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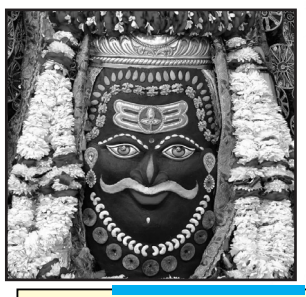
MONDAY

MAHANAGAR METRO

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AHEMDABAD/GUJRAT
Monday, October 26, 2026

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Terrorism as instrument of statecraft unacceptable, says Jaishankar

New Delhi . (Agency).

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday said the use of terrorism as an "instrument of statecraft" was unacceptable and could never be justified or rationalised, warning that the threat persisted because some countries did not demonstrate zero tolerance towards it.Despite history holding so many lessons on it, "some still allow political calculations to take precedence", he said in his address at an event here without naming any country.At an event held here to mark the 75th anniversary of Chinmaya Mission, he underlined the importance of peace, especially amid the ongoing conflicts in the world.

"Let us consider the indivisibility of peace. Now, war anywhere threatens peace everywhere," the Union minister said.He cited the conflicts in Ukraine and the West Asia region curently underway, and asserted that India expresses global sentiment when it says that dialogue and diplomacy is the only solution.

"Terrorism is another deadly threat to peace. Its usage as an instrument of statecraft is simply unacceptable. It can never be justified. It can never be rationalised.

Rahul thanks BJP for 'promoting' INDIA bloc rally against 'vote chori'

New Delhi (Agency).

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday took a swipe at the BJP, thanking the party and its allies sarcastically for enthusiastically publicising the INDIA bloc's November 1 rally against alleged vote theft.In a post on X, Gandhi urged the BJP to maintain the same enthusiasm over the next seven days, saying its efforts had helped the opposition's campaign reach a wider audience.

Accusing the authorities of deleting names from electoral rolls and flouting rules, Gandhi said the opposition would not remain silent over alleged electoral irregularities."Names have been struck off the electoral rolls. Rules and laws have been flouted. And those who dared to ask questions were met with batons. Now, the nation will provide an answer," he said in Hindi.Calling on students, farmers, labourers, women, youth and traders to join the march, Gandhi said the rally would be held under the slogan 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao'.

The INDIA bloc's rally is part of a series of opposition protests against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and alleged poll irregularities involving Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.The BJP on Saturday criticised the Congress for scheduling the rally on November 1, alleging that Gandhi was seeking to rub salt into the wounds of victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.Addressing a press conference, BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad claimed that several INDIA bloc constituents were unconvinced by the Congress's plan and wanted the event rescheduled.

Amit Shah holds security review meeting with Delhi Police, CM in attendance in a first

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday visited the Delhi Police headquarters to review the law-and-order situation in the national capital with discussions focused on protests against the alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), preparations for the upcoming Congress rally against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar at Ramlila Maidan on November 1 and

New Delhi (Agency).

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday visited the Delhi Police headquarters to review the law-and-order situation in the national capital with discussions focused on protests against the alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), preparations for the upcoming Congress rally againstChief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar at Ramlila Maidan on November 1 and measures to tackle crime, said officers.The meeting was held at Vimarsh Hall at the Delhi Police headquarters and was attended by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, marking a notable development in the format of such review meetings, said sources.The participation of the Chief Minister made the Delhi government join alongside senior police officers on matters concerning law and order in the Capital, sources added.Shah arrived at the Delhi Police headquarters around 3 pm, and the meeting was said to have continued for around three hours before he left at 6 pm.The visit on Saturday marked Shah's return to the Delhi Police headquarters after more than four years. Shah had last visited the headquarters on August 30, 2022.Since then, he has participated in Delhi Police events, including the force's Raising Day celebrations, held outside the headquarters.The meeting was attended by Commissioner of Police Anurag Kumar, Special Commissioners of Police, Joint Commissioners of Police overseeing various ranges, senior members of the Public Relations Office (PRO) department and Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) from various districts of Delhi, according to officers.



During the meeting, senior police officers briefed the Home Minister on the prevailing law-and-order situation and discussed arrangements for managing protests that have been taking place in the Capital.Senior police officers were also said to have discussed security and crowd-management arrangements in view of the upcoming Congress rally at Ramlila Maidan, which is expected to draw a large number of crowds.Handling of demonstrations and ensuring that adequate arrangements are in place to manage public gatherings were among the key talking points at the meeting, sources underlined.

The focus was on maintaining vigilance and ensuring that protests and rallies are handled in a manner that prevents any untoward incident.

Crime statistics discussed

Delhi Police officers also presented detailed crime statistics in the Capital over the last five years. The presentation covered crime trends under various categories, including crimes against women and other offences, providing an overview of the patterns of crime and the challenges confronting the police force.

TTV Dhinakaran drops bombshell, reveals AIADMK's Plan B if Vijay's TVK failed

Dhinakaran said the objective of the move was not to prevent the TVK from forming the government, but to ensure that MLAs were not poached as rival parties explored other possibilities.

Chennai (Agency)

AMMK general secretary TTV Dhinakaran on Sunday revealed that AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami and other leaders explored the possibility of making VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan the Chief Minister if actor-turned-politician Vijay failed to form the government.Speaking to reporters, Dhinakaran said the move was explored after the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) fell short of the numbers needed to form a government on its own, clarifying that the aim was not to block Vijay's government formation but to prevent the poaching of TVK MLAs."Had the Left parties and Thirumavalavan not extended their support, Vijay would not have formed the government," Dhinakaran said, explaining the political calculations behind the discussions.

Dhinakaran said DMK president MK Stalin had made it clear that his party would not



attempt to form the government, leading to efforts to explore an alternative arrangement under the AIADMK.However, the Left parties reportedly refused to back Palaniswami, arguing that supporting him would amount to supporting the BJP."Following this, all of us, including EPS, made efforts to make Thirumavalavan the Chief Minister," he said.

The AMMK leader also claimed that he had appealed to Vijay to extend support to an alternative government if the TVK was unable to secure the numbers needed to form one.Clarifying the rationale behind the move, Dhinakaran said the objective was not to prevent the TVK from forming the government, but to ensure that its MLAs were not poached as rival parties explored other possibilities.His remarks offer a glimpse into the political manoeuvring and competing calculations that unfolded during the nearly week-long government formation process in Tamil Nadu, as Vijay's TVK, despite emerging as the single-largest party, struggled to secure the numbers.

Schools shut, shelters readied: Odisha, Andhra, Tamil Nadu gear up for cyclone

New Delhi (Agency).

The Odisha government has stepped up preparations to deal with a potential cyclone, deploying rescue teams and preparing evacuation shelters as a very severe cyclonic storm is expected to make landfall along the Andhra Pradesh coast on October 28.Meanwhile, Puducherry has been receiving continuous rainfall since last night as the weather system over the Bay of Bengal intensifies.The well-marked low-pressure area over the central and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal intensified into a depression on October 24 and subsequently developed into a cyclonic system.Cyclone warning signals have been hoisted at nine ports in Tamil Nadu, including Chennai, Nagapattinam and Cuddalore, following the intensification of the weather system over the Bay of Bengal.According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the depression is likely to move northwestwards and intensify further, becoming a very severe cyclonic storm over the west-central Bay of Bengal off the Andhra Pradesh coast by the morning of October 28.Although the storm is forecast to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast, southern and coastal districts of Odisha are likely to experience heavy rainfall and strong winds.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has directed officials to prioritise public safety, evacuation and emergency response, with the objective of ensuring zero casualties.According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a depression over the Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm and cross the Andhra Pradesh coast between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam by the forenoon of October 28.The system is expected to bring maximum sustained wind speeds of 115-125 kmph, with gusts reaching 140 kmph.

Don't kill the messenger: Sonam Wangchuk warns Centre over crackdown on protesters

Mumbai (Agency).

Climate activist and educationist Sonam Wangchuk on Saturday said peaceful protests act as a feedback mechanism and encourage governments to perform better, news agency Press Trust of India reported. He cited unrest in Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh as examples of what could happen when people are not allowed to express their concerns peacefully.Speaking at the IPF Festival in Mumbai, Wangchuk said several countries allow protests outside their parliaments. He argued that protests serve as a pressure valve for governments and should not be pushed far



away from centres of power.

Wangchuk said protests were allowed outside parliament in countries such as the United Kingdom, Norway and Sweden. Referring to India, he said, "In India, it was far from Parliament Even when it was just Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, it was too far.""So, protests are a great mechanism, a feedback, a pressure valve for governments to perform better if they see that," he said.His remarks came amid action by the Centre after the Cockroach Janta Party called for a protest at Jantar Mantar, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. The Opposition has criticised the Union government for not allowing peaceful protests."Look what happens when protests are not allowed.

Theaterisation should be based on India's needs, not foreign models: IAF chief

New Delhi (Agency).

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh has said that the Indian Air Force (IAF) is not viewing the theaterisation plan as an exercise to permanently divide fighter aircraft by geographical area.In his first detailed comments on the proposed military reform, the IAF chief called for a structure based on India's security needs rather than models adopted by other countries.



In an exclusive interview with news agency PTI, Singh said the guiding principle should be "centralised control" where necessary and "decentralised execution" where appropriate.He also said the transformation should be introduced in phases to ensure that operational readiness is never compromised.Announced in 2019 as India's most ambitious military reform since Independence, the theaterisation plan aims to integrate the Army, Navy and Air Force to improve coordination and make the best use of their resources during wars and other operations.The proposed structure envisaged three integrated commands: a Northern Theatre Command in Lucknow focused on China, a Western Theatre Command in Jaipur to address challenges from Pakistan, and a Maritime Theatre Command in Thiruvananthapuram. However, progress has stalled because of differences among the three services over the proposed command structures.The IAF has cautioned against implementing the plan in a hurry and has reservations about splitting its fighter squadrons among the proposed commands."Recent conflicts around the world have once again underlined how decisively air power can shape military outcomes.

India wants democratic change: Kapil Sibal hits back at Mohan Bhagwat's remarks

New Delhi(Agency).

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Saturday criticised RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's recent remarks on "regime change", saying India wanted a change of government through democratic means, news agency Press Trust of India reported.Sibal said the country needed change and that the people had decided there would be one. "When, how, and most peacefully it will happen, only time will tell," he said at a press conference in New Delhi.According to PTI, Sibal expressed surprise at Bhagwat's comparison of calls for regime change in India with recent developments in Nepal, Bangladesh, Albania and France."I am surprised that he even made that comparison, because as far as those kinds of open revolts are concerned, ultimately they brought



about a kind of violence which none of us support," Sibal said."What India wants is a change of government through democratic means, and I think that Mohan Bhagwat understands that, but yet is not willing to acknowledge it," he added.

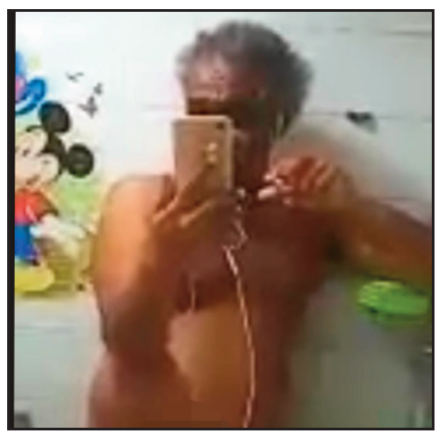
Sibal said the young people who had gathered at Jantar Mantar held peaceful protests and did not carry weapons or stones. He said they had also gone on a hunger strike.He alleged that any violence during the protest was caused by outside agencies and questioned the circumstances in which a truck carrying stones was found at the site."Nobody has yet inquired as to where that truck came from or how that truck came, because the police and law and order are under the control of the Union through the Lieutenant Governor," the Independent MP said, according to PTI.Sibal said the regime change being sought was a change of government and the existing political dispensation through democratic means.

Kapil Sibal challenged Mohan Bhagwat's warning on regime change, insisting Indians seek it democratically. The exchange sharpened debate over peaceful protests, elections and claims of foreign destabilisation.

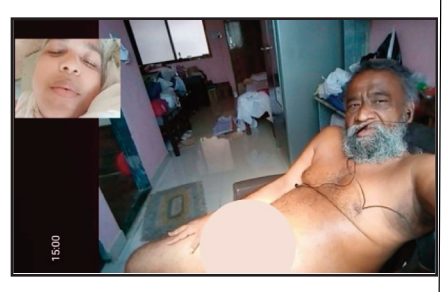
Ujjain Jain Event Faces Boycott Calls Amid Allegations Against Sagar Chandrasagar

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad/Ujjain: A controversy involving Jain religious figure Sagar Chandrasagar has sparked concern and disagreement among sections of the Jain community. Serious allegations concerning financial irregularities, alleged misconduct, and inappropriate behaviour have been raised by certain individuals, prompting calls for clarification, an impartial investigation, and a possible boycott of an upcoming religious event in Ujjain.The controversy has also intensified following the circulation of social media posts reportedly denying the allegations. Critics have questioned why the matter has not been addressed through a comprehensive, point-by-point public clarification. However, the allega



tions remain matters requiring independent verification, and no conclusion regarding their validity should be drawn without supporting evidence and a fair investigation.Questions Raised Over Social Media ResponsesAccording to critics, social media posts circulated by supporters and individuals associated with Sagar Chandrasagar, including social media coordinator Abhay Chopra, have sought to counter the allegations.Those raising questions have called for a direct response to the concerns circulating within the community. They argue that a transparent explanation would help address public concerns and prevent further escalation of the controversy.The individuals concerned have an opportunity to respond to the allegations, and their version of events should also be considered in any balanced report.Allegations of Financial Irregularities and MisconductSome individuals have alleged that donations received in the name



of religious activities may have been misused for personal purposes, including the acquisition of property or land. Serious allegations concerning inappropriate conduct towards female ascetics have also been raised.These are significant claims that require credible documentation, statements from the individuals concerned, and examination by the appropriate authorities.

'betterment' fee on land near its colonies in Ghaziabad

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Uttar Pradesh Housing Board has scrapped the betterment fee and the requirement for a no-objection certificate (NOC) for development within 500 metres of its housing colonies, a move expected to reduce costs and delays for developers.

In the city, the change will benefit projects around Vasundhara, Sidharth Vihar and Mandola, which are administered by the board.

Earlier, landowners and developers seeking layout map approval for projects within the 500-metre radius had to obtain an NOC from the board and pay a betterment fee. Only after they had attained the NOC could they submit the layout plan to GDA for approval.

"The provision was in effect since 2010. Landowners developing plots within 500 metres of a township or housing scheme of the board had to pay a betterment fee. The rationale was that surrounding areas benefited from improved infrastructure and amenities, which enhanced property values," a housing board official said.

Web of permits delaying new PNG lines in Noida & Ghaziabad

Gurgaon.(Agency)

For JS Bhadana, moving from LPG cylinders to piped natural gas (PNG) was meant to make life easier. Instead, the resident of Diya Green City in Raj Nagar Extension has spent four years going back and forth between the builder and Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), waiting for a connection."I was already done with gas cylinders, paying the delivery boy an extra charge, going online and booking the cylinder every month," Bhadana said. "We are growing old, and it is a bit strenuous to connect to the pipeline and attach a gas cylinder."Bhadana moved into his flat in 2024, paying the builder more than Rs 15,000 in possession-related charges that were meant to cover the gas connection and the infrastructure to lay the pipeline. When he approached IGL, its team inspected the society and then sent him back to the builder, who said connections would only follow once occupancy reached around 30%. Pipelines have since been laid inside the society.

Juvenile among three held for shooting man dead in Loni

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Two men were arrested and a minor was detained for shooting a man dead in Loni, police said on Saturday.

An officer said a country-made pistol, a live cartridge and a motorcycle without a number plate were recovered from the possession of Salman (20), Shoaib (23) and the minor. Two other accused, Fizu and Azim, are on the run, he added. All five are residents of Chiraudi village.

According to a complaint filed at Loni police station, the five accused men had called Sonu, the deceased, to a shop on Friday and opened fire on him. An FIR was subsequently registered under sections 103(1) (murder) and 61(2) (criminal conspiracy) of the BNS, and sections 3, 25 and 27 of the Arms Act (illegal possession, acquisition, and use of firearms) were added to the FIR. Teams were formed to arrest the suspects.With the help of CCTV footage and manual intelligence, police identified the accused and took Shoaib, Salman and the minor into custody within 24 hours of the shooting. The officer said teams have been formed to trace the rest of the accused men.

Love: A Chemical Locha, a Social Media Trend, or the Secret Ingredient of Life?

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Rupesh Solanki Love"—a word that can make your heart race twice as fast the moment you hear it! In today's digital age, where everything seems to change with a single tap, the definition of love has also undergone a bit of an update. Today, let's talk about a kind of love that goes beyond the world of social media and is essential for today's young generation to understand.Instagram Reels vs. Real-Life LoveThese days, love can begin with resharing an Instagram story or sending a heart emoji. Posting perfect pictures on social media in the name of "couple goals" has become a popular trend. But friends, real love runs much deeper than the 15 seconds of glamour shown in a reel.True love is not about receiving expensive gifts every day or posting pictures taken under the sparkling lights of a café. True love means being accepted wholeheartedly for who you really are. No pretence, no filters—just genuine feelings!Love Means Freedom, Not Slavery!Among today's youth, there is often confusion between love and possessiveness—the tendency to claim excessive control over someone. "Who are you talking to?", "Why are you wearing those clothes?", "Give me your password." If these things are being considered expressions of love, it is time to pause and think!Love never locks anyone inside a cage. Instead, love gives you wings to pursue your dreams and live freely. A relationship built on mutual trust and respect for each other's personal space is what truly defines a healthy relationship.Most Importantly: Self-LoveBefore falling in love with someone else, it is essential to learn to love yourself. If you do not respect yourself, you may find it difficult to expect others to value you. Never sacrifice your career, fitness, or dreams for the sake of a relationship. Someone who truly loves you will respect your dreams just as much as they respect you.A Final Message for Young HeartsLove is a beautiful



part of life, but it is not your entire life. If a relationship fails to offer you dignity and respect, walking away from it gracefully may be the best decision. Moving on after a relationship or learning to accept rejection is also a sign of emotional maturity.Love wholeheartedly—love your work, your family, your partner, and, above all, yourself! Because true love is the kind that makes your life better, helps you grow as an individual, and inspires you to become a better human being.

AQI back to 'moderate', but likely to deteriorate this week

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The city's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) dropped to 174 on Saturday, bringing it into the moderate category from 215 on Friday. However, high particulate matter concentrations at individual monitoring stations and changing weather conditions could reverse the improvement in the coming days, experts warned.Of the city's four monitoring stations, Gwal Pahari recorded the lowest AQI at 144, followed by Sector 51 at 162 and Teri Gram at 169, all in the moderate category. Vikas Sadan, however, continued to record poor air quality, with an AQI of 232, highlighting variations in pollution levels across the city.

Despite the improvement in the overall AQI, PM2.5 concentrations remained high at all four stations. Sector 51 recorded 329 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³), followed by Vikas Sadan at 326 µg/m³, Gwal Pahari at 309 µg/m³ and Teri Gram at 206 µg/m³. At Sector 51, the concentration was nearly 22 times World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³.PM10 levels were also elevated, with Teri Gram recording 418 µg/m³, followed by Vikas Sadan at 269 µg/m³, Gwal Pahari at 199 µg/m³ and Sector 51 at 191 µg/m³. WHO's recommended 24-hour guideline for PM10 is 45 µg/m³.PM2.5 consists of fine particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream, while PM10 includes larger inhalable particles that can affect the respiratory system.The improvement followed a spike in pollution after Dussehra celebrations on Oct 20. Firecrackers and effigy burning added to the pollution load, while calm winds restricted the dispersal of pollutants, contributing to the rise in AQI the following day.

Independent air quality expert Sachin Panwar attributed Saturday's improvement to changes in weather conditions, particularly wind speed and direction, which helped disperse pollutants. Slightly warmer daytime temperatures and lower moisture levels also aided dispersion."Wind speeds improved, which helped flush out pollutants. The daytime temperature was also slightly warmer, and changes in moisture levels helped improve dispersion. However, this improvement may not last. As northeasterly winds gradually strengthen and conditions become less favourable for dispersion.

Staffer supervising shop renovation killed as fire guts 5 eateries in Noida

Noida.(Agency)

A cafeteria staffer was charred to death after being trapped inside a shop in a row of five eateries near Radha Vallabh temple in Raipur village that caught fire on Saturday afternoon. At least eight cylinders stored at the outlets, which are frequented by students of nearby colleges, also exploded and triggered panic in the area.The fire broke out around 1.30 pm while renovation work was underway at one of the shops. As the cylinders exploded, the flames rapidly engulfed four adjacent shops. The blasts were heard from a distance. Multiple videos shared on social media platforms showed flames and thick smoke billowing from the market area.Chief fire officer Pradeep Kumar Chaubey said preliminary investigation suggested sparks during welding work had triggered the blaze. Chaubey said four men working at the shop managed to escape when the fire broke out, but Sahil Sharma, a resident of Chipiyana Khurd in Greater Noida West, remained trapped inside. As thick smoke filled the premises, Sahil lost consciousness and was unable to get out.Once the flames were doused, firefighters entered the shop and found Sahil lying near a wall. He was rushed to a hospital, but doctors declared him dead. He suffered over 70% burns.His father Dilip Sharma, who works as a security guard, said the family had come to NCR from Himachal Pradesh several years ago in search of jobs. Sahil, he said, had found employment at the eatery and was responsible for its upkeep. The family is yet to lodge any police complaint.According to eyewitnesses, around 20 people were present in and around the five shops when the blaze started. Wasim, who was in the area at the time, told TOI that renovation work, including electrical work, had been underway at one of the shops for several days. He said the fire started after a sudden short circuit. He claimed a few other eatery workers sustained minor injuries, but police denied reports of additional injuries.The cafeterias usually draw hundreds of people from nearby colleges, including Amity University, and corporate offices on weekdays. But the crowd was thinner on Saturday afternoon because



most colleges were closed for the weekend.

Officials said fire tenders reached the spot around 1.40 pm, about 10 minutes after they were alerted by passersby. Six fire tenders were deployed, and the flames were brought under control in an hour. Firefighters, assisted by police personnel, removed around eight damaged cylinders from the shops.

Buyers get possession letters for Amrapali project as 86 others remain stuck in NCLT

Noida.(Agency)

Possession letters began to be handed over to homebuyers on Friday at Phase 1 of Adarsh Awas Yojana in Amrapali Leisure Valley, even as 86 other projects across Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad remain stuck in insolvency proceedings, a decade after the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) came into force in 2016.

Supreme Court-appointed court receiver R Venkataramani handed over no-objection certificates (NOCs) and possession letters to 51 homebuyers from three towers — A1, G1 and H1 — of the project's eight. National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) said keys to these buyers were proposed to be handed over within 30-45 days.

Noida Extension Flat Owners Welfare Association (NEFOWA) vice president Dipankar Kumar, a homebuyer in the project, said the wait had been long. "After nearly 14 years of waiting, the handover process has begun. It was a long fight and a long wait," he said.

The case dates back to 2017, when Amrapali's parent company, Ultra Homes Construction Private Limited, first approached National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). An insolvency resolution professional (IRP) was then appointed for all its associated companies.The same year, NEFOWA challenged an IBC provision under which homebuyers were not treated as financial creditors for residential projects. The petition, filed under Article 21 of the Constitution, stated that buyers risked getting nothing if a company went into liquidation. On Aug 17, 2018, Parliament passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Act, 2018, to treat homebuyers as financial creditors.

On Aug 9, 2019, in Pioneer Urban Land and Infrastructure Ltd vs Union of India, Supreme Court upheld the amendment's constitutional validity."The SC accepted our argument and cancelled the RERA registration of all companies of the Amrapali Group and took the entire company under its control," Kumar said.He said the insolvency process itself had been a major hurdle for stuck projects."The biggest drawback of the law is that after the IRP is appointed, its focus remains on withdrawing its salary or collecting money in other ways instead of reviving a project. An insolvency case can go on for years and years, and homebuyers' money and flats remain stuck," he said.Of the 86 projects under NCLT, 56 are in Gautam Budh Nagar and 30 in Ghaziabad, covering both residential and commercial schemes. Some have been languishing since 2019.

Insolvency expert Sumit Khanna said the delays had defeated the purpose of the law. "The IBC was built around a deadline. A resolution had to be completed in 180 days.

2,000 form human chain at Hyderabad's Tank Bund against SIR

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

More than 2,000 people formed a human chain at Tank Bund in Hyderabad on Saturday evening, demanding the scrapping of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the restoration of deleted voters' names.

The protest was organised by a coalition of 24 organisations representing civil society, human rights, farmers, Dalits, youth and students. Participants also demanded the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the repeal of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023.

Protesters alleged that the SIR process could lead to large-scale deletions from electoral rolls and undermine people's right to vote. They claimed that 13.4 crore voters had been removed from electoral rolls across the country. In Telangana, they said, 73 lakh people had already been deleted and 93 lakh had received notices identifying them as doubtful voters.

Many participants carried the national flag and raised slogans against the revision process.

Professor Haragopal, Parakala Prabhakar, Professor Shanta Sinha and MLC Kodandram joined the protest. Students, workers, academics, professionals and civil society activists also participated.

The protesters raised concerns over the impact of the SIR process on women, daily-wage workers, minorities and transgender persons. They also criticised the police action against protesters in Delhi, asserting that peaceful protest was a constitutional right.

17 low-lying areas in Chennai vulnerable, 113 boats ready, says GCC chief

CHENNAI.(Agency)

As heavy rain is forecast in Chennai over the next 24 to 48 hours, Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) Commissioner G S Sameeran on Saturday urged residents to store crucial documents in waterproof covers and requested them, especially those in low-lying areas, to move to relief centres if evacuation becomes necessary.

As many as 113 boats have been kept ready in vulnerable and low-lying areas. "We have spoken to our fishermen friends and kept around 250 boats ready for deployment in case of an emergency," he said. Around 7,000 volunteers have enrolled to assist in relief operations, while 15,000 field workers will be engaged during the rains and deployed as required.

While holding inspections in the Manali zone on Saturday, Sameeran told reporters that 17 low-lying areas have been identified as vulnerable to waterlogging and the civic body is also taking measures to prevent flooding of the inundation-prone Amullaivoyal transit bridge near the Puzhal surplus water canal.

Nepali youth killed during card game in Perungudi

CHENNAI.(Agency)

A 26-year-old Nepali youth was stabbed to death allegedly in a quarrel that broke out among a group while playing cards for money at a house in Perungudi in the wee hours of Saturday.The suspect allegedly took the victim — Ganeshkumar (26), a worker at a private metal fabricator company in Perungudi -- to the hospital, however, he fled after the doctors questioned him about the injury, said the police.On Friday night, Ganeshkumar and his brother-in-law, Umesh, went to the house of the suspect — Saurav (25), also from Nepal and employed at a restaurant in Perungudi.

Thoraipakkam police said an argument while playing cards escalated into an altercation, during which Saurav allegedly stabbed Ganeshkumar in the chest.Saurav and Umesh took the victim on a motorcycle to a nearby hospital.

When the doctors questioned him about the injury, Saurav allegedly said that Ganeshkumar had fallen off a motorcycle.Suspecting foul play, the doctors alerted the police, but he fled by the time they arrived. The police registered a murder case and are on the lookout for the suspect.

Masked Miscreants Go on a Rampage in Ludhiana, Loot Businessman of Two Phones, Including iPhone 17

fearless miscreants have carried out a criminal act in the Noorwala Road area, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Jodhewal police station in Ludhiana.

Ludhiana.(Agency)



Three unidentified miscreants riding a Splendor motorcycle allegedly carried out a brazen robbery in broad daylight in the Noorwala Road area under the jurisdiction of Basti Jodhewal in Ludhiana. The accused brutally assaulted a 54-year-old owner of a gram and peanut packaging factory before fleeing with his two expensive mobile phones—an iPhone 17 and a Samsung Android phone. Fortunately, the cash worth lakhs of rupees in the trader's possession remained safe. Meanwhile, strong resentment has spread among the city's business community after the Basti Jodhewal police allegedly failed to inspect the crime scene even five days after the complaint was lodged, despite the availability of complete CCTV footage of the incident.

Sanjeev Arrived at the Factory to Unload Goods; Miscreants Attacked Him at the Gate

According to the information received, the victim, Sanjeev Kumar (54), runs a large gram and peanut packaging business in the Kakowal area on Noorwala Road. Sanjeev Kumar said that raw materials had arrived at his factory on the morning of October 19 (Monday). He reached the factory in his Creta car to supervise the unloading of the goods. After parking his car outside, he was about to enter the factory through the main gate when three masked youths riding a single Splendor motorcycle suddenly surrounded him.

Miscreants Assaulted Him While Humming 'Dhoom Laka Laka'; Trader Fought Back with a Steel Tea Bottle

Recounting the brazen nature of the attack, Sanjeev Kumar said that while assaulting and beating him, one of the miscreants was casually humming the song "Dhoom Laka Laka, Dhoom Laka Laka…" This, he said, reflected the apparent lack of fear of the law among the criminals.Despite being taken by surprise, Sanjeev Kumar did not give up and fought back using the steel bottle he was carrying for tea. During the scuffle, the robbers forcibly took his valuable iPhone 17 and Samsung mobile phone from his pockets.Sanjeev Kumar also chased the robbers for a considerable distance in an attempt to catch them. However, the accused sped away on their Splendor motorcycle through narrow lanes and managed to escape. Fortunately, the cash in his possession was not taken during the struggle.

Robbery Captured on CCTV; Family Collecting Footage

Immediately after the incident, CCTV cameras installed in the surrounding area were examined. The footage reportedly clearly shows the three miscreants arriving on a Splendor motorcycle, carrying out the robbery and fleeing from the scene.The victim's family has taken steps to preserve the crucial video footage and submit it to the police to help identify the robbers.

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)



After Pilibhit, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday ordered the filing of a chargesheet to initiate departmental proceedings against the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and two Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) following a preliminary inquiry which corroborated discrepancies in the electoral roll in Azamgarh district of the state.The CEO has also ordered the removal of five Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and a computer assistant, and the initiation of the procedure for termination of their services.Uttar Pradesh is scheduled to go to polls early next year.According to the office of the CEO, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav had flagged discrepancies in the electoral roll at a press conference on October 15, alleging that the name of a person, identified as Vikas Yadav, was registered 10 times in the voters' list of Azamgarh Assembly constituency.

"The ERO and AEROs will face action for negligence in the discharge of their official duties and laxity in supervision while carrying out the work of preparing the voters' list," CEO Navdeep Rinwa said, adding that the instructions have been issued to take action against the guilty employees and officers under Section 32 of the Representation of the People Act.According to officials, the CEO had sought a detailed inquiry report from the District Election Officer, Azamgarh, after the SP chief had flagged the discrepancies.

The CEO's office said that the inquiry report was received on Saturday, which found that 13 entries bearing the name Vikas Yadav in Hindi appeared in the electoral roll of the 347-Azamgarh constituency. The report also found that a voter with the same name and father's name belonged to the Chauri-Chaura Assembly constituency in Gorakhpur district and was different from the 13 other entries.The remaining 11 entries are related to 11 different individuals in Azamgarh district, who are currently residing in their respective villages. Form-8 has been filled out for correction of the actual names and other details of the other 10 individuals, excluding the actual Vikas Yadav among these 11 persons, the DEO's report stated.

The CEO has also instructed the Azamgarh DEO to conduct a thorough examination of the voters' lists of all the Assembly Constituencies in the district, and submit a detailed report within one week.On Thursday, the CEO had said that "irregularities" were found in 10,470 entries in the electoral roll of Pilibhit Sadar Assembly constituency, and ordered legal action against two EROs. The CEO also announced the termination of services of a computer assistant at the constituency's Voter Registration Centre.The CEO had ordered an inquiry into the Pilibhit electoral roll following complaints from the Congress and SP that different names were showing up against EPIC numbers of voters who figured in the final electoral roll published on April 10, 2026, after the Special.

15 illegal borewells near Hyderabad's Sunnam Cheruvu removed

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) on Saturday dismantled an alleged illegal groundwater extraction and supply network near Sunnam Cheruvu in Madhapur, removing 15 unauthorised borewells and underground pipelines used to transport water from residential premises to tanker-filling points for commercial sale.The operation began at 6.30 am and continued until evening. HYDRAA, Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC), Revenue Department and Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) officials participated in the drive, with police providing security.

Officials removed pipelines connected to borewells dug inside houses near the lake. According to HYDRAA, the network was being used to extract groundwater and transport it to storage tanks at different locations before supplying it to large tankers and transferring it to smaller tankers for sale.A drone-assisted sting operation by HYDRAA had exposed the alleged network, in which borewells were drilled inside houses, including bedrooms and kitchens. Powerful motors were used to extract groundwater, while concealed pipelines extending hundreds of metres connected the borewells to storage facilities. Several borewells were allegedly operating without valid groundwater permits in the lake's buffer and catchment zones.During Saturday's operation, officials found borewells installed beneath beds and inside kitchens. The drive covered areas including Navabharat Nagar and Borabanda Phase III.Residents said groundwater, previously available at depths of around 60 feet, had become increasingly difficult to access. In some locations, borewells were failing even at depths of nearly 600 feet. Several households were forced to purchase water after their borewells dried up and motors burned out, they said.

HYDRAA had earlier taken action against illegal borewells within the lake's Full Tank Level (FTL) limits and undertaken restoration work, removing nearly 10 feet of accumulated waste from parts of Sunnam Cheruvu. Following the removal of waste, water began percolating into the ground, helping improve groundwater levels in the surrounding areas.

How Bengaluru advocate's death turned into a murder probe: 'Fight over auto fare, suspected heart attack, then a post-mortem twist'

Lucknow.(Agency)

An auto-rickshaw fare dispute, a suspected heart attack and a death that turned into a murder probe: The death of a 43-year-old Bengaluru advocate took an unexpected turn after a post-mortem examination revealed that he had died due to a blood clot in the brain, allegedly following a fight.Police have taken Pruthviraj Appajigowda, 31, an auto-rickshaw driver from Gollarahatti on Magadi Road, into custody in connection with the death of Sri Ram, a resident of Kengunte. Investigators are also looking for other auto drivers who were allegedly present during the confrontation.

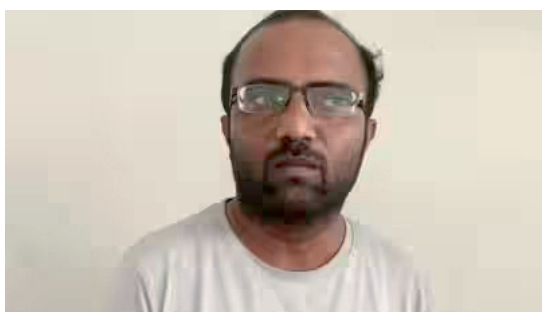
Found unconscious on Outer Ring Road

Sri Ram was found unconscious on Nagarabavi Outer Ring Road on the morning of October 9. Hoysala police personnel on patrol rushed him to a nearby private hospital, where he died later that day.Initially, his death was suspected to be due to a heart attack. However, his family noticed injury marks on his body and approached Annapoorneshwarinagar police, suspecting foul play.

The body was sent for a post-mortem examination. The report, which arrived recently, indicated that the advocate had died due to a blood clot in the brain, prompting investigators to look into the circumstances surrounding his death.

Argument over fare allegedly led to assault

The investigation led police to Pruthviraj, who allegedly attacked Sri Ram near Ambedkar Institute of Technology in Mallathahalli.According to an investigating officer, Sri Ram had asked Pruthviraj for a ride but disagreed with the fare quoted by the driver. He then walked away, saying he would take another auto-rickshaw. Pruthviraj allegedly followed him and attacked him, pushing him to the ground and causing internal head injuries."There was a heated argument between the two over the tariff. Sri Ram had asked Pruthviraj for a ride and did not agree to the price quoted by him. Saying he will catch another auto, Sri Ram walked away. Angered over the refusal, Pruthviraj followed him and attacked. Sri Ram sustained internal head injuries when Pruthviraj pushed him to the ground. There were few more auto drivers with Pruthviraj when the incident took



place and we are looking for them," an investigating officer said.

Missing phone, cash allegations under probe

Investigators are also examining allegations that Sri Ram's mobile phone and some cash went missing after the incident."There are allegations that accused person had taken away Sri Ram's mobile phone and some cash. We are looking into it," the officer added.Police are searching for the other auto-rickshaw drivers allegedly present during the confrontation as they investigate the circumstances leading to the advocate's death.

Maternity leave no shield against unauthorised absence: HC

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

Bengaluru.(Agency)

Maternity leave cannot shield an employee from the consequences of prolonged unauthorised absence after the approved leave period expires, Karnataka high court has observed while dismissing a petition by one of its former employees.

In the judgment delivered on Oct 16, Justice M Nagaprasanna held that statutory maternity protections must be respected, but cannot be invoked to invalidate action taken against absence beyond permissible leave period.The petitioner was appointed as a software technician at the high court on June 6, 2019. She applied for maternity leave on July 1, 2023, and later sought an extension until Aug 14, 2024. On Sept 25, 2024, the principal district judge of Bengaluru Rural district, under whom she was on probation, directed her to report for duty.In response, she said she could not resume work because no one was available to look after her newborn. Citing her ill health, she also sought a further extension of leave.On April 15, 2025, the registrar general dismissed her from service for failing to report for duty. Challenging the order, she approached the high court, contending that the order to dismiss her was in violation of law.The court, however, observed that the petitioner could not treat public employment casually, adding that she had been granted all permissible forms of leave under the law.The judge further noted that at a time when countless qualified aspirants compete for limited



public service opportunities, an employee cannot treat such a privilege it with indifference.The court noted that public employment also carried certain responsibilities. "The petitioner cannot seek to draw sustenance from a right, which was never denied to her, to invalidate an action founded upon circumstances arising independently thereafter," Justice Nagaprasanna observed while dismissing the petition.

Kicking the butt alone won't do it

Two recent media reports highlighted the dangers posed by novel nicotine delivery devices like vapes and liquid nicotine pouches. Last month, the Bombay High Court ruled that duty-free shops operating at the international departure or arrival areas of Indian airports cannot sell imported nicotine pouches which are banned under the Indian law. The court said that duty-free shops are not exempt from domestic health regulations even if they are freed from the taxes levied in the domestic markets of India.Those who mounted a legal challenge to the government regulation sold imported nicotine pouch brands without holding the required import licences. The court rejected the petitioners' plea that duty-free shops operate beyond the Indian customs barriers and, hence, not governed by Indian laws. That was a strange argument, in any case. If a traveller assaults an employee of the duty-free shop or even another shopper, would the Indian laws not apply?

The Indian government has banned the sale of electronic cigarettes, liquid nicotine vaporisers (vapes) and nicotine pouches for good reason. Nicotine is a highly addictive chemical, with several harmful health effects. It is considered to be as addictive as heroin and cocaine, by the World Health Organization (WHO), the American Psychiatric Association and the US surgeon general. On entering the blood stream via the lungs (vaping) or sub-lingual absorption, nicotine quickly activates brain receptors which trigger pleasure and reinforcement responses. The addictive effect is even stronger in the developing brains of children and adolescents, where even brief experimentation can entrap them in a deadly habit.A nicotine pouch mainly contains nicotine, water, flavourings, sweeteners and plant-based fibres. As they come in various dosages, some have more nicotine than others. While the intent of the original developers of these products were to aid tobacco cessation, tobacco industry majors have acquired most of these companies. They wish to profit from a diversity of smoked and non-smoked nicotine-containing products to benefit from the addictions of smokers as well as non-smokers.

Indeed, the tobacco industry is as adept at coming up with variations in its products as the Covid-19 virus was in creating new variants. Earlier versions of modified cigarettes were presented as 'low tar, low nicotine' cigarettes and sold as 'Milds'. Studies showed that the health effects continued to be as bad because smokers addicted to nicotine simply smoked more of them.

While the global public health community was united in their battle against smoking of tobacco leaf products, it became divided in the case of novel nicotine delivery products. A section argued that since there was no combustion and harmful particulate matter (PM 2.5), nitrosamines and carbon monoxide did not enter the body through smoked tobacco products, the nicotine delivery devices did not pose the risk of cancer or cardiovascular disease. They argued that as nicotine satisfied the smoker's craving without the harmful chemical add-ons from tobacco leaf, nicotine delivery devices should be regarded as 'harm reduction' products that would promote smoking cessation.Public health agencies in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and some other countries accepted that argument. Recently, these countries have woken up to the dangers of youth addiction to vaping and the alluring marketing tactics of the marketing industry. These governments are now attempting to regulate against the addition of flavouring agents and sale to minors.

The politics of fire and fury

The Great Game: The art of the repartee has more or less disappeared. The time for fun and games is shrinking

BY the time RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat delivered his annual Vijayadashami speech earlier this week in Nagpur, underlining the organisation's support for PM Modi and the BJP by ruling out "regime change", arsonists had touched off bookstalls wielding Left literature in Bengal, customarily set up around Durga Puja pandals.The book vandalism, no doubt, reminded you of Ray Bradbury's famous 1953 novel, Fahrenheit 451, subtitled, 'the temperature at which book-paper catches fire and burns' — a novel written at the height of the McCarthy era in the US, which harked back to the book burnings in Nazi Germany as well as the repression of the Soviet Gulag, when anti-national reading, writing and thinking invited severe punishment.Of course the Bengali comparison is overdrawn. In any case, the state Finance Minister, Swapan Dasgupta — who no doubt has read a book or two more than Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, who seems to delight in his own anti-intellectualism — has sort of redeemed his government by saying that he hangs his head in shame at the manner in which lumpen elements and goons have trashed Leftist bookstalls during the just-concluded Durga Puja festivities. (Do read too, Dear Reader, the eminent journalist Shikha Mukerjee's article on this very subject in The Tribune's pages earlier this week, for a deeper understanding of the matter.)Dasgupta had the courage to speak up this week because he understands that the idea of Bengal is larger than Suvendu Adhikari — just like Jyoti Basu, the larger-than-life former CPI(M) leader and chief minister who spoke out against his own party back in 1996, when he described its refusal to let him become Prime Minister as a "historic blunder".The point here is that both gentlemen, belonging to starkly different ideologies, one to the Left and the other to the Right, are/were clearly able to accept disparate ideas in the same crucible. It is the essence of democracy. Dasgupta stood up for the right of the opposing idea to oppose. Many in the Left are unable to shout "lal salaam" and imbibe the sonorous recitation of the Mahalaya in the same breath. But the good comrade, Jyoti Babu, understood that even if religion was the opium of the masses, there was always the exception to the rule — the celebration of the goddess Durga. And the goddess Kali. And the goddess Saraswati.That's why the misquoted cliché, misattributed to Gopal Krishna Gokhale, for a long while held true : What Bengal thinks today, the rest of India thinks tomorrow. (Gokhale did not say this in 1905.) Still, the problem is not with Bengal or Bengalis, notwithstanding Suvendu Adhikari, but that the idea of being different in India today, of swimming against the tide, is slowly fading.To be sure, this has been happening for some time. The art of the repartee, of skewering your opponent with a knife tipped with satire, not rage, has more or less disappeared. Politics is much more angry these days. Perhaps everyone has much more to be angry



about.That's why the Delhi street protests — when the police have allowed them to be held, that is — at least in parts, have been a refreshing change. The "ek kachori, do samosa" sloganeering works because the girls of Miranda House are spoofing Delhi Police : where are you, when we most need you? Or when Neha Bora demands that the cops, who have just detained her and her compatriots, should give them all a cup of tea? The students have understood the age-old dictum : When your opponent is far stronger than you, make fun of him.Still, something is already shifting in Delhi. The mood is getting tougher. It's clear the government is employing a two-pronged approach — first, shut down all popular dissent, both street protests as well as its manifestations, including photographs from an exhibition showcasing the protests. The time for fun and games is shrinking.Second, target the main Opposition party. No matter the Congress has shrivelled up in most parts of the country, PM Modi fully recognises it as the only political group that still has the capacity to reinvent itself. It was hardly a coincidence that Modi's comments at the NDTV World Summit on Thursday spoke of the expanding influence of "dimagi Naxals" or "intellectual Naxals" on the Congress. It is hardly a coincidence the BJP is targeting Rahul Gandhi's alleged holiday abroad at this time — he is believed to be in Vietnam — asking, who he's meeting there.It's quite another matter that Rahul Gandhi has walked right into the tiger's lair by even bothering to allegedly holiday abroad at a time like this — thereby putting into question the entire Opposition's gambit. (Or if he isn't, no one in the Congress is confirming or denying.) The balloon is already deflating. Both the government and the Opposition recognise that political parties like the Congress, and coalitions like the INDIA bloc — not ragtag outfits who take heart from being "cockroaches" and at best can play the role of a spirited distraction — must lead the charge.That's why Mohan Bhagwat's comment ruling out "regime change" in his Vijayadashami address is so important. For a start, his line this time was much tougher compared to when he spoke to GenZ and GenAlpha students in August, admitting the "time for obedience" was over. Second, with elections in key states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab round the corner, Bhagwat knows there can be no sunlight between the BJP and the RSS.Time, then, to return to both Bengal and Ray Bradbury — what does it mean when Suvendu Adhikari is not chastised by his party for stoking the idea of book vandalism? As for Bradbury, horrified by the "book burnings of Nazi Germany", who told an interviewer he wrote Fahrenheit 451 because he was worried at the way things were going in 1950s America, where "too many people were afraid of their own shadows".Perhaps, when all is said and done, the only question that remains is whether this is really the temperature at which paper burns. Or if you need a brand-new idea to coax the fire into lighting up again

Indian not alone in facing market rout as outlook gets knottier

As markets grapple with West Asian supply disruptions and other trade uncertainties, the AI-heavy markets that thrived on liquidity are cracking under tighter financial conditions that are worsening the already-complicated outlook

The Indian stock market seems to be at sea at the moment. The benchmark indices crashed through the week, with the Sensex logging its longest weekly losing streak in 25 years and the Nifty50 marking its third-longest technical correction in October. Rising inflation, crude oil surging past $114 a barrel, persistent foreign capital outflows, hardening global bond yields, a strengthening US dollar and a higher interest rate trajectory are fuelling the intense market selloff. So far in 2026, the Sensex and the Nifty have lost about 15 percent and 14 percent, respectively, making it one of the worst-performing major equity markets this year despite India's resilient economic fundamentals. Renewed price pressures, thinning corporate margins and muted festive demand are expected to further boost risk-averse sentiments in the coming weeks.The consoling news is that India isn't alone in this gloom and global markets, including all Asian economies, are suffering a similar fate. China just entered a technical bear market after falling 20 percent from its June peak, marking 10 consecutive weeks of



losses as concerns over technology valuations, domestic consumption slowdown and lack of government support are triggering a correction. Chinese stocks lost a staggering $2.4 trillion in market value with the sell-off spreading to Hong Kong-listed Chinese equities and other Asian markets. Indonesia, too, witnessed its worst two-day crash since the 1998 Asian financial crisis, with global index provider MSCI considering downgrading it to a 'standalone' status from 'emerging market' and causing a bloodbath that wiped out $65 billion in one session. Then there's South Korea's benchmark Kospi, which suffered a historic crash of 40 percent from its June peak early this month. As market heavyweights Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix remain vulnerable, the Kospi is experiencing frequent trading halts.It seems trouble is coming from all directions at once. As markets grapple with West Asian supply disruptions and other trade uncertainties, the AI-heavy markets that thrived on liquidity are cracking under tighter financial conditions that are worsening the already-complicated outlook. The only respite this week was the rupee, which corrected to about 94.50 from record lows of near 97 against the US dollar. The Indian currency is holding up well, thanks to heavy RBI intervention; but it too would face the music if the dollars deplete faster than expected.

India–US defence ties: The strategic anchor the bilateral relationship needs

The strategic case for closer cooperation extends naturally into the Indian Ocean.

Defence cooperation between two countries is rarely confined to the military domain. It builds habits of consultation, institutional familiarity and mutual trust that can influence the entire spectrum of bilateral relations. This becomes particularly important during periods of geopolitical uncertainty, when crises test the resilience of partnerships and trust becomes a strategic asset. For India and the United States, a deeper defence relationship could therefore do more than strengthen their respective military capabilities. It could provide a firmer foundation for their broader strategic partnership, including economic cooperation and trade.The relationship between New Delhi and Washington has made considerable progress over the past two decades. Yet, despite growing convergence on the Indo-Pacific and regional security, bilateral cooperation has not always advanced evenly across different domains. Trade negotiations, for instance, have at times proved difficult, with differences over market access, tariffs and domestic economic priorities complicating efforts to reach mutually satisfactory outcomes. It is difficult to establish whether a stronger defence relationship would, by itself, have resolved these differences. But it is reasonable to argue that deeper strategic trust and a greater convergence of interests could create a more favourable environment for addressing them. Defence cooperation should not be expected to substitute for commercial negotiations; it can, however, strengthen the wider relationship within which such negotiations take place.This is why India and the United States should view defence cooperation not merely as one component of their bilateral agenda, but as a potential strategic anchor for the relationship as a whole. Defence partnerships involve sustained engagement between governments, military establishments, research institutions and industrial enterprises. They require long-term planning, dependable commitments and a degree of confidence in the intentions and reliability of the partner. Over time, these interactions can build relationships that endure beyond individual political disagreements or differences on particular issues. When a crisis emerges, such institutional connections can facilitate communication, improve mutual understanding and help prevent tactical differences from escalating into broader strategic misunderstandings.The task, therefore, is not simply to increase defence purchases but to develop a more ambitious and durable framework of cooperation. For India, strategic autonomy must mean the capacity to design, manufacture, maintain and upgrade critical defence systems, rather than simply diversifying its sources of supply. For the United States, a technologically stronger India offers a more capable partner in the Indo-Pacific, a potential contributor to resilient defence supply chains and an opportunity to deepen cooperation with a major democratic power. These interests are complementary, provided both sides are willing to move beyond a transactional approach.

The changing character of warfare makes this imperative more urgent. Artificial intelligence, autonomous platforms, robotics, advanced sensors, electronic warfare and counter-drone technologies are transforming military operations. Recent conflicts have demonstrated how relatively inexpensive unmanned systems can impose significant costs on sophisticated military platforms, while the integration of software, surveillance and precision capabilities can change the balance on the battlefield. India and the United States should identify priority areas in which joint research, development and production can generate tangible results. Counter-drone and anti-swarm systems, unmanned technologies, artificial intelligence applications and selected aerospace capabilities offer promising avenues for collaboration.

Such cooperation must also address the difficultquestions of technology transfer and intellectual property. India cannot build lasting technological strength if its participation remains confined to assembling systems designed and developed elsewhere. Equally, American concerns over sensitive technologies and security safeguards cannot simply be disregarded. The two countries need clearer, more predictable arrangements governing co-development, production, intellectual



property ownership and access to international supply chains. The objective should be to identify technologies that can be shared, establish workable safeguards and create partnerships in which both countries have meaningful industrial and strategic stakes.India's expanding private-sector defence industry has an important role to play in this process. Initiatives such as Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) and the India–US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) provide a foundation for connecting start-ups, established manufacturers, universities and defence research institutions. The next step should be to translate these connections into sustained programmes of joint research, commercial production and technological innovation. American defence companies should see India not only as a market for their platforms but also as a partner in manufacturing and development. Indian enterprises, in turn, should have opportunities to become increasingly sophisticated contributors to global defence supply chains.The strategic case for closer cooperation extends naturally into the Indian Ocean. Maritime security, the protection of critical infrastructure and the uninterrupted movement of trade and energy are central to the interests of both countries. Disruptions around the Red Sea and Bab-al-Mandeb illustrate how insecurity at strategic chokepoints can affect global commerce far beyond the immediate conflict zone. Cooperation in maritime domain awareness, information-sharing, surveillance, undersea infrastructure protection and regional capacity-building can translate shared concerns into practical action. Stronger industrial and technological collaboration would reinforce this effort by improving the capabilities available to both partners.

None of this implies that defence ties can eliminate disagreements over trade, tariffs or other sensitive issues. India and the United States will continue to have distinct domestic priorities, and a mature partnership must accommodate differences rather than assume they will disappear. Nor should defence cooperation become contingent on the resolution of every other bilateral issue. Its value lies precisely in creating a durable foundation that can withstand disagreements elsewhere and sustain engagement when political or economic circumstances become difficult.The larger lesson is that strategic partnerships acquire depth when cooperation generates mutual confidence, shared capabilities and enduring institutional connections.

Top 10 crazy Planters for your home

Toiling hard on a balcony garden, filled with the same old clay or plastic pots, can get boring at times. If you want to breathe a bit more life into your greens, just look around.

You will be surprised to find many household objects, unnecessarily occupying space, which can be turned into unique planters. As long as it can support soil and allow proper drainage, you can use almost anything. Container gardens can be the perfect solution for those living in small apartments. So, what are you waiting for? Unleash your crazy, creative side and make the best use of waste.Trust us, you'll love it!

TO THE TEA

Cup planters look just fine on dull window sills.

They are small and can hold a small amount of gravel. But once you see them, you are bound to change your opinion. Tea cups with graphics can add spectacle in the whole scheme of things. If you want to have small plants, this can actually be a very good idea. You can accentuate the beauty of the planter by adding decorative stones around the brim.

BOTTLE'S UP

Wine-bottle planters are really easy to make and look great once done. Start out by cutting off the bottom of the bottle. Since potting soil cannot be used as the planting medium here, use coco peat instead. A wire or small rope tied just below the bottle's threads is all we need to hang these planters. You can also grow various decorative indoor plants in these bottles.

TOY TALE

Succulents are ideal plants to grow in these toy trucks discarded by your kids. They are pretty low-mainte nance too. Find something that has a large enough opening to hold the potting mixture and deep enough to allow the roots to grow.

SMUG IN JEANS

This planter is not just a great use of an old pair of jeans, but it's also a sure-shot way to grab eyeballs of every passer-by. So, if you are planning something extraordinary and eccentric this season, try and make at least one jeans container. You need to fill up the legs with pipes and thermocol.

Spread a water-resistant plastic bag inside before placing the potted plant. And you are ready to go...

OUT OF THE BOX

Making a planter from a wooden crate or an old suitcase is quite simple. Because of its length, breadth and depth, it is best suited for growing herbs like coriander, lemon grass or mint. Fill it will soil. You can either sprinkle seeds, starting from the scratch, or directly plant saplings. If you are more into flowers, then Portulaca grandiflora (commonly called 9 o'clock flowers) can be one of the options. Decorate the case to your heart's content and it can double up as an installation in your balcony.





SPICE OF LIFE

You can hang these old jars on the wall, like spice racks -in the dining room or in the kitchen. These jar planters can be used to grow fresh spices and herbs for cooking at home. Clear your kitchen counter and keep your herbs, fresh in the air. Aromatic, we say!

HATS OFF

Give your tattered old hat a makeover as a unique hanging container for your plant. Pick one of the pots with seasonal flowers in it. Tie a wire around the pot and hang it on the balcony wall. Now, cut a hole in your once-favourite old hat and use it to cover the pot. Mindboggling, isn't it?

HEAD OVER HEELS These old shoes, which had once added to your style quotient, can also make for wonderful planters. Hung on the balcony fence, these coloured boots look great filled with flowering plants. Even high heels and sandals work perfectly well for decorative cacti. Let your imagination run as wild as possible.

BOOK STORE

It doesn't take much to add a little charm to your home or office. Turning an old book into a sassy succulent planter can do wonders. Just select an old book and glue the pages together. Make sure not to stick the pages to the cover. Let it dry completely. Decide how wide a space you want to fit in your succulent. Leave at least 2 inches around the circumference of the roots to promote growth. Line the box you just cut with a plastic bag, making sure the bottom and sides are covered. Arrange your succulent on top of the plastic bag. Be sure to transfer enough soil from the original planter, along with the plant itself. Trim the excess plastic around the edges, leaving just enough of the liner to keep water from running into the pages of the book when you water it.

AT THE WHEEL

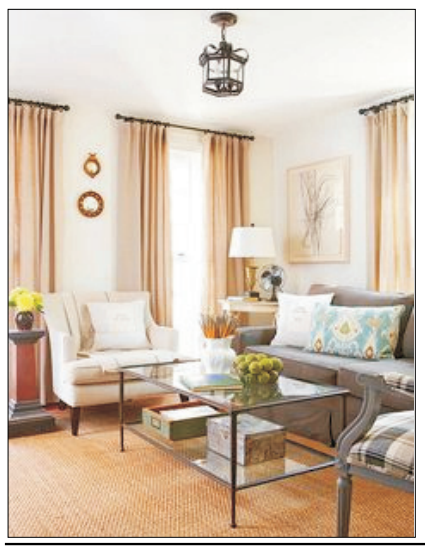
Next time you get your car tyre changed, don't throw the old one away. Paint it instead, and use it as a plant container. This type of arrangement is possible only if you have adequate space in your balcony or on the rooftop.

You can choose colours according to your preference. The advantage in this case is plenty of room, therefore suitable for bigger plants and bushes like rose, hibiscus et al.

Why the time is ripe for a tech-less Living room

While we are aware that gadgets will continue to rule our lives in many ways, decor experts around the globe reveal that more families are opting to ditch technology in their living rooms in order to facilitate more quality time. With an overdose of screen time throughout the day, people are consciously making a choice to create a room without digital distractions. They want to bond over meaningful conversations, read a book or enjoy a glass of wine, in peace.

Says Dr Rajan Bhonsle, relationship counsellor, "The living room is supposed to encourage interaction. Whether it's a television, ipad or laptop - all gadgets are addictive and it's difficult to limit their usage. Hence, if the whole family decides to eliminate technology from their living space, they will end up bonding on a personal level. That's good news because the lack of eye-to-eye contact





over time has made us apathetic and arrogant as human beings."

Who says living rooms can't look chic minus the telly? In fact, this opens up huge opportunities for new designs and creative layouts in decor - you can now use up all the space that was once occupied by a gadget! Here are a few tips:

1. Let all seating face inwards

Arrange all the chairs and sofas in the room to face each other. This seating arrangement encourages talking, sitting, reading and entertaining. You will now probably communicate face to face and reconnect instead of staring at a screen.

2. Rule of thumb

When you say you have a digital-free living room, it has to be unplugged in the true sense. To help encourage this, ask your family members to leave their phones, tablets, music player in another room.

They may grumble at first, but with time surely realise that it is very relaxing at the end of the day.

3. Stay away from too many colours

While the idea is to create a space that de-stresses you after a long day, be careful not to incorporate too many colours in a tech-less space. Stick to a neutral colour palette and use soft, soothing colours. Whites, creams, blues, browns, greys - all make for brilliant choices.

Decorate your home with these Indian handicrafts

Decorate your home with Indian handicrafts and boast the beautiful, interesting and intricate handicrafts which are made by rural artisans of the country. Add jute, brass and clay handicrafts to your home, says an expert.

Cheenu Gupta, Co-founder of Divinehaat.com, an e-commerce portal of handicraft goods, has shared some ideas:

* Brass handicrafts: Brass provides a durable and sturdy decor option. There are so many brass handicrafts and show pieces like vases, table tops, wall art, lamps, ornament boxes, plates, bowls and figurines.

True brass tends to oxidize quickly when exposed to air and hence check that the brass product you are buying has been given a clear coating of lacquer.

Any brass product will have to be regularly polished to keep the shine intact and remove any tarnishing.

* Jute handicrafts: Give a wow factor to your drawing room with one of the most affordable natural fibers Jute. There is a huge range of jute products which includes bags, rugs, lamps, tables, office stationery, curtains wall-hangings and many more.

Jute products are eco friendly and offer a natural, green way to decorate the house.

* Clay handicrafts: Clay pottery is supposed to be one of the most ancient forms of handicrafts in India.

You can choose from lovely terracotta planters or clay serving utensils to beautiful vases to decorate the house. Not only these products look beautiful but food cooked in the pottery is considered good for health.

There are multiple types of clay pottery - terracotta, red, black and grey pottery.

* Wooden handicrafts: Decorate your house with wooden furniture, toys, utensils, decorative pieces, jewellery and many more designer household goods like lamp shades, candle stands, vermillion boxes, jewellery boxes, bangle holders.

Carved wood furniture is a treasured furniture item in a lot of homes.

* Dhokra handicrafts: Dhokra is one of the oldest forms of handicrafts. Dhokra candle



stands, pen stands, ash trays, horses, elephants, peacocks, owls, religious images, measuring bowls and other show pieces give an extra edge to the corner of your house.

Dhokra cast metal and ironware has a rugged vibrancy about it. It looks beautiful in any corner of your home.

* Marble handicrafts: To enhance the beauty of your house decorate it with marble decorative vase, marble elephants for the drawing room, pooja thali, idols of god for the spiritual room.

* Art and metal ware handicrafts: Wall art designing for living room is a new trend. One can choose from varieties of designs to go in sync with your living room.

17 ways to do up your

Living Room

Interior expert Raseel Gujral lists simple fun ways to do up your living room.

Personality

I want to walk into a space that makes me sigh! The living room should be designed in such a way that it speaks to you with volume and personality.

Unusual pairing

The rush of being surprised by unexpected beauty. For example a beautiful antique in an otherwise contemporary living room setting is something unexpected.

Art talks

Nothing can replace the timeless appeal of original art. Exquisite pieces of art can hold an entire space together.

Touch of unapologetic glamour

Glamour needs no justification. Every living room should have a hint of glamour — need not be loud, just a touch of Venetian glass can change the look of a room!



Colour

Colour is oxygen — it makes you breathe. Each colour makes you feel different — it lights up your life!

Transform the mundane The layering of materials can transform the simple to the sublime. An intricately worked on carpet in an empty space can transform the otherwise mundane area to something interesting. A simple sofa with exotic cushions can change the look of your living room.

Sense of origin Never lose it. When you fill your room with furniture it should not shout but should have gentle flavours.

Conversation pieces Key pieces should anchor a space, not let it float away. You may have a small room and fill it with a hundred small pieces. Visually it's unappealing and your pieces do not get noticed either.

Have one large painting or one large sculpture in the room instead.

Let your experiences and travels talk There is no substitute to personal style. Your living room should reflect it in the things that you pick on your travels!

Find your own inspiration Fashion, art, life — everything is a stimulus. One is inspired by books, clothes, fashion shows etc. This inspiration should be brought in to your rooms.

Dare to differ

There is nothing more boring than the black dress syndrome. Do not follow the herd. Do up your house differently. Paint a wall in a deep mahogany!

Minimalism

Today to be minimal means leaching every bit of personality. Minimalism is in! Do not do anything over the top. Your room should be simple and sophisticated. Minimalist interiors don't necessarily mean everything is stripped down. It means everything serves a specific function.

Lift your spirits Details. Ones that make you fall in love over and over. Fill your room with little things that give you joy. It can be a simple photo frame, a beautiful vase, anything that lifts your spirit!

Surprise yourself

The compulsion to constantly surprise yourself. The furniture you place in the living room should have a story, so every time you walk in, it should surprise you.

A thing of beauty is a joy forever Buying objects of beauty — is beginning a love affair, every time. The joy of finding something new and bringing it home — like picking up a lamp in an antique market.

Change is good

The drama of everyday life. Keep changing the look of your home. Paint a sculpture an electric red this will add drama!

Lighting The play of light and shadow — in pattern and history. Place your pieces in such a way that the light and shadow will form designs in your room.



Make your home look cosier in

Winter

Give a warm new look to your home. If the lingering nip in the air isn't reason enough, what is?



There is a lingering nip in the air and it is the right time to give your home a warm look. Architect Ekansh Bansal of Ekansh Bansal Design gives us some tips to do up our homes this season. Winter is as good a time as any to redecorate your home, and the right visual elements will have your interiors looking chic, warm, inviting and cosy; even in the coldest months.

Keep colours simple

Paint is perhaps the best starting point for redecorating your home, and you should begin with a neutral and earthy colours like white, beige or very light blue. Keeping the colours simple gives you a lot of freedom to play with the rest of the elements.

Bring in some warmth

Decorating for winter is all about giving extra comfort and warmth to your interiors, especially since it's so cold and harsh outside. Stock up on items like plush throws and rich quilts and place them on your couches and sofas.

Use traditional furniture for glamour

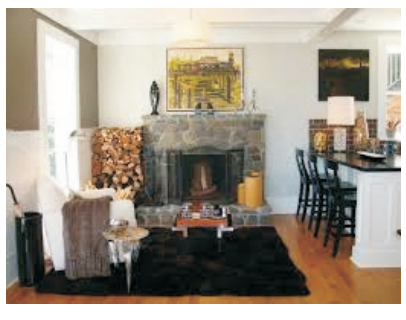
Add warmth to your interiors by breaking the straight lines of contemporary furniture with some more traditional pieces. The curves of the traditional pieces add a 'glam' factor to a space when used as a focal point.

Use furniture with raw unfinished looks

Use pieces which reflect the outside on the inside. By using accessories and furniture with raw and unfinished looks, we bring a bit of the nature and greenery outside, into our houses; especially a good idea for those who live in apartments and don't have access to private gardens.

Area rugs and reversible curtains

Curtains, like area rugs, offer you a very simple way to add dramatic changes to any room. Because you'll probably want to change the design every so often, you may want to get reversible curtains so that you just need to flip the curtain to get an entirely new look. But make sure to remember to get these in nice colours, to add to the cosiness.



Opt for low height furniture

Open spaces are interactive and cosier. Restrict using large and heavy space dividers; instead opt for low height furniture, like bookshelves or consoles to dictate your space divisions. This not only makes the overall space seem larger, but also the interaction between the spaces makes it nice and warm.

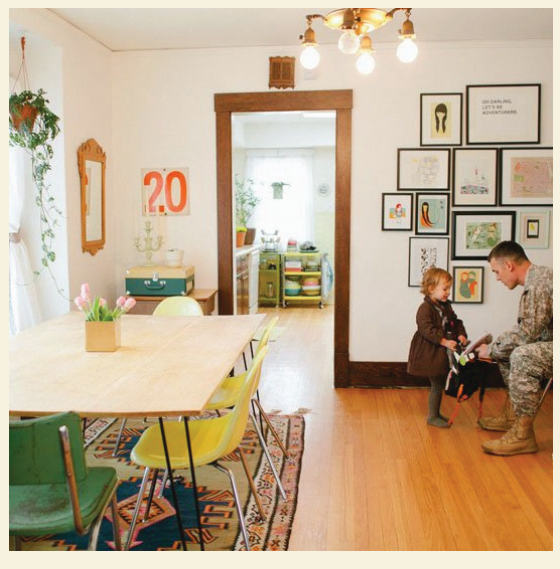
Use more candles

Accessories add the final but all-important touches to your interiors for winter. Candles, for example, are particularly dramatic pieces in winter because they suggest light and warmth - two things that Mother Nature doesn't provide that time of year.

'My place has everything that a party house needs'

About A Boy is a film about a guy who has not worked a single day. He gets royalty out of a song that his dad sang. But what is really cool about him is his apartment. Punit's apartment is inspired by that. Like the character in the film, Punit too, would like to be self-sufficient in life

"I wake up in the morning and go down to the second floor for breakfast to my parents' place (Punit stays on the 22nd floor) or the breakfast comes up. They have started teasing me that this is why I meet them. Then lunch comes up and for dinner, I usually go down."



"My kitchen is totally stocked with ingredients and everything required to cook, though it has never been used. I also have a fully stocked bar even though I don't drink. And, surprisingly, my dad stocked it up for me."

"When my dad came to see my place for the first time, he opened my room and died of shock seeing the fully open shower. He said, 'What if someone opens the door and sees you?' To make it worse, I had put a blue light in the shower. I can see the world taking a shower from inside, though the world cannot see me from outside. He found it ridiculous and could just not get it. Manish (Malhotra who is Punit's chacha) came and said, 'I thought it will be cool, but the bathroom is too sexy.' It was too much for him to handle. My grandfather came in and said, 'How will your wife take a bath here when you get married?'"

Delhi Police traces bomb-threat email sent to school; student apprehended

Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi Police have arrested a girl student in connection with a false bomb threat sent to a school in New Delhi, with investigators revealing that the hoax was orchestrated simply to secure a day off from classes.Delhi Police said it has traced a bomb-threat email sent to a School in New Delhi and apprehended a girl student of the same school in connection with the incident, police said on Saturday.

The school received a threatening email with the subject line Bombs Placed in Your Building on October 23. Following the



incident, PS Cyber, South, launched a technical investigation to identify the sender.

According to police, the investigation revealed that the alleged sender was a girl student of the school. She reportedly sent the email with the intention of getting the school closed for the day.

The team further conducted a detailed technical investigation and examined digital evidence to trace the source of the email, following which legal action has been initiated against the Child in Conflict with Law (CCL) in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act, police said.

'Free Umar Khalid', 'Long Live Naxalbari' graffiti at JNU sparks row, administration reacts

Delhi.(Agency)

Graffiti reading 'Free Umar Khalid' and 'Long Live Naxalbari' appeared on the walls of Jawaharlal Nehru University on Saturday, prompting an administrative response and objections from the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad.A university official said the administration had taken cognisance of the matter and would examine it. The official added that JNU would not allow vested interests to disturb campus peace. University sources said authorities would not tolerate such graffiti.

ABVP demands action

The ABVP's JNU unit accused Left-wing student organisations of disturbing the university's academic atmosphere. It demanded that the administration identify those responsible and take action. In a statement, the organisation alleged that photographs circulating from campus showed All India Students' Association members involved in objectionable writing alongside a portrait of Hindutva ideologue VD Savarkar.

ABVP JNU president Mayank Panchal said freedom of expression could not justify disrespect towards national figures or damage to public property. Unit secretary Praveen Piyush said the university belonged to no single ideology and its academic environment deserved protection.

Khalid's prolonged incarceration

Khalid, a former JNU research scholar, has remained in jail since September 2020 in the case concerning an alleged larger conspiracy behind the February 2020 Delhi riots. The violence killed 53 people. Authorities charged him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Student organisations and civil rights activists have repeatedly questioned his prolonged incarceration and delays in the trial.

Similar row at Jamia

The JNU incident followed the discovery of 'Free Kashmir' and 'Free Sharjeel Imam' slogans on Jamia Millia Islamia's walls on Friday. The graffiti appeared amid student protests seeking the restoration of the university's students' union, which has remained disbanded since 2006.

In its current interpretation, peace bond won't be signed by AISA: Neha

AISA president Neha appeared before a special executive magistrate in Delhi on Saturday after the High Court dismissed her plea challenging a police notice asking her to execute a Rs 10,000 peace bond.

Delhi.(Agency)

AISA president Neha on Saturday appeared before the special executive magistrate (SEM) at the Mandir Marg police station a day after the Delhi High Court dismissed her plea challenging a police showcause notice directing her to execute a Rs 10,000 "peace bond" with one surety.Following HC directions, the SEM provided Neha's counsel documents that formed the basis of the police allegation that there is a likelihood of her breaching peace and hence she should sign a "peace bond". Neha had declined to sign the peace bond.The SEM has given Neha time to reply by October 29, her advocate Abhik Chimni said.Before reaching the SEM court around 2 pm, Neha held a press conference at the Press Club of India, where she criticised the concept of peace bonds itself.Maintaining that signing the peace bond would squander the right to democratic dissent, Neha said, "As we take the movement forward, it is important for it to sustain so that peaceful demonstrations are not declared a breach of peace. In its current interpretation, the peace bond won't be signed by AISA."

When she reached the Mandir Marg police station, around 50 people were protesting against her, raising slogans. Her car was escorted inside by a Delhi Police security vehicle.Around 4.30 pm, Neha left the police station. "The HC has dismissed the challenge to the showcause notice. However, it has laid down important parameters, stating that all material relied upon to suggest a possible breach of peace must be



provided to us. Today, we showed the judgment to the SEM, who gave us all the documents. We will examine them before the next hearing on the 29th," Chimni told mediapersons."The court's findings are important as they uphold the right of detained persons to know the allegations against them and have a reasoned opportunity to reply," he added.The showcause notice, issued on October 17 under Section 126 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), directed Neha to appear before the magistrate and explain why she should not sign a personal bond of Rs 10,000 with one surety to maintain peace during the inquiry.

Neha approached the HC, challenging the notice which she said was vague, factually incorrect and unsupported by material indicating a likelihood of breach of peace.Refusing to interfere with preventive proceedings initiated against Neha, the HC had observed that the showcause notice met the requirements of law. It had said that "it is not necessary that the SEM has to investigate like a fact-finding authority" at this stage.It also held that "even one incident is sufficient" for initiating preventive proceedings "if the circumstances so suggest that there is an apprehension that such a person will indulge in further incidents of the same nature which can breach peace and disturb public tranquillity".The case is part of the police action following protests against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over allegations of deletion of votes through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.On October 16, Neha was detained at Mandi House while on her way to the 'Lehra Do Tiranga' march at Connaught Place. She was released the following day.

Surya Kiran jets fly over Ganga as Varanasi hosts 'Wings over Ganges'

Delhi.(Agency)

Red and white aircraft of the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team flew over the Ganga in Varanasi on Sunday as the city hosted 'Wings over Ganges' at Namo Ghat to mark the 94th Indian Air Force Day celebrations.A video shared by the IAF showed the team's aircraft above the river. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who represents Varanasi in the Lok Sabha, is scheduled to attend the aerial display as chief guest during his October 25 visit.

Fighter jets join display

The programme will feature the IAF's leading display teams, including the Sarang Helicopter Display Team. The aircraft lineup includes the Tejas, Light Combat Helicopter Prachand, Sukhoi-30MKI and Rafale.Aircraft from the Army and Navy are also expected to participate. Their presence will showcase coordination among the three armed services alongside the IAF's aerial capabilities.The event forms part of the Air Force Day celebrations, with Namo Ghat serving as the venue for the display over the river.

IAF chief backs integration

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh said the IAF remained committed to jointness and integration. He said future conflicts would involve multiple domains and require closer cooperation among the Army, Navy and Air Force."We are not viewing theaterisation as an exercise to permanently divide fighter assets geographically," Singh told news agency PTI.Speaking about the proposed theaterisation of the armed forces, he said the central question concerned how an integrated structure could use air power most effectively."Future conflicts will be multi-domain by their very nature; three services will operate together far more closely than ever before," the IAF chief said.

Modi's Varanasi visit

Modi is also scheduled to inaugurate a new garment manufacturing facility at Arvind Mills during his visit. After arriving in Varanasi, he will travel to the facility by an Army helicopter.His roadshow will start at Police Lines and pass through the Cultural Complex and Chowkaghat before reaching Namo Ghat for the aerial display.

Votes cast freely in Jammu and Kashmir, loyalty tested in PoJK: Two kinds of citizenship

PoJK offers no such route. Pakistan imposed an Interim Constitution in 1974 that screens candidates for their support of union with Pakistan. Its Section 7(2) forbids any person or party from campaigning against the territory's accession. Candidates must sign a declaration backing accession before they can stand, and in 2001 election officials rejected the nominations of independence-minded candidates who refused.

Delhi.(Agency)

Jammu and Kashmir has voted in record numbers under India's Constitution. In Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the law screens out dissenters, and protesters face bans, criminal cases and gunfire.

In September 2024, voters in Kishtwar queued in such numbers that the district recorded 80.14 per cent turnout on the first day of Jammu and Kashmir's Assembly election. Across the Line of Control, Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) held its own vote in the summer of 2026, spread over three phases for security reasons, amid a breakdown of law and order and claims of rigging by the government. One side treats elections as a celebration of citizenship. The other runs them as a managed test of loyalty.

Record turnout, peaceful polls

Jammu and Kashmir's numbers speak plainly. In the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Union Territory recorded 58.46 per cent turnout, its highest in 35 years, and participation in the Kashmir Valley jumped by 30 points compared with 2019. Udhampur and Jammu pushed past 68 and 72 per cent. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar noted that the polls passed without a single major violent incident.Months later, voters returned for the first Assembly election in a decade and lifted turnout to 63.88 per cent. Women in Chhamb turned out at 83.53 per cent, and Sopore, once a bastion of poll boycotts, joined in. Delimitation had already raised the number of Assembly seats from 83 to 90. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah now presents the budget to an elected Assembly, and Jammu and Kashmir sends five members to the Lok Sabha.

A loyalty test for candidates

PoJK offers no such route. Pakistan imposed an Interim Constitution in 1974 that screens candidates for their support of union with



Pakistan. Its Section 7(2) forbids any person or party from campaigning against the territory's accession. Candidates must sign a declaration backing accession before they can stand, and in 2001 election officials rejected the nominations of independence-minded candidates who refused. A separate political parties law bars anyone from forming a party that opposes accession.

The assembly itself tilts towards Islamabad. Of its 45 elected seats, 12 represent "refugees" living in Pakistan, not residents of PoJK. When protesters demanded their abolition, a federal adviser told Pakistan's Senate that the seats would stay.

A vote under strain

The 2026 election exposed the system's fragility. The territory's own chief election commissioner called it the most difficult in its history, as coalition partners traded allegations of malpractice and clashed openly, and violence spread across the territory. The Pakistan Peoples Party accused its rival of rigging, and turnout reached only 46.3 per cent in Mirpur and 53 per cent in Muzaffarabad. Officials postponed polling in seven constituencies.

Aastha Kunj park gets 105 extra lights

Delhi.(Agency)

Necessary safety and security measures have been implemented at the Delhi Development Authority (DDA)-maintained Aastha Kunj Park in Kalkaji, including deployment of security personnel, installation of 105 additional lights and CCTV surveillance, an official said on Saturday.Further strengthening of lighting arrangements is under process, with due consideration to the ecological sensitivity of the Morphological Ridge, the official said, as Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the city's security during a visit to the Delhi Police headquarters. The new security arrangements



come against the backdrop of the alleged gang rape of a 17-year-old girl at Aastha Kunj Park on September 21. Three accused were arrested in connection with the incident.

The incident highlighted security concerns at the 142-acre DDA park, which has 29 access points and had faced issues including poor lighting, broken perimeter walls, unmanned or missing gates and inadequate CCTV coverage. According to a status report on the enhanced security arrangements, all security guards, as per the currently allotted strength, have been deployed. Given the park's extensive area of 142.41 acres and 29 gates, regular patrolling is being undertaken to ensure security coverage.

Two siren-equipped motorcycles, along with torches and essential safety equipment, have been deployed for night patrolling. Surprise night inspections are also conducted by the site in-charge, security supervisor and departmental staff to verify security arrangements and guard deployment, the report said.To address dark spots, all 340 existing lights in the park are currently functional. An additional 105 lights have been installed in accordance with recommendations made in the Safety Audit Report.

A joint inspection has been conducted with electrical department officials, while a proposal to install high-mast lights at identified locations is under process, the report said.

The official said security facilities were being strengthened while keeping ecological considerations in mind. Approximately 99 per cent of the park falls within the Morphological Ridge.Additional illumination in densely vegetated areas is therefore being planned judiciously to avoid disturbing natural flora and fauna while ensuring adequate lighting along pathways and visitor-use areas. Other measures include installation of four CCTV cameras, closure of gates at 9 pm and biometric attendance for all security guards, the official said.

Plea in SC seeks guidelines on probe agencies' access to personal digital data

A PIL in the Supreme Court seeks guidelines governing investigative access to personal and digital data. The plea calls for necessary, proportionate requests that safeguard privacy and other fundamental rights.



Delhi.(Agency)

A public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking comprehensive guidelines to regulate how criminal investigation agencies collect and access personal and digital data, with a focus on safeguarding citizens' fundamental right to privacy.

The petition seeks constitutionally compliant safeguards governing requests for digital information, including movement records, timestamps and metadata of online posts. It argues that investigative agencies should be required to specify the purpose of a data request, the categories of information sought, the relevant time period and its connection to the alleged offence.

The petitioner has urged that data collection be limited to what is strictly necessary and proportionate to the investigation, warning that indiscriminate access to an individual's entire digital history could lead to an unjustified intrusion into private life.Citing Supreme Court judgments, the PIL argues that access to personal digital data should not be permitted routinely when adequate privacy safeguards are absent and investigators have not demonstrated that less intrusive alternatives would be inadequate.The petition seeks safeguards to protect the fundamental rights to privacy, dignity, freedom of speech and expression, and personal liberty under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution.

From $8 in hand to IDBI bank as crown jewel

New Delhi. (Agency)

At 22, a chemical engineer with a degree from IIT-Madras had just about $8 in his wallet when he left India for Canada. Fifty-four years later, he is the founder, chairman and chief executive of the Toronto-based $55.5 billion insurance giant Fairfax Financial Holdings, who just cracked a deal with the Indian government for its majority stake in IDBI Bank.Vivian Prem Watsa, often called the Canadian Warren Buffet, was born in August 1950 in Hyderabad as the third of the four children to an Anglican Christian maths teacher Manohar Clarence Watsa. After attending the Hyderabad Public School, he moved to IIT-Madras and then to Canada in 1972, where he secured an MBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business, Ontario. Interestingly, the self-made Watsa funded the Canadian education by selling furnaces and air conditioners door to door.Watsa began his career with Confederation Life, a Canadian insurance company, as a research analyst in 1974. That was his introduction to the world of investments and insurance and the discipline of assessing businesses for their underlying worth. His mentor John Watson introduced him to the investment philosophy of Benjamin Graham, who is widely regarded as the father of value investing.

Within a decade, Watsa was ready to be an entrepreneur. He roped in his former boss Tony Hamblin to start an investment firm Hamblin Watsa Investment Counsel in 1984. Next year, his nascent firm took over Markel Financial, a bankrupt Canadian truck insurance firm, and renamed it Fairfax Financial Holdings two years later, which grossed $55.5 billion in revenue in 2025.

Soldiers guard centre of Milan as thousands protest across European cities

New Delhi. (Agency)

Thousands of young people marched on Saturday through the streets of several Italian cities, including Milan, Rome and Turin, as authorities deployed large numbers of police and soldiers in a largely-successful bid to stave off a repeat of the violent clashes and looting that marred similar protests last week.The demonstration in Milan remained peaceful, but there were brief clashes with police in both Rome and Turin.In Milan, thousands of young people marched the streets as soldiers were deployed and luxury boutiques were boarded up, but by late afternoon, most shops had opened, Italian media reported.

Premier Giorgia Meloni announced a raft of measures, including sending an additional 500 soldiers to Milan and tougher penalties for minors, who police said made up a large part of the violent protesters last week. In Milan, police detained several minors as a preventive measure, media reported.While protests in France have claimed most international attention, large demonstrations also rocked many European cities on Saturday from Milan to Rome to Madrid, Lisbon and Tirana.The protests encompass a broad range of issues from education and corruption to anti-war movements, pensions and housing.

Carlsberg India revenue slips to ₹8,708.8 cr in FY26, profit rises 22%

New Delhi. (Agency)

The company's total income, including other income, declined 2.25 per cent to ₹8,814.96 crore in the financial year ended March 2026, according to financial data accessed through business intelligence platform Tofler.

Carlsberg India Ltd, part of Danish brewing major Carlsberg Group, had reported revenue from operations of ₹8,906.50 crore and a profit of ₹437.94 crore in FY25.

The company, which operates in India with popular beer brands such as Tuborg, Carlsberg Elephant and Kronenbourg 1664 Blanc, in July 2026 filed confidential papers with capital markets regulator SEBI for a proposed initial public offering (IPO) and received approval on October 1, 2026.Carlsberg India's royalty paid to its parent entity was up 13.23 per cent to ₹90.01 crore in FY26.Expenses on excise duty paid to governments declined by around 12 per cent in the financial year ended March 2026. It stood at ₹4,816.83 crore in FY26, compared with around ₹5,468.24 crore in the preceding financial year.Carlsberg India's 'Marketing and Publicity Expenses' were down 2.24 per cent to ₹69.22 crore.However, its expenses on 'Sales Promotion' were up 42.62 per cent to ₹848.71 crore compared with ₹595.07 crore in FY25.

Trump says Audi to invest $4.2 bn in its first US auto plant

New Delhi. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump announced on Saturday that German automaker Audi planned to invest $4.2 billion to build its first factory in the United States, 10 days before midterm elections.Audi confirmed the investment in a release, saying the plant would create about 4,500 jobs."I'm thrilled to announce a massive auto manufacturing investment in the great state of Georgia by a fantastic company," Trump said at a campaign rally ahead of the November 3 vote that will determine control of the US Congress."Audi has just committed to invest $4.2 billion dollars in nearby Macon, Georgia, to begin the construction next month on a massive plant that will produce 200,000 cars a year," Trump continued.



Audi, which is a unit of Volkswagen, said in its release that construction was scheduled to begin next year and production in the early 2030s.

"The planned investment intends to mark a long-term commitment to the United States and to establish North America as a third major pillar of Audi's global production network alongside Europe and China," it said.VW, long a titan of German industry, has struggled with US tariffs, Chinese competition and patchy demand in Europe.In September, the 10-brand Volkswagen Group struck a deal with unions to axe up to 100,000 jobs by 2030, increasing by 50,000 the number of expected cuts across the group.The cuts will be the largest restructuring ever carried out in the global automotive industry.Trump has claimed a "roaring comeback" in American auto manufacturing in response to his aggressive trade policy.Since returning to the White House in January 2025, Trump has wielded executive authority to slap tariffs on various products -- including autos -- and countries.In response, carmakers including General Motors, Toyota, and Ford have announced plans to expand US plants or shift production from overseas.Grievances over Trump's trade policies are among fault lines that Democrats hope will work in their favor in the midterm elections.Trump is putting all his efforts into campaigning ahead of the elections as he faces dismal polls and unexpectedly tight races .

Govt extends deadlines for companies to file statements and annual returns for Fy26

New Delhi. (Agency)

The government has extended the deadlines for companies to file their financial statements and annual returns for the financial year 2025-26 by December 31 without paying additional fees. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) said in a circular that companies can file financial statements through various versions of Form AOC-4, including consolidated financial statements, filings for financial statements in XBRL (machine-readable digital reporting) format and applicable non-banking financial company (NBFC) forms, by December 31, 2026, without additional fees.aAccording to the circular, the deadline for filing annual returns through Forms MGT-7 and MGT-7A has been extended to January 31, 2027.The ministry took the decision after stakeholder representations seeking more time to complete statutory filings.

The MCA granted two extensions



for annual filings for FY 2024-25 last year, through circulars dated October 17, 2025, and December 30, 2025.AOC-4 forms are used to file companies' financial statements with the Registrar of Companies (RoC).MGT-7 is used to file a company's annual return, while MGT-7A is the annual return form for one-person companies and small companies.The extension comes amid concerns raised by company secretaries and other professionals over technical difficulties on the MCA-21 Version 3 portal.The MCA-21 Version 3 (V3) portal is the Ministry of Corporate Affairs' online platform through which companies submit statutory filings and access corporate registry and compliance services.The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) had sought an extension until December 31, 2026, without additional fees. The institute flagged frequent portal downtime and slow response times concerning the MCA portal.These included session timeouts and automatic logouts during form preparation.

PNB aims to bring cost-to-income ratio below 50% in FY26: MD Chandra

New Delhi. (Agency)

Punjab National Bank (PNB) aims to bring its cost-to-income ratio below 50 per cent in the current financial year and further reduce it to around 45 per cent by 2028-29, said Ashok Chandra, MD and CEO of the country's second-biggest lender.The bank's cost-to-income ratio stood at 50.38 per cent in the first half of the current fiscal year, down from 53.3 per cent in September 2025, as it focuses on rationalising expenses and maximising profitability, he told PTI in an interview."We are aiming to go below 50 per cent this financial year. That is the first target we have set for ourselves. In the next two years, by 2028-29, we should be somewhere around 45 per cent," he said.Chandra said the bank was working on two key areas -- rationalisation of expenses and maximisation of profits-- while sensitising its various units about the importance of improving operational efficiency.Every review meeting of the bank now focuses on the cost of deposits, yield on advances, fee-based income and ways to reduce operating expenses, he said, adding that the bank sees scope for cutting costs in several other areas and is working towards improving efficiency.Observing that PNB had faced several challenges over the years pushing its cost-to-income ratio relatively high, he said the bank is now making concerted efforts to bring it down.Chandra also said the bank is targeting Rs 6,000 crore in income over the next few quarters.The country's second-largest lender has maintained consistency in operating profit, net profit and other key parameters over the past four quarters, and expects this trend to continue, he said.PNB has already posted a net profit of Rs 5,500 crore and is targeting further growth in operating profit, which would also support an increase in net profit, he said.

For the second quarter ended September 2026, PNB reported a 13 per cent rise in net profit to Rs 5,532 crore, driven by improved core income and a moderation in bad loans. The profit recorded was the highest ever in a quarter.

Irdai extends feedback window for proposed insurance distribution reforms

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has extended the deadline for submitting feedback on its consultation paper on distribution reforms to October 31, 2026, from October 25, 2026, the insurance regulator said in a press release on Saturday.In September, Irdai released a consultation paper proposing an overhaul of insurance distribution and invited comments and suggestions from stakeholders. It has received over 650 comments so far."In view of the significant interest and to facilitate wider participation, the last date for submission of comments has been extended till 31st October 2026, providing additional time to stakeholders and members of the



public to submit their feedback and suggestions," Irdai said.The proposed reforms include lower expense of management (EoM) limits for insurers and product- and channel-specific caps on commissions. They also envisage separate limits for individual and corporate distributors, with higher caps for individuals to account for the greater effort involved in sales.

The Insurance Brokers Association of India (IBAI) had previously said it had requested an extension of the deadline for submitting feedback until the end of December 2026.

At a recent event, Irdai Chairman Ajay Seth said the insurance regulator was engaging with insurers and distributors ahead of the October 25, 2026, deadline for submitting comments on the consultation paper.

FPIs withdraw ₹48,056 crore from equities in Oct amid elevated oil prices

However, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) significantly moderated their selling last week and turned net buyers on two trading days, signalling some easing in selling pressure

New Delhi. (Agency)

Foreign investors have withdrawn Rs 48,056 crore from Indian equities in October so far, amid elevated crude oil prices, escalating Middle East tensions, concerns over inflation and weak corporate earnings.However, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) significantly moderated their selling last week and turned net buyers on two trading days, signalling some easing in selling pressure.

The latest outflows follow net withdrawals of Rs 35,861 crore in September.FPIs had invested Rs 20,200 crore in Indian equities in July and Rs 29,631 crore in August, according to data from the Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL).With the latest withdrawals, cumulative FPI outflows from Indian equities in 2026 have reached Rs 3.08 lakh crore, substantially exceeding the Rs 1.66 lakh crore withdrawn during the entire year 2025, the data showed.Dheeraj Gaur, Chief Investment Strategy Officer at Choice Wealth, said FPI selling was driven by elevated crude oil prices, which surged to around USD 114 per barrel amid Middle East tensions, weak corporate earnings, inflation concerns and uncertainty over domestic liquidity conditions.The Rs 30,213-crore Jio Platforms IPO also temporarily absorbed market liquidity, while global portfolio reallocations added to the pressure on Indian equities.According to Anand K



Rathi, Co-Founder of MIRA Money, FPIs have continued to withdraw funds amid persistently high crude oil prices and concerns over the earnings outlook.While second-quarter results have been relatively strong, higher oil and logistics costs could weigh on corporate earnings growth in the coming quarters.Elevated US interest rates have also continued to make American assets attractive, while steady inflows from domestic institutional investors and systematic investment plans (SIPs) have helped cushion the selling pressure, he added.Interestingly, FPIs significantly reduced their selling in the week ended October 23 and turned net buyers on two days.

V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Ltd, attributed the moderation in selling to a decline in US bond yields, with the 10-year yield easing from 5.36 per cent to around 5 per cent, the rupee's appreciation to 94.94 against the US dollar, and attractive valuations, particularly among large-cap stocks.

Karnataka HC upholds techie's firing for stretching maternity leave

BENGALURU.(Agency)

The Karnataka High Court upheld the termination of service of a 36-year-old woman who worked as a software technician in Bengaluru Rural Principal District and Sessions Court for prolonged unauthorised absence even after availing 13 months leave, including 180 days maternity leave, 35 days earned leave and 169 days extraordinary leave, that too during the probationary period.

Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing the petition filed by the woman, challenging the order dated April 15, 2025, passed by the Registrar General of the High Court terminating her service. Noting that public employment is not merely a source of livelihood but is a position of responsibility, carrying with it corresponding obligations of diligence, discipline and devotion to duty, and cannot be regarded as a privilege to be enjoyed at convenience. The petitioner was appointed as a Software Technician in 2019 in the High Court and transferred to work at several places. On July 1, 2023, she applied for maternity leave as there was no one to take care of the baby and extended her leave from time to time up to August 14, 2024.

SC woman in Bengaluru to get service regularised after 34 years as daily-wage typist

BENGALURU.(Agency)

A woman, who retired as a typist after serving the Directorate of Municipal Administration for 34 years on a daily-wage basis, has got the chance to regularise her service along with consequential benefits at the age of 64 years, with the intervention of the Karnataka High Court. The state had regularised the services of 12 employees who joined later than Geeta Ramappa Terdal, an SC woman hailing from Dandeli of Karwar district, who joined the service in 1988 and retired in 2022. Geeta had moved the high court challenging the single bench order dated August 29, 2025, in a writ petition filed by her in 2022. The single bench had rejected her plea on the ground that she could no longer seek regularisation of her services as she had attained the age of superannuation. The division bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna and Justice Hema Kulkarni allowed the appeal by Geeta. "The appellant shall be entitled to regularisation of her services in the cadre in which she was working at the time of attaining the age of superannuation, with effect from February 11, 1998, the date on which she completed 10 years of service, together with all consequential benefits flowing therefrom," the court said.

Nine centres to verify AgriGold bonds across Karnataka

BENGALURU.(Agency)

The Karnataka Criminal Investigation Department (CID), in coordination with the Andhra Pradesh CID, has set up nine special centres across the state to verify AgriGold bonds and receipts held by depositors, victims and agents to facilitate relief for those affected by the alleged multi-crore financial fraud.

The centres in different districts will function from 10am to 5pm and remain closed on Sundays. The verification in Bengaluru, Tumakuru, Mandya, Bagalkot and Udupi will be conducted from October 27 to November 2, while Raichur, Dakshina Kannada, Chikkaballapur and Hassan will be covered from November 11 to 18.

Each centre will cater to two or three neighbouring districts. For instance, the Bengaluru centre will cover Bengaluru City, Bengaluru Rural and Bengaluru South districts.

The depositors must produce their original bond certificates or receipts for verification and submit signed colour photocopies. They must also provide copies of their Aadhaar and PAN cards, the first page of their bank passbook, a recent passport-size photograph and mobile numbers, as well as the number of their linked bank accounts.

Engineering student in Lithuania among 2 held for cheating Surat woman of Rs 23 crore

Police say 338 cheating offences – to the tune of Rs 410 crore – are registered against the duo in 20 states

Surat.(Agency)

THE SURAT Cyber Crime Unit said on Saturday that it arrested two persons, including a civil engineering student at Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), Lithuania (Europe), and his aide, for allegedly cheating a Surat-based woman of Rs 23.38 crore. The police have found that the accused made different mule accounts and had been part of a Dubai-based Chinese gang allegedly involved in cheating Indian citizens. Police said 338 cheating offences – to the tune of Rs 410 crore – have been registered against the duo in 20 states.



The police identified the arrested accused as Abdul Rehman Akukara (23), a resident of Adajan Patia in Surat city and a second-year student at KTU, who reached Surat around three months ago from Lithuania, and his aide as Mohsin Khan (38), a resident of Nanpura in Surat who hails from Uttar Pradesh. According to the police, the accused reached out to the complainant by promising high profits from share trading. They induced the complainant to download bogus applications and created a trading account in her name within these applications. Through these fraudulent apps, they coerced the complainant into transferring a total of Rs 23,38,800 into multiple accounts. By subsequently preventing her from withdrawing these funds, the accused committed online fraud against the complainant, police said.

The victim registered a complaint under Sections 318(4), 336(2), 338, 336(3), 340(2), 61(2), and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, as well as Section 66(D) of the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008.

On the basis of details provided by the complainant, the police obtained information regarding a bank account and the mobile number linked to it. Following a technical analysis, two teams from the Cyber Crime Cell conducted an investigation over three-four days. Using these technical details, they tracked down and apprehended the accused near the Civil Crossroads late at night on October 22, 2026, officers from the Surat cyber crime unit said.

Surat Additional Commissioner of Police Karanraj Vaghela said, "Abdul Rehman created a bogus firm named in the name of the co-accused, Mohsin Khan. He opened four current accounts and 12 savings accounts across multiple banks and used them to facilitate the illegal transfer of funds obtained through cyber fraud." He said, "The accused persons worked for a Chinese gang— operating out of Dubai — that engages in cyber fraud. He would open these accounts, receive proceeds from cyber fraud into them, convert the funds into USDT (cryptocurrency) and then transfer them to the Chinese gang via third-party digital wallets, while retaining a commission for himself. They also received a commission for opening these accounts." Vaghela added, "Between August 24, 2026, and September 16, 2026, the transactions totalling Rs 1,19,03,919 were recorded in a current account.

Mahatma Gandhi's letters to Lord Lothian from 1930s added to Sabarmati Ashram archives

In the 1930s, Gandhi wrote to Philip Kerr, the 11th Marquess of Lothian, to discuss the formation of the Indian Federation and non-violence.

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

THE SABARMATI Ashram in Ahmedabad got a valuable addition to its archives on Saturday when head of Government of Scotland and First Minister John Swinney presented copies of four letters that Mahatma Gandhi wrote to Philip Kerr, the 11th Marquess of Lothian popularly known as Lord Lothian, in the 1930s that discuss the formation of the Indian Federation and non-violence. The letters were presented to the Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust (SAPMT) on Saturday in the presence of trustee Nitin Shukla and I P Gautam, who leads the Mahatma Gandhi Sabarmati Ashram Memorial Trust (MGSAMT) that is overseeing the project to redevelop the Gandhi Ashram. Lord Lothian was the Under Secretary of State to India for a period during British rule and had played a leading role in the creation of the Indian Federation. Swinney visited Sabarmati Ashram on Saturday, including Hriday Kunj where Gandhi and Kasturba stayed from 1917 to 1930, the Vinoba Kutir and Nandini.



The original of the Lothian letters are preserved at the National Records of Scotland. Three of these four letters are not included in the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi.

What do the letters contain?

One of the letters dated May 8, 1937, seen by The Indian Express, has Mahatma Gandhi inviting Lord Lothian to India and trying to convince him about non-violence as a means. "Once we say goodbye to the non-violent method, we must prepare ourselves for a long-drawn agony we are helplessly witnessing in this world. What I have suggested is in substance very little but that very little I hold necessary for the purpose I have in view: to avoid a violent conflict. The persistent refusal to perform the courteous act of giving the assurance asked for makes me suspect that those who are in power have no faith in the non-violent method, and the consciousness of possessing limitless military power makes them indifferent to whatever violence a disarmed nation, untrained in the use of arms can offer", Gandhi writes to Lord Lothian.

"The occasion also underscored the importance of cooperation between archival institutions in preserving shared historical records and making them accessible for study and research", said SAPMT. Swinney visited Prarthana Bhoomi and tried his hand at the charkha at Hriday Kunj. He also viewed archival material associated with Gandhiji, and toured the "Gandhiji in Ahmedabad" and other galleries. During an interaction in the Ashram's library, Shukla, along with Atul Pandya, Secretary, SAPMT, and Dr. Virat Kothari, Deputy Director, SAPMT, briefed the First Minister on the Trust's work in preserving Gandhiji's legacy and making historical material accessible to researchers and the wider public. "I am so pleased to be able to share letters sent by Gandhi that are held in the National Records of Scotland", Swinney wrote in the visitors' book at the ashram.

Rakesh Tikait urges Parvinder Singh Jhota's family to cremate body, carry on anti-drug fight

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) national president Rakesh Tikait on Saturday appealed to the family of slain anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota to perform his last rites while urging supporters to carry forward his fight against narcotics, as the deadlock over the cremation of the activist's body continued for the 12th day. Visiting Mansa to express solidarity with Jhota's family and the joint action committee spearheading the agitation, Tikait said the struggle for justice and a drug-free Punjab must continue even after the cremation. "The family should consider performing the cremation so that all aspects of the situation become clear, but we understand the profound pain they are enduring," he said, adding that the farmer organisations would support whatever decision the committee took.



Describing Jhota as a martyr who laid down his life fighting drugs, Tikait urged the youth to turn his campaign into a mass movement. He called for stringent action against those selling intoxicating medicines and said drug trafficking should attract punishment for murder. Targeting both the state and the Centre over the drug menace, Tikait questioned the whereabouts of a consignment of drugs worth Rs 21,000 crore reportedly seized at a port in Gujarat, demanding clarification on whether it had been destroyed or diverted.

He alleged that narcotics were entering the country through multiple routes, including Gujarat and Nepal, and warned that the unchecked spread of drugs threatened Punjab's youth. Tikait also criticised Union Home Minister Amit Shah, saying politicians were visiting Jhota's family seeking votes despite the Centre's failure to acknowledge the sacrifices of 750 farmers during the Delhi agitation.

Rs 15k to 6L monthly; farmer couple milking money from thriving dairy business

Jalandhar.(Agency)

For Komalpreet Kaur, 34, dairy farming was an unfamiliar territory. She had never seen a buffalo being reared, let alone milking or making dairy products, but what began as a modest venture during the Covid pandemic has now grown into a business with monthly sales of more than Rs 6 lakh. A homemaker, Komalpreet began this journey with her husband, Gurjeet Singh Hundal, 37, who initially worked as a foreman in a small 'kirpan' (small sword) manufacturing unit, and then drove a rented battery rickshaw to make ends meet. Today, the couple run a thriving dairy enterprise, with Komalpreet involved at every stage — from milking buffaloes to preparing milk badam, barfi, kheer, buttermilk, paneer, curd, and clarified butter. They have taken their products directly to customers, selling them daily at a makeshift stall in front of a gurdwara in Amritsar.



"Getting pure milk and its products are a luxury today, but we can vouch for our products with full confidence. Anybody can check our products for purity," Komalpreet says.

Mumbai's first bridge to Navi Mumbai is rusting, and nobody wants to own it

Mumbai.(Agency)

Drive out of Mumbai towards Navi Mumbai, over the Thane Creek, and you could miss it. The road is aligned to skirt past the old bridge, which is boarded up. It runs right alongside the new one you're driving on. Glance out of your window and you'll see it. Rusting weeds along its sides, the road signs washed out, a few cabins and some garbage the only signs of a past life. Now and then a local slips in to fish in the creek. This is Thane Creek Bridge-1, which opened in 1973 as the only road link over the creek, connecting Mankhurd on Mumbai's eastern edge to Vashi, the entry into Navi Mumbai, the planned city then being built across the creek to ease the pressure on Mumbai. Since then, it has been overshadowed by two newer bridges beside it, and is now caught in a custody battle between three agencies, none of which wants it. The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), which built the newest bridge in the narrow gap beside it, has no use for it and wants to hand it off. The Public Works Department (PWD), its original owner, closed its chapter on the Thane Creek bridges years ago and dissolved the department that looked after them. A government order from November 2025 directs that the bridge go to the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC). The NMMC says it does not fall in its jurisdiction.



Punjab farm fires rise marginally to 574, still 66% below 2024 level

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Punjab has recorded a marginal rise in satellite-detected farm fires this year compared with 2025, even as the count remains nearly 66 per cent below the level recorded in 2024. The state recorded 574 incidents between September 15 and October 24 this year, compared with 561 during the corresponding period last year and 1,678 in 2024, as per the official data.

The latest count marks an increase of 13 incidents, or 2.3 per cent, over 2025. However, it is 1,104 incidents lower than the 2024 figure, representing a decline of 65.8 per cent. The numbers show that the sharp reduction recorded last year has largely held, despite a marginal increase this season. Among the districts, Tarn Taran has recorded the highest number of incidents, with 270 between September 15 and October 24 this year, against 175 during the corresponding period last year and 331 in 2024. Amritsar has reported 144 incidents this year, compared with 135 last year and 455 in 2024. Gurdaspur recorded 37 incidents, against 27 in 2025 and 51 in 2024. Jalandhar reported 12 incidents, compared with seven last year and 21 in 2024, while Kapurthala recorded 27 incidents against 19 in 2025 and 72 in 2024.

Till October 23, 91 FIRs had been registered against farmers across Punjab. Red entries had been made in farm records in 182 cases, while warnings and show-cause notices had been issued to 305 nodal officers in the state. Meanwhile, a high-level team led by Rajesh Verma, chairperson, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), review the paddy stubble management measures in Amritsar and Tarn Taran — the two districts that are leading in farm fire count. The team evaluated both in-situ and ex-situ methods for paddy stubble management, as well as the facilities and infrastructure in place for these efforts in the two districts,



according to an official statement. The team also inspected facilities in Amritsar where paddy stubble is being used as fuel. During the meeting, attended by the deputy commissioners of the two districts, the commission instructed officers to visit villages and farmers regularly to ensure that they are informed about the availability of stubble management facilities, and that necessary machinery and facilities reach them promptly.

Bad times test character: MS Dhoni on CSK's slump in IPL

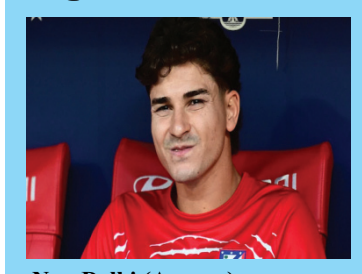
CHENNAI .(Agency)

Chennai Super Kings have endured two difficult seasons in the Indian Premier League, but MS Dhoni believes the team's struggles can also serve as a test of character. The veteran wicketkeeper-batter acknowledged that CSK have not performed well in recent years and said the focus must now be on identifying areas of improvement and ensuring the team is better prepared for the challenges ahead.Speaking at a healthcare event in Bengaluru, Dhoni drew a parallel between the ups and downs of life and the challenges faced by a sporting team. The former India



captain said CSK had always known that their successful run would eventually give way to difficult times, adding that a team's true character is revealed when results do not go its way. "The last two years, you know, we have struggled, and it's a fact. You know, there's no point shying away from the fact that RCB has done really, really well.

I'd be angry too: Alvarez apologises to Atletico fans for Barcelona transfer saga



New Delhi.(Agency)

Julian Alvarez gave Atletico Madrid supporters a reason to cheer before addressing the controversy that has followed him this season, scoring the winner in a 1-0 victory over Deportivo La Coruna on Saturday before apologising for his comments about wanting to play for Barcelona.

The Argentine striker struck for the second consecutive match as Atletico moved within two points of LaLiga leaders Barcelona. But it was his words after the final whistle that could prove just as significant, with Alvarez acknowledging the anger among supporters after his public admission during the 2026 World Cup sparked a transfer saga that stretched through pre-season and the summer window.'s session."a, some hope."I'd like to apologise to our fans for what I said at the World Cup; it was a mistake in terms of how I said it and the timing," Alvarez told Spanish broadcaster Movistar Plus."I understand why the fans are angry. If I were a fan, I'd be angry too. Especially given how they've supported me since I arrived."

TRANSFER SAGA

Alvarez's comments during the World Cup, when he said he wanted to fulfil his dream of playing for Barcelona, unsettled Atletico supporters and fuelled speculation over his future. The forward's desire to join the Catalan club triggered a prolonged transfer dispute, with Atletico refusing to sell him to their rivals.The episode left Alvarez facing a difficult relationship with sections of the club's fanbase. He has regularly been booed at the Metropolitano this season, an indication of the frustration surrounding his remarks and the uncertainty over his commitment to Atletico.

Ajinkya Rahane snubs Virat Kohli, Bumrah from his all-time Indian Test XI, picks himself

Ajinkya Rahane picked his all-time India Test XI. The former captain left out Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah from the line-up raising several eyebrows among fans.

Lincoln.(Agency)

Former India batter Ajinkya Rahane has left out Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah from his all-time Indian Test XI. Rahane, who retired from all forms of cricket in July 2026, picked Sachin Tendulkar over Kohli at No. 4 and opted for a pace attack featuring Mohammed Shami, Ishant Sharma and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, leaving out Bumrah.

Rahane made his selections during an interaction with Sony Sports Network, where he was asked to name his all-time India Test XI from players he had played alongside in international or domestic cricket. His choices also excluded Rohit Sharma, with Murali Vijay and Shikhar Dhawan named as his preferred opening pair.The former India vice-captain picked Rahul Dravid at No. 3 before selecting Tendulkar at No. 4. Rahane placed himself at No. 5, followed by former India captain MS Dhoni at No. 6, with Dhoni also named captain and wicketkeeper of the side.

Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin completed the spin-bowling and all-round options, while Bhuvneshwar, Shami and Ishant made up the pace attack.

RAHANE PICKS HIMSELF, DHONI AS CAPTAIN

Rahane's decision to include himself in the XI came alongside a selection of several former teammates from India's successful Test sides. He slotted himself into the middle order, ahead of Dhoni, who led the team as captain and wicketkeeper.Dhoni's inclusion was notable for Rahane's personal connection



with the former India skipper. Dhoni was Rahane's first captain in international cricket, and the former batter chose him to lead his all-time side.At the top of the order, Rahane went with Vijay and Dhawan, two players with whom he shared the dressing room during his India career. Dravid and Tendulkar, meanwhile, occupied the next two batting positions.The omission of Kohli and Rohit stood out given their importance to India's Test team over the past decade. Kohli was not selected at No. 4, with Rahane preferring Tendulkar for the position, while Rohit did not make the cut as an opener.

BUMRAH MISSING FROM PACE ATTACK

Rahane's pace selections also raised eyebrows, with Bumrah left out in favour of Bhuvneshwar, Shami and Ishant.

The three selected fast bowlers were part of the Indian team that helped establish a formidable pace attack during the late 2010s. Their performances played a significant role in India's success in overseas Test cricket, particularly during a period when the team began winning more consistently away from home.Bumrah, meanwhile, has emerged as one of India's leading fast bowlers across formats and has been a key figure in the Test side in recent years.

Chinmay Sutar: Father took down Shane Warne, son made history with Ranji Trophy 400

New Delhi.(Agency)

Last week, in an otherwise unremarkable Ranji Trophy match, a rare piece of history was made. Chinmay Sutar, playing for Mizoram, slammed what was only the second quadruple century scored in the 92-year history of the competition. The innings places him alongside BB Nimbalkar, who made 443 not out for Maharashtra against Kathiawar in 1948-49.

Sutar's 400* was also only the second time a quadruple century was scored in first-class cricket since Brian Lara's 400* against England in 2004.Sutar, 29, went through a range of emotions through his innings. It started out with hunger, a zeal to hit his maiden century in red ball cricket and prove people wrong. After surviving the moving ball in the first hour, Suthar got into his groove and patiently raked up the runs when others fell around him. As the pitch eased out, and Suthar realised that there were runs to be made on this wicket, a sense of ease took over him. He added 168 runs with No.6 Jehu Anderson, before facing a bottom order collapse again.

With Mizoram nine down, Sutar found an ally in last man Lalrempuia Chhakchhuak. The batter knew that without scoring 450 runs on this wicket, it would have been difficult for the Mizo side to get the 3 points from the first innings lead.So the pair got to work.

Sutar and Lalrempuia added 189 runs together for the final wicket in the match - the third highest last wicket partnership in his history of the Ranji Trophy. Lalrempuia took body blows in his 76-ball innings, while Sutar scored bulk



of the runs himself.

"When I reached 100, it was the biggest relief because I had got out for 99 in the previous game (first class debut). After that, I just wanted to contribute more and make it a big innings. I never thought about scoring 200, 250 or 300. When I reached 200 and then 250, I was thinking about what the team needed. I scored 200 on the morning of Day 3. We were seven wickets down, and I just wanted to score more runs," Sutar told IndiaToday.in over phone.

"We were around 350/8, and I thought I wanted to help the team get past 450. I kept talking to my partners about building small partnerships of 20 or 25 runs so that we could get past that score," he added.It was only around the 380-run mark that he finally realised what had been happening.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's failure on T20I return leaves ex-India spinner fuming

MUNICH.(Agency)

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi failed to make an impact on his return to the Indian T20I team, but former India spinner Murali Kartik believes the teenager was not used in the right role. Kartik questioned the team management's decision to send Sooryavanshi in at No. 3 instead of allowing him to open in the second T20I, arguing that the youngster should have been played in the position where he is most effective.posted on X. "Get well soon, Vinny."Sooryavanshi featured in the second match of the series after the absence of injured Ishan Kishan created an opportunity for him. However, the 15-year-old could not make the most of his chance, scoring just four runs off eight balls before being dismissed in the seventh over of India's chase of 181 runs.His dismissal was one of three wickets India lost in the first 10 overs, leaving the team under pressure in the chase. India eventually got over the line, thanks to a late flourish from Tilak Varma, Naman Dhir and Nitish Kumar Reddy. Tilak remained unbeaten on 51 off 26 balls, while Dhir contributed 31 off 17 and Reddy finished unbeaten on 26 off 13 as India chased down the target with one ball to spare.Despite the victory, Kartik questioned the decision to bat Sooryavanshi at No. 3, insisting that the youngster's strengths were best suited to the opening position."Where is Vaibhav Suryavanshi good? He is good as an opener. He has not played in the middle. He is a young kid. He has batted only one way. That's why you keep experienced players, so that they can play different roles," Kartik said on the broadcast after the match."It's a different thing that you won the match, but if you are playing Suryavanshi, he should have opened today," he added.

SENIOR PLAYERS SHOULD ADAPT: KARTIK

Kartik argued that India's experienced



players should be prepared to adjust their batting positions to accommodate a young talent such as Sooryavanshi. He pointed to Sanju Samson as a player capable of taking on different roles, suggesting that the team could have used the experienced batter to make room for the teenager at the top of the order.

Vintage PV Sindhu eyes French Open glory, but inevitable An Se Young stands in her way

PV Sindhu is one win away from French Open glory, but world No. 1 An Se Young stands in her way. Can the Indian ace overcome a 0-10 head-to-head record and end the Korean star's dominance to claim another major title?

New Delhi.(Agency)

If one thing that has stood out about PV Sindhu during her time in the French Open, it has been her resilience, ability to make a comeback and dig herself out from tough spots. Now she stands on the cusp of another title. But standing in her way is the inevitable World No. 1, An Se Young.Sindhu is on the brink of another major milestone, with the 31-year-old Indian shuttler just one victory away from claiming her seventh BWF World Tour title and a second Super 750 crown in the same season.Sindhu reignited her title-winning form at the Japan Open in July, overcoming three-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi in the final to secure her sixth World Tour trophy. The triumph also marked her first BWF title since December 2024 and her breakthrough victory at the Super 750 level.Now, a French Open crown would take her resurgence to another level, giving the former world champion multiple titles in a calendar year for the first time since 2022.There were signs of vintage Sindhu throughout the tournament as she began her campaign with a hard-fought win over Thailand's Supanida Katethong before shifting gears to dispatch Japan's Riko Gunji and Chinese Taipei's Chiu Pin-chian in straight games.In the semi-final, it was another test for the Indian ace as she won a three-game contest. Sindhu showed tremendous grit against Akechi, holding her nerve in a tense decider after the Japanese



shuttler threatened to turn the match around.The Indian edged ahead in a tight opening game before shifting gears to claim it 21-10, winning 11 of the final 12 points. Akechi responded in the second, using clever shot-making and resolute defence to push Sindhu onto the back foot. The Indian fought back to level the score at 20-20, but the Japanese won the next two crucial points to force a decider.Sindhu made a positive start in the third game, only for Akechi to claw her way back and draw level at 15-15. With the contest finely poised, an exhausting 38-shot rally ended with a Japanese net error, giving Sindhu a vital 18-16 lead. She then stepped up the pressure, earned four match points after Akechi hit wide and sealed the win with a cross-court smash.

THE AN SE YOUNG TEST

Standing in Sindhu's way is arguably the toughest challenge in women's singles badminton right now. South Korean superstar An Se Young has been virtually unstoppable in 2026, boasting an astonishing 65-1 win-loss record and riding a 49-match winning streak into Sunday's final.With nine titles already under her belt this season, the world No. 1 will be chasing a landmark 10th crown at the French Open.

To see the level of dominance Young has produced at the French Open, you just need to see the scores of her matches so far. So far, she is yet to drop a game and won her first round match against Amalie Schulz 21-6, 21-4.This was followed by a 21-11, 21-14 win over Tanvi Sharma, 21-13, 21-16 victory over Han Yue and then beating Nozomi Okuhara 21-12, 21-19.

SINDHU VS AN SE YOUNG: HEAD-TO-HEAD

There may be no way to sugarcoat this, but Sindhu will have work cut out against Young. Sindhu faces a daunting task on Sunday, with An Se Young having won all 10 of their previous encounters. The Indian has managed to take just one game off the South Korean across those meetings.Sindhu came closest to troubling An Se Young in the quarter-finals of the 2023 Badminton Asia Championships.

Tilak Varma's finishing touch: A Hyderabadi dum biryani cooked to perfection

Paris,.(Agency)

The debate over which biryani is the best will probably never have a definitive winner in India. Every region has its own claim to fame, and Hyderabad is no exception. Visit the city, and a plate of Hyderabadi biryani is practically a must. The recipe itself isn't overly complicated, and you can even recreate it at home. But there's one ingredient you simply cannot do without: patience.uire a significant police deployment.The preparation alone will test your limits. The meat needs to marinate, the rice needs to soak, and the initial prep takes time. Then comes the most crucial stage: putting the biryani on dum. For the next 20 minutes, the pot must sit on a low flame. Get the heat wrong, and you're staring at charred rice and meat.The pressure must remain constant, and not a wisp of steam can escape. There's no shortcut, no rushing the process. Get the timing right, and the reward is worth every minute of the wait. The flavours come together, and your taste buds are in for a treat.On Saturday, October 24, Indian cricket fans had another reason to savour the Hyderabadi connection.



Tilak Varma produced a stunning late assault in Christchurch, helping India pull off a four-wicket win over New Zealand and take a 2-0 lead in the series.His unbeaten 51 off 26 balls, built around a crucial partnership with fellow Hyderabadi Nitish Kumar Reddy, helped India pull off the chase. The numbers suggest a destructive knock, but the story behind them was one of patience, belief and impeccable timing.

At one stage, Tilak was struggling on 10 off nine balls. While the pressure mounted and the required runs kept climbing, he refused to panic. Instead, he trusted his ability to make up for the slow start when it mattered most. And when the moment arrived, he exploded into life.



Kareena Kapoor

Khan Shares Sizzling Birthday Post For 'Darling' Malaika Arora: 'Stay Sexy And Fabulous'

Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has wished her close friend Malaika Arora on her birthday, sharing affectionate throwback pictures and calling her "darling Malla".Kareena took to her social media account to share a black-and-white picture in which she is seen kissing Malaika on the cheek.In another social media story, the actress shared a monochrome picture featuring Malaika and Amrita Arora. The picture, styled like a Polaroid, carried the caption, "Malla Forever Fab".For the uninitiated, Kareena and Malaika have shared a close friendship for years.

They are often seen at celebrations, get-togethers and social outings together. Kareena's sister, actor Karisma Kapoor, and Malaika's sister Amrita are also part of the close-knit circle, which has frequently been seen together.Malaika's sister Amrita Arora also marked the occasion with a heartfelt note, and recalled their childhood-style arguments, and



emotional moments.She shared a picture of Malaika dressed in a black outfit with fine detailing and penned a long birthday message for her elder sister."Malla, my sister with dynamic flair, we fought over what to wear ..argued for hours with no resolve, but had each others back through it all!! We survived serious drama, through all the tears and that somehow got us closer through the years….with a name that means ANGEL you can fool everyone else cos I know the real GREMLIN that sits on the shelf phew I wrote you the poem I promised okkk now happy birthday my darling sister love you @malaikaaroraofficial," she wrote.

For the uninitiated, Malaika began her career as a model and video jockey before becoming a prominent face in Hindi cinema and television.She rose to fame with dance numbers such as "Chaiyya Chaiyya" from Dil Se.. and "Munni Badnaam Hui" from Dabangg. She has since then also appeared as a judge on many dance reality shows.

Ananya Panday

Enjoys London Vacay With Akshay Kumar-Twinkle Khanna's Son Aarav Bhatia

Actor Ananya Panday offered a glimpse of a sweet moment with Akshay Kumar and Twinkle Khanna's son Aarav Bhatia, sharing a picture of the two enjoying muffins together.Ananya took to her social media account to re-share the picture, originally shared by her friend Tahira Chawla, who seems to have baked the muffins.In the picture, Ananya and Aarav are seen seated next to each other. Aarav is seen holding a transparent container with freshly baked muffins, while



Ananya poses with small pieces of the treat in both hands.

Ananya, who is the daughter of actor Chunky Panday and Bhavana Pandey, made her Bollywood debut with Student of the Year 2 in 2019. Since then, she has featured in films such as Pati Patni Aur Woh, Khaali Peeli, Gehraiyaan, Dream Girl 2, Kho Gaye Hum Kahan and CTRL. She has also explored the streaming space with the series Call Me Bae.

Aarav, meanwhile, has largely stayed away from the spotlight despite being the son of one of Hindi cinema's biggest stars. Unlike his father, who is known for his energetic screen presence and outspoken public persona, Aarav has preferred to keep his personal life private and much away from the media glare.Akshay has spoken on many occasions about his son's decision to stay away from films.The actor has previously said that he does not want to impose his career choices on his children.In an earlier conversation, Akshay had also shared that Aarav wanted to stay away from the limelight and establish his own identity rather than constantly be identified through his famous father.



Rasika Dugal Says 'We Need Films Children Can Relate To': 'Would Love To See More Filmmakers Explore'



Ahead of the release of her upcoming film "Little Thomas", actress Rasika Dugal has expressed her opinion on cinema for kids and said that there is a need for films that children can relate to.She feels that children deserve films made specifically for them, stories that entertain them while giving them the freedom to question, imagine and understand the world around them.

Talking about the need for more children's films, Rasika said in a statement: "Cinema is a wonderful way to expand your world and fuel your imagination. Many of the thoughts and ideas we have as adults can be traced back to the films we watched growing up."

"We therefore need films that children can relate to — films that embrace their curiosity rather than dismiss it."Rasika shared that films for children can be entertaining without being frivolous.The actress said: "Children's cinema can be entertaining without being frivolous and meaningful without becoming preachy. I would love to see more filmmakers explore stories that children can enjoy and that open up new possibilities for their imagination."Directed by Kaushal Oza, the film tells the story of Thomas, a curious young boy whose questions about where babies come from and his wish for a sibling become central to the narrative.

Playing Jessie Miranda, Rasika is part of a story that looks at the world through a child's eyes and the often-unexpected conversations that emerge from childhood curiosity. Little Thomas brings this perspective to the screen through a familiar family situation that grows out of a child's innocent insistence on finding answers.The film follows seven-year-old Thomas and his family as they navigate life's highs and lows in 1990s Goa, echoing the style of Malgudi Days and Ruskin Bond.Talking about Rasika, she made her screen debut with a small role, in the film Anwar in 2007. She was then seen in films such as Qiss, Train Station, Tu Mera Sunday, Hamid, Manto, Lootcase and Darbaan.

Anjali Arora Faces Legal Action As Kanpur Event Organiser Seeks Rs 1.20 Crore In Defamation Claim



Social media influencer and actress Anjali Arora, who recently made headlines after videos from one of her events in Kanpur circulated online, has landed in legal trouble. During an event in Kanpur, the actress lost her cool after the DJ played 'Kacha Badam' while she was on stage. Later, the organiser slammed her for allegedly pulling a publicity stunt and spoiling the event.

Now, as per Amar Ujala, the organisers of the event have sent a legal notice to Anjali Arora for leaving the show midway. Another notice was sent to Anjali's manager, Preeti Dubey, seeking Rs 1.20 crore in compensation and a public apology within 15 days for allegedly leaving the event midway.Further, Advocate Karim Ahmed Siddiqui revealed that the demand for Rs 1 crore was for the defamation allegedly caused by Anjali, while an additional Rs 20 lakh was sought to cover the financial losses the organisers allegedly incurred due to her actions. According to the organisers, she was expected to stay on stage for 45 minutes and present mementoes to sponsors and special guests. However, they claim that her early exit offended the guests and caused financial losses.

What happened at the event?

The organisers claimed that Anjali received Rs 3 lakh for the event, while more than Rs 1 lakh was spent on her travel arrangements. As of now, Anjali hasn't reacted to the legal notice.

The videos that went viral featured Anjali Arora on stage as 'Kacha Badam' played in the background. Soon after hearing the song, she turned around to speak to the DJ. One user wrote, "Anjali Arora got famous because of Kacha Badam, and now she's getting angry at a DJ for playing the same song.

More than 400,000 protest across France, challenging Macron as Paris clashes erupt

More than a month of unrest that started with protests in high schools for more funding and teachers is testing Macron's authority in the final months of his presidency before voters choose his successor in May.

PARIS.(Agency)

Clashes erupted in Paris as a mass march drew to a close Saturday, with more than 400,000 people rallying across France over school funding and soaring living costs in a fresh challenge to President Emmanuel Macron. Police made nearly 1,000 arrests, the government said.The Paris march began peacefully, a week after widespread rioting and looting during protests across the country. But near the demonstration's endpoint in eastern Paris, masked protesters hurled objects and fireworks at police, who answered with clouds of tear gas, deafening sound grenades and jets of water cannons.Officers with megaphones urged protesters to disperse. Some demonstrators panicked as tear-gas canisters landed in their midst, scattering with screams. Veteran protesters shouted after them: “Don't run!"

The Interior Ministry put nationwide turnout at 410,000 — fewer than the 550,000 it said protested last weekend — while the CGT union that helped organize some of Saturday's protests estimated nearly 800,000. The ministry's estimate included 110,000 in Paris, where authorities confined the march to the city's southeastern edge, away from the center. The CGT put the number of protesters in Paris at 250,000.

Unrest is challenging Macron's final months in powerMore than a month of unrest that started with protests in high schools for more funding and teachers is testing Macron's authority in the final months of his presidency before voters choose his successor in May.

The stakes are high: The far-right National Rally party has accused his government of



failing to protect the public and urged people to channel their anger into votes for its candidate Marine Le Pen. On the far left, presidential candidate Jean-Luc Mélenchon has backed demonstrators and criticized policing that has left some teenage protesters with life-changing injuries.As dusk fell Saturday, violence erupted at the end of some of the 289 protests counted by the Interior Ministry nationwide. Street fires burned in the cities of Marseille and Lyon. Police used tear gas in Lyon, Clermont-Ferrand, Strasbourg and Bordeaux and water cannons in Nice and Nantes, French media reported. In Nice, far-right extremists fought with demonstrators downtown and 11 people were arrested, regional authorities said.Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez said police made nearly 1,000 arrests but added that the number is expected to increase significantly as more are counted.Nuñez said beefed-up policing, with 70,000 officers backed by helicopters, armored vehicles and other support, helped prevent a repeat of widespread looting and damage to shops the previous weekend.”

A small protest became a national movement

What began last month as a protest over staff shortages at one high school southeast of Paris spread nationwide, drawing students demanding more funding for education and workers seeking help with soaring costs for fuel and other necessities.

Obama blasts Trump's 'chaos and cruelty' while campaigning for Democrats

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Democrats are attempting to wrest back control of one or both chambers of the US Congress, which are currently controlled by Trump's Republican party.

The former president retains considerable popularity among the Democratic base, which he is keen to leverage to support his Democratic Party's candidates.In both states, the 65-year-old former president blamed the Trump administration for the rising cost of living, a top voter concern amid soaring fuel prices.

"The current president chose to make a series of bad decisions," Obama said in Ohio, where he rallied in support of former Democratic senator Sherrod Brown."Most importantly, he decided to start an unnecessary war that nobody asked for."

"After two years of chaos and cruelty and corruption and incompetence, the likes of which we have not seen in the modern era, you get a chance to say, 'Enough is enough,'" Obama declared in Cleveland.

"We are voting for change right here in Ohio."Later, in Michigan, Obama campaigned for Abdul El-Sayed, from the party's left wing, who is in a close race with Republican Mike Rogers for the US Senate.

Riyadh Airport Resumes Flight Operations Despite Houthi's "Unsafe" Warning

Riyadh.(Agency)

Riyadh's international airport said flights would resume on Sunday after a two-week closure following strikes from Yemen's Houthis on the Saudi capital, though the Iran-backed group warned of more to come.

The Flight Radar monitoring site showed a plane taking off from Riyadh airport early Sunday, heading to the Saudi city of Jeddah.Saudi Arabia, along with Yemen's internationally recognised government that it backs, has faced a wave of Houthi attacks in recent weeks after a years-long truce broke down in the summer.

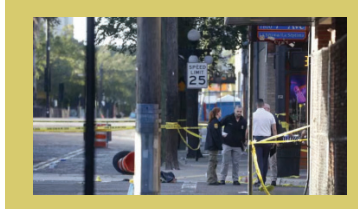
The fighting has shifted the focus of the wider US-Iran war and deepened a humanitarian disaster crippling Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries.

"Please be advised that Terminal (1) will be designated for domestic flights and Terminal (2) for international flights operated by national carriers at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, effective Sunday, October 25, 2026," King Khalid International Airport posted on X on Saturday.

12, Including 6 Children, Injured In Shooting Near Florida University

Tallahassee.(Agency)

At least 12 people were injured, including six children, in a shooting Saturday near a football stadium in Tallahassee on homecoming weekend for Florida A&M University,



authorities said.Tallahassee Police Chief Lawrence Revell told reporters that no arrests had been made.In a statement, police said the preliminary investigation indicates that a fight broke out prior to the shooting. It followed a football game in a crowded area.Eleven of the victims sustained gunshot wounds, and at least three victims sustained serious injuries, according to police.

Riyadh airport resumes flights after two-week closure following Houthi attacks

RIYADH.(Agency)

Riyadh's international airport said flights would resume on Sunday after a two-week closure following strikes from Yemen's Houthis on the Saudi capital, though the Iran-backed group warned of more to comeThe Flight Radar monitoring site showed a plane taking off from Riyadh airport early Sunday, heading to the Saudi city of Jeddah.Saudi Arabia, along with Yemen's internationally recognised government that it backs, has faced a wave of Houthi attacks in recent weeks after a years-long truce broke down in the summer.The fighting has shifted the focus of the wider US-Iran war and deepened a humanitarian disaster crippling Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries."Please be advised that Terminal (1) will be designated for domestic flights and Terminal (2) for international flights operated by national carriers at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh,



effective Sunday, October 25, 2026," King Khalid International Airport posted on X on Saturday.Passengers with confirmed bookings have been advised to contact their airlines to verify flight status before heading to the airport...The Houthis have carried out waves of strikes on Riyadh's airport, including an attack this month that killed 13 people and wounded more than 300, the deadliest in the kingdom in more than a decade.Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree warned that the airport was still "unsafe" and a "military target"."The Yemeni Armed Forces warn all international, regional, and local airlines -- as well as staff and travellers -- against using King Khalid Airport in Riyadh, as it is unsafe and serves as a military target for our forces," he said.

"The Saudi regime shall bear the consequences of any operations at the airport."The Saudi-led military coalition fighting the Houthis said early Sunday it had shot down two drones in the Riyadh area.

At least 12 people injured in shooting near a football stadium in Florida

TALLAHASSEE.(Agency)

At least 12 people were injured, including six children, in a shooting Saturday near a football stadium in Tallahassee on homecoming weekend for Florida A&M University, authorities said.Tallahassee Police Chief Lawrence Revell told reporters that no arrests had been made.In a statement, police said the preliminary investigation indicates that a fight broke out prior to the shooting. It followed a football game in a crowded area.Eleven of the victims sustained gunshot wounds, and at least three victims sustained serious injuries, according to police.The university said on social media that the shooting happened near its campus and that it remained safe.



Trump keeps Iran strike option open, says deal possible; Tehran accuses US of derailing talks

world.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump on Saturday refused to say how close Washington was to launching fresh attacks on Iran, keeping open the possibility of renewed military action even as he held out the prospect of a deal to end the war."Do you really think I'm going to tell you if I'm going to do it?" Trump told reporters here on Saturday."And there's a possibility I will. There's also a possibility we'll have a nice, big, beautiful agreement," he said in response to a question about a possible attack on Iran.Trump reiterated his assertion that Tehran wanted to reach an agreement with Washington but questioned whether Iran would honour any deal.

"The problem is, will they hold the deal?" he said.

His remarks came amid growing uncertainty over the prospects of ending the conflict, which began in February when the United States and Israel launched strikes against Iran, triggering Iranian retaliatory attacks and widening hostilities across West Asia

The conflict has disrupted shipping through the strategically important Strait of Hormuz, a major route for global oil and gas shipments, while the US blockade of Iranian ports and restrictions on Iranian oil exports have added to the pressure on Tehran. Efforts to secure a lasting settlement have stalled despite exchanges of proposals between the two sides.Trump had said earlier this month that the United States would not resume attacks on Iran before the November 3 US midterm elections, citing what he described as productive discussions with Tehran. However, he has repeatedly indicated that military action could resume after the polls if negotiations fail to produce an agreement.

The possibility of fresh strikes has added to regional tensions, with reports indicating that US and Israeli forces have been preparing for a potential resumption of military operations after the US elections. No final decision to launh such an offensive has been publicly announced.Meanwhile, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian accused Washington of disrupting negotiations aimed at ending the war, while maintaining that Tehran remained committed to pursuing an agreement.

Ukraine Violated Starlink, Used It To Kill People': Elon Musk As Speed Restores

world.(Agency)

Elon Musk said on Saturday that his company SpaceX had throttled the Starlink satellite internet service in Ukraine, disrupting operations that the country relies on to defend itself against Russia.Musk's admission on social media came after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that Ukraine's access to Starlink and Starshield satellite links has been restored to the speeds it had before restrictions that disrupted front-line operations for more than a week.Questions have persisted since last week about who ordered the interruptions to the Musk-made satellite internet system that Kyiv has relied on for years to counter Moscow's attacks."The speeds are now where they need to be," Zelensky wrote on X, adding that restoration began overnight and were sufficient by Saturday morning, improving front-line logistics and defense against Russian jet-powered Shahed drones.

After Ukraine said the services had been restored, Elon Musk spoke out on the speed restrictions that began last week. In a post Saturday on X, Musk acknowledged that his company SpaceX throttled the Starlink satellite internet service.Using Starlink, a civilian commercial service, for offensive drone strikes to kill people has never been allowed, nor should it be," Musk wrote. "Ukraine military violated Starlink terms of service and used it for offensive drone strikes to kill people. That loophole was closed last week."

But he maintained that the US government controlled whatever changes happened with Starshield, the military-grade version of Starlink that is the backbone of Ukraine's drone operations and communication. He also defended the role of SpaceX in bolstering Ukraine's defenses since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Restrictions imposed last week on Starshield alarmed the country's military and government officials, with commanders reporting lost drones and disrupted missions.The restoration follows a new US diplomatic push to end the war. Russia agreed Wednesday to resume three-way negotiations with Washington and Kyiv next month. On Friday, Kyiv and Moscow also agreed to a localized ceasefire brokered by first lady Melania Trump around Oleshky, a war-ravaged, Russian-occupied town in Ukraine's southern Kherson region.The episode added to tensions between Kyiv and Washington, a relationship already strained by President Donald Trump's reported deal with Moscow on Russian diesel imports, which Ukraine viewed as a betrayal.Ukraine's Defense Minister Yevhenii Khmara credited "direct dialogue" and Zelensky's diplomacy with Washington, adding that the outcome mattered most "for our front, for the military, the work of drones, logistics and communications."Trump has maintained that he didn't make the call, while also saying Musk should not be blamed. Vice President JD Vance has hinted at White House coordination with Musk, while Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth have denied any administration involvement.

Nearly 1,000 arrested in French protests marred by 'elevated' violence: Minister

PARIS.(Agency)

French police arrested "nearly 1,000" people Saturday in nationwide protests in which officers were confronted with "an extremely elevated level of violence" from black-clad extremists, Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said.

Although marches over the cost of living "passed off well" in cities, "ultra-left" groups took to throwing projectiles and aiming fireworks at police to provoke clashes, he told journalists.Two people were "seriously injured", he said: one in the city of Toulouse, where a 20-year-old man reportedly had fingers blown off, and the other in Clermont-Ferrand. He did not give details of either case.

Nunez compared Saturday's figures with those from a week ago, when a first round of national demonstrations over the cost of living degenerated into street violence, with hundreds of shops looted and 2,700 people ending up being arrested.He said that the nearly 1,000 arrests recorded on Saturday compared with the same time a week ago, when authorities had recorded 385 arrests.He also said that, while some shops and businesses had been vandalised and looted on Saturday, "the scale was far smaller" than a week earlier, and he stressed that shopping centres had been well protected this time.

In Paris, where the main demonstration passed off largely peacefully but clashes broke out with police as the crowd dispersed, Nunez said "several thousand radical activists gathered at the rear of the march, including around 500 individuals identified as rioters".Ensuing clashes in the capital lasted for around two hours, he said.The minister said that in the southern cities of Cannes and Montpellier, authorities "for the first time" saw far-right activists who sought confrontations with "ultra-left militants" or who claimed to be there to protect businesses.



Overall, Nunez said, Saturday's outcome appeared more "positive" than a week ago, with more police on the streets acting more rapidly, conducting more pre-demonstration checks and better protecting businesses.

The authorities would remain "on high alert" through the night and into Sunday, he said.