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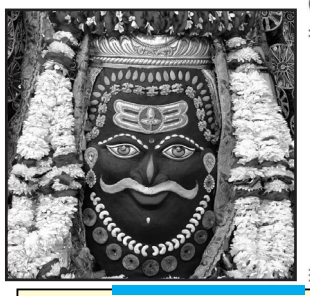
SUNDAY

MAHANAGAR METRO

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J&K cabinet reshuffle sparks dissent in NC; disgruntled MLAs hold closed-door meeting

SRINAGAR. (Agency).

The first cabinet reshuffle of the Omar Abdullah government has triggered dissent within the ruling National Conference (NC), with at least 20 party MLAs and a few independent legislators supporting the government holding a closed-door meeting to discuss their next course of action.Sources said the meeting was held at the Srinagar residence of NC MLA Qaiser Jamsheed Lone on Friday. "About 20 NC MLAs and a few independent legislators supporting the government attended the closed-door meeting, which discussed the recent cabinet reshuffle and expressed concerns over the exclusion of several senior party leaders from the Council of Ministers," they said.NC MLA Nazir Ahmad Gurezi, who is unhappy with the reshuffle, confirmed the meeting while speaking to . However, he played down its political significance, saying the legislators had been invited by Lone for a meal.Gurezi admitted that he was disappointed at not being included in the Cabinet but maintained that he would not demand a ministerial berth."I have never demanded anything from the party," he said.Sources said the meeting reflected growing dissatisfaction among NC legislators, who believe the Cabinet formation did not adequately consider seniority and merit.

Modi's visit to Canada will be another building block in bilateral ties: EAM Jaishankar, Canadian counterpart

New Delhi (Agency).

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has met his Canadian counterpart Anita Anand in Atlanta, where the two agreed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Canada in December would serve as another "building block" in strengthening ties between the two countries.Jaishankar met Anand on Friday on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting.Both the leaders also assessed the "steady growth" in India-Canada cooperation.According to an official statement, "the ministers agreed that Prime Minister Modi's visit to Canada in December will be another building block in the two countries' ambitious relationship."They also "agreed" to stay in close contact ahead of the visit, it said.Earlier this month, during her visit to India, Canadian Foreign Minister Anand met Prime Minister Modi, and she said they had a productive discussion on further strengthening India-Canada ties in trade, technology and energy.On October 16, the Indian High Commission in Ottawa said Prime Minister Modi will visit Canada on December 11 and 12.The date of the visit was also confirmed by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

Carney had said he spoke to Modi and the visit will take place in Toronto and Ottawa. "We'll see if we can broaden it out," he said earlier this month.India-Canada relations hit rock bottom following then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in 2023 of a potential Indian link to the killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Statue of Unity to get new tourist attractions as PM Modi launches Rs 426-crore projects

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 23 projects and launched eight more at Ekta Nagar. The over Rs 426 crore package strengthens tourism, connectivity and civic amenities around the Statue of Unity.

Palanpur(Agency).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated 23 development projects worth Rs 307.83 crore at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat to improve tourism facilities and civic infrastructure, news agency Press Trust of India reported.He also laid the foundation stones for eight projects worth Rs 118.88 crore, taking the total investment in the 31 projects to Rs 426.71 crore. The projects are aimed at improving facilities around the Statue of Unity, which has developed into a major tourism hub.

Earlier in the day, Modi paid floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Statue of Unity on his birth anniversary, observed as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.The major tourist attractions inaugurated by the prime minister include an Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation hotel built for Rs 50 crore, the Ekta Cruise costing Rs 16 crore, a Rain Forest attraction developed for Rs 14.30 crore and an Eco-Trail costing Rs 3.67 crore.The infrastructure projects include a sewage treatment plant built for Rs 45.53 crore, a water treatment plant worth Rs 21.40 crore, and a parade track and related works costing Rs 23.81 crore.To improve connectivity and convenience, the government has introduced travelators worth Rs 28.22 crore and a 24-metre colony road costing Rs 23 crore to ease traffic congestion. Staff quarters valued at Rs 14.25 crore and two nine-metre-long air-conditioned electric buses have also been introduced.



Other facilities include a terminal building and jetty near Mokhadi village, water stations at various locations, an extension of the walkway connecting Ekta Nagar railway station to the Visitor Centre, and fountains at different sites.The prime minister also launched new visual features, including exterior lighting within the Statue of Unity campus, the 'Ekta Prakash Parv' heritage display and an upgraded Unity Glow Garden.Among the eight upcoming projects are the Gora-Bhanadra Road, estimated to cost Rs 59.32 crore, and a Smart Zero Waste integrated waste management facility costing Rs 36.58 crore.The other proposed projects include the development of the Khalwani Bridge for Rs 7.72 crore, a cactus and butterfly garden costing Rs 5.79 crore, Khalwani Eco-Tourism development worth Rs 5.15 crore, the widening of Vaghadia Road and the construction of a disaster control room for the Sardar Sarovar Dam.

Firecracker Factories, Liquor and Alleged Extortion: What Is Happening in Vanch Village?

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad: Vanch village, falling under the jurisdiction of Vivekanandnagar Police Station in Ahmedabad district, has come under scrutiny following a series of serious allegations. Complaints have emerged regarding the alleged operation of illegal firecracker manufacturing units and warehouses, while allegations of illicit liquor trade and extortion have raised questions about the functioning of the police administration.Amid discussions describing Vanch village as the "Shivakashi of Gujarat," questions have emerged over the legality of firecracker manufacturing and storage activities in the area. An investigation is needed to establish whether the necessary government permissions have been obtained and whether fire safety regulations are being followed.According to allegations raised at the local \

level, firecrackers are allegedly being manufactured and stored at several locations without adequate safety arrangements.The most alarming allegation is that minor children are being made to work in hazardous conditions at certain locations. If these complaints are substantiated, the matter would constitute not merely a violation of the law but a serious concern involving child protection and public safety.Are Fire Safety Regulations Being Followed or Are They Limited to Paperwork?Discussions have emerged regarding the operation of numerous shops, warehouses and manufacturing units across different parts of the Vivekanandnagar area.Local allegations also claim that more than 1,000 illegal shops and manufacturing units are operating in the area. However, this figure requires official verification.The most pressing questions concern the storage and manufacturing of highly inflammable materials such as firecrackers, particularly if these activities are taking place near residential areas.How many inspections has the fire department conducted so far? How many establishments have received the necessary permissions? At how many locations are fire safety regulations allegedly being violated?Why has the administration not conducted a comprehensive inspection before a major fire or explosion occurs?Serious Extortion Allegations Against PI Parmar and Administrative Staffer Kalpesh BharwadSerious allegations have been raised against PI Parmar of Vivekanandnagar Police Station and Kalpesh Bharwad, who is described as an administrative staffer associated with the police station.According to local sources, there are allegations that money is being collected from certain businesses allegedly operating illegally in the area.Claims have also emerged that amounts of up to ₹50,000 are allegedly being collected per stall or shop.If these allegations are substantiated, they would raise serious questions about the credibility and functioning of the police administration.There are also discussions that complaints regarding the alleged activities have previously been submitted to senior police officials. However, clarification is required on whether any concrete action has been taken against the officials concerned.

Tamil Nadu Jailbreak: Vijay Suspends Senior Jail Official, Reshuffles Staff

New Delhi(Agency).

Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Saturday ordered the suspension of the deputy jail superintendent in charge of Thekkampatti sub-jail for dereliction of duty and initiated action against the prison personnel for security lapses leading to the major jailbreak on October 26.In a decisive response to the jailbreak in Theni district, in which 17 prisoners escaped after staging a fake medical emergency and overpowering prison guards but were later recaptured, Chief Minister Vijay has ordered stringent disciplinary actions against prison officials for dereliction of duty and security lapses.The directives include the immediate suspension of the deputy jail superintendent (in-charge) N Ramalingam until further orders and a strategic reshuffle of top prison administrators across the state.The incident occurred on the night of October 26, 2026, when 17 remand prisoners lodged in the sub-jail escaped after violently overpowering and assaulting the prison guards on duty. Alerted by the security breach, the Tamil Nadu Police launched a massive multi-agency combing operation, successfully tracking



down and recapturing all 17 escapees within a short span before lodging them back in safe custody. They had effectively used drones to locate and apprehend eight convicts hiding among thickets away from the prison.Taking a serious view of negligence, security loopholes, and lack of vigilance that enabled.

On CCTV, Boy, 8, Thrashes Girl, 6, With Stones, Flower Pot In Haryana School

New Delhi(Agency).

A Class 3 student thrashed a kindergarten girl with stones and a flower pot inside a school classroom in Haryana's Panchkula, leaving her critically injured.The incident took place on October 28 at the Sanskriti Model School.A disturbing video showed the eight-year-old boy dragging the kindergartener inside a classroom and banging her head on the desk twice before throwing her on the ground and kicking her. He then repeatedly attacked the six-year-old girl with stones and a flower pot. The girl subsequently lost consciousness and lay in a pool of blood.After nearly one and a half minutes, the boy left the classroom. When the girl's parents arrived to pick her up from the school, the accused boy reportedly took them to her and told them, "Aapki bacchi yaha padi hai (Your daughter is lying here)."They then rushed the girl to a nearby Civil Hospital in Sector 6, where she received initial treatment. However, due to the critical nature of her injuries, she was referred to the PGI Chandigarh, where she is reported to be in a serious condition.



Subsequently, police began an investigation and are questioning the parents of the accused boy to understand the circumstances under which a child of such a young age committed a horrific act.According to the victim's uncle, the accused boy thrashed her after she allegedly told him that she would complain about him to school teachers."The boy had shown aggressive behaviour in the past. He had several complaints against him, including for hitting dogs," he said.

A disturbing video showed the eight-year-old boy dragging the kindergartener inside a classroom and banging her head on the desk twice before throwing her on the ground and kicking her.

crashes car into another on Noida Expressway, dies

Noida.(Agency)

A 40-year-old man died after he lost control of his car and rammed into another vehicle on the Noida Expressway on Friday. In another incident, a woman suffered a fracture and three others were injured after a truck collided with a car and then veered into a roadside kiosk in Sector 63 on Thursday evening.According to police, Ghaziabad resident Hemant Sharma was on his way to a hospital in the city when he lost control of his WagonR near the Sector 132 cut and rammed into a vehicle moving ahead.
The impact severely damaged the car and left Sharma critically injured. A police team rushed him to a hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries.
Sharma's family members were informed and the body was sent for postmortem examination. So far, no police complaint has been filed in the case, police said, adding that action will be taken if they receive a complaint.In the second incident, a pickup truck first collided with a Swift Dzire car in Sector 63 before the driver of the truck lost control and veered off the road. The truck crashed into a kiosk in a vendor zone by the road, leaving two people injured.

Release originals before Nov 2, govt tells medical colleges

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana govt has ordered four state-run medical colleges to release the original documents of MBBS graduates who cleared NEET-PG, secured postgraduate seats and feared losing their admissions because their certificates were held back under the state's bond policy.
The directive comes a day after TOI reported that around 300 doctors had sought urgent intervention, with the Nov 2 deadline for physical verification of originals fast approaching.
The order allows eligible graduates to pursue MD and MS courses while retaining their obligation to serve in the state's public health system. It covers students from PGIMS Rohtak, BPS Govt Medical College in Sonipat, Kalpana Chawla Govt Medical College in Karnal and SHKM Govt Medical College in Nalhar, Nuh.

College by day, wedding venue in eve: Where classes give way to band, baja, baraat

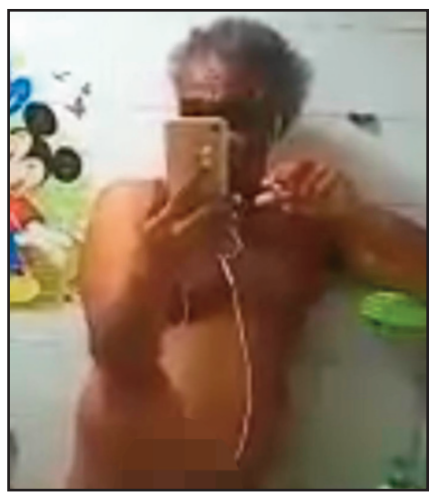
Gurgaon.(Agency)

At Pataudi Govt College, the timetable does not always decide when classes end. A wedding or engagement on the ground floor can do that.
While guests gather for celebrations below, students try to concentrate on lessons upstairs in the same community centre. On some days, the noise and bustle leave the college with little choice but to wind up classes by noon or 1pm.
For students who leave school expecting a campus, a cafeteria and space to call their own, college life here has meant making do with six classrooms on the first floor of a building that doubles as a venue for public functions. Pataudi is one of three govt colleges in Gurgaon without a permanent campus of its own. A college in Rithoj operates from a govt school, while the one in Manesar functions from a polytechnic institute.
Established by the higher education department in 2022 as Pataudi's 10th govt college, the institution offers BA and BCom courses. Its six classrooms are supplemented by three rooms earmarked for a library and staff.

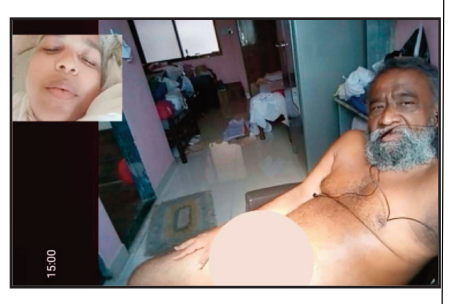
Jain Community in Turmoil: Serious Allegations Against Acharya Sagar Chandra Sagar

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad/Ujjain: Jainism is founded on the principles of renunciation, penance, non-violence, celibacy and self-restraint. When serious allegations of misconduct, exploitation of women and alleged misuse of religious donations emerge against an individual holding a religious position, the matter extends beyond an individual controversy. It raises questions about public trust, religious institutions and accountability.A controversy surrounding Acharya Sagar Chandra Sagar has reportedly intensified in the sacred Jain pilgrimage town of Palitana. Serious allegations have been raised concerning alleged objectionable activities, the purported exploitation of Jain nuns and other



women, the alleged misuse of donations received from devotees, and the existence of properties allegedly held through undisclosed or benami arrangements.These allegations have reportedly triggered concern and anger among Jain devotees, young people and various religious organizations.The central question is whether the allegations will be investigated impartially and whether appropriate action will follow if any wrongdoing is established.Allegations Behind the Religious Robes: Calls for Transparency and AccountabilityIn Jainism, a monk is regarded not merely as a religious figure but as an example of renunciation, discipline and moral conduct.Consequently, the allegations surrounding Sagar Chandra Sagar have raised serious concerns among devotees.Discussions have reportedly circulated on social media regarding purportedly objectionable photographs and other material. Allegations of inappropriate conduct and exploitation involving Jain nuns and other women have also been raised by certain individuals.Mahanagar Metro raises the following questions: Why has an independent investigation not been initiated to establish the facts? Will the individual concerned and his representatives come forward to clarify their position?Silence cannot be treated as an admission of guilt.



A Pause from the School Bell, A Beginning of Fun-Filled Days: A Wave of Happiness Among Students!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Gujarat: Amid the continuous routine of studies, examinations, homework, and academic activities in schools, a period of joy and relaxation is now approaching for students. With schools across Gujarat scheduled to observe holidays from November 5 to November 25, an atmosphere of excitement and happiness can be seen among students. Having eagerly awaited these holidays for a long time, students are now ready to take a break from their regular academic schedules and enjoy moments of fun, relaxation, and happiness.School plays an important role in a student's life, but holidays are equally significant. The daily morning preparations for school, classroom studies, guidance from teachers, homework, and various academic activities make holidays a refreshing opportunity for children to rejuvenate their minds and regain new energy. The happiness that lights up children's faces at the very mention of holidays is a beautiful expression of their innocent childhood.The Wait for Holidays Is Over, A New Beginning of Happiness!During the vacation, children will have various plans and activities to look forward to. Some students will visit their native villages and meet family members, while others will plan trips to tourist destinations and religious places. Spending quality time with grandparents, relatives, and loved ones will also make these holidays especially memorable for children.Playing games with family members at home, meeting friends, reading favourite books, drawing, and participating in new creative activities are some of the many things that make holidays truly memorable.Encouraging Creativity Along with Fun and Entertainment!Vacations are not merely a time for relaxation; they are also a wonderful opportunity to develop personal interests and talents. Students can explore their abilities by participating in painting, music, sports, reading, writing, and other creative activities.Parents should also encourage children to spend less time on mobile phones and television and devote more time to nature, books, sports, and social activities. Providing children with sufficient time to pursue activities of their choice during vacations helps develop their confidence and creativity.A Welcome Break for Teachers and Parents Too!Along with students, vacations also bring a welcome break for teachers and parents. A pause from regular academic responsibilities gives teachers an opportunity to spend quality time with their families and plan upcoming educational activities. Parents, too, can make the most of this period by spending meaningful time with their children.A Resolve to Return to School with Renewed Energy.



How plucking flowers for puja before Khatu Shyam trip ended in tragedy; Delhi govt official, his son fall from 23rd floor of Greater Noida society

NOIDA.(Agency)

A 40-year-old Central Secretariat official and his 11-year-old son died after falling from the balcony of their 23rd-floor apartment in Mahagun Mywoods, Greater Noida West, early Friday.The boy allegedly slipped while trying to pluck flowers for puja, and his father fell while attempting to pull him to safety, police said.Randeep Patra, a section officer at the Central Secretariat in Delhi, and his son Aarava, a Class 6 student, were preparing to leave for Khatu Shyam temple in Rajasthan. Before departing, they went to the



balcony to pluck aparajita flowers from a climber that the family used for daily rituals.Police said Aarava climbed the balcony railing to reach the flowers but slipped and was left hanging from the edge. Randeep tried to grab his hand and pull him up but lost his balance, and both fell onto the roof of the clubhouse below, near the second-floor level of Tower 23.Randeep's wife, Amrita Srimani, who also works as a section officer at the Central Secretariat, was inside the flat getting ready for the trip. She rushed out after hearing their screams and found them lying on the clubhouse roof. The two were taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared them dead.

Family searches for missing man, Ghaziabad cops cremate his body 13km away

Gurgaon.(Agency)

As a family searched for a missing 69-year-old man, police at a station barely 13km away cremated his body as "unidentified" despite having his photograph and details.
Purshottam Yadav, a Lal Kuan resident who had gone missing after stepping out for a walk on Sept 29, had died following a road accident. His family alleged that cops from Vijay Nagar



police station cremated his body a few days later, turning a blind eye to information shared by Wave City police station about him. This cost the family a chance to even identify the body and perform his last rites.When Yadav did not return home, his son Varun and daughter Shalini approached Wave City police station and lodged a missing person's report. They told police their father suffered from mental health issues and would often forget his address or the way home.Three days later – on Oct 2 – Yadav was hit by an unidentified vehicle near NH-9 in Vijay Nagar. He was taken to a nearby hospital and police were informed. He succumbed to his injuries on Oct 6.The next day, cops from Vijay Nagar police station prepared a panchnama, recorded him as "unidentified" and sent his body to the mortuary. It was kept there for three days before being cremated on Oct 10.
Yadav's family alleged that cops from Wave City police station had been searching for him across eight districts and had even shared a missing person's notice carrying his photograph with nearby police stations. A notice with his details and photograph was also pasted on Vijay Nagar station's notice board and wall on Oct 6, they said.Despite this, the body was cremated without being matched with the missing person report. They said the two stations failed to coordinate even though they were only 13km apart.
The family learnt of Yadav's cremation on Oct 14. ACP (Wave City) Priyashri Pal said a team from Vijay Nagar police station came to Wave City that day and put up a notice containing details of the deceased. It was then that cops identified him and contacted the family, who recognised their father from his clothes and other belongings.In their complaint, the siblings alleged that police negligence had deprived them of their right to perform their father's last rites. They demanded strict action against those responsible.

Property dealer fakes extortion threat from US-based gangster to get police security

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A property dealer allegedly fabricated an extortion threat involving an 18-year-old boy living in the US to make police believe he was on the hit list of a Rohtak-based gangster. The gangster was recently detained in the US and is wanted in several murder, Arms Act and extortion cases across Haryana, Delhi and other states.Dharmendra, a resident of Sector 5, allegedly arranged for threatening messages to be sent to his own phone from a US-based mobile number owned by a 18-year-old boy. He then approached Sector 5 police station, claiming he was receiving extortion threats in the gangster's name.Taking the complaint seriously, police provided him security cover comprising four to five personnel. The cops were deployed outside his office and also accompanied him for several weeks.What initially appeared to be an extortion threat from the gangster later turned out to be a plot allegedly devised by the property dealer to secure police protection.The deception came to light when police examined the messages and traced the mobile number from which they had been sent. During the investigation, officers found that the number was linked to a family whose members lived in the city. When police contacted the boy's father, he confirmed that the number belonged to his son, who was staying in the US.Police then contacted the boy on the same number. During questioning, the boy admitted that he had sent the threatening messages to Dharmendra at his request. He told investigators that Dharmendra had approached him and persuaded him to send the messages, knowing that an international number would make the threat appear credible.According to police, the boy's location in the US was a crucial part of the plan, as Dharmendra wanted the messages to appear as if they had originated from abroad and were linked to the gangster's network.
As the probe progressed, police confronted Dharmendra with their findings. Officers said he eventually admitted to having orchestrated the episode. The investigation found that the extortion threat had been fabricated and that neither the gangster nor his associates were involved."Dharmendra knew that his friend's son was abroad and therefore asked him for his number. He contacted the boy and convinced him to send threatening messages, following which the boy did so. During the investigation, the entire plot was exposed and his security was subsequently withdrawn," a police officer said.
Police also found hat Dharmendra had been involved in multiple property-related disputes. Investigators are examining whether these disputes prompted him to seek police protection by creating a false impression of a threat to his life. Sources said an FIR has been registered against him in a cheating case.

Chopper crash: 5 from Karnataka were on Char Dham Yatra

TUMAKURU.(Agency)

Of the six people who died in a helicopter crash in the Joshimath valley of Chamoli district of Uttarakhand on Friday, five are from Karnataka.The deceased passengers, including a police inspector attached to Central Crime Branch (CCB) in Bengaluru, were on the Char Dham Yatra. Officials of the Karnataka government are in touch with the Uttarakhand government to bring the bodies back at the earliest.The five passengers from Karnataka are Arun Salunke, CCB inspector from Aratal village in Athani taluk of Belagavi; Shankare Gowda VB, 38, an advocate, and HS Nataraju, 51, a businessman, both from Huliyurdurga of Kunigal taluk in Tumakuru; Prathap Gowda from Bachalli village in Sakleshpur taluk of Hassan, was a businessman based in Bengaluru; and Sudheer K. All five are said to be friends, and had left the city three days ago. The pilot is identified as Captain Himanshu.

As per the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA), the helicopter, bearing registration number VT-HCX, took off from Badrinath at approximately 1.14pm. It lost communication while flying over Joshimath valley, following which its tracking system also stopped receiving signals.

Following the incident, teams from the Indian Army, Chamoli district administration and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) were mobilised for rescue operations.

Storied and stately, snake boat 'Valiya Diwanji' finds new home

ALAPPUZHA.(Agency)

The original 'Valiya Diwanji,' a nearly century-old symbol of Keralam's boat-race heritage, has found a new home in Thalavady, where local residents hope it will continue to preserve memories of a glorious past and inspire future generations.Built in 1928, the iconic snake boat has been brought back to life by Thalavady native R Somanathan Pillai, with the aim of preserving its name, fame and historical significance. Its arrival in Thalavady marks an important step in safeguarding a prized piece of the traditional water sports heritage.According to Somanathan, the boat was built under the leadership of the Nedumudi NSS Karayogam and was known as the Nedumudi Thekkemuri Chundan."Measuring approximately 128 ft in length, it was designed to accommodate 107 rowers, reflecting the scale and craftsmanship associated with traditional snake boats. In 1949, Ayaparambu NSS Karayogam acquired the boat and renamed it Valiya Diwanji in memory of Raja Kesavadas, the diwan of Travancore credited with shaping and founding modern Alappuzha. The boat subsequently became an enduring presence in Keralam's vibrant boat race tradition," Somanathan said.

Odisha: Bargarh maize growers demand compensation after crop loss in rain

BARGARH.(Agency)

With their investments wiped out and little possibility of recovering losses following the damage caused by heavy rainfall due to cyclone Arnab, maize growers of Budhiapali village in Bargarh district have sought compensation.The farmers of the village under Chakarkend panchayat have urged the administration to provide compensation, citing the financial uncertainty they face in the absence of adequate safeguards against natural calamities.According to reports, around more than 50 farming families in the village had cultivated maize across nearly 70 acre this year, investing Rs 30,000 to Rs 40,000 per acre. They estimate their crop could have fetched nearly Rs 1 lakh per acre under favourable conditions. However, their cultivation is flattened.Many of the affected farmers had borrowed money to meet cultivation expenses. They submitted a memorandum to the Bargarh collector on Friday."Farmers were expecting a good yield this year, but the cyclone has dashed their hopes, leaving them distressed and staring at heavy financial losses. Following the damage, we approached the collector seeking compensation. We have also demanded crop insurance and input subsidies for non-paddy crops to help farmers absorb losses in unforeseen situations such as this," said farmer

This UP factory was making rose water. Inside: 1,102.88 kg mephedrone worth Rs 200 crore

Lucknow.(Agency)

In the early hours of Thursday, residents of Rampura in Bundelkhand's Jalaun district were roused from their sleep by the sound of vehicles passing through the otherwise quiet village.Curious about the unusual movement, a few villagers followed the convoy. They watched as the vehicles pulled up outside a rose water manufacturing unit. Several people dressed in civilian clothes, some in black, stepped out and entered the premises. A local police team arrived sometime later.It was only later that villagers learnt what was allegedly happening inside: men were allegedly manufacturing mephedrone, with the rose water business serving as a front to conceal the operation.The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), in a joint operation with the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), raided the premises and seized 1,102.88 kg of mephedrone and precursor chemicals, valued at over Rs 200 crore on the international market.Officials said this was the biggest drug haul in recent months.Two men, Hemendra Kushwaha, 27, and Santosh, 37, who were allegedly involved in making the drug, were arrested. The team searched their homes, recovering additional quantities of mephedrone and precursor chemicals.DRI officials said the plot owner, a local resident named Shailendra Singh Pal, 25, is on the run.Mephedrone, also known as Meow Meow or White Magic, is a synthetically manufactured stimulant of the amphetamine and cathinone category. Till early 2010s, the drug was not included in the list of contrabands under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. But after multiple seizures of large quantities of the drug and rising instances of its consumption as a narcotic in large cities, authorities included it in the list in 2015.

A factory behind closed gates

Rampura, with a population of around 900, is nearly 10 km from the district headquarters and falls under the Dakor police station, around 8 km away. The unit was on the



outskirts of the village, fenced off and fitted with a large gate. The fencing was covered with green fabric, keeping the activities inside out of public view.According to village pradhan Omkar Pal, the factory had come up just over a month ago on a one-and-a-half-bigha plot owned by a Shailendra. "He claimed he had invested money in the business after taking a bank loan, projecting it as an established and profitable venture," Pal said.Local resident Shivam Rajput claimed that once the factory became operational, vehicles, mostly cars, and people from outside the village began arriving there regularly. "Only three people, including the two men who have now been arrested, were allowed inside. No other villager had access to the premises," he claimed.Pal said he had visited the factory once in connection with some work but was not allowed inside. "They had installed a heavy-duty generator to meet the unit's electricity requirements. The people present there told me that a gulab jal manufacturing unit was being set up and that its products would be supplied to different districts and states. A brand-new car was also parked inside the premises," he claimed.

Agitation over Jhota killing widens, over 100 groups announce Punjab CM Mann residence siege

The committee also withdrew its earlier call to protest outside the residences of Aam Aadmi Party MLAs on October 31.

Mansa.(Agency)

More than 100 farmer, labour, employee, teacher and student organisations have jointly announced to gherao Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's private residence in Sangrur on November 5, escalating their agitation over the killing of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota and the state government's handling of the drug menace.The decision was taken at a four-hour meeting convened by the joint action committee in Mansa. The organisations, including the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), SKM (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, have also demanded a crackdown on drug trafficking, the unconditional release of arrested leaders, including Lakha Sidhana, and the resignation of the Chief Minister and the Director General of PoliceAddressing a joint press conference after the meeting, farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said the organisations had unanimously decided to mobilise people from across Punjab for the November 5 protest. "If the state government had deployed even half the police force it is currently using to suppress peaceful protesters to apprehend drug smugglers, our youth would not be dying and people would not be forced to take to the streets," the leaders said.They alleged that the police were acting on the directions of the Chief Minister to suppress dissent and claimed that 15 to 17 activists had been implicated in false cases, including charges of attempt to murder under Section 307 of the IPC.

The committee also withdrew its



earlier call to protest outside the residences of Aam Aadmi Party MLAs on October 31.Pandher said the government had come to power promising to eradicate drugs through initiatives such as 'Yuddh Nashian Viruddh', but had failed to fulfil its commitment. He appealed to farmers, labourers, shopkeepers and youth to reach Sangrur in large numbers on November 5.Meanwhile, Punjab Congress president Pargat Singh joined the protesters in Mansa, demanding justice for Jhota and questioning the Mann government's claims of tackling the drug menace.Accusing the government of focusing on advertisements and publicity while families continued to lose their young members to drugs, Singh asked, "If drugs are being eradicated, what about families being devastated every day?"He said people had been forced to take to the streets to demand justice for Jhota, who had raised his voice against drug trafficking. "A government that claims to be eliminating drugs has failed to deliver justice even to those fighting against this menace. Justice must be ensured for Jhota, and the safety of those raising their voices against drugs must be guaranteed," he said.During his visit, Pargat also went to the residence of Daljit Singh in Bhamme Kalan village and met his mother and wife.Thirty-four-year-old Daljit was found dead in Mansa on Monday. While his family alleged that he had died of a drug overdose, the police have disputed the claim and registered a murder case against three persons.

Two Central teams to assess cyclone damage & drought in AP for four days

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

Two Central government teams will visit Andhra Pradesh over the next four days to assess the damage caused by Cyclone Arnab and examine the drought situation during the 2026 kharif season in several districts.A seven-member Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT), led by Chittaranjan Dash, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, will visit Konaseema, Kakinada, East Godavari and West Godavari districts on Saturday and Sunday to assess the damage caused by Cyclone Arnab.According to State Disaster Management Authority Managing Director Prakhar Jain, senior State officials will brief the team at the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) on the precautionary measures taken during the cyclone and the extent of damage reported across the affected districts.The Central team will subsequently split into two groups for field inspections. The first team, accompanied by RTGS CEO and APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain, will visit Konaseema district on Saturday and Kakinada on Sunday.The second team, accompanied by Director of Secondary Health Chakradhar Babu, will visit East Godavari district on Saturday and West Godavari district on Sunday.The teams will inspect the affected areas, assess the damage and interact with cyclone-affected people. The members are expected to meet Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday evening. Meanwhile, another 10-member Central team, led by Chinmay Gotmare, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, will visit drought-hit districts on Monday and Tuesday to assess the kharif-2026 drought situation.The team will split into two groups and undertake field visits to Sri Sathya Sai, Anantapur, Kurnool and Nandyal districts. The members will interact with farmers and assess crop conditions and the impact of deficient rainfall.Jain said that, as per the drought assessment guidelines of the Union Agriculture Ministry, 283 mandals in the State had been declared severely drought-affected, while 105 mandals were classified as moderately drought-affected during the kharif-2026 season.

4 Punjab men arrested for 'plotting' to kill Armyman, 'attack' police station

The accused were instructed to record a video of the incident and send it to their handler linked to the Shahzad Bhatti network, say officials

Lucknow.(Agency)

The Uttar Pradesh Police's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) on Friday arrested three youths and detained a juvenile in Lucknow for allegedly hatching a conspiracy to kill a member of the Army or police force or attack a police establishment before recording a video of the incident, on the instructions of their Pakistan-based handler.The motive of their handler, linked to the banned Shahzad Bhatti network, was to create fear among people, the agency claimed.The accused were identified as Gagandeep Singh (26) and Rajat Kumar (19) of Amritsar in Punjab and Krish (21), a resident of neighbouring Gurdaspur district, officials said.The juvenile, also a Punjab resident, is aged 17, they said.A foreign-made pistol and 20 cartridges were recovered from their possession, it was claimed.In a press statement, the ATS claimed to have received intelligence inputs that some youths from Punjab with alleged links to the Shahzad Bhatti network were planning to kill an Armyman or a policeman or attack a police establishment in India.A probe revealed that Gagandeep and his associates were in contact with Rana Bhai, an active member of the Shahzad Bhatti network, the agency said, adding the four were travelling to Lucknow on his instructions to carry out an attack.They were also asked to record the killing and send the video to Rana Bhai, the investigators said. They also conducted reconnaissance of sensitive establishments, recorded their locations and shared the information with their handler, it was alleged.A case was registered against them at the ATS police station in Lucknow.The accused set out from Punjab's Amritsar on October 27 and passed from Delhi before reaching Lucknow on Thursday (October 29) midnight, the ATS added.They communicated with Rana Bhai



through Instagram and WhatsApp, it was alleged.The officials said Rana transferred Rs 2,585 to them to cover their travel expenses and after reaching Lucknow, the accused recorded a video of the city railway station and sent it to their handler. They were promised Rs 3 lakh after the targeted killing and were instructed to flee to Nepal to evade arrest, the officials stated."During the interrogation, the accused said Rana Bhai had told them that weapons and ammunition had been sent from Pakistan and would be handed over to them by a local contact in Lucknow. The contact person provided them with the firearm and cartridges seized from them," a police officer said.

Bihar tigress moves between Assam villages, Bengal weighs tranquilising it

Kolkata.(Agency)

A Bihar tigress relocated to West Bengal's Buxa Tiger Reserve as part of the state's first tiger relocation project has strayed across state lines into Assam and shown no signs of returning, prompting the forest departments of the two states to step up efforts to track it.Over the past six days, the three-year-old tigress, T-138, has been tracked near forest villages in Assam, where it has killed three domesticated pigs and four piglets. It later crossed a river and moved towards another village.

With the animal moving closer to human settlements, the Bengal Forest Department is considering tranquilising and retrieving it as a last resort, though no final decision has been taken.The task has been complicated by gaps in the radio-collar signal. At one point, the signal went missing for nearly 24 hours before becoming active again. "We are aware of its location. I will personally visit Assam tomorrow and hold a meeting with officials of both states. No decision has been taken yet on tranquilising it and bringing it back. But our teams are ready. We are tracking the tigress," state Forest Minister Manoj Oraon told .The radio-tracking system stopped transmitting on Thursday, following which teams from forest departments of Bengal and Assam began scanning the area. Fresh signals were received on Friday afternoon, helping officials locate the animal.

"Sometimes this happens. When the animal is in water or in certain forest zones, the signal is not received. But we know its location," Oraon said.According to sources in Raimona National Park, the tigress was initially located near Hatigarh forest village. "The tigress initially hunted domesticated pigs but could not eat



them as villagers were alerted. We have informed local residents and are conducting awareness campaigns and public announcements. Villagers have been advised not to visit the area where the tigress is located and to stay indoors after dark," a Raimona National Park official said."It has moved to Narayanpur village in the Gossaigaon subdivision of Kokrajhar district from Hatigarh. It crossed the Janali river in the Gurufela area and is now inside a bamboo grove near the village. Teams from both Bengal and Assam .

Breathing life into political adda and dance of democracy

This is an essay on perception. It's a study of how the new movements look at democracy to construct and reconstruct the world. I want to begin with two notes from my diary—both reflections on majoritarianism.

The first entry is that majoritarianism, in a way, has become a map of mediocrity. It has created a series of monocropped ideas, preventing both the diversity and divergence that democracy desperately needs.The second entry says majoritarianism has created a conventional narrative. It has adopted the standard dualism of opposition and hegemony, and to a certain extent, carries out the narrative itself. Subtleties, eccentricities and dissenting imaginations are lost in this construct.

This essay is an attempt to probe these two.

Let's try to understand the nature of the student protests by looking at the way they were constructed and perceived, starting with talking to a few people who attended the protests. I want to begin with a sharp-minded student of mine. She said, "I went there without knowing too much. I went there to know more, and I realised I was in good company. Almost all the people there went with an idea of trying to find out more."What's really important was the moment's tentativeness. The tentativeness was, for her, as important for sociology as uncertainty was for physics. Both gave a certain classical edge and a modernist impulse that allowed the subjects to acquire a sense of difference and a sense of fluidity at once.

She pointed out, "I realised everyone there was equally open-minded. There was a sense of hospitality, a sense of diversity. What integrated them was the sense of a common problem. The problem became the commons for the protest movement. It was not any solution, not any ideology." She pointed out that there were no cadres, and that the few who came from the RSS and Bajrang Dal were not effective.It allowed for a different kind of storytelling. She added, "One of the most beautiful things about the tentativeness was that it allowed for the play of language. Democracy became a polysemic term." Democracy's multifarious meanings became a part of the very guarantee of the vitalising nature of the political process. By allowing divergence, democracy became a kind of pedagogy.

Another protester pointed out that it was not just language that conveyed—it was the silence of body language, too. This was very crucial, he repeated, because many times a shrug or a wave was as poetic or emphatic as any wordy vocabulary.Together, they pointed out that body language, orality and polysemy added to a new kind of democracy, which was itself like a liberated language. A democracy that celebrated multiple meanings of words. A democracy that invented itself almost every day.All that is true. But let us not forget that the focus is not on how 'big' we are, but on how big a 'power' we are, which includes geopolitical capability and the willingness to use it.One has to understand the nature of hospitality one of the protesters underlined. These were not ideological carers. They did not laugh at you with contempt. They tried to understand and engage with you. They tried to answer and ask more questions. This creates a new sociology. My student almost suggested that a sociology of tentativeness was one of the great gifts of the recent protest movement.She made another crucial point. For a long time, democracy has been seen in formal terms. It is either an election ritual or certain theories of representation. One of the things we are required to understand is the tacit constitution—the unstated, the understated and the silent. Rather than taking them for granted, one has to understand the heuristics that sustain democracy.

Why high growth is only half the story

An economy can be resilient in aggregate while leaving many people financially insecure

AN Uber driver says he works longer hours than before, yet takes home less money. After fuel, maintenance, loan instalments and the platform's deductions, little remains. His experience cannot establish how the entire economy is performing. But he asks a reasonable question: if India is growing rapidly, why is making a living becoming harder? It brings to mind the title of Erma Bombeck's book: If Life Is a Bowl of Cherries, What Am I Doing in the Pits?India's GDP grew at 7.8% during the April-June quarter, which is impressive. The International Monetary Fund, Reserve Bank of India and other agencies have revised growth estimates upwards for the whole year. Sustaining rapid growth amid international uncertainty is an achievement. This column is not about the controversy over the 7.8% figure, which we can take as acceptable.

Does the disappointment therefore reflect excessive pessimism? Expectations rise with prosperity. Every expanding economy contains struggling businesses and disappointed job-seekers. A few conversations cannot provide a representative assessment of a country as large and diverse as India.Yet the evidence of unease extends beyond anecdotes. The RBI's September urban consumer confidence survey recorded a Current Situation Index of 87.9, the lowest since March 2023, below the neutral level of 100. About 54.5% of respondents believed the general economic situation had worsened over the preceding year, against 25.3% who thought it had improved.Rural responses were also revealing. Only 20.6% reported higher income than a year earlier, while 30.5% reported a decline. Such findings give household discomfort a firmer basis than casual impressions or political commentary.There is, however, no sweeping pessimism in the RBI surveys. Urban households remained optimistic about the year ahead. Present dissatisfaction thus coexists with expectations of improvement. Describing the economy as uniformly distressed would overlook this evidence.

There is no necessary contradiction between rapid GDP growth and household anxiety. GDP measures production across the economy. It does not establish how widely additional income is distributed, whether employment is secure, or how much harder someone must work to maintain the same living standard.

Suppose a millionaire enters a room. Average wealth rises immediately, although nobody already there becomes richer. Even per capita GDP, which adjusts output for population, cannot reveal what has happened to the typical household.The composition of growth matters. Capital-intensive activities and specialised services can generate substantial output and income while directly employing relatively few people. Corporate profits can rise much faster than wages, which has indeed happened. Growth concentrated in these activities will feel different from an expansion that creates plentiful jobs across occupations and skill levels.Former RBI Governor Duvvuri Subbarao has drawn attention to precisely these structural concerns, including weak real rural wages and inadequate creation of good jobs. They coexist with achievements in infrastructure, banking and digital payments. Recognising the achievements strengthens the case for examining where their benefits remain insufficient. It points to the fact that growth is not sufficiently inclusive.Employment figures need careful study. Someone driving a cab, doing occasional construction work or helping on a family farm is now



counted as employed. But it says little about earnings, volatility, predictable hours or protection against illness. Working 14 hours instead of 10 for the same income represents a deterioration that an employment count will miss. Employment stats don't capture precarity.Long queues for limited government vacancies reveal this problem. They reflect unemployment, but also the appeal of predictable salaries, benefits and security. Some applicants already have work. Their willingness to spend years preparing for recruitment examinations indicates how unattractive the available alternatives can be.

Youth restlessness must be understood against this background. amilies have invested in education, often through considerable sacrifice. Qualifications raise expectations of economic mobility. When stable employment remains elusive, disappointment is understandable. Examination delays and paper leaks compound it. These experiences identify a gap between expanding production and the opportunities available to young people.Household purchasing power provides another explanation. Families judge their circumstances through food bills, rent, school fees, healthcare expenses and transport costs. Low inflation numbers do not reverse earlier price increases. If earnings have failed to keep pace with accumulated costs, even a period of moderate inflation offers limited comfort.For farmers, local conditions can overwhelm national growth. Drought in Maharashtra threatens harvests and earnings while cultivation expenses and repayment obligations remain. Expansion in other sectors provides little immediate protection against a failed crop.The stock market adds another dimension. Foreign investors have relentlessly pulled out funds for the past two years, even as domestic investors invest systematically more than Rs 30,000 crore every month. There is much talk of the government considering capital-gains tax relief because the index has given very poor returns. These poor returns have compounded poor wage growth. With retail participation having expanded, disappointing investment returns now affect the confidence of a wider section of the middle class.

Tax reductions are being discussed mainly to induce foreign investors to come back. Whether the tax cut happens or not, it suggests that the absence of financial comfort is being recognised within the government.

Large foreign withdrawals have meant that regular domestic investment did not lead to rising share prices. The returns on India's stock market have been affected by other factors too, such as rupee weakness and higher interest rates globally. Moreover, India's stock market is an incomplete measure of the economic health of India. But its weakness matters to investors, and indirectly to the wider population too.The pessimism is compounded by stagnant wages, joblessness, rising inflation, rising household indebtedness and deteriorating essential public services such as roads, schools and drinking water. Better public healthcare, education and transport would improve living standards by reducing expenses families must meet privately. Growth of good-quality jobs remains anaemic.India's growth performance warrants recognition. The discomfort evident in household surveys also merits attention. An economy can be resilient in aggregate while leaving many people financially insecure. Sustained growth creates the resources to address that insecurity. Its success will become more widely felt when earnings, opportunities and everyday living conditions improve alongside national output.

New Israel government must face post-war reality in transformed region

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

Israel's election deadlock raises a pressing question: how far will Benjamin Netanyahu go to stay in power this time? With about 86 percent of the election-day ballots counted by Wednesday evening, Netanyahu's bloc was projected to win 53 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, the Jewish opposition 48 and the Arab parties 19. Although the opposition is on course to collectively bag 67 seats, forming a government hinges on Jewish parties overcoming resistance to Arab support. Netanyahu has repeatedly used opposition divisions to retain power for a total of almost two decades in a State formed 78 years ago. Can his rivals unite, or will his canny survival tactics prevail once more? President Isaac Herzog's appeal to approach coalition negotiations with "an open mind" acknowledged substantial gaps in political trust.

Netanyahu has repeatedly demonstrated exceptional shrewdness to assemble unlikely combinations of partners, exploit divisions and turn setbacks into opportunities. In a country driven farther right on the political spectrum, his record is not one of ideological



consistency so much as expedient flexibility. His 2021 ouster, after more than 12 years in office, appeared to expose the limits of such tactics. Yet, his personal political survival and the implications of his ongoing legal troubles over alleged corruption have become increasingly synonymous. Following his 2022 victory, Netanyahu joined hands with far-right and ultra-Orthodox parties whose agendas helped curtail the Supreme Court's powers.The Arab parties' historic showing could prove decisive this time if only their participation in governance is deemed broadly acceptable. The opposition's desperation to dislodge Netanyahu may create opportunities, but numerical leverage alone cannot overcome ideological resistance. The final count and Herzog's consultations will determine whether a compromise is possible or another round of instability beckons.Meanwhile, the sand is shifting in the region. Monday's meeting in Tehran between Iranian leaders and senior Saudi, Turkish and Pakistani representatives underscored their search for a diplomatic solution to a conflict brought upon them by Israel and the US. Their commitment to talks reflected a shared interest in containing escalation even amid profound strategic differences.The crucial question is no longer whether Netanyahu will politically survive.

They didn't start the fire

Gen Z groups across the world are agitating against their governments borrowing slogans and signs like a pirate sign from a Japanese anime series. But like in Serbia, their success has often depended on years of persistence in demanding government action on a variety of complaints

The electoral victory of youth protesters in Serbia is an opportunity to examine the juvenescent riots burning through Europe. The protests, escalating into riots in France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Albania, Greece, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Ireland began with students questioning the slide in schooling, but encompassed a cost-of-living crisis, housing unaffordability, strained public services, inflation and youth disillusionment exacerbated by growth stagnation and austeritism. These protests shared concerns: slow growth, expensive energy transitions, exorbitant geopolitics, housing missupply and generational financial failures.One might assume that a potential Europe Spring echoing the 2010 Arab one is odd in a generally stable continent. But especially in societies skilled at self-advertising a balmy side, schisms are revealed when the band-aid is ripped off by the smallest exertion: children protesting a schooling crisis.When this boiler blew, it suddenly brought years of creeping deterioration up close and personal. The structural pressures across Western and Southern Europe—comprising a quarter of Europe's land area—include prices drubbing incomes: a euro-area inflation reacceleration (around 3.8 percent last month). Southern, Western and Northern Europe, which comprise 41 percent of the continent, are being drained by Ukraine and European Russia, comprising about 45 percent. The multibillion-euro support for Ukraine, and the militarisation drive predicated on the imminence of a Russian invasion, has bled Europe dry of capex.But each country also has its own issues. In



France, youth unemployment has risen to 21 percent for 15-24-year-olds—the most vocal and volatile demographic—schools are underfunded, and pensions and military commitments are crowding out youth investment. Fiscal rigidity and public spending of 57 percent of the GDP has fuelled youth unemployment.

Housing is th dominant cisis in Spain and Portugal. Italy's inflation beats the euro-area average, and wages are sinking. Cost-of-living marches turned violent in Milan, Turin and Bologna, and sparked off supply-chain disruptions. Albanian issues include education, corruption, development projects sans popular appeal, cost-of-living and institutional distrust.The material damage is enormous: Morningstar DBRS estimates insurance losses alone at €1.2 billion, most of it in France, ground zero. That is over 1.5 times of what was lost in the 2023 summer riots. The protests are left-wing-led. The dominant imagery is of black-clad parkourists whom the media calls Antifa activists primed to wreak havoc. The public has been taught to fear Antifa not as anti-fascist but as anarchic—which is not the same as anarchist, a non-hierarchical, unconfrontationist ideology that falls outside the Left-Centrist-Right trinary. The hyper-kinetic 'Black Bloc' is helping credentialise the far-Right parties. Simultaneously, youth mobilisation is helping forge promissory templates on housing, education and wages.The global emergence of a decentralised, uncoordinated response to structural pressures is rooted in a flashmob-like, post-ideological dynamic that seems pre-ordained to morph into political anarchism. This commonality of purpose stretches from Asia through Africa to Europe. And Africa and Asia preceded Europe. Kenya had the Jenga Movement and the Gen-Z Uprising; Nigeria the End Bad Governance movement; Senegal the Y'en a Marre movement; Morocco massive rallies against failing public healthcare systems, high unemployment and state spending priorities; Tanzania Mo29 and Maandamano against electoral processes; Togo the movement against constitutional changes extending presidential terms indefinitely.

As visitors, we too must learn to recognise danger, resist the pressure to attend every celebrated event and consider the safety of those around us. None of this excuses failures of planning. Rather, it reminds us that safety cannot remain somebody else's concern until tragedy strikes. •



Recipe Chicken satey with peanut sauce

Chicken is a rich source of lean protein and vitamin B6 and when clubbed with peanuts, is packed with nutrients, minerals and antioxidants, which make a healthy combo. So, try this delicious chicken satey with peanut sauce recipe, either as a snack, for lunch or dinner.



Ingredients

Marinade:

cup hung curd
1 tsp freshly grated ginger
1 tsp minced garlic
1 tbsp curry powder
750 gms skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cut into strips
20 wooden skewers, soaked in water for 30 minutes
Vegetable oil, for grilling
Butter lettuce leaves
Fresh cilantro leaves

Peanut Sauce:

1 cup smooth peanut butter
1/4 cup soy sauce
2 tsp red chili paste, 2 tbsp brown sugar
2 limes, juiced
1/2 cup hot water
1/4 cup chopped peanuts, for garnish

Directions

Combine the hung curd, ginger, garlic and curry powder in a shallow mixing bowl and stir to combine it all. Place the chicken strips in the yoghurt marinade and gently toss until well coated. Cover and let the chicken marinate in the refrigerator for up to two hours. Thread the chicken pieces onto the soaked skewers working the skewer in and out of the meat, down the middle of the piece, so that it stays in place during grilling.

Place a grill pan over medium heat and brush it with oil to prevent the meat from sticking. Grill the chicken satays for three to five minutes on each side, until cooked throughly. Serve the satays on a platter lined with lettuce leaves and cilantro; accompanied by a small bowl of peanut sauce on the side.

Sauce

Combine the peanut butter, soy sauce, red chili paste, brown sugar, and lime juice in a blender. Puree this. Pour the sauce into a nice serving bowl and garnish with the chopped peanuts. Serve with chicken satay.

Recipe Sugar cookies

Preparation time: 30 mins + cooling time
Cooking time: 10 mins
Recipe Ingredients:
400g flour
1/2-teaspoon salt
1-teaspoon baking soda
225g unsalted butter, room temperature
200 g granulated white sugar
2 large eggs
1-teaspoon vanilla extract

Royal Icing:

2 large egg whites
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
3 cups icing sugar, sifted

Recipe Method:

Sieve together the flour, salt, and baking soda thrice. Beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy (about 3 minutes) with an electric beater. Add the eggs and vanilla extract and beat until combined. Add the flour mixture and beat well until you have a smooth dough. Divide the dough in half and wrap each half in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for about one hour or until firm enough to roll.

Preheat oven to 180 degrees C and place rack in center of oven. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Remove one half of the chilled dough from the refrigerator and, on a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough to a thickness of 1 cm. Keep turning the dough as you roll, making sure the dough does not stick to the counter.

Cut out desired shapes using a lightly floured cookie cutter and transfer cookies to baking sheet. Place the baking sheets with the unbaked cookies in the refrigerator for about 15 minutes to chill the dough which prevents the cookies from spreading and losing their shape while baking. Bake cookies for about 8-10 minutes (depending on size) or until the edges are just starting to brown. Remove from oven and let cookies cool on baking sheet for a few minutes before transferring to a wire rack to finish cooling. Frost with royal icing, if desired. Be sure to let the royal icing dry completely before storing.

For Royal Icing with Egg Whites: In the bowl of your electric mixer (or with a hand mixer), beat the egg whites with the lemon juice. Add the sifted sugar and beat on low speed until smooth. If necessary, to get the right consistency, add more sugar or water. Add food coloring, if desired. The icing needs to be used immediately or put in an airtight container as it hardens when exposed to air. Sprinkle colored sprinklers onto wet icing if desired.



Restro review: Call of Bengal (Bengali)

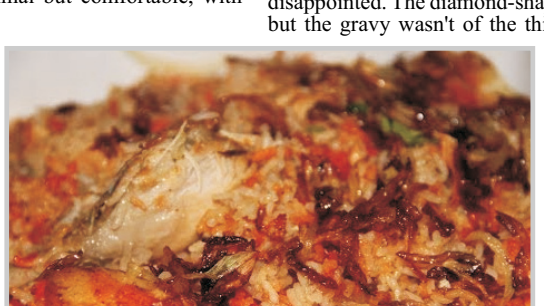
A worthy attempt by foodie couple, Indroneel and Sumita Ganguly, to bring back a slice of Bengal for 'Probashi' Bongs, and the fast-swelling numbers of Bengali food lovers in the City of Nizams.

Decor

Housed in a kiosk at the Same Place food court in Madhapur, Call of Bengal showcases its identity in a collage of B&W photos of Bengali stalwarts, like Ravi Shankar, Uttam Kumar, Suchitra Sen, Kishore Kumar, etc. The ambience is minimal but comfortable, with spray-mist fans.

Food

The menu has snacks (rolls, chops, champ), thalas (veg, egg, fish, prawn, chicken, mutton), and a la carte items, such as Kolkata Biryani (referred here as the Khushka Pulao in veg, egg, chicken and mutton versions). Breakfast (10 am to 12 pm) has two versions, Park Street Calling (continental) and College Street Calling (Bengali).



In snacks, tried-and tested-and-declared excellent are Dimer Devil (`60) and Moglai Chicken Paratha (`120), especially the latter. The square-shaped paratha has a soft but crisp crust, with a delicious minced chicken filling, and is a meal in itself. Also good were the Fish Fry (`40, large-sized piece served with Kasundi), Fish Chop and Chicken Egg Roll, although the Vegetable Cutlet and Luchi-Aloo Torkari were mediocre. While the texture of the potato curry (slightly mashed thick gravy) was alright, it lacked salt, and served lukewarm; the luchis, however, were served hot and puffed up. Also tried Fish (Rohu Maccher Kalia, well-done) and Prawn (Chingri Maach Bhaape, prawns steamed in a mustard marinade and delectable) Thalas, on two different days, and common to both of them were rice, dal, jhuri bhaja, papod, salad, aam chutney, a vegetable dish (Panch Mishali Torkari, on one day and Dhokar Dalna on another) and dessert (mihi daana and gulab jamun, both okay). While the Panch Mishali was wholesome with plenty of veggies, the Dhokar Dalna disappointed. The diamond-shaped dhokas were huge, but the gravy wasn't of the thick consistency one is used to, and lacking both the taste of garam masala and ground ginger-cumin-coriander seeds, as well as potatoes, an aberration for most Bongs! One has also had better versions of Bhaja Moonger Dal and Masoor Dal, served on the thalas. My friend who tried the Mutton Khushka Biryani, however, vouched for its authenticity.

Plus & Minus

Pricing is a steal, especially for the generous portions. While most a la carte dishes are good, Call of Bengal needs to fine-tune their thalas; especially with vegetable dishes and add-ons, like dal, jhuri bhaaja and papod (not crisp, on both days).

What are kids Reading?



Geronimo Stilton, Captain Underpants, Wimpy Kid, Percy Jackson...kids today have much to choose from.



Pranksters George Beard and Harold Hutchins are terrorised by their principal, the mean Benjamin Krupp. They get back, and how! They turn him into a reluctant superhero who wears just briefs and a cape! If you are a 10-year-old, you would have got the story by now. This is the tale of Captain Underpants, a hot favourite among pre-teens. Then, there's the adorable mouse who publishes 'The Rodent's Gazette'. He scouts around for news instead of cheese and craves a vacation. That's Geronimo Stilton. He also has a sister, Thea Stilton, who has a separate series in her name. There's a big smile on kids' faces as they read the squiggly text that literally shivers when Geronimo is afraid.

Books for kids are big news now. There was a time when interest in books came down and technology turned temptress. But, authors such as J.K. Rowling hooked kids back to the page. Luckily, others rushed in to meet the demand.

Divya Chandran's sons Adhvik and Dhaman picked up the reading habit seeing their parents read. Today, her elder one reads National Geographic's NG Kids Magazine (for ages 6-14). There's also an NG Little Kids Magazine (for ages 3-6).

"Adhvik loves reading about wildlife. So, I make it a point to pick up books on the subject. Dhaman likes The Berenstain Bears. When we let kids read books relating to the topics they are interested in, it keeps the reading habit alive," she says. But, yes, she does check if the books are age-appropriate.

Adventure is cool

J. Yashaswi finds Captain Underpants cool because it combines adventure, school life and an element of magic. His mother Nandini says she tries to ensure her son reads a mix of modern-day tales and vintage kids' books. So, Roald Dahl and Enid Blyton are a vital part of his reading list too.

Of late, parents and schools are encouraging children to read, if only to keep them off electronic gadgets. Book stores hold events for children. Online store Flipkart is working at initiatives such as book readings with famous children's authors, to draw in young readers, says Anil Goteti, director-retail. Niranjani Ramanathan, who runs JustBooks library in Coimbatore, says parents are keen on books that showcase Indian culture and tradition in an easy-to-read manner. Probably why, publications by Tulika Books, Karadi Tales and Amar Chitra Katha are very popular. "It helps that most new international titles are available here too." That way, children keep pace with what others in their age group are reading across the world.

Niranjani says that a library helps because when children visit it, they end up seeing and picking up books they would have never been exposed to otherwise.

Anu Vignesh's daughter Mayanka, a Class V student, is a huge fan of Enid Blyton. She's loves horses too, and so, an encyclopaedia on horses is popular on her reading list. So are pre-teen books such as the St. Claire's series.

Rema Giridhar's daughter Layanaya, 9, reads a lot of Amar Chitra Katha and Geronimo Stilton. "We allow her to read what she wants to. When she chooses a slightly higher read, we step in as censors, so that she reads the right books," she says.

Abhirami, 15, is a voracious reader. She grew up abroad and so also reads books that are unfamiliar here. Her mother Vasanthi, an avid reader herself, says she has always encouraged Abhirami to read. "We have gently nudged her to try books a little higher than her level. This has ensured she reads all books, not just those she is used to or is comfortable with," she says. Thanks to this, Abhirami reads Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Jerome K Jerome and PG Wodehouse. But, she also loves Asterix!

Sometimes, children's reading habits rub off on adults. That's what happened with Vasanthi. "Abhirami tells me about the new authors she's reading. It's lovely because these are authors who were not around when I was a kid. At any age, it's nice to read kiddie books," she says, rushing off to read her daughter's copy of Jacqueline Wilson's Hetty Feather.

"I've to return it tonight!"

What sells online

Anil Goteti of Flipkart says that Indian authors such as Ruskin Bond, R.K. Narayan and Sudha Murthy are amongst the most popular kids' authors. Adventure is a top seller followed by the fantasy genre. And, despite the influx of new authors and titles, Enid Blyton and R.K. Narayan are still a hit.

Top-Sellers

Ages 5 to 7 Geronimo Stilton, Roald Dahl, Captain Underpants, Wimpy Kid, Dr. Seuss

Ages 8-10 Wimpy Kid, Famous Five, Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew, Amar Chitra Katha, Percy Jackson and Narnia

Ages 11-15 Lord of The Rings, The Hunger Games, Calvin and Hobbes, Artemis Fowl, Tintin and Twilight

Taking baby reading Steps



All people lamenting how kids these days don't read much, wake up and smell the coffee. Kids are very much reading, and a lot, because parents today are making an effort to ensure their kids start early and get hooked to reading by the time they can read independently. And it's a habit that seems to stay, once they get going.

Mridula Charlu, a senior manager at an IT firm says it's been two years since their family of four took a library membership at their neighbourhood branch of Just Books "because we all love books. We used to go to the library once a week on Saturdays, now we are not so regular," she admits. She started reading books to her now nine-year-old daughter Arundhati when she was barely one. "And then while potty-training her, we gave her books to read to keep her entertained while she sat…that's where it really started, she laughs. "By the time she was three, she was reading independently. Now, I have to tell her to stop reading, go out and play. My husband and I read a lot as well, so I guess she picked the habit from us." Arundhati has a group of about six other classmates, who exchange books between themselves and read. Her son Agastya, now a little over four years, and Arundhati read every night before they go to bed. Some classics are also downloaded on the iPad for them to read.

There may be other many encouraging factors too, apart from enthusiastic bookworm parents. The number of good libraries that allow books to be ordered from home and are delivered at the doorstep have increased. So have activities around books — new book launches are accompanied by storytelling sessions for children. Many libraries conduct monthly activities for kids around a theme or book that could include painting, craft, making up their own stories — al of which lead kids towards more stories and more books.

Divya Purandar is a familiar figure in Bangalore's bloggers' circles as the one who blogs at One Story A Day. It all started for Divya and her then three-year-old son Abhay when they were in America. She was bowled over by the books and library system there. She started this habit of reading her son one story a day and it's become an inseparable part of their life over the last four years. "Now he's picked up reading on his own and I get him books from early readers' series thrice a week," says Divya. She's a member of three libraries "just for him", and apart from borrowing, also buys him books every month. "He's not really a voracious reader and doesn't grab each and every thing I get him, but now I discover he's interested in reading books on adventure, cars, and mythology, especially Amar Chitra Katha."

But why then are so many rueing that kids don't read? Mridula points out that there are two kinds of children — those that read and those that don't. Umesh Malhotra, CEO of Hippocampus library, says there are two categories of parents — those who are educated and have always believed in the power of reading, and those who are schooled and focus mostly on academics and struggle to realise the importance of the reading habit in their children's lives. "The average starting age of reader in our place is about 3.5 years and we have upward of 3,000 members. Many mothers bring their kids to our library when they are as young as one, and we have seen them evolve as readers till they are about seven. Parents have taught children the alphabet by the time they are three, and they specially take time out to make them read," he observes.

Varsha Pillai, mother to Aadya, who's just a little over two, has been reading to her daughter since she was one. She started identifying things in books before she turned two. They graduated from hard board books, to touch and feel, to small stories like the Baby Einstein series. Books are also great company for children on long journeys, she's realised. Varsha believes there are many takeaways to children learning to read early. "She is able to identify and recognise things around her. Recently we went to the Mysore zoo and she recognised a Toucan because she'd seen it in a book." Apart from going to the library regularly, Varsha also buys second-hand books that can be rough-used, and come at a much lower cost than rather expensive children's books otherwise.



Drunk man sets house ablaze in northwest Delhi; cylinder blast hurts firefighter

Delhi.(Agency)

A 30-year-old man has been booked for allegedly set his house in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri area on fire on Friday, causing 25% burn injuries to firefighter after an explosion took place during an operation, police said.According to the police, they were informed on Friday at 11.26 am regarding a fire incident at E-Block, Jahangirpuri. A preliminary inquiry revealed that Bharat, reportedly an alcoholic, allegedly set his house on fire. His mother, Raj Rani, was also home at the time, a senior police officer said.Police and fire brigade staff promptly responded to the incident.

While the fire brigade team was engaged in extinguishing the fire, a gas cylinder exploded. During the incident, Ankit (32), a firefighter, sustained superficial burn injuries on his face, hair and both hands.

He was initially taken to Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital and subsequently referred to AIIMS for further treatment, the officer said. The Delhi Fire Services said that the fire was in domestic articles and an LPG cylinder at ground floor. The building comprises ground plus three floors.

A video of the incident doing the rounds on social media captures the moment a the explosion took place as a firefighter got close to the house, causing chaos.A case has been registered under Section 326(g) of BNS against Bharat at Jahangirpuri police station. Further probe in connection with the incident is under way.

Was hurt, but admiration unchanged: Dipke to Diljit Dosanjh amid artist remark row

Delhi.(Agency)

Cockroach Janata Party leader Abhijeet Dipke has reaffirmed his admiration for Punjabi singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh following the latter's recent Delhi concert, praising his courage and contribution to taking Punjabi music to a global audience.Dipke also revisited a disagreement between the two that dates back to June, admitting that one of the singer's remarks during a protest had left him hurt.However, he maintained that the incident had not changed the respect he has always had for Dosanjh.In a post addressed to Dosanjh, Dipke clarified that his disappointment was not rooted in any personal hostility. He said he had always viewed the singer as someone who stood up for causes, adding that his admiration for him remained unchanged.

"Paaji, back in June, when we were protesting, I was a little hurt by your comment. Not because I had anything against you personally but because I have always seen you as someone who speaks up for the cause, just like you said yourself," Dipke wrote.He went on to describe himself as an admirer of Dosanjh and recalled attending his concert in Chicago in May, shortly before returning to India. Dipke said he had gone not only to listen to the singer's music but also because he respected the person he was."Your courage, your authenticity and the way you have taken India to the global stage while staying true to your roots are things I have always admired about you," he wrote.Dipke added that the singer's comment had hurt him precisely because he held him in high regard. However, he stressed that one disagreement or misunderstanding would not change the respect and admiration he had for Dosanjh."Baaki paaji, chhota bhai samajh ke mitti pao," he added, asking the singer to let the matter go and consider him a younger brother. He ended the message with a line from Dosanjh's song: "Gabru ta vairi nu vi mitha bolda, ni tu ta ferr jatt da pyar goriye."

WHY DILJIT DOSANJH'S REMARK DREW CRITICISM

The disagreement dates back to June, when Dosanjh distanced himself from the ongoing protest by the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) at Jantar Mantar over alleged irregularities in examinations and the NEET paper-leak controversy.

Traders knock on Sonia Gandhi's door, seek postponement of INDIA bloc rally over business losses

The traders' body has put forward two suggestions to Sonia Gandhi—postpone the rally to November 10-11 or a later date, or shift the venue from Ramlila Maidan to Burari Ground.

Delhi.(Agency)

Citing concerns over disruption to business in 20 major markets in the capital that could affect business worth Rs 10,000-12,000 crore, the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) has urged Congress leader Sonia Gandhi to postpone the party's proposed November 1 rally at Ramlila Maidan until after Diwali.The traders' body has put forward two suggestions to Sonia Gandhi—postpone the rally to November 10-11 or a later date, or shift the venue from Ramlila Maidan to Burari Ground, which it claims can accommodate parking for around 15,000 vehicles.In the letter, the traders' body said the proposed rally, which is expected to draw 10 lakh people, could affect business worth `10,000-12,000 crore in wholesale and retail markets in central and old Delhi during the peak festive season.



Goyal said the organisation had earlier written three letters to Rahul Gandhi, requesting him to reconsider the rally's timing, but had now approached Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi with its appeal.CTI chairman Brijesh Goyal said the traders were not opposing the rally but its timing, as Dhanteras falls on November 6 and Diwali on November 8. "November 1 is a crucial day for the preparations. If 10 lakh people and 15,000-20,000 vehicles enter central Delhi, business in 20 major markets could come to a standstill," he said.The CTI said there was inadequate parking space at Ramlila Maidan to accommodate the estimated 15,000-20,000 vehicles expected to bring participants of the rally. It said the vehicles could spill over onto major roads, including JLN Marg,Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg and Netaji Subhash Marg, potentially leading to severe traffic congestion in central and old Delhi. "The traders are worried about how goods for Dhanteras will reach the markets if central Delhi faces severe traffic congestion on October 31 and November 1," he said.The traders' body identified markets such as Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazar, Connaught Place, Khari Baoli, Bhagirath Palace, Kashmere Gate, Chawri Bazar, Karol Bagh and Dariba Kalan among those that could be affected.According to the CTI, around 5,000 trucks and tempos bring goods daily from 56 industrial areas across the capital to these markets, while nearly 3,000 vehicles transport goods to 25 cities in the NCR and other parts of the country.Meanwhile, BJP workers said that they will take out a protest march on Sunday in Hari Nagar area over the 1984 anti-Sikh riots to attack the Congress for the timing of its rally. The march in Sikh-dominated Hari Nagar area of West Delhi will also be joined by various Sikh organisations.

Mock Parliament

A civil rights group, Citizens for Democracy, on Friday organised a mock Parliament on the theme 'Democracy vs Anarchy' with discussions centred on electoral integrity, democratic institutions, and political accountability. The session held at the NDMC Convention Centre was aimed at countering 'mock impeachment' of CEC Gyanesh Kumar.

Jamia to resume offline classes from Nov 10 as 18-day stir ends

Delhi.(Agency)

Jamia Millia Islamia will resume offline classes from November 10 as students called off the 18-day protest on Thursday, with the university announcing a timeline to restore the students' union, a university order said on Friday.The university will also hold the second midterm examinations offline from November 16 to 21. The order, issued by Registrar Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi, supersedes earlier notices and office orders dated October 24, 26 and 28.The university directed all deans, heads of departments and directors to ensure the smooth conduct of offline classes and examinations and maintain students' attendance and other records regularly.The decision comes amid a prolonged standoff between the university administration and



students over restoring the Jamia Millia Islamia Students' Union (JMISU), which triggered a protest and hunger strike on October 12.Meanwhile, more than 2,000 teaching and non-teaching employees of the university attended a thanksgiving programme on Friday at Ansari Auditorium.They thanked the administration for resolving the two-decade-long impasse over students' union elections, according to a university statement. They acknowledged the support of the Ministry of Education and Home Affairs over the past two weeks.

Midterm exam timings

The university will also hold the second midterm tests offline from November 16 to 21. The order, issued by Registrar Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi, supersedes earlier notices and office orders dated October 24, 26 and 28.

CAQM orders 50% WFH for Delhi-NCR offices, restricts construction activities from Nov 5 to 20

CAQM said the measures were intended to reduce emissions at source and minimise the accumulation of pollutants ahead of and during the historically observed peak pollution episodes.

Delhi.(Agency)

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has directed government and private offices in Delhi and five National Capital Region (NCR) districts to allow only up to 50 per cent of their staff to work from office, while the rest work from home, from November 5 to 20 as part of precautionary measures to help curb air pollution.The Commission has also ordered restrictions on dust-generating demolition and outdoor construction activities across the entire NCR during the same period, with exemptions for essential public infrastructure, national security and other critical projects.In an order dated October 30, the CAQM said, "State Government and private offices to operate with upto 50% of the staff strength attending physically and remaining staff to work from home in the territorial jurisdiction of the NCT of Delhi and in the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonipat, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar except for such industrial establishments and essential services, where this arrangement is not feasible."The Commission further directed that dust-generating demolition and outdoor construction activities be restricted throughout the NCR. The restriction will also cover linear public infrastructure projects, including highways, roads, flyovers, overbridges, power transmission lines, pipelines and telecommunication works.However, exemptions have been provided for projects related to Railways, Metro services, airports, inter-state bus terminals, hospitals, water supply and sanitation, national security and defence-related activities, as well as projects of national importance.Explaining the rationale behind the preventive measures, the CAQM cited historical daily Air Quality Index (AQI) data for November from 2018 to 2025, which indicated a recurring pattern of elevated pollution levels in Delhi-NCR, particularly during early to mid-November.

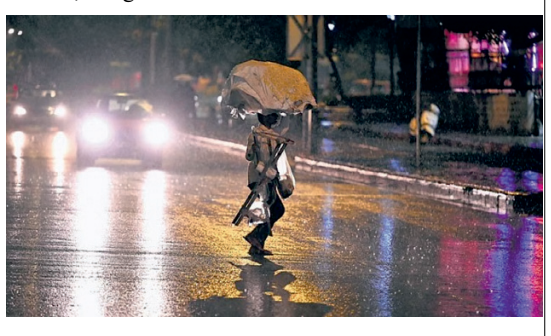


"During this period, local emission sources, seasonal agricultural residue & biomass burning and other episodic events related emissions further contribute to the pollution load, while adverse meteorological conditions, including low wind speeds, a shallow atmospheric boundary layer and reduced vertical mixing, further limit pollutant dispersion," the order stated.The CAQM issued the directions under Section 12 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021, which empowers it to take measures to protect and improve air quality in the NCR and adjoining areas. The Commission noted that AQI levels had reached the 'Severe' and 'Severe+' categories on certain days during the period under examination.It said the measures were intended to reduce emissions at source and minimise the accumulation of pollutants.

Delhi logs coldest Oct day in 75 years

Delhi.(Agency)

The city recorded the lowest October temperature in 75 years, with residents reaching for windbreakers and heavy shawls on Friday as persistent rain brought an unusual winter chill to the capital, and the maximum temperature plunged to 20.7 degrees Celsius.The city also witnessed its wettest October day in four years and recorded its cleanest October air in more than a decade, with the daily Air Quality Index (AQI) settling at 60, its lowest since October 10, 2022, when it stood at 44.Delhi's monthly average AQI also marked a significant improvement. According to an analysis by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), the average AQI for October stood at 167, the lowest for the month since 2015, making it the cleanest October in more than a decade.However, the improvement may be short-lived. The Air Quality Early Warning System has forecast that Delhi's air quality will remain in the 'moderate' category on Saturday before deteriorating to 'poor' on November 1. The outlook for the following six days suggests that pollution levels could remain in the 'poor' and 'very poor' categories.Dark clouds blanketed the capital throughout the day, while intermittent spells of rain and shallow fog during the early morning and late evening hours kept temperatures unusually low. The maximum temperature at Safdarjung, Delhi's base weather station, was 10.3 degrees below normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Available records show that this was the lowest October maximum at the station since 1951.Other weather stations also recorded temperatures significantly below normal. Palam registered a maximum of 20.5 degrees Celsius, 11.1 degrees below normal, while Lodhi Road recorded 20.6 degrees Celsius, 10.4 degrees below normal. The Ridge and Ayanagar recorded maximum temperatures of 20.8 degrees Celsius and 20.4 degrees Celsius, respectively, around 10 degrees below normal.Delhi received 61.4 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Friday, following 'red' and 'orange' alerts issued by the weather office warning of heavy rain. Rain continued through the day, with Safdarjung recording another 4.2 mm,Palam 3 mm, Lodhi Road 4 mm, the Ridge 1.9 mm, and Ayanagar 2.1 mm between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm. Friday was the wettest October day in four years and the sixth-wettest since 1951. The last time the city recorded higher daily rainfall in October was on October 9, 2022, when it received 74 mm.On Saturday, the maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to settle around 24 degrees Celsius and 16 degrees Celsius, respectively, with partly cloudy skies.



Delhi SIR: Poll body to focus on students, disadvantaged groups as part of special camps

The Delhi Chief Electoral Officer's office had earlier directed officials to revisit the deleted entries and verify whether the excluded voters were eligible for inclusion in the final electoral roll.

Delhi.(Agency)

A day after the Election Commission extended the deadlines for the SIR exercise in Delhi, poll officials on Friday said they were planning to step up door-to-door re-verification of 47.56 lakh voters excluded from the draft electoral rolls published on August 31.Senior officials said special camps for voter enrolment, including students, homeless persons, transgender persons and sex workers, were also being considered for November 15 and 22. The office of the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) had earlier directed officials to revisit the deleted entries and verify whether the excluded voters were eligible for inclusion in the final electoral roll.While the exercise is nearly complete, officials said the extended timelines could allow another round of verification.The exercise will involve all 14,947 booth-level officers (BLOs) deployed across the city, including government school teachers carrying out SIR-related duties since June 30.Around 32 lakh of the more than 33 lakh cases in which electors were issued notices over non-mapping with the 2002 electoral roll, or "logical discrepancies", have been resolved so far, the officials said.In a late-evening announcement on Thursday, the Election Commission of India extended the deadline for filing claims and objections from October 31 to November 25 and revised the subsequent Special Intensive Revision (SIR) timelines for the capital. The previous deadline for the disposal process was November 30, and the final roll was to be out on December 4.



Final rolls on Dec 22

According to the revised schedule, the claims and objections received will be disposed of by December 15, and the final electoral roll will be published on December 22.

India's poverty decline among fastest globally, says new World Bank report

New Delhi. (Agency)

New Delhi. (Agency)

India has recorded one of the fastest declines in poverty globally with the share of its population living below poverty line falling from 57.7% in 2011 to 16.1% in 2023, a World Bank report said.The report titled India Poverty and Equity Brief: October 2026, released on Friday, said India lifted 496 million people out of poverty during this period. It, however, flagged wage disparities, noting that median earnings among the top 10% of workers were 13 times that of the bottom 10% in 2023.

According to the report, India made remarkable progress in reducing poverty across monetary and



non-monetary dimensions.Extreme poverty, measured against the $3-a-day threshold, also fell sharply from 27.1% to 2.6%, it noted.

The World Bank expects poverty (measured against the $4.20-a-day threshold) to decline further—from 14.2% in 2026 to 12.1% by 2028. The improvement is expected to be driven by strong consumption growth, rising employment, particularly among women, and expanded social transfers, including food subsidies.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government's sustained policy efforts were yielding tangible results, strengthening the foundations for inclusive growth and greater economic opportunities.

Binance estimates $6.3 billion impact from security breach, Indian exchanges restrict futures trading

New Delhi. (Agency)

Global cryptocurrency exchange Binance has estimated that a security breach had an impact of about $6.3 billion, with around $3 billion in affected assets frozen so far. The incident has prompted a precautionary restriction on futures trading at Indian exchange CoinDCX.

Binance said its initial investigation indicated that an attacker may have used a compromised laptop belonging to a DevOps engineer to access an internal service container and submit unauthorised withdrawal transactions. The company said it had found no evidence that wallet private keys were leaked. It later reported additional points of breach and said a detailed technical account would follow after its investigation.The exchange temporarily suspended deposits and withdrawals while carrying out security checks and working with law enforcement and blockchain intelligence firms. It said it would cover user losses through its Secure Asset Fund for Users (SAFU) and company funds. Stablecoin issuers Tether and Circle, along with other industry partners, helped freeze assets linked to the incident.The breach affected cryptocurrency markets. Bitcoin fell nearly 5% to a six-week low, while Ether dropped more than 4%. Analysts described the incident as potentially the largest cryptocurrency theft on record..

IOC's record profit lifts oil PSUs' Q2 earnings to Rs 30,106 crore

New Delhi. (Agency)

The three state-owned oil marketing companies reported a combined standalone profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 30,106 crore in the second quarter of the current financial year, up 68.3% from Rs 17,884 crore in the corresponding period last year, with Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) record earnings offsetting a decline in profits at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL).The strong earnings came despite petrol and diesel prices remaining unchanged at retail outlets since the second half of May, even as international crude oil prices remained volatile and came under pressure from geopolitical developments. The price freeze meant that oil companies faced pressure on their marketing margins as their costs moved with global fuel prices.IOC reported its highest-ever quarterly standalone PAT of Rs 21,630 crore, nearly three times the Rs 7,610 crore recorded in the year-ago quarter. The company said improved refining margins, along with strong earnings from its petrochemical and gas businesses, supported its performance. It also cited a temporary decline in crude oil prices between mid-June and mid-August. The record profit came despite an outstanding LPG subsidy burden of Rs 32,506 crore during the quarter. IOC did not disclose its gross refining margin (GRM) for the September quarter.In contrast, HPCL's standalone PAT declined to Rs 3,483 crore from Rs 3,830 crore a year earlier, while BPCL's standalone profit fell 22.5% to Rs 4,993 crore from Rs 6,443 crore.The decline came despite both companies reporting strong refining margins.

Extreme poverty in India halved to 2.6% in 2023 from year ago, shows World Bank data

New Delhi. (Agency)

Extreme poverty in India, measured by those who live on less than $3 per day in 2021 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms, fell to 2.6% in 2023, according to the World Bank. However, wage disparity remains "pronounced", it said, noting that median earnings for the top 10% of workers were about 13 times greater than for the bottom 10%.It also cautioned that poverty is becoming "increasingly concentrated geographically" – about 57% of India's poor live in a belt that stretches from Uttar Pradesh to West Bengal.At 2.6%, the extreme poverty rate in India in 2023 is more than 10 times lower than the 27.1% in 2011. In 2022-23, the extreme poverty rate was 5.3%, indicating halving of extreme poverty."Over the past decade, India has made remarkable progress in reducing poverty across both monetary and non-monetary dimensions, recording one of the fastest poverty declines in the world," the World Bank said Friday in its 'Poverty & Equity Brief' note.Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in a post on X, said that the government's "sustained policy efforts are yielding tangible results, strengthening the foundations for inclusive growth and greater economic opportunity".Along with poverty, consumption inequality has also declined. The Gini index – it ranges from 0 to 100, with a higher number indicative of greater inequality – in 2023 was 23.0, down from 28.8 in 2011-12 and 25.5 in 2022-23.However, the World Bank said the estimates, based on the government's three most recent household consumption expenditure survey, conducted in 2011-12, 2022-23 and 2023-24, "may also not fully capture the consumption of wealthier households and are likely to understate inequality".Purchasing Power Parity, or PPP, measures how much of goods and services can be bought in one



country in terms of another country's currency. It is widely used to convert the cost of a basket of items into a common currency while also removing the distortions caused by different levels of prices across countries.Consider the above example, where $3 per day is the threshold for extreme poverty. In the US, $3 would buy a certain quantity of goods and services. At the current rupee-dollar market exchange rate of about 95-per-dollar, this is equal to Rs 285.

However, things are generally cheaper in India compared to the US. For instance, a short Caffè Latte from Starbucks in the US costs $5.85 (equivalent to Rs 555), but Rs 336 in India. As such, PPP conversion rate of India to the US in this example is 336 divided by 5.85, or 57.4, which means $1 buys in the US what Rs 57.4 buys in India, to put it simply. This is, of course, only for Starbucks coffee.

According to the World Bank's International Comparison Program – a partnership of official statistical agencies from across the world – the PPP conversion rate for India was 20.09 in 2025.

750 credit score, Rs 24 lakh salary, yet no home loan: What went wrong

Kolkata. (Agency)

For a 36-year-old IT professional in Bhubaneswar, buying a house seemed well within reach. Earning Rs 24 lakh a year and carrying a credit score of 750, the borrower approached a lender for an Rs 80 lakh home loan, confident that the numbers would work in their favour.

But the bank did not think so.

The problem was not the salary or the credit score. It was the pile of existing EMIs. With nearly Rs 1 lakh already going towards loan repayments every month, the borrower simply did not have enough money left to take on another big-ticket commitment.WHEN EXISTING EMIs EAT INTO YOUR TAKE-HOME SALARY

The numbers tell an interesting story.The IT professional earned a gross monthly salary of Rs 2 lakh, taking home around Rs 1.55 lakh. However, existing loan repayments were already consuming Rs 1 lakh every month, leaving just Rs 55,000 for household expenses and everything else.Now consider the proposed home loan of Rs 80 lakh.



At an assumed interest rate of 8.5% for 20 years, the monthly EMI would work out to approximately Rs 69,400.Add that to the existing EMIs, and the total monthly repayment obligation would jump to Rs 1.69 lakh. That's nearly Rs 14,400 more than the borrower's entire take-home salary, even before accounting for groceries, utility bills, transport and other everyday expenses.On paper, the borrower looked like a strong candidate for a home loan. In reality, there was barely enough money left each month to accommodate another EMI.

"Having an excellent credit score, steady income, and a strong repayment history are often considered indicators of a borrower's creditworthiness. But there's a lot more to it than just that," says Kundan Shahi, Founder of ZAVO, a loan settlement and repayment platform.Shahi explains that lenders look beyond repayment history to assess existing financial commitments, disposable income, property valuation and whether another EMI can comfortably fit into the borrower's budget.

Gold rates dipped on Oct 31: Check Prices in Delhi, Mumbai, and other cities

New Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi: Gold rates plunged on Saturday currently standing at Rs 13,888 per gram for 24-carat purity on October 31, 2026. Rates for 22K and 18K gold are Rs 12,730 per gram and Rs 10,416 per gram, respectively.Prices of yellow metal dropped by Rs 338 for 24K purity, Rs 310 for 22K purity, and Rs 253 for 18K purity compared with October 30, 2026.

US Federal Reserve's decision to keep the interest rates unchanged continues to weigh on bullion which face selling pressure on the face of elevated interest rates. At the same time, investors are assessing the US economic data for cues regarding future monetary policy decisions. Higher inflationary risk poses uncertainty for the investors.The US Consumer Price Index (CPI) data released on Wednesday, October 14, brought expectations of a Federal Reserve rate hike during the monetary policy meeting of October 27–28 on the table even as previous reports suggested lower chances of a rate hike.Also, the crude prices continued the upward trend as Brent was trading 2.7 percent up at crosses $117.97 per barrel amid



concerns of supply disruptions. The attacks on Saudi's energy infrastructure amid the conflict with Houthi and continued geopolitical tensions resulting from the US-Iran war keeps the supply disruption in the Gulf.

The surge came even afterUS President Donald Trump's decision to waive sanctions and tariffs on Russia, strengthening hopes of better diesel supply to the market. Yet, energy prices remain elevated, further prompting expectations of rate hikes in the coming sessions.Meanwhile, the ongoing conflicts involving the Middle East have continued to keep inflation fears high since the end of February.

US inflation data and interest rates set by the Federal Reserve continue to influence the yellow metal's trajectory. When the dollar is stronger and interest rates are high, the yellow metal comes under pressure due to the increased opportunity cost of holding it.

Milky Mist reports highest-ever net profit of Rs77.94 crore

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tamil Nadu-based value-added dairy major Milky Mist Dairy Food Ltd reported a net profit of Rs77.94 crore in Q2FY27 compared to Rs28.39 crore during the same period last financial year, a rise of 174.50%, driven by revenue growth, EBITDA expansion, and a deferred tax impact.The Erode-based company recorded its highest-ever quarterly revenue for the quarter ended September 2026 (Q2FY27), with net profit nearly tripling. Revenue from operations, gross profit, and EBITDA all surged to new quarterly highs.The company said the year-on-year increase in EBITDA and EBITDA margins were driven by volume growth, operational efficiencies, and product mix. Revenue for the quarter was Rs1,089 crore, a 42% growth YoY. In H1FY27, revenue from operations grew 42.5% YoY, and EBITDA grew 62.9%. Net profit grew nearly fourfold in the half-year. Dr K Rathnam, wholetime Director and CEO, Milky Mist Dairy Food



Limited, said: "In Q2 FY27, in spite of prevailing inflation in agricultural sector, El Nino impact and geopolitical uncertainties, Milky Mist has achieved higher revenue growth, improved margins and profitability due to wide range of value added products, calibrated price increase, capacity utilization, operational efficiencies, and focused strategic approach towards the entire operations. In H1 FY27, the revenue from operations grew by 42.5% on YoY basis and EBITDA by 62.9%. The growth in Profit after tax was 308.4%. Moving forward our priorities remain scaling our value-added portfolio, expanding distribution and improving capacity utilisation to meet evolving consumer demand.

Govt forms 5-member committee of for banking sector reforms

The committee will be headed by Suresh N Patel, former Central Vigilance Commissioner. Shirish Chandra Murmu, deputy governor, Reserve Bank of India, Padmaja Chunduru, former MD & CEO, of Indian Bank and N S Vishwanathan, former deputy governor of RBI will also be he members of the Committee

New Delhi. (Agency)

The government has constituted a five-member high-level committee on banking to review the Indian banking system and recommend reforms necessary to make it globally competitive, financially inclusive, and resilient for Viksit Bharat 2047.

The committee will be headed by Suresh N Patel, former Central Vigilance Commissioner. Shirish Chandra Murmu, deputy governor, Reserve Bank of India, Padmaja Chunduru, former MD & CEO, of Indian Bank and N S Vishwanathan, former deputy governor of RBI will also be he members of the Committee. The



Joint Secretary (Banking), Department of Financial Services will be the Member secretary of the committee. The tenure of the panel will be six months.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the setting up of the committee during her Budget speech 2026-27.The committee will assess current banking practices and norms, identify global best practices, and adapt them suitably for the Indian banking system, while also providing a roadmap for creating globally competitive banks.

It will also review the existing regulatory and legal frameworks for banks, including Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks, and suggest reforms to improve efficiency and ease of doing banking.The panel will also assess the long-term capital requirements for banks, including Development Financial Institutions and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), with recommendations on funding sources and enabling mechanisms to support credit growth. It will also examine differences in cost of capital for business, and suggest policy options to boost private investment for sustainable growth.Other key areas that the committee will examine include the priority sector lending framework and lead bank scheme to assess their relevance, effectiveness, and coordination in promoting inclusive, balanced, and data-driven credit delivery aligned with evolving economic priorities and financial inclusion goals.

With the growing use of AI and associated risks, the panel will prepare a roadmap for AI and digital innovation in banking institutions, while providing for safeguards against cyber risks. With the increased use of technology, the panel will also suggest a strategy for talent acquisition and capacity building to ensure a future-ready workforce for the banking sector.

Pune goes spooky: Halloween turns nightlife into themed 'influencer' affairs

Pune.(Agency)

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evenings are pulling in a young crowd tired of the regular club routine. Fake blood, face paint and cobweb decor are taking over the city's nightlife this weekend as clubs, organisers and private hosts roll out a packed Halloween calendar.

What is Halloween?

Halloween falls on October 31, the eve of All Hallows' Day in the Christian calendar. Its roots lie in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people believed the boundary between the living and the dead grew thin as the harvest ended. Communities lit bonfires and wore costumes to ward off spirits. The festival travelled to North America with European immigrants and grew into the celebration known for costumes, carved pumpkins, trick-or-treating and spooky decor. In India, it carries no religious significance and has been adopted largely by young urban audiences as a party occasion.

A calendar full of events

Yashica, a 21-year-old event manager and influencer, said she was heading to an event at The Ninth on Friday, with Vampire Nights at Kikki and a party at Vault lined up for Saturday."It is basically dressing up and partying," she said, describing it as a themed night for Gen Z. Having started influencing in January, she said the appeal lies in the effort involved. "Regular clubbing can get boring.

Gang posing as cops 'kidnap, extort' Surat man, 4 held

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

A WEB developer in Surat was allegedly kidnapped by a gang who posed as Gandhinagar police personnel and extorted Rs 4 lakh from him, police said on Friday. Police arrested four suspects in the case, with officers saying that at least three others are on the run.

Police said 22-year-old Mihit Desai, a resident of Pasodara area in Surat who hails from Amreli, runs an office on a partnership basis at Sarthana. Police said that last Saturday, three youths allegedly barged into the office. One of them snatched Desai's mobile phone and locked the door from inside, claiming to him and three of his employees that they were police personnel.The accused demanded some tax-related details and documents linked to the firm, which Desai could not provide. They then threatened him and his staff over running an "illegal" business, and made them sit in a car in which three others were present. While two of the accused stayed back at Desai's office, the others left the spot with Desai in the car.As per Desai's complaint at the Sarthana police station, on Thursday, the accused warned that Desai and his partner would have to pay Rs 10 lakh, failing which they would file a "forgery case and send the two to jail".

43 wards under first GBA clean-up drive on Nov 1

BENGALURU.(Agency)

To improve Bengaluru's civic infrastructure and cleanliness, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will launch its 'Ward One' campaign across 43 wards in the city's five municipal corporations on November 1, with multiple government departments and civic agencies joining hands for focused clean-up and repair works.Bengaluru Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda reviewed the preparations on Friday and directed the officials to ensure close coordination between municipal corporations, BESCOM, BWSSB, Metro, traffic and other departments to ensure effective implementation.

He instructed the five municipal corporation commissioners to convene coordination meetings with officials of the respective departments, prepare detailed action plans based on the prescribed checklist and deploy dedicated teams under the supervision of senior officers.He directed officials to identify major road junctions and take up priority works, including clearing accumulated waste, filling potholes, repairing damaged road surfaces and improving pedestrian crossings.He also called for a medium-term action plan backed by dedicated budgetary allocations to ensure that identified works.

Pune Airport bags top spot among 16 AAI airports in Q3 ACI-ASQ survey

Pune Airport scored 4.98 out of 5 in the Q3 2026 ACI ASQ survey to rank first among 16 AAI airports, outperforming the global average despite capacity constraints.

Pune(Agency)

Pune airport has emerged as the best performer among 16 Airports Authority of India (AAI) airports in the latest Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey, scoring 4.98 out of 5.The airport recorded this rating in the third quarter (July to September) of 2026, a marginal improvement over the 4.97 it scored in the previous quarter (April to June), according to the survey. The rise is 0.01 points. In the global ranking, Pune stands at 58th place this quarter, down one spot from 57th in the previous quarter.

Pune's score is well above the average of the 16 AAI airports, which stands at 4.90 for the July-September quarter, up from 4.88 in the previous quarter. It is also far ahead of the world average of 4.36, which fell by 0.02 points from 4.38.

Pune is followed by Chennai and Patna, which both scored 4.94. Chennai made the biggest jump among the top performers, improving by 0.09 points from 4.85 in the second quarter, and climbing from 87th to 66th rank globally. Four airports saw their ratings dip this quarter: Raipur, Dehradun, Amritsar and Srinagar. Kolkata and Port Blair remained unchanged from the previous quarter.

The ASQ survey is based on feedback from passengers about various services at the airport, such as check-in, security, cleanliness, wayfinding, staff courtesy, food and beverage outlets, and the overall experience. A high score reflects how satisfied travellers are with their journey through the terminal.Aviation analyst Dhairyashil Vandekar said the Q3 performance shows that the airport is operating well above global benchmarks. "With a difference of +0.01 over Q2, it shows stability despite handling 10+ million passengers in a constrained, defence enclave facility," he said.Vandekar pointed out that the airport has now entered the fourth control period of 2026-2031, during which the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of



India (AERA) determines the aggregate revenue requirement and approves user development fees (UDF), landing and parking charges, among others.He noted that the previous control period saw many AAI airports charging UDF of up to Rs 745 for domestic departures. "Pune, being a high growth, capacity constrained airport requiring continuous terminal upgrades, will need enhanced capital expenditure. AERA's new philosophy, as seen in Mumbai and Delhi tariff orders for the fourth control period, is to allow a reasonable increase in UDF while rationalising airline charges to ensure financial viability," he said.

According to Vandekar, Pune's score, with 28 of 31 parameters above 4.60, provides strong evidence to AERA that the airport is using passenger fees effectively. However, he cautioned that the regulator may also note the 14 parameters that declined in Q3, including a steep drop of 0.25 in connection ease and 0.05 in overall cleanliness. "Under the proposed service-quality linked tariff regime, these could trigger a rebate mechanism. Therefore, the improved ASQ performance can be used to justify the increased airport charges in the fourth control period, but only if the business plan clearly earmarks incremental UDF

'No leniency': Gujarat court awards 3-year jail to two ex-Valsad cops in 2012 bribery case

Refusing to view their conduct with leniency due to their age or retirement, a district court in Valsad convicted retired Sub-Inspector Abdul Majid Nabdo and retired Head Constable Bhupatsinh Keshavsinh in a 14-year-old bribery case.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Refusing to view their conduct with leniency, the Valsad district court on Thursday convicted two retired police officials and sentenced them to three years of imprisonment in a nearly 14-year-old bribery case."…considering that the accused committed this criminal act while holding important positions within the police department—a fact established to the satisfaction of this Court—it would be entirely inappropriate to view their conduct with leniency," the court said in its order.Abdul Majid Nabdo, who retired as a sub-inspector and hails from Surat, and Bhupatsinh Keshavsinh, a retired head constable from Valsad, were found guilty of demanding and taking a bribe.As per the case details, Pardi resident Arun Vajera had alleged that the two cops demanded Rs 80,000 from him after stating that a tempo that he previously owned was impounded in Karpada for violating prohibition. Vajera stated that he had sold the vehicle to a Thane resident over a month ago on October 11, 2012.Vajera claimed that he was called to the Kaprada police station on November 20. There, S-I Abdul Nabdo told him that legal action would be taken against him since the tempo was caught in a prohibition case. Vajera claimed that he produced notorised sale documents to the S-I and head constable, but the latter allegedly asked him to pay Rs 80,000.Vajera, who works at a private firm, lodged a complaint with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) against Nabdo and Keshavsinh. An offence



was registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act against both police officials under Sections 7, 12, 13(1) and 13(2).On December 27, 2012, Keshavsinh was caught taking Rs. 60,000 at the Pardi sugar factory rest house and arrested. Nabdo was arrested the next day.Valsad ACB filed the chargesheet on February 17 next year, and both the accused were released on bail in April 2013. Charges were framed against them on September 14, 2018.The trial began in the 3rd Additional Sessions Court at Valsad, Dharampur, before Judge Mohammed Hanif Baig Mirza. Public Prosecutor A R Tripathi pressed the charges of corruption against the accused, who had retired from service since.The order stated, "Based on the statements of the witnesses and evidence submitted by the prosecution, both the accused [retired] police officials, PSI Abdul Majeed Nabdo and HC Bhupatsinh Keshavsinh, have been proven guilty of the charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act sections 7, 12, 13(1) and 13(2)."

"Given that this Court has found it proven that the two accused—despite holding significant positions within the police department—demanded a bribe from the complainant and accepted the money, their actions cannot be treated lightly merely on the grounds of their age… Instances of corruption are increasing day by day, frequently leading to public dissatisfaction with the police force—a vital department of the State. In the present case, considering that the accused committed this criminal act while holding important positions within the police department—a fact established to the satisfaction of this Court—it would be entirely inappropriate to view their conduct with leniency…" the order added.

45-min rain pours misery on residents in Odisha's Cuttack

CUTTACK.(Agency)

A 45-minute spell of heavy rain left several parts of Cuttack, including the SCB Medical College and Hospital, severely waterlogged on Friday, disrupting vehicular movement and causing serious problems for the people.The worst-hit areas include Badambadi, Raja Bagicha, Jhanjiri Mangala, Balu Bazar, Malgodown, Pilgrim Road and Matru Bhawan, where knee-deep rainwater inundated roads. Waterlogging was also reported in front of the obstetrics and gynaecology department, medicine outpatient department and Aahar Kendra on the premises of SCB Medical College and Hospital. The Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer (AHPGIC) was also inundated, causing inconvenience to patients and their attendants."I had gone to Balu Bazar vegetable market to buy vegetables, but after completing my shopping, I had to wait for about two-and-a-half hours for the water to recede from the road," said Chittaranjan Mirdha, a resident of Alamchand Bazar.Similarly, several traders who had gone to Malgodown for essential commodities, remained stranded for hours as the roads were inundated."Waterlogging after just 45 minutes of rainfall exposes the negligence of the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) and shows that the authorities have failed to take concrete measures to deal with such situations," said residents of Badambadi.



They claimed that all branch drains in the city run along roadsides and that proper cleaning of these drains could prevent overflowing and subsequent waterlogging.Mayor Subhash Singh, however, attributed the situation to the sudden downpour, claiming that the city received 150 mm of rainfall in just 45 minutes. "Dewatering pump sets have been pressed into service to drain out excess water from different low-lying localities in the city," Singh said.

Telangana: Govt hospitals to offer free MRI services

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

The Telangana government has decided to introduce MRI services under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode in government hospitals to improve access to advanced diagnostic facilities. Mahbubnagar Government General Hospital (GGH) will be the first to implement the initiative as a pilot project.Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha, during a review meeting with senior health department officials at the TGMSIDC office on Friday, directed officials to prepare an action plan to extend the facility to all GGHs across the state within two years.He stated that MRI scans would continue to be provided free of cost to patients at government hospitals under the PPP arrangement.A senior health department official said the proposed model could reduce government expenditure by nearly 20% compared to the existing system. It would also address issues related to the procurement and maintenance of MRI machines and equipment breakdowns, helping ensure uninterrupted services.At present, MRI facilities are available at Gandhi Hospital, Osmania General Hospital, NIMS, TIMS and MNJ Cancer Hospital in Hyderabad, besides MGM Hospital in Warangal, RIMS Adilabad and Bhupalpally GGH. Several district headquarters, including Karimnagar, Khammam, Mahbubnagar and Nalgonda, do not have the facility in government hospitals.A team of doctors and health



officials studied PPP-based MRI service models in other States, including Tamil Nadu, and submitted a report outlining their financial and operational benefits.Rajanarsimha directed officials to ensure that agreements with private partners clearly guarantee free scans for patients referred by government doctors. He also stressed the need to maintain service quality, ensure timely equipment maintenance.

and avoid delays in issuing scan reports.

Cyclone Arnab: Will Mumbai see more rain after light showers? What IMD prediction says

Mumbai.(Agency)

Mumbai on Friday morning, October 20, witnessed drizzle in parts of the city, bringing much-needed relief from sweltering heat and pollution as the air quality index (AQI) dipped to the satisfactory level of 77. According to the weather department, the rain activity in Mumbai and its neighbouring districts is expected to be short-lived, with no showers forecast from Saturday, October 31.Indicating no rain in the region, the IMD has forecast "mainly clear skies" in Mumbai and its neighbouring districts of Thane, Palghar, Raigad and Ratnagiri starting Saturday. Intermittent spells, however, are expected to bring relief from the rising heat, with the IMD forecasting maximum temperatures of 33 degrees until Saturday.On Friday, parts of eastern suburbs and the island city division woke up to light rainfall and cloudy skies. Records from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) Automatic Weather Stations show that between 9.00 am and 10.00 am on Friday, Lower Parel recorded 9 mm of rain, while the Sewri station clocked 4 mm of rainfall.Meanwhile, in the eastern suburbs, Chembur received 5 mm of rain, and Govandi recorded 3 mm of rainfall. There was no rainfall in the western suburbs.The post-monsoon rainfall has been driven by Cyclone Arnab, which developed into a depression by October 24 and made landfall over the Andhra Pradesh coast as a cyclonic storm swept the region on October 28.

While the impact of Cyclone Arnab has remained concentrated on the eastern coast, the system has led to the formation of cloud cover across several western stations. This cloud cover has led to an influx of light showers in Mumbai and the extended Konkan region.The unseasonal

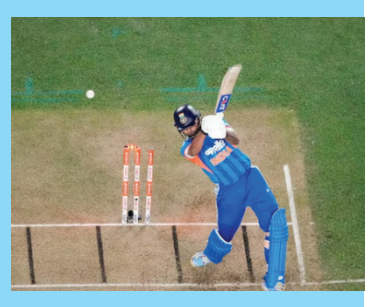


showers on Friday brought respite from the scorching heat and pollution levels in the city. While the AQI in Mumbai had been hovering in the moderate category over the past few days, the air quality improved significantly under the light showers, which are crucial for suppressing suspended pollutants in the atmosphere.On Friday, AQI improved significantly and touched 77 in Mumbai, with 19 of the city's 21 active stations recording AQI under 100. In fact, pockets like Colaba and Worli saw AQI dip below 50 during the morning period.

Shreyas Iyer's captaincy under scrutiny: India skipper has to deliver with the bat too

New Delhi.(Agency)

Shreyas Iyer knows how to win as a captain. He has an IPL title with Kolkata Knight Riders, led Punjab Kings to the final and earned a reputation for bringing the best out of his teams when the stakes are high. When India handed him the T20I captaincy, many expected his franchise success to translate to the national setup. But leading India has tested him in ways the IPL didn't, and questions are beginning to mount..The 87-run defeat to New Zealand in Auckland was another difficult



evening for Iyer. India had already won the first three matches and secured the series, but the fourth T20I exposed the problems that have troubled the side in recent months. New Zealand smashed 259 for 7, with Glenn Phillips scoring 107 off 49 balls and Michael Bracewell adding 65 off just 25. India, in reply, were bowled out for 172.Iyer could do little to stop the New Zealand onslaught. His bowlers struggled to find the right lengths, the middle overs slipped away and the opposition finished with a total that was always going to be difficult to chase.

Racket Science: Inside An Se Young's extraordinary badminton dominance

New Delhi.(Agency)

It is An Se Young's favourite English word. She has been taking English lessons and, over time, has become more comfortable speaking the language. When she meets the international press, she often uses the word with a smile, pleased to be able to express herself beyond her native Korean. It is an interesting choice for a player who gives her opponents so little peace on the badminton court.On court, the 24-year-old retrieves the impossible, sends opponents scurrying from corner to corner and almost never looks hurried. She seldom runs out of answers. Her opponents are left with questions.

After An beat her in the World Championships semi-finals in New Delhi in August, 24-22, 21-



16, China's Wang Zhi Yi turned to her and asked what had been on everyone's mind. Wang is the reigning All England champion and the only player to have beaten An all year.How do I beat you?"Reporters had been trying to answer that all week, and An's coach had been asked about it at the India Open in January. Nobody had a definitive answer. The question now came from one of the finest players in the world, a regular contender at the biggest tournaments and someone who had beaten An before, asking in person.The Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium offered another measure of how far An's appeal has travelled. There was no Indian in the finals of the BWF World Championships on Sunday, yet the hall was full: children in the stands, a man who had come all the way from Arunachal Pradesh, schoolgirls from Gurugram holding banners with An's name on them.

One and done: Sarpanch Harmanpreet Singh shows what sets him apart in Jalandhar

Harmanpreet Singh needed just one penalty corner to turn the tide against Japan in Jalandhar. India's captain stayed patient under pressure before delivering the decisive drag-flick, showing why his calm mindset sets him apart.

Jalandhar.(Agency)

As India walked onto the field on Friday, October 30, to face Japan, they were dressed in white. They had played all their matches in the tournament so far in saffron, and the change was a welcome one. White is often associated with calmness and patience, and it seemed Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh was embracing both on the day.While the rest of the team paired their white jerseys with flashy footwear, Harmanpreet opted for a simple pair of white shoes. No fancy designs, no bright colours. Just the manufacturer's logo and nothing else.With the Indian skipper playing in front of his home crowd in Jalandhar, you might have expected him to soak in the admiration and turn on the style. But whenever the hooter sounded, Harmanpreet was all business. The noise around him seemed to fade as he slipped into his zone.And that was precisely the approach India needed against Japan.

India took the lead through Abhishek, but Japan threatened to take control of the contest. They had the edge in possession, circle entries and penalty corners, leaving the packed Surjit Hockey Stadium increasingly restless.Then, just seconds before the end of the first quarter, Japan equalised. The mood inside the stadium shifted from excitement to anxiety. India were struggling to find cohesion upfront, with erratic passing repeatedly disrupting their attacking moves.



Worse still, they were finding it difficult to bring their captain into the game. India's attackers struggled to create penalty-corner opportunities, leaving Harmanpreet waiting for his moment.That moment finally arrived in the 47th minute. India earned their first and only penalty corner of the contest, with the score locked at 1-1. The stadium held its breath. There was little doubt about who would take the shot.The injection and trap were perfect. Harmanpreet put everything behind his drag-flick, sending the ball past the Japanese goalkeeper to give India the lead.

The stadium erupted. Harmanpreet, however, offered no extravagant celebration. Just a quiet acknowledgement of the crowd, as if telling them he had always believed that moment would come.That was the confidence he inspired, from the fans in the stands to the team management in the dugout.

"He is world-class, and he doesn't need 10 chances to score one goal. Give him three, he'll score one, and on each day, he'll score two out of three, no problem," an elated Craig Fulton told the media right after the win.

Auqib Nabi set to play full ODI series vs New Zealand, replaces injured Prasidh Krishna

New Delhi.(Agency)

Jammu and Kashmir pacer Auqib Nabi has been added to India's squad for the first three ODIs against New Zealand, bringing him into the squad for the entire five-match series. Nabi was initially named in the squad for the fourth and fifth matches, but the Men's Selection Committee has now moved him into the group from the start of the series.o his hopes of securing a place in Turin.Nabi's promotion comes after India speedster Prasidh Krishna was ruled out of the ODI series due to a



hamstring injury. Prasidh has not fully recovered from the injury he sustained during the second ODI against the West Indies in Guwahati, where he managed one wicket for 45 runs in five overs before leaving the field.

The 30-year-old was initially named in India's ODI squad subject to fitness. However, with the team management keen to have him fully fit for the upcoming Test series, Prasidh will not travel for the 50-over assignments.Nabi had emerged as a possible replacement after impressing during India A's red-ball series against New Zealand A. His three-wicket burst in the first unofficial Test at Lincoln, along with the seam movement he generated, caught the attention of touring selectors Pragyan Ojha and Ajay Ratra.INDIA'S UPDATED ODI SQUAD FOR FIRST 3 MATCHES

With Nabi moving into the squad for the first three matches, India's updated group will be led by Shubman Gill, with Shreyas Iyer serving as vice-captain. The squad also includes Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Ishan Kishan.India's updated squad for the first three ODIs:Shubman Gill (captain), Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer (vice-captain), KL Rahul (wicketkeeper), Axar Patel, Naman Dhir, Anshul Kamboj, Gurnoor Brar, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Arshdeep Singh, Ishan Kishan (wicketkeeper), Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Nitish Kumar Reddy (first ODI only) and Auqib Nabi.

Nabi will also remain part of the squad for the fourth and fifth ODIs. The squad for the final two matches will be led by Iyer, with Tilak Varma and Kumar Kushagra among the players included for that leg of the series.

PRASIDH'S FOCUS SHIFTS TO TEST SERIES

Prasidh's absence is a setback for India's ODI plans, but the team management is understood to be prioritising his recovery for the Test series. The pacer played a significant role in India's drawn series in England, finishing with 32 wickets in nine Tests and making an impact in the final match at The Oval.

Yashasvi Jaiswal crisis deepens as lazy India-A throw away wickets in 2nd unofficial Test

New Delhi.(Agency)

India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal's batting crisis has deepened ahead of India's two-match Test series against New Zealand. Jaiswal, India's first-choice Test opener alongside KL Rahul, has failed in his third successive innings on the ongoing tour of New Zealand, with another disappointing outing on Day 1 of the second unofficial Test against New Zealand-A on Saturday, October 31.India-A are playing a three-match red-ball series against New Zealand-A as part of their preparations for the upcoming Test assignment. Jaiswal, who struggled in both innings of the first unofficial Test, was unable to turn things around in the second game at Hagley Oval in Christchurch.The left-hander's latest failure adds to India's concerns ahead of the Test series, with the opener struggling to find runs despite getting opportunities to spend time in the middle during the tour games.Jaiswal had endured a difficult first unofficial Test, managing only 22 runs across two innings. He was dismissed for 17 in the first innings before falling for 5 in the second, when Zak Gibson's bouncer got the better of him with a delivery that brushed his gloves before being caught at slip.His struggles continued in the second match, leaving him with another opportunity to find form before the Test series.

TOP ORDER COLLAPSES AGAIN

India-A's problems were not limited to Jaiswal as New Zealand-A's seamers made full use of the conditions in Christchurch to put the visitors under pressure on the opening morning.

The hosts struck four times in the opening hour, with Fraser Sheat leading the attack and exploiting the movement available off the surface. India-A's batters also contributed to their own downfall, with poor shot selection accounting for several dismissals.Jaiswal was the first to fall, getting pinned in front of the stumps against Fraser Sheat in the very first over of the match. Devdutt Padikkal and Sai Sudharsan put together a strong first wicket partnership, but Sudharsan's innings was cut short by Jarrod McKay, after the left-hander played a loose shot



outside off stump. Sudharsan went after a delivery that he could have left alone and was caught behind, giving New Zealand-A a much-needed breakthrough.Yash Rathod followed a similar pattern, falling while attempting a shot outside off stump. Devdutt Padikkal, who had been one of India's more consistent batters during the first unofficial Test, departed after scoring a solid knock of 80 runs.The in-form Karnataka batter attempted to cut a delivery that was not wide enough and ended up chopping the ball onto his stumps.

Freedom key to Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's success with Indian team: Jayasuriya

Sanath Jayasuriya has urged India to give Vaibhav Sooryavanshi the freedom to play his natural game, calling the teenager a good investment for the future. The former Sri Lanka captain also shared his views on Abhishek Sharma and the growing dominance of batters in white-ball cricket.

Auckland.(Agency)

Former Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya believes India should allow Vaibhav Sooryavanshi to play his natural game rather than burden the young batter with expectations. Calling the 15-year-old a "good investment" for the future of Indian cricket, Jayasuriya said nurturing his talent and giving him the freedom to express himself would be important for his development.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the jersey launch of the Indian Softball Cricket League teams Mumbai Royals and Maharashtra Super Strikers, Jayasuriya said Sooryavanshi had a long way to go but showed plenty of promise"He has a long way to go but he is a good future for India. Let him play his natural game and let him do his work and it will be a good investment for Indian cricket," Jayasuriya said.

Sooryavanshi has attracted considerable attention with his aggressive batting, and Jayasuriya believes India have a promising young talent on their hands. The former Sri Lanka opener stressed that the focus should be on allowing him to develop without interfering with his natural approach..

JAYASURIYA IMPRESSED WITH ABHISHEK SHARMA

Jayasuriya also praised India's batting talent and singled out Abhishek Sharma for his all-round ability with the bat. The former Sri Lanka captain said the left-hander's biggest strength was his ability to score runs all around the ground.



"(They are all) talented cricketers, they are playing well. India has got the talent and he is playing good cricket at the moment," he said."There are quite a few Indian players who have been doing well, good to see them, they are talented and they work hard and are playing well. He (Abhishek) is an all-round player, you cannot say anything in specific is strong - he is an all-round player. He can play in any part of the park so that is a good thing," Jayasuriya added.

SRI LANKA LOOKING FORWARD TO INDIA TOUR

The former Sri Lanka captain also expressed confidence in his team's preparations ahead of their white-ball tour of India in December. Sri Lanka are set to face Pakistan in the final of the ongoing tri-series, which also features England, and Jayasuriya believes the team's performances in the competition have provided a timely confidence boost."It's a good confidence (booster) for the Sri Lankan team which is doing well before they come to India. The confidence is high, they are playing well and I hope they will do well in India too," he said.Sri Lanka recently produced a remarkable performance in ODI cricket, successfully chasing a target of 430 runs against England to register the second-highest successful run chase in the format's history.Jayasuriya welcomed the increasing dominance of batters in white-ball cricket, saying the ability of teams to chase down massive totals had made the game more exciting.It's very good to see that it is happening and players are getting runs on the board and chasing it, which is good for cricket," he said.The former opener added that the growing confidence among batting sides had also created challenges for bowlers, with teams increasingly willing to chase big targets."Teams and players are getting more and more confident and that is the key. Anything is possible these days and it is good to see that teams are putting runs on the board and even chasing, but I can see that is also putting the bowlers under pressure," he said.

Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship: Indian men and women's teams enter finals

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's men's and women's teams booked their places in the finals of the inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship after registering convincing semifinal victories on Friday. While the men's team defeated Bangladesh 56-27 to set up a title clash against Sri Lanka, the women outclassed Sri Lanka 39-14 and will face Uganda in the final.The Indian men's team dominated Bangladesh from the opening minutes, inflicting an All-Out within the first five minutes. Naveen Kumar and Neeraj Narwal led the raiding department, while Deepak S and Shubham Shinde provided stability in defence.India carried a commanding 28-8 lead into half-time after inflicting a



second All-Out with eight minutes remaining in the opening half. The hosts continued to extend their advantage after the restart, moving to 38-16 with 10 minutes left on the clock.Bharat Hooda further troubled the Bangladesh defence as India inflicted another All-Out with four minutes remaining to take a 49-20 lead. Bangladesh could not mount a comeback as India closed out a comfortable 29-point victory.Bharat finished as India's leading scorer with 13 points, while Shivam Patare contributed 11 and Neeraj Narwal added nine. Ajit Pawar also impressed in defence, collecting five tackle points from eight attempts.India registered 37 raid points and 12 tackle points, along with six points from All-Outs.



Priyanka Chopra

Andrew Scott Join Oscar-Qualified Indian Short We Were Here As Executive Producers

Priyanka Chopra Jonas has come on board as an executive producer of We Were Here, an Oscar-qualified Indian short film directed by Pranav Bhasin. Tony-winning activist and playwright V, formerly known as Eve Ensler, has also joined the film in the same capacity.The two join actor Andrew Scott as the mockumentary heads into awards season following a strong festival run. The New Yorker has acquired the short and will premiere it on the magazine's YouTube channels.Written and directed by Bhasin, We Were Here is set in a small Indian town and follows three retirees who become convinced that machines are taking away human jobs. Their response is to launch a protest in which they pose as household appliances. Things become more complicated when one of their children takes up a job at an artificial intelligence company.

Priyanka Chopra Calls The Film 'Refreshing' And 'Witty'

Priyanka said she was drawn to the film's treatment of a subject that has become increasingly relevant.This film offers a refreshing, witty take on a subject that feels very timely. I jumped at the opportunity to come on board as an executive producer to amplify this creative team and ensure their brilliant, original vision gets the spotlight it deserves," she said.The film stars Satish Kashyap, Devendra Dodke and Arindol Bagchi as Mr. Bagchi, Mr. Pimple and Mr. Ganguli. Shubham Kujur, Kalpana Gagdekar and Yash Gonsai are also part of the cast.



Gonsai has produced the film through Sunshine Pictures along with Dheer Momaya and Dar Gai. Aarti Lohia and SPLF Media present the project.Its executive producer lineup also includes Peter S. Kim and Nalini Sharma of Basement Video, Neha Kaul, Megha Kadakia, Priya Giri Desai and Shruti Ganguly of Prism Entertainment, Shivani Pandya Malhotra, Film Companion Studios, Anjula Acharia and Pan Nalin.Devaiah Bopanna, Earlyman Film, Rahul Bharti, Supavitra Babul and Vaibhav Bundhoo are attached as co-producers.

We Were Here Has Won More Than 20 Festival Awards

Before bringing Priyanka and V on board, We Were Here had already travelled extensively on the festival circuit.The film has screened at more than 80 festivals and collected over 20 awards.It began its run at the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, where it won the Canal+ Prize. At SXSW, the film took home the audience award for best narrative short as well as the Redbreast Unhidden Award.Its win at Palm Springs International ShortFest proved particularly significant. The film was named best live-action short under 15 minutes and best comedy short, with the former making it eligible for consideration at the Academy Awards.The film is now Oscar-qualified and moving into awards season with an expanded group of executive producers.



Palak Tiwari

And Ibrahim Ali Khan Break Up, Cancel Joint Shoots: Report

Actors Palak Tiwari and Ibrahim Ali Khan have reportedly called it quits after dating for over three years. According to a report by Hindustan Times, the couple has parted ways amicably, with Ibrahim reportedly taking the decision to end the relationship. However, neither Palak nor Ibrahim has publicly confirmed the breakup as of now.An insider also told the news portal that the planned shoots featuring the two have either been cancelled or put on hold. Speaking about the reason behind their separation, the source said, "We don't know…but the breakup is amicable, and the two aren't planning to wash their dirty linen in public. They both will focus on their respective careers, for now."

Palak, daughter of television actor Shweta Tiwari, and Ibrahim, son of actors Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, first sparked dating rumours in 2022. They made headlines after being spotted together outside a Mumbai restaurant, with Palak attempting to hide her face from paparazzi.Over the years, the two were spotted together on several occasions, including during holidays. However, neither Palak nor Ibrahim ever publicly confirmed their relationship.

In December 2024, Palak's mother, actress Shweta Tiwari also reacted to her daughter's dating rumours and argued that such social media chatter is not relevant to her."Rumors don't bother me anymore, in all these years I have realized people's memory only last for 4 hours. They will forget the news after that, so why bother? As per rumours, my daughter is dating every third guy, and I am getting married every year. As per the internet, I am already married thrice. These things don't affect me now, earlier they did when social media was not there and when some journalist never liked writing good things about you. Negativity about actors sell. After dealing with that era, this doesn't affect me," Shweta told SCREEN.



Akshay Kumar, Bhumi Pednekar To Reunite For Priyadarshan's Next, Marking Their Third Film Together?



Akshay Kumar and Priyadarshan are one of the actor-director duos who have been loved by many. Now, after Bhooth Bangla and Haiwaan, the actor-director duo is all set to return for another film. This film will mark the third collaboration between Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar after Toilet: Ek Prem Katha and Raksha Bandhan.The ace filmmaker Priyadarshan has confirmed Bhumi and Akshay's casting for his upcoming untitled film. Reports suggest that the filmmaker is expected to start shooting for the film by the end of November. The plan is to have a three-month shooting schedule, and the film will be shot across Rajasthan, Mumbai, and Bhopal.While this film will mark the third collaboration between Akshay and Bhumi, it will be the ninth film featuring Akshay and Priyadarshan. The two have worked on several films before this one, including Hera Pheri, Garam Masala, Bhagam Bhag, Bhool Bhulaiyaa, De Dana Dan, Khatta Meetha, Bhooth Bangla, and Haiwaan.It was reported that Akshay will play a quirky tiger hunter in the yet-untitled film, which is set in the 1970s. Produced by Ramesh Taurani, the movie will also mark Priyadarshan's 99th film as a director. The team is expected to begin shooting in the last week of November. A source close to the project told Hindustan Times, "The film goes on the floors in the last week of November."Annu Kapoor and Rajpal Yadav have reportedly joined the cast, which should make things even more interesting for fans of comedy. The film has been written by Priyadarshan and Rohan Shankar, who also worked together on Bhooth Bangla, starring Akshay.

When Bhumi Spoke About Manifesting To Work With Akshay

In an episode of Wheels of Fortune, Bhumi Pednekar had said, "Main aapko ek anecdote batana chahti hoon jo maine aapko pichhle 10 saalon se nahi bataya hai. Jab main 10-12 saal ki thi, mere saamne wali under construction building mein shooting ho rahi thi."She added, "Mujhe yaad hai aapka ek stunt bike se seedhiyon par upar ja rahe the." Akshay quickly responded, "Picture ka naam 'Insaaf' hai, aur heroine thi Shilpa Shetty."

Archana Puran Singh's Son Ayushmaan Sethi Gets Engaged To Ladylove Samiksha Shetty In Italy, See Dreamy Pics



Archana Puran Singh and Parmeet Sethi's younger son, Ayushmaan Sethi, is engaged to his longtime girlfriend, Samiksha Shetty. The content creator popped the question during a romantic getaway to Capri, Italy, with the couple sharing glimpses of the special moment on social media. Ayushmaan documented the proposal in a vlog on his YouTube channel, while Samiksha posted pictures from their engagement on Instagram.

Archana Puran Singh's younger son gets engaged

In his vlog, Ayushmaan Sethi revealed that he had carefully planned the proposal and hidden the engagement ring in his bag. During a hike to Monte Solaro, Capri's highest point, he collected wildflowers for Samiksha Shetty. Once they reached the summit, he set up a tripod under the pretext of filming a reel before getting down on one knee and delivering an emotional speech about how she had changed his views on love and marriage. He said, "Sam, you make the impossible possible. I always thought that happily ever afters were not for me and that I would never find someone I love that I would spend the rest of my life with. Then you walked into my life. You walked into those doors at Bombay Dark and you changed my life forever. I never thought that I could love someone so, so much. I thought true love was supposed to be like instantly falling in love with you and knowing that you are the one and feeling all butterflies but this wasn't that. This was better because the more I got to know you the more I fell in love with you."

He further added, "That's how I know that you are the one for me because somehow with you I don't know how this feeling of I feel like I can't love you more than I do in the second right now and literally one second later I love you more and literally since I said that sentence I already love you more. You make my life fun, adventurous, exciting, easy, peaceful so, so worth it and I never thought I would dream of getting old but now I actually do because I know it's going to be with you and by your side."

Made up with millions from Venezuela: Trump downplays US's Iran war bill

world.(Agency).

Donald Trump has claimed that the United States has more than made up for the money spent on its war with Iran through massive crude oil shipments from Venezuela, as he downplayed the financial burden of the military campaign. Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office amid buzz of US planning to restart strikes on Iran, Trump said the US was spending relatively little on the conflict and was in no hurry to bring it to an end. However, as is with Trump, he did not provide figures to substantiate his claim about recovering the costs through Venezuela, where the US carried out a military operation in January to capture then-President Nicolas Maduro. The Iran conflict is believed to have cost the US $47 billion so far.Earlier this week, Trump claimed Venezuela had gifted the US 1 million barrels of oil. And, as per the President, it didn't cost American taxpayers a dime. Describing the Iran conflict as "not a typical war", Trump insisted that time was on Washington's side, even as months of fighting and repeated diplomatic efforts have failed to produce a lasting settlement.

Thousands protest across Italy over rising living costs, wages and military spending

world.(Agency).

Tens of thousands of students, workers and trade union members took to the streets across Italy on Friday, demanding better wages, improved public services and relief from the rising cost of living. Demonstrators also opposed increased military expenditure and the use of ports for transporting weapons to conflict zones. The nationwide demonstrations were organised as part of a 24-hour general strike called by grassroots trade union Unione Sindacale di Base (USB), with protests planned in more than 40 cities. While most demonstrations remained peaceful, tensions surfaced in several places, with police using water cannons to disperse crowds and prevent protesters from breaching security barricades. The protests came weeks after violent clashes earlier this month in which demonstrators fought with police, looted shops and damaged public property.

Houthis deny drone attack on Medina after Saudi-led coalition interception claim



world.(Agency).

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group has denied launching a drone towards Saudi Arabia's Medina region after the Saudi-led military coalition said it intercepted and destroyed an unmanned aircraft over the area, escalating tensions amid a widening regional conflict linked to the US-Israeli war on Iran.
The Houthis rejected the coalition's account, accusing Saudi Arabia of fabricating claims of an attack. The latest exchange comes amid a series of cross-border strikes targeting Saudi oil infrastructure, military installations and airports, raising concerns about the spread of hostilities to another front in the region. Medina is home to the Prophet's Mosque and is Islam's second-holiest city after Mecca. Millions of Muslims visit the city every year, particularly during the annual Haj and Umrah pilgrimages.

Poland midnight storm: How court crisis led to stir, President's U-Turn, coup claim

Police guarded Poland's Constitutional Tribunal as protesters opposed Bogdan Swieczkowski's suspension. The confrontation deepened a long-running dispute over judicial independence and constitutional authority.

world.(Agency).

A court under police guard, protesters challenging the government's move and a president abandoning an overseas trip midair - Poland's latest constitutional showdown had all the makings of a political crisis. At its centre is a bitter struggle over who controls the country's judiciary, pitting Donald Tusk's pro-European government against the opposition Law and Justice (PiS) party. Riot police were deployed after some demonstrators breached the court's perimeter fence and others threw objects at officers. Police said three people were detained during the confrontation. The dispute intensified after Justice Minister Waldemar Zurek sought to strip Swieczkowski and the tribunal's Vice-President Bartomiej Sochanski of their immunity from prosecution to initiate criminal proceedings against them. The government's action has drawn strong criticism from PiS leaders, who accused Tusk's administration of undermining the country's constitutional order. Polish President Karol Nawrocki, who is backed by PiS, also cut short his trip to Senegal to return to Warsaw amid the developments. Nawrocki was travelling to attend the Summer Youth Olympic Games in Dakar when he announced that he was turning back. "At a moment like this, the President must be in Poland. I am cutting short my flight to Senegal. I am returning," he wrote on X. According to his chief of staff, Nawrocki later entered the Constitutional Tribunal.



POLAND'S GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION CLASH OVER JUDICIARY

The latest confrontation is part of a prolonged dispute over judicial independence in Poland, particularly the composition and functioning of the Constitutional Tribunal.

The PiS-led government, which held power between 2015 and 2023, introduced changes to the judiciary that critics in Poland and the European Union said gave the ruling party political control over key judicial institutions. The European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union subsequently ruled that three judges appointed during the PiS government's tenure had been improperly elected because their positions had already been filled by the previous parliament. European courts also questioned the tribunal's independence and impartiality. Tusk came to power in 2023 promising to restore judicial independence and reverse the changes introduced by PiS.

However, his efforts have faced obstacles, particularly from two successive presidents aligned with the opposition, Nawrocki and his predecessor Andrzej Duda, who have used their veto powers to block proposed reforms.

India urges UN rights council to end selectivity, focus on terrorism

Unitednations.(Agency)

India has said the credibility of the UN Human Rights Council depends on even-handedness, arguing that country-specific mandates pursued without the engagement of the country concerned rarely improve the situation on the ground, Press Trust of India reported.
India also called for dialogue, cooperation and equal treatment of all human rights while urging the council to give sustained attention to terrorism, which it described as one of the gravest threats to human rights, particularly the right to life.
Bhavika Mangalanandan, First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN, made the remarks while addressing a UN General Assembly debate on the Human Rights Council's report on Friday. She recalled External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's remarks at the high-level segment of the 61st Human Rights Council in February. He had said, "Human rights are best advanced through dialogue, capacity building and genuine partnerships, and not by politicisation, selectivity, or double standards." Mangalanandan said this approach was critical for the council to speak in one voice and counter allegations that human rights were being weaponised. India returned to the Human Rights Council this year for its seventh term for the 2026-28 period. "Credibility of the council rests on even-handedness. Country-specific mandates pursued without the engagement of the country concerned seldom improve the situation on the ground," she said, according to PTI. She added that such mandates instead deepened divisions within the council.
She said the Universal Periodic Review, which is based on cooperation and engagement with the member states concerned and treats all countries equally, remained the appropriate platform.
India also stressed that terrorism remained among the gravest threats to human rights, especially the right to life. "We would encourage the council to give this threat the sustained attention it warrants on the basis of zero tolerance," Mangalanandan said.

Zakir Naik defends Taliban on girls' education, unites Indians, Pakistanis, Afghans

world.(Agency)

Fugitive Indian Islamic preacher Zakir Naik has drawn sharp criticism from Indians, Pakistanis and Afghans after defending the Taliban's restrictions on girls' education in Afghanistan. In a video clip, Naik claimed that the Taliban had merely delayed secondary and higher education for girls because of security concerns and a shortage of female teachers. He also claimed that Afghan women were pursuing master's degrees and PhDs in Islamic studies.
The remarks by Naik, who found refuge in Malaysia, triggered a backlash from journalists, activists and academics from India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. They questioned Naik's claims and accused him of defending the Taliban's



restrictions. "Everything that comes in the media is not true," Naik said in the video. Claiming to have spoken to Taliban representatives, he said, "So if someone delays the education till they have the right teacher, there is no problem at all."
Reacting to his remarks, Malala Yousafzai's father and UK-based Pakistani activist Ziauddin Yousafzai, called Naik's justification "deeply troubling and disappointing". Indian Islamic scholar A Faizur Rahman questioned Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim for allowing Naik to stay in the South East Asian nation.
Naik left India in 2016 amid allegations that his speeches had inspired one of the terrorists involved in the Dhaka cafe attack. He subsequently faced charges of promoting religious hatred, engaging in unlawful activities and money laundering, all of which he has denied.

Dosas, diwali, temple visits: US midterm candidates court Indian-American voters

world.(Agency).

Candidates in the US midterm elections are reaching out to Indian-American voters through community events, temple visits and cultural activities as they seek an edge in closely contested races, news agency Press Trust of India reported. The community has a strong presence in several states and could influence results in battlegrounds where even one or two per cent of the vote can determine the outcome.
Democratic candidate James Talarico tried making dosas at an Indian restaurant in Irving, near Dallas, which has a large Indian-American population. Wearing a black suit and white shirt, he poured dosa batter onto a hot pan, spread it evenly and added a spicy potato filling. He then folded the crisp dosa and served



it on a banana leaf as those present applauded. The gesture was warmly received by members of the Indian-American community in Texas, which has faced racist attacks from a section of Republicans.
Talarico is mounting a strong challenge to Republican nominee Ken Paxton in the US Senate race in the traditionally Republican state. "James Talarico is seizing the moment. The contrast couldn't be clearer. Paxton surrounds himself with influencers calling Indians scammers and saying Indian food stinks, intimidating Indian Texans. Talarico wears a suit and makes dosas," businessman James Blunt said in a post on X, according to . "One party serves up division. The other is serving Indian rice crepes, which, by the way, taste freaking amazing," Blunt said.

Shut up, dope, you loser: Donald Trump loses his cool at heckler in Florida rally

world.(Agency).

US President Donald Trump was interrupted at least four times by protesters during a campaign rally in Daytona Beach, Florida, on Friday, with the repeated heckling disrupting his address on the crucial midterm elections. Trump lost his cool during one such interruption, turning towards a heckler and firing back, "Shut up, shut up. Dope. Shut up. Loser. What a loser. Get him out of here."
The initial interruption came as Trump was



speaking about the significance of the upcoming midterm elections. As the protester disrupted his speech, the President abruptly broke away from his address to lash out at the heckler, calling him a "dope" and a "loser" before demanding that he be removed from the venue. The repeated interruptions appeared to frustrate Trump, who later complained that protesters were cutting in between his punchlines.
The interruptions continued as Trump addressed the crowd. Supporters responded by shouting, "We love you", prompting the President to make a remark about waiting for someone to express the opposite view. "I'm waiting for a protester to say, 'We hate you!'" Trump said. A protester then shouted, "We hate you," interrupting him once again.
Trump also complained that the interruptions were coming between his punchlines. "You're going to go away saying, 'Trump's a lousy speaker'," he said, referring to the repeated disruptions.
TRUMP CAMPAIGNS FOR FLORIDA REPUBLICANS
Thousands of people attended the Friday night rally at the Ocean Center Arena in Daytona Beach to support Trump ahead of Tuesday's elections. Trump urged supporters to vote for Florida Republicans, including Byron Donalds, the party's candidate for governor, and Senator Ashley Moody. "These are the most important midterm elections ever," he told the crowd, urging them to turn out and vote. The elections will determine which party controls Congress.
TRUMP RESCHEDULES CANCELLED IOWA, KANSAS RALLIES
Earlier on Friday, Trump rescheduled his cancelled campaign rallies in Iowa and Kansas for Sunday, less than 24 hours after calling off the planned weekend visits. His Florida rally, however, remained on schedule. The cancellations had come a day after Trump faced questions about his health and campaign schedule from a Reuters journalist. During the exchange on Thursday, Trump told the reporter he looked "like hell" and asked him to "put yourself in shape" after the journalist questioned whether the President was feeling unwell.

JD Vance wanted a 5th child. This is how wife Usha put a stop to it

JD Vance recounted how Usha Vance answered his fifth-baby joke with a vasectomy warning. The family exchange drew both amusement and criticism on social media.

world.(Agency).

US Vice-President JD Vance's joke about having a fifth baby with wife Usha Vance backfired spectacularly, after she came up with a rather permanent solution to his baby-making plans. Usha reportedly warned that if he brought up having another child while she was busy caring for their three-month-old, she would announce on X that he was getting a vasectomy. Vance shared the exchange during an interview with Fox News, recounting how he had jokingly suggested expanding their family just a couple of days earlier. "I would love to have six babies. I was joking with Usha just a couple of days ago, and I was like, let's just have like a fifth baby too," he said. Recalling his wife's response, Vance said Usha had warned him against making such suggestions while their youngest child was still three months old.
"And she said, if you joke about having any more kids while this three-month-old is here, then I'm going to announce on Twitter that you're getting a vasectomy. And so, not doing that," he added.
HILARIOUS: VP JD Vance JOKED with Usha about having a fifth baby. She CLAPPED RIGHT BACK: if you bring up having another baby while I'm caring for our 3-month-old, I'm going to announce on that you're getting a vasectomy. "I was joking with Usha just a couple of days ago, and I was like, let's just have like a fifth baby too. And she said, if you joke about having any more kids while this three-month-old is here, then I'm going to announce on Twitter that you're getting a vasectomy. And so, not doing that."— RedWave Press (@RedWavePress) October 30, 2026
The exchange, shared by the account RedWavePress, drew reactions online, with social media users expressing amusement as well as criticism.



SOCIAL MEDIA REACTIONS
Several users found the exchange amusing, with one commenter describing the couple as relatable and saying they were tired of "stuffy career politicians". Another called the interaction cute and expressed affection for the Vance family.
However, the exchange also prompted criticism. One user questioned why having another child was being treated as a joke, while another pointed to the financial pressures faced by people considering parenthood.