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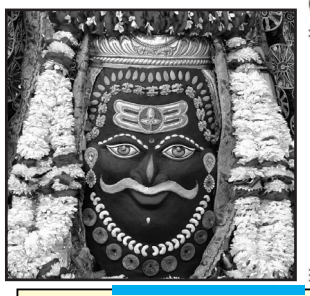
THURSDAY

MAHANAGAR METRO

VOICE OF THE CITY, PULSE OF THE NATION

AHEMDABAD/GUJRAT
Thursday, October 29, 2026

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10-year plan ready with Rs 1Lcr projects: CM DK Shivakumar

BENGALURU. (Agency).

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has assured legislators that funds have been allocated without any discrimination and that adequate resources have been provided to every Assembly constituency in the city.Addressing city MLAs and MLCs during a meeting on Tuesday, he said if legislators submit proposals for urgent works in their constituencies, the government will act quickly to release the funds. He added that the Bengaluru Development Authority and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) are making substantial investments in the city's infrastructure.

The government has also prepared a 10-year development plan, as Bengaluru will complete 500 years in 2037. The new projects will require about Rs 1 lakh crore.The government aims to increase the Metro network from the current 96 km to 170 km by 2027. "The state government is committed to upgrading Bengaluru's infrastructure and will give high priority to the city's development," he said and added that several major road projects are already under way to ease traffic in the city. These include a 40-km two-lane tunnel corridor, a 120-km elevated corridor and the upgrading of 1,500 km of arterial .

UAE honours Indian Captain Smit Machchhar, FlyDubai crew for thwarting mid-air attack

New Delhi (Agency).

UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has conferred the First Class Order of Zayed II on Indian Captain Smit Machchhar and fellow flydubai crew members for their courageous efforts in safeguarding passengers during an attempted mid-air attack aboard a Dubai-Tel Aviv flight.The medals were presented by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, who commended the crew's actions and sense of responsibility, Dubai Media Office said in a statement on Tuesday.Machchhar and the flydubai crew members received the award at the presidential reception.

The incident occurred on September 30 aboard flydubai flight FZ1073, which was travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv with more than 170 people on board.

Machchhar was attacked by his co-pilot with a crash axe, typically kept in the cockpit for use in emergencies, seriously injuring him. The motive for the attack remains unclear.The co-pilot, who was identified by Israeli officials as an Omani national, stabbed Machchhar and sent the jet plunging nearly 14,000 feet in less than 30 seconds.Machchhar was covered with blood on the floor when he managed to draw on "the last moments of his energy" to click open the release on the cockpit door.That allowed passengers and crew to overpower the co-pilot and enable a second pair of flydubai pilots who were on board to land the jet in Tabuk.

In a first since Operation Sindoor

India invites Pakistan for SCO forum in Delhi

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).

India has invited Pakistan's Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, to the first Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum in New Delhi from November 20 to 22, diplomatic sources said. India has invited all 10 SCO member states to the forum.The invitation comes amid strained India-Pakistan ties following Operation Sindoor, launched by India in May 2025 after the Pahalgam terror attack, and marks the first such invitation to a senior Pakistani minister since the military operation.

If Khichi attends, it would mark the first visit by a senior Pakistani minister to India since then Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attended the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Goa in May 2023.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced the forum at the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on October 20, saying all member states had been invited."At the end of this year, India will host the first SCO Civilisation Dialogue Forum.



We invite all SCO countries to participate in it," Singh said.

The forum is intended to strengthen cultural ties and promote mutual understanding among member states.At the meeting, Singh also called for a firm and consistent approach to terrorism, stressing that there should be no double standards."There should be no double standards in dealing with terrorism, and no place for those who finance, support or provide safe havens to terrorists. The entire ecosystem of terrorism must be firmly and collectively dismantled," he said.Pakistan Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar was present at the meeting.

Pakistan assumed the rotating chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of State for the 2026-27 term on September 1, taking over from Kyrgyzstan following the summit in Bishkek.

The SCO comprises 10 member states: Belarus, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India became a full member in 2017.Afghanistan and Mongolia hold observer status, while the grouping also has 15 dialogue partners.

Surat Municipal Corporation Under Fire Over Contaminated Drinking Water; Residents Question Authorities' Accountability

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Surat: Surat, widely recognised as a Smart City and the Diamond City of India, is facing questions over the supply of safe drinking water, one of the most basic civic necessities. Residents in several areas have reportedly complained of dirty, yellowish and foul-smelling water coming from their taps, raising concerns about water quality and the effectiveness of the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC).Despite the civic body's substantial annual budget, residents have questioned whether adequate measures are being taken to ensure a reliable supply of clean drinking water. The reported contamination has heightened concerns about public health and the possibility of waterborne diseases.Questions Raised Over El Niño ExplanationThe controversy has intensified amid reports that some local representatives have referred to El Niño while responding to concerns about the water supply. Residents and critics have questioned whether such explanations adequately address the immediate problem and have called on the authorities to identify the actual cause of the contamination.Citizens are demanding clear answers, timely action and greater accountability from the civic administration.Public Health Concerns Amid Reports of Contaminated WaterResidents in several residential societies and other localities have reportedly faced difficulties due to the quality of the water supplied to their homes. Contaminated drinking water can increase the risk of illnesses such as diarrhoea, typhoid, jaundice and gastrointestinal infections.Concerned residents may have to rely on alternative drinking water sources until the quality of the municipal supply is confirmed to be safe. Authorities need to conduct water quality tests and communicate the findings transparently to the public.Questions have also been raised about the maintenance of water pipelines, possible sewage contamination and the performance of filtration and treatment facilities.Demand for Immediate Action by SMCResidents have called on the Surat Municipal Corporation commissioner and the concerned departments to take urgent measures, including:Conducting inspections across affected wards and residential areas.Testing water samples to establish the extent and source of contamination .Checking pipelines for leakages and possible mixing of sewage with drinking water.Reviewing filtration and treatment plant operations and correcting any identified deficiencies.Providing residents with timely updates and ensuring safe drinking water supplies.Will the Civic Administration Respond Promptly?The reported complaints have raised serious questions about the effectiveness of water quality monitoring and the civic body's response to residents' concerns.



Delhi Assembly Met For Just 17 Days In 2025. Speaker Backs 30-Sitting Target

New Delhi (Agency).

The Delhi Assembly met for just 17 days in 2025 and its Speaker, Vijender Gupta, now wants legislatures across India to sit for at least 30 days a year.This was among the proposals discussed on Tuesday at a meeting of Assembly Speakers working on a common rulebook for legislative bodies. The committee was expected to finalise its recommendations, but it will now meet again.Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana, who chairs the panel, said suggestions from Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh needed further discussion before the recommendations could go to the Lok Sabha.The push for more sittings comes against a record of relatively short Assembly sessions. According to PRS' Annual Review of State Laws 2025, state Assemblies met for 24 days on average in 2025. The previous Delhi Assembly, from 2020 to 2025, averaged just 15 days annually.The proposal for a minimum of 30 sittings was adopted as a resolution at the 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference in January.Gupta supported three annual sessions - Budget, Monsoon and Winter - but drew a line at imposing exactly the same rules on every legislature."Uniform rules must not mean identical rules," he said, arguing that the distinct constitutional positions of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry had to be respected.The Speaker also pushed for the language of legislative rulebooks to change. Masculine expressions drawn from older legal conventions, he said, should be replaced.



20 Markets, 20 Traders, 20 Minutes: Delhi Trade Body's Offer To Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi(Agency).

Twenty markets. Twenty traders. Just 20 minutes with Rahul Gandhi. A Delhi traders' body has come up with a fresh proposal ahead of the Congress-led INDIA bloc's November 1 rally at Ramlila Maidan: convince us that the gathering will bring more customers and business, and we will welcome it.But there is another side to the offer. If the traders convince Gandhi that the rally will hurt business in the markets around Ramlila Maidan, they want him to postpone it until Diwali.Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) chairman Brijesh Goyal has written to the Congress leader seeking a 20-minute meeting with representatives of 20 major markets located within a five-kilometre radius of the rally venue.In the letter today, CTI said that if Gandhi could explain how the expected gathering of 10 lakh people would boost business and bring more customers, the traders' body would immediately withdraw its opposition and welcome the rally.



On the other hand, if the traders convinced Gandhi that the gathering would result in business losses, CTI wants him to defer the event in public interest."We want dialogue, not a fight," the association said in its letter, written in Hindi.

20 Markets, One Demand

The fresh appeal comes after Gandhi indicated that the November 1 rally would go ahead despite concerns raised by traders over possible disruption during the Diwali shopping season.In a social media post on Monday, Gandhi had told Delhi's traders that he heard their concerns. He also said the protest could end in "30 seconds" if Prime Minister Narendra Modi removed Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The Chamber of Trade and Industry says it will withdraw its opposition to the November 1 rally if Rahul Gandhi can convince traders that the gathering will benefit their businesses.

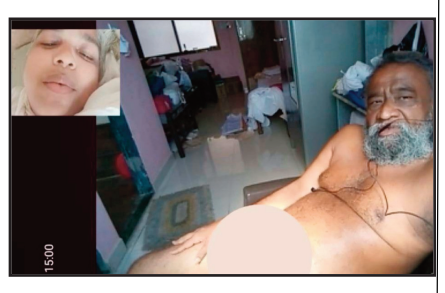
Jain Community Seeks Answers Mahanagar Metro News Challenges Sagar Chandra Sagar

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad: Jainism is widely revered for its principles of renunciation, self-discipline, non-violence and purity of conduct. However, serious allegations concerning Sagar Chandra Sagar have sparked debate and concern among sections of the Jain community and media circles. Allegations have been raised regarding his conduct, the use of religious donations and attempts to counter reports questioning his activities. These claims require careful examination and a fair opportunity for all concerned parties to present their positions.Allegations of Using a Team to Counter Critical ReportingAccording to complaints and claims cited by sources, whenever reports raising questions about Sagar Chandra Sagar emerge, a particular group allegedly becomes active to challenge the coverage. Critics claim that responses are issued without adequately examining the facts or independently verifying the information published.Questions have also been raised about whether funds donated for religious and community purposes are being used to support such activities. However, the allegations concerning the source and use of these funds would need to be substantiated through documentary evidence and independent verification.The central question remains whether donations intended for religious and charitable purposes are being used transparently and in accordance with donors' intentions.Concerns and Calls for



Accountability Within the Jain CommunityAllegations concerning the personal conduct of Sagar Chandra Sagar have reportedly generated concern among some members of the Jain community, including socially active individuals and young people. Those raising objections have called for a thorough and impartial inquiry into the claims.Serious allegations involving the treatment of women and female ascetics have also been raised.



molesting woman at Cyber Hub in Gurgaon arrested in Punjab

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 27-year-old man was arrested in Punjab's Firozpur on Oct 25 for allegedly molesting a woman at Cyber Hub in DLF Phase 2 three days earlier, police said.

The accused, Anmol Arora, a resident of Firozpur, was arrested after investigators traced him to his hometown and brought him to Gurgaon. A case was registered at DLF Phase 2 police station on the woman's complaint under sections 74 and 75 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which deal with assault or use of criminal force against a woman with intent to outrage her modesty and sexual harassment, respectively.

According to police, the woman was leaving a shop at Cyber Hub on Oct 22 when Arora allegedly touched her inappropriately. She raised an alarm, following which the accused fled from the spot, police said.Investigators found that Arora and his friend had left Cyber Hub and returned to Punjab after the incident. Police traced Arora to Firozpur, brought him to Gurgaon and formally arrested him on Oct 25.

Man wanted for murder held after gunfight

Noida.(Agency)

A man facing a murder investigation was shot at during a gunfight with cops in Jewar and later arrested. Police said the accused, Shan Mohammad, and his two accomplices had shot at a 36-year-old man, Imran, on Oct 8.On Monday, Shan Mohammad was flagged down by a patrol team near Jafargarh on Chachali Road after they spotted his bike without registration plates.

Greater Noida Additional DCP Santosh Kumar said Shan fired at the patrol unit that had tried to chase him down. He was shot in the leg during retaliatory firing.Shan was arrested after treatment under BNS sections 103(1) (murder), 191(2)(3) (rioting), 190 (unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution of common object), 3(5) (common intention) and 61(2) (criminal conspiracy).Cops have recovered a .315-bore country-made pistol along with one spent and two live cartridges and his bike. They said the accused is a resident of Mohalla Vyapariyan in Jewar's Jahangirpur town.

Tenant's minor daughter denies allegations, landlord acquitted of rape charge

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A landlord accused of raping the minor daughter of a tenant was acquitted of charges, and the court ordered the filing of a miscellaneous case against the girl's father for lodging a false case after the six-year-old girl testified in court and denied the entire incident. The case was disposed of in a record four months, with the FIR filed in June this year.

Additional sessions judge Neeraj Gautam said that a perusal of the record clearly reveals that the crucial witness in the case, the victim, denied any wrongdoing by the accused.

"At the prosecution's request, the girl was declared hostile. The girl did not support the prosecution's case, and her testimony alone would not establish any crime against the accused. The plaintiff was also examined as a hostile witness. He also admitted during cross-examination that he was at work at the time of the incident and that his wife and daughter did not tell him anything about the incident after returning from work.

The Land of Kutch: A Unique Saga of Struggle, Self-Respect, and Possibilities!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Rupesh Solanki Some lands are not merely geographical regions; they preserve within themselves countless stories of history, culture, struggle, and self-respect. Kutch is one such remarkable land. On one side lies the vast white desert stretching to the horizon, while on the other is an extensive coastline. Here, farmers shape their lives through hard work, while artisans captivate the world with their creativity. The character of Kutch is truly enriched by its diversity.The uniqueness of this land lies not only in its geographical features but also in the courage and confidence of its people, who continue to face challenging circumstances with determination.Strength Born Out of StruggleKutch has faced numerous challenges, including low rainfall, water scarcity, and natural disasters. After the devastating earthquake, Kutch moved forward on the path of reconstruction, becoming a symbol of human courage and collective determination. This land has taught its people to rise again rather than surrender to difficulties.The history of Kutch reminds us that while resources are essential for development, determination and hard work are equally important.Culture Is the True Identity of KutchThe folk language, folk songs, traditional attire, embroidery, and handicrafts of Kutch are living examples of its rich cultural heritage. Every creation by its artisans reflects the creativity and traditions passed down through generations.Preserving this heritage is not merely about safeguarding the past; it is also an important way of connecting the younger generation with its roots and identity. With access to appropriate markets and adequate encouragement, traditional crafts can also become an effective source of livelihood.The Progress of Ordinary People Is Equally ImportantPorts such as Kandla and Mundra have given Kutch a significant position in India's trade and economic development. Industrial activities and emerging opportunities offer promising prospects for the region's future.However, development can be considered truly successful only when local youth find employment, farmers receive better facilities, small businesses prosper, and the lives of ordinary citizens experience positive



change.Strengthening education, healthcare, transportation, and skill-development facilities in the villages of Kutch, including Bhachau and the Vagad region, can make development more inclusive and widespread.Water and Environmental Conservation Are EssentialIn Kutch, the importance of water is directly connected with life. Rainwater harvesting, the revival of water sources, and the judicious use of water are essential for the future. Alongside these efforts, protecting the desert landscape, coastline, and local biodiversity is equally important.

Fire at Ghaziabad hotel banquet spreads to rooms, 18 evacuated

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A fire broke out at a banquet hall on the fifth floor of Banana Tree Hotel in the Link Road area in Sahibabad on Tuesday and spread to rooms on the sixth floor. Firefighters brought the blaze under control and safely evacuated 18 people. No one was injured in the blaze.



Chief fire officer Saurabh Singh said officials were informed through Dial 112 around 1.30pm. Nine fire engines and several firefighters rushed to the hotel to find thick smoke billowing out of the two floors. Several sections of the hotel were under repair. A preliminary investigation suggests that a short circuit in one piece of repair equipment might have started the fire.The fire was put out within two hours with the help of a hydraulic platform and the fire engines. "We had called fire tenders from Vaishali, Kotwali and Sahibabad fire stations as well. We poured water from different directions and used the fire equipment present in the hotel to completely douse the fire," he said.

Eighteen people who were stuck in 12 rooms were evacuated. Smoke had engulfed the floors, making breathing and firefighting operations difficult, the officer said. "We had to use exhaust fans and break some of the glass windows to let out the smoke," he added.A fire had broke out at a flat in a society in Indirapuram on Sept 16 afternoon. No injuries were reported. The blaze, caused by a short circuit in the third-floor flat of Parshvanath Majestic residential complex in Vaibhav Khand, was extinguished within 30 minutes.

Bag dropped at murder spot leads cops to Muradnagar road rage accused

Noida.(Agency)

A 24-year-old man was arrested for allegedly stabbing a 32-year-old man to death following a road rage incident earlier this month in Muradnagar on Tuesday. Police scanned multiple CCTV camera footage over the last 17 days to trace the suspect through a shoulder bag that he had allegedly dropped at the crime spot during a scuffle. A knife he allegedly used in the crime was later recovered.

According to cops, CCTV footage helped them identify seven persons travelling with bags of the same colour and style through the same spot. When officers visited their homes, six still had their bags. The seventh, Sameer, a resident of Muradnagar who worked as a mechanic at a crane gear manufacturing unit in Raj Nagar, did not. He was subsequently detained and, during questioning, confessed to the crime, police said.The victim, Himanshu Chaudhary, also from Muradnagar, worked on a contract basis at Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) in Ghaziabad. DCP (Rural) Surendra Nath Tiwari said on Oct 9, Himanshu was heading for some work on his scooty when Sameer was crossing the road on his motorcycle. The handlebars of the two two-wheelers brushed against each other, and a heated argument broke out between the two men over who was at fault.

"The men started abusing one another, which led to traffic congestion. Some local people stepped in, calmed them down, and told them to leave the area. Himanshu left, but after going about 100 metres, he returned and rammed his scooty into Sameer's bike. The two then started fighting again, and during the altercation, Sameer pulled a knife from his bag and stabbed Himanshu. Sameer fled on his bike as the victim was left bleeding profusely on the spot," Tiwari said.Residents alerted police, and Himanshu was taken to hospital, where he died during treatment. His family filed a complaint and an FIR was registered. Police found a shoulder bag at the spot containing some food items and fruits. Teams then reviewed footage from more than 500 CCTV cameras along a 5km stretch."Based on the footage, they initially treated 100 people as suspects and matched the bag accordingly. In the end, cops identified seven people, who were seen travelling with a bag of the same colour," Tiwari said.

Police visited the homes of all seven one by one and checked their bags. Six produced theirs. Sameer, however, told officers his bag had been lost and that he had bought a new one.

When Sameer was questioned and asked about his bag, he claimed that his bag had been lost somewhere and that he had bought a new one. He was then detained and interrogated further, after which he confessed to the crime. He stated that during the fight, his bag had fallen there, and after stabbing the deceased, he fled on his bike, leaving the bag behind," Tiwari said.

The accused was booked under Section 103 (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Muradnagar police station. He was produced in court on Tuesday and sent to judicial custody.

Seven multi-storey buildings sealed, illegal structure razed in Gurgaon Sector 72

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) on Tuesday sealed seven multi-storey buildings and demolished an under-construction structure in an unauthorised colony in Sector 72 as part of its crackdown on illegal construction.The enforcement drive was carried out by a team led by district town planner (enforcement) Amit Madholia. While the seven buildings were sealed during the operation, a bulldozer was deployed to demolish the structure that was still under construction. The department is now preparing to demolish four floors of each of the seven sealed buildings, with the necessary paperwork being completed before the action can proceed. "We are completing the paperwork to demolish the four floors of each of these seven buildings. Once the process is complete, bulldozers will be deployed to carry out the demolition," Madholia said.No timeline for the proposed demolition of the seven buildings was announced on Tuesday.The latest action signals an expansion of the department's enforcement drive beyond licensed colonies, where unauthorised construction and violations of building norms have been the focus of several recent actions. Complaints of increased construction activity in unauthorised colonies have also surfaced in recent months.Officials said large-scale construction had taken place in the unauthorised colony without the required approvals. The structures under scrutiny include buildings with stilt parking and four floors above it. The proposed action against the existing buildings is expected to be taken up after the necessary formalities are completed.



'Harassed by loan sharks', Rajkot couple dies by suicide

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

A married couple from Rajkot allegedly died by suicide on Monday over harassment from their lenders, from whom they were said to have borrowed at least Rs 10 lakh, police said.

Ramesh and Bharti Chavda, said to be in their late 30s, were allegedly harassed even after paying back Rs 37.2 lakh and putting their car as collateral for one of the loans, according to a police complaint filed by Ramesh's father, Mavji Kanji Chavda, 68. The couple owned a garlic peeling business.

In his complaint, Mavji said his son picked him up from home around 5 pm on October 25, and they then visited his nephew. There, Ramesh asked his cousin to lend him Rs 8 lakh. But the cousin said he had recently given Ramesh Rs 5 lakh and asked him why he needed more money. Ramesh explained to him that he had to pay back loans.

The father and son went back home where they discussed the debts Ramesh and Bharti had been trapped in. The police, citing Mavji, said Ramesh had taken Rs 4.5 lakh from one of the accused three months ago, but had already paid him back Rs 21 lakh. Still, the lender wanted Rs 20 lakh more from him. The couple had borrowed another Rs 4.5 lakh from a woman and had paid her back Rs 15 lakh, but she was still asking for Rs 9 lakh more.

Migrant factor: Less than 45 per cent of Bengalureans are voters

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Less than 45% of the people living in Bengaluru are eligible to vote, reflecting a poor population-to-voter ratio. The population-to-voter ratio across the state is 66.11%.

Data from the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Karnataka, released on Tuesday, showed the total projected population in Karnataka is 6,87,59,538 people while the number of electors are 4,54,55,689 voters (excluding the service voters).

The data also showed Bengaluru houses a projected population of 1,07,08,716 citizens of which the number of electors in the final electors are 59,08,151 (excluding service voters), making it 44.82% voters. Bengaluru's four districts -- Bangalore Urban, BBMP North, BBMP South and BBMP Central -- contribute to 15.57% of the state's population and 12.99% of the state's voting population. CEO Karnataka, V Anbukkumar, said that many people staying in the state, particularly in Bengaluru, are not voters. They are migrating population, coming in from other states for various purposes. "Every resident in Bengaluru is not a voter," he said.

Student falls from PG terrace in Bengaluru, father blames owner

BENGALURU.(Agency)

A 19-year-old fashion design student sustained severe injuries after falling from the fourth floor terrace of a paying guest (PG) accommodation near Bagalur Main Road in Yelahanka on Saturday. Her father, J Sampath Kumar, 43, a resident of Kodipalya, a glass artist by profession, alleged that the incident occurred due to the negligence of the PG owner, who had failed to install adequate safety measures on the terrace.

The student, Monisha JS, was staying in room no. 102 of Srivatsa PG for Ladies, where she had been residing since the first week of August to attend classes at Nitte Meenakshi College. She was admitted to Manipal Hospital in Yelahanka, where she is undergoing treatment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). According to the complaint filed by her father, the incident occurred between 3.30 am and 4 am. Around 4.15 am, PG owner Shilpa called him and informed him about the incident.

The complainant rushed to the hospital with his wife. Doctors said, Monisha had sustained injuries to the ribs on both sides, a spinal fracture and fractures to both thigh bones. Her blood pressure had fluctuated, and her liver and kidney functions had also been affected, the complaint said.

Rs 504 crore fraud: Why Haryana rejected CBI's single plea against 5 IAS officers

Chandigarh.(Agency)

The Haryana government has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to submit separate prosecution sanction requests for each of the five IAS officers named in the Rs 504 crore banking fraud case involving state departments, saying the agency's application did not conform to the Centre's standard operating procedure (SOP) for seeking prosecution sanction against public servants.

The move comes amid the CBI probe into allegations that public servants acted in connivance with officials of IDFC First Bank and AU Small Finance Bank to divert and misappropriate funds belonging to eight Haryana government departments and public bodies from empanelled banks to selected branches of the two banks. A senior Haryana government officer told The Indian Express on Tuesday that the central agency had approached the Centre seeking prosecution sanction under Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, a legal requirement before a court can take cognisance of certain corruption offences against public servants. The officer said the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) subsequently sought the state government's comments on the CBI's request. "Now, the state government has asked the CBI to submit separate requests instead of a single combined application," the officer added.

'CBI must cite role of each IAS officer'

Another senior state government officer confirmed the development, adding that the CBI must clearly establish each officer's alleged role while seeking prosecution sanction. "For instance, it is not enough to allege that an officer failed to follow a government circular while approving the deposit of a fixed deposit (FD) with a particular bank. That would amount to a procedural irregularity, for which disciplinary rules apply. To establish an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act, the agency needs specific evidence of a demand for a bribe and proof of the alleged bribe being paid," the officer explained.

The IAS officers against whom the CBI has sought prosecution sanction include Vineet



Garg, a 1991-batch officer and one of the state's most senior bureaucrats; Pankaj Agarwal, a 2000-batch officer; Mohammad Shayin, a 2002-batch officer; and Saket Kumar, a 2005-batch officer. R K Singh, a 2012-batch officer who was promoted from the Haryana Civil Services, is already under suspension. The CBI has also sought prosecution sanction against Pradeep Kumar, who was an IAS officer at the time of the alleged offences. He was arrested in June on the day he was due to retire.

CBI chargesheet filed on September 2

The CBI filed the chargesheet against the IAS officers and other accused before a special CBI court in Panchkula on September 2 this year. Official sources said the CBI submitted a copy of its chargesheet to the Haryana government while seeking prosecution sanction.

The chargesheet details the alleged roles of the officers in the case. According to the CBI, funds from the accounts of eight government departments and public bodies were allegedly misappropriated and transferred to third parties unconnected with the departments. The money was subsequently routed through multiple bank accounts and converted into cash, with the accused allegedly enriching themselves wrongfully.

Punjab denies releasing water to Pak, says excess floodwater flows from J&K streams

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann says excess water flowing towards Pakistan during floods should be conserved and managed instead of becoming a source of blame for Punjab

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Punjab Cabinet Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal Tuesday said no water was released to Pakistan from Madhopur headworks, claiming that the flow across the border during floods was largely from rivers and streams originating in Jammu and Kashmir that join the Ravi downstream.

Speaking during a debate on five resolutions asserting Punjab's claims over its river waters in the Vidhan Sabha, Goyal said Ujh river and streams such as the Basantar and Tarnah carried excess water during the monsoon, which eventually flowed into the Ravi below Madhopur headworks. "Water does not go to Pakistan from Madhopur Headworks. During floods, the water that flows in that direction comes from the Ujh and other rivers and streams that meet downstream," he said. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said excess water flowing towards Pakistan during floods should be conserved and managed instead of becoming a source of blame for Punjab. "This water should be conserved and managed. We should have a project at Makora Pattan," Mann said. Goyal said the Punjab government had written at least 10 letters to the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) since 2022, informing it that the state was not releasing water towards Pakistan. He objected to Punjab being held responsible for the flow across the border without establishing its source and circumstances.



The remarks come amid heightened India-Pakistan tensions over water following India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty in April 2025, after the Pahalgam terror attack. The treaty, signed in 1960, governed the sharing of the Indus river system between the two countries.

Canal irrigation area expanded, claims Goyal

Defending the Mann government's irrigation record, Goyal claimed that the area receiving canal water had increased from 20.8 lakh acres before the Aam Aadmi Party government took office to 60.8 lakh acres now. He said the share of agricultural land receiving canal water had risen from 26 per cent to 80 per cent.

He argued that expanding canal irrigation would help reduce Punjab's dependence on groundwater, which has come under severe pressure because of agricultural extraction.

Emphasising Punjab's contribution to the country's foodgrain stocks, Goyal said the state had a national responsibility to conserve its water resources while sustaining agricultural production. He accused the Centre of treating Punjab unfairly on water-related issues and urged it not to blame the state for water flowing into Pakistan without establishing the facts.

The minister said the government was committed to conserving Punjab's water resources and ensuring adequate supplies for farmers, stressing the need to build infrastructure to capture and utilise floodwater rather than assign blame.

6 years in jail, a week at work, then a crash: An Agra man's ordeal

Lucknow.(Agency)

It was through the media that Arun Pratap Singh learnt of the Supreme Court's direction to the Uttar Pradesh government to pay him Rs 6 lakh as compensation, for his six-year-plus imprisonment in a case, in which he was acquitted. The money couldn't have been more handy, says a "thankful" Singh. On October 10, barely a week after he had finally found a job after his release from prison, Singh was hit by a car on his way home in Agra, leaving him bedridden.

Singh, 35, was arrested on November 13, 2019, on charges that he had kidnapped Dharmendra Tiwari on October 18 that year for ransom, murdered him, burnt his body and hid his skeletal remains.

In its order acquitting him on June 6 this year, an Agra court said the prosecution had failed to establish any link in the chain of circumstantial evidence against Singh, or prove beyond reasonable doubt that he was guilty of the alleged offence. Hearing a special leave petition that was filed by Singh while his case was pending in the Agra court, the Supreme Court Tuesday awarded him compensation of Rs 6 lakh, observing it was "paltry in comparison to the years spent in custody", and added: "Based on a slipshod investigation, a haphazard prosecution was carried out, which resulted fortunately in the acquittal of the accused. We cannot but deprecate the manner in which the investigation was carried out."

Admonishing the state police, the Court said it "would do well to educate their officers in the process of investigation", and said a copy of its order would be sent to the Director General of Police and Home Secretary of Uttar Pradesh. It also noted that even when it first took up Singh's case, in March, it was clear that it hung "entirely on circumstantial evidence", "the petitioner was never named in the FIR or even in the Section 161 statement", and that he was arraigned "based on CCTV footage… and the confession of a co-accused". Speaking to The Indian Express, Singh said: "I spent six important years of my life in prison for a crime I did not commit. I had no connection with the family of the man who was killed. The court acquitted me as there was no evidence against me… But I lost six years that I can never get back."

Punjab Vidhan passes resolution to continue welfare schemes launched by Mann government

Taking a dig at the BJP over its opposition to direct financial assistance, Cheema challenged political parties to clarify whether they supported the continuation of the schemes.

Chandigarh.(Agency)

The Punjab Vidhan Sabha on Tuesday passed a resolution affirming the continuation of public welfare schemes and direct financial assistance, even as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government sought to make it a political issue and targeted the Opposition parties over alleged opposition to such benefits ahead of the 2017 Assembly elections. Moved by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on the last day of the Assembly session, the resolution expressed concern over statements attributed to Congress and SAD leaders favouring the withdrawal of existing welfare schemes. It called on all political parties to make their positions clear to the people of Punjab.Cheema argued that public spending on welfare should not be dismissed as wasteful expenditure. "State's resources must be used to improve people's lives through financial assistance, healthcare and relief from household expenses. Direct assistance provides critical relief to mothers managing monthly household budgets, farmers cultivating fields, and families confronting unexpected medical crises," he said. Taking a dig at the BJP over its opposition to direct financial assistance, Cheema challenged political parties to clarify whether they supported the continuation of the schemes. When rebel Shiromani Akali Dal MLA Manpreet Singh Ayali spoke on the resolution, Cheema specifically sought his stand. Ayali said he supported welfare schemes funded through public money and cited the power subsidy introduced by the then government in 1997. AAP legislators Dr Baljit Kaur and Inderjit Kaur Mann alleged that the Opposition was opposed to the economic empowerment of women. The resolution listed several schemes of the Bhagwant Mann government, including the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojana, under which eligible women receive Rs 1,000 a month and Scheduled Caste women Rs 1,500. It claimed that more than 80 lakh women have registered under the scheme. It also highlighted the provision of up to 300 units of free domestic electricity a month, free power for agricultural tubewells and the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana,



which provides annual health coverage of up to Rs 10 lakh per family. According to the resolution, more than 90 per cent of households have received zero electricity bills under the domestic power subsidy since 2022. It cited 1,244 Aam Aadmi Clinics, which have treated more than two crore patients, as part of the government's efforts to reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure. Other initiatives listed included free bus travel for women, the Meri Rasoi Yojana, social security pensions of Rs 1,500 a month, the Ashirwad scheme for the marriages of eligible women and the Mukh Mantri Tirath Yatra Yojana.

Tension in Mansa as police 'seize' body being taken to Jhota protest site

Family alleges man died of drug overdose, demands action against peddlers; police say death is being probed as murder, three accused rounded up

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Tensions escalated in Punjab's Mansa on Tuesday as police forcibly took away the body of a 35-year-old man when his family and others were taking it to the site where a protest is on against the killing of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota. While the family claimed that the man, identified as Daljit Singh, a resident of Bhamme Kalan village, died allegedly of drug overdose, police termed it "misinformation" and said the cause of death is under investigation.

It all began soon after Daljit Singh's family and villagers blocked the Sarsa-Mansa road, alleging that he had died of a drug overdose and demanded action against local drug peddlers.

Mansa Senior Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Chaudhary, however, disputed the claim. "Around 11 am we received information that a body was lying on the side of a road. Some misinformation spread in the area that the death was caused by a drug overdose. When we started the investigation, we came to know that someone came in a vehicle and threw the body there. We have formed separate teams to catch the culprits. We are registering a murder case in the incident. Three main accused have been rounded up," he said. The family, meanwhile, wanted to take Daljit's body to the Mansa protest site to highlight the continuing drug menace and seek justice.

His wife, Paramjit Kaur, and mother, Chand Kaur, demanded the immediate arrest of those responsible. "The government makes tall claims about ending the drug menace, yet the sale of drugs continues unabated. Young lives are being lost to addiction, and families are left to suffer the unbearable consequences," the family said, asserting that their agitation would continue until those responsible were apprehended.

As the protesters prepared to march towards Mansa with the body, police



barricaded the route using vehicles and trucks. A standoff followed, with SSP Chaudhary saying some "mischievous elements" accompanying the family attempted to disturb law and order.

Police personnel eventually took the body away. Videos showing personnel carrying it across a road divider and placing it in a vehicle were shared by Opposition leaders on social media, drawing criticism of the police action.

Between collapse of certainties and promise of change

We are at the cusp of a new global order and, hopefully, a new national order. Gen Z around the world are uneasy. The global economic order has failed to deliver. High rates of unemployment, inflation and perceived autocratic regimes have sparked widespread protests. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the ongoing conflict in West Asia with no signs of subsiding and US President Donald Trump's desire to make America 'Great Again' have led to impositions that the world has resisted.

The balance of power seems to be shifting to our part of the world, with China and India providing the largest markets for future prosperity. Conflicts between Russia and Ukraine as well as Iran and Israel have resulted in uncertainties and shortfalls in the supply of oil and inputs necessary for economic prosperity. These conflicts have left inputs required by both the manufacturing and service industries in short supply, affecting agriculture and many other sectors. The fact that China has the largest accumulation of rare-earth elements also impacts the global balance of power. The United States has little choice but to collaborate with China due to the inter-dependence of the world's two largest economies.Relations between the United States and Europe, Canada and some countries in South America have come under strain, which is why Europe has negotiated a free trade agreement with India for mutual benefit. The spectre of high tariffs on Indian exports has led our businesses to seek new markets, which, in a sense, is a blessing in disguise. In the future, we may not be entirely dependent on the United States to sustain our export industry. However, the US will continue to be our largest trading partner in the years to come. We are not sure what the emerging global economic and political order will look like.

The seeds of change in India are visible. In recent protests, we have witnessed the anger of this country's youth. The organic nature of these protests reflects the scepticism of the poor and marginalised, marginalised along with the middle class, as the political establishment in India is not in a position to provide a just and fair framework that fulfils their aspirations. This government has not brought about the kind of change in education and healthcare needed to empower youth and develop the human capital India needs to compete with the rest of the world. In education, the government has paid little attention to skilling our youth to meet the challenges of the emerging global economic order. The necessity of embracing artificial intelligence was not on the government's radar, despite the fact that it is destined to play a crucial role in the years ahead. The traditional way of education does not even attempt to develop the kind of skills that the young in our country need to acquire. Disparities in education impact the marginalised, relatively poor and underprivileged as they seek to compete with children belonging to the middle class and the privileged. Middle-class youth are also feeling the pinch of rising unemployment; the educated have to compromise their aspirations by being underemployed. Displeasure among the young was clearly evident during the protests at Jantar Mantar.

As far as the health sector is concerned, it is vital not only for developing human capital, but also for ensuring that every family in the country has access to quality healthcare. It is perceived that an autocratic political system, which cares little for those who dissent, tends to use the State machinery to silence voices crying for change.

Oil politics reeks of hypocrisy

Oil is both a strategic instrument and a commercial commodity, with rules increasingly set by political expediency

IN March 2000, US President Bill Clinton thanked Dhirubhai Ambani in Mumbai for contracting Bechtel to build Reliance Industries' Jamnagar refinery, creating thousands of US jobs.Twenty-six years later, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio flew from Mumbai to Jamnagar to have darshan of Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani on October 21, underscoring the intersection of energy, geopolitics and electoral calculations in Washington. Even as the US continues to welcome Indian capital, it now also seeks to dictate India's energy choices.While pressing India to cut Russian oil imports, the US is encouraging Indian refiners to process more Venezuelan crude and courting Indian investment in a new American refinery. Oil is both a strategic instrument and a commercial commodity, with rules increasingly set by political expediency.The Rubio visit brings three distinct oil streams into focus: Russian Urals crude, Venezuelan heavy blends and American light shale. Jamnagar, with a capacity of 1.4 million barrels per day, is the world's largest single-site refinery. Its ability to process diverse crude grades economically makes it central to India's fuel supply and exports. For Washington, it is a potential market for heavy, sulphur-rich Venezuelan crude and a source of diesel.With high domestic diesel prices and the November 3 US congressional midterm elections approaching, President Donald Trump eased restrictions on US imports of Russian diesel to relieve pressure on fuel markets. The Rubio visit followed the Trump-Putin agreement of October 9 to import 4.8 million tonnes of Russian diesel into the US under a waiver valid till April 7, 2027. Republicans face narrow congressional majorities, and diesel affordability remains central to voters. Washington's strategic objections to Russian energy appear far less absolute when domestic political costs rise.The double standard is unmistakable: Russian energy purchases are condemned when serving India's economic interests, yet become acceptable when US consumers face price shocks. Washington may distinguish between crude oil, refined products, licences and legal structures, but the hypocrisy is clear.This is not an argument for India and the US, whose strategic assessments differ, to adopt identical policies towards Russia. It is an argument against applying a selective standard to a universal commodity. If energy security legitimately concerns American households, it cannot be dismissed for Indian ones.The sharpest contradiction concerns Russia. Washington has long criticised India's discounted Russian crude purchases, arguing that oil revenues finance Moscow's conflict with Ukraine, while carving out waivers for itself to import Russian uranium and now diesel to meet domestic energy needs. India's crude procurement must be guided by national interest, affordability and refining requirements, not foreign political pressures.

After bringing Venezuela's oil under a US-controlled framework following the abduction of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife from Caracas in January, the Trump administration is seeking investors and markets for Venezuelan crude. Reliance is well placed to help: its refineries have handled Venezuelan heavy grades before and are doing so now.Technical compatibility alone does not determine commercial viability. Freight charges, refining costs, payment terms, supply reliability and price differentials matter. Restoring Venezuelan exports requires investment, infrastructure and time. India cannot replace Russian supplies with Venezuelan oil merely because Washington prefers that outcome. Diversification makes sense to reduce concentration risk



and widen refiners' options. However, it should serve India's energy security, not exchange dependence on one supplier for another beholden to US licences.

India's vulnerability to US licensing is not theoretical. US restrictions against state-owned PDVSA since 2014, escalated to sector-wide sanctions in 2019, left over $500 million in dividends due to ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), plus interest, stranded in Venezuela. These funds related to OVL's investments in the San Cristobal and Carabobo-1 oilfields. In July 2026, the US Office of Foreign Assets Control granted OVL a licence to resume full operations and manage its finances in Venezuela. OVL is exploring shifting from passive investor to sole owner-operator, despite limited experience in running technically demanding heavy-oil fields.Reliance's backing for the America First Refining project at Brownsville, Texas, the first new US Gulf Coast refinery in half a century, adds another facet. Announcing it in March, Trump thanked Reliance for participating in this landmark US energy investment. The widely cited $300 billion, however, refers to Reliance's projected 20-year off-take value of processed crude and refined products, not construction cost or Reliance's investment. The refinery is geared to export US light shale oil products to international markets, while also serving local demand.

The project allows Trump to present foreign capital as supporting American jobs and gives Reliance a foothold in the world's largest oil-consuming economy. Meanwhile, Essar, which sold its Vadinar refinery and port to a consortium including Russia's Rosneft in 2017, is backing an $18-billion integrated steel venture in the US. The contrast is striking: Indian capital is creating US jobs and manufacturing capacity even as Washington threatens tariff action against Indian goods.If Indian investment creating US jobs is welcome, India's interest in affordable energy, secure supplies and independent commercial choices should be equally recognised. A relationship cannot be mutually beneficial when investment from India is celebrated but its independent energy choices are a problem.Rubio's visit covered a wider canvas. Washington wants more US energy exports, markets for Venezuelan crude, greater Indian investment in the US and severed Indian oil ties with Russia. These objectives misalign with India's interests. New Delhi welcomes opportunities that improve supply security, expand technology and investment partnerships, and make energy markets more competitive. Yet no supplier can be abandoned without consequences for prices and refinery economics. Altering India's import composition must be commercially attractive, not merely diplomatically convenient.India should resist its energy procurement being made an instrument of forced trade or a test of geopolitical alignment. Strategic autonomy means having the ability to choose among energy suppliers according to national requirements, while complying with applicable laws and managing disruption risks.

The US must provide Indianrefiners with clear, durable exemptions under the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act (SRIA) for handling Russian crude. Washington itself buys some of the downstream products, exploiting the loophole that crude transformed in a third country changes its origin. Explicit, written exemptions are needed to end market uncertainty. Similar clarity is needed on the Chabahar port and the application of secondary tariffs.Washington is entitled to pursue its interests, as is India. If the US wants India as a comprehensive global strategic partner, it must treat India as one: respecting its sovereign choices and legitimate interests. Strategic partnership must never mean strategic subordination.

Odisha's farmers caught in a vicious climate trap

With the harvest season drawing near, weather emergencies threaten to damage kharif paddy at a critical stage. Such losses would not only deepen farmers' distress but also jeopardise the wider rural economy

Odisha's agriculture sector has just emerged from a difficult monsoon season. Six rounds of flooding since July have dealt a severe blow to the farming community, burdening the rural economy. The successive deluges affected lakhs of people, disrupted the main cropping season and forced the government to announce special assistance packages. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, accompanied by cabinet colleagues, undertook surveys to assess the damage. Estimates suggest that more than 40 lakh people across the coastal, southern and northern regions were affected by the recurring floods, while paddy crops in more than 2.12 lakh hectares suffered damage. The government also had to release close to ₹1,000 crore towards relief and the restoration of damaged property.

For farmers who had invested in seeds, fertilisers, labour and other inputs, repeated inundation wiped out months of hard work and left little time to prepare for the next agricultural cycle. The damage extended to agricultural labourers, small traders and rural households whose livelihoods depend on a successful harvest.Now, the state



faces the prospect of another weather emergency. Heavy rain is forecast as a developing cyclone approaches the Andhra Pradesh coast. With the harvest season drawing near, the storm threatens to damage kharif paddy at a critical stage. Such losses would not only deepen farmers' distress but also jeopardise the wider rural economy.Strengthening El Niño conditions add another layer of concern, with multiple reports projecting a warmer winter ahead. This could prove costly for agriculture. Odisha should prepare district-specific contingency plans to address these threats. Farmers must not be left to navigate successive weather emergencies on their own. El Niño can alter rainfall patterns, raising concerns about both excess rainfall and subsequent dry spells. Any lapse in preparedness could deepen rural distress and pose a serious challenge for the government.The political implications are particularly significant, with local body elections just months away. Rural distress could shape public perceptions of the government's response, but the urgency of the situation must go well beyond electoral considerations. Disaster management must shift from reactive relief to proactive preparedness. Odisha has repeatedly demonstrated its capacity to respond to natural disasters. But as climate-related risks become more complex, the real test will be its ability to shield the rural economy from the growing uncertainties of climate change.

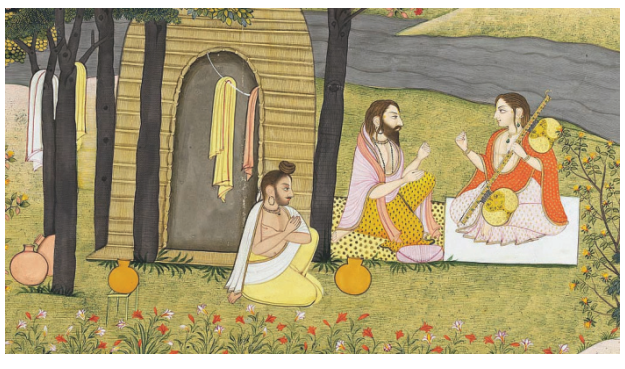
Compassion's first verse

Valmiki's life journey is well-known as a remarkable tale of inner transformation. Blessed with eloquence by Goddess Sarasvati, his appointment marked the birth of Indian poetry, with compassion as its trigger. That, in turn, birthed the foundations of Indian culture

Greetings on Valmiki Jayanti today, dear readers. In North India, it is also called Pargat Diwas, meaning the day of manifestation. It celebrates the birth of Rishi Valmiki, to whom we owe the foundational work of Indian culture, the Srimad Ramayanam in Sanskrit. It is the mool or root Ramayana, and all other Ramayanas derive from it.Of the two great Indian epics—the Ramayana and the Mahabharata—the Ramayana, which came first, is considered the greater work. This is because, in terms of plot, it stays with the protagonist, unlike the Mahabharata, where Sri Krishna appears on and off and is not systematically followed, although he is the lynchpin of the epic. Vyasa made up for that afterwards in the Srimad Bhagavatam, which tells the story of Mahavishnu and his many avatars.Whereas Valmiki's Ramayana follows Rama steadily from birth through his trials and tribulations to his eventual triumph and coronation. 'Raman' means one who is happy and also makes others happy. Although the Ramayana is full of sorrowful partings, Sri Rama, Sita Mata, and Sri Hanuman shine like a light in the darkness, spellbindingly so.

Valmiki's life journey is well-known as a remarkable tale of inner transformation. He supported his wife and children as Ratnakar, a forest dacoit who preyed on travellers. However, when he tried to rob Lord Brahma's son Narada Muni, the seer asked him for whom he committed his robberies. When Ratnakar said it was for his family, Narada asked him if they would share his karmic sin as equally as they did the booty. Sure that they would, Ratnakar went home to ask while the sage waited. To his shock, his family refused to share his sin, stating firmly that his bad deeds were his doing, not theirs. Heartbroken, Ratnakar returned weeping to Narada, who gently counselled him on the right path. He gave him two syllables to meditate on, Ma and Ra.Ratnakar went into deep meditation, uttering these syllables which segued into Ra-Ma, Ra-Ma, Ra-Ma. A valmik or termite mound grew around him; he sat unmoving for so long. When he finally emerged, he became known as Valmiki, meaning 'of the mound'.

He built his ashram by the river Tamasa, now known as the Tons river. It is a major left-bank tributary of the Ganga, flowing through Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. There, he discovered the literary form, the shloka, and composed the 24,000 verses of the Srimad Ramayanam. The Vedas and Vedangas that came before the Ramayana, though set in various chhand or meters, are considered gadyam, 'prose' in Sanskrit, while the



Ramayana is padyam, poetry, and Valmiki is hailed as the Adi Kavi or First Poet.

That first shloka, or verse, came about this way. Sage Narada paid Valmiki an unexpected visit. During their conversation, he disclosed the existence of a prince called Rama, who embodied all the sixteen good qualities demanded in a person by Valmiki. After that illuminating visit, Valmiki went for a swim in the river Tamasa, accompanied by Sage Bharadwaja. The water was so pure and clear that they could see all the way to the riverbed. Marvelling at its perfect clarity, they began making their way back to Valmiki's ashram.On the way, Valmiki caught sight of a pair of krauncha birds, demoiselle cranes called koonj in Hindi, with long white necks and striking plumage. They were dancing a graceful love duet, beautiful to behold. The sages were enchanted. Suddenly an arrow whizzed by, wounding the male bird, which fell in agonised death throes. The female bird fluttered around him, uttering pitiful cries. A hunter advanced triumphantly on the dead crane.Imagine Valmiki's state of mind at that moment. The day had begun on a great high with Narada's visit. Inspired and excited that someone like Rama existed, the ideal he had imagined and hoped to find someday, Valmiki was already in an exalted state. The purity of the river Tamasa and his refreshing plunge into her waters became a metaphor for the purity the human soul could achieve when cleansed of negativity.

5 signs you need to quit your job NOW



Significant signs you need to quit your job

While many employees in toxic work cultures may find constant stress and burnout all too familiar, it doesn't have to be this way. You shouldn't feel overworked, lack a work-life balance, or feel guilty for taking a well-deserved rest day. The right job should make you feel safe, secure, happy, and productive. If you're experiencing the opposite, it might be a sign you're in the wrong place. With this in mind, here are 5 major signs that tell you it's time to quit your job now.

Feeling anxious about work

Feeling anxious about work is a strong sign something is wrong. It could be due to an overwhelming workload, fear of failure, or toxic colleague relationships. Not having control over your job, dealing with job insecurity, or having no work-life balance can also fuel this anxiety. If these feelings persist, it might be time to rethink your job situation for your mental well-being.

Constant exhaustion

When you feel physically and mentally drained, it's time to think that this job is taking much from you. Major burnout is not only going to negatively affect your productivity, but can also hurt your health, relationships, and overall happiness. If exhaustion becomes constant and not an exception, then it is high time to immediately consider quitting.

Toxic environment

A toxic workplace environment, in which there is gossiping, bullying, or playing politics in the office, can significantly impact your mental health as well as your productivity and efficiency. When you face conflict and backstabbing, office politics, and leadership without support, it's toxic. You should not be working for a place that is constantly stressing you out, taking away your peace of mind.

No work-life balance

If your job takes up all your time, leaving little to no time for personal activities, relationships, or having fun, this imbalance can lead to major burnout, frustration, and overwhelming feelings. Constantly working long hours or being expected to be available outside of work hours isn't sustainable and can negatively impact your mental and physical health.

Feeling undervalued

When your hard work becomes regularly ignored or you are not paid fairly, it's easy to feel that one is not appreciated. When your contribution is not considered, you end up being overlooked for numerous promotions while being overworked, and the salary you receive does not match your work, then it is a major sign for you to consider quitting. It is of utmost importance to get the respect and consideration you deserve for your work and the efforts you are putting in.

How to control Anger before it controls you



Anyone can become angry, that is easy. But to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way- this is not easy". – Aristotle, The Nicomachean Ethics

Say, a car cuts dangerously close to you as you are driving on the freeway, or another person broke the queue in the bank you were waiting so long, or your spouse didn't arrive at the time he promised for a dinner date…

What will be your first reaction? Is it the immense trajectory of anger, rage and disgust, followed by more thoughts of outrage and revenge? Or contrary to the above, you pause for a sensible consideration and try to reason out for the behaviour. The driver who cut you off could be having some medical emergency, the person who broke the queue may be having something very urgent, or my spouse can't keep me waiting unnecessarily; something very urgent must have required his attention for the moment.The research findings clearly state that for more than 50 per cent of the population, an outburst of rage is the immediate reaction, causing serious impairment to both body and mind. There is scientific evidence across the world showing that even momentary anger results in worsened muscle's ability to pump blood, a catalyst in escalating high blood pressure and subsequent complications (heart diseases, heart attacks, stroke and metabolic syndromes). In a study done in the USA, researchers found that people have a twofold increase in heart attacks within two hours after an anger outburst. Anger can hinder digestion; and sleep patterns and induce emotional disorders like anxiety and depression. With the available studies of anger related to poor health (both physical and mental), still a very large proportion of the population is prone to anger. What could be the probable reason for the same?Primarily, it could be its seductive, exhilarating, energising and persuasive nature. However, the careful studies done by Dolf Zillmann, a psychologist at the University of Alabama testifies that the universal trigger for anger is the sense of being endangered. This endangerment could be a straight outright physical threat and/ or as in more often the case, a systematic threat to self-esteem or dignity. The very feeling of being treated unjustly or rudely, being insulted or demeaned, being unable in pursuing an important goal could be the reason for venting out the rage.But what abut the individual who rages on even at the drop of a pin? There it does not seem to be any threat, be it physical or otherwise.

Then what could be the probable cause for the anger of such an individual?In the above-mentioned example, the individual is not facing any direct threat but his perception of an endangerment to his authority, a question about his mental block of being morally correct, being ignored and unheard could be trigger points for his self-esteem. As rightly marked by Dr. Wayne Dyer, "If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change". In that case individual's own cocoon of mental fixedness make him a propellant of rage.

5 lessons to learn from people who quickly get promoted at work



Within the competitive world of career advancement, a few stand out for their speedy climb on the corporate ladder. These speedy ascensions that professionals show, some form of uncanny knack for gaining promotions and performing well in their jobs. What is the difference between this individual and others? Luck and opportunity both play their part, but certain traits and behaviours rather contribute significantly to their speedy climb. By learning and implementing these secrets, one can change the dynamics of success at work. Here are six key takeaways from consistent promotion winners and highly successful career performersBe proactive and take initiative

A common characteristic that appears among fast-moving promoted individuals is their proactive nature. Such professionals do not wait for tasks to be given to them; they identify opportunities and take the initiative to address such opportunities. This ranges from suggesting improvements, volunteering for challenging projects, to solving problems before they escalate. These offer significant leadership potential and a guarantee of success in the organisation. This forward-thinking approach not only protrays your skills but also gives your organisation an opportunity to grow as a reliable and innovative contributor.



Developing strong communication skills

Good communication is a critical requirement of any work environment, and the ones able to communicate well end up on the fast track. They can voice their ideas clearly; they are a good listener; they help develop friendly relationships, both in terms of colleagues and superiors; and are otherwise good in handling the tough conversations and constructive feedback while talking about the work. Communication skills enhance your ability to have an influence over people, resolve conflicts, and also build a network of supporters within your organization.

Demonstrate adaptability and resilience

Adaptability and resilience are in ever-increasing demand in the highly dynamic work environment. Professionals who quickly get promoted often show an amazing ability for adjustment to change and the capacity to bounce back from setbacks. They embrace new technologies, processes, and ideas with an open mind. They stay positive, focused on finding solutions, if problems happen. Resilience will tells that you have the ability to handle pressure and thrive in a landscape that changes day by day, thereby making you more valuable to your organization.

Building a strong network

Networking is a great way of advancing your career. People who are promoted very quickly know that building and leveraging a strong network of mentors, peers, and industry contacts is key. They connect with other people, share knowledge with others, and collaborate on projects. By being able to nurturing these relationships, you will have access to important advice, help, and opportunities that can help drive your career. Networking keeps the company abreast of industry happenings.

Keep your manager informed

Make sure your contributions and aspirations are known to your manager for promotion or advancement. Do regular updates, feedback, and goal discussions with your manager. This way, you keep them in your mind for future opportunities and develop an even better working relationship, keeping the lines of communication open.

Through keeping your manager updated, you can show that you are on top of things, reliable, and proactive about your future among other necessary characteristics someone in a position for promotion should have in the workplace.

How work-life balance enhances both health and



In today's fast-paced, always-on corporate world, the concept of work-life balance sparks plenty of debate. Recent reports of overworked employees facing extreme stress—even fatal consequences—have raised important questions: Is building stronger boundaries between work and life the answer? While some business leaders, like the late philanthropist and businessman Ratan Tata, favour work-life integration, others have said it is a constant juggling act.

Everyone's reality is different, but one thing holds for most employees: Their emotional well-being is closely tied to their work performance. When you feel good, you work better, and when work starts to take over, leading to stress and burnout, emotional health takes a hit.

The million-dollar question now is how to feel good at work. While career milestones, like promotions and raises, are great, their positive effects are fleeting. Focusing on your mental health and embracing rest and self-care can keep you feeling good for the long haul.

When employees have space to disconnect from work, they can bring their best selves to the table. But how exactly does work-life balance influence emotional health? And what can both individuals and organizations do to nurture equilibrium?The impact of work-life balance on emotional well-being

A 2023 study by the American Psychological Association found that 92% of employees say it's important for them to work for companies that prioritize their emotional and psychological well-being. However, 77% still report high levels of work-related stress. When work constantly overshadows personal life, stress can quickly snowball into anxiety, burnout, and strained relationships, eventually affecting not only your overall happiness but also your job performance.

But employees who make time for balance—whether it's by setting boundaries or adding wellbeing practices, like mindfulness, into their day—report higher productivity, greater job satisfaction, and a better ability to manage pressure. Balance isn't just a nice thing to have—it's the key to thriving both personally and professionally.The perks of prioritizing balance

It's no secret that a healthy mind and a healthy body are inextricably linked. Achieving balance gives you more space to nurture relationships with family and friends, which creates emotional support systems that help you stay resilient through challenging times. Solutions like the Roundglass Living app integrate neuroscience practices and behavioural science tools to help employees in the practice of holistic well-being, offering stress relief and a way to regain focus. Just a few minutes of mindfulness or breathwork can make a huge difference in how you handle the ups and downs of the workday.For employers, supporting work-life balance also boosts productivity.

Consider a 2022 trial of a four-day workweek: 97% of participants wanted to stick with the shorter week, reporting better productivity and improved balance. Another study shows a direct link between employee satisfaction and a 13% rise in productivit. When employees are happy and balanced, everyone wins.Reimagining your life beyond workAchieving work-life balance isn't just a personal responsibility; it's a shared effort between employees and employers. Yes, you should take steps to protect your emotional health by setting boundaries, practising self-care, and incorporating mindfulness into your day.

But businesses also need to step up by offering flexibility, support, and effective workplace wellbeing tools.The time to reclaim your well-being is now. Start by disconnecting from work when needed and practising mindfulness to protect your mental health. Whether you're leading a team or taking charge of your own workday, remember that a balanced, emotionally healthy workforce is critical to success for everyone.



Authored by: Prakriti Poddar, who is a mental health expert and the global head of mental wellbeing for Roundglass Living, the Wholistic Wellbeing app.

Sensex, Nifty open in red dragged by fall in IT stocks; Infosys down 5%

New Delhi.(Agency)

The stock market opened sharply lower on Wednesday, October 28, as heavy selling in IT stocks, rising crude oil prices and caution ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision weighed on investor sentiment. The much-awaited listing of Jio Platforms is also in focus.

At around 9.27 am, the BSE Sensex was trading at 72,867.97, down 730.70 points or 0.99%. The NSE Nifty 50 stood at 22,563.30, falling 186.45 points or 0.82%.IT stocks led the losses, with the Nifty IT index down around 3.3%. Infosys fell 4.26%, while Mphasis declined 4.94%, HCLTech lost 3.07%, TCS dropped 2.98% and Tech Mahindra slipped 3.13%.

Selling was also visible across several other sectors. Nifty FMCG fell 1.51%, while oil and gas declined 1.30%. Realty, financial services, private banks, pharma and metals were also trading in the red. The auto index was among the few sectors holding up, rising around 0.23%.Broader markets were relatively resilient, with the Nifty Smallcap 100 marginally higher, while midcap indices were lower. India VIX, the market volatility gauge, rose around 3.7%, signalling increased nervousness among investors.

Rupee rises 4 paise to 95.03 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The rupee traded in a narrow range and edged up by just 4 paise to 95.03 against US dollar in early trade on Wednesday amid elevated crude oil prices and strong dollar.

Forex traders said the rupee is under pressure amid persistent macroeconomic headwinds, including global dollar strength and Brent crude prices hovering near USD 115 per barrel.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee recorded marginal gains and touched 95.03, registering a rise of 4 paise over its previous close.On Tuesday, the rupee closed at 95.07 against the American currency.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on positive dollar and weak Asian currencies. Crude oil prices remain elevated which may also keep rupee under pressure," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan.Any intervention by the RBI may support the rupee at lower levels. Investors will watch out for the FOMC decision.

15 stocks that became favorites of mutual funds in September: See the entire list

Kolkata.(Ajency)

Portfolio data for shows that fund managers have made large purchases in largecap, midcap and smallcap companies in September 2026. In the last month, Reliance Industries, Swiggy and Gland Pharma were mutual funds' favorite companies in their respective market cap segments. Shares of Reliance Industries to the tune of Rs 4605 crore was purchased. Shares of Swiggy worth Rs 3241 crore and those of Gland Pharma worth Rs 1849 crore were bought. Let's know the complete list of those 15 shares, in which mutual funds bought the most during September.

Reliance Industries tops list, NSE second

According to a report by Value Research, Reliance Industries was the first choice of mutual funds in largecap stocks in September. Fund managers bought shares of the company worth Rs 4605 crore. At the end of the month, the value of the total holding of mutual funds in the company was Rs 99267 crore.In this list, NSE was on the second place, in which purchases of Rs. 3171 crores were made.

Cope harder: Ashwini Vaishnaw counters report on iPhone subsidy with tax, job numbers

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's iPhone manufacturing boom has triggered a debate about whether subsidies given with taxpayer money are helping the country build a competitive electronics industry or is just paying companies to assemble products whose most valuable components are still imported. A recent Bloomberg report has reignited the debate, with Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw pushing back against the criticism with hard data and a "cope harder" counter message. He argued that the government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has generated substantial tax revenue and employment.Vaishnaw on Tuesday (October 27) hailed India's PLI scheme while responding to a Bloomberg video report that questioned the economics of the country's iPhone manufacturing push. Sharing the official numbers on X, the Union Minister of Electronics and IT said the government had paid Rs 19,000 crore in mobile manufacturing incentives but collected Rs 25,000 crore in direct taxes and Rs 3 lakh crore in GST.

"Mobile PLI stats as follows," Vaishnaw wrote, before listing the figures and adding that electronics manufacturing employs 25 lakh people, of whom 12 lakh work in mobile manufacturing. In the last portion of his post, Vaishnaw used internet slang to the scheme's critics, saying "Cope harder!!"The 56-year-old Union minister's response framed the mobile PLI scheme as a fiscal and employment success. However, the Bloomberg report raised a question that how much economic value does India retain from manufacturing iPhones when a substantial portion of their components continues to come from overseas?

WHAT BLOOMBERG SAID ABOUT INDIA'S IPHONE BOOM

In a video report filmed in Hong Kong's Sham Shui Po district, Bloomberg Opinion columnist Andy Mukherjee dismantled an iPhone to examine its components and study India's progress in electronics manufacturing.

He questioned whether India should attempt to replicate China's success in high-tech manufacturing.Mukherjee acknowledged that India had made progress. "Indian



factories had moved from importing pre-assembled mainboards to importing bare circuit boards and fitting electronic components locally," he said in the video report. The Bloomberg columnist estimated that this shift had improved India's mobile trade balance by $2.1 billion in a year.

He also pointed to India's growing role in Apple's supply chain, with roughly one in every four iPhones now manufactured in India.However, the Bloomberg report argued that India continued to depend heavily on imports for memory chips, processors, displays, camera lenses and batteries.According to Andy Mukherjee, the cost of importing components remained greater than what India earned through exports of finished handsets.The Bloomberg report stressed that subsidies could make the economics even more challenging. If manufacturing costs remained high, taxpayers could end up spending more on incentives than the additional wages paid to factory workers. Rising global memory prices, driven partly by demand from artificial intelligence, could further complicate economics, he suggested.

Why a vegetarian thali is getting costlier faster than a non-veg meal



New Delhi.(Agency)

A home-cooked vegetarian meal is becoming more expensive faster than a non-vegetarian one, with onion prices surging and rice, edible oil and cooking gas adding to the bill. The cost of a vegetarian thali rose 10% year-on-year in September, compared with a 6% increase for a non-vegetarian meal, according to CRISIL Intelligence.

The divergence comes even as both meals have become more expensive. The estimated cost of preparing a vegetarian thali at home rose to Rs 30.80 in September from Rs 28.10 a year earlier. A non-vegetarian thali cost Rs 59.50, up from Rs 56 over the same period.The difference becomes clearer when the ingredients are broken down. Onion prices surged 89% year-on-year to Rs 53 per kg in September, while rice prices rose 8%, vegetable oil prices increased 12% and LPG prices were 10% high than a year earlier.

The non-vegetarian thali, meanwhile, benefited from a relatively modest increase in the price of its principal protein. Broiler prices, which account for about half the cost of a non-vegetarian thali, rose just 2% year-on-year, helping contain the overall increase.

ONIONS DRIVE UP VEGETARIAN THALI COSTS

Onions were a major contributor to the rise in vegetarian thali costs. Prices climbed as supplies tightened following an estimated 5–6% decline in rabi onion production, according to CRISIL.

Rainfall in June was around 40% below the long-period average, delaying kharif onion transplanting and pushing back fresh arrivals. Seasonal demand added to the pressure, with prices expected to remain elevated in the first half of October before easing gradually as fresh supplies enter the market.Rice has also become more expensive. Prices rose 8% year-on-year in September amid expectations of a 5–6% decline in paddy production due to lower acreage and weaker yields. Vegetable oil prices increased 12%, driven by geopolitical uncertainty and concerns over the impact of El Nio on global palm oil production.LPG prices remained 10% higher year-on-year amid global supply disruptions, adding to the cost of cooking at home.

These increases affect more than one component of a vegetarian meal. They span vegetables, cereals, cooking oil and fuel, pushing up the cost of preparing the entire thali.

WHY NON-VEG MEALS ARE CHEAPER

The slower increase in non-vegetarian thali costs is largely explained by broiler prices. Chicken accounts for about half the cost of the meal, but broiler prices rose just 2% year-on-year in September.CRISIL attributed the relatively limited increase to lower chick placements, monsoon-related supply disruptions and higher maize prices. On a month-on-month basis, broiler prices rose 2% in September, contributing to a 3% increase in the overall cost of a non-vegetarian thali.

The comparison does not mean non-vegetarian meals are cheaper. At Rs 59.50, the estimated non-vegetarian thali cost nearly twice as much as the vegetarian version in September.

Mukesh Ambani gets emotional as son Anant recalls Dhirubhai's journey at Jio listing

New Delhi.(Agency)

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani appeared tearful at the Jio Platforms IPO listing ceremony in Mumbai as his son Anant Ambani spoke about the family's journey, recalling the humble beginnings of his grandfather, Dhirubhai Ambani.

Wiping tears from his eyes, Mukesh watched as his children, Anant and Isha Ambani, addressed the gathering and reflected on the dreams, values and hard work that shaped the Reliance Group.In his speech, Anant spoke about a modest home in Chorwad, Gujarat, where his grandfather's dream began. He recalled how Dhirubhai had once worked at a petrol pump in Aden, with neither money nor connections. Yet, Dhirubhai went on to build a business empire, showing that an ordinary Indian could dream big and achieve extraordinary things.

nant also spoke about his father's vision of making India a global leader. He pointed to the world's largest refinery in Jamnagar as an example of what the country could achieve through ambition and hard work.He then traced the journey to Jio, which was built around the dream of bringing internet access to every Indian.

Calling the occasion a moment of gratitude, Anant said the listing was not just a milestone for the company but also a moment to celebrate the people who had helped make it possible."Today, Jio is shared with India," he said, describing the stock exchange bell as a temple bell and comparing business to worship.

He said, "Jio ko pure desh ne duae di. Maa ne kaha, Jio mere laal. Dadi ne kaha, Jug jug Jio. Aur dosto ne kaha, Jio yaar." ("Jio received blessings from across the country," Anant said, adding that mothers called out, Jio mere laal, grandmothers blessed it with Jug jug Jio, and friends cheered, Jio yaar)He also spoke about how digital access had helped creators reach millions and made specialist services more accessible.

Anant thanked Jio's employees, engineers, technicians, service teams and retail partners, crediting their efforts for the company's success. He also acknowledged Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Digital India.

Morgan Stanley turns bullish on Paytm, raises target 35% on earnings upside

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

Morgan Stanley has upgraded One 97 Communications Ltd, the parent of Paytm, to Overweight from Equal-weight, raising its price target by 35 per cent to ₹1,950 from ₹1,450 as it sees stronger execution across payments and financial services supporting faster growth and further earnings upgrades.The revised target implies an upside of about 22 per cent from Paytm's closing price



of ₹1,601.60 on October 27. Morgan Stanley said continued execution, favourable industry developments and the potential for upward revisions to earnings estimates could support a further re-rating of the stock.The upgrade comes after Paytm shares gained 46 per cent over the preceding six months. Despite the rally, the brokerage sees scope for further gains as revenue growth accelerates and profitability improves. It noted that consensus estimates for the company's FY28 earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation had risen by more than 21 per cent over the same periodMorgan Stanley expects Paytm's payments business to gather pace in the second half of fiscal 2027, supported by growth in monthly transacting users and improving consumer market share in the unified payments interface, or UPI, ecosystem.The company has grown its consumer UPI payment gross merchandise value at roughly twice the industry rate over the past few quarters, according to the brokerage. Morgan Stanley forecasts payment GMV to grow at a compound annual growth rate of about 23 per cent between FY27 and Fy29..Financial services are expected to provide another growth driver, with revenue set to scale up in FY28 as Paytm expands its Postpaid offering and builds on its financial services distribution business.Morgan Stanley forecasts overall revenue to grow at a compound annual growth rate of about 30 per cent between FY26 and FY29. It has raised its FY28 and FY29 EBITDA estimates by 30 per cent and 22 per cent, respectively, reflecting stronger expectations for payments and financial services, as well as the potential benefit of changes to the UPI merchant discount rate framework.The proposed MDR framework could create an incremental revenue opportunity of about ₹900 crore in FY28 and ₹1,100 crore in FY29, Morgan Stanley estimates. It assumes that 60 per cent to 65 per cent of the benefit would flow through to EBITDA, with the remainder potentially funding additional investments or being offset by competitive pressures.

CBDT issues eight circulars to clarify GST reforms rollout

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has issued 8 Circulars dated Oct 26, providing related procedural guidance following the recommendations of the 57th GST Council Meeting, with a strong focus on simplifying compliance, reducing litigation, and improving cash flow for businesses.The guidelines specify mandatory document lists and standard templates for consent letters, affidavits and undertakings, along with FAQs to streamline registrations with the aim of ensuring smoother registration, fairer adjudication, and major relief in ITC and refund mechanisms.The guidelines state that the proper officer should adhere to the prescribed documentary requirements and should not seek unnecessary documents or raise presumptive queries unrelated to the registration application.

They also prescribe timelines for processing registration applications. Applications involving successful Aadhaar authentication are generally required to be processed within seven working days. Where Aadhaar authentication has not been opted for or completed, or physical verification is required on risk-based grounds, the applicable processing period is generally thirty days.Where a clarification is sought, the officer is required to decide the application within seven working days of receiving the applicant's reply. If the officer fails to take action within the applicable statutory period, registration is deemed to have been approved in accordance with Rule 9 of the CGST Rules, 2017.The new Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms for post-sale discounts and speeding up provisional refunds for businesses facing inverted duty structures will come into effect from November 1.

The circulars also clarify procedures for GST demands, adjudication and appeals, providing tax officers with a standardised reference to promote consistency, transparency and uniform enforcement of the law.In a big relief to exporters, the circulars address the gap between foreign exchange rules and GST requirements. Previously, exporters using legitimate, RBI-permitted settlement methods — such as repatriable rupee accounts and offsetting export receivables against import payables — faced uncertainty and risked losing zero-rating benefits and tax refunds simply because they did not use traditional remittance routes.Circular 263 addresses this by aligning GST regulations with mechanisms permitted under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and RBI rules.

MTC bus rams 9 cars near Madras HC, driver arrested for rash driving

CHENNAI.(Agency)

An MTC bus lost control and ran amok near the Madras High Court on Tuesday morning, damaging about nine cars, mostly belonging to advocates, parked along the road. While no one was injured, owners of the damaged cars demanded compensation.

The bus, driven by P Ramamurthy (48) on route 109A from Island Grounds to Thiruvidanthai, was going along NSC Road around 11.30 am when it rammed into the parked cars, according to the Flower Bazaar Traffic Investigation Wing police. It then hit the median and came to a stop over it. A traffic police officer said Ramamurthy was taken for a medical test soon after the accident, which ruled out drunken driving. A case was registered under section 281 (rash driving or riding on a public way) of the BNS, and he was detained.

"During inquiry, Ramamurthy said that he lost control while driving due to brake failure. He said he hit the median in an attempt to stop the bus," the officer said. A probe is on to determine the exact series of events which led to the accident.

Speaking to the media, a lawyer said the accident could have been avoided if proper parking arrangements had been in place, and demanded a multi-level car parking facility for lawyers' vehicles.

History-sheeter hacked to death in Adyar in broad daylight, three held

CHENNAI.(Agency)

A 25-year-old history-sheeter was hacked to death by a gang in broad daylight at Indira Nagar in Adyar on Tuesday. The incident took place when the deceased, V Maithreyan of Mylapore, was returning from the police station after signing the register as required by his bail conditions.

The Adyar police, who have registered a case and detained three youths — Jeevanandham (20), Surya (19) and Vignesh (19) — said the gang and the victim had previous enmity. Maithreyan, who recently moved to Thiruvanmiyur, was a C-category history-sheeter with a few cases pending against him and was out on bail last week in one of cases. Under the bail conditions, he had to sign the register at the Mylapore police station every day.

According to the police, last November, Jeeva and his gang murdered Maithreyan's friend Susai. The gang found that Maithreyan was plotting revenge and this led to the murder. Sources said Maithreyan had signed the register around 11 am on Tuesday and was returning home in an autorickshaw when the gang surrounded him.

Six in 10 water-wastage complaints in Hyderabad linked to illegal motors

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

Illegal motors used to draw drinking water accounted for six in 10 water wastage complaints in Hyderabad over 18 months. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) received 915 such complaints out of 1,523 between April 2025 and October this year. The board imposed fines totalling Rs 44.58 lakh during the period, according to data accessed by . Sump overflow accounted for 184 complaints (12.08%), followed by miscellaneous cases at 174 (11.42%) and floor washing at 132 (8.67%).

Other complaints included 30 cases of overhead tank overflow, 24 of vehicle washing, 18 involving drinking water use for construction and gardening, 15 pipeline leaks, 12 leaking taps, nine instances of waste dumping into manholes, six unclassified cases and four water supply pipeline leaks. The figures come amid concerns over groundwater depletion and growing dependence on private water tankers. HMWSSB Managing Director K Ashok Reddy urged residents to reduce consumption and prevent avoidable wastage.

Chaos at Thane station as 'staff special' local keeps doors locked amid train delays

The Railways is identifying the employees involved and considering opening the staff special train to all commuters.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Chaos erupted at Thane railway station on Monday evening after railway staff allegedly kept the doors of an 'employee special' local train shut, preventing commuters from boarding amid widespread disruption to Central Railway's (CR) suburban services. The Railways is identifying the employees involved and considering opening the staff special train to all commuters.

The incident occurred on a day when technical snags in the signal system and overhead equipment disrupted rail services for several hours, leaving commuters stranded amid overcrowding and delays across the network. Thane station, which handles an average daily footfall of around six lakh commuters, was among the worst affected stations.

According to preliminary information, an 'employee special' slow local train travelling towards Kalyan arrived at Thane around 4 pm after originating from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai. The doors of the passenger compartments, including those reserved for railway employees, were allegedly kept closed despite commuters waiting at the station seeking to board the train.

Audio-visual footage of the incident, which was circulated on social media, showed commuters pleading with railway staff to open the doors. The incident triggered questions over the conduct of railway employees at a time when regular commuters were struggling to reach their destinations. Central Railway has taken cognisance of the incident and begun identifying the employees involved based on the audio and video footage. The zonal railway administration said the incident would be investigated and action would be taken against those found guilty in accordance with the rules. Employee special local trains are dedicated to railway staff's transportation.

The particular train departs CSMT at 3.48 pm and halts at Byculla, Parel, and Matunga to pick up workshop employees en route to Kalyan. Monday's disruption left commuters facing prolonged delays, with journeys between Thane and Kalyan taking considerably longer than usual.



ISEC bats for ORR congestion pricing pilot to tackle traffic in Bengaluru

In the second phase, an area-based charge could be introduced for vehicles entering the central business district around Vidhana Soudha, with daily caps to protect residents and businesses.

BENGALURU.(Agency)

The Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) proposed a phased congestion pricing system for Bengaluru, beginning with a pilot on the 5-7-km stretch of a key IT corridor such as the Outer Ring Road (ORR) to reduce traffic and encourage commuters to shift to public transport. A working paper 'A Framework for Implementing Congestion Pricing in Metropolises in India' by Krishna Raj, Dhanusha Prabhu and Bondita Saikia, argued that charging vehicles for using congested roads during peak hours could help manage traffic demand, reduce fuel wastage and pollution, and generate revenue for public transport.

However, it warned that the policy would succeed only with better transport alternatives, commuter safeguards and transparent use of funds.

Bengaluru had more than 1.23 crore registered vehicles by April 2025, with two-wheelers accounting for over 70%. The city's dispersed employment hubs, particularly IT and manufacturing clusters, make congestion pricing more complicated than in cities where traffic is concentrated in a single central business district.

The paper cited the TomTom Traffic Index for 2025, which estimated that a 10-km journey in Bengaluru took an average of 36 minutes. It also noted that commuters lost 117 hours to rush-hour traffic in 2024. They said starting with a dynamically priced premium lane on the 5-7-km stretch of ORR, allowing single occupancy vehicles to pay for a faster journey while buses, shared cabs and carpools use the lane for free. In the second phase, an area-based charge could be introduced for vehicles entering the central business district around Vidhana Soudha, with daily caps to protect residents and businesses. Later, the city could consider distance-based charges that vary according to the time and location of travel, initially testing the model on commercial fleets such as taxis and delivery vehicles.



The paper also recommended combining congestion charges with market-based on-street parking fees to discourage vehicles from circling in search of parking. Revenue from both could fund park-and-ride facilities at Metro terminals, electric bus shuttles, last-mile connectivity and safer footpaths.

Stressing on equity, the authors cautioned against imposing a flat charge without considering the impact on low-income commuters, informal workers and two-wheeler users.

The paper recommended legally earmarking all net revenue for public transport and active-mobility infrastructure, along with transparent reporting on expenditure. Drawing lessons from Singapore, London and Stockholm, it advocated a time-bound pilot with public consultation and measurable outcomes before any wider rollout.

The authors also highlighted that congestion pricing could work in Bengaluru, but only if commuters have reliable alternatives and can see tangible benefits from the money collected. Public trust, rather than technology alone, will determine its success.

Ahmedabad civic body readies plan to widen road leading to Kalupur Railway Station

VISAKHAPATNAM.(Agency)

TO TACKLE traffic congestion in areas surrounding the Kalupur Railway Station, keeping in view the ongoing redevelopment of the station, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) on Tuesday announced widening of the existing 18-metre-wide road from Sarangpur Circle to the DCP Zone-3 Office to 30 metres. As part of the proposed widening, 17 properties will be removed and 2,965 square metres (sq m) of land will be incorporated into the existing road, after completion of the prescribed legal procedures.

"The AMC has issued a public notice on Tuesday under Section 210 of the Gujarat Provincial Municipal Corporations Act (GPMC Act), inviting objections and suggestions from the public regarding the proposed road alignment," AMC's Deputy Municipal Commissioner, central zone Ramyakumar Bhatt said.

The Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) is redeveloping the existing Kalupur Railway Station into a modern railway station equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. Upon completion, the redeveloped station on an area of 90,000 sq m with twin 16-storey towers, including two basements and multi-level floor zones, is expected to handle nearly 3.12 lakh passengers daily.

To facilitate smooth vehicular movement and reduce traffic congestion in the surrounding areas, widening of various roads connecting to the railway station is being undertaken.

Bhatt said, "The AMC has also initiated action in connection with the shops located along the road connecting Sarangpur Circle to Rosy Cinema. These shops were originally allotted by AMC on rental and permit basis. Notices have now been issued to the shopkeepers concerned, directing them to hand over possession of the premises to the civic body." Upon completion of the prescribed legal and administrative procedures, AMC plans to remove the obstructions in this area and make the widened road connecting to Kalupur Railway Station available for public use.

3 crore 'infiltrators' did not come forward to verify eligibility as voters: BJP's Tarun Chugh

Gandhinagar.(Agency)

NEARLY THREE crore "infiltrators" from Bangladesh were among those who did not come forward to verify their eligibility as voters, senior BJP leader and the party's Gujarat in-charge Tarun Chugh alleged on Tuesday, while also claiming that Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was "making efforts to get these people registered as voters." Chugh also alleged that the Trinamool Congress (TMC) "opened gates" for such persons to enroll as voters in West Bengal after coming to power in



that state in 2011. He made the remarks while interacting with mediapersons at the Gujarat BJP's state headquarters — Shree Kamalam — in Gandhinagar. Chugh also denied multiple allegations levelled by the Opposition Congress, such as the alleged "deletion of 13 crore voters' names from the electoral rolls during the SIR exercise". He denied this allegation and argued that those deletions were of people in several categories, such as those who had died or relocated to new addresses. He elaborated on the process of verification of voters who were absent during the SIR and claimed, "(Among the 13 crore people)… three crore people have been reported to be absent. These are official records. Meaning, of the 13 crore, three crore persons are those who have not turned up (for verification). Who are these three crore (people)? And why do they not turn up (for verification)? It is a big question…These three crores are infiltrators."

Levelling a direct allegation against the TMC, which is led by former West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Chugh claimed, "…the TMC formed the government in (West) Bengal in 2011… it opened the gate for votebank. 'Come, settle down and cast your vote.'…And the biggest compromise of the country's security was done.

And they (the infiltrators) made their way into the country via that route, and a system — a so-called system — facilitated the creation of their Aadhaar cards and all their other identification documents."

"Now, the Election Commission says that if a person was not on the electoral roll before 2004, they must explain where they were… These three crore people are individuals who did not live in India before 2004, and they do not wish to come forward and disclose where they used to live…So, Rahul Gandhi is undertaking this massive exercise to get three crore infiltrators — who are not Indian citizens — registered as voters," he added.

Chugh said that these three crore people do not wish to come forward because "they know that if they do, they won't be able to cast vote — and they might even end up having to return to Bangladesh." The BJP leader also denied the Opposition's allegations of 'vote theft', pointing out that the system in the country involves "multiple layers of verification that include booth level officers (BLOs) and booth level agents (BLAs)".

Baby dies after mom tries to flush it down in Stanley Medical hospital loo

CHENNAI.(Agency)

A newborn died at the Stanley Medical College Hospital on October 24 after her 19-year-old mother allegedly attempted to flush her down a toilet at a private clinic in Tiruvottiyur. Police are discussing altering the case to include murder charges after the postmortem report revealed injuries on the infant's body.

Tiruvottiyur police sources said the young woman, a resident of Ennore who had completed Class XII and was unmarried, was admitted to the clinic on October 24 for labour pain. Though her parents knew about her pregnancy, none of them accompanied her to the hospital, police said. Preliminary inquiry revealed that she had been in a relationship with a lorry driver from Ennore for four years. However, after she became pregnant, he allegedly refused to marry her and married another woman, police said.



At the hospital, the woman complained of diarrhoea and was allowed to use the restroom. After spending nearly two hours inside, she delivered a baby girl and allegedly attempted to flush the newborn down the toilet, police said. When she failed to come out for a long time, hospital staff grew suspicious, knocked on the door and subsequently opened it, discovering the newborn.

Both the woman and the baby were shifted to Stanley Hospital for treatment. However, the newborn died a few hours later, and the body was sent for postmortem. Following information from the hospital, Tiruvottiyur police initially registered a case under sections of BNS on October 24. The postmortem report received on Tuesday confirmed injuries on the infant's body. The woman remains under treatment and has not been arrested.

Thierry Henry denies disrespecting Lamine Yamal and Kate Scott at Ballon d'Or

London.(Agency)

France football legend turned pundit Thierry Henry has addressed the backlash over his interactions with Lamine Yamal and Kate Scott at the Ballon d'Or ceremony, insisting that neither moment was intended to be disrespectful. The former France striker defended his comments in a video shared on social media after facing criticism from fans over the two exchanges. Henry co-hosted the ceremony with Scott, but his question to Yamal and a joke involving his co-presenter sparked debate online. The former Arsenal and Barcelona forward has now explained his side of the story, asking critics to stop reading more into the moments than he intended.

The controversy began after Yamal won the Kopa Trophy for the third consecutive year but missed out on the Ballon d'Or. Henry also faced criticism over his exchange with Scott while introducing the Socrates Award, named after the late Brazilian footballer. Addressing the reaction to his question to Yamal, Henry insisted that he was not trying to challenge the Barcelona youngster's ego and that the remark was meant as a joke. “I'm a big fan of Lamine Yamal. I wasn't trying to check his ego whatsoever. If you didn't like the joke, I understand,” Henry said.

Haka in Bihar: New Zealand U20 team steals show in U20 rugby sevens series

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Haka has arrived in Bihar! New Zealand’s Under-20 men’s rugby team stole the show in Rajgir with a performance of the iconic Maori ceremonial dance, bringing a powerful expression of culture, pride and identity to the India-New Zealand U20 International Rugby Sevens Series.

The performance at the Rajgir Sports Complex offered a glimpse of a tradition closely associated with New Zealand rugby. The Haka, known for its forceful movements, rhythmic chanting and intense expressions, is an important part of Maori culture and is famously performed by New Zealand rugby teams before matches. The young New Zealand players brought that tradition to an Indian sporting venue as the two countries came together for a series marking 100 years of bilateral sporting relations. A video of the performance captured the team delivering the Haka in Rajgir, giving local spectators a chance to witness one of rugby’s most recognisable pre-match rituals.

Powerplay King: Is Abhishek Sharma the best T20I opener going around?

New Delhi.(Agency).

The first ball disappeared. Abhishek Sharma made room, cleared his front leg and launched Jacob Duffy over the ropes. No sighter, no attempt to feel his way into the innings. He had seen the ball, backed his swing and gone after it. In Wellington, the message was delivered before New Zealand had bowled a second ball.

What followed was scarcely believable, even by Abhishek's standards. He smashed 113 off 38 balls, reaching his century in 35 deliveries, as India chased down 199 in 13.2 overs on Tuesday in the third of a five-match T20I series against New Zealand. He hit 11 sixes and nine fours. His opening partnership with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi produced 133 runs in just 43 balls, and India raced to 118 without loss in the powerplay. India got to 50 in just 14 deliveries, 100 in 30 deliveries and went all the way with 40 balls to spare.

Retirement talk? Mandeep, Fulton have other plans and LA 2028 is one of them

Mandeep Singh answered retirement rumours with a stunning hat-trick as India thrashed Bangladesh 13-0 in the Asian Champions Trophy. With Craig Fulton backing his senior players, the Indian striker has set his sights on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics.

Jalandhar.(Agency)

As the celebrations marking the start of the Asian Champions Trophy got underway, one man seemed content to stay away from the glitz and glamour. The Indian players soaked in the adulation of the crowd and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. Craig Fulton, meanwhile, appeared to be elsewhere, inside the dressing room and seemingly lost in his thoughts.

But once the team began warming up for the match, the Indian coach was back in the thick of things. And he had his phone out, clicking pictures of his players as they prepared for the challenge ahead. Hours later, after India thrashed Bangladesh 13-0, Fulton was at it again. This time, he was capturing Mandeep Singh receiving the Player of the Match award and the team taking its lap of honour.

Was this a new habit for the Indian coach? Not quite.

Speaking to India Today after the match, Fulton revealed that there was a method behind the photographs. They were, in his own way, a tool to motivate his players.

"So, at times I use it for motivation and I show them, and it's kind of exciting in a way to play your first Test matches in Punjab. And then I hand them to the players at times," said Fulton. For most of his players, the roar of the crowd and the pride of representing India might be motivation enough. But for a few senior members of the squad, Tuesday's match was about something more than a thumping win. It was an opportunity to silence the noise surrounding their futures.



Mandeep Singh, Amit Rohidas and Jarmanpreet Singh had been caught in a cloud of retirement speculation. Reports suggested that the trio, alongside Nilakanta Sharma, could be playing their final tournament in Indian colours. Nilakanta has since confirmed that the Asian Champions Trophy would be his final assignment. For the other three, however, the picture remained unclear.

Until October 27.

Earlier in the day, Jarmanpreet made it clear that he had no plans to step away. Mandeep and Amit, meanwhile, let their performances do the talking. And they had plenty to say.

3-time para-Asian Games gold medallist Neeraj Yadav dies by suicide

Asian Para Games gold medallist Neeraj Yadav has died by suicide after allegedly consuming poison at his residence. The postmortem examination is underway in Delhi.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Asian Para Games gold medallist Neeraj Yadav has died by suicide after allegedly consuming poison at his residence, with a postmortem examination underway at a Delhi hospital on Wednesday. S Satyanarayana, head coach of the Indian para-athletics team, confirmed the incident, saying he had learnt of the tragedy but that Yadav's body was still at the hospital.

"Neeraj has died by suicide. It is very unfortunate that such a thing has happened," Satyanarayana said. The 42-year-old Yadav, who competed in the F55 category, was reportedly under emotional stress after missing the Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya earlier this month due to a doping suspension. The circumstances surrounding his death are yet to be established. Satyanarayana added, "I can't speculate the exact reason but if you ask me, I would say a sportsperson should face the highs and lows with equanimity. It's unfortunate that he chose this far and take the extreme step."



One of India's accomplished para-athletes, Yadav won three gold medals at the Asian Para Games - a javelin title at the 2018 edition in Jakarta, followed by gold medals in the javelin and discus at Hangzhou in 2023.

Diagnosed with post-polio residual paralysis at the age of seven, Yadav initially took up wheelchair tennis before switching to para-athletics, where he went on to make his mark on the international stage.Yadav competed in the F55 category, which covers seated field events, including the shot put, discus and javelin.

Floriani Mussolini, great-grandson of dictator Benito, scores maiden goal in Serie A

Floriani Mussolini, the great-grandson of Italian fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, scored his first Serie A goal for Lazio on Wednesday. Playing against Sassuolo, Lazio won 6-2.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Romano Floriani Mussolini, the great-grandson of former Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, scored his first Serie A goal for Lazio in their 6-2 win over Sassuolo on Tuesday, October 27. The 23-year-old defender found the net in the 16th minute to put Lazio 3-1 ahead, as Gennaro Gattuso's side maintained their unbeaten start to the season and moved provisionally to the top of the Serie A standings. Floriani Mussolini's goal came after Kenneth Taylor had given Lazio an early lead and Gustav Isaksen had restored their advantage following Josip Sutalo's own-goal equaliser. The defender's strike was initially flagged for offside, but a video review overturned the decision, allowing him to register his first goal in Italy's top flight.

Lazio went on to secure a comfortable victory, with Mattia Zaccagni scoring before half-time and Tijjani Noslin adding two goals in the second half. Sassuolo's task became more difficult after Kristian Thorstvedt was sent off for a foul on Zaccagni shortly after the half-hour mark.

The result took Lazio to 25 points from nine matches, with eight wins and one draw, three points ahead of Inter Milan, who were due to visit bottom-placed Venezia on Wednesday. Roma were third on 23 points after beating Cagliari 4-2, while Como moved to fourth with a 3-1 win at Torino.

WHO IS FLORIANI MUSSOLINI?

For Floriani Mussolini, however, the goal was a personal milestone in a career that has attracted attention for reasons beyond football. He is the great-grandson of Benito Mussolini, who ruled Italy as a fascist dictator from 1922 to 1943.

His mother, Alessandra Mussolini, is an



actress-turned-politician, while his grandfather, Romano Mussolini, was a jazz pianist. His great-aunt is celebrated Italian actress Sophia Loren. The family connection has made the young defender a subject of interest in Italian football, where his surname carries considerable historical weight.

Born in Rome on January 27, 2003, Floriani Mussolini began his football journey in the youth system of Roma before switching to city rivals Lazio in 2016. He progressed through Lazio's academy and signed his first professional contract with the club in 2021.

What did Arteta tell Max Dowman? Arsenal opens up on silly red card vs Fleetwood Town

Mikel Arteta has explained what he told Max Dowman after the 16-year-old was sent off in Arsenal's shock Carabao Cup defeat to Fleetwood Town. The Gunners boss has faced criticism after footage of his reaction went viral, with former players questioning his treatment of the youngster.

Jalandhar.(Agency)

Mikel Arteta has revealed what he told Max Dowman after the 16-year-old was sent off during Arsenal’s shock Carabao Cup exit against Fleetwood Town. The Arsenal manager has faced criticism from fans, former footballers and pundits after a video of his seemingly harsh reaction towards the teenager went viral on social media.

Dowman was sent off for violent conduct following an altercation with Fleetwood defender Harrison Neal, with Arsenal eventually losing on penalties after a 1-1 draw. Asked about his exchange with the youngster as he walked down the tunnel, Arteta told reporters, “It was something that we discussed before the game.”

The Arsenal manager refused to elaborate when pressed further on what he had told Dowman. He was also asked about the dismissal, with Sky Sports co-commentator Andy Hinchcliffe suggesting the decision was harsh on the teenager. “I haven't seen it with the camera. You can't really see what happens. The decision was made by the referee and that's it," Arteta responded.

“And even with 10 men, we had three big chances to score the second goal," he added.Dowman’s dismissal came in just his second start of the season, having scored twice in Arsenal’s previous Carabao Cup round against Ipswich. The 16-year-old was handed another opportunity amid injuries to Arsenal’s wide options, but his reaction to Neal’s challenge became one of the defining moments of a night to forget for the Gunners.



HOW FLEETWOOD STUNNED ARSENAL

Arsenal dominated possession against their League Two opponents, registering 26 shots and controlling 78 per cent of the ball, but failed to turn that superiority into victory.

After a 1-1 draw in normal time, Fleetwood held their nerve in the penalty shootout to knock the Premier League champions out of the competition. The result was a significant upset, with Arsenal unable to find a winner even after creating chances with 10 men. The defeat also extended their wait for a League Cup title, which they have not won since 1993.

ARTETA ON ARSENAL'S ATTITUDE

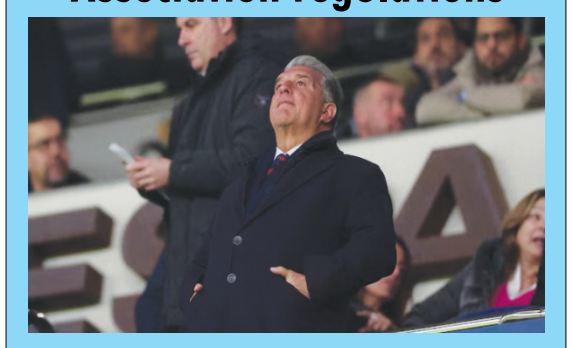
Arteta suggested that Dowman had been warned about the emotional demands of the contest before kick-off and needed to learn from the incident.

“When we prepared the context of the match, we were very clear on the things to expect, the things that emotionally we have to dominate," the Arsenal manager said. However, the footage of Arteta appearing to reprimand Dowman as he walked towards the tunnel drew criticism, with former Arsenal midfielder Paul Merson among those who questioned the manager’s response to a player who is still only 16. “You have to remember he is 16 years of age, he's a kid.” Merson said in Sky Sports.

Merson felt Arteta should have offered the youngster reassurance, particularly with the match still level at the time of the dismissal, rather than appearing to berate him as he left the pitch.

Dowman’s dismissal was also his second red card this month after he was sent off while representing England Under-19s during the international break. The teenager now faces an important lesson in managing his emotions as he continues his development at Arsenal, while Arteta’s reaction has prompted a wider debate over how young players should be handled in difficult moments.

Barcelona fined over breaking Spanish Football Association regulations



New Delhi.(Agency)

FC Barcelona have been fined by the Spanish Football Association over their pursuit of Atletico Madrid striker Julian Alvarez. The Catalan club, currently top of the LaLiga standings, had tried to sign the Argentine during the summer transfer window.

Atletico accused Barcelona of approaching Alvarez, whose contract runs until June 2030, without first notifying them in writing. The Spanish FA has now fined Barcelona 602 euros (Rs 63,746.38) for breaching its regulations.

The sanction falls under Article 133 of the federation's regulations. Atletico had also lodged a complaint with FIFA over the matter, but the global governing body ruled that it did not have jurisdiction over the case.

JULIAN ALVAREZ TRANSFER SAGA

While the financial penalty is relatively small, the dispute has added to the attention surrounding Alvarez's future at Atletico. The Argentine had fuelled speculation about a possible move to Barcelona during an interview at the 2026 World Cup, when he spoke about his desire to fulfil his dream of playing for the Catalan club.

His comments reportedly angered Atletico supporters, with the striker frequently booed by sections of the home crowd this season. However, Alvarez has shown signs of winning back the fans. He scored the winner against Deportivo La Coruna on Saturday, finding the net for a second successive match as Atletico moved within two points of LaLiga leaders Barcelona.



Vijay Deverakonda

Rashmika Mandanna

File Cybercrime Complaint After Koffee With Karan Backlash

The online backlash surrounding Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna after their appearance on Koffee With Karan 9 has now taken a legal turn.According to a press note issued by the actors' team, their manager, P Nishanth Kumar, has reportedly approached the Hyderabad Cyber Crime authorities over alleged fabricated content, impersonation and targeted online harassment involving the couple.The complaint is said to focus on false and misleading material being circulated across social media platforms. Relevant links and supporting material have reportedly been submitted to the authorities for examination.

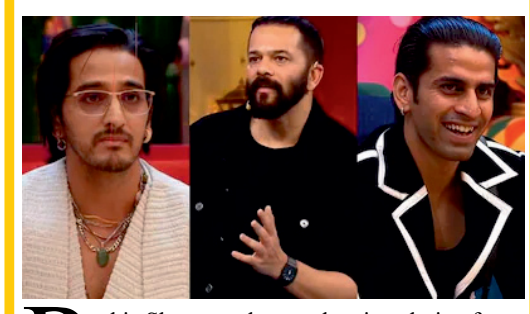
Complaint Alleges Fabricated Content And Impersonation

As per the team's statement, manipulated screenshots, fabricated posts and impersonation have allegedly been used to circulate misleading narratives about Vijay and Rashmika.The complaint seeks an investigation into the material and the accounts allegedly involved in spreading it.The actors' team has also clarified that the move is not intended to curb genuine criticism or freedom of speech. Instead, they said the complaint is aimed specifically at demonstrably false information and online activity that may potentially violate the law.Users have also been urged not to share unverified claims surrounding the couple. The team added that appropriate legal remedies would be pursued wherever required.



The Hyderabad Cyber Crime authorities have reportedly been asked to examine the submitted evidence and investigate the alleged harassment.Why Vijay Deverakonda And Rashmika Mandanna Faced BacklashThe controversy began after Vijay and Rashmika appeared together on the second episode of Karan Johar-hosted Koffee With Karan 9 and spoke about their relationship.During the conversation, Rashmika recalled asking Vijay to marry her while they were at an airport."Let's get married," she said she had told him.According to Rashmika, Vijay replied, "Okay, you ask me 100 times."She further revealed that she continued asking him for nearly a year.Vijay, meanwhile, explained that he wanted the two of them to take their time before making such an important decision.

Bigg Boss 20: Rohit Shetty Promises Qazi Touqeer A Playback Song, Invites Gullu To Khatron Ke Khiladi



Rohit Shetty took over hosting duties from Salman Khan on the latest episode of Bigg Boss 20 and had plenty to say to the contestants. While the filmmaker pulled up several housemates during Weekend Ka Vaar, he also singled out Qazi Touqeer and Kushal Tanwar, popularly known as Gullu, for praise.Rohit told Qazi that his time had finally come and even promised him a playback opportunity in one of his future films. Gullu, meanwhile, received an invitation to participate in Khatron Ke Khiladi.

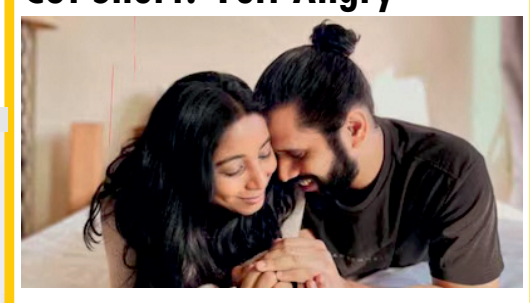
Rohit Shetty Defends Qazi Touqeer

During the episode, Rohit addressed Yung DSA over comments he had made about Qazi's age and career.Referring to the remark that Qazi was a "40 saal ka buddha" and questioning where he had been since 2005, Rohit reminded Yung DSA that success does not follow a fixed timeline."Yung, a few days back, you called Qazi 40 saal ka buddha. Bigg Boss 19 winner Gaurav Khanna is 43, Bigg Boss 18 winner Karanveer Mehra is 40, the show's host is 60. He took the internet by storm by removing his T-shirt a few weeks back. I am 52," Rohit said.He continued, "You also said, 'Where is Qazi since 2005?' Don't bring up such things. You are very young at this point. Whose time changes when, we don't know. He is a talented man, but it must be bad luck that his time didn't come."

'Your Time Has Come Now'

Rohit then turned his attention directly to Qazi and praised his performance on the show."Qazi, you are playing very well. Just remember that during arguments don't stay in your character, argue properly. Otherwise, you don't look sensible. Please tone it down a bit," he told him."Your time has come now. Once you are out, you will get a lot of love and work. You will call me within two days after getting out. Qazi, you will start getting solo albums immediately. Your time has come. I can proudly say this on national television. You are entertaining. Just be careful," Rohit said.When Qazi asked whether the two would work together, Rohit gave him a concrete promise."I am saying this on national television: Golmaal 5 is a funny film, but if I make a film which needs a romantic track, I will give it to you.

Shilpa Rao's Husband Slams 'Disrespect' After Singer's Mumbai Performance Was Cut Short: 'Felt Angry'



Singer Shilpa Rao's performance at the Bollywood Music Project in Mumbai ended abruptly on Saturday, October 24, after her microphone was switched off amid scheduling delays. Videos from the event showed Shilpa trying to address and thank the audience before being rushed off the stage.The Kutle Khan Project began its performance while Shilpa was still standing at one end of the stage. The incident subsequently prompted strong reactions from both the singer and her husband, Ritesh Krishnan.

Shilpa Rao's Husband Says He Felt 'Angry, Disappointed And Helpless'

Reacting to what happened, Ritesh said it was difficult for him to watch Shilpa being treated in such a manner.He described himself as feeling "angry, disappointed and helpless" and said the incident was particularly upsetting because of how deeply Shilpa values her audience."And more than anything, it hurt to see someone I love and admire so deeply being put through this. People know Shilpa Rao as the voice behind some of the most beautiful songs. But I know the woman behind that voice. I know how much her audience and her fans means to her," he said.Ritesh added, "And to stand there last night, watching my wife being treated with such disrespect, was something I will never forget!"

Shilpa Rao Says 'A Little Piece Of My Heart Broke'

Shilpa also addressed the incident through a statement and admitted that she was hurt by the way her performance ended."Mumbai, a little piece of my heart broke tonight. It hurts deeply to have something so beautiful taken away from us like this," she wrote.The singer also promised her fans that she would return to Mumbai with a show of her own.Videos circulating online showed that Shilpa was unable to finish her address to the crowd before her microphone was switched off.

Priyanka Chopra

Mahesh Babu's Varanasi Is A Love Story With A Father-Son Subplot, Says SS Rajamouli



SS Rajamouli has offered a major update on Varanasi and revealed that the film is a father-son story and, at the same time, delves into the romantic relationship between Mahesh Babu and Priyanka Chopra's characters. The adventure film will travel through Antarctica, Africa and Varanasi and will touch upon mythology.

"Sometimes I don't, because the words don't do justice to the scope of the film. That's the reason why I released a glimpse of what Varanasi is to be. Instead of putting any words to it, we made a video which we released last year. It takes the audience through the world of Varanasi, what they're going to experience, without telling them anything," SS Rajamouli said at an event in Brazil."It is an adventure which travels through different worlds. It travels through Antarctica, through Africa, through the city of Varanasi, in different time zones. It travels into the time of mythology, where you see giants, Gods, and all that stuff. But everything is driven by the emotion of a father and son, and the emotion of a man and a woman…the love between them. That drives this entire adventure scheme," the filmmaker said.



What Varanasi Is About?

Varanasi unfolds around a global crisis linked to a massive asteroid called Shambhavi, which threatens the city of Varanasi. Mahesh Babu plays Rudhra, a rugged archaeologist and explorer who is brought into a dangerous mission involving an ancient cosmic artefact. The task requires him to recover the object before a larger catastrophe can unfold.He is joined by Mandakini, a historian who is also a skilled markswoman. The story takes the characters across several parts of the world, including the jungles of Africa, the frozen landscapes of Antarctica and different locations in Europe.

Their mission is complicated further by Kumbha, a technologically advanced antagonist who pursues them as they attempt to uncover the connection between the present-day crisis and Varanasi's mythical past. The solution to preventing the future disaster is said to lie within that past, placing mythology at the centre of the film's adventure narrative.

Trump says Putin-Zelensky meeting to be set up 'very soon'

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky would be set up "very soon."

The announcement came as Trump's administration ramps up diplomatic efforts aimed at ending the Russia-Ukraine war, now in its fifth year.

"There'll be a meeting set up very soon and I think a lot of progress could be made," Trump told reporters.Zelensky said on Sunday that a trilateral meeting between Kyiv, Washington and Moscow would take place in November, aiming to restart stalled peace talks.The Kremlin had previously said that a meeting between the three countries was planned to take place in the United Arab Emirates in November.

Putin, who ordered the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, has consistently rejected face-to-face talks with Zelensky and insisted Moscow intends to seize the rest of eastern Ukraine.

Trump came to power in January 2025 promising to end the war in 24 hours -- but over a year of US-led talks have failed to produce a breakthrough, with tens of thousands killed.

Iran Has Not Reconstructed Bombed Nuclear Sites: UN Watchdog

world.(Agency)

The United Nations nuclear watchdog said it hasn't detected any efforts by Iran to rebuild nuclear facilities damaged in US and Israeli strikes over the past two years, even as Tehran continues to block inspectors' access to most of its atomic sites.

"Since June 2025, we have not identified any activity to repair or reconstruct any of the facilities damaged in the military attacks of 2025 and 2026," International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi told the UN Security Council on Tuesday.Grossi's remarks undercut President Donald Trump's narrative that launching a new war against Iran in late February was necessary to halt its nuclear weapons ambitions.

The president has repeatedly said he's weighing renewed strikes on Iran after the US midterm elections. The assessment echoes a conclusion that former US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard included in written testimony before a congressional committee earlier this year.

Israeli Arab Parties Claim Kingmaker Status In Extra-Tight Vote

world.(Agency)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spent much of election day warning his base that Arab citizens were voting in record numbers. He was right.

Exit polls on Tuesday showed the two Israeli Arab parties are likely to have almost doubled their number of seats in parliament to 18, well ahead of forecasts, after party leaders rallied supporters to help oust the country's longest serving leader. That could make them kingmakers in what's likely to be a fraught period of negotiation over who will form the next government and how - with Netanyahu's right-wing religious alliance and the opposition bloc led by Gadi Eisenkot almost neck and neck.

Eisenkot's bloc is on track to secure 52 of Israel's 120 parliamentary seats, according to exit polls, compared with 50 for Netanyahu. That leaves both well short of the majority of 61 needed to form a governmentEisenkot is widely expected to hold talks with one, if not both, of the Arab parties to boost his numbers, although several issues need to be resolved.

'They don't care about us': Trump food aid cuts leave Americans struggling and angry

In January, people saw the critical support vanish as cuts mandated by a major budget law championed by President Donald Trump went into effect, and five million Americans lost access to the program.

TUCSON.(Agency)

Christine, a retired widow in Arizona, placed food staples in her cart at a charity food distribution event -- as she's had to do monthly since the Trump administration slashed federal food assistance programs.

"It's just been hard. It's been really raw," the 67-year-old told AFP, declining to give her family name so that two children she cares for, ages nine and 13, would not discover how the refrigerator is stocked.Until last year, Christine relied on the food assistance program known as SNAP.The few hundred dollars a month credited to a card she could use at supermarkets allowed her to supplement her modest retirement funds and keep her family afloat.But in January, many people saw this critical support vanish as cuts mandated by a major budget law championed by President Donald Trump went into effect.

The result: Five million Americans lost access to the program."They don't care about us," Christine said, her eyes welling with tears. "The Trump administration doesn't look out for the little people."Half of her retirement check goes to her rent.

And persistent inflation -- fueled by the president's war on Iran, which has sent gas prices soaring -- has proven disastrous for her.



Fueling anger into votes?At the food bank, Christine filled her cart with beef, tomatoes and zucchini.Without this resource in the mid-sized city of Tucson, "we wouldn't be able to eat meat anymore," she said. "And we'd eat way less vegetables."The southwestern state of Arizona has been hardest hit by cuts to SNAP. More than 465,000 beneficiaries, including 200,000 children, were stripped of program access.The situation has fueled discontent that could influence midterm elections in the state, including two tight races for the House of Representatives, where the Republican majority is at risk."Many people are upset," said Natalie Jayroe, head of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. "Even people that voted for the Trump administration."Her network of food banks in the state's south is serving 50,000 more people than usual this year, an influx largely driven by the federal cuts."If these people come out and vote, it could make a difference here in Arizona," she said. "But the question is going to be, do they go to vote?"

Standing among crates of vegetables at the warehouse, Oscar Ochoa, 65, fumed.He too has lost access to food stamps, and is incensed he has had to come out of retirement to work as a bus driver.The military veteran has already mailed in his ballot, and said he voted "blue all the way" -- down the line for Democrats.

Disinformation videos, likely from Russia, are exploiting real people to malign Senate candidates

NEWYORK.(Agency)

Social media videos believed to be produced with artificial intelligence and linked to Russia are misusing real people's names and photographs to spread disinformation about two Democratic Senate candidates in the final stretch of midterm voting.One of the targets is Sherrod Brown, who is running against Republican Sen. Jon Husted in Ohio. The video, which appears to include some AI manipulation, depicts a newscast and includes pictures of Haya Akbik, who interned for Brown several years ago, and other former staff members.

It was appalling to Akbik, who told The Associated Press that any claims attributed to her in the clip are "completely made up.""It's my name, it's my reputation, making this allegation, and it's just completely false," she said. "And it harms the senator, someone else, in the process. So, it's just messed up."The videos demonstrate how foreign adversaries continue to use a familiar playbook to try to influence American voters who are deciding which party controls Congress next year. The threat could be magnified with AI, a powerful tool for fabricating damaging information that can sometimes appear very real.Another target is James Talarico, who is running against Republican Ken Paxton for a Senate seat in Texas. The video, also believed to include some AI manipulation, is framed as a direct-to-camera confessional from a former student of Talarico."The most powerful people in the world know they can't beat James Talarico with the truth, so they're slandring him with AI deepfakes, foreign bots, and conspiracy theories to protect their broken, corrupt political system," Talarico spokesperson JT Ennis said in a statement.The social media company X has taken down the initial posts that shared the videos and suspended the users for violating the platform's rules. However, copies could still be found online Tuesday — some with hundreds of shares — demonstrating how difficult it can be to contain disinformation that can proliferate in the final days.

Iran has not tried to repair nuclear facilities damaged in US strikes, UN nuclear chief says

UNITED NATIONS.(Agency)

The head of the UN nuclear agency said Tuesday there has been no indication Iran has tried to repair or reconstruct its nuclear facilities damaged in US and Israeli military strikes this year or last year.President Donald Trump has said one of the major reasons the US went to war with Iran on Feb. 28 was to deny Tehran the ability to develop nuclear weapons, even as he has insisted that strikes the US carried out on Iranian nuclear sites in June 2025 "obliterated" the country's atomic program.During a UN Security Council meeting, International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi urged Iran to give inspectors access to all nuclear sites, including those damaged in the military attacks. The IAEA has not been able to verify the status of Iran's stockpile of near weapons-grade uranium since the US bombed its sites last year.



However, Grossi said that "since June 2025, we have not identified any activity to repair or reconstruct any of the facilities damaged in the military attacks of 2025 and 2026."

Trump has consistently downplayed the economic impact of the Iran war, which has emerged as a liability for Republicans heading into next week's midterm elections, and has argued that higher fuel prices are worth paying to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. The White House didn't immediately respond Tuesday evening to a request for comment on Grossi's remarks.Iran maintains that its nuclear program is peaceful.

As votes are counted, no clear winner emerges in Israel's election

world.(Agency)

Votes were being counted as dawn broke in Israel on Wednesday morning, but exit polls suggested that its momentous national election left no clear winner.

That likely meant the beginning of weeks of wrangling among parties to form a governing coalition and declare a new prime minister. In the meantime, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu remains as interim caretaker head of the government.Exit polls released by major Israeli TV stations right after polls closed on Tuesday night and revised overnight indicated that neither Netanyahu's political bloc nor that of his main rival, former military chief Gadi Eisenkot, secured the 61 seats needed for a majority in the parliament, known as the Knesset.Israelis vote for parties, which then form alliances to create a majority coalition, and no single party has ever won a majority.

But the inconclusive result comes as the country remains deeply divided over Netanyahu's leadership and scarred by the Hamas-led Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel and the wars that have since shaken the Middle East.

Here is the latest:

Official vote counts are being tallied overnight

The counts from Israel's Central Elections Committee kept coming in early Wednesday morning. The results are still partial as more voting stations are counted.

With around 40% of ballots counted, it reported 21.70% of the vote went to Likud, the party led by Netanyahu, who's Israel's longest-serving prime minister, and 15.72% to Yashar, the party led by Eisenkot. The count does not indicate how many seats each party will win in the parliament.Netanyahu slams Arab parties and touts the Iran war in election night speech

Addressing exuberant supporters past 3 a.m. Wednesday morning in Jerusalem, Netanyahu said that exit polls indicate his Likud will be the largest party in the next parliament. He listed Israel's military accomplishments over the past three years and stressed his close ties with US President Donald Trump while pledging to finish the job against Iran's regime.In a message aimed at his rivals, he said no government should be formed that relies on Arab parties.

French Senate passes bill to make protesters pay for unrest damage

PARIS.(Agency)

The French parliament's upper house passed a bill Wednesday that would make protesters financially liable for damage caused during street demonstrations, despite warnings from critics that it could curb the right to protest.

The bill was drafted in response to riots that followed Paris Saint-Germain's victory over Arsenal in the UEFA Champions League final in May.But it has taken on added significance after weeks of protests over inequality and soaring prices culminated in some of the worst violence France has seen in years on October 17, when thousands of businesses across the country were damaged and looted.The Senate passed an expanded version of the bill by 229 votes to 105, backed by a right-wing and centrist alliance which holds a majority.



The legislation has been sent to the National Assembly, which is split between France's political factions, for debate and voting.

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen, whom opinion polls place as the frontrunner to succeed Emmanuel Macron in next spring's presidential election, supports the legislation.Speaking in parliament, Interior Minister Laurent Nunez stressed the "urgency" of responding to the damage and scenes of chaos seen on October 17."We can no longer allow the vast majority of our fellow citizens to pay for a minority of vandals," he said.

Legal travesty'Under the legislation, protesters could be ordered to pay up to 10,000 euros for damage caused during street demonstrations.

But critics argue that people who took no part in vandalism could nonetheless be held liable if they were deemed to have been associated with those responsible.The bill introduces joint financial liability for anyone found to have "knowingly participated" in a group formed with the intent of carrying out acts of vandalism.It would also apply to individuals who "voluntarily" continued to take part in a gathering likely to disrupt public order after two police dispersal warnings.Welfare benefits and housing assistance could also be seized to help cover the cost of damages under the scheme, a provision that has drawn sharp criticism from left-wing parties and advocacy groups.In the second reading, senators toughened the measure to include other social benefits such as the family supplement, back-to-school allowance and the employment bonus.Left-wing lawmakers accused the government of an "authoritarian drift" at the expense of the freedom to demonstrate.

Rare Dinosaur Skeleton Sells For $47 Million In US

New York.(Agency)

A dinosaur that looks like a miniature Tyrannosaurus rex (T. rex) is now one of the world's most expensive fossils.

The rare skeleton of a Nanotyrannus - recently confirmed to be a distant cousin of Tyrannosaurus rex, not just a young specimen - sold for $47.3 million to a mystery buyer at auction in New York City on Tuesday, according to Sotheby's. The auction house had expected it to fetch anywhere from $6 to $9 million.

The blockbuster price tag for "Jodi," as the skeleton is nicknamed, makes it the second-priciest set of dinosaur bones ever sold. This summer, a T. rex fossil known as "Gus" sold for a record $50.1 million at Sotheby's.The winning bidder for "Jodi" has, for now, chosen to remain anonymous after outbidding five other prospective buyers online and by phone during the roughly 12-minute live auction, Sotheby's said.A Nanotyrannus was about half the length of an adult T. rex, and the two creatures coexisted during the Cretaceous period some 67 million years ago. Nanotyrannus had longer forelimbs and larger hand claws, as well as more slender, blade-like teeth than its famous cousin.Jodi" is one of only three such skeletons known to exist. Standing 6.5 feet (2 meters) tall and stretching nearly 20 feet (6 meters), it has been on display at the auction house's upper Manhattan headquarters since earlier this month, and is considered almost 70% complete.The dinosaur is named after Jodi Pierson, the Montana rancher who discovered it on her land in 2019.Sotheby's, in a statement, thanked the team of professional fossil hunters whose efforts to discover and excavate the specimen were the focus of the Discovery Channel documentary series "Dino Hunters" in 2020.Their commitment to understanding and preserving this remarkable specimen has helped bring us to this moment, a testament to the fact that we can all make major contributions to science," said Cassandra Hatton, Sotheby's head of science and natural history.



However, some scientists have opposed such private sales, saying "Jodi" and other significant fossils should be displayed in museums or other institutions so they can be studied by researchers and viewed by the public.