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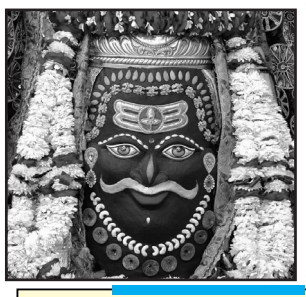
SATURDAY

MAHANAGAR METRO

VOICE OF THE CITY, PULSE OF THE NATION

AHEMDABAD/GUJRAT
Saturday, October 31, 2026

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India's extreme poverty falls from 27.1% to just 2.6%, says World Bank: How big is this achievement?

New Delhi. (Agency).

India has recorded one of the world's fastest declines in poverty, with the proportion of people living in extreme poverty falling from 27.1 per cent in 2011-12 to just 2.6 per cent in 2023-24, according to the World Bank. The latest figures indicate a major shift in living standards across the country, particularly among low-income households. The decline comes at a time when several countries continue to struggle with poverty, unemployment and rising living costs.

According to the World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief, an estimated 49.6 crore Indians moved above the poverty line for lower-middle-income countries during this period. The report describes India's progress as "one of the fastest poverty declines in the world". Rising household spending, employment growth and government welfare programmes, including food subsidies, contributed to the decline.

What does the World Bank report say?

The World Bank measures extreme poverty using an international threshold equivalent to $3 per person per day, adjusted for differences in purchasing costs between countries.

Why Delhi traders are appealing to Sonia Gandhi against Rahul-led pre-Diwali rally

New Delhi (Agency).

Traders know who to do business with. When they find one door shut, they knock on another. Delhi's trading community, fearing a major disruption to Diwali business due to the Rahul Gandhi-led INDIA bloc's November 1 rally, on Friday appealed to Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi to get the protest march postponed. Behind the appeal is there a perception that Sonia Gandhi is more accommodative and flexible than the Congress's new-gen leadership, who are seen as more assertive and clinical?After writing three letters to Rahul Gandhi didn't elicit a favourable response, the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) has now approached Sonia Gandhi, the Congress matriarch, requesting her to intervene. The traders want the rally at Ramlila Maidan postponed until after Diwali, warning that it could disrupt business worth Rs 10,000-12,000 crore across nearly 20 major markets in Delhi.

The Congress-led INDIA bloc's march on November 1 is an attempt to intensify its campaign against the alleged "vote theft" and the way the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is being conducted, while demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.The choice of Sonia is interesting because she has gradually moved away from the party's day-to-day functioning, leaving Rahul Gandhi and Congress MP Priyanka Gadhi Vadra to take a more active role in political and organisational matters. Yet, for the Delhi traders, approaching the former Congress president appears to be an attempt to reach someone.

PM inaugurates new cattle breeding centre in Gujarat to boost milk output

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Banas Dairy's bovine breeding centre in Gujarat. The facility aims to improve indigenous breeds and make dairy farming more productive.

Palanpur(Agency).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Bharat Bovine Breeding and Research Centre in Gujarat, aimed at improving indigenous cattle breeds and increasing milk production, news agency Press Trust of India reported.The centre, established by Banas Dairy at Bhildi in Banaskantha district, will use advanced breeding techniques and provide affordable breeding services to livestock farmers.PM Modi, who arrived as part of a two-day visit to Gujarat, toured the facility and interacted with officials to understand its functioning. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Banas Dairy chairman Shankar Chaudhary, who is also the Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly.Spread over 127 acres, the centre has been built at a cost of Rs 325 crore with technical guidance from the National Dairy Development Board and support from the Centre's Rashtriya Gokul Mission, according to an official statement cited by PTI.

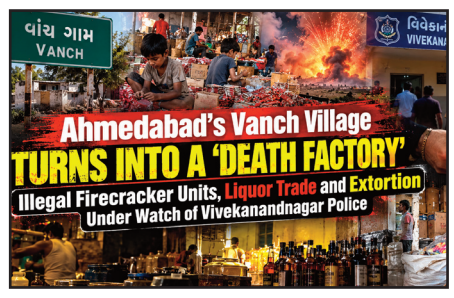


The facility will use breeding methods such as in-vitro fertilisation and embryo transfer to improve the quality of indigenous cattle breeds and raise milk production. It aims to produce 25,000 high-quality embryos every year, the statement said.The centre will focus on indigenous cow breeds such as Kankrej, Gir, Sahiwal and Tharparkar, as well as buffalo breeds including Mehsani, Banni, Jaffrabadi and Murrah.The initiative seeks to help dairy farmers obtain higher milk yields from fewer animals as cattle maintenance costs rise and fodder availability declines.The government said the centre would offer high-quality semen, embryos and breeding services to livestock farmers at affordable rates.During his visit, PM Modi is also scheduled to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for five major development projects of Banas Dairy at Bhildi.

AHMEDABAD'S VANCH VILLAGE: A DEADLY DEN OF ILLEGAL FIREWORKS & LIQUOR MAFIA!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Surat: Serious questions are being raised over law enforcement in the jurisdiction of Vivekanandnagar Police Station in Ahmedabad district. Vanch village is increasingly being described as Gujarat's own 'Shivakashi', but behind this identity lie alarming allegations of illegal firecracker manufacturing, unsafe working conditions, child labour and administrative negligence.According to local claims, several firecracker manufacturing units and storage facilities are allegedly operating across Vanch village and the wider Vivekanandnagar area without proper government permissions or adequate fire safety arrangements. These activities are reportedly putting the lives of residents, including children, at serious risk.There are also allegations that minors are being made to work in hazardous and potentially toxic environments, threatening their health and future. Residents claim that more than 1,000 illegal shops and manufacturing units are operating across the area, raising serious concerns about the possibility of a major fire or explosion.EXTORTION ALLEGATIONS: PI PARMAR AND ADMINISTRATOR KALPESH BHARWAD UNDER THE SCANNERAccording to sources, serious allegations of organised extortion have surfaced against individuals allegedly connected with Vivekanandnagar Police Station.PI Parmar and his alleged close associate, administrator Kalpesh Bharwad, have been accused of allowing illegal businesses to operate in exchange for regular payments. Sources claim that as much as ₹50,000 is allegedly being collected per individual stall or shop.These allegations raise serious questions about the functioning of the local police administration. Despite claims of repeated written and verbal complaints to senior police officials, residents allege that no effective action has been taken against those named in the complaints.The most pressing question remains: If a major fire or explosion occurs at any of these alleged illegal firecracker units, who will be held accountable for the loss of innocent lives?LIQUOR NETWORK ALLEGEDLY FLOURISHING: VIVEKANANDNAGAR BECOMES A 'MINI GOA'Local residents have also raised serious concerns about the alleged illegal liquor trade in the area, claiming that Vivekanandnagar has virtually turned into a 'Mini Goa'.According to residents, illegal country liquor manufacturing units, allegedly involving chemically contaminated and toxic substances, are operating openly. There are further allegations that both country-made and foreign liquor are being transported from Vivekanandnagar into Ahmedabad city on a regular basis.Despite the state government's repeated emphasis on enforcing prohibition laws, residents allege that illegal liquor activities continue without fear of police action.The allegations become even more serious following a claim reportedly made by a bootlegger when questioned by our reporter during an investigation.The bootlegger allegedly stated on camera.



'No recommendations': Karnataka CM talks tough on transfers

BENGALURU(Agency).

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has put a stop to transfer lobbying, announcing that from November 1 no transfers will be permitted except routine ones. Sources at the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) described the directive as a stern warning to all concerned.The Chief Minister made it clear that nobody should approach him with transfer recommendation letters. Shivakumar asked officials and public representatives to stop spending time on such recommendations and to give priority to government work and public service. "I will not tolerate recommendations or pressure for transfers," the CM said, adding that any negligence in public service will invite strict action.He urged the administration to focus on three things— effective implementation of government schemes, ensuring that benefits reach eligible beneficiaries and prompt resolution of public grievances. "Authority and influence must be used to serve the people, not to seek transfers," he said, asking everyone to take the message seriously and work towards better governance. The CM, by setting a deadline, is signalling that service delivery, not political lobbying, should set the agenda.



Congress urges Centre to coordinate Cyclone Arnab relief, ensure aid through PMCARES fund

New Delhi(Agency).

The Congress on Friday urged the Centre to coordinate relief and rehabilitation efforts with state governments in the wake of the devastation caused by Cyclone Arnab in Andhra Pradesh and heavy rainfall and flooding in Odisha. It also called for timely assistance to all affected families through the PMCARES fund.Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in Andhra Pradesh and voiced concern over the disruption caused by the cyclone in Odisha."The Union Government must lead coordinated relief and rehabilitation efforts with state governments, ensuring timely assistance through the PMCARES fund to all the affected families," Kharge said in a post on X.He also urged Congress workers to extend all possible help to people affected by the disaster.Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra echoed the appeal, urging party workers to assist in relief and rescue operations in the affected areas."My thoughts are with the people of Andhra Pradesh facing the devastation caused by Cyclone Arnab and those in Odisha affected by heavy rainfall and flooding. I pray for everyone's safety and urge Congress workers to extend every possible help to those affected and support relief and rescue efforts," she said.On Thursday night, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had also expressed concern over the devastation in Andhra Pradesh and the flooding in Odisha, urging the governments to ensure swift relief and rehabilitation for every affected family.He offered condolences.



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in Andhra Pradesh and voiced concern over the disruption caused by the cyclone in Odisha.

allot 13,000 more abadi plots in urban villages

Noida.(Agency)

Noida Authority has amended its Master Plan 2031 to resolve pending cases involving the allotment of 5% developed residential plots to farmers. The amendment provides for earmarking these plots on land adjoining existing village abadi areas and is expected to pave the way for allotment to nearly 13,000 farmers who gave up their land for development projects but are yet to receive developed plots that were part of the compensation package. Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna authorities currently follow a policy of giving farmers 5%, 6% and 7% of developed plots respectively in return for acquired land. Allotment has been planned in several cases, but farmers claim nearly 12,800 beneficiaries are still awaiting developed plots. "Since the master plan 2031 is nearing full implementation, identifying suitable locations for planning and allotting the remaining plots has become difficult. In view of farmers' demand for an early resolution of these cases, the Authority has decided to amend the master plan to allow 5% abadi plots on land adjoining existing village abadi," a Noida Authority official said.

Ghaziabad schools to remain closed on October 30 amid UP PET-2026 examination

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Schools across Ghaziabad will remain closed on Friday, Oct 30, in view of the Uttar Pradesh Preliminary Eligibility Test (PET)-2026, according to an order issued by the district education department. No such order has been issued in Noida yet.The District Inspector of Schools (DIOS), Ghaziabad, issued the directive on Oct 14, declaring a one-day educational holiday on Oct 30. The order applies to all govt and private secondary schools, inter colleges, aided and unaided institutions, and schools recognised by the UP Board, CBSE, ICSE and the Basic Education Department in the district.The decision follows directions from the Uttar Pradesh govt and the district administration regarding the conduct of the PET-2026 written examination.

30 arrested in 21 narcotics cases in month-long Ghaziabad crackdown

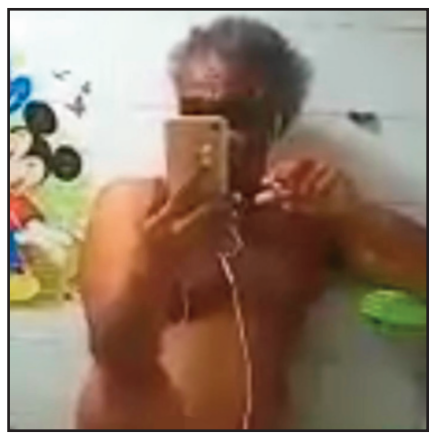
Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Authorities in the district have stepped up action against the illegal sale and trafficking of narcotics, with a focus on educational institutions and other sensitive areas.Between Sept 21 and Oct 22, police arrested 30 people in 21 narcotics cases. Separately, under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), four cases were registered, and 10 people were arrested.Police seized 47.37 kg of ganja, 2.46 kg of charas, 15.5 kg of doda, 140 grams of intoxicating powder and 146 grams of intoxicating tablets during the period. Twenty-one hookahs, 21 chillums, 26 pipes, 14 stands and 12 units of flavoured tobacco were seized under COTPA.The crackdown was reviewed at a meeting of the district-level Narcotics Coordination Centre at the collectorate on Wednesday. Additional District Magistrate (City) Vikas Kashyap, who chaired the meeting under the direction of District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandar, directed departments to intensify enforcement against drug trafficking and.

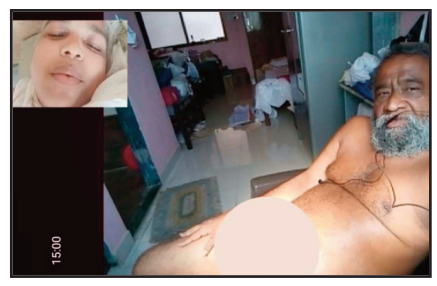
SILENCE AMID SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS: JAIN DEVOTEES DEMAND ANSWERS AND TRANSPARENCY!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad/Ujjain: he sacred Jain pilgrimage destination of Shri Palitana Giriraj, revered for its spiritual significance, austerity and devotion, has become the centre of a major controversy following serious allegations against a religious figure identified as Acharya Sagar Chandra Sagar.The allegations have triggered widespread concern and anger among sections of the Jain community. Questions have been raised over alleged misconduct, the treatment of female ascetics and women, and the suspected misuse of donations collected in the name of religion.The controversy has now taken a wider turn, with members of Jain organisations, community representatives and devotees reportedly de



manding transparency, accountability and an impartial investigation.Serious Allegations Demand a Transparent ResponseSeveral serious allegations have surfaced against Sagar Chandra Sagar, including claims of inappropriate conduct, ex



ploitation and financial irregularities.Mahanagar Metro has raised questions over the controversy and called upon the concerned religious figure to publicly respond to the allegations.If the allegations are unfounded, a clear and transparent explanation before the Jain community and the media could help address the growing concerns.The authenticity of circulating photographs and other alleged evidence must also be independently verified through an appropriate investigation. The allegations should not be treated as established facts without verification.Donations and Alleged Properties Under ScrutinyDonations made by Jain devotees are generally intended to support religious activities, community welfare, charitable initiatives and the promotion of Jain values.Questions have now emerged regarding the alleged use of donations and claims of properties held through undisclosed arrangements.Community representatives are demanding:1. Independent Investigation: A fair inquiry into the allegations of misconduct and financial irregularities.

Car crashes into parked bus on Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, couple and daughter die; 10-year-old, infant survive

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A cab driver, his wife and their seven-year-old daughter died early Thursday when their car rammed into a bus parked on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Bhondsi police station area around 3.15am. Their two other children, a 10-year-old boy and a one-year-old girl, were pulled out alive from the wreckage. The boy is seriously injured.The deceased were Bambam Kumar Sah (39), his wife Rupa Kumari (27) and their daughter Mahi (7). Originally from Bihar's Banka district, Bambam lived in Delhi's Rajokri with his family and drove a cab for a living.

The family had borrowed a Maruti Swift from a friend, Raju Singh, to visit Balaji temple in Rajasthan, Bambam's brother Balmikee Sah said. They left Rajokri around 8pm, visited the temple and were on their way back when the crash occurred.Police sources said Bambam was driving at 124 kmph when the car hit the bus. His son Ayush (10) was in the front passenger seat. Rupa, holding one-year-old Tingi, sat behind Bambam, with Mahi beside her.The impact was so severe that more than half the car went under the bus, trapping the occupants in the mangled wreckage.

An emergency response vehicle team reached the spot and police began rescue efforts with fire brigade personnel. Using a mechanical cutter, rescuers cut through the car and pulled out Ayush and Tingi. Police gave Ayush water even as he was being pulled out, as the airbags had also deployed.

Ayush was first taken to a nearby hospital and later referred to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi. Police said he could not move his leg. Tingi suffered a forehead injury but is out of danger."I received a call from the cops around 4am, following which I informed my family in Bihar and reached the spot. I was devastated to see the bodies. Now, since we won't be able to afford an ambulance to Bihar, we will cremate them here. My handicapped mother won't be able to attend their last rites," Balmikee, also a cab driver, told .

Relatives said the two surviving children will stay with their grandmother in the family's native village in Bihar. Ayush is a student at a private school near the family's rented accommodation in Delhi.The bodies were taken to Sohna Civil Hospital for postmortem and handed over to the family. Police seized the car and the bus.

Ghaziabad builder told to refund Rs 3.7 lakh to flat buyer for delay

Noida.(Agency)

The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has directed a builder to refund around Rs 3.7 lakh collected from a prospective flat buyer in 2013, along with 6% interest calculated from the date the buyer filed a complaint in 2022. The builder has been told to pay Rs 15,000 as compensation for mental agony and litigation expenses.The builder did not send any representation during the proceedings and did not file any counterclaim.



Commission president Anil Kumar Pundir and members Shailja Sanchan and RP Singh on Oct 22 allowed the complaint against Krishna Infocom, with its registered office in east Delhi, but dismissed it against the second party, Shyam Builders Pvt Ltd, for lack of evidence."Krishna Infocom is ordered to pay the complainant a sum of Rs 3,65,077, along with 6% annual simple interest from the date of filing of the complaint on Oct 14, 2022, until the actual payment. It should also pay Rs 10,000 as compensation for mental agony and Rs 5,000 as litigation expenses. In case of non-compliance of the order within 30 days, simple interest of 9% instead of 6% will be payable on the amount from the date of filing of the complaint till the actual payment is made," the commission ruled.Nehru Nagar resident Sushma Gupta filed a complaint on Oct 14, 2022, saying that she had booked a flat with a floor area of 1,205 square feet for an amount of Rs 31,44,790 with Krishna Infocom.

City AQI deteriorates to 240, remains poor for second day

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The city's air quality worsened on Thursday, with the air quality index (AQI) reaching 240 and placing it in the 'poor' category for the second consecutive day. The reading was 37 points higher than Wednesday's AQI of 203, according to the Central Pollution Control Board's monitoring app.Of the city's four monitoring stations, three were active on Thursday afternoon, and all recorded poor air quality. Sector 51 registered the highest AQI at 275, followed by NISE Gwalpahari at 231 and TERI Gram at 215. Vikas Sadan was not reporting data at the time.

Dr Nidhi Malik, senior associate in the air quality sector at Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), said, "The persistence of pollution underscores the need to identify its sources and assess the effectiveness of preventive and emergency responses. The revised GRAP allows measures to be triggered before projected AQI thresholds are reached, based on meteorological forecasts and expected pollution persistence. Persistent 'Poor' air quality alone does not prove that GRAP has failed, just as invoking it alone does not prove success. The priority should be to use air quality forecasts to trigger timely, source-specific interventions and assess their effectiveness using monitoring and emissions data. Emergency measures are necessary, but preventing recurrent pollution episodes requires sustained emission reductions across the Delhi-NCR airshed."

Rain was witnessed in parts of the city on Thursday, accompanying a spell of unsettled weather across Haryana, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds in parts of the state on Friday as well. The IMD's district-wise weather outlook indicated the possibility of thunderstorms and lightning accompanied by gusty winds of 40 to 50 kmph in parts of Haryana on Friday. The forecast map also flagged the possibility of thunderstorms with gusty winds and hail in some areas.

The five-day outlook showed warnings for Oct 29 and 30, with no weather warnings indicated for Haryana on Oct 31, Nov 1 and Nov 2. Gurgaon recorded a minimum temperature of 15.1°C on Thursday, up 3.1°C from the previous 24 hours, according to the IMD's observed minimum temperature bulletin. The Gurgaon KVK station recorded a minimum of 17.

Original certificates lying with Haryana govt, MBBS graduates in the state are in a fix ahead of NEET admissions

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Around 300 MBBS graduates who cleared NEET-PG and secured postgraduate seats risk losing them because their original documents are with the state govt under its bond policy.

The doctors, who are racing against time as they face a Nov 2 deadline to complete admission verification formalities, have written to the directorate of health education for the release of their original documents, saying years of study and a hard-won opportunity to specialise in their subjects anywhere in the country could be jeopardised by an administrative delay.

The dispute has affected graduates from four govt medical colleges — PGIMS, Rohtak; Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati Govt Medical College in Nuh; Kalpana Chawla Govt Medical College in Karnal; and BPS Govt Medical College for Women in Sonipat.

The doctors said colleges are retaining not just their permanent MBBS degrees, but also detailed mark cards for all four professional examinations, internship documents, character and attempt certificates, and permanent registration papers issued by Haryana Medical Council. They argued that the bond policy provided for withholding only the permanent degree, not these other documents. A provisional degree, they insisted, could serve in its place.They have addressed their letter seeking the originals to Dhirendra Khadgata, director of medical education and research, and marked a copy to Sumita Misra, additional chief secretary of health.

WHY DOCUMENTS MATTER

Page 51 of Medical Counselling Committee's information bulletin specifies that candidates are required to produce original certificates for physical verification. A sealed certificate or receipt confirming that their documents are held by a govt department may not meet this requirement, the graduates said. Without the originals, candidates risk being unable to complete formalities for MD and MS courses, even after securing seats through All India Quota counselling."The bond policy did not provide for withholding all these certficates. Only the permanent degree was to be held back, and students could use a provisional degree instead," said Dr Akshat Mittal, a 2020-batch graduate of PGIMS Rohtak.

WHAT IS BOND POLICY?

Introduced in Nov 2020, govt's undergraduate bond policy seeks to ensure that doctors serve in the state's medical system rather than move immediately into private practice. It requires graduates to serve for five years in public service or meet the applicable financial liability. The framework also allows them to pursue higher education in any medical college in the country through NEET-PG.The MBBS batch that took admission in Jan 2021 was the first to be covered under this policy. This batch graduated in Feb this year.

But the affected graduates said govt has yet to put the promised employment mechanism in place. According to Mittal, the online portal intended to facilitate recruitment under the policy had not been created even nine months after their graduation. acancies, he added, had also shrunk after recruitment through Haryana Civil Medical Services .

Institute fined Rs 6,000 for cutting neem tree to install ad pole near Noida Expressway

Noida.(Agency)

Haryana's plan to set up a 2,000-tonne-per-day waste-to-energy (WTE) plant at Kasan village in Manesar has come under scrutiny after a study found that electricity generated by Delhi's four operating incinerators carries a fossil-carbon footprint around 4.7 times the national grid average.The study, released on Thursday by National Alliance for Climate and Ecological Justice (NACEJ) and Centre for Financial Accountability (CFA), estimated that Delhi's plants emit 3.42kg of fossil-origin carbon dioxide (CO_2) per kilowatt-hour of net electricity exported. Central Electricity Authority's weighted-average grid emission factor is 0.727kg per kWh.The study does not assess Haryana's proposed plants or estimate their future emissions. However, its findings raise questions about the climate implications of expanding incineration as the city struggles with its waste-management challenges.In Aug, Haryana govt announced four integrated WTE plants with a combined capacity of 5,000 tonnes a day and proposed electricity generation of 50MW. The Gurgaon plant, the largest, is planned to process 2,000 tonnes a day and generate at least 20MW. The other three are planned for Faridabad, Ambala and Hisar, with capacities of 1,600, 900 and 500 tonnes a day, respectively. All are expected to become operational by Oct 2028. The state plans to use biodegradable waste to produce compressed biogas, and non-recyclable combustible dry waste to generate electricity.According to the Delhi study, the four plants processed 7,35,840 tonnes of plastic in 2023, about 42% of their refuse-derived fuel feed by mass. Burning it released an estimated 2.1



million tonnes of fossil-origin CO_2, equivalent to the annual emissions of about 1.44 million cars. The plants exported an estimated 198kWh of net electricity per tonne of raw municipal waste processed, supplying less than 1.5% of Delhi's total electricity demand.

The authors clarified that their estimate covers CO_2 from burning plastic alone, not all emissions from the plants' chimneys or their full life cycle.

Competing weather systems bring cyclone to a standstill off AP coast

VISAKHAPATNAM.(Agency)

For a few hours on October 28, Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Arnab remained almost motionless over the west-central Bay of Bengal, even as it carried winds of up to 125 kmph and threatened the Andhra Pradesh coast with destructive winds, torrential rain and storm surge.Its pause, according to a retired ocean scientist, may have been the result of competing weather systems interfering with the cyclone's forward movement.Dr K.S.R. Murthy, retired scientist from the National Institute of Oceanography, attributed the prolonged stationary phase to a complex atmospheric setting involving strong westerly winds, another developing low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal and a developing cyclone in the Myanmar region moving in the opposite direction.

"Generally, this happens when the track of a cyclone is resisted by opposing forces," he explained, noting that the interaction of these systems could have pushed Arnab backwards or restricted its movement.The India Meteorological Department on October 28 captured the unusual situation. Arnab was reported to be practically stationary over the west-central Bay of Bengal, near latitude 16.4°N and longitude 82.0°E, around 30 km east of Narsapur, 45 km south-southwest of Yanam and 70 km south-southwest of Kakinada.

Another wallet shock: Bus fares in Karnataka could see steep hike

BENGALURU.(Agency)

First milk, now your bus ride. With the State government expected to take a final decision on bus fare revision next week, the Public Transport Fare Regulatory Committee (PTFRC) has recommended a 45 per cent hike for Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and a 28 per cent increase for three other state-run transport corporations.Speaking after the Cabinet meeting on Thursday, Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh said a meeting with senior officials of all four transport corporations would be held on November 3, following which a final decision would be announced on November 4.Suresh said the fare revision proposal was discussed in detail. The Chief Minister had sought the views of Cabinet colleagues before entrusting the department with the responsibility of taking a decision on fare revision, the minister said. TNIE accessed the recommendations of the panel, which reveal that the committee's proposals are based on a Modified Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) framework that assesses operational costs, non-fare revenue and assured government support to determine the amount to be recovered through passenger fares.

GSI had flagged Burliyar landslide risk before fatal TNSTC bus mishap

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

Ahead of a massive landslide striking Burliyar in The Nilgiris on October 23 that buried a TNSTC bus and left its driver dead, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) had flagged the risk of such an incident, raising questions over disaster preparedness and the implementation of safety recommendations in the vulnerable hill region.According to information accessed by TNIE, the GSI issued a rainfall-induced landslide forecast bulletin at 2 pm on October 23, identifying Burliyar among several locations where isolated landslides could occur. The bulletin, valid from 2.30 pm on October 23 to 2.30 pm on October 24, indicated a moderate possibility of landslides in Udhagamandalam, Kotagiri and Coonoor taluks.

The warning preceded the landslide on the night of October 23, when a TNSTC bus heading towards Coimbatore from Coonoor was buried under mud, rocks and uprooted trees on the Mettupalayam-Coonoor ghat road at Burliyar. Burliyar had recorded 25 cm rain in the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am on October 24.Further, the GSI had in its warning separately documented a history of slope failures along the approximately 5-km Burliyar stretch of National Highway 181, recording 14 landslides, most involving.

'Can take on gangs, grenade… what about idle youths?': Punjab Police despair in border areas

Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Tarn Tara. (Agency)

"Grenade suttange ta koi na. Assi vee baithe haan ethey (Let them throw a grenade, we are not scared. We are not going anywhere)," says Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Kulwinder Singh, 55, in-charge of the police chowki on the outskirts of Noushehra Pannuan village in Tarn Taran district.It has been a few days after ASI Iqbal Singh was shot dead in the village, allegedly by the Dony Bal-Prabh Dasuwal gang. The murder is believed to have been the result of gang rivalry, with Iqbal's son Komal a self-acknowledged member of the Landa-Satta gang that holds sway in the area. There have been other threats of grenade attacks on police posts in the border district.The police chowki where ASI Kulwinder is posted has no boundary walls, an open approach from the road and only a handful of personnel. He admits "it is scary", adding: "We set up nakas at night, hold patrols and keep an eye out for troublemakers. Senior officers are also on their toes."As Punjab heads for elections and gang violence peaks, police personnel, sarpanchs, ex-sarpanchs and their relatives have become the prime targets of gangs involved in extortion and drugs, with the backing of Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI.Since February this year, there have been six attacks on personnel of the Punjab Police, resulting in the death of five. Five sarpanchs, ex-sarpanchs or their relatives have been killed since January. Three of these attacks have happened this month.The killings, especially of sarpanchs and those associated with them, reflect how deeply the gangs are entrenched in the area, and the political patronage enjoyed by them, say officials. "We saw the effect of such a nexus in states like Bihar. Punjab appears to be repeating the same mistake," says a Chandigarh-based senior police officer.

After the killings, a video of the murders follows on social media by gangs claiming responsibility – described by officials as a "hallmark" of the ISI. As per police estimates, 10 to 15 gangs are active in



Punjab, with their leaders based abroad, including the US and UK, Canada, Portugal, Germany, Malaysia, etc. One group whose name keeps popping up is ISI-linked Tehreek-e-Taliban Hindustan (TTH).Now, across Punjab districts falling along the border with Pakistan are posters put up by police offering rewards for information on gangsters, with a helpline number where people can call. Equally ubiquitous are stickers on cars, trucks and buses, with images of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale announcing "Lagda pher auna paoo (Looks like I have to return)", AK-47 rifles, and slogans like "Shastar ke adheen hai raj (Sovereignty can be achieved only with weapons)". (The latter from the historical text Sri Gur Pratap Suraj Granth, on the teachings of Guru Gobind Singh, who fought the Mughals.)Tarn Taran Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Surendra Lamba calls the district "different" from the rest of Punjab. "The issue here is not merely of law enforcement but also of tackling socio-economic challenges, coupled with aspirations of the youth. People here have traditionally had a challenging attitude towards authority, stemming from being a border region which has faced aggression over several centuries," says Lamba.

Cluster officer 'attacked' while recording farm fire in Kang

During his field inspection, he came across and recorded five fire farms for videographic evidence. This documentation is mandatory for reporting compliance to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Amritsar.(Agency)

A cluster officer on Thursday was allegedly brutally attacked and left unconscious while overseeing paddy stubble-burning management and videographing farm fires in Tarn Taran's Kang village, officials said. Sub Divisional Officer Khadoor Sahib Sanjeev Sharma confirmed the incident.The victim has been identified as Maninder Singh, a cluster officer working under the Soil Conservation and Water Department. Singh was assigned to oversee anti-stubble-burning operations across multiple villages in the area, including Kang, Hothian, Hansawala, Khakh, and Goindwal Sahib.Officials said Singh visited Kang to oversee farm fires and document violations.During his field inspection, he came across and recorded five fire farms for videographic evidence. This documentation is mandatory for reporting compliance to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region (NCR).During the recording, Singh was confronted by a man who reportedly possesses criminal antecedents. Although no weapons were used, the attacker — described as a tall and stout individual — physically assaulted Singh, subjecting him to severe blows.



The officer said, "He (the attacker) was about to kill him (Singh)… He went into such a deep state of shock… he collapsed unconscious in the fields." Singh's turban also came off during the violent confrontation, the officer said.Upon receiving the information, locals and the village sarpanch reached the site When Singh was rushed to the Guru Nanak Hospital, the doctors said he was unconscious with his eyes fixed and unresponsive. He was subsequently shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

SDM Sharma said no FIR has been formally registered yet. Police said they were thoroughly verifying the suspect's identity and details before filing charges.While the CAQM Act explicitly states its provisions do not apply to farmers, the accused for attacking the official will be subjected to the sections for physical assault and obstruction of public duty, and severe injuries inflicted on the officer will attract rigorous criminal prosecution, an official said. Based on the data provided on stubble-burning enforcement in Tarn Taran up to October 28, 2026, 318 cases were reported by October 27, 2026. Following ground-truthing inspections, 157 of those cases were found to have no actual burning, while fires were confirmed in 161 instances. To curb the practice, authorities imposed and collected challans totaling 8.25 lakhs, alongside registering 161 FIRs and Red Entries.

Ongole municipal election campaign enters final phase

ONGOLE.(Agency)

With just two days left for campaigning, the municipal election battle in the combined Prakasam district has entered a crucial phase ahead of polling on November 1.While Darsi and Kanigiri municipalities have unanimously elected their councils, elections in Kandukur and Podili will be held later due to procedural delays.Polling will be held in Ongole Municipal Corporation (OMC) and the municipalities of Chimakurthy, Addanki, Markapuram and Giddalur.

In OMC, the main contest is between the TDP-led NDA alliance and the YSRCP. Despite the seat-sharing arrangement, TDP and Jana Sena candidates are in direct contest in five divisions.Of the 62 divisions, Jana Sena is contesting 11 and the BJP two, while the remaining seats are with the TDP. Senior leaders from



both camps have intensified campaigning.Ongole MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, Ongole MLA Damacharla Janardhana Rao and SN Padu MLA BN Vijay Kumar are canvassing for TDP mayoral candidate Nallamalli Sri Shilpa. On the YSRCP side, Rajya Sabha MPs YV Subba Reddy and Alla Ayodhya Ramireddy, along with Chevireddi Bhaskara Reddy, B Brahmananda Reddy and Darsi MLA Buchepalli Siva Prasad Reddy, are campaigning for mayoral candidate Kuppam Prasad.

In other municipalities, key contests are between Sidda Sudhakar (TDP) and Medagam Sridevi (YSRCP) in Chimakurthy, K Ashok (TDP) and U Suresh (YSRCP) in Addanki, K Ramireddy (TDP) and Ch Kanaka Durga (YSRCP) in Markapuram, and JV Narayana (BJP) and B Narasimha Reddy (YSRCP) in Giddalur.

Azam Khan to walk out of jail as Allahabad High Court grants bail in dual PAN card case

Duo to be released from jail upon completion of formalities.

Lucknow.(Agency)

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday granted bail to senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Azam in the alleged dual PAN card case, but dismissed their prayer seeking stay against their conviction. The court also suspended the sentence of the former Uttar Pradesh minister and his son, a former legislator.The father-son duo is now likely to walk out of jail after bail formalities are done, their counsel Ankur Azad told .Both were lodged in Rampur jail after a local court sentenced them on different charges including forgery, cheating and criminal conspiracy in November last year. The High Court had been hearing separate petitions of Azam and Abdullah with similar prayers.

'No reason for staying conviction'

A single bench of Justice Samit Gopal, in its order delivered Thursday, stated that Azam faced 92 criminal cases while Abdullah had 46 cases against him. Azam has been previously convicted in eight cases, and his appeal against two convictions was dismissed by the appellate court. There are 81 cases pending against him in various courts. Similarly, Abdullah has been convicted in four matters, and his appeals in two of these were dismissed by the appellate court, while 44 matters are pending against him, the bench stated.The bench ordered, "Thus looking to the criminal antecedents of the accused/revisionists, their previous conviction(s), involvement in large number of criminal cases, no justifiable reason is coming forward for entertaining the plea for suspension of conviction. This Court does not find it a fit case for grant of stay of conviction to the revisionists Mohd. Azam Khan and Mohd. Abdullah Azam Khan. The said prayer(s) thus stand dismissed."

The grounds for bail

While hearing the bail plea, the bench also noted the years of incarceration of both the leaders, as ordered by trial and appellate courts in different cases.Maximum punishment awarded to Azam Khan is 10-year rigorous imprisonment (RI), and 7-year RI to Abdullah, the court stated.The bench of



Justice Gopal ordered, "Looking to the nature of occurrence, period of detention of the accused/revisionists, the fact that the case in hand is for a fixed term of sentence, the present case is a fit case where the accused/revisionists- Mohd. Azam Khan and Mohd. Abdullah Azam Khan be enlarged on bail. Let both the revisionists – Mohd. Azam Khan and Mohd. Abdullah Azam Khan be released on bail in the aforesaid case."The Special Judge (MP/MLA)/Court, Rampur, had convicted and sentenced Azam and Abdullah on November 17 last year, which was further upheld and their sentences enhanced by the appellate district court.

Secret lab in UP village, Rs 200-crore haul: Mephedrone unit busted

Two arrested in joint operation in Orai area; seized drugs and precursor chemicals estimated to be worth over Rs 200 crore.

Amritsar.(Agency)

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), in a joint operation with the UP Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), busted an illegal mephedrone manufacturing unit in Uttar Pradesh's Jalaun district on Thursday and seized 1,102.88 kg of drugs and precursor chemicals valued at over Rs 200 crore, officials said. Two men have been arrested.The operation followed a tip-off about a large drug manufacturing unit operating in a village in the Orai area. After verifying the information, the DRI sought assistance from the UP ATS to raid the premises, located in a remote, densely populated area, an official said.The team, accompanied by ATS commandos, launched the operation in the early hours of Thursday and searched the premises, where it found a functional laboratory for manufacturing synthetic drugs.Officials seized around 184 kg of semi-finished drugs, along with 582.2 kg (gross weight) of precursor chemicals and equipment from the unit.The team then searched the residential premises of one of the accused, recovering 15.44 kg of finished mephedrone, 152.94 kg (gross weight) of chemicals and a machine used in the manufacturing process.A further search at the premises of another accused led to the seizure of 168.3 kg (gross weight) of precursor chemicals.The DRI said the total seizure of drugs and precursor chemicals amounted to 1,102.88 kg, with an estimated international market value exceeding Rs 200 crore.The two arrested men have been identified as Hemendra Kushwah, 27, and Santosh, 37.



Officials said they would be questioned to establish the wider network involved in manufacturing and trafficking the drug.

World craving for a third voice to fill yawning gap

In Davos earlier this year, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney tried to rally the "middle powers" around by warning that "if we're not at the table, we're on the menu". It was a reaction to Trump's huge pressure on Canada. For Carney, middle powers essentially meant Western middle powers (and possibly a few non-Western ones who think like them) getting together to protect Western values, liberal order and, most importantly, status quo.

Without entering into the thicket of defining middle powers, suffice to say that these are countries that are big enough to influence geopolitics globally or regionally and also willing to use that power to do so. Hence, it combines capability with the will to use it.

After the Second World War, the Cold War blocs—the US and Soviet Union, which wanted the world order to be moulded in their own image—provoked the middle powers of that time—India, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Indonesia and Ghana—to found the Non-Alignment Movement, where the developing countries took this "third path". Now history has come a full circle, though the world looks very different. It is the US and China pushing for their own vision of the future. There is now space—in fact, a need—to have a third voice or voices.But how can Canada or larger European countries be that fulcrum for a third voice when all they want is to preserve the status quo of the old order from which they have hugely benefitted? Middle powers like France and Italy are also being severely challenged from within. Japan and Australia may think more independently, but they have not yet come out of their Western alliance mindset.

Even motivations are different. The West wants a buy-in from middle powers like India, Brazil, South Africa and Indonesia to strengthen multilateralism and the UN facing severe headwinds, especially from the US. But for the Global South, strengthening multilateralism means deep structural reforms and disrupting status quo. Dangling big power status in front of the Global South middle powers by including them in non-inclusive plurilateral bodies, even if it is as influential as G20, is merely sidestepping the central question of reform of the UN, WTO or IMF. The agenda of the forthcoming G20 summit in the US promises to be even less focused on the Global South.

Logically, it is only Global South middle powers, caught as they are between the US and China, which can shake-up status-quoists. For that they have to coalesce and lead, not merely be bridges to both sides or remain neutral. However, Global South middle powers are highly heterogenous with serious differences. For example, some middle powers in the expanded BRICS are at war with each other. Consequently, leadership can only come from those who not only have the capability and willingness to use it positively, but also create synergies with other like-minded middle powers.After the dwindling American security umbrella in West Asia, we see the nascent realigning of middle powers in that region with Mecca defence pact between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. They have now reached out to Iran, thereby signalling a willingness to talk to their adversary. More such realignments are bound to happen, especially encouraged by China and Russia to loosen Western hold over the Global South. In the face of the shrinking role of the US and European powers, the Global South is coming together to protect their immediate interests, security or economic, rather than having a grand design to stabilise the world order. India is much bigger than almost all the middle powers and is rising. That's probably why we are very touchy when the country is called a middle power, preferring it to be called a "rising power" or "civilisational power".

Litmus test of economic resilience

As buffers thin and inflation broadens, new challenges are arising

RESILIENCE has been the defining feature of the global economy over the past year. Despite heightened geopolitical tensions and supply-side disruptions, economic activity has consistently outperformed expectations.Reflecting this strength, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised its global growth forecast to 3.1% for 2026 and expects growth to improve to 3.4% in 2027, while cautioning that downside risks remain dominant.India has mirrored this resilience. Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth was a stronger-than-expected 7.7% in fiscal 2025-26 despite tariff-related uncertainty and global volatility. The economy expanded by 7.8% in the first quarter (April-June) of the current financial year, and high-frequency indicators point to sustained momentum in the second quarter.Not surprisingly, the IMF has revised India's growth forecast upward to 7% from 6.6% for 2026-27.While growth has remained resilient, inflation is beginning to re-emerge as a concern. Global inflation is projected to rise to 4.7% in 2026 from 4.1% in 2025. Inflation is expected to exceed central bank targets in many inflation-targeting economies. In India, we expect inflation to rise to 5.3% this financial year from 2% in the last fiscal, with risks tilted to the upside.Several factors explain the surprising resilience of global growth. Foremost among them is the powerful investment cycle driven by artificial intelligence (AI) in the US.The rapid expansion of AI infrastructure has stimulated investment directly while generating spillovers for economies supplying semiconductors, electronics and other critical inputs.

AI-related investments are expected to account for nearly 3% of US GDP in 2026.The benefits of this investment boom, however, have not accrued evenly. India has gained little directly because it is not a significant manufacturer of inputs used in AI infrastructure. Instead, economies such as Taiwan, South Korea and Vietnam, which are deeply embedded in AI-related supply chains, have emerged as key beneficiaries.The relatively modest increase in crude oil prices despite severe disruption to energy infrastructure and the temporary closure of the Strait of Hormuz has helped, too.The energy shock f 2026 is widely regarded as one of the largest on record, yet oil prices have remained well below what doomsayers anticipated.For India, the impact was mitigated by the diversification of crude sourcing and timely policy interventions. Households were largely shielded from higher energy costs as the government and oil companies absorbed a substantial portion of the increase.

Global demand dynamics also helped contain the rise in crude prices. Significant inventory drawdowns, particularly in China, and rapid electric vehicle adoption moderated crude oil demand and prevented a sharper increase in prices. This provided important relief for India, which imports more than 85% of its crude oil requirements.India's downstream refining sector provided an additional buffer. Higher crude prices were accompanied by a sharper rise in refined petroleum product prices, partly because refinery disruptions elsewhere curtailed supply. As a result, petroleum exports grew strongly in the first half of this fiscal, easing pressure on oil companies and narrowing the oil trade deficit.That cushion, however, is beginning to weaken. Crude oil prices have moved higher again as supply



disruptions have outpaced demand moderation and global inventory buffers have thinned. As a result, crude oil prices may remain elevated for longer, increasing risks.Global trade has also displayed remarkable adaptability by rerouting supply chains and diversifying export markets, which has kept trade activity robust, particularly across Asia.India's merchandise exports saw healthy growth in the first half of this fiscal (April-September), supported not only by petroleum products but also by electronics, engineering goods and chemicals. This helped contain the deterioration in the trade balance.

Domestic demand has also remained supportive. The impact of goods and services tax (GST) rate cuts in 2025 was particularly visible in the automobile sector, while income tax relief boosted household purchasing power. Passenger vehicle and two-wheeler sales grew strongly in the first half of this fiscal, and credit growth remained in the high single digits.Even so, India's growth is likely to moderate in the second half of this fiscal as some of the factors that supported activity begin to fade and new domestic headwinds emerge. The boost from the GST cuts would ease as firms increasingly pass through higher input costs to consumers.Weather-related risks have become a key concern. The monsoon season ended with rainfall 13% below the long-period average and significant temporal and spatial imbalances. According to the India Meteorological Department, 40% of India's districts are facing deficient rains, raising concerns about agricultural output and food prices. The risks extend beyond the kharif season as a weaker monsoon can reduce soil moisture and reservoir levels, affecting rabi production as well.These domestic risks coincide with a deteriorating global food outlook. Rising agricultural input costs and an intensifying El Niño are placing upward pressure on food prices worldwide and increasing the likelihood of weather-related disruptions to agricultural production across regions.

For India, this can create a double challenge: weaker domestic farm output and firmer imported food prices. The risks are particularly acute in edible oils, where high import dependence and rising global prices have already pushed inflation in the category close to double digits.

Since food accounts for a larger share of expenditure among lower-income households, sustained food inflation can have a disproportionate impact on household budgets and complicate inflation management.Moreover, inflationary pressures are no longer confined to food. Alongside rising food prices, costs of key industrial inputs such as metals and energy have also increased sharply. This is reflected in wholesale price inflation, which rose to 11.4% in September. When input costs rise amid healthy demand, producers tend to pass them on to consumers, broadening inflationary pressures across the economy.

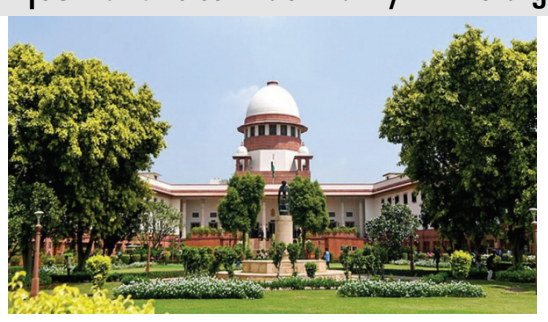
Against this backdrop, the Reserve Bank of India has recalibrated its policy stance to preserve price stability. Following the 25-basis-point increase in the repo rate in October, we expect another increase of similar magnitude in December.Unlike the last fiscal, when policy rates were reduced and financing conditions remained accommodative, higher interest rates are likely to raise borrowing costs.Ultimately, an economy's resilience depends on the strength of its buffers relative to the magnitude of the shocks it faces. Those buffers are beginning to thin. Elevated crude oil prices, El Niño and a weak monsoon warrant close monitoring in the near term.

Over the medium term, strengthening energy security, securing supply chains, creating productive employment opportunities and advancing structural reforms will be essential for sustaining higher and more durable economic growth.

Law needs to protect both individual rights and press freedom

Exercise of legislative privilege in the case of certain provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 can threaten journalistic confidentiality in the digital space

The Digital News Publishers Association has challenged India's data protection law, raising a pressing question: could its requirements make it harder for journalists to investigate wrongdoing by requiring them to seek consent from those under scrutiny? The body representing the digital wings of major news organisations—including this one—seeks declaring certain provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and the DPDP Rules, 2025 unconstitutional. Its counsel told the court on Tuesday that the requirements could "shut down the newsroom". Chief Justice Surya Kant responded: "You are the best person to suggest… how you will ensure there's no misuse." The court issued notices returnable on November 17.The 724-page petition argues that without a specific exemption for journalism, newsrooms could struggle to meet the Act's requirements. The petition notes that earlier versions of the proposed law, from 2018 to 2021, included exemptions for journalistic purposes. The 2022 draft and 2023 legislation dropped it, leaving the government to provide for exemptions. DNPA argues that its omission threatens freedom of speech.Seeking consent



before investigating suspected wrongdoing could alert those under scrutiny, putting evidence and sources at risk. Section 12, which provides for the correction, updating and erasure of personal data, raises concerns that journalists could face demands to alter or remove published reports. Section 36's broad information-gathering powers could threaten confidential sources.The National Campaign for People's Right to Information and others have also challenged the law's implications for the RTI Act, government exemptions and regulatory independence. Section 44(3) of DPDP Act changes the RTI Act's rules on personal information. The earlier provision allowed personal information to be withheld in certain circumstances but permitted disclosure when a larger public interest justified it. The new provision exempts personal information without setting out those conditions.Exercise of legislative privilege can come into conflict with press freedom. In 2003, the Tamil Nadu Assembly sentenced journalists and executives associated with The Hindu to imprisonment over critical reporting, before withdrawing the resolution in July 2004. In October 2026, the Supreme Court disposed of the proceedings as infructuous. However, larger questions surrounding freedom of expression remained unanswered.Privacy matters, but it cannot be used to prevent legitimate scrutiny of public misconduct. Protecting individuals and allowing journalists to question those in power should not be competing goals. The law needs to uphold both.

All accountable in stampede nation

We must learn lessons from deadly stampedes like the recent one in Kolkata during Durga puja. Rather than blaming crowds, organisers must stop celebrating massive turnouts. We should not allow repeated narrow escapes to convince us that the risks were never serious

Nineteen people who went out to celebrate Durga Puja on the evening of October 17 never returned home. The crowd crush at Chorbagan in Kolkata left the city grieving and many uncomfortable questions unanswered. Someone I knew was among those who lost their lives, making the tragedy painfully personal. Yet, I wonder why it should take a familiar face for us to feel the full weight of such a tragedy. India has witnessed this horror before. At religious gatherings, railway stations, sporting celebrations and political rallies, ordinary occasions have repeatedly ended in extraordinary grief. The settings change. The stories of those left behind do not. We mourn, demand answers and promise it must never happen again. Then another crowd gathers, another warning goes unnoticed and another tragedy takes us by 'surprise'. Are these disasters really so unpredictable? Or have we simply grown accustomed to living dangerously? What happens when lakhs of people gather in one place? We tend to look at others for reassurance. If everyone is moving towards an entrance, we assume it must be safe. Excitement spreads easily, but so does fear. In a dense crowd, even a small disturbance can trigger confusion. Yet it would be unfair to dismiss such tragedies as mere panic or irrational mob behaviour. Beyond a certain density, people lose control over their own movements. They may be pushed forward without intending to. Someone who falls may be impossible to reach to help. The pressure of bodies alone can make breathing difficult and turn fatal within minutes. Children, older adults and those with physical limitations are particularly vulnerable.What appears from outside to be a reckless crowd may actually be hundreds of frightened individuals struggling to say upright. Understanding this distinction matters. It shifts our attention from blaming people for panicking to asking why they were allowed to become trapped in the first place.

The danger often begins long before the crowd assembles. We have gradually turned public celebrations into competitions for attention. A temple gathering, a cricket victory, a concert or a festival becomes an event that simply cannot be missed. Social media amplifies the excitement. Viral videos, relentless publicity and the fear of being left out draw people in numbers that the venue may never have been designed for.

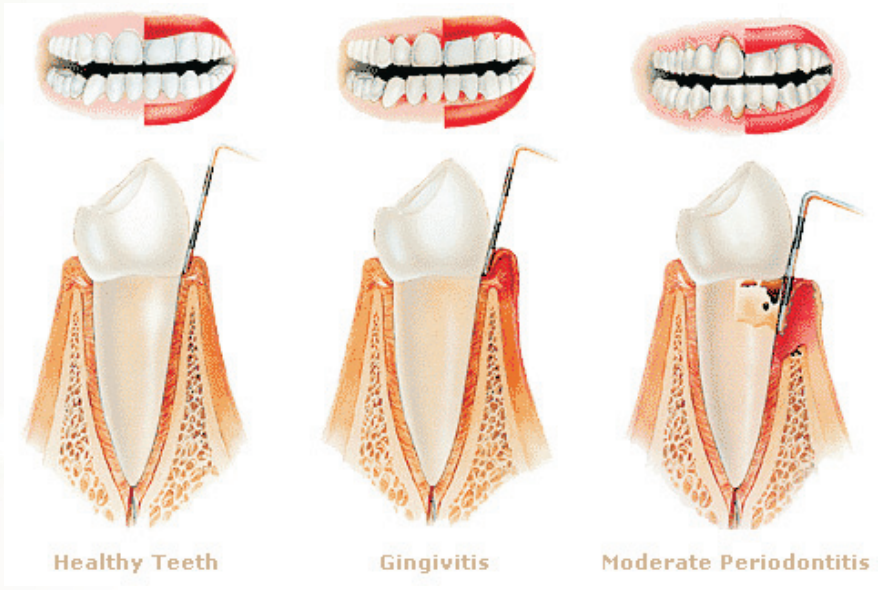
Organises celebrate record attendance. We proudly share photographs of overflowing streets. Rarely do we ask whether those thousands can leave as safely as they entered.



There is nothing wrong with devotion, celebration or collective joy. The trouble begins when popularity becomes more important than capacity. We have become remarkably good at creating excitement, but not nearly as thoughtful about its consequences.The warning signs are hardly new. In 2024, more than 120 people died at a religious gathering in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras. The Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj witnessed another deadly crush in 2025. Months later, celebrations following Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL victory claimed 11 lives. Each tragedy brings investigations, public anger and promises of better arrangements. But how much really changes? Part of the problem lies in how easily we become accustomed to danger. When thousands squeeze through a narrow passage and nothing goes wrong, we call it successful management. The next time, we allow even more people through. Repeated escapes from disaster gradually convince us that the risk was never serious. Our collective memory is equally short. Today's outrage becomes tomorrow's forgotten headline. We remember the death toll but rarely the conditions that made those deaths possible. And so the same mistakes return, often disguised as the excitement of another grand occasion.Accountability, therefore, cannot end with blaming the crowd or identifying a few individuals after a disaster. In the Chorbagan incident, questions have emerged about crowd regulation



There's no denying that a bright and shinning smile can instantly pep up the dullest moment.



Home remedies for Bleeding gums

But, if your gums bleed when you brush your teeth, you are probably suffering from a slightly mild case of gingivitis. Gum bleeding is very common and many people suffer from it. The best advice always is to see your dentist who will diagnose your gums problem correctly and advise the best step to take. Thankfully there are certain home remedies that can prevent the bleeding and inflammation of gums and can work effectively.

1. Clove Oil:

Considered to be one of the best home remedies, clove oil helps to reduce the inflammation of gums and stops the gums from bleeding to a larger extent. Take a little clove oil and rub it on your gums or chew one or two cloves. You may feel a slight burning sensation, but it will reduce the inflammation to a greater extent.

2. Use Aloevera:

Aloevera has many medicinal properties and one of the properties is to reduce gum inflammation, making bleeding less likely. Take a small amount of aloevera pulp and massage it on your gums, Let the pulp settle on your gums before rinsing your mouth. Mild gum diseases can be taken care by consuming liquids that have natural aloevera in it.

3. Brushing and flossing:

Prevention has always been better than cure. So if you don't want to wait till the time you get a gum inflammation to take care of your gums start brushing twice daily along with flossing. Not only will it enable you to get a pearly white smile it will also help you to keep several gum and teeth related problems at bay.

4. Fresh fruits and vegetables:

Fresh and raw vegetable and fruits not only are good for overall health they are also equally important for healthy gums as well. Fruits and vegetables are rich in vitamins, minerals and low in calories. Chewing raw vegetables help to improve blood circulation in gums, thus helping to reduce the bleeding of gums.

5. Salt gargling:

One of the most easiest and simplest home remedies is to gargle with salt water. Take some lukewarm water and add a bit of salt and gargle with it thrice a day. Make sure the water is not hot as it may lead to scalding.



Decoding type 3 Diabetes

Type 3 diabetes is a fallout of type 2 diabetes, but sadly very little is know about type 3 diabetes.



Though type 3 diabetes is not as well researched as type 1 and type 2 diabetes, Dr. S V Madhu, Secretary, RSSDI (Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India) to helps us decode the basis of type 3 diabetes and the causes of this type of diabetes.



What is type 3 diabetes?

Type 1 diabetes is hereditary and type 2 diabetes is due to lifestyle changes, type 3 diabetes is linked to the brain. This is what Dr. S V Madhu has to say, "Certain parts of the body secrete insulin within the body. When the brain is resistant to the body generated insulin than it is termed as Type 3 Diabetes."

Causes of type 3 diabetes

Unfortunately we are still not sure, what are the causes of type 3 diabetes. "No one is very clear about the cause of type 3 diabetes," says the doctor.

Symptoms of type 3 diabetes

"The symptoms of type 3 diabetes are common like other diabetes. But when we see the brain dysfunction coupled with memory loss than it is type 3 diabetes," explains Dr. S V Madhu. If diabetics experience memory loss, it is important to consult a doctor immediately.

Treatment for type 3 diabetes

Type 3 diabetes treatment is not different from treating other types of diabetes. "The patient of type 3 diabetes will be treated like any other diabetes patient," says Dr. S V Madhu, Secretary, RSSDI.

Risk factors for type 3 diabetes

Obesity is one of the causes of diabetes, and it is also linked to type 3 diabetes. Dr. S V Madhu informs, "We can say that those who are obese or predisposed to type 2 diabetes are likely to develop type 3."

Herbal remedies for headache

The age old remedies from mama's kitchen are back to cure the most common of illnesses — headaches. This is a condition that escapes no one. Right from a 10th standard student appearing for his exams to a retired man, everyone complains of a headache.

The most likely solution for a headache in this new generation of chemicals, is popping a pill, but for people with more frequent headaches and for those who would rather not put unnecessary toxins in your body, herbs is the way to go. There are various causes for a headache and an equal number of remedies, so before going through the long list of probable cures you should first start by finding the source of your headache. For some, a strong scent could be enough to get them flinching while for others long days of work are the cause of their agony.



Willow Bark: The most ordinary treatment for a regular headache is the ingredient that aspirin is made of, the willow bark. A mixture of peppermint, chamomile and willow bark tea is excellent for a more severe headache.

Peppermint: Peppermint works like a charm for migraines. It has been used as a headache remedy for hundreds of years. From tea to extracts, there are lots of ways to enjoy it.

Primrose: If you are one those workaholics with a 9 to 9 job, maybe a daily evening primrose supplement is the way to go for you. High on phenylalanine, a pain relieving compound, primrose, also has various other constituents that help with a number of problems. But for those with chronic migraines there are two herbs that completely steal the show, bay and feverfew. A tea made from both these ingredients are the best to ail a throbbing head and just for a bit more taste you can add a dash of peppermint.

Other herbs: A number of other herbs can be included in your daily diet just to make sure that the headache monster doesn't get you next. Herbs like garlic, ginger, red pepper, thyme, parsley, cherries, lavender and sunflower seeds are a few easily available remedies that you could use. So next time you want to heal a hurting head, make your way to the kitchen instead of reaching to the medicine cabinet.



Why your kids need dirt to be Healthy

Do you often compare your child to the neighborhood kid who never falls sick? Do you suspect his parents know something that you don't? Probably not. In all likelihood, the fault lies in the fact that you fuss a lot over hygiene and cleanliness. Surprised? Well, don't be.

Nutrition and fitness expert, Luke Coutinho who has authored the globally acclaimed book, 'The Great Indian Diet' with Shilpa Shetty, explains, "A lot of kids have allergies, skin problems like psoriasis, eczema, asthma, skin issues and wheezing problems. In fact, wheezing is growing as a common trend among kids and a lot of this relates back to the way we bring up our children. We are living in a world, which is very clean. We keep our homes so clean, keep our children clean, we keep washing our hands all the time with anti-microbial hand washes, bath soaps and sanitizers." In our attempt to be super clean, we compromise on microbes that are extremely important for our living.

Microbes are small organisms that are present everywhere- in air, clothes, on the skin, food and most prominently in the soil. We need them to maintain good gut health and boost immunity. The microbes in the gut feed your good bacteria. However, by constantly making your kid wash his hands with anti-microbial and anti-bacterial soaps, or sanitisers and preventing your kid from playing in the garden or soil, you are rapidly depleting the presence of these essential microbes.

To increase good bacteria in the gut, we feed our kids on probiotics present in certain foods (or by administering tablets) without realizing that they won't last long in the body. What your body needs is constant exposure to microbes that lead to good bacteria in the gut. One way to enable this is by increasing their consumption of raw seeds and vegetables, which will then allow these microbes to enter their gut. Having a bath without soap also retains necessary microbes.

So how can you do it if you don't have access to gardens or clean soil around you? We definitely don't recommend you to let your kid play in the soil, which is contaminated with animal excreta or urine and works more like a dump yard for many. There is an alternative. Luke recommends making a microbe box. Buy organic soil and fill up the box with that soil. Also add some leaves or seeds once a week - not to grow but for it to generate and feed the microbes. The leaves decay and become natural compost.

Allow your child to run his hands in this soil. It is not only healthy for your gut but also therapeutic. Not only your kid, even you should do that 5-10 minutes every day. "Every time I play with the soil, it connects me with nature. It is better than any supplements and makes your child's immunity lot better," he concludes.

We are losing fifth of world food to overeating, wastage



Almost 20% of the food made available to consumers worldwide is lost through over-eating or wastage, according to a new study. The world population consumes around 10% more food than it needs, while almost 9% is thrown away or left to spoil, researchers said.

Efforts to reduce the billions of tonnes lost could improve global food security -ensuring everyone has access to a safe, affordable, nutritious diet -and help prevent damage to the environment, they said.

Scientists at University of Edinburgh in the UK examined 10 key stages in the global food system -including food consumption and the growing and harvesting of crops -to quantify the extent of losses.

Using data for 2011 (the most recent date for which the researchers said all required data was available) collected primarily by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, the team found that more food is lost from the system than was previously thought.

Almost half of harvested crops -or 2.1 billion tonnes -are lost through over-consumption, consumer waste and inefficiencies in production processes, researchers said.

Livestock production is the least efficient process, with losses of 78% or 840 million tonnes, the team found.Some 1.08 billion tonnes of harvested crops are used to produce 240 million tonnes of edible animal products including meat, milk and eggs. This stage alone accounts for 40% of all losses of harvested crops, researchers said. Increased demand for some foods, particularly meat and dairy products, would decrease the efficiency of the food system and could make it difficult to feed the world's expanding population in sustainable ways, they said. Meeting this demand could cause environmental harm by increasing greenhouse gas emissions, depleting water supplies and causing loss of biodiversity.

Encouraging people to eat fewer animal products, reduce waste and not exceed nutritional needs could help reverse these trends, the team said."Until now, it was not known how over-eating impacts the system.

Not only is it harmful to health, we found that overeating is bad for the environment and impairs food security," Peter Alexander from Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences said.

The scent of sleep

Is bedtime a troubled time for you? You are sleepy, tired...but the moment you lie down, the ZZZsss bid goodbye? Sleep is the first casualty of everyday stress, but help is only a sniff away. We are talking about essential oils. "Once applied to the skin, essential oils are absorbed in the bloodstream within 3 to 5 minutes. Use just a bit on your ear lobes, wrists and soles to let the aroma lull you to quality slumber," says aromatherapist Nikki Kapoor. Here's a quick primer on what to sniff and sleep well.

Lavender oil for mild headache

This pleasant-smelling popular oil has been anointed as the super sleep oil in many studies and is used in many relaxing products such as aroma candles, bath salts and eye masks. Kapoor's advice: Use it for mild insomnia and a light headache.

Clary Sage for blood pressure

Clary sage oil is renowned for its quality of bringing down blood pressure levels. "Elevated BP leads to sleep troubles and using clary sage helps in controlling it, leading to better sleep," says veteran aromatherapist Blossom Kochhar.

Frankincense for pain relief

A 2016 study conducted on cancer patients found that 64 per cent reported improved sleep after using aroma sticks with frankincense. Kapoor, a two-time cancer survivor, swears by its healing power. A 2004 study said that using this oil reduces pain and anxiety of childbirth. "It has a sedative effect and is an anti-depressant as well," adds Kochhar.

Jasmine oil for confidence

This quintessential Indian essential oil with its sweet aroma works as a confidence booster. "Those who bring back the pressures of work home will benefit by including jasmine oil as it helps one forget trivial worries and induces relaxation," explains Kochhar.

Vetiver oil for arthritis

Vetiver or khus is a cooling oil. Extracted from vetiver grass, its oil is earthy and helps relieve aches and pains. According to Kochhar, "People with a history of arthritis have difficulty in sleeping because of the pain. A healing oil like vetiver applied on the affected area provides relief."



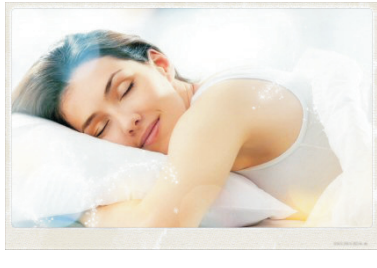
Make your own sleep mists

1. In a small bowl, mix 3 drops of lavender oil, 2 drops each of geranium and sandalwood oil. Combine this blend with 200ml almond or grapeseed oil.

2. In a bowl, mix 3 drops of jasmine oil with 1 drop each of patchouli and sandalwood oil. Add this blend to 200ml almond, jojoba or grapeseed oil.

Now you have two DIY sleep mists. Apply 8-10 drops of either on your skin for good sleep.

How to use



With the exception of lavender, don't use essential oils directly on the skin. Always mix them with other carrier oils such as almond, coconut, grapeseed or cocoa and shea butter.

You can also add 2-3 drops to your regular lotion or body cream.

Don't use essential oils on infants under three months. Lavender is best for them.

Pregnant women should consult their physician before using essential oils.

Create your own customised oil by mixing different essential oils, but be aware of the right quantity.

MCD seeks land from DDA, urban shelter board to set up waste plants

Delhi.(Agency)

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has sought land from the Delhi Development Authority and the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) to set up waste-processing plants, as the civic body struggles to keep pace with the city's daily garbage generation.A civic body official said the MCD had identified four locations for the proposed facilities —Ghummanhera and Kharkhari Nahar in the Najafgarh zone, and Rani Khera and Sultanpur Dabas in the Narela zone. The corporation wrote to the DDA on September 28 regarding the land requirement, the official said.The search for additional sites comes as Delhi generates around 13,500 tonnes of municipal waste daily, while the MCD processes only 57 per cent of it. The remaining 5,800 tonnes, or about 43 per cent of the daily waste load, goes untreated and adds to the burden on the city's saturated landfill sites.

Officials said the MCD has also identified land of its own for setting up waste-processing facilities, as part of its efforts to expand the city's garbage-treatment capacity.The corporation has been clearing accumulated garbage through bio-mining at its landfill sites. However, the continued disposal of fresh waste has made it difficult to prevent new waste mounds from forming, underscoring the need for additional processing capacity.In June, the MCD approved five waste-processing projects worth around `596 crore, with a combined capacity of 5,900 tonnes per day. The proposed facilities are at Bhalswa, Okhla, Singhola, Ghazipur and Narela-Bawana.

SC, ST bodies ask JNU to act on quota-seat issue

Delhi.(Agency)

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Thursday intervened in the controversy over missing reserved seats at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), directing the university administration to re-notify the seats before the viva-voce examinations or submit an explanation for their absence. The commission also summoned the administration for an inquiry on Monday.The intervention followed a complaint filed by a JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) office-bearer, raising concerns over the alleged non-availability of reserved seats and the implementation of reservation policies at the university.In a parallel development, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes



(NCST) directed JNU's Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC) to examine the matter immediately. The commission said that accountability will be sought from the vice-chancellor over concerns regarding the reservation of Scheduled Tribe (ST) seats.Reacting to the developments, JNUSU president Aditi described the intervention by the two statutory commissions as a significant step towards ensuring accountability. She demanded immediate action from the administration to protect the constitutional rights of SC and ST students.JNUSU vice-president Gopika said reservation was a constitutional right rather than an administrative favour.

'Panel's intervention highlighted the seriousness'

General secretary Sunil said the panel's intervention highlighted seriousness of the issue. He urged the administration to explain the discrepancy, re-notify seats before the Viva-Voce examinations and ensure that eligible candidates were not denied opportunities.

After cyclone Arnab devastation, Congress calls for coordinated relief operations

Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul Gandhi have called for swift assistance to cyclone Arnab-affected families and asked party workers to support relief and rescue efforts.

Delhi.(Agency)



The Congress on Friday urged the Centre to coordinate relief and rehabilitation efforts with state governments after cyclone Arnab caused devastation in Andhra Pradesh and disrupted lives in Odisha, news agency Press Trust of India reported.Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul Gandhi called for swift assistance to affected families and asked party workers to support relief and rescue efforts.Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge urged party workers to extend all possible help to those in distress."Deeply distressed by the loss of lives in Andhra Pradesh and the massive disruption to people's lives in Odisha caused by Cyclone Arnab. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," he said in a post on X, according to PTI.Kharge said the Union government must lead coordinated relief and rehabilitation efforts with state governments and ensure timely assistance through the PM-CARES fund for all affected families.Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also urged party workers to help with relief efforts."My thoughts are with the people of Andhra Pradesh facing the devastation caused by Cyclone Arnab and those in Odisha affected by heavy rainfall and flooding. I pray for everyone's safety and urge Congress workers to extend every possible help to those affected and support relief and rescue efforts," she said.On Thursday night, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi expressed deep concern over the devastation in Andhra Pradesh and the heavy rainfall and flooding in Odisha."Deeply concerned by the devastation caused by Cyclone Arnab in Andhra Pradesh and the heavy rainfall and flooding in Odisha," he said in a post on X."My heartfelt condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones. My thoughts are with everyone affected, those who have lost their homes, livelihoods and a sense of security," the former Congress president said. He urged the governments to ensure swift relief and rehabilitation for every affected family.

The Congress leaders called for coordinated and timely relief for families affected by the cyclone, heavy rainfall and flooding, while urging party workers to assist people in distress.

Majority of Form 6 pleas to be cleared before final voter roll, say poll officials

Delhi.(Agency)

A day before the closure of the deadline for submitting applications, poll officials said the majority of the nearly five lakh Form 6 applications for voter enrolment would be cleared and the applicants' names would be included in the final electoral roll.After 47.56 lakh electors were excluded from the draft electoral rolls published on August 31, Delhi received 275,856 Form 6 applications between August 31 and October 28, in addition to the 212,400 applications filed up to August 30, according to the daily report released by the office of the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer."The majority of the Form 6 applications that have been filed



will be cleared, and the names will be added to the final electoral roll. If the name of any voter has been struck off, it is mainly because they are enrolled in another state," an official said.West Delhi has recorded the highest number of Form 6 applications at 33,915, followed by north-west Delhi (27,664), east Delhi (26,563), south-east Delhi (26,535) and north-east Delhi (26,324). The claims and objections period began with the publication of the draft electoral roll for all 70 Assembly constituencies in Delhi.Delhi received 21,603 Form 7 applications and 103,352 Form 8 applications till October 28. Form 6 is used by voters seeking inclusion in the rolls, Form 7 for deletion of names and Form 8 for correction or modification of entries.

Trader unions urge Akhilesh, Didi to postpone INDIA bloc rally on November 1

The associations warned that another large gathering during the peak shopping season could lead to additional losses of up to Rs 10,000 crore.

Delhi.(Agency)



The city traders' associations have written to Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee, seeking their intervention to postpone the INDIA bloc's November 1 rally at the Ramlila Maidan until after Diwali, citing concerns over business and traffic disruptions.The Federation of Sadar Bazar Trades Association and the Kirana Committee Delhi said the rally could affect business at several wholesale markets during the festive season, when traders expect a surge in sales. They urged the two leaders to take up the matter with the Congress leadership.In their letters to Yadav and Banerjee, the associations said that the city sees trade worth around Rs 25,000 crore between Dhanteras and Diwali. However, protests, rallies and traffic restrictions during September and October had already resulted in estimated losses of around Rs 3,000 crore. The associations warned that another large gathering during the peak shopping season could lead to additional losses of up to Rs 10,000 crore.They also said the impact could extend beyond traders to workers, delivery persons and others whose livelihoods depend on business activities.The traders also flagged possible traffic curbs, road closures and crowding, which could affect customer movement and the supply of goods.The associations pointed out that around 20 major wholesale and retail markets, including Sadar Bazaar, Khari Baoli and Chandni Chowk, fall within a 5-km radius of the Ramlila Maidan in central Delhi.Appealing to the INDIA bloc leadership to postpone the rally until after Diwali, the traders said political programmes can be rescheduled, but businesses cannot afford to lose sales during the festive period.

'Political events can be rescheduled, not festivals'

The associations pointed out that around 20 major wholesale and retail markets, including Sadar Bazaar, Khari Baoli and Chandni Chowk, fall within a five-kilometre radius of the Ramlila Maidan in central Delhi. The traders said political programmes can be rescheduled, but businesses cannot afford to lose sales during festivals.

L-G sets November-end deadline to finish business reforms

Delhi.(Agency)

Lieutenant Governor Tarajit Singh Sandhu on Thursday reviewed the progress of the city's deregulation and compliance reduction exercise, aimed at making it easier to do business and improve everyday life for residents. He set a deadline of November-end for the completion of actions on all priority areas.At the previous review meeting, Sandhu had stressed the need for Delhi to keep pace with other states in implementing the reforms, describing the initiative as a priority being driven by the Prime Minister's office. Departments were then asked to complete pending measures ahead of the August 31, 2026, deadline and specify when they would notify the remaining priority reforms.Taking stock of the progress since then, the L-G pointed out that while achievements under Phase I are apparent, progress under Phase II is ongoing, with a majority of the 28 identified goals achieved. It was informed that under Phase I, launched in January 2025 with 23 priority areas, 22 now stand completed, up from 17 at the last meeting.One Priority Area, on rationalising the minimum road width for industries in rural areas, will be finalised soon. Urbanisation of the 48 rural villages had been completed, and the Gazette notification for the same has been published.Under Phase II, launched in January 2026 most of the 23 Priority Areas and 05 Optional Priority Areas had been completed, and the remaining were under advanced stages of implementation. This was up from 7 at the last meeting.



These include removal of dual licences by MCD, perpetual registration for shops and commercial establishments, electricity connections up to 200 kW without inspection, higher frequency of SEAC and SEIAA meetings, removal of the minimum land requirement for private schools and the Delhi-Dastavez digital repository of State Acts, Rules and Government Orders.The only priority area pending is with regard to redefining the land use framework on the "permitted until prohibited" principle, which is related to the PM-UDAY scheme. Also, the Delhi Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026, has been approved by the Cabinet and forwarded to MHA along with the comments of DDA. Also, the Delhi Private University Bill, carrying reforms on minimum land, endowment and infrastructure requirements, was approved by the Cabinet.

Beautification work to add dash of colours to spaces under city flyovers

PWD minister Parvesh Sahib Singh on Thursday visited the Chirag Delhi and IIT Delhi flyovers to review the work on the ground and check its progress.

Delhi.(Agency)

The often neglected spaces beneath Delhi's flyovers are being turned into themed public spaces, as the Public Works Department (PWD), Government of NCT of Delhi, brings major corporations on board to adopt and maintain them through their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds.PWD minister Parvesh Sahib Singh on Thursday visited the Chirag Delhi and IIT Delhi flyovers to review the work on the ground and check its progress.Under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed Indian Oil Corporation Ltd has adopted five flyovers along with the Aurobindo Marg road stretch, namely Chirag Delhi, Panchsheel & IIT Delhi flyovers in the south, and Punjabi Bagh & Mukarba Chowk in the North. Indian Oil will maintain these sites for three years.Discussing the initiative, the PWD minister said, "Since our government took office, we have partnered with major corporations and used their CSR funds to have them adopt the spaces beneath our flyovers. Every MoU we have signed carries a commitment of two to three years of maintenance.I am pleased to share that Indian Oil has taken on five flyovers. They have studied the surrounding areas and are bringing in themes made for each location. The PWD department and our government



are working day and night to improve the look of our roads."At Chirag Delhi, one of South Delhi's busiest junctions, the space below the flyover is being turned into a green pocket built around the theme of nature and wildlife. Wall art and installations bring the flora and fauna of India to the heart of the city. For thousands of commuters who pass through every day, a dull grey underpass becomes a reminder of the country's natural heritage.

Rupee rises 7 paise to 95.19 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The rupee gained 7 paise to 95.19 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday supported by a softer greenback and declining US treasury yields, though climbing crude oil prices prevented larger gains.

According to forex traders, sustained inflows and an easing of the oil import burden would provide a stronger foundation for rupee appreciation. The immediate operating range for USDINR is 94.75-95.75.At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.21, then gained ground and touched 95.19 against the US dollar, registering a rise of 7 paise over its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee consolidated in a narrow range and ended 2 paise higher at 95.26 against the US dollar.

"The Indian rupee opened flat to positive on weak dollar and softening of US treasury yields. However, weak Asian markets and a surge in crude oil prices capped sharp gains. ECB and Bank of Japan kept interest rates unchanged," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan.Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 101.75, lower by 0.27 per cent.

India's IT firms hold margins as AI gains offset cost pressures

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's major IT services companies largely maintained or improved operating margins in the July-September quarter, as AI-led productivity measures and tighter cost controls helped offset subdued client spending, pricing pressure and economic uncertainty in key overseas markets.Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) reported an operating margin of 24%, unchanged from the previous quarter, while Infosys held its margin at 21%. HCLTech's margin rose 131 basis points sequentially to 18.2%, Tech Mahindra's increased 40 basis points to 14.8%, and Wipro's climbed 50 basis points to 16.5% in Q2.Revenue growth, however, remained modest at some of the largest firms. TCS reported year-on-year constant-currency growth of 2.8%, while Infosys grew 1.5%. Wipro's IT services revenue was flat sequentially in constant currency and rose 0.6% year on year. HCLTech reported 2.6% year-on-year constant-currency growth, while Tech Mahindra recorded 7.2%.

Reliance's diesel exports hit 541 kbd as global supply tightens

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

Reliance Industries emerged as the biggest beneficiary of a global diesel supply crunch, exporting an estimated 541 kbd (thousand barrels per day) in October 2026, the highest level in the 18-month period, according to data from maritime intelligence firm Kpler.

Another private refiner, Nayara Energy, was the second-largest exporter, shipping an estimated 39 kbd in October. The supply shortage also boosted India's diesel exports, which rose to 700,000 barrels per day (bd) in October 2026, the highest level since September 2025.

"India's diesel exports hit 700 kbd in Oct'26, the highest since September 2025! Record refinery runs, max distillate yield and strong cracks are driving exports. With runs around 5.6-5.7 Mbd, exports should stay strong, although robust demand will limit upside," said Sumit Ritolia, lead research analyst, refining & modeling at Kpler, in a post on X.

The export surge comes as global diesel supplies have contracted sharply following the West Asia conflict. According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) Oil Market Report 2026, global gasoil production averaged 26.4 mbd in the second quarter, down 1.5 mbd year-on-year.

Extreme poverty in India falls to 2.6%, but top 10% earn 13 times more than bottom 10%

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's extreme poverty rate fell sharply to 2.6% in 2023 from 27.1% in 2011, with an estimated 496 million people moving above the lower-middle-income poverty line over the same period, according to the World Bank.However, despite the substantial reduction in poverty, the gap between the country's highest-paid and lowest-paid workers remains wide, with the top 10% earning around 13 times more than the bottom 10%.In its October 2026 Poverty & Equity Brief, the World Bank said the share of India's population living below the lower-middle-income poverty line of $4.20 a day fell from 57.7% in 2011 to 16.1% in 2023. Extreme poverty, measured using the $3-a-day line, declined from 27.1% t.The World Bank also reported India's Gini index at 23.0 in 2023, a measure of how evenly or unevenly income or consumption is distributed across the population."Wage disparities, however, remain pronounced, as median earnings among the top 10 percent of workers were about 13 times those of the bottom 10 percent in 2023," the World Bank said.

EXTREME POVERTY FALLS TO 2.6%

The decline in extreme poverty means that a much smaller share of India's population was living below the $3-a-day threshold in 2023 compared with 2011.The World Bank uses the $3-a-day line to measure extreme poverty, while the $4.20-a-day line is its benchmark for poverty in lower-middle-income countries. Both thresholds are based on 2021 purchasing power parity (PPP), which adjusts for differences in the cost of living.The share of people living below the $4.20-a-day line fell from 57.7% to 16.1% over the 12-year period. This lifted an estimated 496 million people above that poverty line, the World Bank said.Poverty also declined across non-monetary measures. The poverty rate measured by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative's



Multidimensional Poverty Index fell from 53.8% in 2005–06 to 16.4% in 2019–21. The World Bank's own multidimensional poverty measure stood at 15.5% in 2022–23.

INCOME INEQUALITY: INDIA'S GINI INDEX AT 23

The World Bank put India's Gini index at 23.0 in 2023. The index is used to measure how evenly or unevenly income or consumption is distributed across a population.It ranges from zero to 100. A score of zero represents perfect equality, where everyone has the same income or consumption. A score of 100 represents the highest possible inequality, where one person has everything and everyone else has nothing.In simple terms, a lower Gini score indicates a more equal distribution, while a higher score points to greater inequality. India's score of 23 suggests a relatively low measured level of inequality in the distribution captured by the World Bank's measure.However, this does not mean that everyone earns similar amounts or that the gap between high and low earners is small. The Gini index looks at the overall distribution across the population.

Overdraft trap: Promised Rs 16 lakh at 6.5%, man buys insurance but gets no loan

New Delhi.(Agency)

Do you often get calls offering balance transfers, instant loans or overdraft facilities at dirt-cheap interest rates? Are you told that a large credit limit can be made available with minimal paperwork, sometimes with just one condition to fulfil?Beware. The next such call could come with a catch: you may be asked to buy an insurance policy to unlock the promised credit. And the loan or overdraft may never materialise.Delhi-based businessman Parminder Singh Sidhu says he found himself in precisely this situation. He was promised an overdraft facility of up to Rs 16 lakh at an annual interest rate of 6.5%, but was told he first needed to purchase a life insurance policy. He ended up paying Rs 1.90 lakh as the first-year premium for a policy from Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance (SUD Life).

The promised overdraft, however, never came through.In his complaint, Sidhu described the experience bluntly: "Got scammed from an insurance company agents where i was told that i will be getting the Over Draft facility at 6.5% ROI but never got the OD account."The individuals who contacted Sidhu claimed to represent Axis Bank. IndiaToday.in has not independently established their identities or whether they had any association with the bank.

THE CHEAP OVERDRAFT PROMISE

According to Sidhu, the first call came on July 28, 2026, from a woman who introduced herself as Ilma and claimed to represent Axis Bank. She offered him an overdraft facility of up to Rs 16 lakh at an interest rate of around 6.5% a year.

Sidhu says he was told that purchasing a life insurance policy was necessary to get the overdraft approved. The policy was presented as a Rs 19-lakh plan, with an annual premium of Rs 1.90 lakh payable for 10 years.He agreed to the



proposal and paid the first premium of Rs 1.90 lakh using his HDFC Bank credit card through BillDesk. SUD Life issued the policy on July 30, 2026. The policy number is 03158100.

Sidhu says another individual, who identified himself as Ashish, contacted him and sought documents, including his Aadhaar and PAN details. A person named Sumit also followed up and allegedly assured him that the overdraft would be arranged in around 20 days.

The callers' actual identities and affiliations have not been independently verified.

PROMISED CREDIT NEVER CAME

WhatsApp conversations shared by Sidhu show the discussions about the overdraft and the insurance purchase. In one message, the initial caller referred to an interest rate of "6.5 rate of interest yearly" and said an approval call would come that day. Another message said, "aapse koi otp nhi liya jyga" — meaning no OTP would be sought from him.In a separate exchange, a WhatsApp number, whose profile displayed the SUD Life logo, asked Sidhu for an OTP. Sidhu says he shared a four-digit code. It is not clear from the material reviewed what the OTP was for or who was operating the number. The display of an insurer's logo on a WhatsApp profile does not, by itself, establish that the number belongs to the company or an authorised representative.

As the promised overdraft failed to materialise, Sidhu began following up with the people who had contacted him. In one message to Sumit, he wrote: "Aaj account khulna tha OD wala" — the overdraft account was supposed to be opened that day.The exchanges show repeated attempts by Sidhu to get an update. On September 12, he said he was still waiting for a call. Later, on September 24, he wrote: "Please let me know clearly agar yeh mere saath fraud hua hai toh I will work accordingly."

Binance hack biggest crypto theft in history, hackers steal $6 billion

New Delhi.(Agency)

Hackers have made off with an estimated $6.3 billion in a suspected cyber heist targeting Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, according to The Wall Street Journal (WSJ). The incident could rank as the biggest-ever cryptocurrency theft, raising fresh questions about the safety of funds held on digital asset exchanges.Binance, however, has described the figure as the estimated financial impact of the security incident and has not explicitly confirmed that $6.3 billion was stolen. In an official update published on October 30, the exchange said the estimated total impact was around $6.3 billion, while approximately $3 billion of the affected assets had been frozen on-chain.

Blockchain analytics firm Chainalysis separately confirmed that at least $5.912 billion had been stolen as of 8:30 pm ET on Thursday. The remaining affected assets are yet to be fully accounted for.

Binance has assured customers that their money is safe and said it will cover all losses using its Secure Asset Fund for Users (SAFU) and company funds. However, it has temporarily suspended deposits and withdrawals while it investigates the incident, secures its wallet infrastructure and works with law enforcement and blockchain intelligence partners.The incident has already unsettled cryptocurrency markets. Bitcoin fell more than 3% to a six-week low of $76,368, while ether declined more than 3% to a two-month low of $2,178 in early Asian trading on Friday. BNB, the token originally launched by Binance, was down 5% over the previous 24 hours at $709.70, according to CoinGecko.Shares of cryptocurrency exchange Coinbase fell 4.8%, while those of bitcoin-buying company Strategy dropped nearly 6% in extended US trading.

BINANCE PUTS FINANCIAL IMPACT AT $6.3 BILLION, $3 BILLION FROZEN

The scale of the suspected heist has become clearer as Binance, blockchain investigators and cryptocurrency companies track the movement of the affected assets.

In its security incident update published on October 30, Binance said: "The estimated total impact sits at around $6.3B.

Sensex, Nifty trade flat as IT gains counter crude oil concernsude oil remains a concern

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

Stock market traded largely flat on Friday, October 30, as gains in IT stocks and select heavyweight shares helped offset pressure from elevated crude oil prices and weakness in broader markets. Investors also remained focused on quarterly earnings from key companies, including Reliance Industries and Sun Pharma, due later in the day.

At around 10.23 am, the BSE Sensex was trading at 74,157.19, up just 6.15 points or



0.01%. The NSE Nifty 50 was at 22,921, down 15.75 points or 0.07%.The benchmarks recovered from a muted opening but struggled to build on the gains made in the previous session, when both indices advanced more than 1% following strong quarterly results from key constituents and the US Federal Reserve's decision to keep interest rates unchanged.

Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "The crude oil headwind is getting stronger with Brent rising above $117. There are reports of the US likely resuming strikes against Iran after the mid-term elections which is due on November 3rd. Even though FII selling has turned weak with occasional buys in recent days, the market construct appears unfavourable for a rally."

IT STOCKS LEAD SECTORAL GAINS

IT stocks were among the key supports for the market. The Nifty IT index gained 1.60%, with Infosys rising 1.91%, Tech Mahindra advancing 1.88%, TCS gaining 0.81% and HCLTech up 0.94%.The gains came amid weakness in global AI-linked stocks in Asia, as concerns grew over whether the massive investments being made in artificial intelligence would generate adequate returns. Indian IT companies are being viewed as relatively defensive beneficiaries of this trend, as businesses may increasingly prioritise cost savings, automation and outsourcing over expensive in-house AI investments.

The Nifty Pharma index also advanced 0.77%, while PSU Bank and healthcare stocks traded higher.Trent was among the top Nifty gainers, surging 5.76%, while InterGlobe Aviation, which operates IndiGo, rose 3.34%. Eternal gained 1.84% and Sun Pharma advanced 1.54%.However, selling in several heavyweight stocks limited the benchmarks' gains. State Bank of India fell 1.67%, while BEL declined 1.56%, and Tata Steel lost 1.09%.

Gold slips below Rs 1.42 lakh, silver tumbles further: Is a bigger dip coming?

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

Planning to buy gold or silver this festive and wedding season? The recent fall in prices may come as good news. After remaining at elevated levels, both precious metals have been losing ground over the past few sessions, offering some relief to buyers who were waiting for prices to cool.On Friday, October 30, at 11.45 am, MCX gold was trading at Rs 1,41,979 per 10 grams, down 0.43%. Silver prices also witnessed a sharper decline, with MCX silver trading at Rs 1,85,900 per kg, down 1.88%.However, the recent correction may not be over yet. Rising crude oil prices, renewed inflation concerns and expectations of another US Federal Reserve rate hike have weighed on gold and silver. So, should buyers make the most of the dip or wait for prices to fall further?

WHY ARE GOLD AND SILVER PRICES FALLING?

Gold and silver have remained under pressure as higher crude oil prices have raised concerns about inflation. Strong US inflation data has also strengthened expectations that the Federal Reserve could raise interest rates again in December.Consumer prices in the US picked up in September, partly due to higher gasoline and other goods prices. This has added to expectations that the central bank may need to keep interest rates higher to control inflation.

Higher interest rates generally make gold less attractive because the metal does not offer any regular interest income. As a result, investors may move towards interest-bearing assets, putting pressure on gold prices.Geopolitical developments have added to the uncertainty. Crude oil prices have risen amid fears that the US could resume military strikes on Iran, increasing the



risk of disruptions to energy supplies. Higher oil prices can push inflation up further and complicate the outlook for interest rates, affecting precious metals.

According to Dr Renisha Chainani, Chief Research Officer at Augmont, the Federal Reserve has kept the possibility of another rate hike open as it continues to tackle stubborn inflation.She said, "The Fed has left the door open to a hike before year-end as it tries to tame stubborn inflation. Thursday's data backed that view: the US personal consumption expenditures price index rose 0.5% last month, its biggest jump since March.

Fire breaks out at posh Kolkata apartment; no injuries reported

Kolkata.(Agency)

A fire broke out at a posh apartment adjacent to South City Mall in Kolkata on Friday morning, prompting the Fire Department to dispatch several fire engines to bring the blaze under control.According to Fire Department sources, the fire broke out around 8 am on the 28th floor of Tower 3 inside the South City Complex. A video from the society showed thick black smoke billowing out from the window of one of the houses.Officials said the



extent of the damage has not been confirmed yet, but no casualties or injuries have been reported so far. No one is trapped inside, as everyone has been safely evacuated to a secure location.Fire Department officials confirmed that the blaze is mostly under control and there is no risk of it spreading further. However, damping-down operations are still ongoing to check for any residual flames. They added that it will take more time to bring the situation entirely under control.Police personnel, senior Fire Department officials, and representatives from the power utility CESC are present at the site.

Bhutan glacial lake bursts, triggering flood alerts in Bengal, Assam; evacuations underway

KOCHI.(Agency)

A glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) in Bhutan has triggered a high flood alert in parts of northern West Bengal, prompting authorities to evacuate residents from vulnerable areas along the Sankosh river and its tributaries, officials said on Friday.Residents of riverbank villages in Alipurduar district were seen leaving their homes with cattle following evacuation orders issued by the administration late Thursday night.Water Resources Investigation and Development Minister Nisith Pramanik said the outburst occurred at Shintaphu Lake in Bhutan's Lemthang region, sending a massive volume of water into the Mo (Mofu) river, which flows into the Sankosh.Nearly 7.4 million cubic metres of water reportedly surged out of the breached lake, raising fears of a sudden rise in the Sankosh's water level along the West Bengal-Assam border."Everyone living in the catchment areas of the Sankosh river and all its connected tributaries has been asked to move to a safe distance immediately to protect their lives," Pramanik said in a video message.

Mother's friend arrested for alleged murder of children at Kozhinjampara in Palakkad

PALAKKAD.(Agency)

The Kozhinjampara police on Thursday arrested the mother's close friend in connection with the alleged murder of her two children, Jennifer Juliet, 5, and Robin Christopher, 3, who were found drowned in water at Kozhinjampara in Palakkad on September 29.The arrested is A Martin Ignatius, 36, a native of Parakkuzhi near Menonpara. He allegedly played a direct role in the killings and assisted the children's mother, Nivedya, the prime accused in the case, the police said. Police obtained crucial leads about Ignatius during evidence collection with Nivedya earlier this week. He was taken into custody on Wednesday, and his arrest was formally recorded after detailed questioning. Investigators said further questioning of both accused helped them gather information about his alleged involvement.Police suspect that the relationship between Nivedya and Ignatius may have been a motive for the murders. The two reportedly lived in rented accommodation close to each other. Investigators are probing the nature of their relationship and the alleged assistance provided by Ignatius in carrying out the crime.

'Routine instructions cannot be instigation': Gujarat High Court quashes FIR in resident doctor's suicide case

12 co-resident doctors, nurses, ward staff and other hospital personnel did not independently corroborate allegations of physical harassment or caste-based insults, says court.

Vadodara(Agency)

Nine years after a 24-year-old resident doctor died at Surat's New Civil Hospital, the Gujarat High Court has quashed an FIR against two senior doctors accused of abetting his suicide, holding that the investigation material did not establish the essential ingredients of the offence under Section 306 of the IPC.Observing that "routine departmental instructions, academic reprimands, or allocation of ward work during an initial orientation period cannot be legally elevated to the status of 'instigation' under Section 107 IPC", the court added that "the inability to cope with a demanding residency programme is deeply tragic", but the evidence did not establish a deliberate criminal design by the doctors.Justice P M Raval of the Gujarat HC, in a judgment pronounced on October 29, quashed the 2017 FIR registered at Khatodara police station in Surat and the consequential proceedings, including a case pending before the Additional District Judge, Surat, against the two petitioners. The court held that the material on record did not establish the direct instigation or intentional aid required to prosecute them for abetment of suicide.The case arose from the death of Dr Dhaval Parmar, a first-year Master of Surgery (MS) resident at New Civil Hospital, on July 4, 2017. His father, Dineshchandra Parmar, had alleged that his son had repeatedly complained of mental and physical harassment by senior residents Dr Milan Pumbhadiya and Dr Naresh Makwana, including caste-based insults, excessive working hours and pressure to purchase equipment required during operations.

According to the prosecution's case, Dhaval called his father on the morning of his death and said he wanted to leave the surgery course because his seniors behaved arbitrarily and made residents buy



operation-related equipment at their own expense, the HC order notes. The court also noted that his father asked Dhaval's elder brother to meet him at the hospital. When the family reached the campus, Dhaval was missing. He was later found dead after falling from a building, according to the police investigation report.The doctors approached the High Court seeking quashing of the FIR, which invoked Sections 306, 323 and 114 of the IPC and provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.They argued that they were second-year residents, not responsible for administrative decisions or duty rosters, and that the allegations of assault and caste-based abuse were not supported by independent evidence.The complainant and prosecution opposed the petitions, contending that the allegations of "prolonged duty hours, sleep deprivation, verbal abuse and physical harassment" should be examined at trial. They also relied on the deceased's writings, which referred to continuous duties, pressure and distress.The High Court examined the diary entry, witness statements, forensic findings.

Aurangzeb's tomb has a deadline, says Nitesh Rane – 319 years on, history at centre of controversy

The Maharashtra minister says the date for its removal has been decided but will not be disclosed, putting the spotlight back on the ASI-protected monument at Khuldabad, where the Mughal emperor was buried in an open grave in 1707

Mumbai.(Agency)

Nearly 319 years after Mughal emperor Aurangzeb was buried in a modest open grave in Khuldabad, Maharashtra cabinet minister Nitesh Rane has renewed the demand for its removal, claiming that a date has already been decided but will not be disclosed.Speaking about removing encroachments from historic forts at an event in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on Thursday, Rane credited Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis with taking the initiative to free the state's forts from what he described as "jihad". He then turned his attention to Aurangzeb's tomb, saying the site also had a deadline."We do not want that garbage here. Those who love it can take it to their Pakistan. We do not want it here. People will ask me when it will happen. I will not reveal the date. Fadnavis knows when to break this news," Rane said.He added that Aurangzeb's tomb should not be associated with the identity of Maharashtra or used to defame the state.This is not the first time Rane has threatened to remove the tomb. In March 2025, amid demands by BJP leaders and Hindutva organisations to raze it, he had said the government had already planned its removal and that journalists would learn about it only after the demolition. He had also invoked the demolition of the Babri Masjid while asking Hindutva organisations to play their part.The tomb at Khuldabad, in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district, is a protected monument under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). In March 2025,



Fadnavis had said that while there was agreement with the demand for its removal, any action would have to be within the framework of the law.

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha in April 2025, Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat confirmed its protected status. The government also informed Parliament that the ASI had installed a 12-foot-high metal sheet around the tomb, concertina wire on surrounding walls, and deployed private security personnel, in coordination with the district administration, to prevent damage.

A grave in keeping with Aurangzeb's wishes

Aurangzeb, the sixth Mughal emperor, died on March 3, 1707, in Ahmednagar, aged 88, after a reign spanning nearly 49 years. The last 25 years of his rule were spent largely in the Deccan, where his prolonged military campaign against the Marathas had drained the Mughal empire's resources.Despite his long association with the Deccan, Aurangzeb did not seek an elaborate mausoleum. In his will, he expressed the wish to be buried near the shrine of the Sufi saint Shaikh Zainuddin Shirazi at Rauza, now Khuldabad, near Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.His body was transported from Ahmednagar and buried in an open grave near the saint's shrine. The Archaeological Survey of India's description of the monument records that the grave is an earthen mound, with a small sabza plant growing on it. A marble floor and perforated marble railing surround it. The gateway and domed porch were added in 1760 by the Nizam of Hyderabad.

Kerala staring at more power cuts from November 1 as Himachal set to cut supply

KOCHI.(Agency)

Keralam looks set to experience another bout of power load-shedding — the third since the UDF government assumed office. The delay at the government level to approve a short-term power-purchase agreement with Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board has contributed to the fresh predicament.According to top officials with the KSEB, the state could face peak-hour shortage of up to 900 MW from November 1, forcing the utility to impose multiple curbs between 6 pm and midnight to bridge the widening gap between demand and supply. This comes after two rounds of power outages in July and September.Despite intermittent rain, peak-hour consumption has been hovering around 4,900 MW for the past two weeks. This is likely to cross 5,500 MW if the state experiences a dry spell. However, the maximum capacity available with the state will be 4,200 MW from November 1. Though the KSEB submitted a proposal for purchase of 2,225 MW power, the Electricity Regulatory Commission cleared only 1,000 MW, that too at Rs 6.90 to `10 per unit.

The biggest setback has been the inability of the government in taking a call on purchase of power from Himachal Pradesh. The northern state's board had offered 900 MW to 1,200 MW of power during peak hour at Rs 14.50 per unit.The state started receiving this power from October 1, which helped the KSEB end the last round of power cuts. However, the file seeking approval to continue the purchase of power from Himachal for the period from November 1 to May 15 had been pending with the government for the past 22 days.

'Himachal will discontinue supply to state from November 1'

Despite multiple requests, the authorities concerned refused to sign the file.While KSEB was pleading with Himachal officials to await government clearance, Rajasthan approached them and quoted `15.50 per unit.

"As per our information, Rajasthan has clinched the deal and Himachal will discontinue power supply to us from November 1.

Changing City: 1,237 trees to make way for Versova-Madh bridge, cutting travel time to 10 min



Mumbai.(Agency)

With the Bombay High Court clearing the way for the construction of the Versova Madh connector after approving the felling of 1,237 mangroves, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has commenced ground assessment, with construction on the cable-stayed bridge – pegged to be a 'game changer' in the suburbs – to commence soon.The upcoming cable-stayed bridge is also expected to provide easy access to the Mumbai Coastal Road Project, with an arm connecting to the Dahisar-Bhayandar coastal road.

About the project:

Currently, there is no direct link between Versova and Madh, which is separated by the Malad Creek, leaving commuters to take a detour and travel via Lokhandwala, Oshiwara, Link Road, or Marve Road.Being heavily congested, the Versova-Madh detour routes compel commuters to face traffic that takes up to 1.5 hours during peak traffic hours.

To eliminate the detour of 18-20 km, the BMC has made plans to construct a cable-stayed bridge over the creeks and provide a direct link between Madh and Versova. The upcoming Versova-Madh bridge will start at Madh Jetty Road and land near the Fisheries University Road in Andheri's Versova pocket. This new link between Madh and Versova will significantly reduce travel time for commuters heading to the Air Force, INS Hamla, Madh, Marve, and various locations in Malad and Kandivali.

What the administration says:

"The bridge will play a crucial role in reducing traffic in the western suburbs. While the current travel time can take anywhere between one to one and half hours, this bridge will cut down travel to merely 5 – 10 minutes. The bridge has also incorporated the cable-stayed design, ensuring minimal impact on the environment and limited piling," a civic official told.

After August unrest, Surat textile units brace for fresh wave of stir

Surat.(Agency)

Since a demonstration on the streets on August 16 by workers at a unit in Amroli area of Surat, the demand has been simmering. That demonstration had turned violent and spread gradually over the next month to other units and workers across the city, which is the hub of the synthetic textiles industry. Police investigations had later found discontent brewing on WhatsApp groups and social media.Three FIRs were lodged following the August incidents and 26 people detained on charges of rioting, among others. The factories restarted only after police deployment.The workers are demanding what was promised to them under a law passed by Gujarat last year, after amending the Factories Act 1948. It called for eight-hour work shifts, with overtime to be paid after that; a cap of 48 hours a week of work; raised overtime hours to 125 from 75 per quarter; and specified double wages for the overtime hours. If they finished their weekly quota of shifts, they could take the remaining days off, the new law says.However, the textile unit owners have been reluctant to implement the provisions.The August agitation was a blow to the Surat textile industry, as it was just getting back on its feet after workers who had left for their home states, in the wake of the LPG shortage following the start of the US-Iran war in February, returned to work.The November protest threatens their sales at a time when the market is picking up for Diwali festivities.However, despite several meetings with the Collector and Labour Department, a solution has not been found to the workers' demands. On Tuesday, the workers' representatives reached out to the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, seeking a mediation with unit owners.The Congress's Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), the Majoor Mahajan Sangh and Surat Textile Market Labour Union have extended their support to the



workers for the November 1 strike.After the last protest, Deputy Labour Commissioner S S Dubey issued a circular to the Textile Embroidery Jobwork Association Surat – an organisation of embroidery machine owners and unit operators – dated September 30, to follow the Code on Wages 2019, Codes on Social Security 2020, Operational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020, and Industrial Relations Code 2020 – framed to ensure fair wages, dignity, social and financial security, and stability for workers.

AC Milan and Inter confirm San Siro demolition, reveal new stadium plans

New Delhi.(Agency)

AC Milan and Inter Milan have confirmed plans to demolish the iconic San Siro and replace it with a state-of-the-art shared stadium, bringing an end to an era at one of European football's most recognisable venues. The two Serie A giants have unveiled the design of the proposed 71,500-seat Generali Stadium, with the new ground targeted to open in the 2031-32 season.The project was presented on Thursday, October 29, at Castello Sforzesco in Milan, with the clubs also announcing a 20-year naming



rights agreement with Italian insurance company Generali. The deal, reportedly worth 650 million euros, was described by the clubs as one of the largest stadium naming rights agreements in global sportThe new stadium will be developed by the clubs' respective owners, RedBird Capital Partners and Oaktree, with architects Foster + Partners and MANICA leading the design. Lord Norman Foster and David Manica, who previously collaborated on London's Wembley Stadium, have drawn inspiration from Milan's Duomo for the proposed venue..

Staying in present: Amit Rohidas not thinking retirement, keeps LA 2028 in sight

New Delhi.(Agency)

Heading into the Asian Champions Trophy in Jalandhar and Mohali, one of the biggest talking points was the future of four Indian hockey players. Rumours suggested that the tournament could be the swansong in Indian colours for Mandeep Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Nilakanta Sharma and Amit Rohidas.While Mandeep and Jarmanpreet firmly rejected the claims and made their Olympic ambitions for 2028 clear, Nilakanta confirmed that the ACT would be his final tournament for India, announcing his retirement from international hockey. Amid all the speculation, Amit remained



quiet, letting his performances on the field do the talking.

ACT, INDIA VS CHINA HIGHLIGHTS

At 33, Rohidas has been a rock in India's defence since making his senior international debut in 2013. A first rusher of the highest quality, he has forged a formidable defensive partnership with Harmanpreet Singh and can also step up as a drag-flicker when required.

In 259 appearances for the senior national team, Rohidas has scored 55 goals. His trophy cabinet tells its own story, with two Olympic bronze medals, two Asian Games gold medals and two Asia Cup titles to his name.

Yet, it is not just the medals or the numbers that define Rohidas. His work ethic and commitment have been central to his journey with the national team.

That journey, howev, was far from straightforward. Despite making an impression after his debut in 2013, competition for places in defence meant Rohidas was often in and out of the side, struggling to establish himself as a regular.

Uthappa, T Dilip among four new faces in revamped Mumbai Indians coaching setup

Mumbai Indians have unveiled a revamped coaching group ahead of IPL 2027, appointing four new members under head coach Kieron Pollard. Three former MI players return to the franchise, while T. Dilip joins after his stint with India.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Mumbai Indians have announced a major revamp of their coaching staff ahead of IPL 2027, appointing Robin Uthappa, Mitchell McClenaghan, T. Dilip and Dhawal Kulkarni to key roles. The four will join head coach Kieron Pollard as the five-time champions look to rebuild after missing the playoffs in 2026.Uthappa has been named batting coach, McClenaghan will oversee the bowling department, Dilip takes charge of fielding, while Kulkarni has been appointed development bowling coach. Three of the four are former MI players, with Uthappa, McClenaghan and Kulkarni returning to the franchise in new capacities.The appointments follow a series of changes within the backroom staff. Mumbai recently confirmed the departures of bowling coaches Lasith Malinga and Paras Mhambrey, along with fielding coach Carl Hopkinson. These changes came after Mahela Jayawardene stepped down as head coach, with Pollard taking over the top role after previously serving as batting coach.



FORMER MI PLAYERS RETURN TO FRANCHISE

Uthappa returns to Mumbai nearly two decades after representing the franchise in the inaugural IPL season in 2008, scoring 320 runs in 14 matches. He later played for Chennai Super Kings in 2021 and 2022, helping them win the title in his first season. The former India batter finished his IPL career with 4,952 runs in 205 matches and won the Orange Cap in 2014 after scoring 660 runs for Kolkata Knight Riders. He was also part of India's 2007 T20 World Cup-winning squad.McClenaghan was a key member of Mumbai's bowling attack between 2015 and 2019, taking 71 wickets in 56 IPL matches. The New Zealand left-arm pacer was part of three title-winning campaigns as a player, in 2015, 2017 and 2019, and remained part of the wider squad during the 2020 triumph.Kulkarni, meanwhile, represented MI across two spells between 2008 and 2013 and again from 2020 to 2021. He claimed 86 wickets in 92 IPL matches and was part of the franchise's title-winning squads in 2013 and 2020. His development role will focus on nurturing young Indian bowlers and providing year-round support.T DILIP JOINS AFTER INDIA STINT

Dilip arrives at Mumbai after the BCCI decided not to renew his contract following his tenure with the Indian men's team. His final assignment was the 2025 tour of England. During his time with India, he was part of the coaching setup for the 2024 and 2026 T20 World Cup triumphs and the 2025 Champions Trophy victory.

Novak Djokovic falls to Struff in Basel, misses chance to close in on Roger Federer

New Delhi.(Agency)

Novak Djokovic's return to the Swiss Indoors Basel ended in disappointment as the Serbian suffered a dramatic second-round defeat to Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff on Thursday. The 39-year-old went down 6-7 (4), 7-5, 7-6 (5) in a contest lasting two hours and 36 minutes, missing out on an opportunity to add another title to his remarkable collection.The defeat also means Djokovic will have to wait to close



the gap on Roger Federer's tally of 103 career titles. The 24-time Grand Slam champion won his 102nd tour-level trophy at the China Open in Beijing earlier this month. Only Federer, with 103, and Jimmy Connors, who holds the all-time record with 109, have won more singles titles in men's tennis.ng runners-up on both occasions.There was an added layer of history to Djokovic's Basel campaign. He returned to the tournament for the first time since 2011, having won the title in 2009 by defeating Federer in the final. Federer, who grew up in Basel and lifted the trophy at his hometown event a record 10 times, got the better of Djokovic in the 2010 final. The Serb also reached the semi-finals in 2011.

Struff, ranked 47th in the world, produced an impressive performance to knock out the fourth seed. Djokovic took the opening set in a tie-break, but the German fought back to level the match after converting his first break-point opportunity in the second set. The decider went to another tie-break, where Struff held his nerve before sealing the win with his 27th ace, leaving Djokovic with no chance of a return.

DJOKOVIC'S ATP FINALS HOPES TAKE A HIT

The Basel exit is a significant setback in Djokovic's bid to qualify for the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin. He had an opportunity to gain crucial ranking points with a title run, particularly after Rafael Jodar's earlier defeat opened up a route into the qualification positions. Following the loss, Djokovic trails the Spaniard by 319 points, with the Paris Masters the final tournament before the ATP Finals.The Rolex Paris Masters, an ATP Masters 1000 event, is scheduled to take place from November 2 to 8. Djokovic is set to return to the tournament after a three-year absence, having won the title a record six times. A strong run in Paris could prove crucial to his hopes of securing a place in Turin.

Mohammed Siraj and Nitish Kumar Reddy set for India A stints ahead of NZ Tests



New Delhi.(Agency)

India's preparations for the upcoming Test series against New Zealand are gathering pace, with Mohammed Siraj and Nitish Kumar Reddy set to join the India A squad for their respective four-day matches against New Zealand A. The move will give the duo valuable red-ball game time ahead of the two-Test series, which begins on November 19.

Siraj will link up with India A for the second four-day match, starting October 31, while Nitish will remain with the senior team's ODI squad for the series opener against New Zealand on November 4. The all-rounder will then join India A for the third and final four-day fixture.nd that is what we will do," he says.There is also a significant development on the fitness front, with Prasidh Krishna likely to return to action in the final India A clash before the Test seires. The pacer, who was ruled out of the five-match ODI series against New Zealand due to a hamstring injury, is expected to join the squad for the final four-day match, subject to clearing his Return to Play assessment.

The India A fixtures will offer the three players an opportunity to build match fitness and rhythm before the Test series. While Siraj and Nitish will get time in the middle, Prasidh's potential return will be closely watched as he works his way back from injury.

Virat Kohli sparks airport frenzy in Auckland upon arrival for New Zealand ODIs

Virat Kohli received a rousing reception from fans upon arriving in Auckland ahead of India's five-match ODI series against New Zealand. The former India captain was mobbed for selfies and autographs, with security personnel having to escort him through the airport.



Auckland.(Agency)

Virat Kohli's arrival in Auckland ahead of India's five-match ODI series against New Zealand turned into quite a spectacle, with fans gathering in large numbers to catch a glimpse of the batting superstar. Despite tight security, the former India captain was mobbed for selfies and autographs as he made his way through the airport terminal.

Videos circulating on social media showed supporters packed behind barricades, chanting Kohli's name and holding up their phones as he walked towards the exit. Some fans also carried posters wishing him in advance for his birthday, which falls on November 5.Kohli tried to manage the growing excitement by raising his hands and gesturing to the crowd to settle down. One particularly persistent fan continued calling out to him for an autograph, prompting the Indian batter to ask her to calm down before signing her poster. Security personnel eventually had to help him move through the gathering crowd.

The 37-year-old arrived in New Zealand on Friday, October 30, to join the Indian squad ahead of the ODI series, which begins at Eden Park on November 4. His teammate Rohit Sharma had arrived in Auckland a day earlier, while Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill has also joined the squad and stepped up his preparations in the nets.

KOHLI EYES STRONG NEW ZEALAND RETURN

Kohli heads into the series after India's 2-1 ODI victory over the West Indies at home earlier this month. He began the assignment with an unbeaten 139 off 88 balls, becoming only the second batter after Sachin Tendulkar to cross 15,000 runs in ODI cricket. He followed it up with 29 in the second match before being dismissed for a golden duck in the series finale.The former India captain remains the world's No. 3-ranked ODI batter and has an impressive record in New Zealand, having scored 596 runs in 13 innings at an average of 49.66 and a strike rate of 91.41. His tally includes four half-centuries and a century, a 123 off 111 balls against New Zealand in Napier in 2014.India have announced two separate squads for the five-match series, with Gill leading the side in the first three ODIs and Shreyas Iyer taking over for the final two. Gill, KL Rahul, Anshul Kamboj and Prasidh Krishna are among those expected to leave the ODI squad to prepare for the subsequent two-Test series, although Krishna's participation depends on clearing a fitness test.The ODI series begins in Auckland on November 4 before moving to Wellington and Hamilton, with the final two matches scheduled in Mount Maunganui.

Rashid Khan scripts history, becomes first bowler to take 200 T20I wickets

New Delhi.(Agency)

Rashid Khan has made a habit of rewriting records, and the Afghanistan leg-spinner has now reached a milestone no bowler in men's T20I cricket has managed before. The 28-year-old became the first to claim 200 wickets in the format during Afghanistan's second T20I against Zimbabwe at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Thursday.Rashid needed just one wicket to reach the landmark and got there by dismissing Zimbabwe wicketkeeper-batter Tadiwanashe Marumani, who was trapped lbw for two while chasing 222. It was another reminder of the Afghan's remarkable consistency in a format where batters usually call the shots.The milestone came in Rashid's 120th T20I appearance and extended his lead at the top of the all-time wicket-takers' list. He had already become the leading wicket-taker in men's T20Is in September 2025, overtaking New Zealand's Tim Southee. Earlier this year, he also crossed the 700-wicket mark in overall T20 cricket.



Since making his international debut against Zimbabwe in October 2015, Rashid has turned himself into one of the most feared bowlers in the shortest format. England's Adil Rashid is his closest challenger on the international list, but the gap between the two is already substantial.

RASHID'S REMARKABLE T20I RECORD

There is plenty more to Rashid's numbers than just the 200-wicket milestone. He has taken 150 wickets in Asia, the most by any bowler in the continent, including 79 in the UAE. He also holds the record for the most wickets against a single opponent in men's T20Is, having dismissed Ireland batters 45 times.



Sharvari Wagh

Dances With Madhuri Dixit To Yeh Prem Mol Liya Title Track, Fans Call It 'Iconic'



Filmmaker Sooraj Barjatya is returning to the big screen with Yeh Prem Mol Liya, a musical family entertainer starring Ayushmann Khurrana and Sharvari. The film, backed by Rajshri Productions and Mahaveer Jain Films, is set to arrive in theatres on November 27, 2026. Its title track features the lead pair and offers a glimpse into the film's romantic, music-driven world. Ahead of the release, Sharvari shared a special video featuring none other than Madhuri Dixit, as the two danced to the film's title track.

Sharvari and Madhuri Dixit unite for a dreamy dance video

Calling the experience of dancing with her idol "surreal" and "so special", Sharvari expressed her gratitude for Madhuri Dixit's affection. The moment also brought back memories of Madhuri's association with Barjatya's Hum Aapke Hain Koun..! (1994), one of Hindi cinema's most celebrated musical romances. In the video, Sharvari and Madhuri are seen dancing together to the title track of Yeh Prem Mol Liya, with the two matching steps in a special moment that brings together two generations of Rajshri heroines. The clip ends with Sharvari hugging Madhuri, visibly celebrating the opportunity to share the dance floor with her idol.While sharing the video on Instagram, Sharvari wrote, "So honoured to receive this much prem from one of the OG Rajshri heroines of Sooraj Barjatya sir.. the one and only Madhuri Dixit ma'am. Getting to dance alongside my idol feels surreal and soooo special. Thankyou ma'am, you are the best! Hum Aapke Hain Kaun #YehPremMolLiya… In theatres 27th Nov 2026." Have a look:Soon after she shared the video, fans were seen going gaga over the two. One fan wrote, "Too much of beauty and grace in one frame." Another fan wrote, "She is real golden girl and dhak dhak girl actress best actress." A third fan wrote, "Madhuri ji came for the final 20 seconds and just stole the show… One just can't take their eyes off her Expressions, Grace, Dance…..THE OG QUEEN." One of the comments read, "Iconic." Others were seen dropping red heart emojis. Ayushmann Khurrana also wrote, "Wow," as he reacted to the dance video.

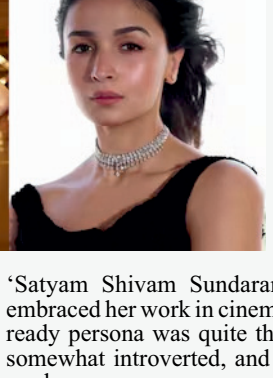
Janhvi Kapoor

Addresses Peddi Controversy; Alia Bhatt 'Likes' Rashmika Mandanna's Post

Janhvi Kapoor has opened up about the controversy surrounding Peddi, acknowledging the concerns over the film's portrayal of women. During a recent episode of Koffee With Karan (KWK), the actress reflected on the criticism, her own responsibility and whether she could have done more to address the concerns. Describing her experience during the shoot, Janhvi stated, "It was a violating experience in a way." She also admitted that she experienced "discomfort throughout shooting".

Alia Bhatt has caught netizens' attention after liking Rashmika Mandanna's social media post defending her marriage to Vijay Deverakonda amid online trolling. Rashmika addressed the backlash following the couple's appearance on Koffee With Karan Season 9, where Vijay's remarks about their marriage sparked criticism. In her lengthy note, Rashmika defended her husband, saying she would choose him "a thousand times" and that their relationship was their personal decision. Now, Alia's gesture is being interpreted by some as support for the couple.Sai Pallavi, who will soon be seen playing Sita in Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana, has shared her perspective on the lessons audiences can take away from the epic. The actress was recently speaking at the film's world premiere in Los Angeles when she said the story encourages people to introspect, recognise the good and bad within themselves, and work towards becoming better over time. "Try to introspect, and see what good and bad exists in you, and you learn to correct yourself over time. Because Ravana is not all bad," she said. Her comment has sparked mixed reactions online.Varun Dhawan has opened up about his fallout with filmmaker Karan Johar during a recent episode of Koffee With Karan. The actor revealed that the producer-director had stopped responding to his calls or messages following a disagreement over a film's release date. During the conversation, Varun explained that Karan had suddenly stopped communicating with him, leaving him unaware that the filmmaker was upset with him. Janhvi Kapoor then reminded Varun that he had called Karan a child. However, the actor maintained that he did not believe his remark was offensive.Veteran actress Zeenat Aman has opened up about being labelled a 'sex symbol' during her career. In her recent post on Instagram, she reflected on how her public image differed from her private personality. The 'Satyam Shivam Sundaram' actress said that while she embraced her work in cinema, the woman behind the camera-ready persona was quite the opposite — private by nature, somewhat introverted, and happiest when immersed in her work.





Karan Johar Celebrates 10 Years Of Ae Dil Hai Mushkil In Special Post: 'Will Always Be A Personal Story To Me'



Filmmaker Karan Johar took to social media to celebrate 10 years of his romantic drama 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil.'He described the film as a deeply personal story inspired by his own experiences of love, longing and heartbreak. Taking to Instagram, Karan posted a video from the movie and wrote, "Ae dil hai mushkil… will always be a personal story to me… a cumulation of many pieces of my pursuits of love and longing and perhaps also many of my own heartbreaks … at possibly one of the most vulnerable moments of my life I realised that one sided love did not need remorse or sympathy… it didn't warrant pain or empathy… all it needed was deep and intense understanding that the power of love is so much larger than the reciprocation of the same…"

"You don't need to have someone love you back to empower yourself – the feeling itself is so awakening and so so powerful! Loving someone has to be an act of selflessness and we as a community of lovers have to disassociate the "I" in " I love You" Selflessness is where true love truly resides…That feeling made me tell this story," he added. Karan went on to state, "I do admit that it wasn't without its flaws and had several polarised responses … especially to its third act…. BUT truth be told I would have still told it the same way even today, with its flaws… with its perceived imperfections…""No art can be perfect and all interpretation is welcome but conviction has to trump all logic and sensibility when you want to be an unabashed story teller. I am so eternally grateful to Ranbir, Anushka, Aishwarya and Fawad who allowed me my vision and gave me their glorious and supremely talented interpretation of the same! I thank the cast and crew of ADHM for creating the perfect "Vatavaran" on set…"10 years ago we told a story about unrequited love. The essence of our story was " ek tarfa pyaar" but the love we have towards all the lovers of our love story is unconditional….Love you all from the bottom of our hearts…Accha chalta hoon… duaon mein yaad rakhna," he concluded.The video shared by Karan features scenes of Ranbir Kapoor's character Ayan alongside Anushka Sharma and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan from the film.

'Salman Khan Came To Our Set Without Security, I Got Scared': Nyrraa Banerji Recalls First Meeting



Actress Nyrraa Banerji recently recalled her first meeting with Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, revealing that she was so nervous when he approached her that she started walking in the opposite direction. The actress, who is currently seen in Story TV's Premkatha alongside Karam Rajpal, shared the memorable experience from the time she was shooting for a film directed by Priyadarshan.Recalling the incident in an interview, Nyrraa said she met Salman long before her stint on Bigg Boss, when the superstar was shooting for Dabangg on a set opposite hers. "I met Salman sir way before Bigg Boss, while I was shooting for Priyadarshan's film and Salman sir was shooting for Dabangg right opposite us. I got to know that he was shooting next door, and I got so excited that I requested Priyan sir to let me meet him. Salman sir agreed immediately and came without his security towards my set. I went halfway to meet him," she said.Despite being excited about meeting the superstar, Nyrraa admitted that she became nervous when she saw him approaching her. The actress revealed that she even started walking away, prompting her team to encourage her to speak to him.

"I got so scared that I started walking in the opposite direction. My team told me, 'Please go and talk to him.' He spoke to me so politely, wished me luck for my film, and cut to Bigg Boss, where we met again, and he still remembered meeting me," she recalled.On the work front, Nyrraa is currently seen playing Katha in Story TV's Premkatha, which also stars Karam Rajpal as Prem. The microdrama blends romance, revenge and unexpected revelations against the colourful backdrop of Gujarat. Nyrraa's character is the fearless daughter of a dreaded don who falls in love with Prem, a humble truck driver who repeatedly comes to her rescue. Their relationship soon triggers a fierce battle between rival crime families, while secrets surrounding Jai's true identity threaten to change the course of their lives.

Four killed, 11 injured as helicopter with EU force crashes in Bosnia

SARAJEVO.(Agency)

A helicopter with the European Union peacekeeping force in Bosnia crashed Thursday in the country's north, killing four personnel on board and injuring 11, according to a statement from the force.The Italian CH-47 Chinook crashed during routine training in an area around the town of Brcko. The EU force, or EUFOR, said the injured are currently in stable condition and receiving medical treatment.The Klix news portal carried photos of the wreckage showing a largely destroyd helicopter on a lawn.EUFOR said a “thorough and complete” investigation was underway and more information will follow later. It added that “no civilian infrastructure, property, or vehicles were damaged, and there were no injuries to civilians.”EUFOR's 1,200-soldier mission took over from NATO in 2004 to help maintain security and oversee the military provisions of a peace agreement that ended the 1992–95 war. It operates under a U.N. Security Council mandate.

ChatGPT Made "President-Elect" Error In Flavio Bolsonaro's Post, Says Ally

Brasilia.(Agency)

A close ally of Brazilian Senator Flavio Bolsonaro on Thursday said AI chatbot ChatGPT was responsible for language in a letter briefly posted on social media by the right-wing lawmaker describing himself as Brazil's rightful "president-elect," while insisting the mistake did not alter Bolsonaro's view that the election was illegitimate.Bolsonaro stunned Brazil's political establishment on Wednesday by making the claim and alleging without evidence that Sunday's runoff election, which he lost to leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva by more than 4 million votes, had been marred by fraud. Roughly an hour after sharing the document, the senator deleted it from his accounts and published a revised version, replacing the term "president-elect" with "leader of Brazil." As Brazilian media and political observers speculated about the abrupt change, one of Bolsonaro's closest allies suggested that the explanation for the mistake was not political, but technological: the use of OpenAI's ChatGPT.

Five Ways Out Of Israel's Political Deadlock, Most Are In Netanyahu's Favour

Tel Aviv.(Agency)

The final results of the 2026 Israel election are out, and no single party has a decisive lead to form the government for the 26th Knesset. The Jewish nation faces weeks, possibly months, of political limbo to reach the required 61-seat majority to form a government in Israel's 120-seat parliament. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition of right-wing and far-right parties won 53, with his Likud party remaining the largest faction with 27 seats. The opposition bloc, led by centrist Gadi Eisenkot, secured 48 seats.The results from the Central Elections Committee also cemented the emergence of the Arab party groupings Raam and the Joint List as potential kingmakers, with the two winning a combined 19 seats.The fragmented outcome sets the stage for difficult negotiations to form a government that could last weeks, as deep-rooted political and ideological divisions make any seemingly straightforward coalition almost impossible.

North Korea's Kim calls for rapid expansion of drone technology and observes weapons tests

Acquiring advanced drones is a top priority for Kim, who now wants to beef up both conventional and nuclear capabilities.

SEOUL.(Agency)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for rapidly expanding the country's drone technology and observed tests of various weapons, state media reported Friday, as his nation remains embroiled in a standoff with rival South Korea along their heavily fortified border.Acquiring advanced drones is a top priority for Kim, who now wants to beef up both conventional and nuclear capabilities. Experts say his troops dispatched to Russia to support its war against Ukraine have likely gained valuable expertise on drone warfare from Russian forces and related battlefield experiences.The North's official Korean Central News Agency said that Kim on Thursday visited an exhibition of a variety of attack and other drones that show recent achievements in the field of unmanned aeronautical technology.In a speech at the exhibition, Kim stressed the need to seize “the absolute superiority in the drone technology” and announced unspecified steps needed to “rapidly expand and strengthen the unmanned aeronautical technology,” KCNA said.To mark the event, KCNA said that North Korea later conducted test-launches of various drones, missiles and weapons from the 600 mm-caliber ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers. KCNA photos showed Kim watching soaring weapons or him clenching his fist while his teenage daughter was clapping her hands beside him. South Korea's spy agency assesses that the girl, reportedly about 13, is likely Kim's heir.South Korea's military earlier said it detected the launches of about 10 short-range ballistic missiles from North Korea's eastern coastal town of Wonsan on Thursday. They were North Korea's first ballistic weapons firings in 17



days.Tensions between the two Koreas are running high since last month's land mine blasts at their border that wounded three South Korean soldiers. Seoul accused North Korea of burying the mines south of the military demarcation line and demanded an apology. But Pyongyang has denied responsibility for the explosions and warned of retaliation if provoked.Last week, North Korea threatened to resume propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts and place new weapons systems along the border.

North Korea has pulled out of talks with the U.S. and South Korea after Kim's high-stakes diplomacy with U.S. President Donald Trump collapsed in 2019. In recent weeks, North Korea has dialed up weapons testing activities in a likely attempt to boost its leverage in potential diplomacy with the U.S. after Trump expressed his eagerness to restore talks with Kim.On Saturday, Kim made a surprise visit to a Chinese border town via a newly opened bridge and vowed to develop bilateral ties. Kim has recently taken steps to cement ties with China, North Korea's economic pipeline, after years of prioritizing ties with Russia, including by supplying thousands of troops and ammunitions likely in return for economic and military assistence.

Netanyahu's Likud party finishes ahead in Israel vote, but well short of majority

JERUSALEM.(Agency)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's camp finished ahead of the opposition but remained well short of a majority, final results from Israel's general election showed Friday, setting the stage for tough coalition talks or potentially another vote.Netanyahu's coalition of right-wing and far-right parties won 53 of the Knesset's 120 seats, with his Likud party remaining the largest faction with 27 seats.

The opposition bloc, led by centrist Gadi Eisenkot, secured 48 seats.

The results from the Central Elections Committee also cemented the emergence as potential kingmakers of the Arab party groupings Raam and the Joint List, with the two winning a combined 19 seats.The fragmented outcome sets the stage for difficult



negotiations to form a government that could last weeks, with no single bloc able to reach the 61-seat threshold needed and the prospect of another election remaining if talks fail.

The final tally came after Netanyahu's camp spent Thursday amplifying unproven allegations that Arab-Israeli groups received foreign funding to influence the vote, accusations rejected by both Arab-majority lists and Qatar.

Israel's Shin Bet domestic security service said it was investigating suspected irregularities, but stressed the probe was not intended to "cast aspersions or place blame on an entire sector that went out to vote in a democratic and lawful manner".The electoral commission also sought to calm tensions, with its acting director general Dean Livne saying any suggestion of widespread issues was "entirely groundless".

Bodies Of 2 Colorado Students, Who Went Missing During Mountain Hike, Found

Washington.(Agency)

The bodies of two Colorado college students who died during a weekend hiking trip were recovered by helicopter Thursday after gusty winds delayed efforts to bring them down, police said.Kaden Matsuda, 19, and Jackson Donlon, 20, were found Wednesday in a snow-filled basin of West Apostle Mountain. Ground crews helped recover their bodies around 1 pm the following day, the Chaffee County Sheriff's Office reported.

Matsuda and Donlon set out last Friday from Colorado Mountain College's Leadville campus for what was supposed to be a weekend trip to Ice Mountain, a 13,958-foot (4,254-metre) peak, and went missing.

It was raining when they started hiking, according to the Chaffee County Sheriff's Office, and despite a break in the weather Saturday morning, a severe storm arrived that afternoon, dumping up to 2 feet (0.6 metres) of snow.They were expected back by Sunday, but college staff reported them missing Monday morning, and their bodies were ultimately located in a basin of West Apostle Mountain, about 100 miles (160 kilometres) southeast of Aspen.The bodies were taken to the coroner's office, with autopsies scheduled for Monday.

"They came here to learn, to explore and to build their futures," Ben Cairns, the school's campus dean, said in a statement. "Their lives were full of promise, and their loss is felt deeply by the students, faculty and staff who knew them."Colorado Mountain College, which has campuses throughout the Colorado Rockies, is known for its programs focusing on the state's robust outdoor recreation economy, including mountaineering, ski patrol and guiding careersMatsuda, of Ridgway, Colorado, and Donlon, of Queensbury, New York, became fast friends at the small campus in Leadville, which bills itself as America's highest city at 10,119 feet (3,084 metres) above sea level. Located about 100 miles (160 kilometres) west of Denver, the city is home to about 2,600 people and is flanked by some of Colorado's tallest mountains.Matsuda was studying to be a wildland firefighter. Classmates and faculty members described him as kind, intelligent and welcoming, the statement from the college said.

Tanker Attacked With Explosive Devices In Strait Of Hormuz, Crew Safe

world.(Agency)

A tanker transiting the Strait of Hormuz was attacked with two explosive devices attached to its hull by a small boat, triggering a fire in the engine room and temporarily disabling the vessel, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said.According to UKMTO, the incident occurred on Thursday at around 2212 UTC, approximately 25 nautical miles northeast of Khasab, Oman.In an update issued on Friday, UKMTO said it had received a verified report confirming that all crew members were safe and there was no environmental impact.

“The report indicates that the tanker was approached on the port side by a small boat which attached two explosive devices to the hull above the waterline," UKMTO said.It added that the subsequent blasts caused a fire in the engine room, temporarily disabling the vessel."The fir is now reported as extinguished and the vessel is continuing to its next port of call," the maritime security agency said.UKMTO initially received a report that an outbound tanker was on fire, with the cause of the incident, the status of the crew, damage assessment and environmental impact unknown at the time.Following the latest update, UKMTO advised vessels transiting the area to exercise caution and report any suspicious activity."Vessels are advised to transit with caution and report any suspicious activity to UKMTO, whilst authorities investigate," it said.The incident comes amid heightened tensions over maritime traffic through the strategic Strait of Hormuz, with Iranian military authorities asserting control over the waterway and warning commercial vessels against transiting through areas they consider restricted and unsafe.

"You Look Like Hell": Trump Body-Shames Reporter Who Asked About His Health

Washington.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump body-shamed a journalist and made personal remarks when questioned about cancelling his election campaigns in two US states where Republicans are facing tough competition. He asked the journalist to put himself in "shape" when inquired about health and well-being.

"Oh, you're sick to ask that question. You are sick," an angry Trump said when reporters questioned if his decision to cancel rallies was linked to him not feeling well. The US



president has been travelling to multiple states for weeks for the midterms election campaign that will decid the course of his government for the remaining two years.However, when the reporter clarified he was checking on the President's health, this further infuriated Trump, who then commented on the journalist's physical appearance."Look at this guy. He's way out of shape...you've been following me for two weeks. I feel perfect," Trump said while asserting that his health was fine and he was not going to Kansas because he doesn't "feel like going there"."You are disgusting. Put yourself in shape. You look like hell," Trump concluded.The president's confrontation with the journalist came as he cancelled his planned weekend campaign appearances in Kansas and Iowa. His campaign funding group, MAGA Inc., said it would organise a series of tele-rallies featuring the President in at least 19 states, including Kansas and Iowa, before Election Day.

Trump's Repeated Remarks On Physical Appearance

This is not an isolated instance when President Trump has commented on someone's body and how the person looks. During his entire election campaign in the run-up to the US midterms, he has praised Republican candidates and their looks, including hands, legs and a.During his Michigan rally, he was accompanied by pop star Nicki Minaj, who claims to be his "number one fan". In his various praises for "Anaconda" singer, Trump said, "By the way, I looked at a beautiful a** before: Nicki Minaj. That's hard to miss."

He then asked her to "stand up". Minaj rose from her seat and waved. Trump then did a bit of a face-saving, "I hope Nicki wasn't insulted, but we love Nicki. She's been with us for a long time."In a similar instance in Kentucky, he boasted of Republican candidates' handsomeness to further their cause in the midterms.

India Pins UN Security Council Seat Hope On AI-led Maritime Security Pitch

world.(Agency)

Maritime security and artificial intelligence (AI) will be central to India's bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2028-29, according to the Indian envoy to the United Nations. Addressing a high-level debate at the council, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, emphasised that technology must enhance human security and make shared maritime commons safer, rather than more contested.

India also stressed the need for developing nations to gain access to necessary technology and training to participate in governance. "India has identified AI (artificial intelligence) and maritime security as important priorities for its candidature to the Security Council for 2028-2029. Our objective is clear: technology must strengthen human security, not undermine it; it must expand opportunity, not inequality; and it must make our shared maritime commons safer, not more contested," Parvathaneni said.India is contesting the election next year for a non-permanent Council seat with a two-year term starting in 2028, polling for which will be conducted in June next year, where India and Tajikistan will compete for the sole seat in the Asia-Pacific Group category.

The Indian envoy highlighted the threat of cyber vulnerabilities and the importance of safeguarding freedom of navigation against attacks on commercial shipping. He also stressed that technological advances must not deepen existing disparities.Developing countries require access to technology, training and institutional capabilities to secure their maritime infrastructure and participate meaningfully in shaping technological governance," Parvathaneni said.

Parvathaneni underscored the need to safeguard freedom of navigation and maritime commerce, saying recent attacks against commercial shipping have demonstrated how disruptions at critical maritime chokepoints can have consequences far beyond their immediate geography. They threaten seafarers, disrupt supply chains and disproportionately affect developing countries through higher costs and economic uncertainty," he said, reiterating India's strong condemnation of attacks against commercial vessels.

He recalled that External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Greece's Foreign Minister George Gerapetritis had co-chaired a high-level discussion last month on AI and maritime security and said this was an opportunity to build on it.The Council debate took place on a day when Iran's Navy said three oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz had hit sea mines and were ablaze, highlighting the maritime perils.On the debate topic-- "Emerging Technologies and Maritime Security: Implications for Peace and Security" -- he said.