a good education, and face difficult times with self-respect. However, money is a means of living, not a certificate of humanity.Being wealthy does not necessarily make someone great, just as being poor does not make someone less valuable. A person's true greatness lies in their thoughts, the respect they show others, and the compassion they demonstrate during difficult times.Unfortunately, in the race for appearances and social status, we often forget this truth. Clothing brands, the cost of vehicles, social prestige, and lavish spending at celebrations have seemingly become measures of a person's worth. As a result, people who live simply are sometimes forced to prove their own value.Even relationships have become a matter of calculation!The beauty of relationships survives when they are built on affection, trust, and selflessness. However, when money, status, and personal gain enter relationships, emotions gradually begin to weaken.Some people come closer during happy times but begin to distance themselves when difficulties arise. As long as a person has something to offer, people remain around them. But when that person



needs support themselves, even familiar faces can begin to seem like strangers.Such situations do not merely cause pain; they also reveal the true nature of relationships. The person who stands beside you even when you have nothing is the one who represents the real wealth of your life.There are many people in society who may not possess great wealth but are always willing to help those in need. Some comfort a person who is suffering, others support strangers facing difficulties, while some give greater importance to the happiness of others than to their own interests.

Two new traffic challan payment centres to open in Gurgaon in Manesar and Sector 5

Noida.(Agency)

Residents of Manesar and other outlying areas will soon have easier access to traffic challan payment facilities, with two new centres set to open at the DCP office in Manesar and at Sector 5 police station by the end of this month.The move aims to reduce the need for residents living on the city's expanding outskirts to travel to the existing facility at the traffic police building in Sector 28. Additional staff will also be deployed at the two new centres to ease pressure on the existing facility.

At the existing centre, the token system has also been discontinued and the number of payment windows increased from one to seven on Wednesday. Earlier, motorists had to reach the Sector 28 facility as early as 8am to obtain a token, with around 50 challans cleared in a day when only one window was operational, a traffic police officer said.The additional windows have helped speed up payments. Despite a heavy rush at the centre on Wednesday, motorists were able to clear their fines in less time.However, payment modes remain a challenge for some motorists. One visitor said he had to spend an additional half an hour arranging funds online after being told that cash would not be accepted. "I had waited in the queue for my turn and had cash to pay the fine, but the staff at the counter refused to accept it. It took me another half an hour to arrange the money online. I gave cash to a cab driver and asked him to transfer the amount to my account, following which I paid the Rs 14,000 fine," he told The expansion comes as traffic police plan more intensive enforcement drives, particularly against vehicles plying without number plates and those parked in violation of rules. Police said additional payment facilities would help manage the expected increase in challans and make it easier for violators to settle their fines.Traffic violators should not be treated as criminals, but they need to learn their lesson," a traffic police officer said, stressing the need to balance enforcement with public convenience.DCP (traffic) Hitesh Yadav said, "Capacity building for public convenience is a regular exercise that requires timely updation.

Draft voter list on Nov 12, special registration drives planned in Noida, Gzb

Noida.(Agency)

Election officials in Ghaziabad and GB Nagar are stepping up voter enrolment ahead of the publication of the draft electoral roll on Nov 12. Ghaziabad will hold special registration drives on Oct 24 and 25, while GB Nagar will organise another camp on Oct 24, after a similar exercise earlier this month.

The draft roll is part of the special summary revision of electoral rolls, with Jan 1, 2027, as the qualifying date, and the final roll is due to be published on Jan 4.The drives are aimed at first-time voters, women and other eligible residents whose names are missing from the rolls. Booth-level officers (BLOs) will be stationed at designated polling stations to help applicants fill Form 6, which is used to seek inclusion in the voter list.In Ghaziabad, the drive will cover all five Assembly constituencies. Electoral registration officers (EROs), assistant EROs, supervisors and BLOs will facilitate registration and explain the application procedure and the documents required for enrolment."The initiative is intended to ensure that no eligible citizen is left out of the electoral roll because of a lack of awareness or difficulties in applying," said Anjani Kumar Singh, deputy district election officer. Singh said the drives are part of efforts to bring eligible voters into the electoral process.In GB Nagar, the Oct 17 drive covered all three Assembly constituencies of Noida, Dadri and Jewar. Help desks were set up at 2,024 polling locations, where BLOs received applications for inclusion, deletion and correction of electoral entries.

Singh had earlier said residents seeking to enrol their names need self-attested photocopies of their photograph, proof of date of birth and residence-related documents. If available, they should also carry the Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) number of a family member to facilitate the application process.

Form 6 is used for inclusion of a name in the roll, Form 7 for objections to inclusion or requests for deletion, and Form 8 for corrections and other permitted updates to existing entries.Noida recorded 957 Form 6 applications, 15 Form 7 applications and 39 Form 8 applications. Dadri received 1,118 Form 6, 17 Form 7 and 241 Form 8 applications, while Jewar recorded 272 Form 6, 27 Form 7 and 89 Form 8 applications.

The district administrations have appealed to eligible resident, particularly young people registering for the first time, to check their enrolment status, approach their BLOs if their names are missing and make use of the special camps.Ghaziabad saw the second-highest deletions in the final SIR rolls, published on April 10, in the state in percentage terms after capital Lucknow (22.9%). While 5.7 lakh names were removed from Ghaziabad's list, Lucknow saw 9.1 lakh deletions. UP's electorate was itself downsized by a little over 2 crore voters — a shade less than the population of Sri Lanka.Sahibabad, the state's largest constituency by population, saw 30.4% deletions that shaved off 3.2 lakh names, the highest for an assembly segment in the state. Noida followed.

'Still under warranty': Consumer panel orders Loni trader to replace bike battery for free

Noida.(Agency)

District consumer disputes redressal commission has ordered Loni-based Prabhat Automobiles to replace the battery pack fitted to an electric loader bike within 30 days from Oct 16 at no extra cost and also pay compensation of Rs 10,000 to the owner for refusing to replace it during the warranty period.

Commission president Anil Kumar Pundir and members Shailja Sachan and RP Singh, while disposing of the matter ex parte, held that despite a breakdown during the warranty period, the automobile company did not repair the vehicle and demanded Rs 24,500 for battery repairs.

"As the opposite party has not appeared before the commission to rebut the plaintiff's claims on file, so based on the evidence presented by the plaintiff, the commission concludes that the opposite party has committed a deficiency of service by failing to repair the vehicle within the warranty period," the panel held.An official complaint was filed by Sabir against Prabhat Automobile on Oct 21, 2024, seeking relief for the repair of a new e-bike that he had bought from them. Sabir said that he purchased an ABM Lamba Loader electric bike on July 28, 2023, for Rs 78,000 for his firm SK Enterprises. For this purchase, he obtained a loan. The complainant said Prabhat Automobile gave him a warranty booklet and told him he could avail of the warranty within three years if the battery malfunctioned.The complainant said the bike started malfunctioning within the first six months after he bought it. He said



he went to the dealer and complained about the bike's poor performance but they took no steps to repair the issue. Subsequently, an argument ensued between the two parties, and the defendant promised to repair the bike and the plaintiff returned it to the dealer on Feb 28, 2024. When the defendant did not return the bike after several visits, the plaintiff filed an email complaint with the company on March 30, 2024, responding to which the defendant demanded Rs 24,500 from Sabir to repair the bike.

Land scarcity drives Bengaluru's affluent homebuyers towards newer destinations

BENGALURU.(Agency)

With Bengaluru home to 129 individuals whose wealth exceeds Rs 1,000 crore, according to the M3M Hurun India Rich List 2026, real estate experts say land scarcity in traditional luxury enclaves is pushing affluent home buyers towards newer destinations, particularly North Bengaluru, where large plots allow for spacious, low-density residential communities.

Traditional luxury addresses such as Sadashivanagar, Vittal Mallya Road, Lavelle Road, and Koramangala continue to command a premium, but the limited land availability is constraining opportunities for new large-format homes. "In luxury localities, the land simply isn't coming to market. When a large plot does trade, it's usually a family sale, and it goes at a price that only makes sense for a handful of buyers", said Arhanth Dinesh, Managing Director, Krishvi Group.

North and north-east Bengaluru are attracting growing interest, Dinesh said. "The airport, the Hennur, Bagalur and Yelahanka corridors, the tech parks and good schools have pulled the city's centre of gravity north," he added.He said that Yelahanka gives what the core can't: land, larger plots, lower density and room for real amenities, with the airport 20 minutes away.

Passengers halt Jodhpur-Hyderabad train for two hours in Maharashtra's Hingoli over alleged assault

HINGOLI.(Agency)

Passengers staged a protest at Maharashtra's Hingoli railway station, halting a Jodhpur-Hyderabad train for more than two hours on Thursday over allegations that RPF personnel assaulted a youth and misbehaved with his women co-travellers, officials said.

The alleged incident occurred aboard the Bhagat Ki Kothi-Kacheguda Express (Train No. 17606) after it crossed Washim, located about 40 km from Hingoli, in the early hours of Thursday.

Some passengers, followers of Dr BR Ambedkar, were returning from Nagpur after attending a Dussehra event. They boarded the train at Akola for Nanded, but one of their companions, a teenager, allegedly entered a reserved coach by mistake.

The protesters alleged that the youth was assaulted by some passengers and Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel. When women travelling with the group tried to intervene, they were allegedly pushed and misbehaved with, while other members of the group were also assaulted.

MP Lokayukta finds 46 properties worth Rs 64 crore linked to police head constable in DA case

BHOPAL.(Agency)

Ongoing investigations by Madhya Pradesh's anti-corruption watchdog – the Lokayukta Special Police Establishment (SPE) – into a disproportionate assets case involving state police's driver head constable Firoz Khan, have revealed that he along with family members and aides, owns immovable properties worth over Rs 64 crore.

As the SPE sleuths dig deep into properties held by Khan and cohorts, as part of ongoing investigation into the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 case registered against Khan and others, details of nine new properties, all agricultural lands in Indore district have emerged.

All those land parcels were found to have been purchased in the name of Sparkwave Realty India Pvt Ltd. This firm was found to be operated jointly by Khan's wife, Hina Khan, and Yuvraj Panwar, a resident of Indore. Further information about this firm is being gathered, sources associated with the ongoing investigation told the TNIE on Wednesday.

Following the disclosure of nine more immovable properties, the probe has so far found that 46 immovable properties were purchased in the names of the accused Firoz Khan himself, his associates, the firm, and his family members.

'Everyone is equal here': 44 Dalits from 8 Gujarat districts embrace Buddhism

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Two days before his 89th birthday, Anand Parmer, a writer and union leader based in Gujarat's Ahmedabad, embraced Buddhism, following the footsteps of his idol Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar. "But it was just a technicality," he said, adding "I have been living as a Buddhist for a long time".

Parmar has translated, among others, two books on Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, the architect of Indian Constitution, from Hindi to Gujarati. (On October 14, 1956, Ambedkar embraced Buddhism, along with an estimated 365,000 to 600,000 Dalit followers, marking one of the largest religious conversions in history.) Parmar was among 44 people from the Scheduled Castes hailing from eight districts of Gujarat, who converted to Buddhism at a ceremony hosted by the Lotus Bauddh Sangh Trust in Nava Vadaj area of Ahmedabad on Wednesday. The converts are from Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Gandhinagar, Mehsana, Rajkot, Surendranagar, Sabarkantha and Patan districts. Ten of the 44 people – six families included – are minors. Parmar, who was in Class 9 in 1956, said he was present at the spot during the police firing at Congress House that became a landmark moment in the Mahagujarat Movement to bifurcate Bombay State along linguistic lines. "From childhood, I lived among those who followed Dr Ambedkar, and listened to them carefully. Later, I read his works and studied LLB. I helmed a trade union in the municipal corporation, and followed his ideals. Over the years, my friends have been urging me to convert to



Buddhism, but that was just a technicality. I have been a Buddhist for a long time." Parmar has translated a book by Dr Ambedkar's private secretary Nanak Chand Rattu on the later years of Ambedkar, and another written by Sohanlal Shastri. The ceremony, held on Ashok Vijaydashami day, was presided over by Bhante Pathik Shreshti of the Amar Baudhh Vihar in Surendranagar, said its organiser, Prashant Mehta. The conversions were carried out in accordance with the Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003, and Rules, 2008, he added. Speaking to , Ritesh Solanki, 26, who works as a quality control engineer in a firm in Sanand, said: "The main reason for converting to Buddhism is that we have no rights in the caste based system." "Though the situation is better in cities, social injustice continues in villages," Solanki claimed. Solanki, who hails from a small village near Sanand, said that nobody else from his family, including his wife, parents or sister, have converted to Buddhism, but he had spoken to them about his decision. "This is my personal decision and my family members continue to be Hindus. When the police called my home for verification after I submitted the application to convert to Buddhism at the Collectorate, my father supported me… My wife may convert in the years to come, but it's totally her decision," he said. Solanki said that when he was younger, slogans of 'Jay Bhim' would be heard around his neighbourhood but that he learnt more about it after reading about Dr Ambedkar's work for social upliftment.

Activists question Beas riverbed construction; work on highway going Right of Way: NHAI

The concerns have intensified following floods in 2023 and 2025, which damaged infrastructure and several stretches of the highway between Manali and Aut.

Shimla.(Agency)

Environmentalists and green activists have raised concerns over excavations and channel modification along the Beas River near the Kullu-Manali National Highway, and warned that interventions in the river channel could affect its natural flow and aggravate flood risks. The concerns were also raised regarding the construction of reportedly Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) retaining walls along the riverbed.

The concerns have intensified following floods in 2023 and 2025, which damaged infrastructure and several stretches of the highway between Manali and Aut.

Guman Singh, an environmentalist of Himalaya Niti Abhiyan (HNA), questioned whether the ongoing work would provide a lasting solution to flood damage or create new risks. He called for scientific assessment of the potential impact of riverbank structures on water flow, sediment movement, and villages situated on the opposite bank and downstream. "Is this project a solution to the problem, or are we inviting another disaster in the future? Has a scientific study been conducted before its implementation?" Singh asked. Another activist, Sandeep Minhas, said, "The ongoing work inside the Beas River, along with the use of heavy machinery, has been threatening aquatic life." Meanwhile, the Public Action Committee (PAC), an NGO based in Punjab, has issued a legal notice to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and other authorities, seeking an immediate halt to the disputed construction and disclosure of statutory approvals, floodplain



assessments, and relevant technical studies. The PAC, in its notice, cited recently taken photographs that purportedly show RCC construction within the active river channel. It argued that such work could alter the river's morphology, obstruct floodwater movement and increase erosion at adjoining locations. The committee has also invoked certain Supreme Court judgments, which established the public trust doctrine in the protection of natural resources.

NHAI Project Director for the Kullu-Manali section Akashdeep Singh said the authority was examining the concerns raised by environmentalists and activists. He told The Indian Express, "We are looking into the concerns being raised by the environmentalists and green activists. Although so far we are yet to examine the legal notice, we have checked our records and groundwork and found that the work pertaining to the repair and reconstruction of the damaged highway is going on under our Right of Way (RoW). I visited the particular section between Kullu and Manali a few days back and will visit the section again within one week." He said, "The activists argue that the NHAI is working beyond its jurisdiction. If this is the point, the demarcation can be rechecked." Kullu-Manali National Highway falls under the jurisdiction of NHAI's Project Implementation Unit (PIU) Mandi. A senior NHAI official said, "The pictures being shared by the environmentalists and NGO pertain to the ongoing work wherein the water flow is to be diverted from a small section to execute the construction work on the site."

He also said the NHAI is undertaking flood-protection and highway reconstruction works along the Beas corridor.

Yusuf Pathan's 978 square metre plot: 'Tend to be discussed if prominent figure involved,' says Gujarat minister

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

THE GUJARAT government on Wednesday defended its decision to approve allotment of a disputed plot of land to former cricketer Yusuf Pathan, who recently broke away from the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and joined hands with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI), with government spokesperson and senior minister Jitu Vaghani saying that such an approval could be done "only after following prevailing rules & regulations."

Vaghani also pointed out that the BJP government in the state has been facilitating allotments or regularising land parcels for the common public as well. He was interacting with mediapersons after the weekly briefing following a state Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. The Gujarat government recently passed a resolution giving approval for the allotment of the 978 square-metre (sq m) plot of land to Pathan by the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC). The government resolution states that 500 sq m of the plot will



be allotted as a gift to Pathan for residential use, and the remaining 478 sq m would be transferred at a concessional rate of 55 per cent (%) of the valuation made by the Valuation Committee of the Vadodara Urban Development Authority (VUDA).

In June 2024, the VMC served an encroachment notice to Pathan over the plot. Earlier, in 2012, Pathan sought the plot from the civic body on a 99-year lease without public auction. Responding to a question related to the approval of allotment of a plot of land to Pathan in Vadodara, Vaghani said in Gujarati, "I do not have the full details, but revenue plots can be allotted only after following administrative procedures.

Violence, clashes and arson mar filing of nominations in AP

TIRUPATI/KADAPA/KURNOOL/ANANTAPUR/GUNTUR.(Agency)

Widespread violence, physical clashes between Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) cadres, stone-pelting, and arson marked the opening day of the ZPTC and MPTC nomination process across Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday, as opposition parties accused the ruling coalition of systematic obstruction and partisan police inaction. From the Rayalaseema heartland to Palnadu, election centres turned into arenas of confrontation, forcing police to execute house arrests, lathi-charges, and mass detention to maintain law and order. In Tirupati, Chittoor, and Annamayya districts, severe tension prevailed as opposition candidates were systematically obstructed from reaching Returning Officers. Outside the Chittoor Zilla Parishad office, a car belonging to YSRCP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister K. Narayana Swamy was surrounded and vandalised by alleged TDP supporters, forcing him to flee the premises under heavy protection.

As bouncers and rival groups gathered outside the centre, Chittoor Superintendent of Police Tushar Dudi personally led a police force to conduct a lathi-charge and clear the area.

In Thottambedu, a YSRCP leader was forcefully pulled out of his vehicle, while in Chandragiri, YSRCP leader Chandramouli Reddy fell at the feet of Additional SP Ravi Manohar Achari inside the Returning Officer's room, pleading for physical safety.

Man in Bengaluru gets life imprisonment for murder over Rs 100

The court acquitted her of the charges of tampering evidence by cleaning the bloodied spot with water.

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Murdering a man in broad daylight for declining to give 100 landed a youth in life imprisonment with a fine of 25,000. The accused, Veeramanikanta aka Vijay aka Viji aka Pambu, was charged with murdering one Dinakaran, for refusing to pay 100, in the Jayanagar police station limits.

At 5 pm on July 17, 2018, Dinakaran (34) was going towards Rajarajeshwari slum via Ambedkar Road at Shakambari Nagar. Veeramanikanta demanded Rs 100. When he did not have money, the accused caused a cut injury on his left cheek, and left hand with a dagger button knife. Thereafter, the accused held his head bent down and assaulted the back of his neck with a machete mercilessly.

He was shifted to hospital, where he was declared brought dead. Judge S N Kalkani, LXV Additional City Civil and Sessions Court, Bengaluru, held that Veeramanikanta used to harass people for money and, on refusal, assault them. The prosecution proved its case with corroborative evidence against the accused for the offence under Section 302 of IPC, the judge said. The prosecution failed to prove the offence under Section 201 of IPC against Veeramanikanta's mother, Gandhi, accused No.2.

Jhota killing, Ludhiana death put spotlight on drug sales through chemist shops

PANJ report maps wider crisis: state accounted for 57.4% of India's seized pharmaceutical-drug units in 2024; treatment under a central programme reached only about 3.5% of its estimated opioid-dependent population

Jalandhar.(Agency)

The killing of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota in Mansa and the death of a 27-year-old man in Ludhiana after he allegedly consumed intoxicant capsules have brought renewed focus on the sale of habit-forming medicines through chemist shops. A new report on Punjab's drug crisis points to the scale of pharmaceutical-drug seizures in the state, rising heroin seizures, an increase in juvenile cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and gaps in treatment coverage.

Released earlier this month by PANJ Foundation, an independent, non-partisan policy research think tank based in Punjab, the report — State of Punjab: Data Story of 15 Years — draws on official data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), parliamentary replies and government records. Of the 5.13 crore pharmaceutical-drug units seized across India in 2024, Punjab accounted for 2.94 crore units, the report says. They include tablets, capsules, injections, cough syrup bottles and other medicinal preparations.



The report also records that Punjab's average annual heroin seizures increased from 829 kg in 2018–21 to 1,390 kg in 2022–24. Its share of national heroin seizures reached 47 per cent in 2023 and over 44 per cent in 2024. During the Punjab government's 2025 anti-drug campaign, Yudh Nashian Virudh, police seized 1,714 kg of heroin. Using official Narcotics Control Bureau valuation benchmarks, PANJ estimated the haul's value at Rs 3,428 crore. Heroin accounted for 94 per cent of the estimated value of all drugs seized during the campaign.

The findings come against the backdrop of two recent incidents involving alleged pharmaceutical-drug sales. Jhota was shot dead on October 13 following a confrontation over the alleged sale of addictive medicines at a medical store in Mansa. In Ludhiana, Sahil Thakur, 27, died after allegedly consuming intoxicant capsules that his family said he had obtained from a medical store. Both incidents remain subject to investigation.

Politics of patriotism, then and now

Come October 21, a unique journey of patriotism-centric politics, started on this day in 1951, will be completing 75 long years. The day marks the founding of Bharatiya Jana Sangh by Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

BJS came into existence at a conference held at the Raghomal Kanya Madhyamik Vidyalaya in Delhi. The rectangular saffron flag was accepted as its standard and a 'deepak' inscribed on it was declared its election symbol. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh had not only blessed this new political party but also had spared some of its eminent pracharaks for this new entity. The establishment of the BJS was important for multiple reasons. It was a political party which had patriotism at the centre of its scheme of things. In the pre-independence era, the Congress had become synonymous with patriotism, not post-1947. This was because most symbols of patriotism were cultural, and when culture came into the discussion, the Hindu way was bound to dominate. Because of this reason the Congress accepted truncating of 'Vande Mataram' in 1937, which previously had not been objected to by the Muslims.Post-independence, this approach continued. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had opposed President Rajendra Prasad's participation in the inauguration ceremony of the re-built Somnath temple. It was the same perverse mindset that prompted Nehru to go ahead with the Nehru-Liaquat pact which was, according to Mookerjee, indifferent to the interests of Hindus in Pakistan. The story behind the Congress not introducing a uniform civil code—in spite of a constitutional mandate and several Supreme Court rulings—or not abrogating Article 370 is the same which is 'not to hurt Muslim sentiments' even at the cost of unity and integrity of the country.

Successive Congress governments, accustomed as they were to pander to sectarian pressure; carried this further with a law protecting migrants from Bangladesh. The Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 brought by Indira Gandhi was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2005 . However, bent on protecting the vote bank, the Manmohan Singh government tried to circumvent the court verdict and issued an order recreating a setup similar to the old Act where the complainant/State—and not the accused—had to face the burden of proving that the migrant is not an Indian citizen.

After Indira, it was Rajiv Gandhi's turn to compromise at the cost of justice for vote-bank politics. In order to overturn the court verdict in the Shah Bano Begum case, he introduced the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act. This Act restricted a husband's financial liability to the iddat period and shifted long-term maintenance obligations to relatives or the Waqf Board. This was a blatant rejection of the Shah Bano judgement. Later, PM Narasimha Rao introduced the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 aimed at placating Muslims.

The BJS, and later the Bharatiya Janata Party, have been the only pan-India forces that have challenged the politics of appeasement by the Congress. Besides, of the 2,800-odd registered political parties in India, the BJP is a rare one that does not go by dynastic rule at the top. Also, with most political parties adopting left-of-centre ideology and wearing so-called progressivism on their sleeves, BJS-BJP stood out as the first major ideological and organisational voice for cultural nationalism and civilisational identity in post-independence India.As against socialistic economic approaches of others, BJS-BJP adopted integral humanism and presented a more holistic, integrationist thought as its distinct ideology.

The deafening silence on Pillay's Nobel

India has a chance to show it means what it says about the moral force of Gandhi and Mandela

WHO would have thought that the Nobel Peace Prize would become a hot potato for the Modi government?

The Nobel Peace Prize Committee announced Navanethem "Navi" Pillay as this year's winner on October 9. A South African of Indian origin, the 85-year-old Pillay came to be known internationally in 1973 as the lawyer who secured legal access for prisoners on the infamous Robben Island. The prisoners included Nelson Mandela, who led South Africa's armed struggle against apartheid.

Born into a Tamil family in Durban, Pillay returned to trace her family roots in Tamil Nadu in 2007, when she was serving as a judge of the International Criminal Court at The Hague. Her grandparents were from Batlagundu in Dindigul (Tamil Nadu); they were among thousands of indentured workers shipped by the British in the 1890s to work on sugarcane farms in the KwaZulu-Natal province. She overcame the difficulties posed by both the straitened circumstances of her family and the injustices of apartheid to become the exemplary global figure she is today.Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph C Vijay was prompt with a congratulatory message when the prize was announced, lauding Pillay for her decades of public service as a human rights defender.Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government, on the other hand, have retreated into a silence that says a lot, and quite loudly, about the Indian leadership's foreign policy choices.Pillay headed the United Nations' Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel from 2021 to 2025. In September 2025, the commission released a report that held Israel responsible for committing genocide in Gaza.Israel has condemned the Nobel to Pillay as a "grotesque weaponisation of the award to legitimise anti-Israel hatred and prejudice". Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that the Nobel peace award panel had suffered a "loss of its moral compass".India's much-celebrated proximity to Israel and PM Modi's personal rapport with Netanyahu have rendered it silent at other critical moments. The friendship might have been leveraged in another era by another leader to persuade Israel to end its relentless bombardment, or to proactively push back against the war in international fora. But India preferred to abstain on important resolutions on Gaza at the United Nations, projecting its support for generic resolutions on a two-state solution as all that was diplomatically necessary at the moment.Modi's visit to Israel right before the Israel-US attacks on Iran, and the special award to him there, framed the Indian silence on an illegal war and the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader as the opening salvo of that war. Combined with the silences on US President Donald Trump's egregious actions targeting India and Indians, including the handcuffing and chaining of Indians sent back as illegal migrants, these are now part of an expected pattern.In November 2025, Justice S Muralidhar (retd), former Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court, was appointed Chair of the UN panel. He too brought out a report that held Israel responsible for genocidal acts in Gaza. The report attracted more attention in India than the previous one, perhaps because this time an Indian judge was at the helm, but the government maintained the same silence as it had done on the Pillay report.

Some have sought to explain Delhi's silence on the award by citing Pillay's utterances when she was the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights from 2008 to 2012.



During an official visit to India, she sought a repeal of the law against homosexuality and the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), asked the government to investigate human rights violations in Kashmir and called for an end to entrenched discrimination of all kinds, including untouchability. After the Nirbhaya rape-murder in Delhi in December 2012, she called for strengthening Indian laws against sexual assault, and spoke about the alarming incidence of sexual violence against women and children, flagging the gangrape of a Dalit woman in Haryana in October 2012.

But India has come a long way since then on some of these issues — homosexuality is not a crime anymore, and not because of Pillay's intervention. Again it was not Pillay, but the massive public outrage against the 2012 rape-murder that forced political parties to vote in so stringent a law against sexual assault that it now attracts the death penalty.At the time she spoke about AFSPA, there was much discussion within the country about this draconian law, and even the courts have questioned the blanket legal immunity it grants to members of the armed forces. A committee was set up to review the law in 2004, and in 2012, then Home Minister P Chidambaram had set off a debate with the suggestion that it could be "tweaked".

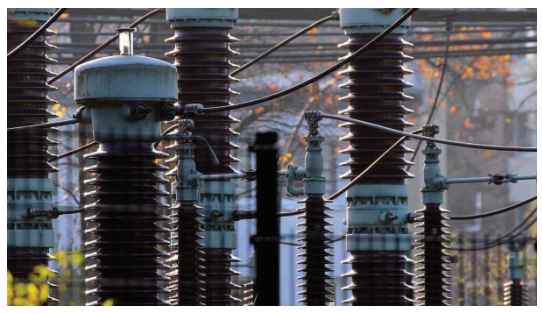
On untouchability, Modi himself says that caste-based discrimination and division are a challenge to a "united India", so it is self-defeating to hold a factual statement about untouchability against a member of the Indian diaspora, who is probably as familiar with caste as any Indian. Pillay also said nice things about the judiciary's "ground-breaking judgments", the solid framework on which Indian human rights legislation is built, the free media and robust civil society, but that may also be turned against her now.In any case, it was reasonable to expect that Modi's special relationship with the diaspora would help him rise above such complaints. Last year, the eligibility for the OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) card for South Africans was extended from four to seven generations. Pillay may not need an OCI card, but she personifies the diaspora that PM Modi extolled on his first visit to South Africa in 2016.

"The story of your ancestors in this nation may have been of poverty and oppression. But, their legacy is one of pride and sacrifice. And, it is reflected in your success and prosperity. Its reality rests in your immense contribution to the economic and social well-being of this country," Modi had said to a large gathering of Indian-origin people in Durban.Alongside their African brothers and sisters, generations of Indians fought, suffered and sacrificed so that all of South Africa could breathe freely. I salute you all, and the countless others, dedicated to this country. You are the proud sons and daughters of the Indian heritage. You are the hardworking and loyal citizens of South Africa. You are also a part of the flourishing global Indian family. You form a unique bond between our two great nations," the PM had said.In the same speech, he had described Gandhi and Mandela as "two men (who are) an inspiration for all of mankind" whose "courage and moral force will remain a guiding beacon for the generations to come."Those who care to remember will know that India was the first country to raise the issue of racial discrimination in South Africa. It was then specifically about Indians, but when South Africa officially adopted apartheid in 1954, India cut off all ties with the country, brought it up in every international forum and officially supported.

Tamil Nadu must improve power demand forecast, cut costs with timely buys

Recent assessment warrants examination of the accuracy of existing forecasts and the information used to guide purchases. Forecasting shortcomings and delays in acting on warnings require distinct remedies

Tamil Nadu's decision to buy emergency electricity at rates reaching ₹37 a unit raises questions about its power procurement strategy. The government must ensure uninterrupted supply while keeping costs in check through timely contracts. With annual power purchases accounting for roughly three-quarters of the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited's (TNPDCL) total income, avoiding unnecessary expenditure is particularly important.The circumstances that left the state facing such prices deserve examination, particularly when a senior official familiar with procurement discussions says warnings were raised as early as July. The government's explanation merits consideration. Electricity Minister C T R Nirmal Kumar has cited unusually high October demand and shortfalls in supplies from central generating stations and wind power to justify costly purchases to prevent outages. Power utility officials say purchases can be reduced if demand falls, though fixed charges would still apply.Nevertheless, TNPDCL floated its tender on October 6 for supply beginning October 12. The official's account that earlier



procurement was recommended calls for a clear response. The government should establish when the likely shortage was flagged, how the warning was assessed and why purchases were deferred. Andhra Pradesh's earlier procurement at lower rates reinforces the need to examine the timing, although quantities and contractual terms may differ.Analysts say the Tamil Nadu State Load Despatch Centre lacks a reliable demand forecasting system. This assessment warrants examination of the accuracy of existing forecasts and the information used to guide purchases. Forecasting shortcomings and delays in acting on warnings require distinct remedies. Regular reviews of resource adequacy plans should translate projected demand and available supply into timely procurement decisions.

A new government needs some time to understand the complexities of power procurement and supply. It also inherits constraints that cannot be resolved within months. Yet its learning period must be brief when delayed decisions carry substantial public costs.

The northeast monsoon ould ease demand as temperatures fall, while rain could also reduce agricultural electricity demand. The government should use any respite to strengthen preparedness. Its advance tender for February-July 2027 is welcome. Regularly updated demand forecasts, better preparation for supply shortfalls and timely procurement can help limit future emergencies. Protecting consumers means both keeping the lights on and exercising care over the bill.

Gap between vision and vanity

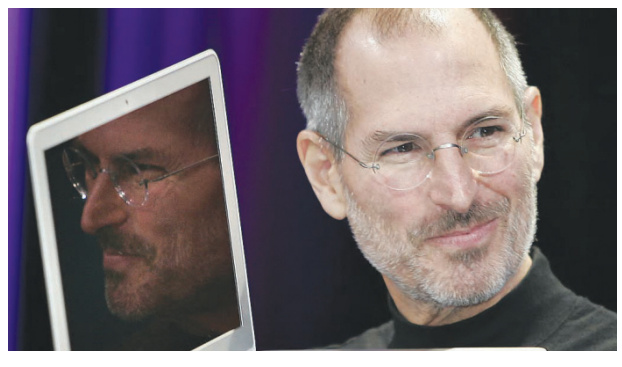
The narcissism of corporate leaders like Steve Jobs has often been extolled and emulated, though research shows the limits of their capabilities. But such questions are rarely asked of judges, despite some of them highlighting their own fallibility

Like many, I have been fascinated by Steve Jobs. The former Apple CEO was a businessman of extraordinary charisma who paired a dramatic, theatrical presence with an unyielding drive. While not a particularly talented engineer, he pioneered the home computer revolution and earned over 450 patents for inventions ranging from speakers to user interfaces, to even staircases and lanyards. One of the very first biographies that I read as a kid was his, written by Walter Isaacson. It tells the tale of a misfit whose famous sprezzatura towards rules has become the smokescreen of choice for all tech poseurs and wantrepreneurs. The book is a deeply captivating read, and one that goes into the mind of a very polarising personality who was called a narcissist by many and whose reality-distortion field famously warped people's sense of time and difficulty, coaxing, coercing and cajoling them to get the work done.

The best-seller is a compulsory read for aspiring entrepreneurs. And Jobs' example—along with those who sought to emulate him—has spawned a generation of young men and women who embrace work as an obsession and has shaped the tech economy in ways that, in hindsight, are quite surprising. However, as history has taught us, for every Jobs, we get ten Elizabeth Holmes. Which leads us to the question: do narcissists make good leaders? And more importantly, are they good for us? These questions are endlessly asked of presidents and chief executives. It is rarely asked of judges.Ovid's Metamorphoses tells the famous tale of Narcissus, who wastes away gazing at his own reflection. Narcissus does not know the face is his own and mistakes himself for the world. Sigmund Freud's 1914 essay On Narcissism and his 1931 paper Libidinal Types introduced the narcissistic personality type and gave the term its current popular currency. Heinz Kohut's The Analysis of the Self: A Systematic Approach to the Psychoanalytic Treatment of Narcissistic Personality Disorders (1971) recast narcissism as a healthy developmental need, and Christopher Lasch's The Culture of Narcissism: American Life in an Age of Diminishing Expectations (1979) diagnosed a whole society.

Lasch's work is particularly interesting as it argues that the late 20th-century capitalism transformed individual psychology into a defensive and self-absorbed response—a survivalist focus on self that shifts the traditional Victorian neuroses such as phobias towards "disorders of the self", marked by emptiness and compulsive self-surveillance. When people lose faith in societal structures, they start to retreat into hyper-focusing on their personal universe, and a narcissistic culture replaces genuine achievements with performance, vanity and visibility. Some escape into a grandiose self-conception of reality centred around themselves, viewing others merely as instruments for utility.Almost all leadership research measures narcissism as a continuous trait in normal populations. In a widely cited 2007 study of chief executives in the American computer industries, Arijit Chatterjee and Donald Hambrick found that narcissists did not make their firms better or worse on average, only more volatile. In other words, they do not increase outputs on average but widen the spread—they either go big or go home.The case for narcissistic leadership comes mainly from Michael Maccoby's Narcissistic Leaders: The Incredible Pros, the Inevitable Cons. He argues that narcissists are good for companies in extraordinary times—when firms need passion and daring to move in new directions—, but can lead them into disaster by refusing to hear warnings. His practical remedy is to place a trusted sidekick who keeps the visionary grounded in operational reality.

Narcissism in politicians is a pure psychological spectacle. In a cultural landscape filled with macho men and self-possessed, image- obsessed mass-media, a politician's primary goal is not governing well but managing impressions. Because modern life makes individual citizens feel small and powerless, voters look to politicians not for civic representation, but for psychological compensation. In this climate, for a narcissistic politician, the institution is identical to the self. If a court rules against them, the court is corrupt. If the



press criticises them, the press is evil. What contains hubris is fear of losing an election, fixed term limits, a sceptical and powerful colleague, and the ability to be laughed at and to listen. In sum, narcissists can make good leaders, but only when their appetite for the grandiose is checked by people and institutions they cannot bend to their will.However, almost every one of the constraints mentioned above is weaker or non-existent for judges of constitutional courts. In many ways, judging is the work narcissism does worst. The checks that contain hubris in public life, the next election, the fixed term, the board that can dismiss, are deliberately absent from constitutional courts, and for very good reason—a judge must be free to displease the powerful.Judges themselves have been the most candid about the risk. In Aravali Golf Club vs Chander Hass (2007), the Supreme Court observed that judges "must have modesty and humility, and not behave like emperors". In Mohammad Naim (1963), the court had cautioned that judicial pronouncements "should not normally depart from sobriety, moderation and reserve". Justice Robert Jackson of the US Supreme Court in Brown vs Allen (1953) offered a disarming confession: "We are not final because we are infallible, but we are infallible only because we are final". What these voices share is not suspicion of judges but an understanding that an office insulated from external checks must carry its checks within it. But when the checks fail, hubris may set in. The US even has a folk name for it: Black Robe Fever, which a retired judge, Steven Platt, described as the syndrome where donning the robe brings out every latent character defect.India has tried to write those internal checks down. In 1997 a full-strength Supreme Court adopted the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life, which asks a judge to "practise a degree of aloofness consistent with the dignity of his office" and to remember that he is "under the public gaze". However, it names no enforcer and no sanction, and the in-house procedure the judiciary adopted in 1999 to examine complaints against judges works in confidence, so its outcomes guide no one.Ronald Dworkin's ideal Hercules has superhuman skill and patience. Hercules is a regulative ideal to strive towards and not a likeness to be recognised in the mirror.



Hot wedding Food trends

Culinary trends take a sophisticated turn at the Great Indian Wedding with tasting stations, vegan, sushi platters and push pops for dessert.

Alavish spread is a thing of the past. This season, you'll dig into larger dessert stations, sit in for a familystyle dining experience, or get your culinary fix from food trucks to sushi carts and personalised cocktails at weddings. Modern couples and experimental chefs are coming together to make wedding food fare the most exciting part of D-Day. Here are a few ideas for your nuptials that'll get everyone talking about your wedding day.

GET BRUNCHY

Brunch spreads are perfect for morning weddings. Wedding planner Sonali Thakore says, "Earlier, morning weddings began with breakfast and moved to lunch. These days, brunches are taking over. They are classier, have far more options and are economical since you are cutting one meal out." From pancakes to egg stations, truffle burgers to pancakes, omelette stations to croissants, there's a bevy of options to choose from. And these foods can be enjoyed at any time of the day.

FAMILY STYLE DINING

Buffet is out. Classy family-style dining is in. Cosy, comfortable and more intimate, this dining style echoes a more inclusive atmosphere. No more queues. Your guests have a sit-down comfortable meal.

Says chef Michael Swamy, "Fine dine plating is when a prominent chef's menu is created and exclusively used for the family dinner at weddings. Usually caterers want to put all cuisines on the menu and make a mess of everything. But this season, less is more classy."

TASTING STATIONS

Tasting stations are perfect for creative couples who want to give a different food experience to their guests. A popsicle cocktail station instantly cools you down at a summer wedding. You can have a tandoori tasting station, cheese on wheels, or a soup shooter station.

THINK FRESH

Farm-to-table is the new slogan. If you haven't gone totally regional and organic, you haven't got it right. The menus include bajra, ragi and jowar and makki-ki-roti served with brown rice and rajma. Says chef Michael Swamy, "You can win the guests' hearts instantly by putting light and `goodfor-stomach' options on the menu, like a green salad or dal-rice. With more people choosing vegan and gluten-free options, wedding food fares are also becoming health-conscious affairs. No more popping antacids before attending a wedding.

SHRINK IT DOWN

Miniature is the buzzword. Mini versions of your favourite meals are making a huge statement. A single meatball topped , r with spaghetti, a bite-sized pizza or a bite of Amritsari fish, dipped in chutney, are just some of the one-bite options that guests are being served. Says chef Bharat, "Indian weddings now have one or two classy dishes being served rather than 10 usual dishes that people anticipate."

DIM SUM, SUSHI DELIGHTS

Dim sum allows guests to sample different fillings without filling up. Carts of dumplings and sushi can be wheeled around from one corner to the other. Ask your caterer to pair the dim sums with mini sake shots. Food blogger Nikhil Merchant says, "Gone are the days of flash stirfrys and curries. Now, we have steamed dumplings and molecular gastronomy.



Asian techniques such as steaming and hand-pulled noodles could be the next big thing," he predicts. "And don't be surprised if there is more smoke created by a nitrogen machine for that frozen ice-cream or cock tail than the wedding pyre."

FOOD WITH DRAMA

A little bit of flamboyance has never disappointed anyone. Invite a dessert chef to whip up flambe to impress everyone.There's also an option to tell the cater ers to create a `tea party' room, where different flavours of tea (ange pekoe, black tea or green tea) can be served with lemon cakes. Chef Bharat says, "Coffee and tea spaces are getting priority at weddings. Right now, we see top coffee chains of the country put up their stalls at big weddings."

That apart, you can also see a line-up of top dhabas, say from from Delhi to Amritsar, created with the same ambience to give an authentic experience. So, you have dancers, the traditional chulha, charpais etc.

GOING RUSTIC

The food served here is usually family style, depending on the region the couple be longs to. If the bride and the groom belong to different regions, the wed ding is the perfect occasion to display their culinary heritage with aplomb. From homemade jams and honey to tribal food, the humble regional dishes get a classy make-over and the guests get a lesson in India's rich history of food.

As the temperature steadily escalates in Nashik and across India, one of the few delightful consolations of this season is the arrival of the king of fruits — mango.

Mango obsession has just begun

From a mango flavoured drink to the modest aamras prepared at home — Nashik is already drooling over the mangoes available in the market. Here's a lowdown on what can be done with this royal fruit.



Mango Silk
`40
Mango silk is a unique dessert and has recently been discovered by Nashikites. It is an impeccable combination of condensed milk, cream and mangoes with a topping of melted chocolate. Doesn't this sound mouth-watering?

Mango Mastani
`100
The mastani is a famous drink available in the city during summers. Pallavi Pandit, a housewife, said, "I was mesmerised with the dessert-drink because I had never imagined of having something so delicious made up of mangoes. It is so filling that we generally skip our dinner after having it and it is also heavenly to relish the taste before going to bed. I even prepare the same at home with a topping of cashews, cream and strawberry pieces."

Mango Milkshake
`30
Mango milkshake is one of the most sought after milkshake recipe in India. When you are looking to beat the summer heat, mango milkshake with lots of ice is the best anyone can offer you.

Mango Mousse
`45 Mango mousse is made using a quick recipe of mangoes and cream blended together to give a creamy, light and airy texture to it. Mousse can be served with freshly cut pieces of mango to make a delightful dessert using this king of fruits.

Ice-cream
`40
Dig into a scoop of mango ice-cream to regularise your body temperature in the scorching heat of summer. Though mango ice-cream is available throughout the year but it is the most relished during this season.

Aamras
The most famous and mouth-watering delicacy of mangoes is aamras, prepared entirely with mango pulps and with no preservatives so as to improve on the taste. Indulge in the most loved combination of aamras and pooris this summers to take your tastebuds on a delightful journey. Tina Pavan Narang, a homemaker, says "This is quintessentially the most desired delicacy that our guests love. So when summers arrive, this is a must-have item on our food menu."

Panna `10 per glass
Panna is a refreshing raw mango drink renowned for its heat resistant properties. It has a wonderful balance of flavours - sweet, sour and savoury. Poonam Saraf, an architect from the city, says, "It is one of the most delicious drinks I relish during summer. With a dash of cardammom powder, it has the most extraordinary taste. Panna should be served chilled as its coolness adds on to its rich flavour."

Ambadi
`650 per kilo
Ambadi is a mango barfi that is easily available in city markets. It can also be prepared at home with mangoes and coconut to attain the most desirable taste of it.

Mango cakes `450
Mango flavoured cakes are a big hit in the summer season and are easily available now. The subtle taste of this cake is what makes people obsess over this dessert in these hot months.

Mango Kulfi `30
Kulfi in Nashik is not all about malai and gulkand. Come summer and the markets are flooded with the all-time favourite mango kulfi. All the goodness of the juicy alphonso mangoes in a sinfully rich and creamy kulfi gives your tastebuds a treat. Shops even add nuts to give it a fancy look.

Mango Flavoured Drink
`20 per bottle
This drink, manufactured in Nashik, is made of mango. It is as refreshing as it gets. From being a thirst quenching drink on a summery afternoon to the ideal sipper in parties, the drink has many takers.

Amrakhand
`240 per kilo
A popular variation of the mango flavoured shrikhand is the amrakhand. It is one of the easiest mango desserts that can be prepared in no time. It is thick, creamy soft, supple, delicious and a total melt-in-your-mouth delicacy.

Mango Juice
`30
Home-made mango juice prepared from organic alphonso mangoes tastes incredibly good. It is most preferred over mango pieces because it naturally gives the factual taste of mangoes.

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3 must-try burger recipes

Easy burger recipes you must try!

PESTO BURGER
Ingredients
- Ground meat - 1 kilo
- Salt - ½ tsp
- Pepper - ½ tsp
- Mozzarella cheese - 3 slices
- Pesto - ½ cup
- Lettuce - few crispy leaves
- Roasted red peppers - ½ cup
- Burger buns - 4

Method
Pound the meat, season with salt and pepper and shape it into rounds. Fry them in hot oil until each side cooks really well. Take a bun add the burger to it, along with a leaf, the cheese. Spread some pesto onto it. Add it to the hot pan and simmer for a minute until the meat is reheated and the cheese gets melted.

Pizza burger

Ingredients
- Ground meat - ½ kilo
- Pizza puree - 2 cups
- Onion - ½, diced
- Capsicum - ½, diced
- Mozzarella cheese - ¼ cup
- Mushrooms, roasted - ½ cup
- Oregano - 1 tsp
- Lettuce - few crispy leaves
- Buns - 4

Method
Heat a skillet and add some oil to it. Cook the meat till it is well done. Add the pizza puree and cook. Add the oregano as well. Also stir fry the peppers and onion and add it to the meat mixture. Take a bun, add the lettuce leaves to it as well as the cooked meat mixture.

RED BEAN BURGER
Ingredients
- Red beans (rajma), cooked - 1 cup
- Ground zeera - 1 ½ tsp
- Garam masala - a pinch
- Onions - 1, sliced
- Mayonnaise - 3 tbsp
- Dry bread crumbs - ½ cup
- Oregano - ½ tsp
- Pepper- ½ tsp
- Mint leaves - a few, chopped
- Vegetable oil - 2 tbsp
- Buns - 4

Method
Heat oil and saute the onion. Add the garam masala and zeera to it. Add the boiled rajma beans to this and saute. Now blend together the bread crumbs, mayonnaise, pepper and oregano to it. Spoon the mixture into the buns and place the burgers in a skillet. Serve with salsa sauce.



Quick Healthy Breakfasts for busy people

Worried about missing the most important meal of the day a little too often? Here are 10 quick and healthy, low-fat breakfast ideas that'll help you get something nutritious ready for breakfast in 15 minutes or less.



The principle behind each of these breakfast ideas is to include lean protein, whole grain, fruits, vegetables and good fats in your opening meal for the day - in the right portions. This gives you a great starting point for high energy all day, as well as helps you stick to your 60 day plan of getting fit by December. Stock up on a few essentials listed in each breakfast idea, and get ready to have a wide variety of quick breakfast choices every morning!

Roti rolls with paneer, lettuce and cucumber:

If you have any rotis from the night before or if you are a roti superstar, then this breakfast is the easiest one to make.

Step 1: Dice 100gms fresh paneer. Shred some green lettuce and dice 1 cucumber.

Step 2: Toss the paneer into a frying pan with 1 tsp olive oil and add spices of your choice - light spices will go well here. Try 1 tsp five-spice masala mix.

Step 3: Lay out the roti and spread ½ tsp butter on it.

Step 4: Spread the lettuce, and then sprinkle the diced cucumber and season with salt and pepper.

Step 5: Add the stir-fried paneer and roll it shut.

Step 6: Enjoy with a tall glass of cold coffee on the side!

This recipe will give you 2 paneer rolls. More ideas for stuffing - mushrooms, stir fried chicken nuggets, and fish.

Cracked wheat with peanuts and vegetables:

Cracked wheat or daliya is a healthy breakfast ingredient for last-minute use. And peanuts are energy powerhouses that keep you full for longer.

Step 1: Dice 2 tomatoes and 1 onion.

Step 2: Heat 1 tsp olive oil in a frying pan. Add the onions and tomatoes, ½ cup raw peanuts, with 4-5 curry patta leaves.

Step 4: Add salt, and ½ tsps of turmeric, red chilli powder and sambhar masala. Stir for 5 minutes.

Step 3: Now add ½ cup wheat with 1 cup water.

Step 4: Stir well till the wheat cooks (roughly 2-3 minutes)

Step 5: Eat with a generous dollop of yogurt on the wheat mix.

This recipe will give you a breakfast for 2. Ensure that you eat only enough to cover 1/3rd of a plate.

Whole grain sandwiches with egg white omelets and vegetables:

Step 1: Toast two whole grain slices.

Step 2: Whisk 2-3 egg whites and 1 egg yolk with seasoning, and cook as an omelet with 1 tsp olive oil.

Step 3: Butter the toasts and line with thinly sliced onions, tomatoes and a layer of mustard.

Step 4: Add the omelet, then the top slice, and enjoy with a glass of milk or tea on the side.

This recipe will give you one sandwich. Some more ideas for vegetables in the sandwich - thinly sliced eggplant, zucchini. You can also add fish fillets or thinly sliced chicken breasts cooked the night before.

Protein parathas with vegetable raita:

Store some roti dough in the fridge - usually good for 2-3 days. Boil some peas and store. Step 1: Mash 1 cup boiled peas and mix with salt, ¼ tsp turmeric, ¼ tsp coriander powder, and ¼ tsp red chili powder.

Step 2: Take out 1 small (roughly 1-2 inch diameter) ball of roti dough.

Step 3: Add 1 tbs of the mashed peas mix in the centre of the flattened dough.

Step 4: Bunch it up into a ball - think momo style. Now flatten it out wide.

Step 5: Heat 1 tsp oil in a non-stick tawa, and add the paratha.

Step 6: Eat with a 50gms bowl of cucumber-carrot raita (which you can make by combining grated cucumber and carrot with chaat masala).

This recipe will give you 4 small parathas.

Eggs, toast, vegetables:

The easiest breakfast on the go, this involves little to no planning. Stock up on a dozen eggs, a loaf of whole grain bread, butter, and some tomatoes, carrots and cucumber.

Step 1: Whisk 2 egg whites and 1 egg yolk in a bowl with some seasoning - salt, pepper, mixed herbs.



Step 2: Heat 1 tsp olive oil in a frying pan. Add the whisked eggs and make into an omelet or scrambled eggs.

Step 3: While the eggs are cooking, toast and butter 1-2 slices of bread.

Step 4: Chop the veggies and leave on a side plate. Sprinkle with seasoning like chaat masala.

Step 5: Combine it all, with a glass of soy milk or skimmed milk on the side. This recipe will give you breakfast for one. Double all counts to get breakfast for two.

17 unexplored, exotic Indian ingredients

Chef Manu Chandra suggests 17 homegrown ingredients that can up the quotient of any plate

I think as one matures as a chef, intrinsically it becomes easier to look around oneself to be inspired and innovate rather than looking too far. Something similar has been happening with me despite my years working abroad and at some stellar restaurants at that. The depth and variety of what is available in our country is often overlooked by the restauranting ethos and instead most embrace hard-to-find western ingredients in the development of their menus and offerings.

While it would be unfair to say that some chefs haven't already attempted and been trying to champion Indian ingredients, I still feel that we have a very long way to go and being able to develop our brand of adopted cuisines (much like France, America, Australia have done).

Here's a list of 17 of perhaps hundreds of relatively unseen or underestimated ingredients, which I feel would add a lot of spunk to any menu, cuisine notwithstanding. Bon appetite.

1. Bathua: A seemingly wild growing green always found in certain parts of North India. Bathua is a fantastic replacement for spinach, which has always been associated with contamination. It's delicious, earthy and lends itself to many applications.

2. Kachampoli: Almost never heard of outside of Coorg, this is India's answer to Balsamic Vinegar even though it's neither sweet nor made with grapes. Watch it transform a non-vegetarian dish with it's deep dark colour and lip-smacking tang.

3. Singhara: This absolutely delicious water vegetable is barely seen on any



menu. Peeled and sliced, it would make the most wonderful salad.

4. Makhana: Lotus seeds that have been dried are an incredible way to thicken sauces and gravies after frying and powdering. It's a great snack too, albeit a little heavy.

5. Bhetki: Despite the battle between the sea fish vs the fresh water fish lovers, the glorious Bhetki stands out as an outstanding fish. Its suppleness is a close second to the phenomenally expensive and imported varieties of bass. I would pass up a John Dory for a good Bhetki any day.

6. Melon seeds: So used are we to seeing pine nuts on menus, that we often forget how delicious roasted melon seeds can be. I've found them equally enticing on pastas, salads and even desserts. A must try.

7. Bhut Jhalokia: Also known as the Naga chili, I find myself reading more about this in foreign media than seeing it in our own restaurants. It's got a kick that will make most people chuck out the imported bottles of hot sauce.

8. Gondhoraj lemon: By far one of my favorite citrus flavours, the perfumey fragrance from this north-eastern lemon can convert the simplest dish into a stunner. Infuse it in a little vodka, or try a sorbet with it. A lemon tart with some zest and juice from the gondhoraj can give key lime pies a run for its money.

9. Kalimpong Cheese: Almost Gouda like, this cheese from Sikkim probably has a very small production, but can fool the finest of gourmets. Watch it transform the most humble bake or a simple chili cheese toast, if you can get your hands on it, that is.

10. Rhododendron: Literally the rose tree, these beautiful flowers from the hills of Nainital and around, make for the most amazing drinks and coolers. Instead of lapping up artificial green apple syrups in martinis, it would be fabulous to see bartenders adapt to this refreshingly different ingredient.

11. Kashundhi: Bengali cuisine would be unimaginable Bengali cuisine. Try it in dressings, as a condiment on steaks and fish, or even a sandwich spread and English mustard may not seem so attractive after all.

without this. This sharp and well-rounded mustard still remains within the confines of Bengali cuisine. Try it in dressings, as a condiment on steaks and fish, or even a sandwich spread and English mustard may not seem so attractive after all.

12. Jaggery: For a country that almost knew no refined sugar, the jump to white sugar and caramel-coloured refined sugar seem odd. Jaggery in its many forms still makes for an excellent sweetener for confections and puddings. Some practice will get you stunning results.

13. Mustard and sesame oils: So here we are, a nation with a rich enough history of our own oils with arguably as many health benefits as some other oils; yet we look at the olive for gourmet reasons. Not true. Both sesame and mustard oils have amazing flavour characteristics and make some great dressings, sautes, marinades etc. Pick up a bottle of each for your kitchens today.

14. Aam Ada: This ginger root which has the most keen palates confused owing to its distinctively green mango flavour can be an amazing addition to soups, broths and relishes. It's again seen in very isolated cuisines, but I'm sure can gain a following as much as lemongrass if marketed well.

15. Indian Vanilla Bean: Many people will be unaware that some excellent Vanilla grows in the hills of Chikmaglur and Coorg and any place with coffee plantations. Substitute the sub par artificial essence with some caviar from a vanilla bean and watch a dessert move a step closer to Nirvana.

16. Golden Apple: As children one almost looked forward to apple season (yes, we ate seasonally as early as 20 years ago) for those incredibly juicy and sweet Golden Apples from Himachal. Today I'm hard pressed to find them. Instead I can easily settle for pretty, waxy and tasteless imported green and red apples. Eat an apple pie made from golden apples, and a whole generation may rethink the apple (edible) completely.

17. Gulkand: A stalwart of the pan shop, gulkand in all its rosy and sweet avatar can be an amazing ingredient. It's mellow yet lucid on the palate. Try it with cheesecake or with nuts and honey on warm almond cookies.

Simple summer Salad

The best way to stay cool during this hot season is by altering your diet to some light eating that will not increase the heat in your body

While most of India is welcoming the monsoons, namma Chennai still is still battling with the summer sun, which is at its hottest best this year. What we eat makes a major factor when it comes to ensuring how cool we stay during the season. Experts tell Chennai Times how to beat the heat by altering our menu for a few weeks.

Dietician Sangeetha S says, "Summer time is when many people tend to fall sick. Directly or indirectly, a major factor to this is what we eat. We should know what we eat and its direct effects on the body. For instance, during summers, we should avoid spicy food, as well as food that can cause a lot of body heat. These can tend to have adverse effects on one's body."

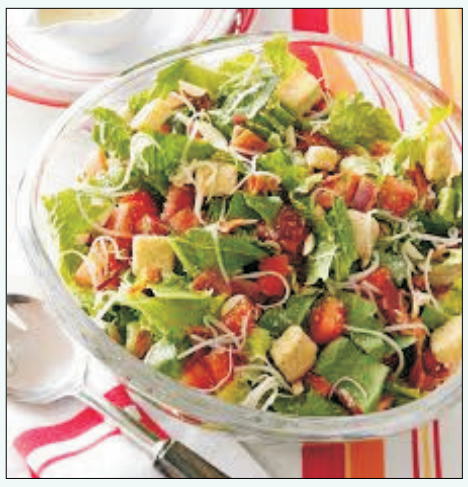
Nutritionists and dieticians say that salads can be the best way for one to stay cool and fit during the summers. "A lot of the people cannot do away with meats or want to have their favourite paneer or mushrooms in their meals. Salads can be made with seafood, chicken, cheese or mushroom, with light dressing, without the food seeming boring. Lighter and more frequent meals, with less oil and spices is the key mantra to keeping one's body cooler during the summers," says Jyothi P, dietician.

Summer vegetables and fruits like cucumbers, greens and melons are the ideal ingredients for salads. Fruit and vegetable juices can work as great supplements to your meals. For instance, cucumber juice with fresh mint and lime not just works as a rehydrating source but also helps in weight loss.

Simple summer salad recipe

Ingredients:

Carrot - 3
Radish - 3
Beetroot - 1
Cucumber 1
Tomato - 1
Onion - 1
Cheese - 100 grams
Olive oil - 1 tsp
Sugar - 1 tsp



Salt - to taste
Lemon juice - 3 tbl sp
Pepper - to taste

Method:

Grate the carrot, radish, beetroot and cucumber. Cut the tomato and onion finely. Mix the vegetables. Add grated cheese, preferably cheddar or mozzarella. Keep this mix inside the fridge and let it cool. Mix sugar and salt in the lemon juice. Sprinkle this on top of the vegetables. Add a dash of olive oil and sugar to suit your taste before you serve.

Law student arrested with pistol after road rage murder in Delhi's Seelampur area

Delhi.(Agency)

A 27-year-old law student was arrested for allegedly shooting dead a man following a minor traffic collision in northeast Delhi's Seelampur area on October 14, police said on Wednesday. The incident took place in Gautampuri, where Waseem, a Seelampur resident, was shot during a scuffle. He was taken to JPC Hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.The accused, Mohammad Ghazi alias Ghazi Abbas, a resident of Brahmpuri, was arrested following a tip-off. A trap was laid in Mayur Vihar Phase-3 on Sunday night, where police intercepted him while he was allegedly on his way to meet an associate, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Narra Chaitanya said.

Police recovered a semi-automatic pistol and four live cartridges from him. Ghazi, who hails from Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr district, is pursuing an LLB degree in Meerut.

Police said a minor traffic collision involving a car led to a violent altercation, during which Waseem was shot dead at close range. Ghazi was earlier arrested in a 2021 murder case registered at Jafrabad police station and spent around three years in Mandoli Jail. Police said he subsequently became involved in criminal activities and associated with local offenders.

Further investigation is underway to uncover the illegal arms supply network and apprehend the remaining co-accused, police added.

If you're a good politician, you have to be an actor: Tavleen Singh

Delhi.(Agency)

Who is Guruji modelled on? Tavleen Singh, veteran journalist and Indian Express columnist, sidestepped the question through much of the launch of her debut novel, The Actor, at the India International Centre on Wednesday evening.In the book, Guruji is a ruthless theocrat who rules a near-future India as its four-time Prime Minister. Singh was in discussion with Najeeb Jung, former Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

Asked if Guruji was modelled on Prime Minister Modi, Singh disagreed. Guruji, she said, was "a kind of warning" of where India ends up "if we continue to have a society that becomes less and less liberal and less and less pluralistic."

She did, however, name other inspirations. Naresh Khanna, the MP who lures a fading Bollywood star into a new secular party, is "very loosely modelled" on Prashant Kishor, founder of Bihar's Jan Suraaj party. "Prashant Kishor is the only politician I have known in my lifetime, and I've covered politics for 50 years, who has actually done the hard work," she said, pointing to his two years travelling through Bihar's villages telling voters to stop voting on caste. "Which is why I support him."

But Kishor, Jung said, lacked Naresh's "solid principles". He offered former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi or his son Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, as more natural models, which drew Singh's retort that dynastic politics began when former prime minister Indira Gandhi handed her younger son Sanjay "not just the Congress party" but the country. "When politicians bring their children into politics," she said, "what they're doing is starting a business. It's not public service."The actor of the title is Amit Singh, a superstar on the slide after three flops, whom Naresh recruits as the party's face. The author said she had Amitabh Bachchan, Vinod Khanna and Rajesh Khanna in mind, all stars turned politicians. While researching the book, she had breakfast with lyricist and screenwriter Javed Akhtar, who told her that a real superstar would never have gone into politics.The two worlds, she argued, draw the same kind of person. "If you're a good politician, you have to be an actor," she said. Some of the most decent men lost out for want of that gift; former prime minister Manmohan Singh "was a bad speaker".Jung steered the conversation to the treatment of Muslims, describing a "deliberate, conscious effort" over the past 12 years to make them feel like "second-class citizens". "That's what the book is about," Singh replied.

BJP targets Cong, AAP after Delhi HC calls CJP duo 'not Gen Z'

Delhi.(Agency)

The BJP attacked the Congress and the AAP after a Delhi HC questioned whether CJP associates Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, arrested in an alleged illegal trespassing case at Jantar Mantar, were themselves members of Gen Z. BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari alleged that the Congress and AAP's "B-team" had been exposed in court, claiming their intention was to create chaos in the country.In a post on X, he said the court had questioned whether those claiming to represent the youth were themselves Gen Z. He also alleged that some protesters had attempted to cross barricades despite restrictions at Jantar Mantar, arguing that the protest was aimed at creating anarchy rather than being democratic and peaceful. Bhandari demanded an apology from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, alleging that the protest was neither democratic nor peaceful. He claimed its objective was to create unrest and said both leaders should apologise to the country's youth and its agencies. Separately, BJP MP and national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi accused certain forces within India and abroad of working together to destabilise the country. Without naming individuals or organisations, he alleged that they were pursuing a "regime change" agenda through political upheaval, violent conflict and conspiracies.



Trivedi also criticised the Opposition's repeated questioning of institutions, citing the LIC, HAL, SBI, SEBI, vaccines, EVMs and electoral rolls as examples. He alleged that the Opposition's demands were not genuine and urged citizens, particularly the youth, to remain vigilant against attempts to undermine India's stability.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address at a Vijayadashami event on Tuesday, Trivedi said the PM had cautioned against elements seeking to divide society and promote hatred towards Indian culture and religion. He accused the Opposition of spreading misleading narratives about institutions and attempting to sow division for political power.

Bhandari also targeted Gandhi over his reported vacation in Vietnam and Kejriwal over his silence following the court's observations. He alleged that both leaders had remained silent because the youth had seen their "anarchist mindset" exposed in court.

- **BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari alleged that the Congress and AAP's "B-team" had been exposed in court, claiming their intention was to create chaos in the country.**

Delhi Waqf Board seeks restoration of water, power at Race Course mosque

Delhi.(Agency)

Thirteen days after demolition and removal activities began around the Race Course mosque in New Delhi, the Delhi Waqf Board has written to the Land and Development Office (L&DO) and the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), seeking restoration of its electricity and water connections.In letters dated October 19 and 21, the board's Chief Executive Officer, Tanvir Ahmad, urged the authorities to restore the utilities to facilitate five daily prayers. The correspondence comes four days after the mosque's imam alleged that officials claiming to represent the L&DO had directed him to vacate the premises within



three days, warning that the mosque would subsequently be removed.He also alleged that the connections were disconnected during demolition and removal activities in the surrounding area on October 7. In its letter to the L&DO, the board said the Masjid and Qabristan Race Course, spread over two bighas, was notified as a Waqf property in the Delhi Administration's Official Gazette on September 8, 1977.The mosque is under the board's direct management. In its letter to the NDMC chairman, the board said the mosque was not subject to any court case, according to available information. It cited records showing a lawful electricity connection since 1976 and sought restoration of both utilities.

Atal Awasiya Vidyalaya: How girls can access free residential education in UP

Delhi.(Agency)

The Uttar Pradesh government's Atal Awasiya Vidyalaya scheme aims to provide free residential education to eligible children from specified beneficiary categories, including girls from families of registered construction workers and children orphaned during the COVID-19 pandemic who meet the prescribed conditions.The scheme is designed to help children from economically vulnerable backgrounds access quality education in a residential school environment. Admission is subject to eligibility requirements, an entrance examination and verification of documents.

Who can apply for admission?

Girls can apply for admission to Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas if they meet the eligibility criteria specified in the admission notification for the relevant academic year.The principal eligible categories include children of construction workers registered with the Uttar Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, subject to the prescribed registration and membership conditions. Eligible children orphaned during the COVID-19 pandemic may also qualify under applicable provisions, including those covered by the Mukhyamantri Bal Seva Yojana.

According to the Uttar Pradesh government's admission guidelines for the 2026–27 academic session, admissions were offered to Classes 6 and 9 through an entrance examination.For that admission cycle, registered construction workers were required to have completed at least three years of Board membership as of November 30, 2025. The guidelines also limited eligibility to a maximum of two children per family. These conditions apply to the 2026–27 admission cycle. Parents and guardians planning to apply in a subsequent academic year should check the latest notification for updated eligibility requirements.



Admission through an entrance examination

Admission to Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas is based on a selection examination. The subjects and assessment pattern vary according to the class for which admission is sought.For Class 6, the entrance examination covers mental ability, arithmetic and language. For Class 9, the examination covers Hindi, English, mathematics and science. The published 2026–27 guidelines provided for the examination to be conducted in Hindi or English. Applicants must complete the prescribed application process and submit the necessary documents. Selection in the entrance examination is provisional and does not automatically guarantee admission. Original documents must be presented for verification before admission is confirmed.Parents should carefully review the relevant admission notification for details of the examination, application procedure, age limits, deadlines and documents required.

What does the scheme offer?

Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas are intended to provide eligible children with schooling alongside residential facilities. The scheme seeks to reduce barriers to education for children from specified beneficiary groups, particularly those whose families may face financial or other challenges.

Delhi Police Crime Branch summons CJP leaders Saurav Das, Ashutosh Ranka to Rajouri Garden office

Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi Police Crime Branch has summoned Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, asking them to appear at its Rajouri Garden office at 12 pm on Thursday.The development comes a day after a Special Executive Magistrate (SEM) court ordered their release from judicial custody after accepting their personal and surety bonds and taking written undertakings from them to maintain peace and abide by the law.SEM Ritu Raj directed the two leaders to furnish personal



and surety bonds of Rs 50,000 each until the conclusion of the enquiry. The court also directed them to appear on every hearing date and comply with the conditions specified in their bonds and undertakings.In their written undertakings, Das and Ranka promised not to breach peace or disturb public tranquillity. They also undertook not to call for protests at Jantar Mantar until the site is denotified in accordance with the law, and said any future protests would be conducted within the constitutional framework."Further judicial custody does not appear to be necessary at this stage, particularly after written undertakings before this Court," the SEM court observed while ordering their release.The court directed the investigating officer to submit a verification report regarding the sureties at the next hearing. The matter has been listed for further proceedings on October 23 at 3 pm, with the two leaders and their sureties directed to remain present.

Earlier, Delhi Police had sought a further three-day extension of their judicial custody, arguing that the apprehension of a breach of peace and law and order persisted. Police also cited alleged differences between statements made by the leaders before the court and their subsequent remarks to the media. During the hearing, counsel for the two leaders tendered an unconditional apology to the court over the conduct cited by the police and assured that it would not be repeated.

Das and Ranka were detained in connection with an October 13 protest at Jantar Mantar, which had been denotified as a designated protest site. The police had alleged that they entered the area through private premises and violated conditions relating to maintaining peace. The SEM court has clarified that the enquiry in the matter will continue in accordance with the law.

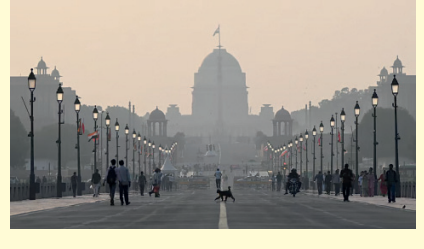
Delhi Environment Min Sirsa lists steps to curb pollution

- **The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation will operate 20 additional train trips on weekdays from Thursday, to encourage public transport use following GRAP-I implementation.**

Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi implemented Stage I of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) later this year than in previous years, Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said on Wednesday, attributing the delay to the Rekha Gupta-led government's preventive measures and public participation in tackling winter air pollution.The Commission for Air Quality Management on Wednesday invoked Stage I of GRAP across Delhi-NCR with immediate effect. Sirsa said Delhi had gone longer than usual without GRAP restrictions this year. The government was implementing short- and long-term measures under its 11-point air pollution mitigation plan, involving nearly 30 agencies working together to tackle pollution.Long-term measures include eliminating road dust through end-to-end road carpeting, promoting electric vehicles and phasing out polluting fuel-based industries across Delhi-NCR, Sirsa said. As part of winter pollution-control measures, the government will enforce the 'No PUCC, No Fuel' rule from November 1, denying fuel to vehicles without a valid Pollution Under Control Certificate. Enforcement against end-of-life vehicles will also be strengthened. From November 1 to January 31, vehicles registered outside Delhi that do not meet BS-VI emission standards will be barred from entering the city, with exemptions for CNG and electric vehicles.To reduce vehicular emissions and peak-hour congestion, 50% of employees in government and private offices will work from home, while office timings will be staggered. Municipal Corporation of Delhi offices will function from 8.30 am to 5 pm, while Delhi government offices will operate from 10 am to 6.30 pm.

Parking charges at authorised parking facilities will be doubled from November 1, with Metro parking facilities



exempted, to encourage greater use of public transport.The government will prohibit dust-generating demolition and outdoor civil construction activities from November 1 to January 31. A complete ban on construction and demolition activities will be imposed from December 10 to January 20.Meanwhile, CPCB data at 4 pm on Wednesday showed Noida recorded an AQI of 249, followed by Manesar at 244, Ghaziabad and Meerut at 223 each, Gurugram and Ballabgarh.

Rupee falls 12 paise to 94.50 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The rupee depreciated 12 paise to 94.50 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday, weighed down by weak domestic markets and elevated crude oil prices.Ads by Tapmind According to forex analysts, the rupee began trading on a flat-to-lower trajectory due to sluggish domestic equities and surging crude oil prices. However, the downside remained cushioned by a softer US dollar and declining US Treasury yields. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.47, then lost ground to touch 94.50, lower by 12 paise over its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee surged 53 paise to close at 94.38 against the US dollar.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on IPO related foreign inflows and weakness in the dollar. Softening of US treasury yields and reports that Russia is ready for new peace talks may also support the rupee," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset Sharekhan. Choudhary further added that traders may take cues from weekly unemployment claims data from the US.

Can You Handle A Financial Emergency Check Your Readiness In 3 Steps

New Delhi.(Ajency)

A medical emergency, sudden job loss or an unexpected expense can put a household's finances under pressure. Even people with insurance and investments may struggle if they do not have enough money readily available to meet immediate needs.

For households, the bigger question is whether their finances can withstand an unexpected shock without forcing them to borrow money, sell investments or compromise on essential expenses.Ram Patrudu, Co-Founder of Trovity, a digital insurance broking platform, told NDTV that the importance of checking financial preparedness goes beyond simply counting insurance policies or investments.He pointed out that India's insurance market is growing, but having a policy does not automatically mean a family is financially secure. In FY25, insurers collected Rs 11.93 lakh crore in premiums and paid Rs 8.36 lakh crore in claims.

Tesla-SpaceX Deal Could Add $110 Billion To Elon Musk's Wealth

New Delhi.(Ajency)

Elon Musk made headlines on SpaceX's earnings call yesterday when he confirmed that it and Tesla Inc. had formed special committees to explore a potential merger. "We are pretty much in the super-intelligence singularity," said Musk. "There's a lot to be gained from cooperating."

Depending on the details of a merger, there could also be a lot to gain for Musk.A tie-up could add more than $110 billion to his fortune by accelerating the vesting of Tesla shares that otherwise wouldn't vest until 2028, according to calculations by the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. And depending on Tesla's valuation in a deal, it could unlock billions more from Musk's 2025 compensation package without Tesla having to meet the operating milestones that would otherwise be required to trigger the payout. Tesla and SpaceX didn't reply to requests for comment. Musk's fortune soared by more than $60 billion Wednesday after shares of both companies rose on news of the merger discussions and strong quarterly earnings from SpaceX.

Brent Crude crosses $111 as Saudi attacks fuel oil supply fears

At the time of writing, Brent Crude was trading at $111.63 a barrel, up 2.58%. WTI prices also remained elevated, adding to concerns over the impact of supply disruptions on global markets.



New Delhi.(Agency)

Crude oil prices rose sharply on Thursday as deadly attacks in Saudi Arabia and rising tensions in the Middle East added to concerns about global oil supplies. Brent Crude climbed to around $111 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude moved towards $99.At the time of writing, Brent Crude was trading at $111.63 a barrel, up 2.58%. WTI prices also remained elevated, adding to concerns over the impact of supply disruptions on global markets.

ATTACKS IN SAUDI ARABIA PUSH OIL PRICES HIGHER

The rise in crude oil prices followed a series of attacks in Saudi Arabia. Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group struck several targets on Wednesday, killing at least one person and injuring eight others at a civilian airport in Dammam, reported Reuters.

Two more people were killed in a drone attack on a Saudi oil field, adding to concerns about the security of energy infrastructure in the region.The US State Department is also planning to withdraw family members from several other US diplomatic missions in the region, US officials told Reuters.

Meanwhile, Iranian media reported explosions in Sirik in southern Iran on Wednesday. The nature and origin of the explosions remained unknown.

STRAIT OF HORMUZ TENSIONS ADD TO SUPPLY CONCERNS

Tensions around the Strait of Hormuz have also added to uncertainty in the global oil market.Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy said on Thursday that four vessels involved in illegal oil transfers in the northern Persian Gulf were hit simultaneously and caught fire after being tracked by its forces on Wednesday.

The IRGC also said three other vessels had struck mines west of the Strait of Hormuz. It warned the US military that continued provocations could lead to a wider response against its regional bases.The developments have raised concerns about further disruptions to oil shipments through a key route for global energy supplies.

SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS KEEP PRESSURE ON CRUDE OIL

Global oil inventories continue to face pressure from supply disruptions, keeping crude prices elevated.With attacks on energy infrastructure and tensions involving Iran, Saudi Arabia and the US continuing to threaten supply routes, traders are watching developments in the region closely.

Any further disruption to oil production or shipments could add to the pressure on crude prices, which have already climbed amid concerns over the availability of global supplies.

Top NBFCs flag early signs of stress in India's fast-growing gold loan market

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's gold loan market has grown rapidly over the past year, with banks and non-bank lenders stepping up lending against gold jewellery. However, two major non-bank lenders, Bajaj Finance and Piramal Finance, have flagged early signs of stress in this fast-growing segment, reported Reuters. While the level of overdue loans remains low, both lenders have pointed to risks that need to be tracked as gold-backed borrowing continues to rise.controls and consistent profitability.

GOLD LOANS SEE SHARP GROWTH

Loans against gold have emerged as one of the fastest-growing lending segments in India over the past year.Bank loans against gold rose 83% year-on-year to Rs 5.6 trillion in August 2026, according to the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data. For non-bank lenders, gold loans increased 69% to Rs 3.6 trillion during the same period, separate RBI data



showed.Banks and non-bank financial companies have stepped up lending against g d holdings as they consider such loar more secure.However, the rapid growth has also raised concerns about the repayment capacity of some borrowers.

BAJAJ FINANCE FLAGS OVERDUE GOLD LOANS

Bajaj Finance, which has a gold loan portfolio worth Rs 24,000 crore, reported an increase in the share of loans overdue by more than 30 days in its July-September quarterly results.The lender said its overall assets classified under Stage 2 and Stage 3, which reflect loans with signs of stress, rose by 15 basis points compared with the previous quarter.A significant part of this increase came from short-term gold loans, Bajaj Finance said. The company has now stopped offering these loans.

The lender reported a nearly 30% year-on-year increase in consolidated profit after tax. However, its shares were trading 3.2% lower at Rs 926.80 on Wednesday at 12.40 pm, while the benchmark Nifty 50 index was down 0.6%.

Apple's two-iPhone purchase limit is a long-standing practice

New Delhi.(Ajency)

Apple's limit of two iPhones per customer is a long-standing practice and not a new restriction introduced ahead of the October 23 retail launch of its first foldable smartphone, the iPhone Duo.

The purchase limit has drawn attention after reports highlighted the restriction on Apple's online store in India. The cap applies across the company's iPhone lineup, including the iPhone Duo, iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max, as well as other models.

Under the limit, customers can order two units of the same model or choose



two different iPhones. However, they cannot add a third iPhone to their shopping bag.According to mobile phone retailers, the purchase limit has been in practice last years too and should not be seen as a new measure linked to the launch of the iPhone Duo.

The timing has drawn attention because the iPhone Duo marks Apple's entry into the foldable smartphone segment.

The company is set to begin retail sales of the device in India on October 23.

The iPhone Duo starts at Rs 2,99,900 in India for the 256GB variant, while the top-end version is priced at Rs 4,49,900.

Jio IPO rush continues on Day 2 as retail investors fully subscribe

New Delhi.(Agency)

Mukesh Ambani's Jio Platforms IPO continued to attract strong investor interest on Thursday, the second day of bidding. The $3.2 billion public issue received bids for 3.64 times the shares on offer, while the portion reserved for retail investors was fully subscribed.

The IPO is set to become India's largest public offering and marks Reliance's first IPO in 20 years. It is also a key part of Ambani's plan to expand Reliance Industries beyond its traditional oil and chemicals business into consumer, retail and technology services, Reuters reported.

INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS LEAD JIO IPO DEMAND

Institutional investors have been driving demand for the Jio Platforms IPO. Data from stock exchanges showed that qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) bid for 9.42 times the shares reserved for them, reported Reuters.Retail investors, who have around one-third of the issue reserved for them, fully subscribed to their portion within the first two hours of bidding on Thursday.The IPO has also drawn strong interest from retail investors because of the Reliance brand, which has a long-standing presence in Indian households. An analyst tracking the issue said the demand reflects the trust investors place in Reliance, extending beyond Jio Platforms' telecom business.Reliance shares have been a long-term investment for many Indian families, with the company's Mumbai-listed stock rising around 330-fold since 1990.Announcing the Jio listing in June, Ambani described it as "a deeply emotional moment for me, for the entire Reliance Family, and millions of its shareholders"

JIO IPO GETS STRONG RESPONSE ON DAY 1

The public issue received a strong response on its opening day as well. The overall offering was subscribed within 90 minutes of the start of bidding, with institutional investors taking up their reserved portion within minutes.Such a quick response is unusual for an IPO of this size in India, where investors often place most of their bids in the final hours of an

Sensex, Nifty decline in early trade as power, metal stocks drag markets lower

Mumbai . (Agency)

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early trade on Thursday, dragged down by selling in power and metal stocks amid a broad sell-off across Asian markets.

Besides, elevated crude oil prices and firm US bond yields weighed on investors' sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex plunged 678.90 points, or 0.92 per cent, to 73,030.79 in the morning trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty



declined 250.90 points, or 1.10 per cent, to 22,568.10.Among the Sensex constituents, PowerGrid, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Maruti Suzuki India, Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, HDFC Bank, Asian Paints, Adani Ports, NTPC, Trent, Bajaj Finserv, IndiGo and Hindustan Unilever were the major laggards.

Eternal, however, rose over 2 per cent after the parent entity of Zomato and Blinkit, on Wednesday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 125 crore for the September quarter, nearly doubling from Rs 65 crore a year ago, on robust revenue growth.

Bharti Airtel, Infosys and HCL Technologies also traded higher."The recent market trend has been the outperformance of large-caps relative to mid-and small-caps. The broader market resilience in recent months has been more a function of liquidity than earnings," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Ltd.He added that the latest September AMFI data also reveals this trend of increasing preference for mid-and small-caps over large-caps. This has created a paradox of overvalued mid and small caps, particularly the latter, coexisting with attractively valued large-caps."This paradox cannot continue for long and will get corrected. It appears that this is happening now. This trend is likely to sustain," Vijayakumar added.Asian markets were sharply lower, with South Korea's Kospi declining 3.12 per cent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng benchmark falling 3 per cent, Japan's Nikkei 225 index losing 1.94 per cent and Shanghai's SSE Composite Index slipping nearly 1 per cent.US markets ended higher in overnight deals on Wednesday.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose nearly 2 per cent to USD 110.68 per barrel.

"Strong external headwinds in the form of elevated crude prices and high US bond yields are emboldening bears to build short positions in the market. This is the reason why the market is declining even on days of positive institutional- FII and DII- buying, like Wednesday," Vijayakumar said.

HDFC Bank shares fall 2% as lender begins probe into alleged internal data leak

New Delhi.(Ajency)

Shares of HDFC Bank fell around 2% on Thursday after a report said the private sector lender had launched an internal investigation into suspected leaks of confidential business information to social media and other outsiders.

The investigation comes as the country's largest private sector lender seeks to strengthen internal controls and restore confidence in its governance practices amid a series of controversies, reported The Economic Times.HDFC Bank shares were trading around 2% lower in morning trade. The stock's decline came as investors assessed the report about the internal probe, which includes scrutiny of email communications involving some senior management personnel.

The bank is examining suspected leaks of internal information relating to regulatory action involving its Dubai operations, fee payments linked to the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), disagreements among senior executives, and differences between outgoing CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan and former chairman Atanu Chakraborty.The review aims to establish how sensitive internal records entered the public domain and whether employees breached confidentiality obligations or the bank's code of conduct.

HDFC Bank has separately confirmed that an internal review is underway into potential violations of its code of conduct and governance standards, following allegations that two senior executives shared confidential business information with outsiders."We take any report of potential violations seriously. In line with our policies, an internal review into this matter is currently underway to gather and evalute all relevant facts," the bank said.The investigation adds to the governance-related issues facing the lender as it prepares for a leadership transition. However, the allegations



remain under investigation, and the bank has not publicly established whether any employee breached its rules.The immediate market reaction puts the spotlight on governance and internal controls at one of India's largest private sector banks. Any concerns around the handling of confidential information could draw investor attention to the bank's oversight mechanisms and accountability standards.

However, a fall in the share price does not by itself establish the financial impact of the investigation.

NH-65 chokes as holiday traffic heads to Hyderabad

NALGONDA.(Agency)

With Dasara holidays ending, thousands of people from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana headed back to Hyderabad on Wednesday evening, triggering severe traffic congestion on National Highway 65 (NH-65). Ongoing flyover and overbridge construction at Choutuppal and Chityala, coupled with narrow service roads, worsened the rush, leaving vehicles stranded for kilometres.

The situation was particularly grim near Dandu Malkapur in Choutuppal mandal of Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district, where commuters said they were spending an additional 90 minutes to cross the stretch during peak hours.

In Chityala town, the main road has been closed for overbridge construction, forcing motorists onto narrow service roads. Commuters said crossing the town alone took more than half an hour. A vehicle breakdown or even a small vehicle stopping on the service road could bring traffic to a standstill for kilometres.

'Up to 66 per cent of Telangana farmers using HTBt cotton seeds': Study

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

The unchecked unauthorised cultivation of herbicide-tolerant Bt (HTBt) cotton has prompted seed companies to call for the technology's immediate legalisation. But experts caution that any move to regularise its use must be preceded by mandatory studies assessing its benefits, risks and long-term implications.

A study titled Unauthorised Cultivation of HTBt Cotton in India: Extent, Drivers & Implications, conducted by the South Asia Biotechnology Centre (SABC) with support from the Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) and the National Seed Association of India (NSAI), found that 66% of farmers in Telangana were using the seeds. The spread of HTBt cotton is also driving glyphosate use, as the herbicide controls weeds without harming cotton plants engineered to tolerate it.

The study found that 98.2% of field samples contained at least one genetically modified (GM) trait. Some 72.7% tested positive for CP4EPSPS, the protein conferring glyphosate tolerance, while 53.7% contained Vip3A, a next-generation insecticidal protein that has never been approved.

Odisha Chief secretary stresses scientific waste processing during meet on solid waste management

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

Chief secretary Anu Garg on Wednesday directed the departments concerned and the district collectors to ensure completion of compliance related tasks fixed by the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) for implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules-2026.

Presiding over the first meeting of the state committee constituted in this regard, Garg called for collective responsibility of citizens, educational institutions, research bodies and all stakeholders to create a clean and healthy environment. The meeting held detailed discussions on various provisions of the Rules, compliance with the directives of the Supreme Court, departmental responsibilities and future action plan. Member secretary of the OSPCB, MV Nair made a presentation on various aspects of the Solid Waste Management Rules-2026.

The meeting discussed source-level segregation of waste, scientific processing, digital monitoring system and accountability of all stakeholders, along with collection and disposal of solid waste. Besides, the status of waste management in urban and rural areas of the state was reviewed.

Hunting trip gone wrong? Man's death at Mumbai national park, where poaching remains a threat

- A man shot after being mistaken for a boar exposes the poaching problem in Mumbai's sprawling national park.

Mumbai.(Agency)

In a metropolis where roads, housing colonies, and expanding settlements increasingly hem in wildlife, hunting may seem unlikely to persist. Yet inside Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), wild boars, deer, and hares continue to be hunted for their meat and hide, while forest officials struggle to monitor the park's vast, difficult terrain.

The death of 60-year-old Vijay Sukharu Sapte, a civic worker from Mira Bhayandar who was allegedly mistaken for a wild boar and shot inside the park on October 20, has brought this little-seen problem into focus. A preliminary forest department investigation found his body around 450 metres inside the forest. Officials also suspect that Sapte may



have been part of the group of hunters involved in the shooting. The incident is not an isolated one. In March this year, forest officials found that macaques were being shot with bows and arrows in Thane's Upvan area. In 2019, carcasses of deer and leopards were found in separate incidents inside SGNP. The following year, the forest department launched an anti-snare drive after traps set for wild animals were discovered at multiple locations.

Demand for wild animal meat

Forest officials said demand for wild animal meat in illegal markets remained a key driver for hunting wild boars, deer and hares, among others. Pawan Sharma, honorary wildlife warden of Mumbai and director of the Resqink Association for Wildlife Welfare (RAWW), said these animals were preferred because they were relatively easy to hunt. "These animals are easy to spot and hunt. They don't attack you back and they also have a thick density. Therefore, poachers prefer hunting them considering these kinds of animals are easy targets," Sharma told The Indian Express. He added that such incidents were rare in Mumbai compared with the interior parts of Maharashtra. Forest officials said the October 20 shooting took place near the Yeoor Hills range towards Thane, adjoining a creek. The location was significant because animals often approach water sources to drink, making them easier to track, officials said. Hunting protected wild animals is prohibited under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. However, Sharma said the discovery of several live animal traps, or snares, at different locations inside SGNP in 2020 and 2021 had prompted an anti-snare drive. While the measures had reduced the problem, poaching continued. "Most of the time poachers kill these animals like boars and deer for their meat as there is a huge demand in the black market. Some poachers may also preserve their skeleton remains as a trophy," Sharma said.

Mumbai turns to treated sewage water to wash roads amid rising pollution, water cuts

With rising pollutant level and water cuts, the Mumbai civic body is planning to wash 677 km of roads with treated sewage water

Mumbai.(Agency)

A week after the civic standing committee stalled a proposal to wash Mumbai's roads to curb dust pollution, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is considering using treated sewage water from its sewage treatment plants (STPs) for the exercise. Currently, the BMC has only one operational STP, in Colaba, with a capacity to treat 37 million litres per day (MLD). This accounts for just 1.68 per cent of the 2,190 MLD of sewage generated in Mumbai daily.



Last week, the BMC had tabled a Rs 8.13-crore proposal before the civic standing committee to carry out round-the-clock water sprinkling on roads. The exercise helps trap dust particles on road surfaces, preventing them from becoming airborne and lingering in the lower atmosphere.

The drive is undertaken annually. However, Mumbai is currently facing a water shortage, with a 10 per cent cut in supply following deficient monsoon rainfall and the early withdrawal of the southwest monsoon. The civic standing committee stalled the proposal, calling the use of water on roads "insensitive".

With several pockets of the city recording unhealthy and poor air quality in recent weeks, civic officials are now considering treated sewage water as an alternative for road washing. The BMC's Mumbai Air Pollution Mitigation Plan (MAPMP) identifies the resuspension of road dust as a major contributor to worsening air pollution in the city. "A quantity of water for cleaning the roads will be drawn from the Colaba STP. The treated water from this STP is not being used for any potable purpose and is supplied to the garden and roads department and private stakeholders for landscaping. Therefore, it will be absolutely feasible to use STP water for road washing," a civic official told.

The BMC also plans to hire private tankers for the exercise. Around 29 tankers, each with a capacity of 10,000 litres, are expected to be deployed. With the average hiring cost at Rs 5,000 per tanker, the civic body will spend around Rs 1.45 lakh daily, or Rs 1.74 crore to Rs 2.17 crore over a four-to-five-month drive. The BMC is constructing seven large STPs in Worli, Dharavi, Bandra, Versova, Malad, Ghatkopar and Bhandup, with a combined treatment capacity of 1,200 MLD. Of these, the Bhandup facility is expected to be ready by December this year. Once operational, the plant, with a capacity of 215 MLD, is expected to supply treated water for road washing, officials said.

"Road washing is a primary aspect of controlling pollution levels. Therefore, the drive will be necessary. Mumbai is already facing low wind speeds and high pollution levels, so water sprinkling needs to be carried out regularly," the official said. The BMC plans to wash and sprinkle water on 377 public roads spanning 677 km, accounting for 33 per cent of the city's total road length. These roads pass through areas including Colaba, Churchgate, Worli, Lower Parel, Andheri, Ghatkopar, Mankhurd, Deonar, Mulund, and Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), several of which have recorded elevated AQI levels in recent days.

Polling for first phase of panchayat elections underway in Rajasthan

JAIPUR.(Agency)

Voting began at 7 am on Thursday for the first phase of the Panchayati Raj elections in Rajasthan. Sixteen zila parishads and 104 panchayat samitis are going to polls in the first phase. More than 85 lakh voters are eligible to elect the members of the zila parishads and panchayat samitis. The elections are being held in three phases for a total of 41 zila parishads and 457 panchayat samitis, besides elections for panches and sarpanches in 14,403 gram panchayats.

A total of 6,976 candidates are in the fray for 2,081 seats in the first phase, comprising 293 zila parishad wards and 1,788 panchayat samiti wards. A total of 85,07,306 voters are eligible to exercise their franchise in the first phase of polling. The elections are being held in Ajmer, Alwar, Barmer, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Dungarpur, Jaipur, Jhalawar, Jodhpur, Kota, Nagaur, Pali, Phalodi, Rajsamand, Sirohi and Udaipur districts. For the 293 zila parishad seats, 1,693 candidates are contesting, while 5,283 candidates are in the fray for the 1,788 panchayat samiti seats. Among the zila parishads, Bhilwara has the highest number of wards at 28, followed by Udaipur with 25, Barmer with 24 and Jaipur with 22. Jaipur also has the highest number of candidates for zila parishad seats at 154, followed by Bikaner with 138 and Alwar and Jodhpur with 133 each. In the panchayat samiti elections, Nagaur has the highest number of candidates at 470, followed by Barmer with 467 and Bhilwara with 466. Polling for zila parishad and panchayat samiti members in the second phase is scheduled for October 28, while the third phase will be held on November 3. Elections for panches and sarpanches in the third phase are scheduled for November 5, followed by indirect elections for up-sarpanches on November 6.



Great Indian Bustard chick killed by fox days after release in Rajasthan; rewilding programme on hold

JAIPUR.(Agency)

JAIPUR: A six-month-old male Great Indian Bustard (GIB) was killed by a fox just four days after being released into the wild at Desert National Park in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district on October 14. The bird was part of a government rewilding programme under which 11 captive-bred Great Indian Bustards were to be released into the wild.

After this incident, the release of seven more captive-bred GIBs into the wild has been put on hold. The killing of the six-month-old GIB chick has also prompted a review of safety measures and protocols under the pilot rewilding programme. The chick was among two male birds released on October 14. It was killed near a natural waterhole in the Sam area justy four days after entering the wild. According to forest officials, a fox hiding in bushes attacked the GIB chick while it was drinking water at a pond on Sunday.

Scientists and forest personnel monitoring its movements from the control room at the GIB breeding centre in Sam were alerted through its satellite tracking device.

Besides being the State Bird of Rajasthan, the Great Indian Bustard has received legal protection under Schedule I of India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and Appendix I of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

Hyderabad's water clock is ticking

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

Greater Hyderabad could face drinking water restrictions, with the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) considering a shift from alternate-day supplies to once every three days if reservoir levels fall further. The monsoon has ended, but reservoirs are depleted, groundwater reserves are under pressure and daily tanker bookings have surged to 6,000–7,000. Officials warn that the current position may be sustainable for only another two to three months without substantial improvement in inflows. The government and Water Board are preparing contingency measures to protect drinking water supplies ahead of summer.

Reservoir levels critically low

Singur, with a storage capacity of 29.917 tmcft, currently holds just over 3 tmcft, against more than 16 tmcft at the corresponding time last year. Manjira's storage has fallen to around 0.250 tmcft against its capacity of 1.500 tmcft. Nagarjunasagar holds around 188 tmcft against its full capacity of 312 tmcft, compared with approximately 310 tmcft last year. The decline has raised concerns about sustaining supplies through the coming months. Northern and western parts of Hyderabad could be particularly vulnerable because of their dependence on Singur and Manjira. Further depletion could necessitate restricted supplies and emergency pumping arrangements. The city's drinking water comes from several sources, including the Krishna, Godavari, Singur, Manjira, Himayathsagar and Osmansagar systems. Maintaining supplies will depend on reservoir storage, pumping capacity and the availability of alternative sources.

Yes Bank-DHFL Case: Relief for Avinash Bhosale as Bombay HC quashes ED takeover of 2 land parcels of Rs 30 crore

Mumbai.(Agency)

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday granted relief to Pune-based developer Avinash Bhosale, setting aside the attachment of two land parcels in Pune and Nagpur by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the Yes Bank-DHFL money laundering case.

The properties, valued at Rs 14.65 crore and Rs 15.52 crore, respectively, had been attached by the ED in 2022 as part of its probe into alleged proceeds of crime received by Bhosale and entities linked to his ABIL group.

Bhosale had approached the High Court challenging an April 1 order of the Appellate Tribunal under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which had partly set aside the ED's provisional attachments but refused to interfere with the attachment of the two properties. Appearing for Bhosale, senior advocate Aabad Ponda argued against the continued attachment. The High Court found "no basis" for continuing the attachment of the properties. The properties included a 6,143-square-metre land parcel in Pune, held under the name Samit Realty and valued at Rs 14.65 crore, and a 20,200-square-foot land parcel in Nagpur, valued at Rs 15.52 crore and held in the name of his wife, Gauri Bhosale. In August 2022, the ED had attached assets linked to Bhosale and his ABIL group, including a duplex flat in Mumbai worth Rs 102.8 crore, two land parcels in Pune valued at Rs 14.65 crore and Rs 29.24 crore, respectively, and two land parcels in Nagpur valued at Rs 15.52 crore and Rs 1.45 crore, respectively.

According to the central agency, Bhosale and his entities, including Nibodh Realty LLP and ABIL Dairy, had received



alleged proceeds of crime totalling Rs 164.64 crore. "We are unable to comprehend, nor has the Special Counsel for the ED been able to explain, how official bank transaction(s) between a bank and a corporate entity, carried out in the usual course of business, could be construed as proceeds of crime and thereby constitute the offence of money laundering," the bench observed.

Holding that the ED's conclusion was "entirely baseless", the HC said amounts paid by DHFL to Bhosale under consultancy agreements before the loan was disbursed on April 12, 2018, could not be linked to proceeds of crime.

Hrithik Shokeen's long road back: A back injury, Delhi's faith and a maiden five-for

CHENNAI .(Agency)

The Delhi-Gujarat Ranji Trophy match at the Palam B ground was a long exercise in patience. Delhi piled up 648 for six declared after winning the toss, but the flat pitch made an outright result difficult. They settled for three points after bowling Gujarat out for 479 to secure a first-innings lead of 169 runs, having spent 174.1 overs in the field. Delhi enforced the follow-on in the hope of quick



breakthroughs, but with Gujarat reaching 15 for one in eight overs by the scheduled tea break, both teams agreed to call it a day.ms agreed to call it a day.Hrithik Shokeen had bowled 53 overs in Gujarat's first innings. By the time he came out to speak to reporters, the Delhi off-spinner had changed into a black T-shirt after a long spell on a surface that offered little help to the bowlers.He had five wickets to show for his effort. Shokeen finished with figures of five for 143, his first five-wicket haul in First Class cricket. For a bowler whose progress had been interrupted by a stress fracture in his lower back, it was an important moment.

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

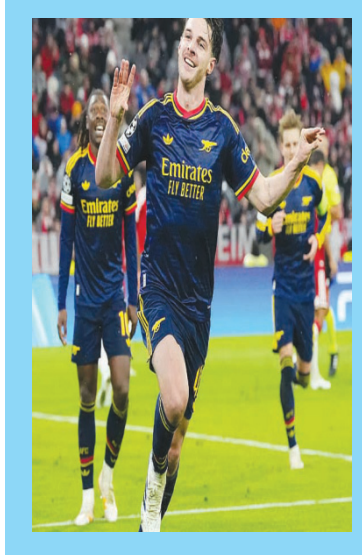
ROME.(Agency)

A goal and an assist from Harry Kane wasn't enough for Bayern Munich to beat Arsenal.

Kane's England teammate Declan Rice scored a second-half equalizer for last season's runner-up to secure a 2-2 draw at six-time winner Bayern in a matchup of two European heavyweights in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Rice traded passes with Viktor Gyokeres before finding the target eight minutes from time.

Kane converted a penalty earlier in the second half to increase his total to 16 goals in 23 career matches against Arsenal, having



scored every season against the London club from 2014-15 to 2023-24 — mostly with Tottenham.Kane also sent Alphonso Davies in on goal when Bayern responded to Eberechi Eze's opener for Arsenal.It was Kane's 10th straight Champions League match with a goal – moving within one of Cristiano Ronaldo's record of scoring in 11 consecutive games (set in 2017 and 2018)."We had some good moments, just not enough over the full 90 (minutes)," Kane said.r upper-limb impairment.

Indian para swimmer deported by Japan after sexual misconduct allegations

Indian para swimmer Mohammad Shams Aalam Shaikh has been deported by Japan following allegations of sexual misconduct at the Asian Para Games. The Paralympic Committee of India is reportedly considering a lifetime ban as further details of the complaint emerge.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Indian para swimmer Mohammad Shams Aalam Shaikh has been sent back to India after being detained by Japanese police following allegations of sexual harassment and molestation involving a female hotel employee. The incident has embarrassed India's Asian Para Games contingent in Nagoya, with the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) reportedly considering a lifetime ban against the 40-year-old swimmer.According to a source within the Indian delegation, the alleged incident took place on Monday at the hotel where the Indian para-swimming team was staying. A female housekeeping employee was reportedly carrying out her duties in Shaikh's room when the alleged misconduct occurred. The complaint was subsequently brought to the attention of the local organising committee and Indian delegation officials.

Asian Para Games 2026, October 22: UPDATES

Shaikh was detained by Japanese police following the complaint and was sent back to India on Tuesday, a day after the alleged incident. The PCI is reportedly considering disciplinary action, including a possible lifetime ban, with a formal decision expected after the Games. Shaikh was due to compete in scheduled events at the Asian Para Games but was sent home without taking part.

WHAT IS SHAIKH ALAM ACCUSED OF?



Shaikh faces allegations of sexually harassing and molesting a female hotel employee while she was carrying out housekeeping duties in his room. According to the information provided by a source within the Indian delegation, the complaint led to police intervention at the hotel.

The incident also drew the attention of the local organising committee, which informed Indian officials about the matter.The PCI is expected to review the case after the Games, with officials considering stringent disciplinary action. A lifetime ban has been proposed, but a final decision is yet to be taken.

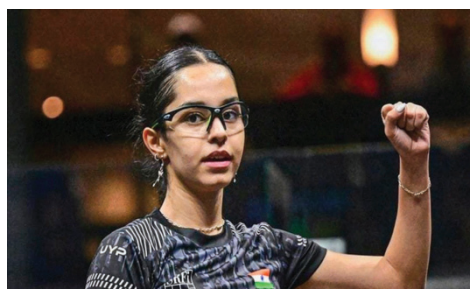
WHO IS SHAMS ALAM SHAIKH?

Mohammad Shams Aalam Shaikh, 40, is a para swimmer from Bihar who has represented India at several international competitions. He previously held the world No. 1 ranking in the men's 100m butterfly S5 and 50m breaststroke SB4 categories, according to World Para Swimming records.

Anahat Singh pulls off career-best win against 8-time world champion El Sherbini

New Delhi.(Agency)

Anahat Singh made a major statement on the professional squash circuit by knocking out eight-time world champion Nour El Sherbini at the Silicon Valley Open on Wednesday. The 18-year-old Indian beat the world No. 3 in straight games, winning 11-8, 11-8, 11-7 in just 30 minutes to reach the quarter-finals in Redwood City, California.The result was a significant breakthrough for Anahat, who faced the top-seeded Egyptian for the first time in her career. El Sherbini arrived at the USD 143,500 PSA Gold event as the favourite, but the Indian held



her own against one of the most accomplished players in the sport and wrapped up the contest without dropping a game.For Anahat, the win carried a personal significance beyond reaching the last eight. El Sherbini has been one of her inspirations, and the teenager spoke about the experience of facing a player whose career she has followed closely.

"I've grown up watching every single match of hers," Anahat said after the match. "We have the same coach, Greg, as well.""I admire her and want to achieve the things she has done in her career. She is an inspiration to all squash players," she added.

ANAHAT BACKS HERSELF AGAINST EL SHERBINI

Anahat went into the match aware of the challenge, but also convinced that she could trouble the Egyptian if she played to her potential. India's national coach, who was present at the venue, encouraged her to trust her game."Going into the match, the national coach of India was here with me and he was telling me that I definitely do have a shot, if I was playing really, really well," she said.The Indian admitted she had expected to need time to adjust to playing El Sherbini. Instead, her plan came together, allowing her to take control and finish the match in straight games.

"Just getting to share a court with her, it was my first time. I didn't expect it to go like this. I thought I'll take a little while to settle in and understand how to play her," Anahat said.

But the game plan ended up working pretty well and I just stuck through it. I still can't believe that it ended up on my side of the court," she added with a chuckle.

ANOTHER STEP IN ANAHAT'S RAPID RISE

The win builds on an impressive year for Anahat, who became world junior champion earlier in 2026. She had also beaten Nour Aboulmakarim in the opening round of the Silicon Valley Open before producing the biggest result of her professional career against El Sherbini.

Two golds in hours: Sheetal Devi scripts another golden chapter at Asian Para Games

Nagoya.(Agency)

Armless Indian archer Sheetal Devi barely had time to savour her first gold medal of the day before returning to the range to win another. The 19-year-old produced a stunning comeback to clinch the women's compound individual title at the Asian Para Games 2026 on Thursday, beating Singapore's Alim Nur Syahidah 142-139 in a tense final.Less than two hours after teaming up with Toman Kumar to win the compound mixed team gold, Sheetal was back in action at Okazaki Chuo Sogo Park Multipurpose Square. The world champion once again proved her ability to deliver under pressure, overturning a four-point deficit to secure her second gold of the Games and third medal overall.Asian Para Games 2026, October 22: Updates

FOUR-POINT COMEBACK

The victory was particularly significant as it came in a repeat of the Hangzhou 2023 final, where Sheetal had also defeated Alim to win the individual gold. The Indian has now successfully defended her title, underlining her dominance in the women's compound event.The final, however, was far from straightforward.

Alim made an impressive start, building a four-point advantage after the opening two ends of six arrows each. With the Singaporean archer threatening to take control of the contest, Sheetal needed a response to keep her hopes of another gold alive.Sheetal reeled off six 10s across the next two ends, including three Xs, which are arrows that land closest to the centre of the target. Her remarkable scoring run turned the contest around, allowing her to establish a two-point lead heading into the final end.With the title on the line, Sheetal held her nerve and shot three 9s to finish with 27 points in the final end. Alim, needing a strong finish to



overturn the deficit, managed scores of 9, 8 and 9 for 26 points.And the Indian delivered in spectacular fashion.That was enough for Sheetal to seal a memorable victory and add another gold to her growing collection.

ANOTHER GOLDEN DOUBLE

Born without arms, Sheetal has become one of India's most remarkable sporting talents. She uses her feet and legs to position her compound bow, while relying on her shoulder and jaw to draw and release the string. Her achievements have established her among the leading names in international para archery, with the world No.

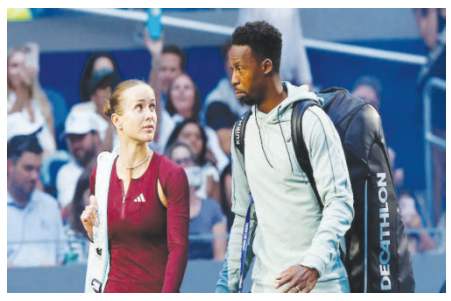
Svitolina-Monfils divorce: French tennis player learnt about separation over phone

Gael Monfils reportedly learnt of Elina Svitolina's decision to end their marriage during a phone call in late September. The phone call left Monfils broken and accelerated his retirement from professional tennis.

New Delhi.(Agency)

French tennis player Gael Monfils reportedly learnt that Elina Svitolina wanted to end their marriage during via a phone call in late September, a development that may have accelerated the Frenchman's sudden exit from professional tennis, according to French sports newspaper L'Equipe.

The former world No. 6, 40, was reportedly in Dubai when Svitolina called to inform him of her decision. The Ukrainian tennis star was travelling to China at the time, towards the end of September, and the call is said to have left Monfils deeply shaken.According to L'Equipe's account, Monfils was at home in Dubai with the couple's daughter, Skai, when he received the news. The report suggests that the personal upheaval left him with little desire to continue his farewell tour, bringing an abrupt end to a career he had planned to conclude after the 2026 season.Monfils' retirement was officially recorded by the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) on October 5. The development went largely unnoticed until reports emerged this week, with an ITIA spokesperson confirming to Reuters that the Frenchman had been added to its retired players list.His decision came weeks before he was expected to begin the final stretch of his farewell season. Monfils had announced in October 2025 that 2026 would be his last year on the professional tour, with tournaments in Lyon and Vienna expected to precede a final appearance



at the Paris Masters in November.

The reported circumstances surrounding his retirement have since drawn fresh attention following Svitolina's public announcement that the couple were separating.

SVITOLINA ANNOUNCES END OF MARRIAGE

Svitolina announced the end of her marriage in a social media post on October 19. The Ukrainian spoke about the emotional toll of Russia's war against her country and her need to rediscover herself outside the relationship.The couple married in July 2021 and have a daughter, Skai, who was born in October 2022. They had been one of tennis' most recognisable couples, with both continuing to compete on the professional circuit after their marriage.Svitolina described the decision to separate as one of the hardest of her life and attributed it to the Ukraine-Russia war. She stated that she needed to discover herself outside of their marriage.She later issued a further statement addressing the speculation surrounding their separation and Monfils' sudden retirement. Svitolina said the situation was more complicated than a single public statement could convey and defended Monfils against accusations that emerged following news of his withdrawal from the sport.Her comments also drew attention to the timing of his retirement. While Monfils had already planned to stop playing at the end of the 2026 season, L'Equipe's report suggests that the breakdown of the marriage brought that decision forward.Monfils has not publicly commented on the separation yet.

MONFILS' FAREWELL SEASON CUT SHORT

Monfils had intended to finish his career on his own terms, with a final run of tournaments that would give fans an opportunity to celebrate his achievements. The Paris Masters, in particular, offered a natural setting for a farewell, given his popularity among French supporters.

How Nishad Kumar's knee injury sparked the quest for 2 gold medals at Asian Para Games

MILAN.(Agency)

Nishad Kumar's family expected him to defend his high jump gold at the Asian Para Games. So, when the broadcaster announced his name for the men's T47 long jump event, the news came as a surprise to them, as it did to many others.Only a handful of family members and members of the coaching staff knew that Nishad was going to compete in the event. To everyone



else's surprise, he dominated the competition and won gold in his maiden long jump appearance at a major event.A day later, Nishad claimed his second gold medal in Japan, setting a Games record with a leap of 2.04m in the T47 high jump competition to defend his title.The unexpected double gold was made possible by a change in plans prompted by an injury. Nishad's knee had been troubling him for a year, forcing him to reduce his load in training.In an interview with IndiaToday.in after his twin-gold medal win in Japan, Nishad explained how the injury prompted the change.

"I wanted to try out long jump because my knee was troubling me in high jump. We have to lean at 60 degrees at high jump, which was hurting my knee. You will notice that I have not really participated much in the long jump this season. So then we sat down and discussed if we can try out long jump instead," Nishad said."If you see my season, I did only two high jump competitions, in Anju Bobby George Open Nationals at the start of the season and then in the Muscat Open," he added.



'Sharam Nahi Aati Aapko?'

Akshara Singh

Slams Fan For Disrespecting Women At Patna Event

Bhojpuri actress Akshara Singh is known for speaking her mind. She was recently invited to perform at an event in Patna, Bihar, where she schooled a man for disrespecting women. However, she softened a bit when the fan realised his mistake and apologised to Akshara after which she said, “I love you for that. Aapne galti maani, I love you."During the event, Akshara reprimanded the man saying, “Thoda sa lakheragiri karo, achi baat hai. Lekin khir-khirgiri mat karo. Usko thethrayi bolte hain apne Patna mein. The actress said that she was familiar with the term ‘thethrayi’ (stubbornness) since she belongs to Patna herself.



Akshara further said, “Ye kar ke jo ja rahe ho, ye acha baat nahi hai. Aapke hi ghar ki ladki hoon na main. Acha lagega is tareeke se karte hue. Ye jo pure Bihar mein idhar udhar jo news mein dekhne ko mil raha hai, ladkiyon ko aaplog Jaleel karte hain. Sharam nahi aati aaplogon ko?"

Akshara also pointed to Gen Z, saying that young people today know how to respect women. She urged the attendee to take a cue from others at the event who were treating her respectfully. When he admitted his mistake, the actress softened her tone and said, “Thankyou, now I love you. Aise hi rakho yaar, Bihar ka naam roshan karo." She also appreciated him for accepting his fault.

On the work front, Akshara Singh released a new devotional song titled Durga Maiya Se Seekh Na Dhool Chatawe Ke. She made her acting debut opposite Ravi Kishan in the 2010 action drama Satyamev Jayate. She subsequently appeared in 2011 family drama Pran Jaye Par Vachan Na Jaye. In 2021, she participated in Bigg Boss OTT 1.

Sara Ali Khan

Sobs While Praying At Golden Temple With Ayushmann Khurrana



Sara Ali Khan and Ayushmann Khurrana spent Dussehra at one of the most peaceful places in Amritsar, the Golden Temple. The two actors visited the holy shrine to seek blessings ahead of their upcoming film, Udta Teer. Pictures from their visit have been doing the rounds on social media, but it is a video of

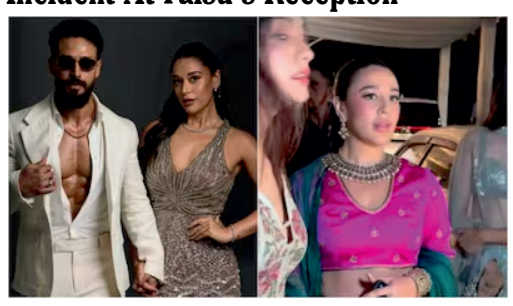


Sara getting emotional during her prayers that has caught everyone’s attention.Sara also shared a picture with Ayushmann from their visit. Both actors were dressed in white and had their hands folded in prayer. Sara had covered her head with a dupatta, as is customary at the shrine.But that’s not the only moment from their visit that people are talking about. A video shows Sara standing in prayer at Darbar Sahib, looking visibly emotional as tears roll down her face. The clip has since gone viral on social media.

The actors’ visit comes just days before Udta Teer arrives in theatres on October 23. The film was earlier supposed to release on October 9, but the makers later pushed the date. The film marks the directorial debut of Akash A Kaushik. Along with Ayushmann and Sara, it features Rahul Bose, Ram Kapoor, Suhail Nayyar, Gulshan Grover, Mukul Dev, Raghubir Yadav, Brijendra Kala, Sandeep Anand, Supriya Pilgaonkar and Smita Tambe.

However, the film has also run into trouble over its release in Nepal. Recent reports stated that the country’s Ministry of Communications and Information Technology had refused to allow public screenings of the film. The decision came after Nepal’s Central Film Censor Board reviewed the film on Ashwin 19, 2083, according to the Nepali calendar. The board found that the film’s production violated Section 8(3) of the National Cinema (Production, Exhibition and Distribution) Act, 2026.Following the review, the ministry’s Audio-Visual and Broadcasting Division issued a letter stating that the film would not be granted permission for public screening in Nepal.

Krishna Shroff Dodges Questions On Tiger Shroff’s Health After Firing Incident At Faisu’s Reception



Krishna Shroff attended social media influencer Mr Faisu and Tanya Siddiqui’s wedding reception in Mumbai on Monday evening, October 19. Her appearance came a day after her brother, actor Tiger Shroff, was caught up in a firing incident in the city’s Juhu area. She arrived at the celebration alongside Erika Packard but chose not to pose for the paparazzi. As she made her way to her car after the event, photographers asked her about Tiger’s health.

Krishna Shroff avoids questions on Tiger Shroff’s health

As Krishna Shroff made her way out, paparazzi asked her about Tiger Shroff’s health following the firing incident. However, she chose not to comment on her brother’s condition, repeatedly responding with “Thank you" before getting into her car and leaving the venue. For the evening, Krishna opted for a teal-green lehenga paired with a pink blouse and a matching dupatta. She rounded off her traditional ensemble with glam makeup, striking a festive look for the occasion.Meanwhile, the investigation into the firing incident is underway. Tiger escaped without any bullet injuries, although his driver and another person were injured in the shooting. The actor was escorted home under police protection following the incident as authorities continued their probe into the attack. According to reports, the Lawrence Bishnoi gang later claimed responsibility for the firing incident. However, the police investigation is ongoing, and the exact circumstances surrounding the attack and the motive behind it are yet to be established.Following the firing incident, Mumbai Police provided security to Tiger, who reportedly did not have a security cover earlier. The actor has not yet issued a public statement addressing the incident. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde visited Tiger Shroff’s residence on Sunday night, hours after the firing incident in Mumbai’s Juhu area. He met the actor and his mother, Ayesha Shroff, to enquire about their well-being and assured the family of the state government’s support. Condemning the incident, Shinde said that attempts to intimidate people through violence would not be tolerated and assured that strict action would be taken against those responsible

Daler Mehndi Was Offered Rs 35 Lakh, Appeared ‘Disoriented On Stage’, Says Uttarakhand Minister



Singer Daler Mehndi recently hit the headlines after a video of his performance in Uttarakhand being interrupted by state cabinet minister Subodh Uniyal went viral on social media. The minister stopped Mehndi mid-performance at the Kunjapuri Mela in Tehri district during Navratri celebrations, and objected to the singer’s alleged conduct at the event. As per reports, he told Mehndi that the event was dedicated to the worship of Goddess Durga and that performing under the influence of alcohol was inappropriate on such an occasion.Now, Uttarakhand minister Subodh Uniyal has reacted to the viral video that shows him losing his cool at Daler Mehndi. He alleged that the singer seemed ‘disoriented’ on stage, and was lip-syncing to his songs despite being offered Rs 35 lakh for the performance.

‘He Was Not Even Singing’, Says Subodh Uniyal

Explaining why he expressed his displeasure, State Minister Subodh Uniyal said Daler Mehndi, despite being a prominent artist, had failed to do justice to his art. Uniyal alleged that the singer appeared disoriented and struggled to maintain his balance on stage. He also claimed that Mehndi was lip-syncing to his songs rather than singing live.While speaking with ANI, the minister said, “He is a big artist. If a big artist doesn’t do justice to their art…He seemed disoriented on stage and didn’t seem to be able to even keep standing."Subodh Uniyal further added that the singer was offered Rs 35 lakh for the performance, and yet he wasn’t singing on stage. “Besides this, he was only lip-syncing to his songs. I told him that he is a big artist and he should do justice to his art; he had been offered Rs 35 lakh to come and perform, but he was not even singing. So, I expressed my resentment," said the minister.

Washington orders all US embassy staff, families to leave Saudi Arabia: diplomatic source

RIYADH.(Agency)

Washington has ordered non-essential US embassy staff and their families to leave Saudi Arabia, the State Department said on Wednesday, as the kingdom comes under sustained deadly attacks by Yemen's Houthis.It came after a diplomatic source told AFP that "all American staff and their families have been ordered to depart from the US embassy" in the Gulf kingdom.The source added that families of embassy staff had also been ordered to leave the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Qatar and Bahrain, all of which have been targeted by Iran during the Middle East war.

US State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott subsequently confirmed the order in a post on X, but said it applied to "non-emergency US government employees and their family members in Saudi Arabia only".He linked the move to Houthi attacks on the country, including airports, saying "the safety and security of Department personnel and their families remain our highest priority".Saudi Arabia has this month come under near-daily attacks from the Iran-backed Houthis, including a strike on Riyadh's international airport that was the kingdom's deadliest in years, as the war with the group escalates.

Indian Embassy In Paris Issues Safety Advisory Amid France Unrest

Paris.(Agency)

In light of ongoing unrest and localised curfews across parts of France, the Embassy of India in Paris has issued a safety advisory urging Indian nationals residing in or travelling to the country to exercise extreme caution and maintain vigilance.

Advising citizens to stay away from protest sites and public demonstrations, the Embassy stated, "In view of the recent developments and localised curfews imposed in France, please remain vigilant and exercise due caution. Please avoid large gatherings and crowded places where protests are taking place, and follow the instructions and advisories issued by the local French authorities.The Indian Embassy further urged citizens to monitor official channels and remain updated regarding potential transit disruptions across French cities, stating, "Please also stay informed through local news, follow official updates (gouvernement.fr) and check for public transport disruptions (ratp.fr).

How Ukraine War Triggered Europe's Biggest Migration Wave Since World War II

world.(Agency)

Europe is witnessing waves of protests across several countries, including France, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Albania, with the high cost of living, housing shortages and economic pressures emerging as common themes. While US President Donald Trump has linked the unrest in France to migration and Islam, Europe has mostly been dealing with the aftermath of one of the continent's biggest refugee crises in modern history: the displacement caused by the Russia-Ukraine war.

Largest displacement crisis in Europe since World War II

By the end of 2025, there were 5.9 million Ukrainian refugees worldwide, with more than 5 million hosted across Europe, according to UNHCR.The war in Ukraine has been the fastest-growing and largest displacement crisis in Europe since World War II and has precipitated.

US Top Court Refuses Team Trump's Treatment Curbs On Transgender Inmates

The new policy would halt surgeries, taper off hormones and end social accommodations like makeup and wigs. Prisons would continue to offer mental health services.



Washington.(Agency)

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to allow the Trump administration to immediately enforce new medical restrictions for transgender people in federal prison.The decision leaves in place a lower-court block on the policy. It was adopted after an executive order from President Donald Trump, a Republican who has taken several steps to roll back transgender rights during his second term.The brief order did not detail its legal reasoning. Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas would have allowed the policy to be enforced as the lawsuit played out in lower courts.The Supreme Court has previously allowed other Trump administration policies for transgender people to move ahead for now, including restrictions on military service and passport sex markers.Trump's order called on the Bureau of Prisons to revise its medical care policies so that federal funds aren't spent "for the purpose of conforming an inmate's appearance to that of the opposite sex."

The new policy would halt surgeries, taper off hormones and end social accommodations like makeup and wigs. Prisons would continue to offer mental health services.

Attorneys for transgender inmates challenged the policy in court and US District Judge Royce Lamberth ordered treatments to continue. Lamberth, who was nominated to the bench by Republican President Ronald Reagan, pointed out that untreated gender dysphoria can cause severe side effects like depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts.

The Trump administration appealed, arguing that treatments raised security concerns and "could no longer be justified." A divided appeals court panel left the order in place.

About 600 inmates were receiving hormone therapy in 2025, the agency said in court records. The government has not detailed evidence of security problems linked to hormone therapy for transgender inmates during the 30 years it has been provided, they wrote.

US, Israel weigh renewed strikes on Iran; Tehran threatens to unveil 'father of all bombs': Reports

world.(Agency)

The United States and Israel have reportedly prepared plans for fresh strikes on Iran after the US midterm elections, while Tehran has threatened to unveil a weapon it has dubbed the "father of all bombs" amid rising tensions in West AAccording to The New York Times, the US and Israeli militaries have developed specific plans for a short but intensive operation targeting Iran's energy infrastructure, nuclear facilities, and missile and drone arsenal. Citing US officials and other people briefed on the deliberations, the report said the two militaries have stepped up exercises, including flying aircraft over Iraq to practise strike manoeuvres.US War Secretary Pete Hegseth met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel this week to discuss potential renewed strikes, according to the news report. Some US officials believe



another round of "attacks" could push Iran's economy to the brink and force Tehran to make diplomatic concessions after nearly eight months of conflict.Amid the possibility of renewed strikes, Iran has warned that it would respond to any renewed military action. According to Iranian state-affiliated media outlet Student News Network (SNN), Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) spokesperson Hossein Mohebbi said, "The United States has the 'Mother of All Bombs.' We will show them the 'Father of All Bombs,' and it will definitely be something new for them."

But, Tehran has not provided details about the weapon or clarified what the threat entails.The warning follows reports that US President Donald Trump has considered using the 22,000-pound GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB), known as the "Mother of All Bombs", against Iran's deeply buried Pickaxe Mountain nuclear facility.

How Turkey, Pak And Saudi Will Workout The Mecca Joint Defence Agreement

Ankara.(Agency)

Turkey's government has asked parliament to ratify a mutual defence agreement it signed with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, bringing the country closer to bolstering Saudi defences as it faces attacks from Iran-backed Houthi rebels.Mirroring NATO's Article 5, the so-called Mecca Joint Defence Agreement commits the sides to view an armed attack against one as an attack on all three.While Turkey says that it's considering sending military support to Saudi Arabia, officials have cautioned that the pact is defensive in nature and that no Turkish troops will be deployed to fight in Yemen or attack the Houthis.

Turkish and Pakistani officials have also insisted that the pact isn't against Iran or any other country, but haven't said how they would react if attacked by Iran.The agreement was signed in the Saudi holy city of Mecca in August by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with the aim of increasing cooperation and deterrence among the three regional heavyweights at a time of increased uncertainty amid the Iran war.It brings together oil-rich Saudi Arabia and nuclear power Pakistan as well as Turkey, which has NATO's second-largest army and a rapidly growing defence industry. It enables the three to take greater charge for their own security at a time of reduced US involvement.

Saudi authorities say one killed, eight injured in attack on King Fahd airport

RIYADH.(Agency)

One Saudi resident was killed in an attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam in eastern Saudi Arabia on the Persian Gulf near Bahrain and Qatar, the Saudi Civil Aviation Authority announced early Thursday.The aviation authority also said eight people were injured in the late Wednesday attack and the airport suffered some material damages. Global flight-tracking service Flightradar24 said on X that flights have been diverted away from the airport.

Authorities did not say who carried out the attack or provide further details.King Fahd airport has been attacked previously amid a wider wave of Houthi missile and projectile strikes targeting major airports in Saudi Arabia.The Iranian-backed Houthis have not commented on this attack. The Saudi Coalition announced that it intercepted four drone attacks in the eastern region.Late Wednesday, the U.S. ordered some diplomats and the families of U.S. government employees to leave Saudi Arabia following a series of deadly attacks in the country by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels and rising fears of an escalation in hostilities.The latest attack came after Saudi Arabia's Energy Ministry said that debris from an intercepted drone killed two people and injured two others at an Aramco-operated oil field in the country's southeast.



The ministry said the two people killed were Nepali and Filipino nationals, while the injured were Pakistani and Indian nationals.Last month, debris from an intercepted Houthi drone killed a Yemeni resident of Saudi Arabia. It was the first civilian casualty since the Houthis increased their attacks against the kingdom, targeting Saudi shipping and oil facilities.

Saudi authorities say two killed by falling debris at oil facility following drone attack in kingdom



OSLO.(Agency)

Saudi Arabia's Energy Ministry said on Wednesday (October 21, 2026) that debris from an intercepted drone killed two people and injured two others at an Aramco-operated oil field in the country's southeast.The Ministry said the two people killed were Nepali and Filipino nationals, while the injured were Pakistani and Indian nationals.The falling debris also sparked a fire in a contractor's vehicle at the Shaybah oil field, the Ministry said in a statement.Saudi Arabia has been seeing multiple attacks on its airports and oil facilities launched by the Iran-backed Houthi rebels.Last month, debris from an intercepted Houthi drone killed a Yemeni resident in Saudi Arabia. It is the first civilian casualty since the Houthis increased their attacks against the kingdom, targeting Saudi shipping and oil facilities.Earlier this month, a limited fire broke out in an administrative building at Aramco, one of the world's largest oil facilities, that was targeted in an attack in the country's Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Energy said at the time.The attacks come as the Houthis and the Saudi coalition continue to fight in Yemen, breaking a four-year truce. The fighting in Yemen marked a fresh escalation in the widening West Asia crisis.On Wednesday (October 21), Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport was open for domestic flights following multiple Houthi strikes on the Saudi capital this month.

Arizona University Fraternity Suspended After Female Student's Rape Charge

Washington.(Agency)

The University of Arizona has suspended a fraternity's activities after a female student alleged two men sexually assaulted her at the fraternity's house in August.The Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter at the southern Arizona school was already on probation, but the university said it has now imposed an activities suspension, stating the fraternity poses a risk to the university community. An investigation into the allegations continues.It has been determined that your organiaation presents a substantial risk to members of the university community," said Associate Dean of Students Whitney Mohr in a letter sent to the fraternity on Wednesday.The local chapter did not respond to calls or emails, but the national fraternity organization said it had ordered members of the Arizona chapter to comply with any investigation.

"Sigma Phi Epsilon does not tolerate sexual assault or sexual misconduct. The Fraternity has suspended those involved while the investigation proceeds," Brian Warren, chief executive officer of Sigma Phi Epsilon, said in a statement Tuesday. It didn't elaborate on the identities of those involved or their connection to the fraternity.The female student told investigators that she consensually kissed a man and was drinking on the night of August 26, but then woke up to two men sexually assaulting her in the fraternity house, according to search warrant records dated September 9 and published Monday night by KOLD-TV in Tucson.She told police she remembers feeling one man's breath on her face and had trouble swallowing the next morning due to possible strangulation, according to the records. The documents also included physical descriptions of the accused. The next day, she reported the incident to police and underwent a forensic exam at a hospital.

Following media coverage of the allegations this week, the university placed Sigma Phi Epsilon on activities suspension, which prohibits the chapter from hosting, attending, participating in, and sponsoring any organizational activities until the case is settled, according to the associate dean's letter.The letter also accuses Sigma Phi Epsilon members of providing alcohol to minors on August 26, the night of the alleged assault, and on September 29. The fraternity was previously placed on probation, a conditional warning that included fines, following allegThe University of Arizona Police Department, which filed the search warrant, said on Tuesday that the investigation was ongoing.The Tucson-based university has attempted to crack down on Greek-life activities that violate the code of conduct. Earlier this month, the adminstration suspended activities for 21 fraternities amid reports of assault, hazing and drug- and alcohol-related behavior.