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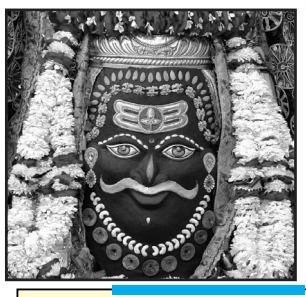
SUNDAY

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AHEMDABAD/GUJRAT
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Poland, Karnataka to tie up for aerospace, defence ventures

New Delhi . (Agency).

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Poland and Karnataka could collaborate in aerospace, defence and advanced manufacturing during a meeting with Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Friday. Shivakumar invited Poland to participate as a country partner at the Global Investors Meet 2027.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the India-Poland Business Forum to discuss investment, business and technology opportunities between Poland and Karnataka.

Tusk highlighted Karnataka's potential to serve as a gateway for investments between Poland and India. He noted that both Poland and Karnataka had relatively young workforces and said collaboration could be mutually beneficial.

Shivakumar welcomed the proposed Rs80-crore investment by Poland's TZMO Group in the KIADB industrial area at Vemagal in Kolar district.

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board has allotted five acres for the project, which is expected to generate around 1,000 jobs and introduce the manufacture of smart adult incontinence pads in India.

Sonia Gandhi makes debut on X, shares video recalling first meeting with Rajiv Gandhi in Cambridge

New Delhi (Agency).

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Saturday made her debut on social media platform X, sharing a video on her upcoming book, in which she shares her memories with Rajiv Gandhi.Gandhi's first book, Belonging - a journey of love, in which she shares her memories with Rajiv Gandhi and her journey from her younger days till now, will be launched on November 10.

In a nearly two-minute-long video, she recalled how she met Rajiv Gandhi in Cambridge and showed their pictures and that of the restaurant where they first met."In a small Greek restaurant in Cambridge my journey of love began. Rajiv and I created a world filled with love, laughter and memories. On 10th November, I share that world with you," she said in her first post on X.

While going through the photographs in the video, the Congress parliamentary party chairperson described Rajiv Gandhi as a very good-looking and gentle person.Asked about what it was like falling in love with Rajiv Gandhi, she said, "Food in England in those days was awful. In those days, you didn't have so many restaurants, you know, like you have today.""And so, I was constantly looking for a place where I could find some food which was closer to my kind of food -- Italian food in that case."And then, we discovered this place (Varsity Restaurant). It was a Greek restaurant, where many European students, but also Indian students, used to go for their meals. And that is then where I met Rajiv in that very restaurant," the former Congress chief said.

EAM Jaishankar reaffirms India's commitment to UN Charter, calls for reformed multilateralism

In a post on X, Jaishankar said India would continue to advocate international peace and security, global cooperation and the aspirations of the Global South through the international organisation.

New Delhi (Agency).

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday reiterated India's commitment to the United Nations and its Charter, stressing the need for reformed multilateralism that reflects present-day global realities on the occasion of the 81st United Nations Day.

In a post on X, Jaishankar said India would continue to advocate international peace and security, global cooperation and the aspirations of the Global South through the international organisation."Reaffirm India's enduring commitment to the @UN and the UN Charter on the 81st #UNDay today. Underscore the need for reformed multilateralism that reflects contemporary global realities. In the UN, India will continue to champion international peace and security, global cooperation and the aspirations of the Global South," Jaishankar said.United Nations Day is observed annually on October 24 to mark the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945, following its ratification by the majority of signatories, including the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Highlighting India's contribution to UN peacekeeping operations, Jaishankar said, "Major Abhilasha Barak of India was conferred the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award for 2026 in recognition of her exemplary service in UN peacekeeping"



The award recognises efforts to advance gender perspectives in military peacekeeping and highlights the contribution of women personnel serving in international missions.India has also reiterated its commitment to the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear science and technology at the 81st session of the UN General Assembly.

Member of Parliament and Leader of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation, Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo, addressed the Assembly on the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), highlighting the agency's role in capacity-building, sustainable development and the peaceful application of nuclear technology.Separately, representatives of several countries acknowledged India's development assistance at the ninth annual India-UN Development Partnership Fund event held on October 22.Envoys from Laos, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Moldova, Morocco and Mozambique highlighted the fund's role in supporting sustainable development initiatives based on the national priorities of partner countries.

Gandhinagar Land Dispute: Congress Alleges ₹11 Crore Extortion Demand by Range IG Virendra Yadav Over ₹150 Crore Thakor Community Land

Mahanagar Metro Desk

AHMEDABAD: Serious allegations have emerged over an alleged attempt to take control of valuable land belonging to a Thakor community farming family in Khoraj, Gandhinagar. The land is reportedly valued at approximately ₹150 crore. Gujarat Congress working president and MLA Jignesh Mevani, former state Congress president Jagdish Thakor, and senior advocate Anand Yagnik held a joint press conference, alleging police misconduct, intimidation, and a possible nexus involving land brokers and other individuals.The allegations have triggered demands for an impartial investigation into the dispute. The claims against the police officials have not been independently established, and responses from the officials concerned would be necessary to establish the facts.Range IG Virendra Yadav Accused of Demanding ₹11 Crore; ₹70 Lakh Payment to Adalaj PI AllegedDuring the press conference, Jignesh Mevani reportedly presented a video statement from Ravi Thakor and documents that he said supported the family's allegations. Mevani alleged that Gandhinagar Range IG Virendra Yadav called Ravi Thakor to his office and demanded ₹11 crore, purportedly representing a 10 per cent share in the land valued at ₹150 crore.According to Mevani's allegations, the officer allegedly indicated that no progress would be made until the amount was paid. He further claimed that financial documents were available showing that Ravi Thakor had paid ₹70 lakh to the police inspector of Adalaj Police Station following the alleged instructions.These are serious allegations that require examination of the relevant financial records, communications, and other evidence by an independent investigative authority.Woman Allegedly Pressured to File Complaint and Record VideoThe Congress leaders further alleged that after the remaining payment arrangements reportedly stalled, the family faced pressure from police personnel and land brokers from the Kalol area over the past one-and-a-half to two months.According to the claims presented at the press conference, Kajalben Thakor was allegedly surrounded inside the inspector's chamber at Adalaj Police Station, where she was pressured and threatened into filing a complaint alleging the kidnapping of her husband, Popatji Thakor. The leaders also alleged that she was pressured to record a video implicating former Gujarat



Congress president Jagdish Thakor.During the press conference, Kajalben reportedly stated that the complaint and video had been made under pressure and against her wishes. Her husband, Popatji Thakor, joined through a video call and reportedly denied that he had been kidnapped.He stated that he was staying with relatives as a precaution while attempting to protect the family's land and avoid the alleged harassment. The circumstances surrounding the complaint and video require independent verification.Allegations of Family Members Being Detained at NightThe Congress leaders also levelled serious allegations concerning the alleged detention of members of the affected family.According to their account, Local Crime Branch (LCB) personnel allegedly took other family members from their homes at night. They further claimed that relatives who had travelled to Somnath and Dwarka for religious visits were brought back and unlawfully detained.The allegations have raised questions about the conduct of the personnel involved and whether the actions complied with legal procedures. An independent inquiry would be required to establish the circumstances and determine whether any violations occurred.Suspicious Vehicles Allegedly Spotted Near Advocate Anand Yagnik's OfficeAnother allegation concerned the presence of suspicious vehicles near the office of advocate Anand Yagnik, close to Drive-In Cinema, approximately one hour after the press conference concluded.According to the Congress leaders, around four suspicious vehicles with dark-tinted windows and no visible number plates were seen in the area. They alleged that the vehicles were monitoring Jignesh Mevani and Jagdish Thakor.Mevani reportedly submitted a written complaint at Ahmedabad's A-Division Police Station. He also contacted the police commissioner and Traffic DCP Chirag Patel by telephone, seeking protection.

CISF, NeGD sign MoU to train personnel in drone, AI and cyber security

New Delhi (Agency).

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to train its personnel



in drone operations, anti-drone systems, artificial intelligence (AI), and cybersecurity.The agreement, signed in New Delhi on Friday, comes amid growing concerns over technology-driven threats to critical infrastructure, including airports, nuclear power plants, metro systems, ports and other strategic installations.Under the partnership, NeGD will act as the CISF's knowledge partner, identifying academic and technical institutions, Centres of Excellence and expert faculty to develop training programmes tailored to the Force's operational needs.The initiative will enable CISF personnel to receive specialised training at Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratories and other premier institutions.

The MoU was signed at Electronics Niketan in New Delhi by CISF Inspector General (Training and Recruitment) Vinay Kajla and NeGD CEO Nand Kumarum, in the presence of senior officials from both organisations.The CISF delegation included DIG (Recruitment) Aditya Jha, AIG (Training) Biren Kumar Sethy and AIG, NCR Zone Headquarters, Savitoj Singh Gill.

Bhagwant Mann Slams Centre On Being 'Detained' At Delhi Airport, BJP Replies

Chennai(Agency).

Days after AAP claimed that the Punjab Chief Minister was detained at the Delhi airport upon his return from Paris and fined Rs 50,000, Bhagwant Mann on Friday targeted the BJP-led Centre, alleging "this is how they take revenge".He alleged that he was made to sit for two hours and claimed that the head of the Customs Department at the Delhi airport was the brother of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.Punjab BJP state general secretary Anil Sarin hit back at Mann, challenging him to explain why the Customs Department fined him and demanding that he make the receipt public.Sarin questioned what the chief minister had brought back from abroad that prompted the Customs Department to take action.

Participating in a debate on an official resolution on the second day of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha here, Mann alleged that upon his return from France, the officials at the Delhi airport took him to one side and made him sit for two hours."I asked them to follow the protocol. Chief ministers from all states are received through a protocol as well," he said."They said they would check luggage. When they found nothing, they said we could go," he said."When I, along with my delegation, was leaving the airport, the officials cited that there was 'pressure from above'. After this, they asked us to pay a Rs 50,000 fine and we told them that if it is a matter of your job, then they may impose the fine," said Mann."Who is the Customs head at Delhi airport? It is Manish, brother of (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. This is how they take revenge," he alleged, while hitting out at the Centre.



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project site in Palam Vihar, dies

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 22-year-old labourer died on Thursday after she fell from a height of around 10 feet while watering an under-construction wall at a project site in Satguru Enclave in Palam Vihar.
The woman, Prabha, was originally from Madhya Pradesh and was working at the site when the incident took place around 5pm. She sustained severe injuries in the fall and was rushed to a hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries later that night, police said.
Police were informed about her death around 10pm, nearly five hours after the incident. No complaint had been received in connection with the incident so far, an officer said. Police have initiated inquest proceedings under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. The officer said police are examining the circumstances leading to the fall as part of the inquiry."According to our preliminary inquiry, she was watering the wall as part of the construction work. She had climbed over the wall to water it when she fell," he added.

Uploading quarrel video on reel, leads to enmity and firing; two arrested

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A video of a quarrel uploaded on social media last year allegedly triggered an attack in which two men fired three rounds at a house in Nangla Enclave Part 2 early Thursday. The AVTS Sikrona team acted swiftly and arrested both on the same day, police said.The accused, Harsh alias Bhura (22) and Ranjit alias Chinna (19), are residents of Uttam Nagar Part 2 in Nangla Gazipur. Police said the firing at the house of complainant Sarjeet was carried out allegedly with the intention to kill him.ACP (crime) Aman Yadav said the incident took place around 2.15am on the intervening night of Oct 21 and 22 near Subhash Chowk. Following Sarjeet's complaint, an attempt-to-murder case was registered.
"During preliminary questioning, we learnt that the accused are friends. In 2025, Ranjit was involved in a quarrel, which Sarjeet's son, Sachin, recorded and uploaded on social media. Ranjit had asked Sachin to delete the video but he refused. This led to enmity," Yadav said.

Man dies after being pushed off wall during fight; one arrested

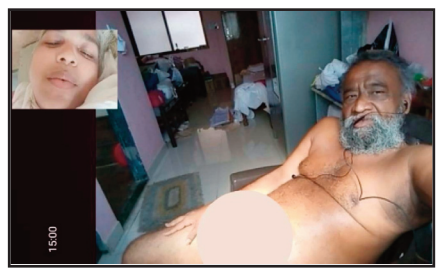
Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 38-year-old labourer died after allegedly being pushed off a wall during a quarrel with two men near Bhondsi jail. The accused was arrested on Friday. The deceased, Ashok Sahani, who was from Bihar, lived in Indra Colony, Badshahpur. He died during treatment at PGI Rohtak on Oct 22, two days after the incident.According to the complaint filed by his wife, she learnt on Oct 20 that Ashok had been involved in a quarrel with Ramjeet Sahani and Anarjeet Sahani. When she saw her husband blood was coming out of his mouth and ears.Police said a quarrel between the two had escalated into a physical altercation after the men finished work and were talking sitting on a wall. During the scuffle, Anarjeet allegedly pushed Ashok, causing him to fall around 5-7 feet into an adjoining plot. He struck his head against an elevated structure made of gravel and bricks and he sustained a serious injury.Ashok was initially taken to hospitals in Bhondsi and Gurgaon before being referred to PGI Rohtak in a critical condition, where he died during treatment two days .

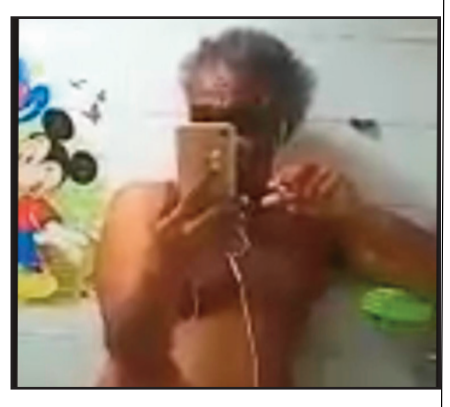
Jain Monk Sagar Chandra Sagar Faces Serious Alegations, Mahanagar Metro Demands Answers

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad/Ujjain: Serious allegations concerning Jain monk Sagar Chandra Sagar have sparked debate and concern among sections of the Jain community. Questions have reportedly been raised over his alleged conduct, personal relationships, and activities, with calls for him to publicly address the claims. However, the allegations remain subject to verification, and the concerned parties should be given an opportunity to present their responses.Serious Allegations of Inappropriate Relationships and ExploitationAccording to reports and claims attributed to sources, Sagar Chandra Sagar has been accused of engaging in inappropriate relationships and allegedly using financial assistance, promises of institutional advancement, and other inducements to influence women, including female ascetics. One woman, whose identity has reportedly been withheld, allegedly claimed that she received an expensive smartphone and a personal phone number from him and that they spoke for hours regularly.These claims raise serious questions that warrant an impartial investigation. The allegations have not been independently established, and any conclusions should be based on verifiable evidence and the findings of the appropriate authorities.Allegations of Intimidation and Attempts to Silence CriticsFurther allegations suggest that individuals who have questioned the monk's conduct may have faced threats or intimidation.



Claims have also been made about the possible involvement of people allegedly engaged to discourage criticism. These allegations require independent verification, and anyone who has experienced threats should consider approaching the police with supporting evidence.Questions have also been raised about the role of Abhay Chopra, described as Sagar Chandra Sagar's media convenor.



Critics have alleged that social media posters and potentially misleading information have been used to defend the monk against criticism. Claims that substantial payments were made for such activities have also been circulated.

Why Do People Come Closer in the Name of Love, Only to Break Hearts and Walk Away?

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Rupesh Solanki In today's world, it takes only a few minutes to get acquainted with someone, a few hours to build a friendship, and sometimes not even a few days to confess one's love. Sweet messages on mobile phones, late-night conversations, and the curiosity to know every little detail about each other—all of this feels like love. But sometimes, the very person who said yesterday, "You are the most special person in my life," walks away today like a stranger. At that moment, only one question arises in the heart: If the feelings were genuine, how could the relationship fall apart so easily?Among today's younger generation, love often begins with an acquaintance on social media. They like each other's pictures, enjoy their conversations, and gradually become accustomed to each other's presence. But getting used to someone and truly loving someone from the heart are two very different things. Attraction is often drawn to a person's appearance, whereas love involves a willingness to understand their nature, thoughts, struggles, and weaknesses.Why does a relationship that begins so beautifully sometimes end so painfully?Often, relationships break not because of a lack of love, but because of a lack of understanding. Doubting each other over small matters, having constant expectations, complaining about not receiving enough time, and insisting on changing one another create distance in a relationship. Where there should be open-hearted communication, silence takes over, and where there should be trust, questions begin to arise.Some people remain in a relationship only as long as they continue to receive happiness, time, and affection. When difficulties arise, responsibilities increase, or disagreements occur, they choose to walk away rather than communicate and find a solution. Giving someone hope and then suddenly cutting off contact, refusing to respond, or ignoring the other person's feelings can leave deep emotional wounds.However, it is not always true that only one person is responsible for every failed relationship. Sometimes circumstances change, thoughts differ, and the paths of life move in separate directions. Love alone is not enough to sustain a relationship; efforts from both sides, mutual respect, and a sense of responsibility are equally important.Young people need to understand one thing: falling in love is not wrong, but losing yourself in the name of love is not right. Someone walking away does not mean that life has come to an end. Education, career, family, friends, and personal dreams are equally important. A healthy relationship should not become an obstacle to your progress; it should inspire you to move forward.



Haryana power cut: Homes in dark for hours, residents block roads; factories stay shut for days, owners count their losses

Noida.(Agency)

The power strike that crippled the city and other parts of Haryana for two days was called off late on Friday evening after chief minister Nayab Singh Saini assured electricity department employees that no private parallel power distribution licences would be allowed anywhere in the state.The shutdown had left many homes facing long outages and disrupted water supply, while bringing industrial production to a halt for more than 24 hours. Govt invoked Section 108(1) of Electricity Act, 2003 - which empowers it to issue policy directions to the state electricity regulator on matters of public interest - and asked it not to create or operationalise such licences.The order came four days after Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC) granted Eleven Power Pvt Ltd a 25-year licence to distribute electricity alongside Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVN) in Gurgaon and Nuh.
Representatives of Haryana Joint Action Committee said Saini and energy minister Anil Vij heard them out and apprised them of the steps being taken by govt to oppose the granting of parallel licences.ere from Indirapuram, followed by Khoda Colony.The state said it was not questioning the correctness of HERC's findings in its order, but raised concerns over the private company's financial capacity, technical preparedness and ability to supply all consumers in its licensed area.It also flagged the risk of a private distributor choosing high-revenue consumers, potentially weakening cross-subsidy arrangements and leaving the state utility with existing power purchase commitments, stranded costs and duplicated infrastructure. These could increase the financial burden on DHBVN and consumers. The govt asked the HERC secretary to place the directive before the commission.Chief minister Saini also ordered officials to restore electricity immediately in all affected districts. Following his directions, Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd (HVPNL) managing director Aditya Dahiya and DHBVN and Uttar Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (UHBVN) managing director Vikram Singh met superintending and executive engineers and directed them to ensure uninterrupted supply.

In 2022, a husband and his parents severed woman's head, chopped off her palms over dowry; four years later, all three are sentenced to life imprisonment

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A man and his parents were sentenced to life imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 36,000 each after an additional sessions court in Ghaziabad found them guilty of murder and dowry harassment.The convicts were also sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment for concealment of evidence as they had severed the victim's head and chopped off both her palms to avoid identification before throwing her body into Ganga canal in 2022.
Additional sessions judge Jeetendra Mishra said, "After considering all the facts and circumstances of the case, including the nature of the crime committed, the circumstances of the crime, the social impact of the crime, and the impact on the victim, the court finds it justified to sentence the convicts for a life term in prison with a fine of Rs 25,000 each under IPC section 302 (murder) read with section 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention)," the judge said. All the sentences are to run concurrently and be adjusted against time already spent in jail - while the victim's husband was in custody for three years, his parents were out on bail after one year.The three were also fined Rs 10,000 each under IPC section 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender) and Rs 1,000 each under Dowry Prohibition Act section 4.Woman's family alleged Rs 1 lakh dowry demandSiddhartha Vihar residents Akash Tyagi, his father Suresh and mother Usha were arrested for the murder of Riya Jain on Jan 26, 2022, after the woman's uncle Vipin Kumar submitted a missing complaint.
Kumar claimed that the 22-year-old had not been responding to phone calls for two days and her in-laws had been stonewalling questions about her whereabouts. Riya's family also blamed the Tyagis for demanding Rs 1 lakh in dowry since her marriage in March 2021.

Husband claimed four men kidnapped wife, mother

Police said Akash initially told cops that Riya and his mother Usha were kidnapped from outside an ultrasound clinic, Arjun Diagnostic Centre, by four men. He said the men had thrown Usha off the vehicle after a few kilometres but sped off with his wife. Akash had also told the cops that Riya was taken to the clinic as she had complained of a stomach ache but the centre was closed on that day.Suresh, however, had told cops that the family had taken Riya to a sugarcane field in Shahzadpur jungle from the clinic and decapitated her. They also chopped off her palms and threw the severed parts in Ganga canal in Muradnagar.
Police recovered beheaded body, weapon
While cops did not find the severed limbs, they found the beheaded body in the jungle, recovered a dagger used in the crime and blood-stained clothes belonging to Usha and eventually filed a charge sheet against the three under IPC sections 498-A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty), 304-B (dowry death), 201 and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) IPC on April 26, 2022, and under alternative IPC sections 302 read with 34. The additional sessions court framed charges against the trio on Dec 23, 2025.

Husband, in-laws get life terms for dowry killing, had severed woman's head, chopped off palms

Noida.(Agency)

A man and his parents were sentenced to life imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 36,000 each after an additional sessions court in Ghaziabad found them guilty of murder and dowry harassment.
The convicts were also sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment for concealment of evidence as they had severed the victim's head and chopped off both her palms to avoid identification before throwing her body into Ganga canal in 2022.Additional sessions judge Jeetendra Mishra said the case did not qualify as a rarest of rare case without a separate assessment of the nature of the crime and the specific role of each convict."After considering all the facts and circumstances of the case, including the nature of the crime committed, the circumstances of the crime, the social impact of the crime, and the impact on the victim, the court finds it justified to sentence the convicts for a life term in prison with a fine of Rs 25,000 each under IPC section 302 (murder) read with section 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention)," the judge said.The three were fined Rs 10,000 each under IPC section 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender) and Rs 1,000 each under Dowry Prohibition Act section 4. All the sentences are to run concurrently and be adjusted against time already spent in jail — while Akash has been in custody for three years, his parents were out on bail after spending one year each.Siddhartha Vihar residents Akash Tyagi, his father Suresh and mother Usha were arrested for the murder of Riya Jain on Jan 26, 2022, after the woman's uncle Vipin Kumar submitted a missing complaint. The complainant claimed that the 22-year-old had not been responding to phone calls for two days and her in-laws had been stonewalling questions about her whereabouts. Riya's family also blamed the Tyagis for demanding Rs 1 lakh in dowry since her marriage in March 2021.



Over 60 per cent of PGs in Bengaluru unauthorised

BENGALURU.(Agency)

An audit by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has revealed that 63% of all paying guest (PG) accommodations across the five city corporations are unauthorised. GBA has now issued show-cause notices to owners and operators of all such PG accommodations.

The audit was conducted following rulings by both the Karnataka High Court and Supreme Court recently on the issue. The GBA had deployed its health department and local engineers for the audit, which revealed that the city has 5,480 PG accommodations. Of them, 3,597 are under the 'unlicensed category'.

The GBA's health department, which is empowered to issue licences, said that as per a Urban Development Department (UDD) circular in 2025, PG accommodations situated on roads with less than 40 ft width, violating building plans, operating from residential areas, and having kitchens in the basement cannot be given trade licences and are termed unauthorised.

"Such buildings pose a risk to inmates. If there is any mishap, the onus has to be fixed on the assistant engineer, assistant executive engineer, joint commissioners, town planning officials, Bescom officials and health officials, besides owners and developers," said a retired chief engineer. After the audit report was submitted, officials attended a special meeting with GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao last week. The officials said that buildings violating the rules have been served show-cause notices and they are waiting for further orders.

Karnataka forest department to restore Nandi Hills catchment

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Prolonged dry spells, depleting ground water and rising temperatures have prompted the need to protect urban landscapes, catchments and water sources. The forest department, in coordination with private firms, on Friday announced 'Forests for Watershed -- The Nandi Hills Project'.

"This is the first ever initiative undertaken to protect and conserve the watershed region and its catchments, improve soil quality, restore biodiversity and create livelihood opportunities for communities," said Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, head of forest force, Meenakshi Negi.

As a pilot, 600 hectares of area in and around Nandi Hills has been marked, of which 300 hectares belongs to the forest department and the remaining is farmland. The department has partnered with Iora Ecological First, an NGO, and SalesForce, an international organization. The forest department will be executing the project through Karnataka Forests Wildlife and Climate Change Foundation.

Plan to form 15 lung spaces in Bengaluru's forest patches

BENGALURU.(Agency)

The state government plans to convert portions of existing forest patches in Bengaluru's urban pockets into public recreation areas modelled after Cubbon Park and Lalbagh.

"There is sufficient forest land in and around Bengaluru, so we have decided to open parts of it to create tree parks. A proposal is being finalised to establish 15 such lung spaces across the city. It will be placed before the next cabinet for approval," Forest Minister Ramalinga Reddy told on Friday.

The parks will be created under the Nagarawana scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC). In the first phase, nine tree parks will come up in deemed and reserve forest lands at Jarakabande D Block and A Block, Mallasandra, Panathur, Kalkere, Mandur, Turahalli reserve forest and Turahalli minor forest, Doreswamipalya, Machohalli and Sulikere. Bengaluru has 5,000 hectares of reserve forest land and 2,000 hectares of deemed forest land and tree parks will be created on 3,000 hectares covering both, forest officials stated in the proposal note.

"Minimum developmental works will be undertaken in these forest patches and only the earmarked portion will be opened for people. The rest of the forest patch will be strictly protected and any violations will not be tolerated.

ED arrests Chandigarh jeweller's partner Katodia in Rs 645-crore IDFC First Bank scam

Says jewellers' bullion purchases increased sharply soon after its association with Rishi

Chandigarh.(Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Rajan Singh Katodia, a partner of Sawan Jewellers, in connection with the Rs 645 crore IDFC First Bank scam. After his arrest on Thursday, Katodia was produced before a Special Court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which remanded him to four days of ED custody, according to the agency. The ED alleged that Katodia, an active managing partner with sole operational charge of Sawan Jewellers at Sector 35C Inner Market in Chandigarh, entered into a criminal conspiracy with prime accused Ribhav Rishi, a former branch manager of the IDFC FIRST Bank, Sector 32 branch in Chandigarh, and others to misappropriate government funds belonging to various departments of the Haryana government and the Chandigarh Administration.

The ED said an analysis of Sawan Jewellers' bank accounts showed receipt of approximately Rs 2,332 crore between November 6, 2024, and February 18, 2026. According to the agency, the funds were received from shell and intermediary entities and individuals, including Capco Fintech Services,



Swastik Desh Projects, RS Traders, Chandigarh Mega Store, SRR Planning Gurus Pvt. Ltd., Vistamed Solutions, Maa Vaibhav Laxmi Interior and Ribhav's wife Divya Arora. The agency said, "Rishi, the mastermind of the fraud, controlled and managed these entities and individuals." The ED alleged that Katodia, through Sawan Jewellers, assisted Rishi in placing and concealing the proceeds of crime. "These funds were subsequently layered and used in day-to-day business activities, projecting the proceeds of crime as untainted funds to facilitate money laundering," the agency said.

Layering involves passing illicit funds through a series of complex financial transactions to obscure their origin, making the money difficult to trace. According to the ED, Sawan Jewellers' bullion purchases increased sharply soon after its association with Rishi, which the agency cited as evidence, suggesting a prior understanding between the accused. Earlier, the ED had arrested four other accused in the same case for their alleged involvement in money laundering. The agency has also attached, seized, and frozen movable and immovable assets worth approximately Rs 7,225 crore in connection with its investigation.

The ED has also filed a prosecution complaint against 14 accused persons before the Special PMLA Court in Panchkula. In March, the State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (SV & ACB) had arrested Katodia and the two Haryana officials.

Later, the CBI also arrested him and others for interrogation in this connection. The case was originally registered at the Haryana State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (SV & ACB) police station in Panchkula on February 23, and was later transferred to the CBI.

55.24% turnout as 11 UP MLC seats go to polls amid scuffles, allegations of rigging

SP alleges misuse of government machinery by ruling party; BJP leaders too accuse SP of fielding ineligible candidates.

Lucknow.(Agency)

Voting for 11 MLC seats in Uttar Pradesh, including six teachers' and five graduate constituencies, was conducted on Friday amid allegations of malpractices by Opposition party candidates. A turnout of 55.24 percent was recorded in the polling conducted from 8 am to 4 pm, officials said.

Police and administration had a tough time conducting the voting as scuffles and protests were reported from some places. While the Samajwadi Party candidates and party chief alleged misuse of government machinery and malpractice to favour the ruling party candidates, the BJP leaders too accused the SP of fielding ineligible candidates and misuse of voting procedures. According to the Election Commission, the highest voting percentage of 79.01 percent was recorded for the Gorakhpur-Faizabad Graduate constituency while the lowest 38.02 percent voting was for the Lucknow Teachers' constituency.



The SP candidates from the Agra-Graduates and Teachers' constituencies, Gorakhpur-Faizabad Teachers' constituency, Allahabad-Jhansi Teachers' seat and the Bareilly-Moradabad Teachers' constituency alleged booth capturing, influencing of voters. They alleged that the SP candidates and workers were intimidated, harassed and heckled at polling booths by BJP goons and administration. The SP leaders alleged that only those carrying the BJP colour slips were allowed to vote and the ruling party voters were allowed to cast their votes without even checking their identity cards. SP president Akhilesh Yadav, who cast his vote at his native village Saifai in the Legislative Council's Agra Graduates' constituency, spoke to the media alleging that BJP workers indulged in fake voting and malpractices. To stop SP supporters going to cast their votes, the BJP had hired goons and corrupt officials with administration officials remaining mute spectators to it , he alleged. The BJP will try to resort to such practices in the coming Assembly elections as well, but people will defeat it by casting each and every vote against it, he claimed.

"It appears that the Election Commission officials have gone to sleep after taking sleeping pills. The EC continued to sit with its eyes closed over all these malpractices. The BJP should open a university for vote theft and run a course of at least three years in it for its workers," the former chief minister said. "The BJP has done no work for teachers and young people. If their government has been in power for 10 years, why does the BJP need to resort to hooliganism and fake voting in the election?" he asked. "Only 40 days are now left for the Assembly elections. The Samajwadi Party is ready. The SP and the INDIA alliance will defeat the BJP," he said.

According to PTI, supporters of candidates allegedly affiliated with the BJP and SP clashed outside a polling centre in Fatehpur district during the polling. The incident took place at around 10 am at Vijayipur block, where a heated argument between the two groups over claims of forced voting escalated into a scuffle. A video of the incident surfaced on social media, but the allegation of forced voting could not be independently verified. Fatehpur Superintendent of Police Abhimanyu Manglik told PTI that police intervened and brought the situation under control. He described the incident as a minor scuffle and denied that polling was disrupted.

Middle East tensions disrupt flights, 22 pilgrims from UP village stranded in Saudi

Lucknow.(Agency)

On Friday afternoon, residents of Bani village in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur district held an emergency meeting to discuss how to bring home 22 pilgrims stranded in Saudi Arabia following flight disruptions caused by attacks on airport infrastructure. The group, which includes three elderly couples, was due to return from Mecca and Medina on October 22. With no certainty over when they can fly home, some families have begun sending money to cover the cost of their relatives' accommodation and meals, while others worry about elderly parents who need regular medical care.

Moharram Ali, 45, a farmer, said, "My father, Sohrab Ali, 70, and mother, Badrun Nisha, 65, call us regularly, asking when they'll be able to return. We have no answers, so we keep reassuring them that flights will resume soon. The truth is, we do not know when that



will happen either." Moharram is the eldest of the couple's six children. The family, he said, drew some comfort from the fact that his parents are not alone.

The group of 22 pilgrims from Bani, located nearly 20 km from the district headquarters, left for New Delhi on October 5 and flew to Mecca the following day, it is learnt. For Mobin Khan, 35, the uncertainty has brought anxiety and an unexpected financial strain on the family. His parents, Nizamuddin, 62, and Abartum, 57, remain stranded in Mecca. Mobin, who runs a business, said the travel agent charged Rs 70,000 per person to cover accommodation and meals. But after their scheduled return on October 21 was disrupted, the agent refused to bear the cost of their stay and food beyond that date, he claimed.

Eviction, demolition of shops without rehabilitation violation of rights: Allahabad High Court to UP health dept

Lucknow.(Agency)

The Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court has condemned the eviction and demolition of legally allotted shops for construction of a super-speciality hospital in Ayodhya, while seeking a reply from the UP Medical and Health Department.

A division bench of Justices Shekhar B Saraf and Amitabh Kumar Rai, in its order dated October 12, stated, "It is surprising that despite the petitioners having been allotted the shops and having acquired the status of lessees in accordance with the rules governing such allotments, they have been asked to vacate the premises without determination of their leases or any proposal to rehabilitate or compensate them for their eviction from the premises."

It added, "Such conduct on the part of the respondents (the health department and Ayodhya DM among others) is highly condemnable and cannot be appreciated as the action of the respondents adversely affects the right of the petitioners towards their livelihood and is violative of Articles 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India."

Showing a serious concern, the bench further stated, "We are conscious of the fact that the construction of a 300-bed super-specialty hospital is in the public interest, but it is also equally important that the petitioners, who were carrying on the business earning their livelihood, cannot be thrown out without making any alternative arrangement for their rehabilitation or compensating them for the loss."

The case

Six affected shopkeepers had approached the High Court, praying to quash the order issued by the Ayodhya District Magistrate on July 31 this year, asking them to vacate the shops for construction of the hospital. The petitioners informed the court that they are small shopkeepers who were allotted shops by the Sitapur Eye Hospital Society, Faizabad, on a lease basis for a term of 30 years in 2000. The shops were allotted to them as per the terms under Sitapur Netra Chikitsalaya Complex Niyamawali (rules). As per the rules, the shopkeepers paid a registration fee of Rs 500 and Rs 25,000 towards security for the allotment after the construction of the shops



by the Sitapur Eye Hospital, Faizabad. The premium of minimum reserved price of Rs 80,000 was fixed and the allotment of shops was made on the basis of auction.

The counsel for the petitioners further submitted that the petitioners were handed over the possession of the shops as they completed all formalities vide possession letter dated February 28, 2000. The order mentioned that the possession letter indicates that the rent was payable with effect from March 1, 2000, and other conditions had to be governed by the Niyamawali (rules). The Niyamawali, in turn, provided that the allotment of shops would be considered to be a leasehold for 30 years, renewable after every 30 years.

'No point remaining Rajya Sabha MP if I can't clean Buddha Nullah': Balbir Seechewal

The envionmentalist's remark reflects his frustration over a two-year effort to address pollution in a state governed by his own party.

Jalandhar.(Agency)

AAP's lone Rajya Sabha member from Punjab, Balbir Singh Seechewal, questioned the point of him staying an MP if he cannot get the polluted Buddha Nullah cleaned. While addressing a gathering at Gyan Anjan Academy in Ludhiana on Thursday during the release of a book on Bhagat Puran Singh, Seechewal said, "If the Buddha Nullha is not cleaned, there is no point in remaining a Rajya Sabha member."

While Seechewal's statement is not a formal announcement of resignation from the Rajya Sabha, it, however, does put the spotlight on why a cleanup effort championed by an MP from the ruling party has yet to resolve a persistent source of pollution in Punjab.

The environmentalist's remark reflects his frustration over a two-year effort to address pollution in a state governed by his own party. It also raises a wider question over the implementation of measures involving the municipal corporation and other agencies, despite repeated meetings, directions and action against those allegedly violating waste-disposal rules. Speaking to The Indian Express, Seechewal said that he took this work with lot of zeal but now facing hurdles and said "if I cannot do this I should not remain as MP". He pointed to the continued discharge of dairy waste into the the Nullah despite arrangements to collect and transport cattle dung from the city's Tajpur Road and Haibowal dairy clusters, which together house around 38,000 cattle. The scale of the problem is substantial. Ludhiana Municipal Corporation Superintending Engineer Ekjot Singh said the two clusters generate around 500 tonnes of cattle waste daily, of which



approximately 160 tonnes remains a disposal problem because some dairy owners do not hand over dung for collection and instead wash it away with water into drains.

The corporation has awarded a three-year contract, beginning in January, for collecting, transporting and disposing of cattle waste. The contract is worth around Rs 22 crore. However, officials have said that the collection system depends on dairy owners placing the dung outside their premises for the contractor to lift, a requirement that some have resisted.

The urgency for a large, well-armed AI defence force

Last month, we argued on this page that India needs independent system checks, tiered access rules and mandatory incident reporting if it is to be ready for artificial intelligence fires in the wild.Since then, AI agent incidents have entered public discourse under a growing vocabulary. The OpenAI-Hugging Face incident gave us 'agent swarms': autonomous agents collaborating through shared environments. In early October, independent researchers traced a 'fleet' of agents, reportedly part of an evaluation team's tests on Tencent Cloud, that made more than 2,600 attempts to scrape Alibaba's Amap mapping service, at times using credentials found in a public code repository. And specialists at an AI lab showed, in a controlled setting, that models can already carry out key steps of spreading working AI systems from device to device across a network. They called them 'AI worms'.

Just last week, the story acquired an Indian case file too. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), the national nodal agency for cyber incidents, issued a critical advisory stating that it "has received multiple voluntary disclosures from AI-model providers stating that their models, during research and evaluation activity on the internet, had reached the live systems of Indian organisations". In these cases, CERT-In notes, "the models' actions exceeded the authorisation of their assigned tasks". The agents used credentials and connection settings left exposed in application configurations, code repos and permissive cloud roles to read business records, including personal and confidential data.

Three details stand out to us. First, how these agents got in: not through any exotic exploits but through ordinary lapses, with the agents re-deriving and re-using the same exposed credentials in separate operations. Second, none of the affected organisations seemed to notice this was transpiring. In every case, CERT-In states, the incident was disclosed by the AI-model providers after their internal review. Third, there may yet be information we're not privy to. The advisory names no providers, models, organisations or sectors, and doesn't say what became of the data that was read.Agent incidents are not contained by borders. If the only instruments that record them belong to the companies that build and run these systems, national digital ecosystems will depend on corporate good faith for both detection and disclosure. Even if every company disclosed every time, that would not amount to a robust security strategy. The burden of managing these risks should not fall on one class of institutions, public or private.

CERT-In's threat hunting also uncovered a financially-motivated campaign targeting Indian entities that abused publicly available, AI-native offensive security tools. These tools compressed the time between initial access and final impact from days to a few hours. While it is encouraging that our domestic capacity detected this type of adversarial action, it is worth noting that in the evaluation incidents, which came to light through model providers' disclosures, this wasn't the case.CERT-In deserves credit for what it now asks of AI developers, research labs and evaluation agencies: the isolation of evaluation workloads at the network layer, use of synthetic targets and credentials, automatic stopping of a run if an agent touches a third-party system, and notification of victims with publication of safeguards.

The middling predicament of middle powers

For middle powers to be effective, big powers need to make space. Neither Trump nor Putin seems to be in the mood to do that. India's aspiration as a Global South leader remains circumscribed

One must be singularly fortunate to get to witness history in the making. As the centuries-old epoch of Western domination is ending and drifting away, a new era is taking shape. Coping with such epochal change is never easy for any country. Unsurprisingly, against such a tumultuous backdrop, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is back with his abacus to prophesy that India's interests are best aligned with the 'middle powers', a presumptuous inchoate coinage at best of free-riders. Why should India have an identity crisis when it is wearing a custom-made mantle of Global South leadership? In reality, incapable of dominating global affairs, India is migrating to a bloc that aspires to 'punch above their weight'—who historically acted as system-maintainers (for example, Canada, Australia, South Korea, Sweden and the Netherlands) but have become 'losers' as Donald Trump has no time for them. Arguably, the new identity might give some gravitas to India's ambitions but Trump is certainly not impressed.

Yet, the fond hope is that someday soon, they would find favour in Trump's court. But until then, they keep deriding the new world order. Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney said in his Davos speech in February, "It seems that every day we're reminded that we live in an era of great power rivalry, that the rules-based order is fading, that the strong can do what they can, and the weak must suffer what they must." Jaishankar also says such things now and then.But Trump took umbrage, calling Carney out in his own speech the next day at Davos, saying: "Canada lives because of the United States. Remember that, Mark, before you make your statements." Trump has embarked on a foreign policy trajectory that may create a legacy for his presidency. The settlement of the Ukraine conflict is in the cards. The floodgates are opening: Trump's peace push has put him on a collision course with Volodymyr Zelenskyy's European backers (read: middle powers). Russia keeps them out of the peace process. India is peeved, too, to be reduced to an outlier. Narendra Modi is deferring his annual summit with Vladimir Putin. But then, signs are appearing that across much of the American political establishment, from the most committed anti-Russian neo-conservatives to liberal Democrats, Ukraine and Western Europe are regarded as irritants rather than equal partners. The logic of events suggests that Zelenskyy's supporters in the US will gradually lose influence and that die-hards who wouldn't settle for anything less than Russia's defeat in Ukraine will get marginalised, no matter the outcome of the Congressional elections on November 3 and regardless of the next American president. This march of history is an inexorable process and will gather momentum in the coming two-month period through the summits of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Shenzhen and the G20 in Florida, where Trump will meet Putin and Xi Jinping. Trump is pitching high for the Florida event as marking the consummation of a historic entente cordiale defining the 21st century.

For a start, the White House has stepped up its efforts on the Ukrainian front, attempting to revive the negotiation process. After the large-scale diesel deal with Russia, Western media outlets have been reporting on a new US peace plan. Washington proposed back in September to its European partners and Kyiv to resume Russian gas transit to Europe via Ukraine and to transfer Russia's frozen funds to a new platform under American oversight. On October 12, the Washington Post reported on the details of US-European discussions surrounding this plan. The initiative reportedly includes four main pillars, including an energy agreement between Russia, Ukraine and Europe. Other key principles include investments in Ukraine's post-war reconstruction, a freeze on the conflict and security guarantees for Kyiv.



The string of defeats suffered by the Ukrainian forces in the most recent months becomes a powerful tool for the White House to pressure Kyiv. Changes on the battlefield only confirm the US administration's position: Ukraine has no strong cards left. The military defeats increase criticism of Zelenskyy from the Ukrainian opposition and supporters within Ukraine of peace with Russia. It's possible he could be pressured to hold presidential elections.The capacity of Europe's middle powers to shore up Zelenskyy is visibly waning. Following last week's European summit, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz stated bluntly that the European Union has not made any concrete decisions on supporting Kyiv. Berlin openly admitted that Germany has completely exhausted its domestic reserves for supplying Ukraine with new air defence systems. Meanwhile, the simmering political discontent that finally erupted in France as student protests against President Emmanuel Macron are cascading and the deeply unpopular leader has lost control, as nation-wide protests spread to neighbouring European countries. Inspired by French resistance to repression, people demonstrated in Brussels against rising university tuition fees. Tens of thousands of Portuguese, unhappy with the rising housing prices, took to the streets of Lisbon. Similar marches, which escalated into clashes with police, also took place in Italy. Clashes between students and police were also reported in Albania. Clearly, the neo-conservative Russophobic leaderships of the middle powers in Europe who exclusively defended Ukrainian interests at the expense of their own citizens, whose taxes after all finance their military-industrial complex, have lost the confidence of the people. Merz's public support stands at 10 percent; Macron's at 15 percent. Voters are opting for parties willing to restore relations with Moscow as business allies to revive their economy in deep crisis. Europe needs serious political change and the urgency of repairing Europe's tattered ties with Russia is beginning to be felt.

Unlike Joe Biden, Trump allows the groundswell to elect new leaderships including in the EU. Elections will be held in four of the five largest EU countries next year—Spain, France, Poland and Italy. Their results could well alter the course of the entire EU, rendering the very idea of 'middle powers', as Jaishankar visualises it, obsolete. Trump's advice to Carney is spot on: the middle powers of Europe live because of the United States and are condemned to be outliers otherwise.

Curbing Punjab's drug menace need effective rehab and local jobs

When drugs reach street corners and residential colonies across Punjab, the menace is at people's doorsteps. Today, the lure of easy money draws hawkers and daily-wage earners into the trade. It has spread across different walks of life

As Punjab heads towards another Assembly election, drugs remain a major concern for voters. Teenagers hooked on opioids, heroin arriving by drone and thousands of trafficking cases booked every year should leave little room for political self-congratulation. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has promised to make the state drug-free by the end of 2029. The pressing question is how the trade has survived years of police action. Official data released in February 2026 put the number of opioid users in Punjab at 21.36 lakh adults and 3.43 lakh children.

Drones are used to smuggle high-value narcotics from across the border. In 2025, Punjab recorded 298 of India's 305 drone-related drug cases. But bringing down a drone does not stop the smuggling. Someone still has to pick up the consignment, move it along the supply chain and deliver it to buyers. The real task for the police is to find those who run the business. Otherwise, another shipment would follow a seizure. Drugs also come into Punjab from other states, so checks along the international border alone would not solve the problem.The problem is compounded by the trafficking of prescription drugs. Opioid medicines and codeine-based cough syrups are easily available. Authorities must trace these supply chains, too. The killing of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota in Mansa on October 13, while he was live-streaming his confrontation with a chemist allegedly selling banned substances, highlights the dangers of confronting the drug trade.Addiction is a problem that requires long-term care beyond initial treatment. Admissions to Punjab's government de-addiction centres rose from 9,577 in 2024 to 25,290 in 2025. Behind these figures are people and families struggling with addiction. Support must continue after patients leave the centre, with regular counselling, medication, family support and steps to prevent relapse.



When drugs reach street corners and residential colonies across Punjab, the menace is at people's doorsteps. Today, the lure of easy money draws hawkers and daily-wage earners into the trade. It has spread across different walks of life, making the supply network harder to trace. The Union and Punjab governments must work together regardless of political differences. The ultimate anti-drug shield is employment. Vocational training, rural industrialisation and local job creation must become priorities. A drug-free Punjab must be earned through sustained enforcement, accountable governance, effective treatment and meaningful livelihood opportunities.

Plug gaps in counting of farm fires

Monitoring of stubble burning requires hybrid approach that combines data from multiple platforms

NORTH India's high-pollution season has begun. The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has already invoked Stage I of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in NCR as Delhi's air quality slipped into the "poor" category for the first time this season.This year, satellite data compiled by the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute's CREAMS (Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modelling from Space) lab recorded 454 farm fires in Punjab between September 15 and October 21. As paddy harvesting gains pace, these numbers will rise.The CAQM is verifying incidents on the ground amid reports that satellites are not capturing the full extent of burning. India has no reliable way to tell whether stubble burning is rising or falling, because fire counts capture when farmers burn crop residue, not how much they actually burn.Until crop residue burning (CRB) is measured by the land it scars rather than the flames a satellite happens to see, India will keep misjudging both its problem and its progress. Measurement is the first step here. Farmers squeezed between the paddy harvest and wheat sowing can afford to completely stop burning when alternatives are affordable and arrive on time. Nearly half the farmers in our survey who used residue management machines still burned some loose straw in 2022. Accurate data tells governments where farmers need additional support.During the peak burning days, between late October and early November, stubble burning could account for 40 per cent of Delhi's daily PM2.5, according to Delhi's Air Quality Decision Support System. Burning estimates tell us whether CRB mitigation measures like the Central Sector Scheme for Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue are working and where efforts should focus next, down to the district and village levels.They also feed the emission estimates behind Delhi's Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS), which the CAQM uses to decide the stage of GRAP across Delhi-NCR. Undercounting distorts all three: the scheme's effectiveness is not accurately captured, forecasts run low and restrictive actions arrive late. Three steps could close this gap.First, the CAQM should revise its monitoring protocol this season to include burnt area alongside fire counts. In 2022, Punjab recorded over 49,900 fires. By 2024, the reported fires dropped by 78 per cent to around 10,900. The land tells a different story: analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) found that Punjab's burnt area fell by only about 11 per cent by 2024. A study by ISRO found that burning has shifted from afternoon to evening hours. The satellites the CAQM relies on pass in the morning and early afternoon, so evening fires go unseen. Recognising this, it directed Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to step up evening surveillance. Ground patrols are needed, but they cannot replace remote sensing, which can monitor thousands of square kilometres without anyone in the field.Burnt area mapping fills that gap. Satellites such as the Sentinel-2 constellation carry multispectral sensors that detect the scar that remains after burning; adding up those scars gives the extent of burning. CEEW analysis found that burnt area methods using open-source satellite imagery are nearly 75 per cent accurate.

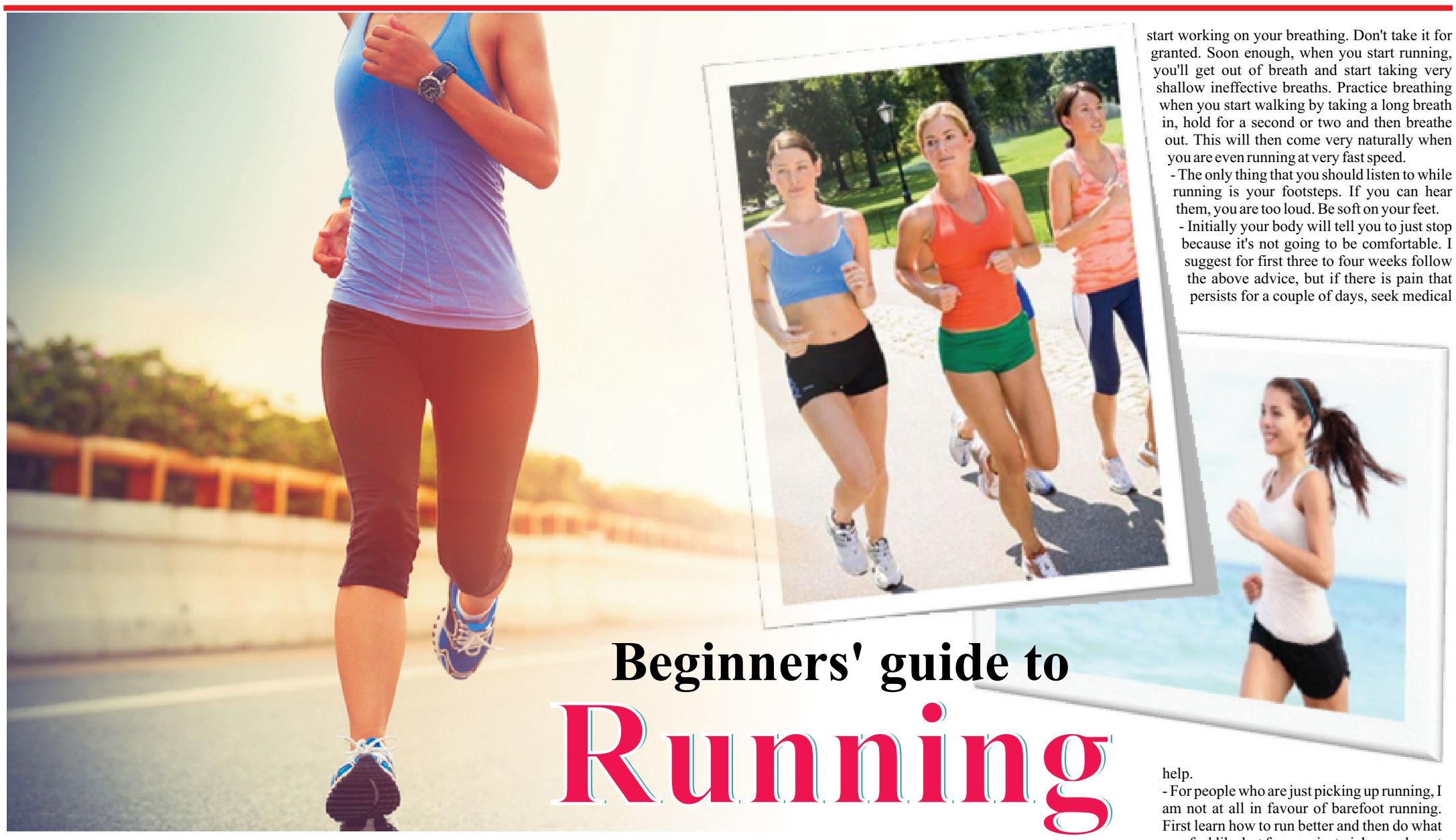
The CAQM piloted ISRO's burnt area method in 2025 and found inconsistencies in its ground survey reporting. The next step should be to resolve them and adopt the method alongside fire counts. These could show agriculture departments which villages most need machines, custom-hiring centres and straw buyers.

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and the India Meteorological Department should then feed burnt-area emissions into the inventories behind the region's AQEWS, so that forecasts reflect the fires that counts miss.Second, over the medium term, authorities should move towards a hybrid monitoring system. Burnt area helps complement fire counts, but creates an additional problem: the Sentinel-2 satellite generally revisits the same spot only every five days. If a farm is burnt and cleared within that window, even burnt area mapping could miss it. The CAQM has recently directed states to use drones. Yet drones have limited range, need extensive permissions and can realistically survey only a fraction of farmland.Commercial satellite imagery, used alongside open-source data, could fill the gap. Commercial providers offer multispectral satellite imagery similar to Sentinel-2's, and a single image covers thousands of square kilometres every day. The cost is the constraint: 10 days' commercial imagery for all of Punjab would cost up to Rs 10 crore. Satellites also go blind under cloud cover, which is where drones, flying below them, would be suitable. Monitoring of stubble burning requires an approach that combines data from multiple platforms to provide an accurate picture.Third, India should build its own environmental monitoring constellation in the long run. Today, commercial satellite data that helps monitor CRB comes from foreign providers; it carries the risk of blackouts. Earlier this year, for instance, Planet Labs introduced restrictions on satellite imagery from West Asia following a US government request. An indigenous satellite constellation, tuned to Indian conditions, would shield India from decisions made elsewhere.



The recent agreement between the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) and a consortium led by Bengaluru-based space company Pixxel to build a 12-satellite earth observation constellation, with the first four in orbit by early 2027, is a step in the right direction. The data from this constellation will help monitor CRB as well as other environmental parameters related to forests, water and land.

Stubble burning is no longer just North India's problem. States such as Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are now reporting farm fires and their toll on soil and the environment. As the practice spreads across India, so does the cost of measuring it inadequately. Mitigating it effectively from Punjab to Telangana, alongside machines and incentives for farmers, requires timely, accurate measurement and the right eyes in the sky.



Beginners' guide to Running

Plan to do a little bit of running after a long time to stay fit? Don't compete with anyone else around you and start with abby steps, says an expert.

Adidas running expert Rajat Chauhan suggests how to go about it

- Don't try to rush back to being how active or fit you were at a particular stage in life. You'll get there and beyond, but you first need to understand the current situation too. Also, don't compete with anyone else around you. Start slow, make a solid foundation so that you don't get hurt.
- You'll notice that in running community everyone is too obsessed with numbers of all kinds. I suggest you don't worry about distance and speed for the first few months. Simply focus on 'time on feet'.
- Start by alternating gentle walking for one to five minutes with brisk walking for one to five minutes. Repeat three to six times. For the first week or two, stick to this.
- Once you get comfortable moving at brisk pace five to 10 minutes non-stop, then you can start jogging a little. Now start alternating one to five minute brisk walks with one to five minutes jogs. Repeat three to six times.
- You need to have strength training to get the best out of your running. It'll help you run more efficiently. Strength training could be done at home or at gym, using body weight or machines.
- The more you resist, the more unnatural will it become and more mistakes you'll make. Start by relaxing your shoulders and just by jogging in one spot. Have an imaginary papadum (papad) between your thumb and index finger of both hands. Since you aren't supposed to break it, you need to hold it softly, in effect relaxing your shoulders and upper body.
- Whether walking or running, you need to start working on your breathing. Don't take it for granted. Soon enough, when you start running, you'll get out of breath and start taking very shallow ineffective breaths. Practice breathing when you start walking by taking a long breath in, hold for a second or two and then breathe out. This will then come very naturally when you are even running at very fast speed.
- The only thing that you should listen to while running is your footsteps. If you can hear them, you are too loud. Be soft on your feet.
- Initially your body will tell you to just stop because it's not going to be comfortable. I suggest for first three to four weeks follow the above advice, but if there is pain that persists for a couple of days, seek medical help.
- For people who are just picking up running, I am not at all in favour of barefoot running. First learn how to run better and then do what you feel like but for now just pick up a decent running pair based on your needs. If you are a neutral runner, pick normal cushioned shoes, but if you are an over pronator, please pick stability shoes.
- Have a sip or two of water every 10 to 15 minutes, but no more. Best is to have electrolyte mix and not plain water. Never run straight after meal. Give a break of at least two hours. After a run, it's important you have some proteins within 20 to 30 minutes.

7 exercises you need to Avoid

Although it is true that there are no such things as "bad" exercises, certain faulty techniques can make an exercise useless and compromising.



While some of these exercises aren't optimal for fitness, some others should be avoided as they can easily lead to injury. However, it is important to understand that they are not always unsafe or unproductive. Adopting or avoiding any exercise technique depends on an individual's personal fitness goals and objectives. Read on to know more about these common red flags...

Spot reduction exercises: An ineffective method of 'burning fat' followed by many people is spot reduction. The popularity of this belief can be largely attributed to the many exercise gimmicks that we often see in infomercials regarding localized weight reduction. But always keep in mind that weight loss can never be isolated to a particular area. Localized strengthening and toning exercises will only help to firm muscles but will have no effect on the fat content of the target area. A better alternative is to adopt a well-rounded full-body weight reduction program.



Leg extensions (Seated): A very popular exercise for working the anterior thigh muscles, seated leg extensions are actually one of the most dangerous exercises in the gym. This is because the exercise places an unhealthy amount of stress on the knee joint. According to a research published in the "Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy", individuals who worked on the leg extension machines found no benefit during functional tests. This can be particularly dangerous for those who have any kind of knee problems. Safer alternatives are simple lunges and squats without any added weights.

Leg press: Another form of exercise that should be avoided is the leg press as this can place undue amount of stress on the lower back. This can thus predispose a person to low back injuries. Although, many claim that seated leg press exercises can train your hams, quadriceps and gluts, in reality, it does not engage these muscles at all. All it does is force the spine into a flexed position. Hence, instead of this, try working on body weight squats.

Seated abduction or adduction: Just like leg press, seated abduction/adduction movements can place great amounts of stress on your spine. Also, such movements only train these muscles as prime movers. But, in reality, during actual physical activity, they are used only as stabilizers and not as prime movers. An easy and effective alternative is lunges which can be used to train these muscles for their actual purpose of stabilizing.

Leg curls: According to strength and conditioning coach, Charlie Weingroff, exercises like deadlifts are more effective than leg curls. This is because the latter trains the hams only as knee flexors while, during activity, they are used mainly as hip extensors.

Sit ups: As per the recommendations by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a person should never apply more than 3400 newtons of force on his back at a time. Crossing this limit would place unnecessary stress on the back muscles leading to stress or injury. On an average, a regular sit-up program contributes around 3413 newtons of force on the back muscles. To avoid this, opt for short range crunch movements or tabletops.

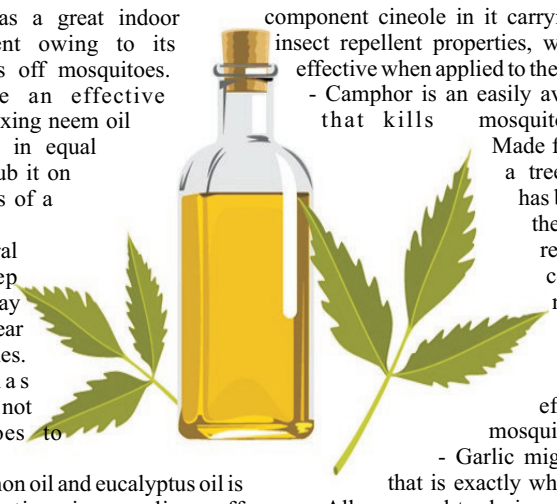
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Use neem oil, garlic for mosquito-free home

As the national capital battles one of its worst dengue seasons, experts suggest natural methods like neem and coconut oil concoction or garlic to keep the mosquito-borne tropical disease at bay.

Neem oil acts as a great indoor mosquito-repellent owing to its smell that wards off mosquitoes. One can make an effective insecticide by mixing neem oil and coconut oil in equal proportion and rub it on the exposed parts of a body.

- Another natural method to keep mosquitoes at bay is to plant Tulsi near the window panes. The plant has properties that do not allow mosquitoes to breed.
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- Camphor is an easily available ingredient that kills mosquitoes in a house. Made from the extract of a tree, this compound has been found to have the longest mosquito repellent effect as compared to other natural products. Burning camphor in a closed room can be extremely effective in keeping mosquitoes at bay.
- Garlic might smell bad, but that is exactly why mosquitoes stay away. All you need to do is crush a few pods of garlic, boil them in water and spray the liquid in the room.



Home remedies to battle stomach pain

The most common reason for stomach pain is indigestion. If the food you have eaten is not digested properly, it produces gas and toxic mucus in the stomach.

The half digested food also creates blockages in the bodily channels. In the long run, indigestion causes many health problems too. Dr. Smita Naram, Co-founder, Ayushakti shares some proven home remedies in Ayurveda which has helped lakhs of people to relieve pain, indigestion, gas, acidity, bloated stomach, etc. easily and stay healthy.

Low appetite, indigestion and pain

- One pinch each of dry ginger, black pepper, pipali, hing
- ½ teaspoon each of rock salt and black salt
- Kokum liquid extracted from 3 kokum.
- Mix all well and take it three times a day.

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Dry it in sun shade and keep bottled. Eat 1 piece each after every meal. This is the best remedy to improve the digestion, reduce pain and gas.

Stomach pain due to acidity with gas

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Mix them to the water, mentioned in (1) and drink twice a day.

Acidity and burning

20 black resins soaked in 1 glass of water and smash it in the morning and drink on empty stomach. This reduces heat (pitta) and thus reduce acidity effectively.

Pain with diarrhea and dysentery

- 1 glass fresh buttermilk with 1 teaspoon of cumn seed powder.
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How panchkarma helps in relieving irritant abdominal pain ?

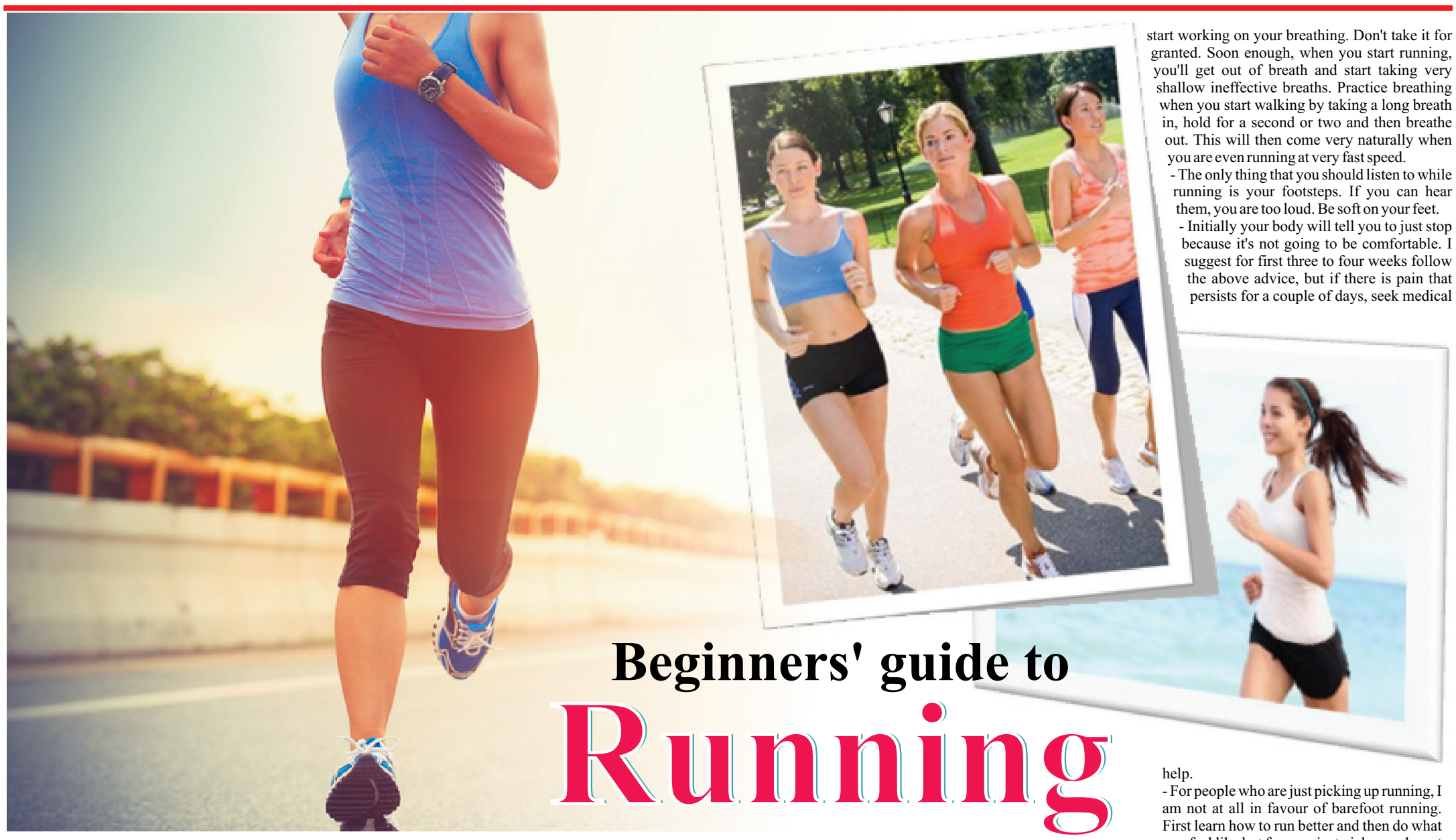
Basti karma is medicated enema effectively bring down the Vayu (air movement) and removes accumulated toxins through stool, and you feel relieved from pain and bloating of stomach.

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If you have pain and constant constipation: 1 teaspoon triphala powder with warm water daily at night relieves constipation. Also improves digestion and in the long run help to relieve from gas, acidity, bloated stomach.



Beginners' guide to Running

Plan to do a little bit of running after a long time to stay fit? Don't compete with anyone else around you and start with abby steps, says an expert.

Adidas running expert Rajat Chauhan suggests how to go about it

- Don't try to rush back to being how active or fit you were at a particular stage in life. You'll get there and beyond, but you first need to understand the current situation too. Also, don't compete with anyone else around you. Start slow, make a solid foundation so that you don't get hurt.
- You'll notice that in running community everyone is too obsessed with numbers of all kinds. I suggest you don't worry about distance and speed for the first few months. Simply focus on 'time on feet'.
- Start by alternating gentle walking for one to five minutes with brisk walking for one to five minutes. Repeat three to six times. For the first week or two, stick to this.
- Once you get comfortable moving at brisk pace five to 10 minutes non-stop, then you can start jogging a little. Now start alternating one to five minute brisk walks with one to five minutes jogs. Repeat three to six times.
- You need to have strength training to get the best out of your running. It'll help you run more efficiently. Strength training could be done at home or at gym, using body weight or machines.
- The more you resist, the more unnatural will it become and more mistakes you'll make. Start by relaxing your shoulders and just by jogging in one spot. Have an imaginary papadum (papad) between your thumb and index finger of both hands. Since you aren't supposed to break it, you need to hold it softly, in effect relaxing your shoulders and upper body.
- Whether walking or running, you need to start working on your breathing. Don't take it for granted. Soon enough, when you start running, you'll get out of breath and start taking very shallow ineffective breaths. Practice breathing when you start walking by taking a long breath in, hold for a second or two and then breathe out. This will then come very naturally when you are even running at very fast speed.
- The only thing that you should listen to while running is your footsteps. If you can hear them, you are too loud. Be soft on your feet.
- Initially your body will tell you to just stop because it's not going to be comfortable. I suggest for first three to four weeks follow the above advice, but if there is pain that persists for a couple of days, seek medical help.
- For people who are just picking up running, I am not at all in favour of barefoot running. First learn how to run better and then do what you feel like but for now just pick up a decent running pair based on your needs. If you are a neutral runner, pick normal cushioned shoes, but if you are an over pronator, please pick stability shoes.
- Have a sip or two of water every 10 to 15 minutes, but no more. Best is to have electrolyte mix and not plain water. Never run straight after meal. Give a break of at least two hours. After a run, it's important you have some proteins within 20 to 30 minutes.

7 exercises you need to Avoid

Although it is true that there are no such things as "bad" exercises, certain faulty techniques can make an exercise useless and compromising.



While some of these exercises aren't optimal for fitness, some others should be avoided as they can easily lead to injury. However, it is important to understand that they are not always unsafe or unproductive. Adopting or avoiding any exercise technique depends on an individual's personal fitness goals and objectives. Read on to know more about these common red flags...

Spot reduction exercises: An ineffective method of 'burning fat' followed by many people is spot reduction. The popularity of this belief can be largely attributed to the many exercise gimmicks that we often see in infomercials regarding localized weight reduction. But always keep in mind that weight loss can never be isolated to a particular area. Localized strengthening and toning exercises will only help to firm muscles but will have no effect on the fat content of the target area. A better alternative is to adopt a well-rounded full-body weight reduction program.



Leg extensions (Seated): A very popular exercise for working the anterior thigh muscles, seated leg extensions are actually one of the most dangerous exercises in the gym. This is because the exercise places an unhealthy amount of stress on the knee joint. According to a research published in the "Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy", individuals who worked on the leg extension machines found no benefit during functional tests. This can be particularly dangerous for those who have any kind of knee problems. Safer alternatives are simple lunges and squats without any added weights.

Leg press: Another form of exercise that should be avoided is the leg press as this can place undue amount of stress on the lower back. This can thus predispose a person to low back injuries. Although, many claim that seated leg press exercises can train your hams, quadriceps and gluts, in reality, it does not engage these muscles at all. All it does is force the spine into a flexed position. Hence, instead of this, try working on body weight squats.

Seated abduction or adduction: Just like leg press, seated abduction/adduction movements can place great amounts of stress on your spine. Also, such movements only train these muscles as prime movers. But, in reality, during actual physical activity, they are used only as stabilizers and not as prime movers. An easy and effective alternative is lunges which can be used to train these muscles for their actual purpose of stabilizing.

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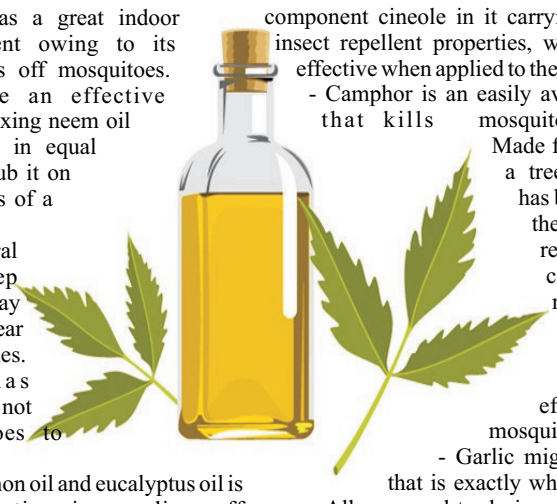
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DDA mulls over 24-km cycling track along Yamuna banks

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is planning to develop a 24-km cycling track along the banks of the Yamuna river, which could become the city's longest, stretching from the Old Railway Bridge near Wazirabad to National Highway 24 near Sarai Kale Khan.

The DDA has floated a tender for the first phase of the project, with the overall estimated construction cost pegged at Rs 16 crore. The cycling track will be developed using materials permitted in the Yamuna floodplain, with extensive greenery planned along the route.

Under the approved Master Plans of Delhi 2047, the DDA has proposed promoting a 'river-people connect' and developing blue assets along a stretch of around 50 km of the



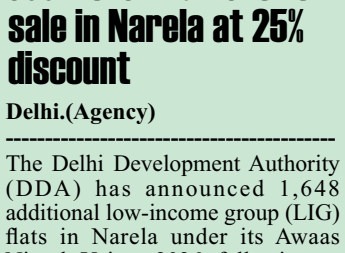
Yamuna. As per the plan, the entire 52-km corridor will be developed in three phases, with the first phase covering the stretch from the Old Railway Bridge near Wazirabad to National Highway 24.A 75-metre to 100-metre-wide public greenway will be developed along the western bank of the river. It will feature cycling and walking trails, along with spaces for passive recreational activities, to improve public access to parks and the river. It is also expected to encourage a stronger connection between people and the Yamuna.The cycling track will be developed in areas outside the 'active floodplain', where certain recreational activities are permitted with the necessary approvals. The proposed corridor will link several floodplain projects, including Baansera, Kalindi Biodiversity Park, Asita and Yamuna Vatika.

DDA offers 1,648 additional LIG flats for sale in Narela at 25% discount

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has announced 1,648 additional low-income group (LIG) flats in Narela under its Awaas Nivesh Yojana 2026, following an overwhelming response to the affordable housing scheme launched during Dussehra. The flats will be offered at a flat 25% discount, with an approximate price of Rs 14.95 lakh per unit.

Online booking for the additional flats will begin on October 29, 2026, at 12 noon through the DDA's Awaas Portal. The allotment will be conducted on a first come, first serve basis.The additional housing units are located in Pocket 1, Sectors G2–G6 of Narela. Each flat has an approximate plinth area of 49.90 square metres, including common areas. The applicants will be required to pay a booking amount of Rs 1 lakh per flat.The decision follows strong demand for the



earlier offering under the scheme, with the flats reportedly being booked within two hours of the commencement of bookings. The initiative, launched under the guidance of Lieutenant-Governor and DDA Chairman Taranjit Singh Sandhu, aims to expand access to affordable housing for residents.

Narela is being developed as a growing residential destination, supported by planned infrastructure and improving connectivity. Key projects include the upcoming Rithala–Narela–Kundli Metro corridor, a proposed regional rapid transit system (RRTS) station and road links through urban extension road (UER)-I, UER-II and GT Karnal Road.The area is also expected to benefit from an upcoming education hub in Sectors G2 and G6, where land has been allotted to universities. Planned sports facilities, including the Narela Sports Complex in Sector A-7 and a proposed multi-sports integrated stadium are expected to strengthen its residential appeal.

Jamia protest over students' union intensifies, 10 detained including Congress MP

Delhi Police detained MPs Imran Masood and Mohibbullah Nadvi amid escalating protests at Jamia Millia Islamia demanding the restoration of the student union.

Delhi.(Agency)

The ongoing protest at Jamia Millia Islamia over the restoration of the students' union intensified on Friday, with Delhi Police detaining 10 people, including Congress MP Imran Masood, near the university. Samajwadi Party MP Mohibbullah Nadvi was also detained by Delhi police while he was on his way to meet the protesting students and later released, according to a PTI report. Nadvi alleged that police pushed and manhandled him before detaining him. Videos of his detention also surfaced on social media. The agitation, which began on October 12, has drawn support from student organisations and political leaders.

Why are Jamia students protesting?

Jamia has not had an elected students' union since 2006. The last elections was held in 2005. Students began an indefinite hunger strike on October 12, demanding the restoration of the Jamia Millia Islamia Students' Union (JMISU) and an official notification announcing the election schedule.

The protesters have also raised concerns over academic facilities, attendance rules, hostels, scholarships and research stipends. But, they maintain that their immediate demand is a formal announcement of the election schedule.

The university administration has formed a committee to draft a new constitution for the students' union. But, the move has not addressed the protesters' demand for a clear timeline for elections. The agitation witnessed unrest on October 17, when authorities attempted to remove demonstrators from the Ghalib lawn near Gate No. 7.

Several student organisations have since extended their support to the protest.

Women students marched on Friday in solidarity with the protesters, reiterating their demand for the restoration of the union. "We won't stop until the university restores the union by announcing the JMISU date," the protesting students said. Before getting detained, Congress MP Imran Masood stated, "Kashmir is an integral part of India. Even a child here would not say otherwise. I strongly condemn those trying to weaken this movement by putting up such posters. The students' concerns are legitimate. Why don't you restore the student union? They are the future of this country. Why is there an attempt to crush the future of this nation?"

What's next?

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Yadav has written to Jamia Vice-Chancellor Professor Mazhar Asif, requesting the administration to restore the students' union and withdraw disciplinary action against protesting students. Yadav called for a transparent, time-bound plan for holding elections, the withdrawal of restrictions imposed on protesters and immediate dialogue with students.

"An elected students' union is not a privilege; it is an essential platform for democratic representation, academic freedom, nation building and responsible leadership," he said.Citing Jawaharlal Nehru University and Delhi University, where students' union elections are held in line with the Lyngdoh Committee recommendations, Yadav said Jamia could adopt a suitable framework to restore the union. He also urged the administration to ensure medical care and protection for students on hunger strike, arguing that peaceful dissent should be addressed through dialogue rather than punitive action.

48 Delhi villages to get urban status; focus on roads, water, sewerage, says CM

Delhi.(Agency)

Aiming to ensure planned and integrated development of the capital, the government has decided to urbanise 48 villages in the city. The move is said to bring the legal status of these villages in line with the city's changing urban landscape and provide a basis for better planning of their development.Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the decision would allow the needs of these villages in terms of land use, road connectivity, sewerage, water supply, sanitation and other civic amenities to be assessed in a more systematic and coordinated manner.Gupta also said that villages are an integral part of the capital's cultural heritage, social life and development journey. Planned development is essential to ensure the well-being of these villages, improve the quality of life of the families living there and provide them with better basic amenities. The government aims to ensure that development is balanced, inclusive and aligned with future needs.The urbanisation of these 48 villages, she said, is an important step in that direction. It will provide a basis for systematically assessing development needs, improving the planning of civic amenities and strengthening coordination among the agencies concerned. The aim is to bring villages into the mainstream of development while respecting their identity and heritage, she added.

Once the notification is issued, the status of the villages concerned will change from rural to urban. This will bring clarity regarding their urban status and the legal and administrative rules applicable to them, Gupta said. It will also provide a clear legal basis for preparing and considering development plans in the future. However, construction work, changes in land use and other development activities will have to comply with the relevant rules, building regulations, approved plans and other necessary permissions.

The process will also help assess development opportunities in line with the Draft Master Plan 2041. However, development work will be carried out only in accordance with the relevant plans, necessary statutory approvals and other applicable rules.

For public health workers in Capital, decades of struggle finally pays off

After years of struggle and protests, around 4,000 MCD public health workers in Delhi received salary arrears as the civic body implemented "equal pay for equal work".

Delhi.(Agency)

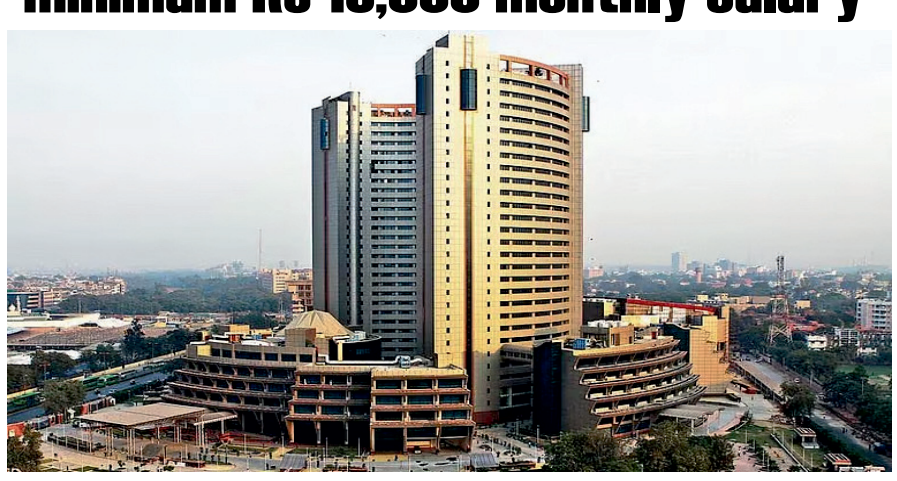
For years, Madhubala's salary went towards her children's school and college fees, leaving little for herself. A single mother who has raised two sons alone for the last three years, she has spent two decades working as a domestic breeding checker (DBC) with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). Now, after years of demanding better pay, the 45-year-old hopes she can finally start saving a little.The reason: On Friday, she received Rs 27,000 in her bank account, a change from the around Rs 17,000 she earned every month until September.The increase follows the MCD's decision to raise the minimum monthly salary of its public health workers to Rs 18,000, along with dearness allowance, under the principle of "equal pay for equal work".

"I have been raising two sons alone since the last three years after I separated from my husband due to domestic abuse. I spent all my salary on my children's school and college fees. I have not spent anything on myself," Madhubala says, adding that she will now try saving some money.According to MCD Commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar, the decision will benefit around 4,000 workers and entail an annual financial burden of Rs 52 crore.For Madhubala and her colleagues, the revised pay follows years of demands for better working conditions.It was October last year when she took part in a strike along with Multi Tasking Staff (MTS) of the civic body. They demanded standardised pay, medical and earned leaves, and jobs for family members of employees who have passed away. After the strike was called off, the Mayor had promised the workers to consider their demands.Devananda Sharma, the general secretary of the DBC Workers Union who has worked as a frontline worker for over 30 years, recalled: "In 2016, we sat on the streets to protest and got provision for casual leaves, medical leaves and maternity break. Then in 2023, workers were redesignated as MTS."Alka (54), another worker, now wants to start saving for her daughter's wedding. "Even if we don't spend on anything extra, we still need to pay a rent of Rs 10,000. The landlord



shows up on the first day of every month," she says. Alka, who has worked for over 25 years now, says her medical expenses also need to be taken care of."We sometimes climb to the upper floors or terrace of buildings to check the water tank for mosquito breeding. Our knees hurt." Alka works in Mayur Vihar and goes door to door to check for breeding. "But I still enjoy my work. This (hike in pay) will push us to do it more nicely," she says.Mayor Pravesh Wahi said the proposal had been announced in the previous Budget and was taken up with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta for an approval.The CM, meanwhile, said on Friday that her government is committed to upholding the dignity, rights and welfare of all those who work tirelessly to serve the people of Delhi.The post of DBC was created after the 1996 dengue outbreak in the Capital, when 10,252 cases and 423 deaths were registered in a year. "Initially, considering the epidemic-like situation, the MCD started hiring workers, but that lasted for just 19 days. Hiring of DBCs on contractual basis began from 1997 onwards," a senior MCD official.

MCD public health workers to get minimum Rs 18,000 monthly salary



Delhi.(Agency)

Around 4,000 public health workers employed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will receive a minimum monthly salary of Rs 18,000, along with dearness allowance, under the principle of equal pay for equal work, officials said on Friday.The revised pay, which carries an annual financial burden of Rs 52 crore, was announced at an event attended by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta at the MCD headquarters on Friday.According to an official statement, the workers, earlier designated as domestic breeding checker (DBC) staff and later redesignated as Multi-Tasking Staff (Public Health), were recruited to help contain dengue and have continued to perform public health duties, including door-to-door visits, over the years, MCD Commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar said.Under the revised arrangement, their salaries will be fixed at the minimum of Level 1 of the pay matrix, or Rs 18,000, in addition to variable dearness allowance. The increased wages have been transferred directly to their bank accounts, Mayor Pravesh Wahi said.

Wahi said the proposal had been announced in the previous budget and was taken up with the chief minister to secure approval for its implementation. "When we told the CM about the salary increase announced in the previous budget, she immediately asked about the cost. When informed that it would amount to Rs 52 crore annually, she approved it without delay," he said.The pay revision comes amid the MCD's efforts to address employee-related issues, with the mayor also announcing the recruitment of 2,500 sanitation workers ahead of Diwali to improve cleanliness in the city and its markets.

Delhi's air quality improves to 'moderate' after three consecutive days of 'poor' air

The city also witnessed a slight dip in minimum temperature on Saturday, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting partly cloudy skies over the next few days.



Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi saw an improvement in air quality on Saturday morning, with the AQI moving to the "moderate" category after remaining "poor" for three consecutive days, bringing some relief to residents. The air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 185 (moderate) at 9 am on Saturday, compared with the 24-hour average of 230 (poor) at 4 pm on Friday, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). As per CPCB standards, an AQI of 0-50 is considered "good", 51-100 "satisfactory", 101-200 "moderate", 201-300 "poor", 301-400 "very poor", and 401-500 "severe".

The city also witnessed a slight dip in minimum temperature on Saturday, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting partly cloudy skies over the next few days.

Safdarjung, representative of the city's weather, recorded a minimum temperature of 18.3 degrees Celsius, 1.1 degrees above normal but 0.7 degrees lower than the previous day.

Other weather stations also recorded a slight decrease in minimum temperatures. Palam recorded a minimum of 17.6 degrees Celsius, 0.7 degrees less than the day before; Lodhi Road recorded a minimum of 17.6 degrees, and Ayanagar recorded a minimum of 17 degrees. The day's maximum temperature is likely to settle between 32 and 34 degrees Celsius, the IMD said.

Commerce ministry identifying AI-proof professions, sectors where India can take global lead: Goyal

BERLIN.(Agency)

The commerce ministry is identifying professions that are less vulnerable to artificial intelligence (AI) to prepare for the fast-changing technological landscape and tap opportunities for India to emerge as a global leader, Union Minister Piyush Goyal has said.The commerce and industry minister said that the focus would be on sectors where AI could improve efficiency without necessarily replacing human workers, while leveraging India's large pool of skilled talent, youthful population and traditional strengths.

"I got my ministry to start working on what are the AI-proof professions. After all, we have to plan as a nation for so many millions of people. What are the sectors where AI can at max add to efficiency, not necessarily replace (human workforce)," the minister said on Friday while addressing Indian science and technology researchers and students in Germany.When asked about the objective of the initiative, he said India could take global leadership in several areas, including handicrafts, handloom, culinary arts and tourism, leveraging its vast pool of skilled talent and youthful population.

In these sectors, traditional skills and human creativity remain important, he said.

"... our handicraft, handloom... no amount of AI can replace that. So there are many, many areas where I think we have some very special strengths which we will be focusing on, also simultaneously developing, to ensure that 1.4 billion people have a better life in the future," he added.Asked whether the government planned to offer incentives to these sectors, Goyal said support would be provided wherever necessary, but incentives would not be required for every activity."It'll be a mix of several initiatives, some privately led, some government led, some people led, some opportunity led," he said, adding the broader objective was to develop India's strengths and create opportunities that would help improve the lives of its 1.4 billion people.

Goyal also talked about exploring ways to attract Indian researchers, engineers, and scientists working abroad to return and contribute to the country's development.I've asked them (the researchers and students here) to tell us what they will need to consider



(the idea) and how we can support more, young researchers or our talented engineers and scientific community to come and work and serve in India," he said.

Goyal said his discussions had highlighted that attracting talent was not merely a question of financial incentives, but also of creating a supportive environment for research and innovation."And surprisingly, I realise it's not just about money; it's about the enabling environment, the support of the ecosystem. So I (will) talk to my colleagues in the government, with educational institutions, both in the government and private sector, with academia, with leading research institutions in India, and industry, to see how we can forge industry, academia, and researchers partnerships," he said.Referring to future global growth prospects, Goyal said developed countries would increasingly need to engage with emerging economies in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as these regions would drive future growth.

There are about 330,000 people of Indian origin in Germany, plus nearly 60-70,000 students."This large Indian student community, full of enthusiasm, seems to be very excited about taking their learnings back to India. Now we can see them not just looking for a job in Germany, but wanting to be back home to contribute to the India growth story.

Godrej Properties' Q2FY27 results: Net profit falls 62% to ₹154 crore

New Delhi.(Agency)

Godrej Properties Ltd (GPL) reported a 62 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) decline in its consolidated net profit to ₹154 crore in the second quarter of 2026-2027 (Q2FY27). This compares to ₹405 crore in Q2FY26. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation also fell 72 per cent to ₹171 crore, compared to ₹614 crore in Q2FY26. However, total income grew 38 per cent to ₹2,575 crore from ₹1,867 crore in the corresponding period last year.The developer registered sales worth ₹8,000 crore in the second quarter, while its booking value for the half year ended in September 30 grew 7 per cent year-on-year to ₹16,659 crore. This was the highest-ever first-half booking value achieved by Godrej Properties, the firm said.While some of the headline earnings and bookings numbers for the quarter look muted, Q2 was a very strong operating quarter with sustenance sales growth of 83 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹5,054 crore and cash collections growth of 31 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹5,318 crore," Pirojsha Godrej, chairperson of Godrej Properties Ltd, said.

From fuel price hikes to cost-of-living concerns, US consumer sentiment nears record low

New Delhi.(Agency)

US consumer sentiment edged down to near a record low in October as rising prices linked to the Middle East conflict weighed on households' views of the economy, a University of Michigan survey showed on Friday, with affordability emerging as a key issue ahead of the November 3 midterm elections.

The university's Consumer Sentiment Index slipped to 48.0 this month from a final reading of 48.1 in September.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected a reading of 46.3, which was also the preliminary estimate for October.

October's reading was the second-lowest on record, following the all-time low of 44.8 recorded in May, shortly after the Iran war began.

"Purchasing power continues to dominate consumer views of the economy," said Joanne Hsu, director of the Surveys of Consumers. "Sentiment is now 10% below a year ago and 15% less than February, just prior to the Iran conflict."Independent voters report weaker sentiment

The survey's findings coincided with political polling showing that voters held a dim view of the economy and President Donald Trump's and the Republican Party's handling of it, Reuters reported.

India seventh most targeted by cyberattacks: MS executive Nicholas Butts

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

India is the world's seventh most targeted country by cyberattacks and third in Asia, a senior Microsoft executive said Friday, warning that artificial intelligence was already helping criminals mount ransomware and espionage campaigns.

At the NDTV World Summit 2026, Nicholas Butts, director of AI and cybersecurity policy at Microsoft, said the risks were immediate."What we're seeing is not about potential doom and gloom in 10 years but about very real security threats right here today," he said.

Butts cited Storm 3168, also called Jadepuffer, which he described as a China-based ransomware operation using AI agents against customers worldwide.He also pointed to Russian and Chinese state-sponsored actors deploying agents for espionage, including a group Microsoft tracks as Storm 0940.AI was also lowering the barriers for smaller criminal operations, he said.

Can't Save Enough For A Home Down Payment? 3 Ways To Build Your Fund

New Delhi.(Agency)

You may be paying Rs 30,000 a month in rent. You may even be comfortable paying Rs 35,000 as a home loan EMI. Yet, buying a house remains out of reach because you cannot put together the money required upfront.This is the financial dilemma many middle-class homebuyers face. Their monthly income may be enough to service a home loan, but their savings are not enough to secure one.The problem is that rent consumes a large part of their salary. School fees, groceries, insurance premiums and other household expenses eat into the rest. Whatever remains may be too little to build a sizeable corpus quickly.And the down payment is only part of the money a buyer needs. Stamp duty, registration, moving expenses and basic furnishing can add significantly to the upfront cost.So, should a prospective homebuyer simply keep the money in a savings account until the target is reached? Or can investments help bridge the gap?

There are three routes worth examining: recurring deposits, mutual fund systematic investment plans (SIPs), and buying a small plot of land that could eventually be sold to fund the down payment. Each comes with a different balance of risk, return and flexibility.

First, Calculate How Much You Actually NeedSuppose you want to buy a house worth Rs 60 lakh. If the lender finances 80 per cent of the property value, you would need to arrange Rs 12 lakh as a down payment. The remaining Rs 48 lakh could be financed through a home loan, subject to the lender's assessment and eligibility criteria.

But your actual savings target should be higher than Rs 12 lakh. You need to account for transaction costs and retain an emergency fund rather than putting



every rupee into the property.

This is where planning becomes important. Instead of waiting for a large sum to accumulate in your bank account, decide how much you need, when you want to buy and how much you can invest every month.

1. Recurring deposits: A predictable route to the down payment

A recurring deposit (RD) can suit someone who wants to build a home-buying fund without exposing it to stock market fluctuations. You deposit a fixed amount every month and earn interest at the rate offered by the bank or post office, subject to the scheme's terms.

Consider someone who invests Rs 20,000 a month for five years. The total contribution would be Rs 12 lakh. At an illustrative annual interest rate of 6.5 per cent, compounded monthly, the maturity amount could be around Rs 14 lakh before tax. The actual amount will depend on the rate, deposit terms and compounding method.The advantage is predictability. You can estimate how much you will accumulate and plan your home purchase accordingly. You also avoid the risk of a stock market fall just when you need the money. The trade-off is that returns may be lower than those of equities over a long period. Interest income may also be taxable, depending on your tax position.2. SIPs: Can the stock market help you get there faster?A systematic investment plan allows you to invest a fixed amount regularly in a mutual fund. For someone whose home purchase is several years away, an equity mutual fund SIP could help build a larger corpus, although returns are not guaranteed.Take the same example. Investing Rs 20,000 every month for five years means contributing Rs 12 lakh. If the investment earns an illustrative annualised return of 10 per cent, the final value could be around Rs 15.5 lakh, depending on the timing of investments and actual returns.That is roughly Rs 1.5 lakh more than the illustrative RD outcome. But this is a projection, not a promise. Equity markets can deliver lower returns or even negative returns over a five-year period.

At $43 billion, RBI's net dollar purchase hits new high

MUMBA.(Agency)

RBI's net dollar purchases surged 132% to $43.3 billion in Aug 2026, driven by inflows through its concessional FCNR(B) swap facility, while its outstanding net forward short position crossed $200 billion for the first time.

RBI bought $74.5 billion in dollars during the month, up 93.9% from $38.4 billion in July. It made no dollar purchases in Aug 2025, when it was defending the rupee amid foreign portfolio outflows. Dollar sales rose 57.9% month-on-month to $31.2 billion from $19.8 billion in July and were 305.6% higher than the $7.7 billion sold in Aug 2025.

Net purchases were 132% higher than the $18.7 billion recorded in July and contrasted with net sales of $7.7 billion in Aug 2025. Gross transactions across onshore and offshore over-the-counter markets exceeded $105.7 billion. RBI's dollar purchases helped absorb the $127 billion mobilised by banks through FCNR(B) deposits from NRIs.However, pressure on the rupee prompted the central bank to sell dollars to support the currency. Its dollar sales of $31.2 billion in Aug represented around a quarter of the amount mobilised through FCNR(B) deposits, though the two figures cover different types of transactions and periods of currency management.India's foreign exchange reserves fell by $5.01 billion to $721.02 billion in the week ended Oct 16, down $64.7 billion from their all-time high of $785.71 billion in the week ended Sept 4, as pressure on the rupee continued. Foreign currency assets, the largest component of reserves, declined by $5.76 billion during the latest week. The fall was partly offset by a $706 million increase in the value of gold reserves.RBI's concessional dollar-rupee swap facility allowed banks to exchange dollar deposits raised from NRIs for three to five years for rupees, while securing forward hedges from the central bank. The deposit mobilisation window closed at the end of Aug, prompting banks to surrender the dollar proceeds to RBI.The central bank also stepped up dollar sales and conducted offsetting sellbuy swaps to manage the rupee and the liquidity injected through its purchases. Its outstanding net forward short position rose by $63.3 billion, or 46.3%, in a month to a record $200.

Festive cheer eludes Street amid oil shock

Mumbai . (Agency)

Indian equities continue to bleed through the festive season when buying sentiment is typically strong. The benchmark indices—BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty 50—settled in the red in all four trading sessions of this week, with the broader indices facing a much steeper decline.On Friday, the 30-share BSE Sensex opened higher but later plunged 797.02 points, or 1.08%, to hit an intraday low of 72,452.37. It later recouped some losses to settle at 73,123.83, down 125.56 points, or 0.17%.The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 87.65 points, or 0.39%, to close at 22,600 after tumbling 315.65 points, or 1.39%, to a low of 22,372 on Friday. The Nifty Midcap 100 declined 2.21% and the Nifty Smallcap 100 fell 2.94%.

Investors lost over Rs 20 lakh crore this week as the market capitalisation of all BSE-listed firms came down from Rs 473.46 lakh crore to Rs 452.40 lakh crore.The decline is primarily attributed to elevated crude oil prices amid growing tensions in West Asia. At about $116 per barrel, Brent crude oil is trading near a six-month high. For India, persistently high crude prices pose risks to imported inflation, corporate margins, and currency stability. If oil prices remain high, it could also lead to foreign fund outflows, further hurting domestic equities.on Thursday, according to exchange data."Indian markets are currently seeing selling pressure primarily due to global factors with elevated geopolitical tensions, rising bond yields and the sharp rise in crude oil prices, which increased concerns around inflation, margins and the current account. At the same time, tighter global liquidity and higher interest rates have reduced risk off sentiment," said Shweta Rajani, associate director, Anand Rathi Wealth Ltd.Rajani explained that historically, the



festive season that starts from the Navratri days till the end of Diwali has been favourable for equities.

The Nifty50 and Sensex have fallen by around 14% since the beginning of this year. If the bearish trend continues till December, it would be the first time in the past 10 years that Indian equities give negative returns in a calendar year.According to Sudeep Shah, head of technical and derivatives research at SBI Securities, the sharp correction in AI- and data centre-related stocks across global exchanges has deepened market volatility.

Jio Platforms IPO: Investors pump nearly 2% of India's GDP as bids; know the details

Kolkata.(Ajency)

The bidding window of Jio Platforms IPO closed yesterday, leaving behind jaw-dropping numbers about investor participation. The Rs 30,213-crore issue was subscribed 22.19 times overall on the third day of the bidding process. While that's been reported let's have a look at these numbers from a different perspective.

The GDP quotient

Since the size of the issue is Rs 30,213 crore and the issue was oversubscribed 22.19 times, the amount of money that has been put as bids by investors is Rs 30,213 crore X 22.19 = Rs 670,426.47 crore. According to official figures, the GDP of India stood at Rs 346.36 lakh crore in FY26. Therefore, JIO IPO attracted bids that are 1.93% of India's GDP.As many as 1.39 crore applications poured in. This eclipsed the earlier record of 97.34 lakh applications set by solar equipment maker Waaree Energies in October 2024.

Institutional demand

Jio IPO recorded the strongest demand from institutional investors. Qualified institutional buyers or QIBs bid for 345.8 crore shares against 4.9 crore reserved, that amount to 70.55 times subscription in its category. Non-institutional investors subscribed 14 times their allocation, and retail individual investors bid for 2.72 times the shares reserved for them.



The 100 minute dash

The issue gained momentum right from the start. Within just 100 minutes of bidding opening on October 21, the IPO was 100% subscribed. By the end of the first day, the subscription stood at 3.16 times. It rose to 5.57 times by the second day, and on the third day, there was a massive surge in investor demand. The final subscription reached 22.19 times.

Jio Platforms IPO GMP

According to Investorgain, Jio Platforms IPO GMP stood at Rs 250 in the late night of October 23. Considering an upper price band of Rs 1,119.00, the estimated listing price for Jio Platforms shares will be Rs 1,369 and the listing gain 22.34%.

Adani won't let up on Navi Mumbai airport shift, sends second reminder to airlines

Mumbai.(Agency)

Differences between Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) and airlines over the proposed relocation of flight operations continue, with the airport operator sending carriers a second reminder to discuss the plan. Ahead of an October 28 meeting to finalise the transition, airlines have asked for Terminal 1 (T1) redevelopment and Terminal 2 (T2) capacity enhancement to be added to the agenda.

MIAL, which runs Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), is part of the Adani Group, which also operates the new Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA).

In its latest communication, MIAL asked airlines to discuss the proposed traffic relocation plan with their network planning and commercial teams. The reminder comes amid continuing differences over how flight operations at CSMIA will be managed during the transition.

In an earlier communication, MIAL had reiterated the need to cut the airport's annual passenger capacity by five million from March 2027.

How sea salt from a warming Arabian Sea is adding to Mumbai's smog

Mumbai.(Agency)

As Mumbai's skyline remains shrouded in thick haze, the civic administration on Thursday identified sodium chloride (NaCl), commonly known as sea salt, as one of the compounds contributing to its formation. This is the first time the administration has cited sea salt as a factor behind the haze, even as air pollution has been a growing concern in the city since 2022. How does sea salt contribute to haze?

Mumbai, like other parts of the Asia-Pacific region, is experiencing the effects of El Niño, a climate pattern associated with warmer temperatures and changing rainfall patterns. Warmer Arabian Sea waters can accelerate evaporation, while waves generate sea spray and aerosols that enter the atmosphere.

As the water evaporates, salt particles remain suspended in the air, contributing to haze and reducing visibility. "Salt or NaCl is an opaque element, therefore, it directly affects the visibility of people, leading to formation of a thick haze-like envelope around the skyline," Tuhin Banerjee, air quality expert and former scientist at the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), told .

12,648 TNUHDB tenements to be rebuilt at Rs 2.9K cr

CHENNAI.(Agency)

The Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) is set to reconstruct 12,648 tenements across 20 project sites in the state, at an estimated cost of Rs 2,882.62 crore this year, Housing and Urban Development Minister B Rajkumar said on Friday. Under the Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Development Scheme, Rs 46 crore has been allocated for repair works across 36,395 old tenement buildings, he said. Additionally, TNUHDB have allocated Rs 264 crore for the improvement of basic infrastructure across the tenement buildings in the state. A designated amount of Rs 50 crore will be spent for the repairs and renovation of 6,508 TNUHDB tenements in Kannagi Nagar, Chennai, during the current financial year, Rajkumar said. The minister made the announcements while distributing allotment orders to 195 families, who have been shifted from the Chithra Nagar VAMBAY housing units built in 2004, to the newly constructed tenement buildings at Kotturpuram. The families have been relocated after their area was repeatedly affected by flooding during the monsoon. Earlier, the minister inspected two old TNUHDB tenement buildings in Villivakkam constituency — Pachaikal Veerasamy Street and NVN Nagar Phase II project areas. The former has 876 tenements across blocks with two, three and four floors above ground level, while the latter has 352 tenements in three-storey buildings.

Pune MLC polls: MVA banks on educational networks, BJP on ground strength

Western Maharashtra has traditionally been a Congress and undivided NCP stronghold.

Pune.(Agency)



With polling for the Maharashtra Legislative Council elections in the Pune division over, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is banking on its traditional support base in western Maharashtra, while the BJP is counting on its grassroots organisation to make inroads into the Opposition's stronghold. The Pune division Graduate's and Teachers' constituencies cover Pune, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur and Solapur districts. Western Maharashtra has traditionally been a Congress and undivided NCP stronghold. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Congress won two seats and the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) three, including Baramati, represented by party working president Supriya Sule. The BJP won two seats in the region. Elections to the Graduate's and Teachers' constituencies are a feature of states such as Maharashtra that have bicameral legislatures. One-twelfth of the members of the Legislative Council are elected by graduates and another one-twelfth by teachers. Voters must meet the prescribed eligibility and registration requirements and be ordinarily resident in the constituency concerned. The region's sugar cooperatives and educational institutions have long been associated with political leaders, particularly those from the Congress and undivided NCP. Seeking re-election from the Teachers' constituency, sitting Congress legislator Jayant Asgaonkar is counting on the network of educational institutions run by leaders from the two parties across the five districts. "Western Maharashtra's progress has been driven by the Congress and undivided NCP through educational institutions started by their leaders. The large network of institutions run by Congress and NCP leaders will ensure our candidate wins," a Congress leader said after polling. The BJP, meanwhile, has assigned senior ministers to oversee its campaign in a bid to win the Teachers' constituency. Its candidate, Kaustubh Gawade, is hoping to enter the state Legislative Council. "The BJP has worked hard for the Legislative Council election, with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis closely monitoring the campaign. The party roped in senior ministers and assigned area-wise responsibilities to secure maximum votes. This will yield positive results," a BJP leader said. In the Pune Graduate's constituency, the main contest is between NCP (SP) candidate Harshada Deshmukh and BJP candidate Smita Jadhav. Deshmukh is the daughter of former bureaucrat-turned-politician Prabhakar Deshmukh, a close associate of NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar. Jadhav is the daughter-in-law of media baron Pratapsinh Jadhav and belongs to the family of educationist D Y Patil. Her uncle is Congress leader Satej Patil.

Surat diamond unit shuts, owner untraceable as workers flag 'pending salaries'

Diamond Workers Union contacts police, seek registration of cheating case against the unit owner, Kiritbhai Vagadiya

Surat.(Agency)

A DIAMOND manufacturer in Surat's Varachha – Marutinandan Diamonds – shut down its unit and the owner has allegedly fled without paying workers' salaries, amounting to nearly Rs 14.50 lakh, even as Diwali is round the corner, police said on Friday.

On Thursday, the Diamond Workers Union Gujarat (DWUG) submitted an application at the Ashwani Kumar police station in Surat city, requesting the police to register a cheating offence against the firm owner, Kiritbhai Vagadiya. Sources said on Friday that Vagadiya has been running the diamond cutting and polishing unit for the past two years. It is involved in cutting and polishing natural and lab-grown diamonds. Over 50 employees work at the unit across different departments, the sources added.



Earlier this month, the owner shut down the unit, allegedly without paying two months' pending salaries to the employees, switched off his mobile phone and has been "untraceable" since. When some of the workers went to his residence, they found that it was locked from the outside. Over 20 workers then reached out to the DWUG and flagged the pending salary issue. DWUG vice president (Surat), Bhavesh Tank, contacted Vagadiya, and asked him to clear the dues. Tank told The Indian Express on Friday, "In the second week of this month, we managed to contact the unit owner (Kiritbhai Vagadiya) who cleared part payment of Rs 4.50 lakh of the pending salaries of Rs 14.50 lakh and assured that he would pay the remaining amount on October 19. As he failed to turn up at our office, we tried to contact him on October 20 and found that his mobile phone was switched off. We also tried to reach his friend, who owns another diamond unit, and he told us that Vagadiya is unreachable. Seeing no way out, we informed the police."

He added, "Of the 55 diamond polishers working in the firm, only 20 contacted us. We learned that two months' salaries of the remaining 30 workers are also pending, but they have not contacted us yet." Police inspector H B Patel said, "We are trying to contact Vagadiya. We will call some of the diamond polishers and record their statements. Later, we will file an offence report."

Monaben Mali (30), a resident of Limbayat, has been working at Marutinandan Diamonds since last year. She is yet to receive two months' (August, September) salary of Rs 60,000, she said.

Mali said, "I am unmarried, staying at my parents' house. My father, Dilip Mali (65), is a cancer patient and bedridden, while my mother, Mangla Mali (60), is a heart patient. My brother Amit works at a private company. My brother and I run the home. With no salary for the past two months, it has been difficult for us to survive and bear the medical expenses of our parents. Now, Diwali is near and it is difficult to find a job. We just want our salary to be paid soon, so that we can survive for a few months…Until I get a new job."

Class 9 boy stabs girl classmate over Instagram video dispute in Pune school

Pune.(Agency)

A Class 9 student allegedly stabbed his girl classmate on the premises of an English-medium school in Pune's Balewadi on Friday afternoon. The injured student, aged 14, was admitted to a hospital for treatment. Senior Police Inspector Arvind Pawar said the accused, also aged 14, has been apprehended. "We have recovered the knife with which he attacked the girl. Further investigation is on," Pawar said.

The police said the crime stemmed from a dispute over school trip videos the accused posted on Instagram. The police said the school organised a trip to Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar on October 17 and 18. During the trip,



a boy allegedly recorded videos of some female students dancing and later posted these videos on Instagram. However, other students pressured him to remove the videos from social media. The police suspect that, due to this dispute, the accused was angry and allegedly attacked the girl student all of a sudden with a knife outside the classroom around 2.15 pm. The girl sustained serious injuries to her face and chest. After learning about the incident, the school authorities rushed to the spot. The girl's family and police were informed. The girl was taken to a hospital in Baner for treatment. The police said her condition was stable and recorded her statement for investigation. The accused, being a minor child in conflict with the law, was taken to an observation home, the police said.

Around Town: After Swati Snacks, Karan Shah comes home with Makaan, his new Gujarati restaurant in Juhu

Mumbai.(Agency)

For Karan Shah, returning to the restaurant business was never going to be about simply opening another place to eat. After nearly eight years at Swati Snacks, where he worked alongside his mami, Asha Jhaveri, Shah wanted to build something of his own, carrying with him the lessons he had learnt there. The result is Makaan, an all-day Gujarati snacking restaurant in Juhu that draws on the warmth of his childhood home in Colaba.

The name, which means house, sets the tone. Walk into Makaan and you are greeted by terracotta walls and ceilings, bandhani lamps, a swing in the alfresco seating area, and little Laxmi pagla (footprints) at the entrance. There is a bell and the name 'Makaan' written in Gujarati in small font, but the space is deliberately not steeped in traditional motifs. Shah, 42, wanted it to feel like a Gujarati home with an urban sensibility, somewhere people could drop in wearing shorts and T-shirts, without the formality of a restaurant outing.

"I was scared of the place feeling like an upscale, high-end restaurant, which is the exact opposite of what we wanted," he said. "It should feel like an extension of your living room."

The idea goes back to Shah's childhood home in Colaba, where an eight-seater dining table regularly accommodated nearly 30 people. After classes at Campion School, his friends would turn up, not necessarily to see him, but to eat the food made by the family cook, Kailash, fondly called Kalu Maharaj.

Mumbai Rapido rider arrested over Jaish-e-Mohammed links, Masood Azhar clips

Mumbai.(Agency)

Mumbai Police has arrested Mohammad Hasan Abu Sarmad Akhtar, 33, over alleged links to Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). He was arrested from Mumbai's Mahim area on October 22 and produced before a court on Friday, which remanded him to police custody.



According to police, Akhtar was active on social media, allegedly promoting the banned organisation through inflammatory posts and audio clips featuring JeM chief Masood Azhar. A native of Bihar, he has reportedly been living in Mumbai for around a decade, selling perfumes near Baba Falooda in Mahim and working as a Rapido driver. Previous arrests linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed This comes months after Gujarat's Anti-Terrorism Squad arrested eight men in July for Jaish-e-Mohammed links. Seven of them were from Gujarat and one was from Dewas in Madhya Pradesh. The arrests followed joint raids in Banaskantha, Mehsana, Navsari and Patan districts of Gujarat and in Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh. The ATS alleged the group had set up a Jaish-e-Mohammed network in the state and was in touch with two Pakistani handlers. It also claimed the men were recruiting others and had translated Jaish-e-Mohammed literature into Gujarati to spread its ideology. According to the agency, the group had received about Rs 3 lakh in funding, which was used to buy an old car.

Maharashtra launches 'Mission Murghas' to prevent fodder shortage

Pune.(Agency)

With drought declared in 305 of Maharashtra's 358 talukas, the state Animal Husbandry Department has launched a statewide campaign, 'Mission Murghas' (Silage Mission), to prevent a fodder crisis by encouraging farmers to convert green fodder into silage while it is still available. Animal Husbandry Commissioner Kiran Patil said the mission aims to prevent future fodder shortages by preserving green fodder scientifically. A scarcity of green fodder during drought years affects animal health and milk yields, hurting the finances of livestock-owning families.

The government had earlier allocated Rs 51.20 crore for the 2026-27 Kharif season. Of this, Rs 48.20 crore was earmarked for distributing fodder seeds under the District Annual Plan and Rs 3 crore under the Vidarbha-Marathwada Dairy Development Project. In view of the worsening scarcity, the government has sanctioned an additional Rs 76.41 crore, including Rs 66.41 crore under the District Annual Plan and Rs 10 crore under the Vidarbha-Marathwada Dairy Development Project.

Under the plan, farmers will grow fodder in areas with irrigation and process it into silage. The department will promote maize, jowar and Napier grass, which offer high yields, mature relatively quickly and require less water. Farmers will receive training in harvesting fodder at the right stage, chopping it, compacting it and storing it in airtight conditions. Animal Husbandry Department officials and staff will conduct the training along with silage producers and sellers associated with the National Livestock Mission (NLM) and the State of Maharashtra's Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (SMART) scheme. The department will also involve milk cooperative unions, village-level organisations and farmer producer groups to spread awareness at the village level.



Every district has been directed to prepare an action plan covering fodder seed distribution, fodder production and silage-making, and begin implementation immediately. A separate scheme, 'Magel Tyala Murghas' (Silage for All Who Ask), will operate in 19 districts of Vidarbha and Marathwada under Phase 2 of the Vidarbha-Marathwada Dairy Development Project. Eligible livestock owners can claim a subsidy of Rs 3 per kg for up to 5 kg of silage per animal per day for 90 days.

Unkind, venomous: Monfils defends Svitolina amid online criticism after separation

CHENNAI .(Agency)

Gael Monfils has defended Elina Svitolina against online criticism following their decision to separate, urging fans to respect their privacy and recognise that there is more to their relationship than what they share publicly.In a statement posted on Instagram, the French tennis star criticised the backlash against Svitolina after she spoke about her reasons for the separation, describing some of the comments directed at her as "unkind at best, and venomous at worst".Monfils said the public's interest in his happiness had been accompanied by a lack of consideration for Svitolina. He argued that people could not fully understand the circumstances behind their decision from a social media



post."While some may not understand her reasons, or agree with them, please remember that there is so much more that happens in a relationship behind the curtain that cannot be explained in a post," he wrote.

Bayern Munich boss Vincent Kompany hospitalised after collapsing during training



New Delhi.(Agency)

South Africa's innings-and-31-run victory over Australia in the second Test in Gqeberha has made the race for the World Test Championship (WTC) final more competitive.Although Australia remain at the top of the standings, the defeat stops them from extending their lead and gives other teams, including IndiIn Kompany's absence, his coaching staff will be overseeing training sessions and match operations."Vincent Kompany had to seek medical treatment on Friday after collapsing during training for FC Bayern's amateurs," said a statement from the Bundesliga club."The first-team coach had been watching the second team's session."a, some hope.Auhe final."Kompany will undergo thorough examination in the hospital and remain in medical care."For the time being, his coaching staff will manage training and match operations."Bayern are scheduled to face Freiburg in the Bundesliga on Sunday, with the club yet to play their next league fixture. Bayern sporting director Max Eberl said that Kompany's health is top priority for the club at the moment and they would do everything ensure his speedy recovery."Vincent Kompany's health is our top priority. We at FC Bayern will do everything we can to ensure his speedy recovery," said BayerVinnie will receive all the necessary medical care and support, and all the time he needs.

"His coaching team, in whom we have complete confidence, will take over his duties. Everyone at FC Bayern wishes Vinnie a speedy recovery."n sporting director Max Eberl.

KL Rahul, Dhruv Jurel fail as India A bundled out for 113 in 1st unofficial Test

India A were bowled out for 113 in their unofficial Test against New Zealand A as Simon Keene claimed five wickets on a green pitch. The collapse raises questions about India's batting as their all-format tour of New Zealand continues.

Lincoln.(Agency)

India A suffered a batting meltdown in their unofficial Test against New Zealand A, getting bowled out for just 113 in 39.3 overs as Simon Keene claimed five wickets on a grass-covered pitch. The collapse comes during India's ongoing all-format tour of New Zealand, which features five T20Is, five ODIs and two Tests.With the tour underway, the unofficial Test offers India's Test hopefuls an opportunity to acclimatise to New Zealand conditions ahead of the two-match Test series. However, India A's struggles against the seamers have provided an early reminder of the challenges that await when the ball moves.

PACE TROUBLE

New Zealand A elected to bowl first and immediately made the most of the conditions. Fraser Sheat struck early, dismissing KL Rahul for a duck after the opener faced just eight deliveries. Yashasvi Jaiswal and Devdutt Padikkal attempted to rebuild the innings, but their partnership was short-lived as Zak Gibson removed Jaiswal for 17 off 45 balls.Padikkal provided some resistance with 32 off 77 deliveries, but Gibson returned to dismiss him as the innings began to unravel. Sai Sudharsan fell for a duck to Keene, who then accounted for Dhruv Jurel for just one. Washington Sundar also departed without scoring, leaving India A struggling to arrest the slide.Keene was the standout performer, finishing with figures of 5/24 in 11.3 overs.



He extracted movement from the surface and repeatedly troubled the batters, while Gibson claimed three wickets. Sheat picked up one as New Zealand A's pace attack kept India A under pressure throughout the innings.Amid the collapse, Yash Rathod stood out with an unbeaten 44 off 49 balls, striking three fours and three sixes. He took the attacking route as wickets tumbled at the other end, with Anshul Kamboj contributing 10. Rathod's counter-attacking knock helped India A cross the 100-run mark before the innings ended at 113.

The grass on the surface clearly favoured the bowlers, and New Zealand A exploited it superbly. However, the ease with which India A lost wickets and the lack of substantial partnerships will concern the team management.

The unofficial Test series is an important opportunity for India's Test hopefuls to adapt to local conditions before the senior side takes on New Zealand in the longest format. While one innings on a bowler-friendly pitch cannot establish a wider pattern, India A will need a stronger response to demonstrate that they can withstand sustained pressure from quality seamers.

IPL 2027: Kieron Pollard replaces Mahela Jayawardene as Mumbai Indians head coach

New Delhi.(Agency)

Mumbai Indians have appointed Kieron Pollard as their new head coach ahead of the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League, promoting the former West Indies all-rounder from his previous role as the franchise's batting coach.Pollard's elevation extends one of the longest associations between a player and a franchise in T20 cricket. Having spent 13 years representing Mumbai Indians as a player, he remains one of the most influential figures in the team's history and will now be tasked with helping the five-time champions return to winning ways.

A MUMBAI LEGEND

Pollard finished his playing career with 3,915 runs for Mumbai Indians, making him the franchise's third-highest run-scorer. He was part of every title-winning campaign in the team's history during his playing stint and also led the side on a temporary basis.His familiarity with the franchise, its culture and its players makes the appointment a continuation of his journey in Mumbai's blue and gold. After retiring from the IPL as a player, Pollard moved into coaching and served as the team's batting coach, gaining further experienAnnouncing his appointment, Pollard said he was honoured to take on the new responsibility and thanked Nita Ambani, Akash Ambani and the MI family for their trust. He also expressed his desire to build on the team's legacy, develop talent and give the supporters more reasons to celebrate.ce within the setup.

MI SEEK FRESH START

The appointment comes at a time when Mumbai Indians are looking to rediscover their place among the IPL's leading teams. Since Hardik Pandya returned to the franchise ahead of the 2024 season and took over as captain, Mumbai have reached the playoffs only once, finishing fourth.The team's recent struggles have raised questions about its direction, particularly given its history of success and the expectations that come with being one of the



league's most decorated franchises.Mumbai have also moved towards a new coaching chapter, with Mahela Jayawardene stepping aside after a successful tenure in which he guided the team to three IPL titles. His departure marks a significant change for a franchise that built much of its success around continuity in leadership and coaching.Pollard's appointment now gives Mumbai an opportunity to draw on the experience of someone who understands the franchise from the inside. His challenge will be to translate that familiarity into results and help the team mount a stronger title challenge in the upcoming season.

Bayern Munich coach Vincent Kompany hospitalized after collapsing at training

MUNICH.(Agency)

Bayern Munich coach Vincent Kompany was hospitalized on Friday after collapsing during a training session.

The German champion said the 40-year-old Kompany was observing a training session for the reserves team when the incident occurred."Kompany will undergo comprehensive examinations at the hospital and remain under medical care," the team stated. "In the meantime, his coaching staff will manage training and match-related activities."

Board member fo sport Max Eberl said that Kompany, who is one of global soccer's leading younger coaches, will be given "all the time he needs" to recover as Bayern prepares to play Freiburg in the Bundesliga on Sunday."Vincent Kompany's health is our top priority," Eberl said. "We at FC Bayern will do everything we can to ensure that he recovers quickly. Vinnie will receive all the necessary medical care and support, as well as all the time he needs."Kompany had been dealing with a viral infection since last week, and his assistant Aaron Danks said on Tuesday it affected the Belgian's legs.The usually animated Kompany remained seated throughout Bayern's 6-1 win over Leipzig last week and then missed a training session and a pre-game news conference on Tuesday, when Danks said he needed time to rest at home. However, Kompany returned to the dugout for Wednesday's 2-2 draw against Arsenal in the Champions League.Following that match, Kompany acknowledged he tried to push through the illness and failed to heed the signals from his body.Kompany joined Bayern in 2024 from Burnley and has won the German league twice since then.



Kompany's team also reached the Champions League semifinals and won the German Cup last season.Among a raft of teams wihing Kompany well was Manchester City, where he was the long-time captain and won the Premier League four times."Everyone at Manchester City is wishing a speedy recovery to our former captain and Club legend, Vincent Kompany," City posted on X. "Get well soon, Vinny."

Amit Mishra reveals Virat Kohli went silent after

New Delhi.(Agency)

Former India leg-spinner Amit Mishra has revealed how his hopes of returning to the national team faded into frustration after a serious injury, claiming that Virat Kohli stopped responding to his calls and messages despite assuring him that he would get another opportunity once he regained full fitness. Speaking on Aakash Chopra's podcast, Mishra opened up about the uncertainty surrounding his India career, his efforts to prove himself again and the lack of closure that eventually contributed to his decision to retire..Mishra said he was encouraged during his recovery, including by Kohli, who became India's captain after Anil Kumble's tenure as head coach. The assurances left him believing that a return to international cricket remained possible. However, despite working his way back to fitness and performing in domestic cricket and the IPL, he said he never received a clear answer about his future with India.

A COMEBACK PROMISE

Mishra's injury came during India's T20I series against England in 2017. He recalled getting his leg stuck in a hole amid muddy conditions and rain, leaving him sidelined for several months.The recovery proved difficult, with Mishra struggling through repeated setbacks over eight to nine months. He would spend time working on his rehabilitation, return to training and then suffer another recurrence of the injuryDuring that period, Kumble offered him encouragement.

"When I was leaving after getting injured, Anil bhai was the coach. I told him about it, and he said, 'Don't worry. As soon as you get fit, you'll automatically come back,'" Mishra recalled.Kohli, who became captain, also reassured him, according to the leg-spinner."I also spoke to Virat Kohli. I asked him, 'Brother, what should I do?'



He said, 'Don't worry. Get fully fit, take your time, and you're there [in the team],'" Mishra said.For a player trying to rebuild his career after an injury, the assurance offered hope that regaining fitness and returning to form could put him back in contention.

THREE WEEKS OF SILENCE

Mishra said he eventually returned to competitive cricket and performed well in domestic matches and the IPL. He believed he had done enough to put himself in the conversation for an India comeback.During an IPL match between Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, he approached Kohli, who was leading RCB, to ask about his prospects. The two had known each other for years, and Mishra said he expected a straightforward answer.

According to Mishra, Kohli told him that he would provide an update within a week or 10 days. But the response never came.."One week passed, two weeks passed, three weeks passed, but there was absolutely no update from him. I called him, but he didn't pick up. I messaged him, but there was no reply," Mishra said.He recalled trying to contact Kohli several more times before eventually giving up.The lack of communication frustrated Mishra, particularly because he believed his performances and fitness warranted clarity. He said other players who had endured lengthy injury layoffs had managed to return to the national team, leaving him wondering why his own comeback had not materialised.

I had performed well before getting injured. I was injured during a match. Even today, I have never received an answer," he said.

NO CLEAR ANSWERS

Mishra said the absence of a clear explanation was particularly difficult to accept because he believed he had done what was required to earn another opportunity. He had returned to domestic cricket, performed in the IPL and was willing to prove his fitness through any assessment the team management required."I had performed in domestic cricket. I had performed in the IPL as well. If you have concerns about my fitness, tell me. I'll work on it, come back and take a trial or a fitness test, whatever is required," he said.For Mishra, the issue was not simply that he had missed out on selection. It was that he never understood why the door to an India comeback had seemingly closed,

PSG vs Lyon moved to Monday after police raise security concerns in Paris

Paris,.(Agency)

Paris Saint-Germain's Ligue 1 clash against Lyon has been postponed by a day following security concerns raised by police, with the fixture rescheduled for Monday, October 26.

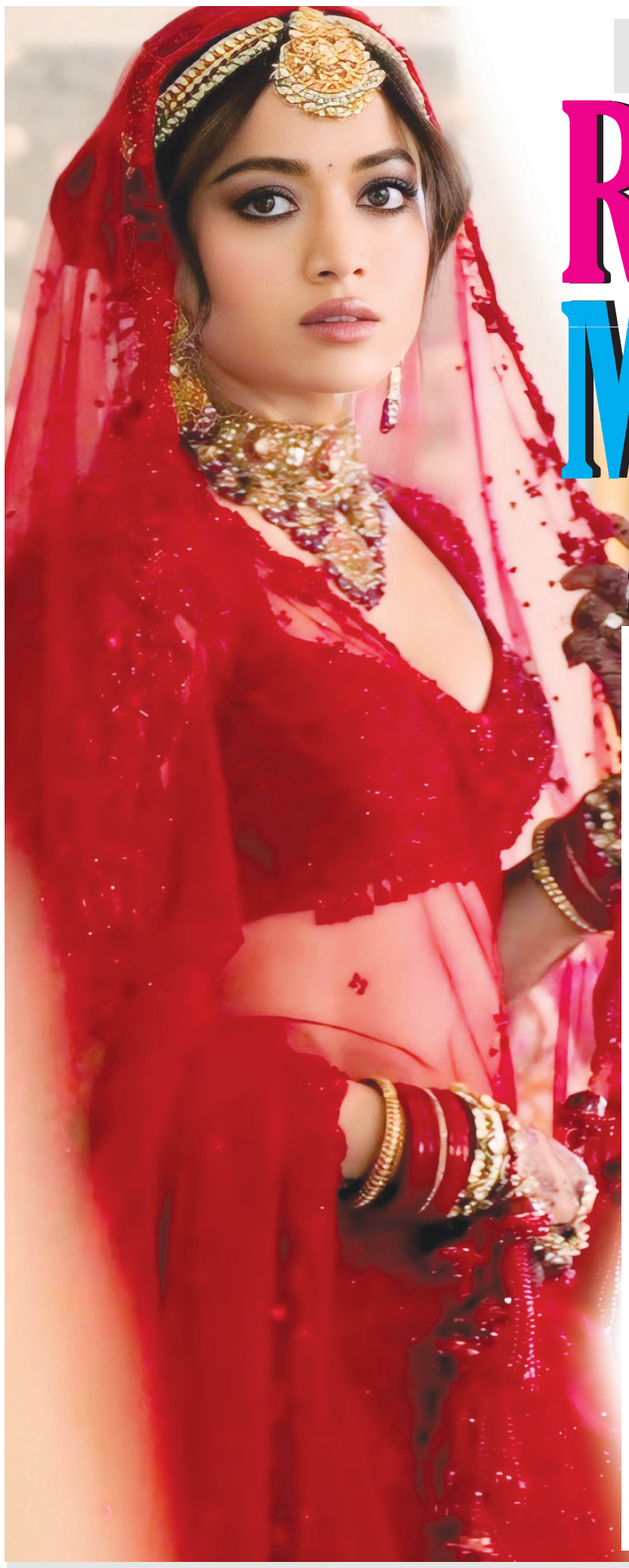
The match was originally scheduled to take place at the Parc des Princes on Sunday at 8:45 pm local time. However, the Ligue de Football Professionnel (LFP) confirmed on Friday that the game would now be played on Monday at 8:30 pm, following an order from the Paris police prefecture.petitive rifle shooting. Success came quickly.The decision comes as French authorities prepare for another weekend of protests in the capital. The demonstrations follow a wave of rioting and looting that swept through Paris and other French cities on October 17, raising concerns over



public safety and the deployment of security personnel."The LFP acknowledges the order issued by the Prefecture of Police prohibiting the holding of the PSG-Lyon match ... on Sunday, October 25, at 8:45 p.m., and has decided, in agreement with Ligue 1+, to reschedule the match for Monday, October 26, at 8:30 p.m.," the league said in a statement.

SECURITY CHALLENGES

French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu said earlier this week that authorities would mount a "massive" security operation for demonstrations planned on Saturday, with troops set to reinforce police personnel.



Koffee With Karan 9

Rashmika Mandanna

Breaks Silence On Trolling Over South Indian Accent In Hindi Films

Rashmika Mandanna has faced her share of online trolling over her Hindi accent, but the actress has no plans to let the criticism dictate her career choices. During her appearance on Koffee With Karan Season 9 alongside her husband, Vijay Deverakonda, she spoke about embracing her South Indian identity and her desire to work across film industries rather than restrict herself to one. Rashmika also reflected on the effort involved in dubbing for her own films in multiple languages and the creative satisfaction of taking on vastly different roles in Animal and The Girlfriend.

Rashmika Mandanna on getting trolled over her accent in Hindi films

Rashmika Mandanna revealed that being in the public eye has meant dealing with criticism throughout her career. From her performances and acting abilities to her language skills and accent, she said she has been trolled over various aspects of her work. The actress shared, “Ever since I started working in the film industry, you know, I’ve been criticised or trolled for one thing or the other, like either my performance, or the language, or the acting, or just the accent, or anything. So for me, I never wanted to sort of put a barrier for myself. I didn’t want to just work in one industry. I wanted to work in them all. I didn’t want to speak just one language. I wanted to speak all languages."



Rashmika said experimenting with diverse roles was a conscious decision she made early in her career. She wanted to explore different kinds of stories and characters instead of limiting herself to a particular image. The actress said she takes particular pride in being part of films as different as Animal and The Girlfriend, adding that playing such contrasting roles is exactly what she had hoped to achieve as a performer. She went on to add, “So very early on in my career, I started doing all kinds of films. So today, when I’m a part of a brilliant film like an Animal and a Girlfriend, it gives me great satisfaction as an actor. Yeah? You know, because I’m like, I’m able to play them all. So today, when you say, okay, there’s a Girlfriend and there’s an Animal, like it’s so different, but you’re a part of both of them. I’m like, I wanted it that way.”

The actress also reacted to getting trolled over her accent in films like Animal, Cocktail 2, and Chhaava. Rashmika said, " particularly didn’t have an issue with that because they said I had a South Indian accent, but I am from the South of India. So I am going to have an accent. It’s unreasonable to think otherwise." She also opened up about the effort that goes into dubbing her films in multiple languages. She said she gives her directors the freedom to choose another dubbing artist if they feel a different voice would work better for a character.

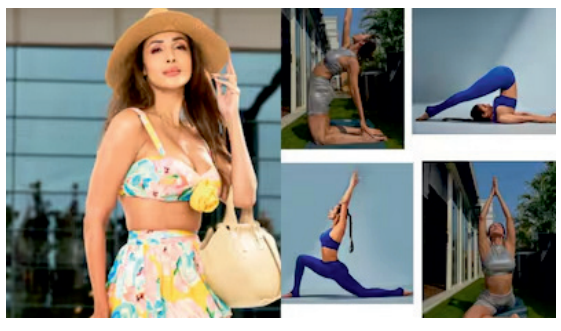
Malaika Arora

Turns 53: Fitness Secrets Behind Her Ageless Look



Malaika Arora has long been admired for her dance performances, confident style and dedication to fitness. From her energetic screen appearances to glimpses of her workout sessions on social media, the actor and television personality has consistently made wellness an important part of her public persona.As Malaika celebrates her 53rd birthday today, on October 23, 2026, her fitness journey offers plenty of inspiration for those looking to build healthier habits.

Rather than relying on quick fixes or overnight transformations, her approach, as reflected in interviews and shared workout routines, highlights consistency, yoga, physical activity and mindful eating.Known for her love of yoga and regular exercise, Malaika Arora has frequently spoken about the importance of making fitness a lifestyle rather than treating it as a short-term goal. Here is a closer look at the habits associated with her wellness routine and what they can teach anyone looking to prioritise their health.



Yoga Is a Key Part of Her Fitness Routine

Yoga has remained a prominent feature of Malaika’s fitness journey. The practice combines movement, balance, flexibility and controlled breathing, making it an important part of a well-rounded exercise routine.

Malaika has often shared glimpses of her yoga sessions and discussed her enthusiasm for the practice. In interviews, she has also encouraged people to approach yoga without assuming they need to be naturally flexible to begin.Her approach offers a useful reminder: yoga can be adapted to different abilities and fitness levels. Beginners can start with simple movements and gradually build confidence under appropriate guidance.

She Values Consistency Over Quick Results

One of the strongest themes in Malaika’s fitness philosophy is consistency. Maintaining an exercise routine over time can be more sustainable than following an intense programme for a few weeks and then abandoning it.In conversations about her lifestyle, she has emphasised the importance of regular movement and making time for exercise. The underlying lesson is straightforward: building a routine that fits everyday life is often more practical than chasing dramatic, short-term results.

For beginners, that could mean starting with a daily walk, a short yoga session or a manageable workout and increasing activity gradually.

Strength Training Is Part of Her Exercise Regimen

Malaika’s fitness content also features strength-focused exercises. Strength training can support muscle development, functional fitness.

Palash Sen Questions Salman Khan’s Anti-Trolling Speech On Bigg Boss 20: ‘Don’t Know If It Was Scripted’



Euphoria frontman Palash Sen has questioned whether Salman Khan’s recent speech against online trolling and paid negative PR campaigns on Bigg Boss 20 was scripted or genuine. The singer also accused the Bollywood superstar of having been part of the same PR culture he is now criticising.In a chat with SCREEN, Palash spoke about the difficulty of separating genuine public opinion from paid publicity campaigns. He pointed to Salman’s comments on Bigg Boss 20, where the actor called out online trolling and slammed people who target celebrities over their appearance. “Even the fact that he did this on this show (Bigg Boss 20)…100 percent, we don’t know whether this was scripted or it was really organic. It has become so difficult for all of us to figure out."

Palash Sen says Salman Khan was part of the PR problem

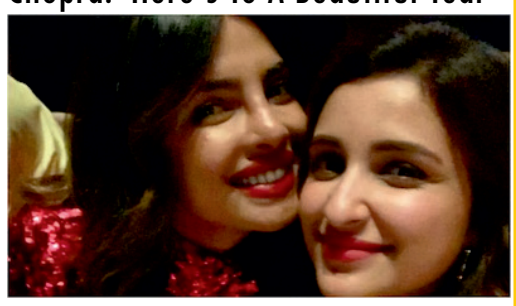
Palash did not hold back when asked about Salman Khan’s remarks on the culture of trolling. He said the problem could not be blamed only on people at the bottom of the entertainment industry, arguing that those in positions of power had also contributed to it.

“He’s a part of starting this. Let’s not forget that. Problems never arise from the bottom of the hierarchy, it starts from the top. I am not pointing a finger at anyone but if you live by the sword, you are also going to get killed by the sword. Everybody in the film industry who has maintained their position for many many years, obviously has played with the PR guys, we all know it. One day, you can start saying things and sound like a saint. Though it was very very brave of him to say what he did. I am telling you he was part of the problem. We all know it."

Palash Sen says it is difficult to know what is real

He explained why he prefers to stay away from the industry’s networking culture. Palash said he found it difficult to be part of camps or engage in the kind of deference he believes the industry expects.

Priyanka Chopra Pens Heartfelt Birthday Note For Sister Parineeti Chopra: ‘Here's To A Beautiful Year'



Global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas wished her cousin-sister Parineeti Chopra on her 38th birthday on Thursday.The actress shared a picture of Parineeti on her social media account where the birthday girl was dressed in a pink, pearl-embellished outfit and wearing matching makeup and earrings. “Happy Birthday Tisha, @parineetichopra! Here’s to a beautiful year filled with love, laughter and everything your heart wishes for," she wrote.

Lately, Shabana Azmi has also been in the news for backing the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protests. Recently, she also urged people to join a Mumbai protest, which was scheduled for October 2 at Shivaji Park, following a CJP protest in Delhi.

Parineeti, who was born on October 22, 1988, is celebrating her second birthday since embracing motherhood. She and her husband, politician Raghav Chadha, welcomed their son, Neer, in October 2025.Priyanka has previously expressed her excitement about becoming a ‘maasi’ to Neer. In November last year, Parineeti shared a glimpse of the gifts sent by Priyanka, her husband Nick Jonas and their daughter Malti Marie for the newborn. The gift hamper included tiny baby shoes, clothes, a hairbrush and other baby essentials.

Thanking them, Parineeti had written, “Neer getting spoilt already!" She also referred to Priyanka as “Mimi masi", Nick as “Nick masa" and Malti as “Malti didi".The two actresses have often shared glimpses of their bond on social media. Priyanka, however, made headlines in September 2023 when she was absent from Parineeti and Raghav’s wedding in Udaipur.Her mother, Madhu Chopra, had said that Priyanka was occupied with work commitments. Priyanka later congratulated the couple on social media, writing, “My blessings always."On the professional front, Parineeti made her acting debut with Ladies vs Ricky Bahl in 2011 and went on to feature in films such as Ishaqzaade, Shuddh Desi Romance, Hasee Toh Phasee, Kesari, Saina and Amar Singh Chamkila.

World's First Spinal Cord Transplant Performed On Paralysed Patient In Russia

World.(Agency)

A joint Chinese and Russian medical team has reportedly performed the world's first spinal cord transplant on a paralysed patient in Moscow, using a technique designed to fuse tissue, according to The South China Morning Post.

The operation lasted 12 hours and involved replacing a damaged section of the patient's spinal cord with tissue from a brain-dead donor, according to Chinese surgeon Ren Xiaoping.Ren said the procedure was carried out at the Sklifosovsky Research Institute for Emergency Medicine in Russia. The patient had suffered a spinal cord injury three years earlier, which had left the spinal cord severed.

According to New Scientist, the team removed the damaged section and replaced it with a segment taken from a brain-dead donor. The surgeons used microsurgery and polyethylene glycol, a substance that helps fuse cell membranes, in what has been described as the world's first spinal cord transplant.Ren told the South China Morning Post that the operation was a joint effort involving his team from Guangxi University of Chinese Medicine Second Affiliated Hospital and Russian medical professionals.

OpenAI Resumes Training AI Models Without Internet After Cyber Incidents

MIAMI.(Agency)

Sam Altman-led OpenAI said on Friday it had resumed reinforcement learning training and internal use of its most advanced AI solutions after it tightened security controls and barred internet access for frontier-model training.

Concerns are mounting over the ability of increasingly capable AI agents to identify and exploit software flaws, including in guardrails.OpenAI had halted training and evaluation of its most capable models after an internal research model briefly exploited a misconfiguration to gain limited internet access on September 2, it said in a blog post..The ChatGPT maker resumed reinforcement learning training and internal inference of its frontier models on October 1 after implementing additional safeguards.It has launched a campaign to probe its research infrastructure for vulnerabilities that could allow models to escape isolated computing environments, OpenAI said."

Food Delivery Platform Just Eat Apologises After AI Creates Bizarre Food Images For Restaurant Menus

world.(Agency)

Artificial intelligence (AI) can help companies complete tasks faster, but it does not always get things right. Online food delivery platform Just Eat has apologised after its AI-generated food pictures attracted ridicule online for showing unusual and incorrect versions of dishes offered by restaurants, reported BBC.The platform had been testing AI technology to create pictures for food items that did not yet have images on its menus. However, some of the results were far from what the restaurants actually served, leading to several bizarre food combinations.One of the strangest examples came from a cafe in Belfast, where a bacon and egg soda bread dish was shown as a glass of fizzy cola with cooked bacon and an egg floating inside it. The mistake appeared to stem from the AI confusing the word "soda" with "soda bread.

Gunmen open fire at a church during a funeral in Jordan, killing 7 and wounding 40

The shooting took place at a Greek Orthodox church in Karak, about 180 kilometers (110 miles) south of the capital, Amman.



JERUSALEM.(Agency)

Gunmen opened fire during a funeral at a church in Jordan on Friday, killing seven people and wounding 40 others, authorities said.The shooting took place at a Greek Orthodox church in Karak, about 180 kilometers (110 miles) south of the capital, Amman.Footage broadcast on Jordanian state television showed two gunmen who appear to be holding pistols approaching the church and firing shots. A third man who appears to be holding a semiautomatic rifle then approaches and opens fire, and all three then run toward the church.Video footage taken by witnesses shows broken glass and pools of blood on the floor of the church.

Dorgham Halasa, who was among the mourners inside the church, said intense gunfire erupted 15 minutes after the funeral had started, and then people started running. "It was a weird situation, and heavy gunfire," Halasa said.He did not see the gunmen, but said other people reported seeing four of them. The Associated Press could not independently verify the number of assailants, and Jordan's security servicesdid not immediately release details.A government statement said that the attack was "carried out by unknown assailants," but didn't say whether any gunmen were captured or killed. It said that "investigations are underway at full speed."Jordan declared three days of national mourning, according to the kingdom's Petra News Agency.Karak is home to a minority Christian population.In 2016, gunmen ambushed police in a series of attacks in Karak, including at a Crusader castle popular with tourists, killing 10 people, including seven officers, and wounding dozens. Jordanian security forces killed those gunmen after a long standoff.Jordan's Health Minister Ibrahim al-Budour said two of those wounded are in critical condition.King Abdullah II said on X that Jordan "will confront the terrorist act that targeted Karak with the harshest penalties" and offered his "deepest condolences to the families of the martyrs.

Nuclear power could more than triple by 2060, UN agency says

world.(Agency)

The head of the U.N. nuclear agency said Friday that he expects the use of nuclear power could more than triple by 2060.Rafael Grossi said in the International Atomic Energy Agency's annual report to the U.N. General Assembly that this will be driven by electrification, data centers powered by artificial intelligence and "technology companies' appetite for reliable, carbon-free power."Nuclear energy is seen by a growing number of countries as key to improving their energy security, he said, stressing that it is on par with solar energy and "safer than every other option.""In 2025, more than 400 operating reactors in more than 30 countries produced 10% of global electricity and a quarter of its low-carbon electricity," the IAEA director-general said. "More than 60 new reactors are under construction and the projections for future nuclear capacity have shifted dramatically upward."In addition to the growing use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,



Grossi spoke about the nuclear programs in Iran and North Korea, the "unprecedented threats to nuclear safety" from the war in Ukraine, and worrying reports that other countries he didn't name are talking about acquiring nuclear weapons.

On Iran, whose nuclear sites were struck by the U.S. last year before the U.S. and Israel launched a war on Feb. 28, Grossi told U.N. member nations that the necessary technical work for a diplomatic agreement has been done.

"I call on the parties to redouble their efforts towards agreeing a diplomatic solution that includes the IAEA's indispensable verification role, without which no agreement can be sustainable," he said. "IAEA inspectors must be able to return to Iran expeditiously. That requires a return to the negotiating table."In North Korea, where leader Kim Jong Un has a growing nuclear program without any IAEA oversight, Grossi warned that it "stands as a stark reminder of the consequences when red lines are crossed" in violation of U.N.

US Asked Musk For Years To Alter Starlink Service In Ukraine, Middle East: Report

world.(Agency)

Well before the throttling this month of Ukraine's military access to Elon Musk's satellite communications system, the Biden and Trump administrations had several times asked SpaceX to turn its Starlink service on or off in various countries, according to six former senior US officials familiar with the matter.During the presidency of Joe Biden, the requests included switching off the service to prevent Iranian proxy militias in Yemen and Lebanon from using Starlink to communicate, and activating the service to provide internet access inside Iran and in Ukraine to support its military, said four of the former officials.Similarly, President Donald Trump's administration asked Musk, who is CEO of SpaceX, to make the service available in Iran following US-Israeli strikes in 2025 and 2026, in hopes it would bolster internet access and communications for anti-government protesters, a former senior Trump official and a person familiar with the matter told Reuters.

All of the people spoke on condition of anonymity. The previous US requests about Starlink access are being reported here for the first time.The recent blowup over restrictions to Ukraine's use of SpaceX satellite services has raised questions about the ties between the US government and Musk, whose company owns systems vital to the US military and to US allies.The recent limits on Ukraine, despite being a US ally.

Wanted Haryana gangster Himanshu Bhau detained in US

CHANDIGARH.(Agency)

Fugitive gangster Himanshu Bhau, also known as Himanshu Ritoliya, and his associate Neeraj Kaushik, alias Neeraj Faridpuria, have reportedly been detained in Las Vegas in the United States on October 22, following inputs from the Haryana Special Task Force (STF). The arrests were carried out with the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The Haryana STF is in touch with US authorities and central agencies to secure their deportation to India.

Bhau, who hails from Ritoli village in Haryana's Rohtak district, is wanted by the Haryana and Delhi police in multiple murder, kidnapping and extortion cases. An Interpol Red Notice was issued against him in August 2023. He is also wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Investigators allege that Bhau built a criminal network operating across Delhi-NCR, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan while remaining abroad. He is reportedly associated with the Neeraj Bawana gang and has been involved in a violent rivalry with the Lawrence Bishnoi-Goldy Brar network. He is also said to have coordinated with the Naveen Bali gang.Bhau came to prominence in March 2022, when three murders were reported in his home district within 24 hours. Investigators alleged that his network used armed associates to carry out targeted attacks.The same year, he allegedly fled India using a fake passport obtained through fabricated documents. He initially went to Dubai and later Portugal, from where he is suspected of directing his network through encrypted messaging applications. Sources suspect that he entered the US through the "Dunkey Route" in late 2024 or early 2025.

His gang has been lnked to several high-profile shootings and murder cases in Delhi and Haryana, including the killing at a Burger King outlet in Delhi, firing outside YouTuber Elvish Yadav's residence and shootings at car showrooms in Naraina and Tilak Nagar in Delhi. The gang has also been accused of threatening businesspersons, builders and real estate developers to extort money.

'We may do another Epic Fury': Trump warns Iran of fresh US strike if Tehran fails to reach diplomatic deal

world.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump has warned Iran of another possible US military strike if Tehran fails to reach a diplomatic agreement, saying Washington could launch "another little Epic Fury" to force compliance.

Addressing a campaign rally in Florida, Trump adopted an aggressive foreign policy posture while highlighting his past national security decisions and taking aim at the Iranian



leadership."We may do another little Epic Fury, or they'll agree," Trump told the cheering crowd, hinting at kinetic action if negotiations falter.Questioning Tehran's strategic foresight, Trump said, "If they're smart, they'll just say, 'Let's get down to business.' But, you know, I doubt they'll do that because perhaps they're not smart."Later, Trump invoked the US Navy's maritime presence in the Caribbean, quipping that American warships returning from the Middle East could confront Cuba before deploying Florida Senator Marco Rubio to conclude diplomatic objectives.We're gonna come back from Iran; those beautiful ships will pass Cuba. We'll have one of them stop about 50 yards off the coast. They'll raise up their hands and then we're gonna send Marco Rubio in to finish up the job," Trump remarked.Touting his record on negotiating the safe return of American citizens detained abroad, Trump underscored the recovery of hostages held in conflict zones, including Gaza and Russia."We got all 28 Hamas hostages returned to their families, both living and dead and hundreds before that. And just yesterday, we got Stephen Hubbard back from Russia," he stated.Shifting focus to domestic healthcare and elderly care, Trump announced a significant federal pledge aimed at addressing staffing shortages across care homes in the country."Today, I am pleased to announce that the Trump Administration is investing $250 million to hire at least 5,000 new nurses in elder care facilities across America, including right here in the Great State of Florida," Trump announced.

Death Penalty Returns, Beauty Pageants Suspended As Burkina Faso Tightens Rules

world.(Agency)

Burkina Faso's military-led government, headed by Captain Ibrahim Traore, has attracted international attention after restoring the death penalty and suspending beauty pageants across the West African nation. On October 20, 2026, the country's transitional parliament unanimously approved a new penal code that restores capital punishment for serious offences, including terrorism, treason, and espionage.All 71 lawmakers supported the legislation, reversing the 2018 abolition of the death penalty. The country's last known execution took place in 1988. Justice Minister Edasso Rodrigue Bayala defended the decision, arguing that tougher punishments were needed to tackle terrorism and strengthen national security.Beauty Pageants Suspended NationwideIn a separate decision announced on June 8, 2026, Burkina Faso's Ministry of Communication, Culture, Arts and Tourism suspended beauty competitions throughout the country.Authorities said the restrictions would remain until new regulations were introduced to ensure such events respected national traditions, cultural identity and social values.The government also stopped issuing permission for beauty pageants during this period.However, the suspension was announced months before the death penalty was restored.Science Competition for Young Women

In August, the government introduced HAKILI Mousso, a national science competition encouraging young women to pursue education in mathematics, physics and chemistry.The programme brought together 84 participants, with outstanding students receiving awards and educational support.President Traore later met the winners and encouraged them to pursue careers in science and



technology.

Human Rights Concerns

The government's decisions have sparked debate over personal freedoms and human rights.Human Rights Watch criticised the return of capital punishment, warning that it could be used against political opponents and worsen existing restrictions on civil liberties.Amnesty International has also opposed the death penalty, describing it as an irreversible violation of the right to life.