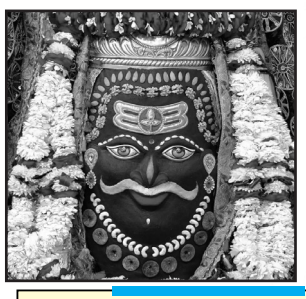
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Facing shortage of 47 IAS officers, Haryana writes to Centre to repatriate four senior bureaucrats

CHANDIGARH. (Agency).

The post of the Principal Secretary to Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has been vacant since September 30, when IAS officer Arun Kumar Gupta retired. In another two months, Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi will also demit office on December 31 after two extensions, leaving this post vacant as well.Amid a shortage of officers in the state, the Haryana Government has written to the Central Government seeking the repatriation of four IAS officers.

Sources said that the four officers whom the Haryana government wants back are V. Umashankar (1993 batch), Rakesh Gupta (1997 batch), Nitin Kumar Yadav (2000 batch), and Vikas Gupta (2001 batch). The Centre is yet to respond to the state's request.Presently serving as Secretary in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways since November 1, 2024, Umashankar is being seen in bureaucratic circles as the next Chief Secretary.Due to retire on June 30, 2028, he will have one and a half years of service left if the government decides to name him as Rastogi's successor. He served as

Omar Abdullah expands cabinet, four NC MLAs inducted as minister

SRINAGAR (Agency).

In the first cabinet expansion of the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government, four NC MLAs were inducted into the Council of Ministers on Tuesday and administered the oath of office and secrecy by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.The four NC MLAs — Ali Mohammad Sagar, Shameema Firdous, Mir Saifullah and Altaf Ahmad Kalloo — took the oath at Lok Bhawan in Srinagar.Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, along with senior NC leaders, attended the swearing-in ceremony.The expansion marks the first reshuffle of the Omar Abdullah-led government, which assumed office in October 2024.The government had six ministers, including the Chief Minister, while three cabinet positions had remained vacant for over two years.

Of the four newly inducted ministers, Sagar and Shameema represent the Khanyar and Habba Kadal constituencies in Srinagar, respectively. Saifullah represents Trehgam, while Kalloo is the MLA from Pahalgam.As part of the cabinet expansion, one of the serving ministers has been dropped to accommodate the new appointments and ensure that the government adheres to the prescribed limit on the size of the Council of Ministers.The cabinet expansion and the dropping of a minister have necessitated a reshuffle of portfolios by the Chief Minister.Under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the Council of Ministers cannot exceed 10 per cent of the Assembly's total strength. With 90 members in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, the Council of Ministers can have a maximum of nine members, including the Chief Minister.

PM Modi meets Liechtenstein Prince Alois: What India-EFTA trade deal could unlock

The hereditary prince said that India and Liechtenstein could work more closely in advanced manufacturing, financial services, education and technology under the trade pact with EFTA nations.

New Delhi(Agency).

With trade, investment and economic cooperation high on the agenda during the royal leader's second state visit to India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held delegation-level talks with Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Tuesday (October 27).The meeting followed a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan, where President Droupadi Murmu and PM Modi welcomed the prince and his wife, Hereditary Princess Sophie.India and Liechtenstein are looking to build on the India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), which came into force in 2025, during the visit.Prince Alois said that Liechtenstein valued its partnership with India and sought greater collaboration in several sectors."I am very honoured to be in India on the occasion of Liechtenstein's first state visit to this remarkable country," he said at the reception."This historic visit bears testimony to the importance that Liechtenstein attaches to the



relationship with India. The conclusion of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, TEPA, with India, which entered into force a year ago, marked a significant milestone in this regard," he added.The hereditary prince said that both countries were keen to build on the agreement and strengthen economic ties.

"We are determined to build on this momentum and strengthen our ties with India even further. In particular, we see tremendous potential in expanding our economic cooperation in areas such as innovation, advanced manufacturing, financial services, education and technology," he said."Across these and many other areas, our two countries possess complementary strengths that we can bring together for the lasting benefit of both our countries," he added.

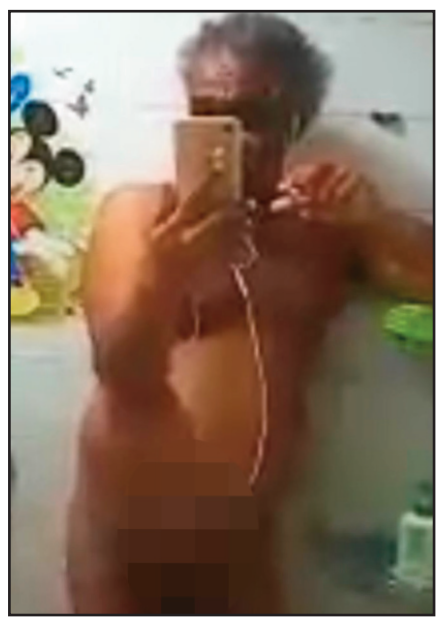
India-EFTA agreement

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also called on Prince Alois during the visit. In a post on X, he said the bilateral partnership was gaining momentum across several areas, supported by the opportunities created by the India-EFTA TEPA."A pleasure to call on H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein, on a State Visit to India," he wrote and said, "Our bilateral partnership is witnessing strong momentum across a wide range of domains, driven by the opportunities enabled by India - EFTA TEPA."The minister also said that he looked forward to the prince's meeting with PM Modi to advance cooperation between the two countries.Earlier on Tuesday, Prince Alois and Princess Sophie paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat. The royal couple laid a wreath and signed the visitors' book. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

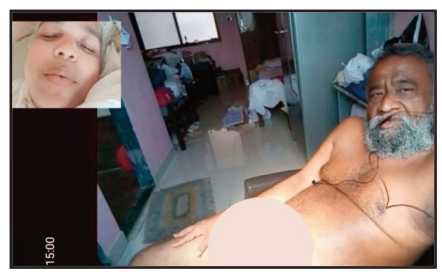
Ujjain Jain Community Demands Probe Against Sagar Chandra Sagar, Calls for Nationwide Boy cott Over Serious Allegations

Mahanagar Metro Desk

UJJAIN: Tensions are reportedly mounting within sections of the Jain community in Ujjain, where community representatives, social organisations and prominent citizens have raised serious allegations against an individual identified as Sagar Chandra Sagar. The allegations have sparked concern among community members, who are calling for an impartial investigation to establish the facts and ensure accountability.Senior community representatives have stressed that any allegations involving religious institutions, financial transparency and social conduct must be examined fairly and thoroughly, with the findings made public through the appropriate legal and institutional channels.Allegations of Inappropriate Conduct



During Video Calls; Digital Evidence ClaimedAccording to information shared by members of the community, allegations have been made that Sagar Chandra Sagar engaged in inappropriate conduct during video calls involving certain Jain sadhvis. Some individuals asso



ciated with the matter claim that potentially relevant digital material, including screenshots and call records, has been preserved.Community representatives have called for the material to be examined by competent authorities, including through appropriate technical verification, to determine its authenticity and relevance. The allegations have raised concerns among sections of the community regarding religious discipline, institutional accountability and the protection of religious dignity.The claims have not been independently verified, and their authenticity remains to be established through a fair investigation.Questions Raised Over Donations and Alleged Financial IrregularitiesApart from the allegations concerning conduct, questions have also been raised regarding the handling of donations collected from devotees during religious ceremonies, public gatherings and other activities.Some local community members have alleged that substantial sums, reportedly amounting to crores of rupees, may have been misused for personal benefit, property acquisition or other unauthorised purposes. These claims have prompted demands for a detailed examination of the relevant financial records, donation accounts and transactions.

When Will India Get Bullet Train? Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Reveals

New Delhi (Agency).

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has confirmed that the Mumbai to Ahmedabad bullet train will be inaugurated next year.Speaking at the World Summit 2026, Vaishnaw also



explained the reason for the delay of the high-speed rail project.

When Will Bullet Train Be Launched?

While Vaishnaw did not mention a specific date, he expressed confidence that the project would be ready for inauguration next year.He also talked about the criticism the project faced from former Japanese Justice Minister Hideki Makihara.Earlier this year, Hideki Makihara slammed the Indian government over delays in the high-speed rail project and accused them of repeatedly breaking commitments.

His claims were rejected by the Indian government.Regarding the remarks, Ashwini Vaishnaw stressed India's strategic relationship with Japan.He explained that the bullet train project is being dealt with by the Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transport. Vaishnaw said that Nakano Hiromasa, who was the minister in charge of the department, was very impressed when he visited the project a year and a half ago.Vaishnaw recalled that the former minister was "spellbound by the progress when he saw the quality of the work" and the speed at which it was being executed..The Union Minister also revealed that Japanese engineers involved in the high-speed rail project have said they will take some of the technologies used in the project.

Audio Clip, Rebel Rivalries, Portfolio: Battles Shaking Mahayuti's Stability

New Delhi(Agency).

Political alliances often look united on stage, but the real story unfolds behind closed doors. In Maharashtra, the ruling Mahayuti alliance is showing clear signs of internal tension across multiple fronts. What looks like routine political bickering on the outside might actually point to a much deeper power struggle. Is Maharashtra heading towards a major leadership restructuring? Is a quiet cold war brewing between Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde over administrative control? Or are allies like Shinde's Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP simply testing the waters to demand a better share of power in upcoming cabinet reshuffles at both the state and central levels? Let us break down the key signals



hidden between the lines.

A Secret Audio Clip Sparks Mutual Distrust

The controversial audio clip released by Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil, alleging Rs 500 crore transaction involving Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, has created serious ripples. While the clip was framed to target Shinde, allegations quickly emerged that members linked to the BJP's social media cell were involved in a conspiracy to derail the Maratha reservation movement. Realising that the fallout has damaged the BJP's image as much as Shinde's, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis took quick control by ordering a Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe via the Mumbai Police. Between the lines, this action shows Fadnavis asserting direct administrative authority over a sensitive issue, while deep-seated mistrust between the two major allies continues to grow.

The controversial audio clip released by Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil, alleging Rs 500 crore transaction involving Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde,

Outer Ring Road for EPE link to Harnandipuram

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 5.8km stretch of Outer Ring Road will be extended to connect Harnandipuram township with Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) through Pipeline Road. Ghaziabad Development Authority said the first phase of the township, covering 336 hectares in Mathurapur, Shamsher and Nangla Feroze Mohan Nagar, will be launched under the CM Urban Expansion scheme around Diwali. It has recently submitted an application for registering the project — to cover a total of 521 hectares across eight villages — with UP Real Estate Regulatory Authority."The EPE link is a key differentiator for the Harnandipuram township. It has been proposed that the link road will be developed by bypassing villages, which we are in the process of acquiring for the township," a GDA official said. The EPE link will also ensure the township's direct accessibility to Delhi-Dehradun Expressway, Delhi-Meerut Expressway and western UP districts.

7-year-old dies after motorcycle collision; man killed in separate accident

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A seven-and-a-half-year-old boy was seriously injured after the motorcycle he was travelling on with his uncle collided with another bike in Bhora Kalan village on Oct 19. He later died during treatment at a hospital. Police registered a case for causing death due to negligence and rash driving under BNS at Bilaspur police station Oct 25, Sunday, after the family filed a complaint.According to the complaint filed by the victim's father, Gaurav, at Bilaspur police station, his son, Aryan, was travelling with his uncle, Rajbir, to collect prasad when they met with the accident at 9am.The complaint said they spotted a pothole on a stretch of road a little beyond the civil hospital in Bhora Kalan and Rajbir had pulled up on the side when another motorcycle allegedly hit their vehicle at a high speed. Aryan sustained serious internal injuries in the collision and complained of severe abdominal pain.
The family too him to Sawai Man Singh Hospital in Jaipur, where he died around 1.30pm on Oct 20.

12-year-old boy dies after falling into reaper blades attached to family's tractor

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 12-year-old boy died after falling from a tractor onto the rotating blades of a reaper attached to it in Manesar on Saturday. The impact left his body dismembered, police said. The tractor belonged to the boy's family and a relative was driving it in the family's field when the incident occurred. According to a police officer, Vansh asked his father to let him sit on the tractor. He was sitting above one of the tyres when he slipped and fell towards the rear, where the reaper was attached. A postmortem examination was conducted on Sunday, after which the body was handed over to the family for the last rites, the officer said.
Police initiated inquest proceedings to establish the circumstances surrounding the boy's death. No foul play was suspected in the case, the officer said, adding that the incident appeared to be accidental based on the preliminary information available. SI Vinod is investigating the incident.

Gujarat Congress Demands Revival of NTSE Scholarship Scheme After 5-Year Suspension

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) has raised serious questions over the Centre's education policies and priorities. Addressing a press conference in Ahmedabad, Dr. Manish Doshi, GPCC media coordinator and spokesperson, alleged that the National Talent Search Examination (NTSE), a major national initiative aimed at identifying and supporting talented students, has remained suspended for the past five years, affecting educational opportunities for meritorious students across the country.Questions Raised Over Suspension of Scholarship SchemeDr. Manish Doshi stated that the prestigious national programme, introduced in 1963, historically selected approximately 2,000 meritorious students from around 8–9 lakh Class 10 students appearing for the examination annually. Selected candidates received financial assistance and academic support extending from the secondary level to doctoral studies.He further stated that in Gujarat alone, approximately 50,000 students appeared for the examination each year, with around 200–300 candidates securing selection.According to Doshi, the prolonged suspension of the scheme has disrupted opportunities for talented students and may also affect the long-term development of the country's research ecosystem. He additionally expressed concern over its potential impact on the academic talent pipeline, including representation in faculty positions reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).Congress Questions Government's Spending Priorities-Criticising the Centre's budget priorities, Doshi alleged that adequate funds were being allocated to publicity and foreign travel, while financial approvals required for education initiatives and meritorious students remained pending.He stated that the draft memorandum for "NTSE 2.0" was awaiting progress through ministerial consultations and the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) process, contributing to delays in securing financial approval.The Congress spokesperson called for greater transparency in decision-making and urged the government to prioritise educational opportunities



for deserving students.Parliamentary Standing Committee's Concerns CitedDuring the press briefing, Doshi referred to observations by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education regarding the continued suspension of the NTSE scheme.According to the points highlighted by him, the committee expressed concern that the prolonged interruption could adversely affect India's talent pipeline.

The Veil of Attachment: When Truth Hides Behind Illusion!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Rupesh Solanki The greatest challenge in human life is not always fighting difficult circumstances; sometimes, it is recognizing a truth that one is unwilling to accept. When the veil of attachment falls over our eyes, even the reality standing right before us becomes invisible. We begin to see only what our minds want us to see and believe only what is connected to our emotions.Attachment is not limited to an emotional bond with another person. It can also be associated with wealth, reputation, relationships, positions, fame, desires, and personal beliefs. When attachment begins to dominate our thinking, the distinction between right and wrong gradually becomes blurred.Attachment does not change the truth; it merely changes the way we see it.Sometimes, we consider someone so good that even their mistakes begin to appear like virtues. We find justifications for everything they say or do. In contrast, when we develop differences with someone, we begin to find faults even in their valid arguments. This is the trap of attachment and prejudice, which gradually pulls us away from reality.In relationships, too, the veil of attachment often conceals the truth. In our desire to save a relationship, we continue to ignore its bitter realities. We believe that everything will eventually become all right with time. However, time can sometimes deepen a problem that we have lacked the courage to acknowledge. Maintaining relationships is important, but sacrificing our self-respect and judgment in the name of attachment is not right.In today's social media age, attachment takes many forms. Looking at glamorous photographs, displays of success, and the seemingly perfect happiness of others, we begin to consider our own lives less valuable. Other people's lives appear beautiful to us, but we fail to see the struggles, loneliness, and real circumstances hidden behind that beauty. As a result, we become more influenced by the decorated image of truth than by truth itself.The question is: How can we remove this veil of attachment?The first step is to be honest with ourselves. Even when something goes against our wishes, we must have the courage to listen to it and understand it. The second step is to give reason and wis



dom as much importance as emotions. Loving someone, trusting someone, or valuing a relationship is not wrong; however, denying facts because of these emotions is an injustice to ourselves. The third step is to review our beliefs from time to time and remain willing to accept that we, too, can be wrong.Truth is not always pleasant. Sometimes, it hurts us, shatters our expectations, and challenges our deepest beliefs. Nevertheless, facing the truth is essential because the happiness gained from living in an illusion is temporary, whereas the clarity that comes from accepting reality can give our lives a new direction.

At 16.2°C, Noida wakes up to coolest morning of season, more rain in store

Noida.(Agency)

The city recorded its coolest Oct morning on Monday, with the minimum temperature dropping to 16.2°C, a notch below normal, against 17°C a day earlier. The maximum temperature was 31.4°C, against 31.1°C a day earlier."A fresh western disturbance is likely to affect northwest India from the night of Oct 27," said an India Meteorological Department (IMD) bulletin. The weather department has forecast very light to light rain on Oct 29 and 30, with the possibility of a further drop in temperatures.According to IMD, the maximum and minimum temperatures on Tuesday are expected to hover around 30-32°C and 15-17°C, respectively.
Meanwhile, air quality remained moderate, with an AQI reading of 157 at 4 pm against 131 on Sunday. The Sector 62 monitoring station, located near the NH-9 and Delhi-Meerut Expressway stretches, recorded an AQI of 234, categorised as "poor".The average AQI at the Sector 1 station, which covers Phase-I industrial pockets and adjacent mixed residential-industrial zones, hovered around 138. At the Sector 125 station, which covers commercial and institutional zones along the Noida Expressway and the Yamuna bank, AQI was around 120. The Sector 116 station, which covers 7x and adjacent sectors, recorded 112.
Greater Noida saw an AQI of 146 on Monday compared with 134 on Sunday. The Knowledge Park III station recorded 138 and the Knowledge Park V station 148.Ghaziabad's AQI deteriorated from 125 to 142 in the past 24 hours but remained in the moderate category. Vasundhara recorded the worst AQI at 183 (moderate), while Sanjay Nagar recorded 117. Wave City recorded an AQI of 104, with carbon monoxide the predominant pollutant. The Govindpuram station recorded the best AQI at 61, in the "satisfactory" category.Delhi, meanwhile, recorded an AQI of 174 and Gurgaon 156.Road dust remains a major source, contributing 5-10% in the past few days. UPPCB regional officer (Ghaziabad) Ankit Singh blamed industrial emissions and garbage burning for higher PM2.5 levels..

Noida serves notice on Elevated Road construction co after 2 cave-ins

Noida.(Agency)

With two cave-ins on the Elevated Road within 35 days, Noida Authority has issued a notice to the contractor over poor construction quality. It has also engaged a team from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee, to determine the cause of the damage and assess the road's structural condition.



A 2x2-foot portion of the road connecting Sectors 18 and 60-61 caved in near Iskcon Temple on Oct 19, just a month after another 10x5-foot section on its loop collapsed near Vishwa Bharti Public School on Sept 15. The Sector 61-18 carriageway has remained closed to traffic since the Oct 19 cave-in, forcing commuters to use alternative routes.
"We have issued a show-cause notice to ITD Cementation India Limited, the construction company, seeking reasons as to why the Noida Elevated Road has developed cracks and caved in within eight years of being opened to the public," Noida Authority general manager SP Singh said.On Sunday, the IIT team was in Noida to examine whether the concrete, steel reinforcement and other materials met prescribed standards and whether the project followed approved designs and technical specifications. The team will also examine whether the cave-ins were caused by the use of poor-quality concrete, corrosion, water seepage, excessive traffic load, and inadequate reinforcement. It will submit a report in a few days.
"Once the IIT report is in, we will take further action," Singh said.
After the Sept 15 cave-in, officials had told TOI that the soil had collapsed due to leakages in the old water and sewage pipes that run below the elevated road. However, the Oct cave-in in the middle of the elevated road was a structural safety red flag.Work on the elevated road began in 2013 and was partially opened to traffic on June 29, 2017. It was officially opened in 2018. Constructed at Rs 480 crore, the road was designed to ease congestion between sectors 18, 23, 25-29 and 60-62. Commuters from Indirapuram and Vaishali also use the stretch to commute between Noida and Delhi via DND Flyway.Traffic department data indicates that nearly 1,50,000 commuters use the road on weekdays. Since a part of the road was closed for repairs, traffic has been diverted on Maharaja Agrasen Marg, which runs below it.In March 2024, Noida Authority repaired and restored the road at Rs 14.6 crore after it developed cracks and the surface eroded at different places

Illegal Mangar Bani road: How two forest reports struck different notes

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A paved road through the ecologically sensitive Mangar Bani in Aravalis has triggered a puzzling contradiction within the forest department.A divisional forest officer's draft report flagged the construction as unauthorised, cited extensive wildlife around the area and said no such road actually existed in revenue records. But a final report submitted to National Green Tribunal (NGT) by the principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF) omitted these concerns and said the department was not the enforcement authority for the road "as of now".The difference is critical because NGT had, on Aug 4, asked the PCCF to ensure that no illegal construction took place in Mangar Bani and sought a comprehensive report. The dispute concerned the paved internal road through the sacred grove, which falls within a zone notified by the state govt as a no-construction area.In letters dated July 27 and Aug 6 to the district town planner, Faridabad's deputy conservator of forests (DFO) said the stretch was not recorded as a road in revenue records and that the land was classified as 'gair mumkin pahar'. The DFO's draft report on Oct 14 also said that laying tiles for the road "cannot be treated as merely the continued use of an earthen track". It added that traditional use of a pathway and the legality of subsequent construction were separate issues, and the department did not support further concretisation.The draft also described Mangar Bani as "an ecologically significant part of the Aravali landscape", citing native dhau trees and a habitat for leopards and rusty-spotted cats. It warned that concrete paving could affect soil permeability, drainage and wildlife habitat. The absence of tree felling, it said, did not by itself make the road construction permissible.However, the PCCF's report – filed on Oct 15 in the case of Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi vs State of Haryana – took a different approach. It said the land was not recorded as reserved or protected forest, had no special order under Sections 4 or 5 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900, and had seen no tree felling. It also referred to the 2016 no-construction notification, but concluded that "no provisions of Forest Acts are applicable on the said land".
The final report did not explain why the draft's concerns about wildlife, the missing road record and the legality of paving were not carried forward.
Mangar Bani is a rare natural sacred grove in the NCR Aravalis, with mature native trees and rich biodiversity. Retired south Haryana conservator of forests, RP Balwan, said some dhau trees were 400-500 years old and could not be recreated simply by planting saplings.

'No freezer malfunction at Jadcherla hospital, bodies arrived decomposed'

Hyderabad.(Agency)

The health department on Monday refuted social media claims that bodies had decomposed due to malfunctioning freezers at the Jadcherla area hospital mortuary in Mahabubnagar district, clarifying that the bodies were already decomposed when they were brought to the facility.

Hospital superintendent Dr Mohammed Arshadullah said two bodies were brought to the mortuary on Oct 23. One was that of Metta Lachamma (49) who had died four or five days earlier, while the other was that of Sriramulu, who died by drowning. Both bodies were stored in the mortuary freezers.He said the freezers were functioning properly and were equipped with miniature circuit breakers (MCBs) to protect against short circuits and other electrical faults. Even during power disruptions caused by voltage fluctuations, the freezers could maintain the required temperature for about four to six hours, he added.

Earlier, former health minister and BRS leader C Laxma Reddy had criticised the state govt over the alleged decomposition of bodies at the mortuary, blaming power disruptions and administrative negligence. He demanded an uninterrupted power supply, immediate corrective measures and improvements to hospital infrastructure.

Amaravati set to leapfrog in quantum computing race; unit to be inaugurated in Feb 2027

Hyderabad.(Agency)

Amaravati is set to cross a key milestone in India's quantum computing journey by Oct-end, when the Andhra Pradesh govt hands over the Quantum Computer Centre building to IBM, which can then start moving its advanced Quantum System Two into the specially built facility in the state capital. Parts of the machine have already reached India from the US, with commissioning targeted for Dec 2026 or Jan 2027.

The installation will give India one of its most advanced quantum computing facilities, allowing researchers, universities, startups and businesses to work with cutting-edge quantum hardware located within the country. The facility is expected to be formally inaugurated in the first week of Feb 2027."After we got the approvals for the shipment, the shipment process began in Sept from the US. The systems are being shipped part by part, and some components have already landed at IBM's Bengaluru warehouse," CV Sridhar, mission director, Andhra Pradesh State Quantum Mission, told .

A dash of pink, a drive for change

Mangaluru.(Agency)

A pink electric autorickshaw has rolled onto the streets of Dakshina Kannada, adding a new dimension to women's empowerment, safe commuting and eco-friendly transport.Driven by women for women, Rotary International District 3181's initiative is drawing significant public attention in Sullia and Bantwal.Geetha KR, a resident of Jayanagar in Sullia, received financial aid from Sullia City Rotary Club to own a pink autorickshaw as part of the district's women's safety initiative.Sullia City Rotary Club president Ragesh Raghav said the initiative was part of Rotary District 3181's plan to distribute pink autorickshaws in all towns under its jurisdiction.So far, 12 autos have been distributed. The Rotary Club of Mysore Metro sponsored the first 10, the Rotary Club of Mangalore Midtown sponsored the 11th for Vanitha Shamboor of Bantwal, and the Rotary Club of Sulia City sponsored the 12th. Eight more autos are under production, Raghav said.The Pink Auto Project, a flagship initiative under Rotary International District 3181's SAKHI programme, aims to empower destitute women through sustainable livelihoods, helping them achieve financial independence and dignity. District governor Sathish Bolar said the project is led by District Pink Auto convener Shruthi Madtha.

Comfy seats, Wi-Fi, higher fares: Sarjapur commuters say yes to premium BMTC buses

Ludhiana.(Agency)



Commuters along Sarjapur Road want more frequent, comfortable and reliable bus services, with nearly three-fourths willing to pay a premium fare for them, according to a survey report released in Oct.

Conducted by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Save Our Sarjapur, the SORT Bengaluru–BMTC Sarjapur Mobility Survey aims to use data-driven insights to encourage greater BMTC adoption among commuters in traffic-congested areas of south-east Bengaluru. The findings assume added significance as construction of the Sarjapur Road Metro line is likely to begin within a year, potentially worsening congestion.Of the 400 respondents surveyed, 73.1% said they would be willing to pay a premium for a corporate-style bus service offering air-conditioning, comfortable seating, Wi-Fi, fixed schedules and pre-booking.The report lists sample issues which include a bus application that does not track buses, missing frequency, unreliability and a lack of AC buses. It also notes the missing transfer between the Bellandur/Iblur junction on ORR and Bellandur Gate on Sarjapur Road, which forces a 1-km walk. Other complaints were confusion over bus stops on Haralur Road.Airport connectivity also drew strong interest. Of 382 respondents, 91.9% would consider a premium KIA bus to the airport and 82.2% from it. The report recommends a pre-booking feature and starting with one bus. It proposes pilots for Hosa Road and Haralur Road via ORR, and for Muthanallur-Dommasandra.Mukund Kumar from Save Our Sarjapura (SOS) said: "We have presented the summary of the survey to senior officials at BMTC, who have been receptive to the idea and have expressed keenness to work with us."Joy VR, co-founder, Sarjapura Residents Welfare Association (SRWA), said: "Real-time tracking of buses towards Sarjapur is currently unavailable. Maintaining proper intervals between buses and introducing real-time tracking would help commuters."

Bulgarian pilot killed in Himachal paraglider crash, British national rescued

Kangra administration orders three-day ban on solo, cross-country expeditions; paragliders protest.

Chandigarh.(Agency)

A 47-year-old Bulgarian paraglider, on a solo expedition, was killed while a 63-year-old British pilot suffered injuries and was rescued after their paragliders crashed near Rising Star Peak in Dharamshala, police on Monday said. As an immediate measure, the Kangra district administration imposed a three day ban on solo and cross-country paragliding expedition.The incident took place Sunday afternoon when the two foreign nationals, who had taken off separately from Bir-Billing paragliding site, encountered strong winds, officials said.Police identified the deceased pilot as Maksim Valentinovich Gavrilichenko, a Bulgarian national who arrived in India on a tourist visa on October 7. The rescued paraglider was identified as Stephen Antony Purdie.



Superintendent of Police, Kangra, Kulbhushan Verma said both pilots took off for solo paragliding flight from Bir Billing. "Due to air pressure and (strong) wind conditions, the Bulgarian pilot's paraglider went out of control, leading to the accident. His companion, the British national, too had to force land," the SP said, adding Purdie informed the officials at the paragliding site and also sent the location coordinates.He said a rescue operation was launched in the evening with teams comprising personnel from the local police, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and the Him Sanchar Rescue Team. The rescuers worked through the night in difficult terrain and adverse weather before reaching the accident site in the morning.

While Purdie was safely evacuated, the Bulgarian national's body was shifted to the mortuary at Zonal Hospital, Dharamshala, the officer said, adding that the exact cause of death will be ascertained following a post-mortem examination.Meanwhile, the district administration on Monday announced a three-day ban on solo paragliding and cross-country paragliding expeditions. "The tandem flights have been allowed to continue," Baijnath Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sanklap Gautam said.

Gautam told reporters that six to seven crash and force landing incidents have been reported over the last few days.The temporary ban, however, triggered protests with a delegation of foreign paragliders and locals calling on Rajya Sabha MP Anurag Sharma demanding that the restrictions be withdrawn. The delegation warned that foreign pilots, who arrive at Bir-Billing and stay for extended periods, might shift to Manali or other destinations if the ban continued, dealing a blow to the local economy.They also expressed concern that the suspension of flights from authorised paragliding sites could prompt some pilots to attempt take-offs from unauthorised locations.Sharma spoke to officials concerned and asked them to formulate a standard operating procedure (SOP) to address safety concerns and facilitate the resumption of paragliding activities. He assured the delegation that efforts would be made to allow pilots to resume solo expeditions soon.

Earlier, two other paragliders, one from Austria and another from Poland, were rescued on Sunday after having remained stranded in the higher reaches of the Dhauladhar mountains in Kangra. While the Austrian pilot, identified as Sebastain, had remained stranded for four nights, Polish national Adam Bisztyga was stranded for two nights. Prior to that, another paraglider, Gautam Kumar Bharti, a resident of Darbhanga in Bihar, was rescued on Saturday.

Accused in Rs 25-cr drug racket shot in leg by police amid 'scuffle' in Gujarat

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

ONE OF the three persons accused in the Rs25.65 crore Heroin and MD drug racket busted by the Crime Branches of Ahmedabad and Surat City Police teams earlier this week on Monday suffered a gunshot wound to the left leg in an alleged scuffle with police personnel taking him for a medical test that is mandatory after an arrest.Kafeelahmed alias Javed (59), was on Monday around 4:30 pm, shot and injured in the left leg inside a police vehicle near Ellisbridge on the eastern side of the Sabarmati Riverfront, while being taken for a routine medical test to V S Hospital by a team of the Detection of Crime Branch (DCB) team led by Sub-Inspector (SI) A R Rawal, said a statement by DCP (Crime) Ajit Rajian.DCP Rajian said that while the Crime Branch team led by SI Rawal were heading to VS hospital for the medical test, the accused engaged in a scuffle with the officer, leading to a service weapon being discharged inside the weapon and hitting the accused on the leg.Another officer confirmed that Ansari was injured on the left leg and was under treatment. The Crime Branch also released a photograph of SI Rawal with a plaster cast around his right hand.



While a Medico-Legal Case (MLC) was made out at the hospital, an FIR against Ansari is likely to be registered either at Riverfront (East) police station or the DCB police station on Tuesday, on the basis of a complaint by the injured officer.On October 22, the Gujarat Police had seized narcotics worth Rs 25.65 crore from three persons travelling on National Expressway 1 (NE-1) in Ahmedabad. This included 4,531.220 gm of heroin worth Rs22.6561 crore, and 2,497.490 gm of mephedrone worth Rs 2.9974 crore, according to primary details shared by the police.The statement said, "Those arrested are Tifel Nokhej (44), resident of New Delhi; Mohammad Imran Alvi (38), resident of Meerut; and Kafeel Ahmed (59), resident of New Delhi.

7-8 rounds fired: AAP sarpanch's son gunned down outside gurdwara in Amritsar

Teerth Singh, son of sarpanch Paramjit Kaur, and his friend were leaving a gurdwara in Chite Kalan village when the accused opened fire on them.

Amritsar.(Agency)

The son of an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) village sarpanch was shot dead after unidentified assailants opened fire outside a gurdwara in Chite Kalan village in Punjab's Amritsar district on Monday night, the police said. Preliminary investigations suggest that an old rivalry may have been the motive behind the killing.The victim, Teerth Singh, son of sarpanch Paramjit Kaur, had visited the gurdwara along with his friend Ranjeet Singh. As the two were leaving, the accused, allegedly lying in wait outside, opened fire and discharged around seven to eight rounds, the police said.While Teerth sustained critical bullet injuries and was declared brought dead at the hospital, Ranjeet was also injured and is currently undergoing treatment. He is reportedly out of danger.The incident has come at a time when Opposition parties have targeted the ruling AAP government over a spate of gun violence incidents in the state in the past few weeks.

Accused on the run

The police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) against four accused based on a complaint filed by the victim's brother, Karaj Singh, a block committee member. The accused have been identified as Gurditt Singh, Gurjant Singh, Harkirat Singh alias Hockey, and Gora.The police said all four accused are absconding, and raids are being conducted to apprehend them. Heavy security has been deployed in the area.

'Dark reality of Punjab's collapsed law and order'

BJP leader Ravneet Singh Bittu took to Facebook to lash out at the state government, saying, "Darkness under the lamp! A government whose own sarpanches' homes are not safe, what security will it provide to Punjab?"He further added, "Not a single day passes without Punjab trembling under the echoes of gunshots. The broad-daylight murder of AAP's current sarpanch's family member, Teerth Singh, after paying obeisance



at the guru's house is not just an incident, but the dark reality of Punjab's collapsed law and order."Slamming the administration, Bittu said, "It is said that the house is set on fire by its own lamp; today, those who hold the reins of Punjab have brought the entire state to a heap of gunpowder through their incompetence. When representatives of the ruling party themselves are not safe, God only helps the life and property of common citizens."Attacking the Punjab chief minister, he further added, "Bhagwant Mann, stop gathering applause from the Delhi Darbar, either take charge of your chair or resign. Punjab is not ready to carry corpses every single day."

2 die after entering STP catchpit for welding work in Ahmedabad; probe on: Police

The incident took place at a 30 MLD plant of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation in the city's Sola area

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

TWO OF four men who entered the catchpit of a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in Ahmedabad to carry out welding work died on Monday, while the two others are under treatment at a hospital. The cause of death is under investigation, police said.Police tentatively identified the deceased as 28-year-old Abhishek (welder), and Manoj (site in-charge), 40. Those admitted to the hospital for treatment are Those admitted to hospital are Rupesh Anandi Bavishkar (39) and Neelesh Lodhi (26), police said.Inspector K N Bhukan of Aola police told The Indian Express that an Accidental Death (AD) Report would be filed.



The two others who tried to save them were rescued and sent to GMERS Sola Civil Hospital for treatment. The incident took place at the 30 MLD plant of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) in the city's Sola area.A statement issued by the Ahmedabad Fire and Emergency Services said it "received a call via the 112 emergency service. Subsequently, teams from the Thaltej and Bodakdev fire stations (under the North-West Zone), along with emergency responders and a rescue operation team, arrived at the site to conduct a search and rescue operation."

A call was received after 4 pm and it took around half an hour to 45 minutes for the firefighters, wearing oxygen breathing apparatus, to retrieve the two bodies and rescue the other two men, said in-charge Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Mithun Mistry.

It added, "The fire brigade team retrieved all four individuals, who were taken to Sola Civil Hospital via 108 ambulance services. According to preliminary information provided by the hospital's Resident Medical Officer (RMO), two of the four passed away, while the other two are undergoing treatment."

Gen Z is Not Going to Like This Argument. Nor Will India's Political Masters

Watch the average cop standing for hours at Jantar Mantar or Connaught Place while a teenager live-streams their stoicism for likes and thinks: "heartless sarkari lapdog." But he is no different from you or me. He has to pay school fees, care for ageing parents, bills to be settled, and an irate wife asking why he hasn't come home with the veggies. The woman constable facing an angry crowd has her own battles to fight in a society often uncomfortable with women wielding authority. Yet they are expected to stand for hours, taking abuse, sarcasm and mockery, and hateful placards. Gen Z won't like this plot twist because the police is the class enemy—especially for Naxalite-inspired student movements, but let's log into reality. Just for a moment, stop thinking of the average policeman as the boss villain from a Bollywood action flick to see them as just tired regular humans trapped in an infinite loop of political commands, serving as the ultimate meat-shield for netas for whom accountability is an expired subscription.Watch the reel of a young protester and a lawyer asking a harried SHO a simple question: under what law have you detained this protestor? Why are you using force against peaceful demonstrators? The answer is a mute helpless stare or absurd defence. Meanwhile, the politicians who give the orders hide behind khaki while the police, seen as brainless puppets take the full brunt of public hatred. The system still looks official, the uniforms still look legitimate and the language still sounds legal. Power loves this arrangement. When society finally erupts in disgust at the sight of youth being dragged and beaten, the hatred lands hardest on the uniformed men and women who symbolise power, while their masters who issued the orders keep their distance. Not an accident, but it is the design feature of the misuse. Usually, passing the buck to someone less powerful is called cowardice. In politics, it is called crisis management. Ministers don't stand behind barricades, facing furious young people and camera flashes. Senior police officials issue instructions from well-guarded air-conditioned offices to men and women in khaki to enforce decisions they had no part in making. Should the operation succeed, the government claims credit for restoring order. But when it turns ugly, the blame falls on the cop. Of course, there are rogue cops: most of them are from rural, patriarchal backwaters where empathy isn't part of the core curriculum. There are corrupt officers, custodial torturers, fabricators of evidence and lawmen who abuse their authority simply because they can. But it is equally wrong to assume that everyone in khaki is a thug.We've seen this before. In 1970s America, when four university students protesting the Vietnam War were shot by troops, public anger over the government's handling of dissent forced the administration in retreat. Youth fury drove the 2011 Arab Spring which brought down Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. But police violence was part of larger political crises. The philosopher Max Weber defined the state as: "A human community that (successfully) claims the monopoly of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory." A baton can clear a street but cannot answer a question about a paper leak, or explain unemployment or restore faith in an institution whose duty is to be accountable. When a government relies on force because it cannot calm outraged citizens, it may win the immediate confrontation but lose the larger argument.

Charm offensive for the fading beauty

Just keep your memories of Shimla close, and you'll be fine



As a longtime resident of Shimla, I tend to regard her as an aristocratic prima donna whose beauty is now of the past, but some of the charms remain.For me, the main attraction on Mall Road is still Trishool, that cute little bakery next to Gaiety Theatre. In the metros, the standalone bakery is now a thing of the past; what you have are chains and their mass-produced stuff. You can no longer easily get an honest, simple pastry; you'll instead be hawked a meringue, or a gateau, or a truffle at five times the price of the original thing. Cream roll is passe except in the slums. The simple, delicious patty is unrecognisable. The bun has metamorphosed into the croissant.For all of this, you pay humongous amounts through your e-nose. And that's precisely why I keep going back to Trishool: the same chocolate pastries, fruit buns, cream rolls and patties that eased the white man of his burden a hundred years ago, and I can have the whole lot for the price of one meringue in Khan Market.Then there's Dewan Chand Atma Ram (DCAR, to the oldies) just across the road. It has clothed me, my two sons, one wife, and many generations of Cottonians. You may spend your life ordering from Flipkart or Amazon, but you'll never find anything to match the styles in DCAR. And the prices are so reasonable, you wonder why either Deepak or Dinesh (the burghers who preside over the garments) bother asking you for money at all!

Moving from the man-made to the natural charms of this fading beauty, there's Forest Hill Road, a 2-km stretch of sylvania that has somehow escaped the degradation and traffic chaos which have befallen all of the town's roads. A walk along it in the evening can almost make you want to get married again — well, okay, that may be pushing it a bit. Since nobody walks in Shimla these days, the road is quiet and contemplative. If you're unlucky, you will probably bump into Yogesh Khanna.One evening, he was walking down the road in the middle of a tempestuous storm, the rain coming down in buckets. Suddenly, he saw a procession of nuns coming towards him, brightly lit candles in their hands, chanting hymns. Yogesh stood aside, let the procession pass and continued on his way. Suddenly, he froze: how on earth were all the candles burning bright and steadily in the middle of this storm and rain? He looked back — the nuns had disappeared. Yogesh hurried home, not looking back even once, like the Ancient Mariner who "turns no more his head, for he doth know that close behind a fearful fiend doth tread..."

Then there's Annandale, that divinely picturesque glen cradled in the lap of majestic deodars. It is here that the Army trains day and night to clobber the Chinese — at golf. This golf course is one of the Army's treasured possessions and they would sooner vacate Siachen than Annandale. I've played golf here for a few years, though "played" is a euphemism: I spent most of my time looking for the ball in the forests, because, for some strange reason, all my drives invariably went in the direction of Kasauli.After seven years on the course, I've never hit an eagle or birdie, though I have hit a cow (twice) and my good friend Yatish Sud (once). Annandale is a wonderful place, and I hope the Army never hands it over to the civilian administration, for then it will become another Sanjauli.One wouldn't normally add the HP government Secretariat to Shimla's list of charming memories, not even if Sunny Leone became Chief Secretary and gyrated her sinuous way up that historic staircase. But I do retain fond memories of one small corner of the Secretariat: the dingy, refrigerated building behind Armsdale. We christened it Guru Nanak Niwas (GNN), because it was a kind of refuge-cum-exile for those out of favour with the rulers of the day.At one point in time in the mid-1980s, I was sentenced to serve time as Joint Secretary (Animal Husbandry). I was exiled because of a rumour that I had named my dog after the then Chief Secretary, ostensibly so that I could kick him around vicariously! The rumour was, of course, a canard: my dog was named Brutus.

Quite unknown to the mandarins of the Secretariat Administration Department, it was actually a jolly fine place. No minister or senior officer ever visited GNN so we could do just about what we wished to. We usually strolled in at about 11 am, to find loud singing emanating from the bathrooms where all the Section officers were having a bath in order to save water at their residences. I worked till noon and then made my way up the hill behind the building to Raj Bhavan where my batchmate, the late JP Negi, was the Secretary to the Governor. The afternoons were spent in playing billiards and partaking of the fine food.At 5 pm, I would return to office, sign the couple of files that had mistakenly found their way to my table, pick up my squash kit and go to the Raj Bhavan court. It was a wonderful time but, like all good things in life, didn't last very long. Someone conveyed to the Chief Secretary that my dog was named after a Roman statesman and not a Kinnaura worthy, and so I was shifted to Finance.There I learned, among other things, the similarity between a bikini and a budget — that what they conceal is much more interesting than what they reveal.

India must resist China's pressure and preserve its strategic autonomy

While the border has its own dynamics, it also underscores India's challenges in navigating an evolving regional and international order



Back in August, when India formally marked with names 27 geographical locations and features on the Arunachal Pradesh map, it appeared to be only a nomenclatural tug-of-war with China. It had been up to mischief, assigning its own names to places in Arunachal. President Xi Jinping was due in India the following month, after a seven-year gap, for the BRICS Summit—hence a gentle but firm riposte. But the larger context was not immediately apparent then: it turns out that a face-off with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has been ongoing since July at multiple locations on the Arunachal border. Reports suggest incursions, with the PLA setting up tents about 6-7 km within the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at Asaphila near Taksing in Upper Subansiri district.Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Director General Shatrujeet Kapur has put things on record as a matter of internal dialogue. Shortly after the remarks, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asked whether another serious confrontation was brewing in Arunachal on the lines of the 2017 standoff at Doklam and the 2020 Galwan clash. The Ministry of External Affairs, on its part, issued a nuanced statement saying the border is disturbed from time to time when Chinese forces deviate from established patrolling patterns. "Both sides continue to use existing diplomatic and military mechanisms to resolve outstanding issues and avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation along the LAC," it said, in equable tones. Kapur's open ventilation was thus likely part of an orchestrated exercise, cleared at the highest level, to add breadth to the message going out to Beijing officially.The latest face-off comes against the backdrop of intensifying strategic competition among major powers. While the border has its own dynamics, it also underscores India's challenges in navigating an evolving regional and international order. Despite a visibly slowing Chinese economy, the surge in India's imports from China has widened the bilateral trade deficit to $112.16 billion. Despite that asymmetry, China recognises India's growing stature, in substantially the same vein as the US. For an honest expression of the latter, take Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau's words: "We are not going to make the same mistakes with India that we made with China 20 years ago…" India's needs will therefore be met through a full exercise of sovereignty, whether in pursuit of peace on the border or an equitable trade deal.

It's getting to dusk in Europe, time for the Owl of Minerva

From the coffeehouse idealism of the '90s, how did the European project get to courting collapse? Ask the new neoliberal ruling elite.

"The language of Europe is translation," Umberto Eco had once said in his usual, resonant style. It was the early 1990s, a time of boundless optimism, especially among a certain kind of 20th century social-intellectual elite from Western Europe. The Soviet Union had collapsed, the reintegration of the Eastern bloc was at hand, and the clock had struck Maastricht. Eco was speaking to Richard Kearney, who was putting together a remarkable set of interviews with continental thinkers to catch the spirit of the age. One after the other, they waxed about the future of Europe. They spoke of a cultural continuum, a continent of coffeehouses stretching from Lisbon to St Petersburg, recognisably one entity, rapt in gentle discourse. One citizenship, one currency, all of it was going to come as proof.In the "Angry Autumn" of 2026, the shadows crowd in ominously over that vision. It's not only France that resembles the haunting last scenes of Carl Dreyer's silent-era classic, The Passion of Joan of Arc. At least 11 European nations, from Ireland to Albania, are seeing street protests. Portugal, Spain, Italy, Germany and Austria not excluded, so it's not just a disturbance on the periphery. The common element is a deep economic insecurity. Prices are skyrocketing for everything, from fuel to housing to education. The Euro crisis—a traumatic phase which felled governments like nine pins in at least half of Eurozone countries amidst IMF bailouts, structural adjustment, austerity and the like—evidently did not end in 2018. Mark the pandemic right after, and trace a straight line to the present. Cassandras are doing brisk business. Not just the EU, the future of Europe, as we knew it, itself seems up in the air.Hearing second-hand of some conversations among transcontinental Millennial-Gen Z friends, I had had a faint premonition of this. A young French teacher in Marseilles, shifted to a school in the inner city, spoke of a kind of grubby misery that was very Third World. She encountered a broken system, marked by poverty, drug abuse, violence—a general lumpenisation that did not owe to everyone's favourite scapegoat: the immigrants. The latter only had to meld into a familiar landscape. To local eyes, the effect has been visible for years. Speaking on The Dream of Europe: Travels in a Troubled Continent, his 2019 follow-up to a rosier book of the same ilk about 20th century, Dutch journalist Geert Mak described semi-empty provincial towns across Europe—with rusty railways but no trains, where "one-third of the shops are closed and 20 percent of the houses abandoned".

Misery was spreading on the ground, and Brussels didn't know. Eco's lovely vision is in danger because of a translation error—between the citizenry and the bureaucratic elite who run the EU. The latter belong decidedly to a technocratic school who won't ordinarily socialise with, say, the Italian truckers who can't buy diesel. Nor did national governments particularly care unless it was about to cost them an election. The old leadership of Europe is gone, largely replaced by a new ruling elite brewed in a kind of Americanised finance capital-led thinking. The number of those in top perches now or in the recent past who were hedge fund managers and the like is not a joke. Macron was an investment banker at Rothschild, Merz came from BlackRock, Rishi Sunak from Goldman Sachs. Also count the Greek prime minister, two former Italian prime ministers… the list goes on. It's a generalisation, of course, as a lot of truths are, but this neoliberal phase maps roughly onto deindustrialisation as well as a retreat from the kind of state-led social security Europe was once known for. The social-political effect, with the rise of far-right parties fragmenting the old social democrat-conservative binary, was a given.Culturally, we are at some distance from Kearney's integration. Britain Brexited, now they are even speaking of a Frexit! Indeed, even the two Germanys still survive as distinct zones. Eastern Europeans consistently report racism in the west. St Petersburg, of course, is totally off the map. Moscow and Berlin now talk as if we are back in 1945. Western Europe, conclusively vassalised by the US, has psyched itself into believing its own propaganda about a new Barbarian Invasion. Even the one in history was a comforting illusion for historians.



How to use kacchi haldi in your beauty routine



We all have heard about the skin-enhancing properties of raw turmeric or kacchi haldi from our grandmothers and mothers. But, have you ever had the chance to incorporate it into your skin routine? It is a fact that raw turmeric has been used for centuries in the medicinal and cosmetic fields.

To get a natural and healthy glow, people used to put kacchi haldi paste on their faces as it is known for its healing properties.

Rich in a bioactive component called curcumin, turmeric is rich in anti-inflammatory and has skin and health benefits.

Easily available in every Indian household, one should stop using the turmeric powder grated from the market, but should start using raw turmeric in their everyday skincare routine. Having tons of skin-enhancing properties, it treats acne breakouts, delivers clear skin, improves the complexion, reduces dark circles, slows down the process of ageing, and acts as a natural moisturiser. Let's see how you can use raw turmeric in your skincare routine.Haldi mask for faceTurmeric maskTake two tablespoons of raw turmeric (kachchi haldi) powder, one tablespoon of sandalwood powder, 1 tablespoon of honey, 1 bowl, and some water.

Step 1: Take the bowl and put the turmeric and sandalwood powder together. Step 2: Add some honey to the powder mixture.

Step 3: Add a sufficient amount of water and create a thick paste.Step 4: Now, mix it well.Apply the face mask for 15 minutes and rinse off with cold water, followed by a moisturiser.Turmeric cleanserIf you're dealing with acne, dark spots, and signs of ageing, then follow these steps. Take some milk, one tablespoon of original turmeric powder, and one tablespoon of chickpea powder.

Step 1: Mix both the powders in a bowl.

Step 2: Mix them well and add a few drops of milk.

Step 3: Create a watery consistency and apply it all over your face.Keep it on for 15 minutes and then rinse it off with cold water. It would kill the bacteria brewing in your facial cells and would give you an enhanced glowy finish.t will leave a yellow stain for a long period of .Raw turmeric might have harsh effects on sensitive skin. Therefore, if you're not allergic to it then you're good to go to use it. It is a natural ingredient thus it mainly does not cause any major side effects on the skin. But, it might leave a yellow stain on your face after use. Also, if you're undergoing any serious medication then consult the doctor before using turmeric.

Turmeric face packs should not be used for more than 15 minutes or it will leave a yellow stain for a long period of time.

The dawn of the Sleepmaxxer



It had been months since health and fitness influencer Helen Leland had enjoyed a good night's sleep. She would wake up exhausted every morning, which increased her stress levels as the day wore on and resulted in setbacks in her personal and professional life. The reason turned out to be her habit of breathing through her mouth while sleeping which led to snoring. So, she began taping her mouth to enjoy a hassle-free sleep. "I used to be a mouth breather. It was apparent in the shape of my face and my tired energy level every morning. Then I started mouth taping in the night. Three years later, it is something I will never stop doing," she says.

Like Leland, numerous other influencers are extolling the virtues of practices believed to enhance one's sleep. Health and wellness coach Akshay Satija advocates taking magnesium supplements orally or applying it as a spray, oil or lotion. Dr Darshan Shah, a board-certified surgeon and founder of Next Health, recommends the use of a wearable sleep tracker device to monitor your sleep cycle, aiming for 7+ hours every night.

Though everyone aspires for a good night's sleep, these influencers and sleep aficionados are taking things up a notch with 'sleepmaxxing'. This trend, largely popularised on social media, encourages people to strive for perfect sleep by eliminating any potential distractions or obstacles. Driven by the belief that optimal rest is crucial for overall wellbeing, these people use avant garde products and practices to enhance sleep.

"Sleepmaxxing is a deliberate approach to optimising sleep. This trend has particularly captured the attention of high-performing individuals —executives, athletes, and professionals — who view optimal sleep as essential to achieving peak performance in both their personal and professional lives," explains Dr Mukesh Batra, founder and chairman of Dr Batra's group.

Dr Batra points to research linking insufficient or poor-quality sleep to numerous health issues including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, and weakened immune function.

Indians, in particular, fare poorly on a healthy sleep scale. According to a survey conducted by polling platform LocalCircles, 61 per cent of Indians sleep for fewer than six hours per night without interruption, with 23 per cent struggling to get even four hours of uninterrupted sleep. Further, fitness tracking company Fitbit's 2019 survey spanning 18 countries, concluded that Indians were the second-most sleep-deprived globally, with Japan leading the pack. Researchers at the Centre for Consciousness Studies, NIMHANS found that one-third of Indians were victims of varied sleep disorders.

Tired of struggling to sleep well every night, Swati Gupta, founder of Esme Luxury Silk turned to the bio-hacking community for a solution. Here, people DIY unconventional experimental biotechnology by using everyday items or recycled equipment to find solutions to problems. She found that many issues had to be addressed to maximise sleep quality.

Hence, she turned to silk to enhance her sleep as the fabric is known to regulate bod y temperature, reduce wrinkles and hair tangles, and provide a hypoallergenic sleeping environment. Gupta explains, "For any new innovation or habit to work, an individual's lifestyle habits are important. Silk is anti-bacterial and has many beauty benefits that have stood the test of time."



Dr Sreeragh Haridas, the wellness director at Six Senses Fort Barwara points out that mouth tapes, chin straps and magnesium supplements are mere hacks which have no backing by major scientific studies or evidence. "All these may offer temporary relief, but they are not advisable as long-term consistent solutions."

Instead, he advocates following a healthy routine for better sleep quality, which includes an optimal workout, a balanced meal intake, proper work-life balance, avoiding excessive screen time, creating a healthy sleep environment at home, and leaving a gap of three hours between dinner and sleep to allow the natural bio clock to work.

Get Sleepmaxxing

Mouth Tape

Strips of adhesive tape to be placed over the mouth to improve breathing, prevent snoring, stop mouth dryness and enhance the shape of the jawline.

Magnesium Oil / Lotion / Spray / Supplements

Magnesium encourages deep and healthy sleep. It can be used in a variety of ways including as oral supplements or application-based lotions, sprays and oils.

Sleep Tracker Devices

Smart bands or rings that track the number of hours one sleeps at night, as well as the quality of the sleep.

Chin Strap

A cloth strap that is fastened around the head with a Velcro to hold the chin tight and mouth closed while sleeping. It reduces mouth snoring by stabilising the jaw and encouraging natural breathing through the nose.

Sleep Mocktail

A drink made to consume before bed containing magnesium or melatonin supplements, cherry juice and soda to enhance the flavour of the drink.

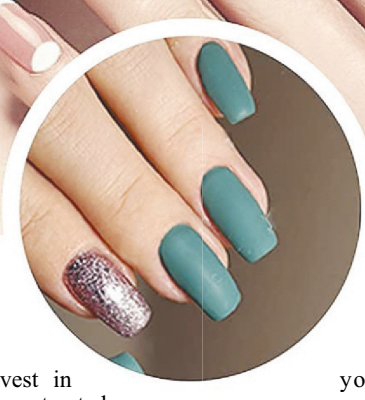
Truth bombs about nail extensions and nail salons











Well groomed nails signify a lot about you and currently we all know about the latest nail trends but do we also know that if not done properly, a botched case can lead to multiple problems. Read on as we decode the "real story" of nail salons and how to pick and choose the best one.

'Every second salon is a nail salon'

"Everybody wants a cheaper service. So customer will easily opt for a place that offers nail service at Rs 400. That does not necessarily mean it's efficient. Just to save few bucks the client of going to have problem in the long run. Just like picking a dentist, it's important to do your research before you pick a nail salon," starts off Nalini Ahlawat, Nail Industry Pioneer with 18 years of experience.Perhaps it's important to know about the salon and their services rather than just randomly picking any nail salon who's offering freebies or cheaper rates.#Truth bomb: Disinfection is a must!"As an international requirement it's a mandate to do 100% disinfection of all the tools and machinery. It's important for nail salons to maintain standards. All metallic tools after every client are put into the cidex solution. This solution is commissioned only from hospitals. This is a rapid process for disinfection. After this, all tools are wrapped individually. This chemical is expensive hence some salons avoid but it's mandatory to get it done," explains Gurpreet Seble, International Nail Educator & Nail Expert, North America.To add to this, it's very important to clean the seats, tubs and tools or even the hand rest for that matter.

After disinfection comes sanitization. Many women don't bother to check on this important point at salons. It's important to ask and question the salon what sterilizers they are using to clean their tools.Lack of hygiene can cause serious health problems so beware. "It's very easy for cross-contamination to happen. Sometimes clients only see short term benefit and what looks good on the outside. It's important for staff and women customers to have efficient training at nail salons," says Nalini.#Truth bomb: Lack of knowledge

What is important to know is that the tehnicians need to have the right credentials and knowledge to do nails. Cases in the past have emerged of nails getting damaged and becoming brittle due to mishandling. "Acrylic nails are a very technical field and only the well trained staff can do this. A wrong case can spoil your nail health. Proper license and certification need to be in place for the salon and their team. These days people are watching and learning from YouTube without proper guidance from an educator and obtaining half knowledge which is even worse. Invest in your education to get best results," says Nalini.#Truth bomb: Beware: Fungal infections, HIV, Hepatitis!A fun fact about nails is that nails do not breathe. It's the cuticle and nail bed which breathes. So it's important that someone knowledgeable handle your nails with extra care. Early this year, a report in US stated that after a woman developed cancer after nail technician goes too rough! Worse cases of mishandling and bad hygiene practices can also lead of cross-contamination and spread of diseases like HIV, Hepatitis and even fungal infections from one customer to another!Bottom line: Invest in your nails and a trusted nail salon just like you do for your health!Do nail extensions damage nails?"NO. Everything has its pros and cons. What is important is to go to a reputed salon that has quality products and a staff that is properly educated and trained by an international nail academy. If you want to get a service done, ensure you are getting the best quality products. Pricing should be the last thing to judge a salon so do your research well," explains Gurpreet Seble, International Nail Educator & Nail Expert, North America.



Emerald glow

The allure of peridot



How about trekking as a rockhound after sunset? That sounds weird! In the dark. True, the miners of Egypt exactly did this to identify the beauty of the 'Evening Emeralds'. Any guess on the gem name? During rock hounding, we occasionally stumble upon larger narratives and unexplored stories.Let me take you through this gem known as PERIDOT. Here is a gemstone that the Ancient Egyptian rulers referred to as 'the gem of the sun' owing to its intense radiance emanating from within. These Peridots were considered not to be mined during daylight as their brightness would render them invisible, while in the dark they were distinguished as they gave off their light. Thus, the miners would mark the locations during the evening and return during the day to collect these stones. Does this statement make sense, that this gem keeps itself lustrous both during the day and night, even under artificial lightning? So, this could also be a reason to refer to them as "Evening Emeralds".This lively gemstone has a unique history, mistaken identities, and exciting extra-terrestrial journeys.Peridot is a bright green August birthstone, bundled with the other two:

1) The Sardonyx with bands of white and reddish layers of sard creating a reddish-white banded appearance.

2) The Spinel looks identical to a ruby.

Now, a little brainstorming before we move on.How do you pronounce the word Peridot? Do you like to call it "Pear-eh-doe" or 'Pear-eh-dot"? Most jewellers and Gem collectors pronounce it as peri-doe, which follows the French way of pronunciation, where the letter t is silent, like depot or 'doe' as in a female deer. The American way is peri-dot. However, you pronounce it, our embedded relationship with the treasures is drawn towards the beauty of this lovely green ranging from bright to subtle green.

During searching for the origin of Gemstones, we often unravel a much larger narrative about our natural relationship with the treasures of this physical world and how we choose to use them for metaphysical connection & understanding. Explore such exclusive rare Gems at our Crystal museum – Touchstone, at the Main Guard Cross Road.

The Mistaken IdentitiesPeridot has often been confused with other Gemstones. One Egyptian legend mentions that peridots were unearthed, for the royal treasury of the pharaoh, with miners working restlessly. Therefore, whispers amongst historians are that the famous emerald collection of Cleopatra was almost sure to have at least some Peridots, if not all, because of the abundance of Peridot deposits in Egypt.In another case of mistaken identity, the Gems that adorn the shrine of the Three Holy Kings in Germany's Cologne Cathedral were Emeralds when they were Peridots.With an enhanced scientific approach, gemologists have developed ways to identify and distinguish Gemstones based on their scientific properties and chemical makeup, clearing all the misrepresentations. As with ancient times, visual appearance was the primary means of determining a stone type, leading to mistaken identities.

Peridot is composed mainly of an olivine-rich rock known as peridotite, along with iron and magnesium, which give them their characteristic colour depending on the amount and type of iron present. Ferrous iron creates its envious colouration.

The finest grade olivine contains more magnesium than iron.In certain rare cases, this extra-terrestrials gem has found its way to the earth via meteorites and has been verified against gemological techniques to prove its outer-space origins.On Mother Earth, these geographic locations of peridot mines occur in Egypt, Myanmar, Arizona, Pakistan, China, Vietnam and Finland.Peridot is the only Gemstone to show, in only one colour – Olive Green. It is the most attractive feature. As an individual, flaunt a colour you love, from the gorgeous spectrum of bright green to green, with yellowish or brownish tints. Most customers desire light greens as they are beautiful on fairer complexions. However, many prefer a bright green for its rarity. Peridot is a gem, especially for the August-born and those celebrating their 16th anniversary.

Old RTR flyover back on track for light vehicles, structural audit underway

Delhi.(Agency)

The Old Rao Tula Ram (RTR) flyover, a key connecting route to the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, will reopen for light vehicles from Monday evening, Public Works Department (PWD) minister Parvesh Verma announced on Monday after inspecting the repair works. Completed in 2009, the Old RTR flyover has served as a vital link for airport-bound traffic from south Delhi for over 17 years.The flyover's carriageway towards IGI Airport from Vasant Vihar was closed on October 20 after the traffic police detected cracks in the road surface at two locations. A subsequent inspection had revealed deteriorating concrete in the gap slab section, visible cracks on the road and exposed iron reinforcement rods. Hence, traffic on the stretch was halted as a precautionary measure.

"The necessary repair work has been completed, and the flyover will be reopened for light vehicles starting Monday. A comprehensive structural audit is also underway to ensure the strength and long-term safety of this flyover, which was constructed in 2009," the PWD minister said.Verma visited the site along with senior officials to review the work before clearing the structure for use. He stressed that the temporary closure was a necessary step, taken solely in the interest of public safety, and that the department acted swiftly to restore connectivity within a week.During the closure, traffic was diverted to the adjoining service road, which led to heavy congestion and long queues at the approach to the flyover, particularly during peak hours. The reopening is expected to bring relief to daily commuters.

UP poll body apologises for bizarre 'thank God Ram didn't kill any minority' post

Delhi.(Agency)

Amid a raging controversy over the Uttar Pradesh chief election officer's alleged casteist remark on an erroneous voter slip entry, the poll body on Tuesday apologised for the "tone" and "language" of the comment. The row erupted after AAP MP Sanjay Singh questioned Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over the erroneous entry where "Ramhit Yadav" became "Ram ne Yadav ko Maara".The name appeared in the voter list of the recent Uttar Pradesh legislative council elections. Pointing out the glaring mistake, Singh questioned the CEC on whether he was running the agenda of a particular political party. It comes amid massive protests against Gyanesh Kumar over the SIR exercise.

WHAT IS THE CONTROVERSY?

In a post on X in Hindi, Singh asked, "Gyanesh Kumar, why did Ram hit only a Yadav? Why did Ram not hit any Singh, Pathak, Asthana, Sharma, Rai or Bisht? Is your computer casteist? Are you running the agenda of any political party?"In a sarcastic response, the office of Uttar Pradesh CEO Navdeep Rinwa cited another instance of a similar error in the voter list. Here, the name of the father of a voter, Ravi Sharma, was incorrectly recorded as "Ram ne Sharma ko Maara".This was used by the UP CEO to argue that while an error definitely happened, no caste discrimination took place.

"A bizarre name, 'Ram ne Sharma ko maara' (Ram killed Sharma), has appeared in the voter list for the recent Legislative Council elections. Computers/software are not casteist. We admit that a mistake was made, but fortunately for us, even when the mistake occurred, caste discrimination was not involved," the UP CEO tweeted.It followed another sarcastic remark. The post further said that had the entry read "Ram hit a minority", the authorities would have been accused of communalism too."Thank God, Ram did not kill a member of a minority community. Otherwise, we would have been accused of being communal as well as casteist," it said.

Gen Z outreach or harassment? Youth Congress's X post on Nov 1 rally sparks row

The Indian Youth Congress deleted a promotional video for its November 1 Chalo Delhi rally after online criticism. The clip drew outrage for appearing to depict the secret filming of women as fashionable.

Delhi.(Agency)

The Indian Youth Congress (IYC) has deleted a promotional video for its November 1 'Chalo Delhi' rally in Ramlila Maidan after facing a backlash over footage that appeared to show a man secretly filming women on a street at night.The post, captioned "Kinda chic tho??", drew criticism for seemingly portraying the unwanted filming of women as something fashionable.The 20-second video shows the man using his phone's flashlight to film three women walking at night. He is then seen taking several pictures of them before scrolling through the images on his phone.As he zooms in on a picture of one of the women, a poster for the Ramlila rally is visible on her phone.

When asked what message the video was intended to convey, IYC president Uday Bhanu did not offer a direct explanation, saying instead that stalking should not be encouraged.Asked whether he had seen the video or approved its posting on social media, Bhanu said the content was handled by the organisation's IT Cell and that it was not possible to approve every video posted online."It's wrong to secretly film someone or take their pictures. We also want to know why the IT Cell posted this video," he told .Responding to the criticism, the IYC took a swipe at its critics, saying it did not "usually respond to IT Cell coolies" and adding, "Everyone has bills to pay."

It then sought to shift the focus to the BJP, asking critics to address questions surrounding the Ankita Bhandari murder case."Want to discuss women's safety? Explain how the VVIP culprit in the Ankita Bhandari case became a



Governor," the Youth Congress said, before adding, "Sit down. Let Gen Z speak."The now-deleted post, however, triggered outrage online, with social media users questioning why footage resembling street harassment was being used to publicise a political event.BJP leader Vishnu Vardhan Reddy tweeted, "Indian Youth Congress is normalising stalking and harassment in the name of its so-called 'Chalo Delhi' campaign. What a cheap party Congress has become."While one commenter said, "So Congress supports stalking and eve teasing," another posted, "So it's the eve teasers and molesters that go to such places."One more person on X asked, "Is Congress promoting crimes against women?"The November 1 rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan is expected to draw around 10 lakh people, according to the Opposition INDIA bloc, which is seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.Described as the culmination of the 'Delhi Chalo' march, the protest will target alleged irregularities in the functioning of the Election Commission and what the Congress calls "vote chori".The party said the rally would send a strong message of Opposition unity in the fight.

Yamuna cruise set to begin in November

Delhi.(Agency)

Delhiites may soon be able to enjoy a cruise along the Yamuna, with trial runs of the 'Namo Yamuna River Safari' set to begin in the first week of November. Spanning a 6-km stretch, the new attraction is envisioned as a family-friendly destination featuring a restaurant, park, kid's zone, musical fountain and water sports.The project, being developed between Sonia Vihar and Jagatpur on a six-km waterway, is expected to boost tourism and create employment opportunities, with facilities being developed to turn the vicinity into a recreational destination, said Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who conducted a trial run and inspected the cruise service.The preparations are under way to operate a cruise with a capacity of 30 passengers on the route. The round trip from Sonia Vihar to the Shani Temple in Jagatpur and back is expected to take around 35 to 45 minutes.Passengers will enjoy a boat ride along the designated route and return to their starting point at the end of the journey. The trial run is planned to continue for about a week, followed by preparations for a formal launch in the first week of November.

An official announcement will be made once the final date is decided. Under the proposed arrangements, the entry fee for the premises has been set at `50, while the proposed fare for a complete cruise trip is `500.The CM said that the city shares a deep emotional and cultural bond with the Yamuna. The launch of Yamuna Safari will give this bond a new dimension while opening up fresh opportunities for tourism and recreation in the capital.She said the government plans to formally launch the Yamuna Safari before Chhath Puja so that residents can enjoy this unique experience with family. Just as boating on rivers in other cities offers people a chance to unwind and get closer to nature, residents of Delhi will also be able to enjoy a cruise while taking in the sights of the Yamuna.The initiative is an important step towards developing an attractive tourism destination for families. She stressed that while tourism facilities are being developed, equal attention must be paid to keeping the Yamuna clean and protecting the environment.

City records lowest minimum temperature for the month at 16.2°C; AQI at 174

The maximum temperature settled at 31.4 degrees Celsius, 0.4 degrees below normal. The previous day's AQI was 153.

Delhi.(Agency)

The capital recorded its lowest minimum temperature of the month 16.2 degrees Celsius on Monday, while the Air Quality Index (AQI) rose to 174, placing it in the moderate category.The maximum temperature settled at 31.4 degrees Celsius, 0.4 degrees below normal. The previous day's AQI was 153.According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), an AQI between 0 and 50 is classified as good, 51 and 100 as satisfactory, 101 and 200 as moderate, 201 and 300 as poor, 301 and 400 as very poor, and 401 and 500 as severe.

Of the 57 air quality monitoring stations in Delhi, 18 recorded poor air quality, one station, Ghogha, recorded satisfactory air quality, and the rest recorded moderate air quality. The highest Air Quality Index was recorded at CRRI Mathura Road at 248.

The Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi said the ventilation index is expected to remain below 6,000 square metres per second, with average wind speeds below 10 kmph, conditions unfavourable for the dispersion of pollutants.The city's air quality is likely to deteriorate to poor on October 27 and 28, and improve to moderate on October 29. The outlook for the subsequent six days indicates moderate to poor air quality, the system said.

According to the Decision Support System for Air Quality Management in Delhi, transport emissions contributed 23.8 per cent, the highest, to the city's pollution.

Residential sources' contribution to air pollution was 6 per cent, industries' was 4.9 per cent, construction activities' was 3.3 per cent, energy and waste burning contributed 2.2 per cent each, and road dust and other sectors 1.6 per cent each.Among the National Capital Region districts, Sonipat contributed 7.2 per cent, followed by Jhajjar at 6 per cent, Gurugram at 2.5 per cent, and Ghaziabad and Rohtak at 2.3 per cent each.



Gautam Buddha Nagar and Baghpat contributed 1.7 per cent each, Jind 1.3 per cent, Meerut 1 per cent, Faridabad 0.9 per cent, Muzaffarnagar 0.8 per cent, and Bulandshahr 0.5 per cent. Stubble burning contributed up to 4.6 per cent to Delhi's pollution, according to the Decision Support System.The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Delhi is likely to witness mainly clear to partly cloudy skies until October 28. Thunderstorms accompanied by rain are possible on October 29 and 30.

'Ensure regular deep cleaning and water sprinkling'

In an effort to combat the rising air pollution in Gurugram, Industry and Commerce Minister Rao Narbir Singh instructed municipal corporation officials to ensure regular deep cleaning and water sprinkling on the roads, an official said. The minister emphasised the need for special cleaning drives to remove dust and soil accumulated on roads.

Over 2L Form 6 applications filed till October 25, shows SIR data

Delhi.(Agency)

More than 2.63 lakh applications seeking fresh voter enrolment were filed between August 31 and October 25, with five days to go before the claims and objections period of the SIR of electoral rolls in the capital ends, data showed.A total of 263,446 Form 6 applications were received during the period, in addition to 212,400 applications filed before the publication of the draft electoral roll. The figures come a day after the last round of special enrolment camps was held at all 14,947 polling stations across the capital on Sunday to help eligible voters whose names were missing from the draft rolls re-enrol.The claims and objections period began on August 31 and will end on October 30. Election officials are supposed to dispose of the applications by November 30, while the final roll is to be published on November 4.



During the same period, 19,804 Form 7 applications seeking deletion of names were received, taking the total to 71,275, including 51,471 filed before August 31.In all, 99,720 Form 8 applications seeking corrections or changes in electoral roll entries were received between August 31 and October 25. Including the 260,768 applications filed earlier, the total stood at 360,488.

Sunday's camps were the last in a series of special enrolment drives conducted during the claims period. Similar camps were held at all polling stations on six Sundays between September 20 and October 18. Separate drives were launched at educational institutions to enrol eligible voters aged 18 to 25. Around 200 night shelters and similar locations were also covered to reach homeless people, transgender persons and sex workers.Special camps were held in areas where settlements were recently demolished, including Bela Estate, Jailor Wala Bagh, Narela, Bawana, Mangolpuri and Wazirpur Industrial Area, to help the displaced access electoral services.

Assistance provided at helplines and help desks

Electors can seek assistance with enrolment by dialling the helpline 1950 or by visiting help desks at district election offices and Electoral Registration Officers. More than 30 lakh cases involving logical discrepancies have been resolved in the final electoral roll.

Students reject univ's call to end protest, exam to be held online

They insisted the agitation would continue until the administration addressed their demands.

Delhi.(Agency)

An agreement signed at 4 am on Monday failed to break the deadlock at Jamia Millia Islamia, as students rejected the administration's terms. By the end of the day, the university deciding to conduct the second mid-term semester examinations online. Online classes have been extended till November 8.By morning, celebrations over the assurance that the students' union constitution would be formed after 15 days had given way to uncertainty. Students on hunger strike rejected all three points in the administration's October 26 order, arguing that it offered no firm commitment on their key demands. They insisted the agitation would continue until the administration addressed their demands.The order outlined plans to hold elections 15 days after approval of the constitution, revoke suspension and show-cause notices, and set up a committee to investigate security personnel's actions during the protest.Tensions escalated across the campus, with large numbers of women students coming to the forefront. Some climbed iron gates 10-12 feet high, resisting police attempts to pull them down. Students repeatedly banged the gates amid sloganeering and marched in large processions, refusing to disperse.Protesters ran between gates, dodging police and attempting to force them open. The Ibn-e-Sina gate broke during the confrontation, while protesters pulled out a grill at Gate No. 7.Security personnel filmed demonstrators as drones hovered over campus gates. The administration welding a gate after reports of students entering the campus through different gates over the weekend added to the tension.More than 30 students were reportedly detained. The university administration did not publicly respond to the students' renewed rejection of its order.



Noel Tata questions Tata Sons filing confirming Chandrasekaran's reappointment

New Delhi.(Agency)

Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata has renewed his challenge to the validity of Tata Sons' board resolution reappointing N Chandrasekaran as executive chairman for another five-year term, raising questions over board procedures, voting requirements and potential conflicts of interest, reported The Economic Times.The immediate trigger for the latest letter was Tata Sons' filing with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs confirming Chandrasekaran's reappointment despite objections from a sitting director, ET reported.The September 17 board resolution reappointed Chandrasekaran for five years from February 21, 2027, with substantial management powers. Noel Tata has also opposed the proposed listing of Tata Sons, a plan backed by Venu Srinivasan and others.In his letter to Tata Sons company secretary Suprakash Mukhopadhyay, reviewed by ET, Noel Tata referred to his earlier letters dated September 30 and October 8, in which he had raised objections to the September 17 board meeting and its draft minutes.

Microsoft buyout explained: What employees get and what happens if they say no

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Microsoft is offering voluntary buyout packages to around 60,000 employees, with severance pay, continued stock vesting and health insurance forming part of the exit terms. But employees who decline the offer face a key uncertainty: whether their jobs will remain secure if the company later decides to cut its workforce.

The offers vary according to an employee's seniority, location and length of service, with some workers eligible for weeks of base pay for every six months of service and others offered a package equivalent to 12 months of salary, according to a report by Business Insider.The report said the offers reviewed by the publication aligned with Microsoft's standard severance terms in the US. A Microsoft spokesperson told Business Insider that about 60,000 employees would be eligible for the buyout programme.

Employees have until early December to decide whether to accept the offer, with those who opt in expected to leave the company at the end of the year. Microsoft has said it has no plans for another buyout programme at this time, according to the report.

Quick Commerce Still A Rs 200-Rs 999 Habit, Only 16% Spend Rs 1,000: Survey

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

Quick commerce may be growing fast, but the bills are still small. A new LocalCircles survey shows that most Indians use these apps for modest orders, not big-ticket shopping.

About 69 per cent of users typically order between Rs 200 and Rs 999. Within that, 27 per cent spend Rs 400-Rs 599. Another 22 per cent spend Rs 600-Rs 999, and 20 per cent spend Rs 200-Rs 399.

Only 16 per cent place orders of Rs 1,000 or more. That includes 9 per cent at Rs 1,000-Rs 1,499 and 7 per cent at Rs 1,500 or above. Another 7 per cent spend less than Rs 200 per order, and 10 per cent could not say.As per the survey, Blinkit reported an average order value of Rs 518 in April-June. Amazon Now says its average is about Rs 575. Swiggy Instamart reported Rs 708 for July-September.

Small Baskets, Bigger Pinch

Small orders have a catch. Delivery.

Received Jio allotment Here's how much money you can make on listing

New Delhi.(Agency)

Jio Platforms IPO investors who have received shares in the allotment may be looking at potential listing gains of nearly 22%, based on the latest grey market premium (GMP). With the company's shares scheduled to list on October 28, investors are now watching whether the stock can deliver gains in line with grey market expectations.

The Jio Platforms IPO's latest recorded GMP stood at Rs 246 as of 9:37 am on October 27, 2026, according to the data available. Against the upper end of the IPO price band of Rs 1,119 per share, this implies an estimated listing price of Rs 1,365.At this price, the expected listing gain works out to around 21.98% over the issue price. However, GMP is an unofficial indicator of market sentiment and does not guarantee the actual listing price or returns investors will make.

HOW MUCH CAN JIO IPO INVESTORS MAKE?

The Jio Platforms IPO had a lot size of 12 shares, with the issue priced at Rs 1,119 per share at the upper end of the price band. An investor allotted one lot would have invested Rs 13,428.Based on the current GMP of Rs 246 per share, an investor holding one lot could make an estimated listing gain of Rs 2,952. At the implied listing price of Rs 1,365, the total value of the 12 shares would be Rs 16,380.For an investor allotted two lots, comprising 24 shares, the investment would be Rs 26,856. At the current GMP, the estimated gain would be Rs 5,904, taking the total value of the holding to Rs 32,760.An investor who received three lots, or 36 shares, would have invested Rs 40,284. If the shares list at the estimated price of Rs 1,365, the holding would be worth Rs 49,140, implying a gain of Rs 8,856.For investors allotted five lots, comprising 60 shares, the investment would be Rs 67,140. Based on the current GMP, the estimated listing gain would be Rs 14,760, taking the total value of the shares to Rs 81,900.These calculations are indicative and assume that the shares list at Rs 1,365. Actual gains or losses will depend on the listing price and subsequent market movements. Brokerage charges, taxes and other applicable costs have not been included.

HOW TO CHECK JIO PLATFORMS IPO ALLOTMENT STATUS

Investors can check their allotment status



through KFin Technologies, the registrar to the issue, or through the BSE and NSE websites.To check the status on KFin Technologies, visit their website and select Jio Platforms from the IPO list. Choose the relevant search option, such as PAN, application number or demat account number, enter the required details and submit them to view the allotment status.On the BSE website, select 'Equity' under the issue type, choose Jio Platforms from the issue name list, enter your PAN or application number, complete the verification process and submit the details.Investors can also check the available IPO bid details though the NSE website by clicking here.Select 'Equity & SME IPO bid details', choose Jio Platforms from the symbol list, enter the required details and submit the request.The allotment status will show whether shares have been allotted and, where applicable, the number of shares received. Investors should use the official registrar and exchange websites to confirm their status.

WHEN WILL JIO PLATFORMS SHARES LIST?

Jio Platforms shares are scheduled to list on the BSE and NSE on October 28, 2026. The IPO was open for subscription from October 21 to October 23, with a price band of Rs 1,065 to Rs 1,119 per share and a lot size of 12 shares.

Pakistan's India trade puzzle: Imports see massive 69% jump despite ban

New Delhi.(Agency)

While direct trade between India and Pakistan has remained suspended since the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, the latest figures suggest Indian goods continue to be in great demand in Islamabad. Pakistan imported goods worth $61.74 million (Rs 5,876 crore) from India in the first quarter of the 2026-27 fiscal year, up 69% from $36.55 million (Rs 3,478 crore) in the same period last year, according to a Dawn report. However, Pakistan recorded no exports to India during the same period..The striking surge in imports of Indian goods to Pakistan raises an obvious question. If direct trade between the two countries remains suspended, how are Indian goods reaching Pakistan? The data, compiled by the State Bank of Pakistan, does not answer that. Experts suggest that the goods are likely being routed via third countries such as the UAE and Singapore.

PAKISTAN'S IMPORTS FROM INDIA JUMP 69%

Geopolitical expert Ravinder Singh Robin said the data points to continuing demand for Indian goods in Pakistan. "If direct trade is suspended, what route are these goods taking, and how are their country of origin and source being recorded? Could some be reaching Pakistan through third countries?" Robin tweeted."If the demand is significant, shouldn't Islamabad consider what it would take to restore normal relations - including credible action on terrorism and the alleged use of Pakistani soil by terrorist groups?" he further said.Pharmaceutical products are Pakistan's key imports from India. Until March 2025, India's pharma exports to Pakistan amounted to $208 million, as per a Reuters report.Other key goods include plastic, petroleum, dyes, organic chemicals, rubber, coffee, tea, vegetables, spices, dairy products and cereals.However, after India's decision to close the Wagah-Attari



border, the only land port through which trade was permitted, bilateral trade now stands at near zero. The move came after Pakistan-based Lashkar terrorists brutally killed 25 tourists in Pahalgam last year, sparking a three-day conflict.The incident has led India to reinforce its hardline position that "terror and trade cannot go together".Since then, India has banned the direct or indirect import or transit of goods originating in or exported from Pakistan. On May 4, Pakistan also suspended all trade with India, including via third countries.However, despite the ban, Indian goods seemed to have found a way across the border.In fact, between July and September 2025, weeks after Operation Sindoor, Pakistan imported goods worth $36.6 million from India, according to a report in Arab News, which cited State Bank of Pakistan data. The imports were almost entirely pharmaceutical raw materials.

HOW ARE INDIAN GOODS LANDING IN PAKISTAN?

So, how are these goods landing in Pakistan despite a trade ban? According to geopolitical expert Robin, the goods are likely being routed via third countries to bypass restrictions and avoid scrutiny. These products are then re-labelled, commanding higher prices.According to the think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), unofficial Indian exports to Pakistan are likely to be $10 billion a year. The key re-routing hubs are Dubai, Colombo, and Singapore.GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava, in a LinkedIn post, called it the "grey-zone strategy". Here, goods are rerouted by taking them to facilities where they are transferred to other ships to avoid international trade curbs."Indian goods are sent to Dubai, Singapore, and Colombo. The goods are then stored in bonded warehouses in transit hubs. While in storage - still duty-free - the documents and labels are changed.

Delhi traders urge Congress to postpone November 1 rally, warn of Rs 10,000-crore hit

MUMBA.(Agency)

Delhi traders have urged the Congress to postpone its proposed November 1 rally at Ramlila Maidan until after Diwali, warning that the gathering could bring traffic to a standstill across parts of the capital and cause business losses of up to Rs 10,000 crore during the peak festive shopping season.The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI), which represents traders and entrepreneurs in Delhi, has written to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi seeking a change in the rally date. CTI chairman Brijesh Goyal has also sent a copy of the letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, requesting him to discuss the issue with alliance partners.In a statement issued on October 27, Goyal said traders operating in markets around Ramlila Maidan were worried about the possibility of barricading and road closures ahead of the proposed gathering.The concern follows a social media message from Rahul Gandhi on Monday regarding the planned protest. According to CTI, the message has heightened anxiety among traders who fear that the rally will go ahead during one of the busiest periods of the year for Delhi's wholesale and retail businesses.Traders are particularly concerned about whether restrictions could begin as early as October 31, a day before the rally.CTI questioned whether shops would be able to open on October 31 and November 1 and whether customers would be able to reach the markets if roads were barricaded or closed.

UP TO 20,000 VEHICLES COULD ENTER DELHI

According to CTI, Congress leaders have indicated that around 10 lakh people from across India could attend the rally. Based on that projected attendance, the traders' body estimates that between 15,000 and 20,000 vehicles could enter Delhi and head towards Ramlila Maidan.Its calculations suggest that transporting such a crowd could require between 10,000 and 12,000 large buses, along with another 5,000 to 7,000 smaller vehicles, including cars, minibuses and tempo travellers.Goyal raised concerns about where these vehicles would be parked.

Laptops logged out, IDs deactivated: InnoData lays off 500 in India, more in Phillipines

Mumbai . (Agency)

One by one, we started losing access to our official devices. Laptops were logged out, and official IDs deactivated."For a 28-year-old engineer based in Delhi, what began as a regular Monday at work on October 26 turned into a sudden job loss. The employee was



among those affected by layoffs at InnoData India Pvt Ltd, with IndiaToday.in learning that nearly 550 employees in India have been affected.Job cuts have also been reported among the company's teams in the Philippines.

Employees said the day began as usual, with workers logging in and recording their attendance before starting their daily tasks. By lunchtime, however, reports of job cuts had begun to spread. Soon, workers started losing access to company systems, followed by termination emails sent to their personal email accounts.IndiaToday.in has reached out to the company seeking comments on the layoff development.

A NORMAL WORKDAY TAKES A SUDDEN TURN

"It started as an usual Monday morning, with all of us logging in and recording our attendance before starting our daily work. And it continued just like it usually does, all hectic and chaotic up until lunch time," the employee told IndiaToday.in.The first sign that something was wrong came when reports began circulating that the company's Philippines team, including raters, quality experts, team leads and operational managers, had been fired during a Zoom call.The employee said some workers in India then checked the company's HR portal and found that their payslips had been generated. According to the employee, the portal showed October 26 as the official date of resignation and the last working day."We frantically reached out to our managers, who were also taken aback at the news," the employee said.

As workers tried to establish what was happening, access to company systems began to disappear.And while we were texting our HR team about the 'rumour,' one by one we started losing access to our official devices. Laptops were logged out, and official IDs deactivated," the employee said.

NEARLY 550 EMPLOYEES REPORTEDLY AFFECTED IN INDIA

IndiaToday.in has learnt that nearly 550 employees in India were affected by the layoffs on October 26. The cuts also appear to have extended beyond India, with employees in the Philippines reporting job losses.

A termination email reviewed by IndiaToday.in confirms that at least one employee was informed that their employment with InnoData India Pvt Ltd would end on October 26.

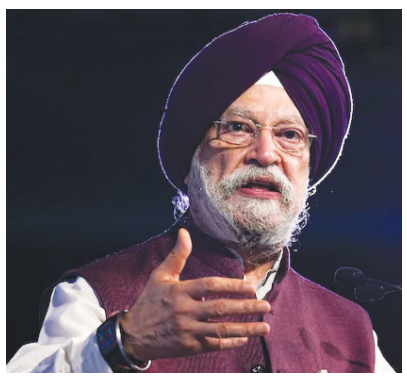
No pressure from US to cut Russian oil buys: Hardeep Puri after sanctions waiver

Kolkata.(Ajency)

India has faced no pressure from the United States to reduce its imports of Russian crude oil, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Tuesday, adding that refiners' purchasing decisions are driven largely by pricing and discounts available in the global market."I never felt anything," Puri said at an industry event when asked whether India had faced pressure from Washington to cut its purchases of Russian oil.The minister's remarks come as India adjusts its crude oil sourcing, with refiners increasing purchases from the Middle East and cutting back on Russian supplies amid stiff competition from China. India's imports of Middle Eastern crude surged in September, returning to levels seen before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, ship-tracking data showed.Puri said the flow of crude from different regions depended on the availability of supplies and the prices offered by producers. Middle Eastern oil supplies to India have been rising as countries in the region are able to ship more cargoes, he added.

RUSSIAN OIL PURCHASES DRIVEN BY DISCOUNTS

Puri said Russian crude accounted for just 0.2 per cent of India's oil imports before the Ukraine war. Purchases increased sharply after the conflict began, as Russian oil became available at discounted prices and offered Indian refiners an opportunity to reduce their costs.However, the pattern of imports has been changing as refiners compare the prices of Russian crude with those of



other grades. With Gulf suppliers offering competitive discounts and more Middle Eastern cargoes becoming available, Indian refiners have increased their purchases from the region and reduced their reliance on Russian supplies.The minister indicated that these shifts should be viewed in the context of commercial decisions rather than pressure from foreign governments. Refiners weigh the price of each grade against the alternatives available in the market when deciding where to source crude.Whatever people say or do, ultimately it is anchored in their self-interest," Puri said.

Pollution messing up lungs of civic workers, traffic cops in Bengaluru

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Screening of over 11,000 frontline workers in Bengaluru found reduced lung function in 45 per cent of pourakarmikas, 29.5 per cent of BMTC personnel, 28 per cent of traffic police personnel and 15 per cent of construction workers due to air pollution, according to findings presented by the VAAYU Occupational & Environmental Respiratory Illness Clinic (VOERIC) on Monday.The screening initiative since November 2023 has identified concerns over diabetes, uncontrolled blood pressure, overweight and obesity across occupational groups routinely exposed to traffic emissions, road dust and construction-related pollutants.

Presenting the findings at a round table titled 'Protecting Those Who Protect Our City', Dr Ravindra M Mehta, Founder and Medical Director of VAAYU Chest & Sleep Specialists, said regular screening and longitudinal research were essential to understand long-term health consequences of occupational exposure. He cautioned that further research was needed to establish the extent to which workplace exposure contributed to specific respiratory and cardiovascular outcomes.

Amid drought, maize farmers stare at bleak prospects in Karnataka's Hassan

HASSAN.(Agency)

Severe drought conditions have resulted in widespread crop loss in Hassan district. The district administration has estimated the crop loss at Rs 724.4 crore.Despite many farmers switching over from potato cultivation to maize, their lot has not improved. Over the last decade potato crops were being blighted by Angamari, a plant disease, making the switchover a must for many.But drought has spoiled their plans.

Jayaramegowda in Dudda village is crestfallen after losing his maize crop in three acres. He had taken a loan of Rs 1.5 lakh from a commercial bank as well as Rs 1 lakh from money lenders five months ago. He has no other income to clear the loan. He was hoping that a good yield would get him around Rs 2.50 lakh but drought has dealt him a hard blow.

Now he is waiting for crop loss compensation from government. He blamed successive governments for not instituting a mechanism for scientific compensation for crop loss for farmers.Jayaramegowda is not alone.Hanumaiah, Krishnappa, Raganna, Dyavanna, Subbaswamy, Savitramma and Kariaiah are a few of the farmers with below five acres land holdings in Dudda.

SIT records statements of two members in PSC scam

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)

The SIT probe into PSC exam scam entered a crucial stage on Monday as investigators recorded the statements of two PSC members, while summons were issued to its chairman and two other members to turn up for questioning in the coming days. Statements of S Sreekumar and S A Saif were recorded at the Crime Branch headquarters, while a third member, Stany Thomas, was turned away as he was not issued a summons to appear for recording his statement.

The SIT recorded the statements for more than four hours, sources said. Saif's statements were fully recorded, while Sreekumar's was stopped midway at the nightfall. Recording of his statement will continue subsequently. Two other members have been issued notices to appear for questioning on Tuesday, while chairman M R Baiju has been issued a notice to turn up on Wednesday, SIT sources revealed.

Apart from these, five more members will be questioned in the later stage, sources added. The sources said the members who played a key role in selection procedure and also part of the interview board have been issued summons in the first leg.

After April chaos, Railways' plan for migrants' Diwali travel from Surat on the track

IIT Gandhinagar team develops wearable sensor to monitor body performance of a person during strength training or playing tennis, and swimming

Surat.(Agency)

Top Western Railway officials camped in Surat's Udhna railway station on the weekend to test the new systems in place as the first lot of around 11,000 migrants headed to their home states on six trains for Diwali and Chhath puja festivities.In October, the railway authorities inaugurated a Yatri Seva Kendra — an expanded passenger holding area — at Udhna Railway Station from where trains head to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha, home to the textile workforce of the city.Western Railway sources told The Indian Express that a special 'war room' has been established under the direct supervision of senior officials to monitor the crowd in real time.Approximately 70 high-definition CCTV cameras have been installed across the premises. Digital display screens provide train updates, and a passenger announcement system—comprising around 150 speakers—ensures clear communication. To prevent long queues, 10 additional ticket windows have been opened, including a dedicated counter for passengers with disabilities.Following the war in West Asia that triggered an LPG crisis, the Udhna Railway station had witnessed a surge



of migrants rushing back home, with a single day in April witnessing over 22,000 passengers breaking police barricades set up at the station to catch trains. The police resorted to lathi charge to control the crowds that day.

Surat's textile industry employs at least six lakh migrants from other states who go home during the festive seasons of Holi and Diwali.Given the high passenger traffic situation and past experiences, Western Railway Divisional Railway Manager Pankaj Singh and Divisional Commercial Manager Ananya Kirti were in the station on Saturday and Sunday to oversee "crowd management", said sources.The teams examined the existing facilities and crowd management handled by local officials and gave suggestions to ensure the safety of passengers. The teams personally visited the passenger holding areas and talked to the passengers and listened to their grievances.According to Western Railway officials, from Saturday midnight till Sunday afternoon, a total of six trains, including two holiday specials, left Udhna Railway station for UP, Bihar, Odisha, and other states from Udhna Railway stations carrying over 11,000 passengers. The RPF and GRP teams were stationed at different spots to maintain the queues of passengers and ensure law and order.

New holding area

Drawing lessons from the chaos and overcrowding witnessed earlier this year, the WR inaugurated a vast passenger facility centre—or 'holding area'— on the eastern side of Udhna Station on October 16. Spanning half a kilometre in length and 36 meters in width, it is the second-largest facility of its kind in the country.

Gujarat declares 4 districts as drought-affected

CM says Devbhumi Dwarka, Porbandar, Kutch & Jamnagar witnessed low rainfall; decision & relief measures to come into force from November 1

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

The Gujarat government on Monday declared four districts — Devbhumi Dwarka, Porbandar, Jamnagar and Kutch — as drought-affected and announced relief measures to be implemented in those areas.Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel made the announcement in Gandhinagar in the presence of Agriculture Minister Jitu Vaghani. The decision and ensuing relief measures will come into force from November 1.CM Patel said, "This season, the state overall received around 89 per cent (%) rainfall. However, Devbhumi Dwarka, Porbandar, Kutch, and Jamnagar districts witnessed lower rainfall. In light of the situation created due to low rainfall across these four districts, the state government has taken a generous decision to stand alongside the farmers."The CM said the decision was taken after completing the required procedures as per the Centre's Drought Manual Guidelines, 2016, and convening high-level meetings.As per the available official figures, by October 15, Devbhumi Dwarka, Porbandar, Jamnagar and Kutch witnessed rainfall deficit of 83.5%, 69.1%, 56.7% and 42.4% respectively against the average rainfall in the past 30 years.The CM also announced the relief measures to be implemented in the four districts.

According to the CM, the farmers will be provided compensation for crop loss as per the norms of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).The CM said, "The state government will provide assistance to farmers at the rate of Rs 8,500 per hectare, capped at a maximum of two hectares."An official release said, "For animals in cattle camps in the drought-declared talukas, assistance of Rs 80 per animal per day will be provided from SDRF funds for two months. Thereafter, the state government will bear the cost of this assistance in the larger interest of animal husbandry farmers.""So far, around



1.21 crore kg of fodder have been distributed across the state at a subsidised rate of Rs 2 per kg. The state government, at present, has 3 crore kg of fodder in stock and has initiated the process of procuring additional supplies," the release said.The CM said, "Even before declaring a drought, starting from June–July 2026, the government granted approval to distribute fodder at subsidised rates across the state, authorising District Collectors under special provisions for fodder distribution."Also, the state government will be providing 150 days of employment under the VB-G RAM-G [Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar & Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)] Yojana to the drought-affected talukas to ensure livelihood opportunities for rural residents.Quoting the CM, the release said, "…water had been supplied to the command areas of 44 dams during the Kharif season based on demand…This year, the state's 206 major dams have recorded 66% water storage. The state government has planned to supply irrigation water to the command areas of 76 dams during the coming Rabi season. At the same time, priority has been given to drinking water, with reserves maintained to meet drinking water needs until June 30, 2027."It added, "Under this plan, irrigation water will be supplied from 11 dams, including Dharoi and Dantiwada, in North Gujarat; 12 dams, including Karjan and Panam, in Central Gujarat; nine dams, including Ukai, Kakrapar and Damanganga, in South Gujarat; 39 dams, including Shetrunji, Brahmani and Machchhu; and five dams in the Kutch region.

For Andhra Pradesh fisherwomen, a cyclone means more than lost fishing days

VISAKHAPATNAM.(Agency)

With the Bay of Bengal frequently witnessing low-pressure systems, depressions and cyclones that disrupt fishing activity, women in Visakhapatnam's fishing community are once again facing uncertainty over their livelihoods as Cyclone Arnab intensifies.After a deep depression in September, the latest weather system threatens to halt fishing and disrupt the trade that sustains these women, who invest in the daily catch, buy fish at auctions and sell it in local markets while bearing the risks of fluctuating prices and weather-dependent business.Fresh fish must be sold quickly to recover their investment, while shifting to dried fish is equally uncertain, as rain can spoil the stock and deepen their losses.While fishing boats remain ashore during adverse weather, the economic impact extends beyond fishermen to the women who purchase, process and sell the catch.From bidding at harbour auctions and transporting fish to markets to cleaning, drying and selling it, they manage much of the post-harvest trade, often investing their own money and bearing the risk of losses.As the cyclone threat looms, their immediate concern is not only when fishing will resume, but also how they will meet household expenses and repay loans until business returns to normal."The fish trade requires significant investment and carries considerable risk. If market prices fall after we purchase fish at auctions, we have to absorb the losses. There is no guarantee of profit," said Nolli Mangamma, a fish trader at the fishing harbour.

The recent deep depression in September and the approaching cyclone have further unsettled their businesses, the women said. With fishing operations affected and fresh fish supplies dwindling, traders are finding it difficult to maintain their daily earnings. "Our livelihoods have been thrown into uncertainty.Whenever the weather turns hostile, many of us depend on the dried fish trade to survive.It provides some income when fishing operations are suspended," said C. Korlamma. However, drying fish is not a reliable alternative during the monsoon or cyclonic weather.

ECI orders suspension of 6 officials for lapses during polling for Agra MLC seat

Lucknow.(Agency)

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday ordered suspension of six officials, including two sector magistrates and four police personnel, deployed for the supervision of voting at three booths in the MLC's Agra Teachers' Constituency where repolling was held following allegations of irregularities and malpractices on the day of voting on October 23.The Commission also ordered disciplinary action against five polling officials and 16 policemen deployed on duty at the three polling booths.The Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) had sent a letter to the ECI recommending repolling in the seat and action against the officials responsible for the irregularities.The commission had on October 24 ordered the Agra Divisional Commissioner to probe the allegations of irregularities and malpractices leading to the repolling.The Divisional Commissioner submitted the inquiry report on Sunday.In a letter sent to the CEO on Monday after receiving the Divisional Commissioner's report, the Commission said, "With utmost concern, the Commission has observed that the officers entrusted with supervisory responsibilities failed to ensure effective supervision and maintain proper control within and in the vicinity of the polling stations. Such dereliction of duty on the part of officers holding supervisory positions is viewed seriously and cannot be condoned."

Taking cognisance of serious lapses, the Commission directed suspension of the officers with immediate effect.Those against whom the suspension order was issued are OP Chak, sector magistrate and Agra district khadi and village industries officer, Harisharan Singh, sector police officer.

Cyclone Arnab begins battering coastal Andhra; red alert for five districts

VISAKHAPATNAM.(Agency)

Rainfall and gusty winds began affecting parts of north coastal Andhra Pradesh early on Tuesday as very severe cyclonic storm Arnab continued moving towards the coast over the west-central Bay of Bengal. The system is expected to intensify through the day, with heavy rainfall forecast in the north coastal districts.Strong winds and rain began affecting coastal districts, including Srikakulam, Palasa, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam, early on Tuesday. Rainfall also started picking up in the Kakinada-Pithapuram belt.In its bulletin issued at 2.30 am on Tuesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Arnab had moved west-northwestwards at 25 kmph during the preceding six hours.The storm was centred over the west-central Bay of Bengal, around 300 km southeast of Visakhapatnam and 360 km east-southeast of Kakinada.The IMD has issued a red alert for extremely heavy rainfall in Eluru, East Godavari, West Godavari, Konaseema and Kakinada districts. An orange alert has been issued for heavy to very heavy rainfall in Srikakulam, Parvathipuram Manyam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Bapatla, Guntur, Krishna and NTR districts. Palnadu, Prakasam and Nellore districts are under a yellow alert for moderate to heavy rainfall.Arnab is likely to continue moving west-northwestwards until Tuesday evening before turning northwestwards. The system is expected to cross the Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam.

How Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag bypass could reshape Char Dham traffic flows

Dehradun.(Agency)

Trial movement of vehicles began on Monday on a bridge-and-tunnel link forming part of the Rudraprayag bypass in Uttarakhand. The route is intended to divert vehicles travelling towards Kedarnath and Badrinath away from the town's congested market, where local traffic and pilgrimage-bound vehicles share a limited road network.The project comprises a 900.30-metre tunnel, a 200-metre bridge over the Alaknanda River and connecting roads, with a total length of approximately 1.18 km. According to the Uttarakhand government, it has been constructed at a cost of around Rs 156 crore and will connect the Kedarnath National Highway (NH-107) with the Badrinath National Highway (NH-07). Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inspected the route on Monday and said it would be formally inaugurated soon.The scale of the annual pilgrimage underlines the pressure on Uttarakhand's road network. According to state government figures, 51.06 lakh pilgrims visited the four Char Dham shrines in 2025, up from 46.69 lakh in 2024. More than 5.1 lakh vehicles reached the four shrine areas during the 2025 season. Kedarnath recorded the highest footfall, with 17.68 lakh pilgrims, followed by Badrinath, which received more than 16.6 lakh.

Why Rudraprayag matters

Rudraprayag is a key junction on the road network serving two of Uttarakhand's principal pilgrimage destinations. Vehicles travelling towards Kedarnath and Badrinath pass through the district, while the town itself generates local traffic from residents, businesses and public services.During the Char Dham pilgrimage season, the additional volume of vehicles can put pressure on roads running through built-up areas. Congestion at a single junction can slow traffic along the wider mountain route, affecting journey times for pilgrims, local



commuters and vehicles transporting goods.The new link is intended to separate through-traffic from vehicles using the town's internal roads. Unlike a conventional road-widening project, which increases capacity along an existing alignment, the bypass creates an alternative route around a congested settlement. The tunnel passes through the hillside, while the bridge carries traffic across the Alaknanda River to connect the two highway corridors.If the route is opened for regular use and attracts a substantial share of through-traffic, it could reduce pressure on the market area. The extent of the benefit, however, will depend on traffic management, the connections with existing roads and how many vehicles are diverted.

Harry Kane beats Mbappe, Yamal to become first English Ballon d'Or winner since 2001

London.(Agency)

Harry Kane has become the first Englishman since Michael Owen in 2001 to win the men's Ballon d'Or, beating Kylian Mbappe and Lamine Yamal to football's most prestigious individual award at a ceremony in London on Monday.

The 33-year-old Bayern Munich striker was rewarded for the most prolific season of his career, scoring 73 goals in 65



appearances for club and country during the 2025-26 campaign. He also won the European Golden Shoe after finishing as the leading goalscorer across Europe's domestic leagues.gues.ant to continue playing.Kane became the fifth Englishman to win the Ballon d'Or, joining Sir Stanley Matthews, Sir Bobby Charlton, Kevin Keegan and Owen. His triumph also continued a remarkable trend in the award's history. Lionel Messi, who won it in 2012 at the age of 25, remains the last player aged 27 or younger to claim the men's prize.

India aim to seal New Zealand T20I series as Bhuvneshwar, Sooryavanshi eye redemption

New Delhi.(Agency)

India are one win away from sealing the T20I series against New Zealand, but the third match in Wellington on Tuesday, October 27, offers more than just an opportunity to take an unassailable 3-0 lead. Led by Shreyas Iyer, India will look to maintain their winning momentum while addressing a few concerns that have emerged despite their impressive start.nt in the opening exchanges.Bhuvneshwar Kumar



will be keen to rediscover his rhythm with the ball, while teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi will look to make a stronger impression after a disappointing outing in Christchurch.India have won the first two matches by four wickets each, chasing down targets of 226 and 181. Their batting depth has repeatedly come to the rescue, but the bowling unit has struggled to contain New Zealand's aggressive approach.

The hosts, meanwhile, have their own concerns, with Matt Henry ruled out of the remainder of the series and Lockie Ferguson unavailable for the Wellington clash.Ishan Kishan's absence has opened the door for Sooryavanshi to make his mark. Kishan has been ruled out of the third T20I after sustaining a low-grade right adductor strain during the series opener. His availability for the remaining matches remains uncertain as he continues his recovery.

Sooryavanshi, who managed just four runs off eight deliveries in the second T20I, will be eager to put that outing behind him. The 15-year-old has had limited opportunities since his debut in July, and a substantial contribution in Wellington would strengthen his case for a longer run in the side.

Shadab Khan gives drowning Pakistan cricket a lifeline when all hope seemed lost

Shadab Khan struck an unbeaten 113 off 96 balls to script a remarkable one-wicket victory for Pakistan after they slumped to 154-9 while chasing 242 in Lahore. His record-breaking stand with Haris Rauf offered Pakistan cricket a much-needed lifeline amid a prolonged search for stability and consistency.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Pakistan cricket was running out of reasons to believe. Defeats had piled up, controversies had overshadowed performances, and repeated changes had left the team searching for stability. Just when another collapse seemed to capture everything wrong with Pakistan cricket, Shadab Khan produced an extraordinary rescue act, offering a struggling team a precious moment of hope.

Chasing 242 in Lahore, Pakistan slumped to 154-9, with defeat seemingly inevitable. Shadab remained unbeaten on 113 off 96 balls, guiding Pakistan to a remarkable one-wicket victory alongside Haris Rauf. Their unbroken 89-run partnership became the highest 10th-wicket stand in a successful men's ODI run chase, breaking a 51-year-old record.Yet, the innings meant more than the numbers. At a time when Pakistan desperately needed someone to take responsibility, Shadab showed what composure, courage and belief could achieve. This was more than a miraculous escape; it was a reminder that Pakistan cricket still had something worth believing in.

A TEAM SEARCHING FOR DIRECTION



Pakistan's problems have been building for years. The men's team have not won a senior men's ICC title since the 2017 Champions Trophy, and the prolonged wait has widened the gap between the country's rich cricketing heritage and its recent results.Talent has rarely been the issue. Pakistan continue to produce players capable of changing matches single-handedly. What remains elusive is consistency — turning individual brilliance into collective success and maintaining stability through difficult periods.

The recent England tour brought those concerns into sharp focus. Following defeats in the first two Tests, Pakistan sent seven players home, replaced head coach Sarfaraz Ahmed with Mike Hesson and made further coaching changes. Internal inquiries surrounding Mohammad Rizwan and Imam-ul-Haq added to the uncertainty.For a team needing clarity and cohesion, the upheaval only deepened the sense of drift. Once again, Pakistan cricket was making headlines for turmoil rather than performances.

That was the backdrop to Shadab's innings. Pakistan did not need another reminder of their problems. They needed someone to stand up when defeat seemed unavoidable. Shadab offered a different narrative, built on responsibility and the refusal to surrender.

Harry, my friend: Virat Kohli celebrates Kane's Ballon d'Or win with heartfelt post

New Delhi.(Agency)

Virat Kohli congratulated his friend Harry Kane after the England captain won his maiden men's Ballon d'Or on Monday, October 26. In a social media post, Kohli recognised the Bayern Munich striker's hard work, resilience and



consistency at the highest level of football.

The India batter shared a heartfelt message for Kane following the award ceremony in London, celebrating the 33-year-old's achievement and praising the way he had conducted himself throughout his career."Harry my friend, you deserve every bit of this award for your resilience, hard work and honesty with which you've carried yourself through all these years playing football at the top. Really happy for you. God bless you and your family. They must all be very proud of you as you would be of your own journey. My best wishes always. Congratulations," Kohli wrote.

Kane beat competition from Kylian Mbappe and Lamine Yamal to claim football's most prestigious individual honour. He became the first Englishman since Michael Owen in 2001 to win the men's award and only the fifth English player to do so, joining Owen, Sir Stanley Matthews, Sir Bobby Charlton and Kevin Keegan.The recognition capped the most prolific season of Kane's career. The Bayern Munich forward scored 61 goals in all competitions for the German club during the 2025-26 campaign, helping them win the Bundesliga, DFB-Pokal and Franz Beckenbauer Supercup.Kane also scored 14 goals in the Champions League, although Bayern's campaign ended in the semi-finals against eventual winners Paris Saint-Germain. At the 2026 FIFA World Cup, he scored six goals as England finished third.

The Ballon d'Or was accompanied by another individual honour for Kane, who was named Men's Striker of the Year. He also won the European Golden Shoe after finishing as the leading goalscorer across Europe's domestic leagues.

KANE'S LONG JOURNEY TO BALLON D'OR

Kane's Ballon d'Or triumph marked a significant milestone in a career that saw him spend years chasing major honours before moving from Tottenham Hotspur to Bayern Munich in 2023The England captain had established himself as one of the world's most prolific forwards during his time in the Premier League, but his move to Germany brought a new chapter in his career. His goals and consistency helped Bayern enjoy a trophy-laden 2025-26 season, strengthening his case for the individual award..

Ballon d'Or: Thierry Henry hits Lamine Yamal where it hurts. Divides opinion

New Delhi.(Agency)

Thierry Henry has divided opinion on social media after asking Lamine Yamal whether the Kopa Trophy was the award he really wanted to win at the Ballon d'Or ceremony in London on Monday.

Yamal, 19, collected the award for the best young player for the third consecutive year. However, the Barcelona forward used his acceptance speech to suggest that team-mate Pau Cubars deserved the honour instead.Henry, who co-hosted the ceremony with broadcaster Kate Scott at the London Palladium, then asked Yamal whether the Kopa Trophy was the prize he had really wanted to win that evening. The question prompted laughter in the auditorium, but it also became a talking point on X.Yamal initially laughed before explaining that he wanted to win every trophy but believed Cubars deserved this particular award. The defender had impressed for Barcelona, and Yamal made a point of acknowledging his teammate during his speech.The exchange drew criticism from some viewers, who felt Henry had put the teenager in an uncomfortable position in front of a live audience. Some users described the question as disrespectful and accused the former France striker of embarrassing Yamal. Others argued that Henry was joking and that the interaction was being taken too seriously.The debate extended beyond the exchange with Yamal. Henry also faced criticism over his correction of Scott's pronunciation of the Socrates Award, with some viewers interpreting his response as unnecessarily sharp. The two moments prompted discussion about the former Arsenal striker's approach as a presenter.

HARRY KANE WINS BALLON d'Or

The ceremony had plenty of sporting significance beyond the exchanges on stage. England captain Harry Kane won



the men's Ballon d'Or after a prolific season with Bayern Munich, becoming the first Englishman to receive the award since Michael Owen in 2001. Kane scored 61 goals in 51 appearances for Bayern across all competitions as the club won the domestic league and cup double. He finished ahead of Kylian Mbappe, with Yamal third.Spain midfielder Alexia Putellas won the women's Ballon d'Or for the third time, having helped Barcelona secure a treble before moving to London City Lionesses.Barcelona's Vicky Lopez retained the women's Kopa Trophy, while Spain coach Luis de la Fuente was named men's coach of the year.

Asian Champions Trophy: India want more than just dominance on hockey's Punjab return

India enter the Asian Champions Trophy as the overwhelming favourites, but Harmanpreet Singh and his side will be chasing more than just the title. With hockey returning to Punjab after a hiatus, the Indian team will aim to thrill fans in Jalandhar and Mohali.

Jalandhar.(Agency)

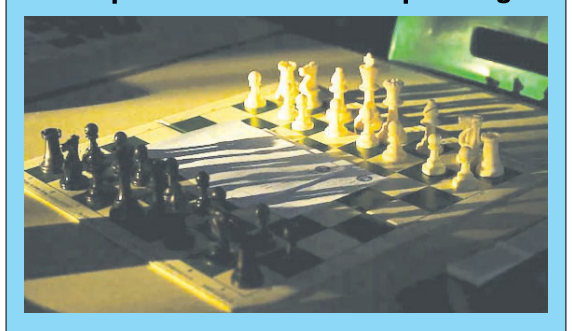
Asian hockey has followed a familiar script over the past four years: India dominate, the rest try to keep pace, and the continental silverware keeps coming.India enter the Asian Champions Trophy 2026 as overwhelming favourites, having established themselves as the continent's dominant force. Their recent record against Asian opponents has been formidable, with two Asian Games titles, two Asian Champions Trophy crowns and an Olympic bronze medal in Paris highlighting their success.India are also the only Asian team inside the FIH world rankings' top 10. At the 2026 Hockey World Cup, they were the only side from the continent to reach the second phase, although their performances left room for improvement.Pakistan, traditionally one of India's fiercest rivals, had offered some resistance in recent encounters. However, their decision to skip the tournament in Punjab has further tilted the balance in India's favour.On paper, another Indian title appears to be the most likely outcome. But that has also raised questions about the tournament's competitive value, with some questioning what it offers beyond another opportunity for India to assert their continental supremacy.

"This tournament should not be held, boss. Wasting money," said former India coach V. Bhaskaran to India Today.



"What is this Asian Champions Trophy? Does it get any qualification? Asia Cup is meant for qualifying. Asian Champions Trophy was the previous Asian Champions Cup Hockey. They converted it to Asian Champions Trophy."How come Bangladesh are getting in? They're not in the first five in Asia. They came in as a replacement because Pakistan was not ready to play. Why should you do that?"Yet, for India, the tournament is about more than simply adding another trophy to an already impressive collection. As the final major assignment of the year, it presents an opportunity to maintain their winning momentum and finish the season on a high. With expectations firmly on their shoulders, a slip-up is unlikely to be part of coach Craig Fulton's plans.India captain Harmanpreet Singh, however, has made it clear that his team will not take anything for granted."Every team is here to compete and win the tournament. All the teams are strong, and we do not want to take any opponent lightly. Everyone has come here to give their best," said India captain Harmanpreet."We have gaine a lot of experience and matured as a team. We will approach every match with the same mindset and give every opponent the respect they deserve," said Harmanpreet on the eve of the tournament.India's challengers will also have their own motivations. Malaysia will be keen to avenge their defeats to India at the 2023 Asian Games and Asian Champions Trophy. South Korea, who made a strong impression in 2021, will hope to rediscover that form and mount another challenge.China have emerged as a team on the rise. They finished runners-up in the previous edition, pushing India hard in the final, and will be eager to take the next step. Japan, meanwhile, will look to rediscover the form that once made them a formidable force in Asian hockey."Bangladesh, drafted into the competition as a replacement for Pakistan, will also have a point to prove. They will be keen to show they belong on this stage and are not merely making up the numbers.India, the most successful team in Asian Champions Trophy history.

3 in 4 women in chess face discrimination or harassment, 44 per cent consider quitting



New Delhi.(Agency)

Three out of four women and girls in chess have experienced at least one form of discrimination or harassment, while 44 per cent have considered stepping away from the sport, according to the first global survey of women in chess conducted by the International Chess Federation (FIDE).The survey, which analysed 672 responses from 127 national federations, found that 63 per cent of respondents had experienced gender bias in chess settings, while 38 per cent reported sexual harassment or inappropriate behaviour. Online abuse and harassment were reported by 38 per cent of respondents, highlighting the challenges women face both within the sport and beyond the tournament hall.The findings were published by FIDE's Commission for Women's Chess following a survey conducted between August 3 and September 14, 2026. The respondents included players of different ages and competitive levels, as well as arbiters, coaches, organisers and federation officials.India was the largest contributor to the survey, with 69 respondents. The sample also included 133 FIDE-titled players, among them 10 Women Grandmasters, 27 Women International Masters, 49 Women FIDE Masters and 43 Women Candidate Masters.The figures were more pronounced among adult respondents and women holding FIDE titles. Among women aged 18 and above, 70 per cent reported gender bias and 46 per cent said they had experienced sexual harassment or inappropriate behaviour.



Ayesha Khan

Reacts As Fan Says 'Big Fan Of Munawar Faruqui'; Brother Confronts Him

Ayesha Khan found herself in an awkward moment during an event in Hyderabad after a fan brought up Munawar Faruqui's name while speaking to her on stage. A video of the exchange has since gone viral, with Ayesha's restrained reaction drawing attention.The actress, who recently gained popularity for her appearance in the song Shararat from Ranveer Singh-starrer Dhurandhar, had first come into wider public view during Bigg Boss 17. Her equation with Munawar became one of the most discussed storylines of that season after she entered the reality show as a wildcard contestant and made a series of allegations against him.

Fan Mentions Munawar Faruqui In Front Of Ayesha Khan

Ayesha was attending an event in Hyderabad on Saturday, October 24, when a fan named Zaid Mehdi joined her on stage.Addressing the actress, he initially said, "I am a big fan..." before pausing and adding, "of Munawar Faruqui."The remark immediately created an awkward moment on stage. Zaid later clarified that he had only been joking.Ayesha, however, did not visibly lose her composure. She continued smiling and clapped after the comment, choosing not to respond directly to the Munawar reference.The clip began circulating online soon after the event.



Ayesha Khan's Brother Confronts Fan

While Ayesha did not react verbally, her brother Shahbaz Khan appeared displeased with the remark.He confronted the fan following the exchange, after which security personnel escorted Zaid off the stage.The mention of Munawar attracted attention because of Ayesha's history with the comedian during Bigg Boss 17, when their personal equation became a major talking point inside the house.

Ayesha Khan Had Made Allegations Against Munawar On Bigg Boss 17

Ayesha entered Bigg Boss 17 as a wildcard contestant and accused Munawar of being involved with more than one woman at the same time.She had alleged that he was two-timing her and his former girlfriend Nazila Sitaishi. During the show, Ayesha also claimed that Munawar had approached her for a music video.

At one point, she alleged, "He wasn't only cheating on me and Nazila but several other women. At one point, he was with five different women and was lying to all of them."Ayesha further claimed that Munawar had sent a marriage proposal, or rishta, to another woman before entering the reality show, despite his complicated equation with her and Nazila.

Keerthy Suresh

Reveals Working With 'Insecure Male Co-Stars', Radhika Apte Says 'Not All Men...'

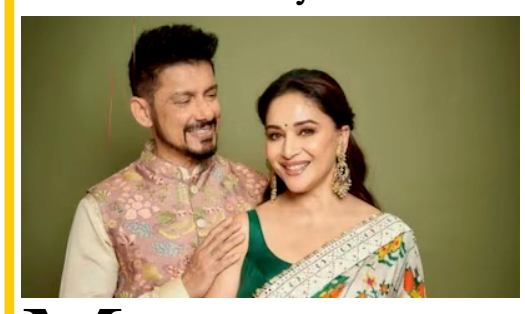
Akka chronicles ambitious women who build their own power structures, call the shots and asserts control so often that they become a threat to those around them. With Keerthy Suresh and Radhika Apte at the centre, the matriarchal gang setup opens up questions about female ambition, authority, loyalty and what happens when women refuse to remain on the margins.Speaking exclusively to News18, the actos open up on being ambitious, enterprising women in show business. Keerthy reveals that she has been surrounded by insecure male co-stars, who often projected their insecurities on her. "I don't know where this insecurity comes from when people see ambitious women. I've been in situations where I've worked with a few insecure co-actors," she says.



And this had led her to question herself. "I never understood or figured this out during the process. I started feeling that something is wrong with me. I thought it was me who was insecure. But towards the end of the shoot, I understood that it wasn't me. I realised that it was their insecurity that was making me feel insecure. Ambitious women can be intimidating after a point," she remarks.Radhika, on the other hand, tells us that while not all men are the same when working with powerful and opinionated women, there are women on sets too, who practice sisterhood selectively. "Not all men are threatened by ambitious women. Yes, there are some men who are like that, but I've also met a lot of men who are working hand-in-hand with women and that has been great," she says."Alternatively, there are a lot of women who you expect will support you but they don't. People are people, after all. Having said that, nowadays, sets have a lot of women. There's more equality than there used to be," Radhika further adds. Interestingly, Akka marks only her second action film after Mrs Undercover in a career spanning over two decades.Talking about why more films action-heavy gangster films centered on women aren't made for the big screen, she opines, "We know more about male gangsters in real life. We've grown up hearing stories of only male gangsters in recent history. That's probably where it comes from." But Keerthy attributes this dearth.



Dr Shriram Nene Says Madhuri Dixit's Stardom Never Intimidated Him: 'I Am Extremely Proud Of Her'



Madhuri Dixit and Dr Shriram Nene have often spoken about how differently their relationship began from what many might expect of a marriage involving one of Hindi cinema's biggest stars. When the two first met, Dr Nene had barely any idea about the scale of Madhuri's fame in India. He had not watched her films and, by his own admission, did not know much about her professional career.Years later, he says that perhaps the most important part of their marriage has been seeing each other first as individuals rather than through the weight of their respective achievements.In a recent interview with CNBC-TV18, Dr Nene spoke at length about his marriage with Madhuri, the attention that comes with being her husband, why her fame never made him feel insecure and how their relationship grew from a semi-arranged match into a partnership built on mutual respect."I am extremely proud of her," he said while speaking about Madhuri's stature and accomplishments.

Dr Nene Says Madhuri's Fame Never Intimidated Him

Asked how the two managed to build a relationship of equals despite coming from very different professional worlds, Dr Nene said both of them were secure in what they had achieved individually."I think both of us were kind of secure in our own knowledge of what we have done," he said.At the same time, he admitted that being married to someone as famous as Madhuri can occasionally be daunting and requires adjustment."I won't question for a second that it's daunting sometimes and you have to adapt. I trained at UCLA, where we took care of a lot of the celebrities from Hollywood. The only thing they really wanted was anonymity," he said.That experience, according to him, helped him understand fame from a slightly different perspective. Long before he married Madhuri, he had already interacted professionally with well-known personalities while working as a doctor.What mattered more to him when he met Madhuri was not her career but the person he got to know."To be honest with you, she is the most down-to-earth, lovely person you will ever meet. I saw commonalities in both of us," he said.

Shilpa Rao's Mumbai Performance Cut Short As Mic Is Switched Off: 'My Heart Broke Tonight'



Singer Shilpa Rao shared an emotional message after her performance at a Bollywood music project in Mumbai ended without her getting the chance to say goodbye to the audience. Despite fans continuing to cheer and call out her name, the singer was reportedly not given extra time to complete her act, leaving her deeply upset.

Shilpa Rao Shares Note After Mumbai Performance

Taking to Instagram after the event, Shilpa spoke about how the experience had affected her. She thanked the audience for continuing to support her even after the music stopped and said the moment had left her heartbroken."Mumbai, a little piece of my heart broke tonight. It hurts deeply to have something so beautiful taken away from us like this. But even when the music stopped, you did not. The way you kept calling my name, the love in your voices. I could feel it all. Our story tonight was left unfinished. I promise, I will come back. I love you, Mumbai. Forever and ever. Shilpa."

Microphone Reportedly Switched Off During Performance

The music project, produced by Deepak Choudhary, featured many singers performing for the audience. However, Shilpa's set reportedly ended abruptly when her microphone was switched off while she was waiting to address the crowd and conclude her performance.According to reports, other male singers were allowed additional time on stage, while Shilpa was not given the same opportunity.

Localized Russia-Ukraine ceasefire starts in deal brokered by Melania Trump, but Kyiv faces fresh attacks

The local pause in fighting started at 3 am in Ukraine to allow an aid mission into the Russian-occupied town of Oleshky in southern Ukraine later this week.



BELGRADE.(Agency)

A localized ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia took effect early Tuesday ahead of a humanitarian mission led by US first lady Melania Trump, as missile attacks resumed in Kyiv.The local pause in fighting started at 3 am in Ukraine to allow an aid mission into the Russian-occupied town of Oleshky in southern Ukraine later this week.According to her office, Melania Trump led talks with civilian negotiators from Russia and Ukraine after meeting with United Nations officials who briefed her on the situation in the town.The aid mission is planned ahead of a new round of US-brokered talks between Russia and Ukraine expected next month and aimed at ending the war after more than 4½ years of fighting.Up to 2,000 people are stranded in Oleshky with dwindling supplies of food and medicine. They have been unable to leave because of explosive mines and drone attacks in the area, according to the UNRussian and Ukrainian negotiators confirmed in sperate statements that the ceasefire had begun.

The local ceasefire is due to last through Saturday, or longer, amid deep mistrust between Russia and Ukraine that has thwarted previous attempts at ceasefires.

Minutes after 3 am, multiple ballistic missile explosions shook Kyiv as air alerts sounded in multiple parts of the country.Late Monday, the capital also came under attack, when Russian ballistic missiles damaged the grounds of a university in Kyiv, causing several injuries."It is important that the world sees that Russia is showing nothing but a desire to kill and continue waging war," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote in an online post shortly afterward.

Oleshky is in the partially occupied Kherson region, about 550 kilometers (340 miles) southeast of Kyiv, where the Dnipro River separates Russian and Ukrainian forces.

25% of South Asian Americans who voted for Trump in 2024 to back Democrats in midterms: Survey

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

At least 25 per cent of South Asian Americans who voted for US President Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election plan to support Democratic candidates in the November 3 midterm elections, according to a survey.The survey, conducted by advocacy group Indian American Impact, lists cost of living (65 per cent), healthcare (53 per cent), jobs and wages (33 per cent) and education (28 per cent) as key issues for the midterm polls.Among 800 South Asian registered voters surveyed, 87 per cent were Indian-Americans and the remaining 13 per cent were Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Nepali, Bhutanese, Maldivian, Afghani, Khmer, and Burmese people.Among those who voted for Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential election, 96 per cent plan to cast their ballots in favour of a Democratic candidate in the upcoming polls.The survey found that 67 per cent of South Asian Americans who voted for Trump still backed the Republicans, but 25 per cent said they would support Democrats.

Saudi Coalition Destroys 3 Houthi Missiles, 4 Drones Fired Towards Kingdom

Riyadh.(Agency)

The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said on Tuesday it intercepted and destroyed ballistic missiles and drones launched by the Houthis towards two regions of Saudi Arabia, as the conflict between the kingdom and the Iran-aligned group intensifies. The Houthis launched three ballistic missiles towards Saudi Arabia's Eastern Region, and four drones towards the country's Southern Region, the coalition said.Saudi Civil Defence issued early warning alerts for a potential hostile threat in the Eastern Region and in Kharj governorate, later saying the danger had passed in both areas.Saudi Arabia has intensified its strikes on the Houthis since the group captured strategic areas along Yemen's Red Sea coast last month, advancing towards the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a key global shipping route for Gulf oil producers on the other side of the Arabian Peninsula from the Strait of Hormuz.

A US Mercenary Group, A Fragile Peace And Global Race For Critical Minerals

world.(Agency)

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a private American military contractor whose name is associated with one of the most notorious episodes of the Iraq War is now operating alongside government forces fighting a powerful rebel movement which is backed by neighbouring Rwanda.

Erik Prince, the founder of the now-defunct private security company Blackwater and a prominent supporter of US President Donald Trump, has secured a role in Congo through his company, Vectus Global. Some of its many responsibilities are the security of mining operations and the collection of government revenue, including support for Congolese military operations against the M23 rebel group, which has seized territory across the country's mineral-rich eastern provinces.A September ambush in South Kivu, over 2,000 km east of the capital Kinshasa, left about 20 people dead or wounded, according to reports from the news agency Reuters and the New York .

US, UK among 31 countries warning of 'alarming' Sudan famine

PARIS.(Agency)

The US State Department issued a joint statement cosigned by 30 other nations Monday, warning that urgent action was needed to address the "alarming deterioration" in Sudan's food security due to the ongoing conflict.Aid workers estimate the war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which erupted in April 2023, has killed more than 200,000 people, displaced more than 13 million and created the world's largest hunger and displacement crises.

"The risk of famine in the coming months, as warned by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, needs urgent action," the statement read. "There is no time to lose to save lives and prevent famine."The statement said over 40 percent of the country's



population, an estimated 19.5 million, are experiencing acute food insecurity, with 5 million experiencing emergency levels."Without immediate action to reverse the current trajectory, the number of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition could exceed the projected 825,000," the statement continued, adding that the number of food insecure areas in the country are expected to double.The 31 signatories called on the warring parties "to lift all impediments on humanitarian assistance, allow and facilitate full, safe, rapid, and unimpeded humanitarian access, and protect humanitarian personnel."The US-issued statement was cosigned by the governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Jordan strikes militant groups in Syria after church attack

AMMAN.(Agency)

The Jordanian military said it had struck "terrorist organisations" in neighbouring Syria on Monday in retaliation for a deadly jihadist attack on a church last week, hours after authorities arrested three men they accused of the killings.It said air force jets had "destroyed several terrorist positions" and killed and wounded "numerous members" of groups linked to the perpetrators of the church attack.

Syrian authorities reported civilian casualties from the raids, with health officials in Daraa province saying six people, including three children and a woman, were killed.Syria's civil defence agency reported seven deaths in total, six people in Daraa and one in neighbouring Sweida province.

On Friday, gunmen killed nine people during a funeral service at the Greek Orthodox St George's Church in the village of Hammoud in Karak governorate, southern Jordan.



Karak is home to a significant Christian community in Muslim-majority Jordan, where Christians make up between two and three percent of the population.

Major General Abdullah al-Maaytah, Jordan's director of public security, on Monday named the three detained suspects as Hazza Zaidan Mohammed, Meshal Zaidan Mohammed and Ahmad Sami Hussein.

The trio, two of them brothers and the other related by marriage, were cornered at an abandoned house where they had barricaded themselves inside and opened fire on security forces."All three terrorists have been injured. They have been taken to hospital and are still receiving treatment," Maaytah told a press conference.One of the suspects was in critical condition, Jordan's state broadcaster Al-Mamlaka reported. There were no casualties among the security forces, it added.

Israel election explained: Netanyahu's fight to survive and what comes next

CHANDIGARH.(Agency)

Israelis will vote in a parliamentary election on October 27, the first since the Hamas-led attack of October 7, 2023. The verdict will decide whether Benjamin Netanyahu survives the security failure and three years of war that followed.

The Knesset was dissolved on July 17, clearing the way for the election. It will be Israel's sixth parliamentary vote since 2019, but the first in 38 years to arrive at the natural end of a full Knesset term.Israel's longest-serving prime minister wants voters to remember the damage inflicted on Hamas, the weakening of Hezbollah and the strikes against Iran. His opponents want them to remember the security breakdown that allowed the October 7 attack and Netanyahu's refusal to accept responsibility.But Israelis will not directly choose between Netanyahu and his main challenger, former military chief Gadi Eisenkot. They will vote for parties, and the next prime minister will be the leader who can bring together at least 61 lawmakers in the 120-member Knesset.The final polls show Netanyahu's opponents winning more seats than his allies. But they remain divided over ideology, leadership and whether to work with Arab parties. They may defeat Netanyahu at the ballot box and still fail to remove him from office.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR NETANYAHU?

Netanyahu has governed Israel for more than 18 years across three separate tenures. He is seeking a seventh term, and Israel has no limit on how long a prime minister can remain in office.For Netanyahu, this election is about more than another term. It will shape how Israelis judge his handling of one of the worst security crises in the country's history.

He has tried to shift attention from the October 7 failure to Israel's military response. Netanyahu presents himself as the leader who resisted international pressure, weakened Israel's enemies and restored the deterrence shattered by the Hamas attack.His opponents say military gains cannot erase the original failure. They accuse him of avoiding responsibility, blocking an official state inquiry and failing to secure an earlier agreement to free the hostages.For many voters, October 7 remains the starting point.

How A BMW, Audi Race On UK Street Led To 28-Year Jail Term For 2 Indian-Origin Men

London.(Agency)

Two Indian-origin men have been jailed for a total of 28 years after being convicted of causing the deaths of a mother and her four-year-old daughter as they walked to school in northern England. The jury found that car salesman Jasskamal Riyat, 37, was racing against Hardeep Bhachu, 29, who lost control



and rammed into the pair as they walked along Scott Hall Road on their way to school in January 2023.Justyna Hulboj, 27, and four-year-old Lena Czepczor died at the scene after being struck by Bhachu's Audi TT RS. Riyat was caught on CCTV racing Bhachu in a BMW M135i immediately before the road collision.

Bhachu pleaded guilty in June 2024 to causing their deaths by dangerous driving and was sentenced to 12 years in prison, according to a Yorkshire Evening Post report.Riyat denied responsibility, despite dashcam footage clearly showing him racing Bhachu, and was found guilty of two counts of causing death by dangerous driving and sentenced at the same court to 16 years' imprisonment.They were both also handed a six-year driving ban and will be required to take extended driving tests."A road is not a race track. A powerful car is not an invitation to test its limits on a public road," Judge Ray Singh said, addressing the duo in court."The consequences of competitive driving at extreme speed can be, and in this case were, irreversible," he said.The Race

During the trial, it was heard that the two Indian-origin men did not know each other. Minutes before the crash, Bhachu and Riyat had a conversation through the windows of their sports cars while waiting side-by-side at a traffic light.Bhachu's dashcam footage, as well as a recording on Riyat's phone, established that the duo congratulated each other on the power of their cars, with Riyat reportedly "egging him on".

They then began racing, with Riyat accelerating away first, followed by Bhachu, who had been travelling at almost 90mph on the 40mph road when he hit a kerb and lost control. His car mounted the pavement close to the Jaguar dealership, striking and killing the mother-daughter pair.

A woman and her young daughter have died because of the actions of these men, and I know no sentence will ever feel enough to compensate for the lives that have been lost," said Detective Inspector (DI) Paul Conroy of West Yorkshire Police's Major Collision Enquiry Team.

US assigns first nuclear-powered submarine to Australian base



SYDNEY.(Agency)

The Pentagon has assigned the USS Colorado as the first US nuclear-powered attack submarine to join a rotating force to be based in western Australia.The 377-foot (115-metre) Virginia-Class submarine, armed with land-attack missiles and sophisticated torpedoes, will sail to the new Australian base in late 2027, officials said Tuesday.The deployment is a "significant milestone" in building up a joint US-Australia-UK deterrence in the Pacific under their AUKUS defence pact, the allies said in a joint statement.The defence agreement, seen as a response to China's military buildup in the region, aims to equip Australia's navy with a fleet of stealthy nuclear-powered submarines and expand military cooperation between the three allies.Australia does not permit foreign military bases on its soil, but hosts US Marines for exercises for six months of the year in the northern city of Darwin.

The rotating force of nuclear-powered submarines -- known as Submarine Rotational Force-West -- is to be hosted at a naval base in Western Australia, HMAS Stirling.The base is projected to host up to five fast-attack submarines -- four from the United States and one from the UK -- on a rotational basis.It will help Australia prepare for operating and maintaining its own nuclear-powered submarines while supporting its allies' deployments and maintenance, the three countries said.The rotating submarine force was the first "really big milestone" under the AUKUS agreement, Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles told news channel News24.

"It's on track," Marles said.

"There are American personnel at HMAS Stirling right now readying the site for this.