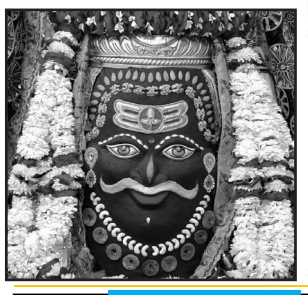
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## CM Shivakumar seeks Rs 22,400cr drought aid from Centre

**BENGALURU. (Agency).**

Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to expedite the release of Rs 22,400.58 crore in drought relief sought by Karnataka, citing extensive crop losses across the state, and raised the demands of sugarcane farmers for better prices and a fair share of ethanol allocation.

Addressing a gathering in the presence of Modi at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), Shivakumar said Karnataka had received the second-lowest rainfall in 70 years, with 226 of the 240 taluks declared drought-affected. Nearly 58 lakh hectares of crops had suffered damage, with estimated losses of Rs 62,482 crore, he said.Shivakumar also submitted a memorandum to the PM, seeking early approval and release of Rs 22,400.58 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to support affected farmers.Drawing attention to the cocerns of sugarcane growers, he said farmers were demanding `5,500 per tonne against the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of `3,650 per tonne for the 2026-27 season.The Chief Minster also sought a revision of the minimum support price of sugar, which, he said, had remained unchanged at Rs 31/kg since 2019, and urged the Centre to ensure Karnataka received.

## BJP calls Congress's 'Smash the Patriarchy' slogan hollow, questions silence on allegations against party leaders

**New Delhi(Agency).**

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday accused the Congress of double standards on women's safety, questioning Rahul Gandhi and other senior party leaders over their alleged silence on sexual assault and harassment allegations involving Congress leaders.At a press conference, BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj accused the Congress of repeatedly insulting the "divine feminine"."India is worshipping Chhathi Maiya with great pride in its culture. Chhathi Maiya is the hymn of creation itself. And on the other hand, as you know, Congress keeps insulting the divine feminine over and over again," the BJP leader alleged.Swaraj questioned the Congress leadership, including Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Sonia Gandhi and party president Mallikarjun Kharge, over three cases involving allegations against party leaders.

Referring to the allegations against Jharkhand Congress MLA Bhushan Bhada, the BJP leader said, "There are some really serious allegations that he raped a 14-year-old tribal girl. In fact, investigating agencies have even filed an FIR under the POCSO Act."An FIR has been registered against Bara under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Juvenile Justice Act following a complaint by a minor girl. The legislator has denied the allegations, describing them as a "completely fabricated" conspiracy by political opponents.

# Jewel, modern India's architect: Congress pays tributes to Nehru on birth anniversary

**Sonia Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge offer floral homage at Shanti Van and Samvidhan Sadan on India's first prime minister's birth anniversary**

**New Delhi (Agency).**

Congress leaders on Saturday paid rich tributes to India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, with Rahul Gandhi describing him as a "jewel" and party chief Mallikarjun Kharge calling him the "principal architect" of modern India.Kharge and Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi visited Shanti Van to pay homage at his memorial.Several Congress leaders, including former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot, were present at the spot.Kharge and Sonia Gandhi later paid floral tributes at Nehru's portrait in the central hall of Samvidhan Sadan, the old Parliament building. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and other leaders were also present.Nehru, born in Allahabad on November 14, 1889, was the country's first prime minister after independence. He died on May 27, 1964, in New Delhi.Paying homage to Nehru in a post on X, Rahul Gandhi said, "With humble reverence on the birth anniversary of the 'Jewel of Hind', India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.""Freedom was not his destination, but a milestone in the nation's new journey. Swaraj was not about power, but

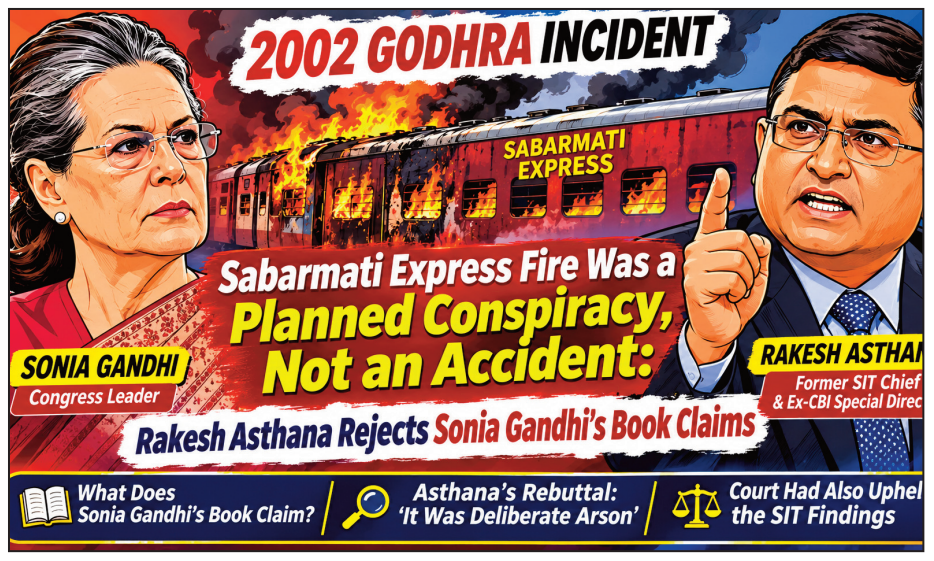


about every citizen's participation and responsibility for the country's future."India was a quest, an idea for him—diversity as its strength, democracy as its faith, and equality as its foundation. His dream of a modern, scientific, progressive, and confident India remains our inspiration today."And our efforts to build that India are the true tribute to him," Gandhi said.Kharge, in a post on X, said Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the "principal architect" of modern India."He understood that a nation as diverse as ours could only be held together by Democracy; one that embraced different cultures, beliefs, political voices and aspirations."As we pay our solemn tributes to him at Shanti Van today, we must reaffirm our resolve to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution, our democratic institutions and the values that bind us together," he said."That is Nehru's enduring legacy. And upholding it is our collective responsibility," Kharge said.In another post in Hindi, Kharge shared an old video of Nehru and said, "...we pay tribute on the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first Prime Minister, whose historic contributions laid the foundation for a strong, modern, democratic and progressive nation after India's independence.

# Sabarmati Express Fire Was a Planned Conspiracy, Not an Accident: Former SIT Chief Rakesh Asthana Rejects Sonia Gandhi's Book Claims

**Mahanagar Metro Desk**

**New Delhi/Ahmedabad:** The 2002 Godhra train burning incident has once again triggered a political controversy following claims made in Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's recently discussed memoir. Former Gujarat Police Special Investigation Team (SIT) chief and ex-CBI Special Director Rakesh Asthana has strongly rejected the description of the Sabarmati Express fire as a disputed incident, asserting that it was a pre-planned criminal conspiracy rather than an accident.What Does Sonia Gandhi's Book Claim?In her memoir, Belonging: A Journey of Love, Sonia Gandhi reportedly refers to the 2002 violence that erupted after fire engulfed the S-6 coach of the Sabarmati Express, killing 59 pilgrims, including kar sevaks. The book describes the circumstances surrounding the fire as controversial and notes that the incident was followed by widespread unrest across Gujarat. These references have reignited political debate over one of the most sensitive episodes in India's recent history.Rakesh Asthana's Strong Rebuttal: "It Was Deliberate Arson"Responding to the claims in an interview, former SIT chief Rakesh Asthana maintained that the fire was deliberately set and was not an accidental incident. According to his account of the investigation, a mob allegedly pelted the train with stones, broke the windows of the coach and poured approximately 140 litres of inflammable material, reportedly petrol, inside before setting it on fire.Asthana stated that the entire coach was engulfed in flames within approximately five minutes. A total of 59 people, including 27 women, 10 children and 22 men, lost their lives. He also alleged that passengers attempting to escape by jumping out of the train were attacked.Asthana Questions Political Attempts to Reopen the ControversyAsthana defended the investigation, stating that it was conducted through an authorised process and that the judicial proceedings resulted in convictions. He argued that attempts to question the established findings could be politically motivated.Emphasising the human tragedy, he said that a death remains a death and murder remains murder, irrespective of the religion of the victims. He also criticised attempts to give the incident a political or communal colour.Allegations of a Wider ConspiracyDiscussing the investigation's background, Asthana referred to an alleged wider network behind the incident. He mentioned the role attributed to Abdul Razak Kurkur, reportedly as




sociated with Godhra's Aman Guest House, and referred to evidence concerning telephone calls from Pakistan and alleged links with organisations such as Hizbul Mujahideen.According to Asthana, the investigation pointed towards a larger conspiracy aimed at creating instability in the country by targeting the kar sevaks.Asthana Rejects the U.C. Banerjee Commission ReportAsthana also rejected the findings of the Justice U.C. Banerjee Commission, constituted during the tenure of the then Railway Minister. The commission had suggested that the fire could have originated accidentally while kar sevaks were cooking food inside the train.He recalled that the Gujarat High Court had set aside the commission's report. Asthana maintained that the judicial findings treated the incident as a serious criminal offence involving a pre-planned conspiracy.More than two decades after the Godhra train burning incident, Sonia Gandhi's memoir has brought the issue back into the national political spotlight. Asthana's strong response has further intensified the debate over the circumstances of the tragedy, the investigation and its political implications.

# Rs 22L crore investments flowed into AP since June 2024: V-P

**VISAKHAPATNAM(Agency).**

Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan on Friday said Andhra Pradesh had attracted investments worth Rs 22 lakh crore since June 2024, noting that the State was making progress towards the goals of 'Swarna Andhra' and 'Viksit Bharat'.Addressing the valedictory session of the 31st CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam, he said the Summit's theme, 'Navigating the New World Order', reflected the need for countries and industries to adapt to changing global economic conditions. He called for a 'work together, grow together, share prosperity' approach and emphasised strengthening domestic manufacturing, MSMEs and digital public infrastructure to improve India's global competitiveness.

In his address, CM N Chandrababu Naidu highlighted the investment commitments secured at the two-day summit, with 303 proposals involving investments of Rs 9.89 lakh crore. These span manufacturing, food processing, education, healthcare, aviation and automobiles, among other sectors. Reliance has proposed investments worth Rs 2.43 lakh crore, while Kia has committed Rs 18,800 crore to



manufacture an additional two lakh cars annually.Naidu said that of the 714 investment proposals received since 2024, 522 were under active implementation. The government was working to attract investments across all regions and ensure that proposed projects moved towards implementation.

# "Creating Doubt": Ex-CBI Official On Sonia Gandhi's Mention Of Godhra Riots

**New Delhi(Agency).**

Rakesh Asthana, former Special Director of the CBI, who investigated the 2002 Godhra train burning, has rejected a passage in Sonia Gandhi's memoir 'Belonging: A Journey of Love' that calls the cause of the fire "disputed."In an interview with ANI, Asthana said that the investigation into the incident had been completed and that forensic evidence had established the cause of the fire. He added that any continuing doubts about the findings were being raised "for political reasons."In her memoir, Sonia Gandhi writes, "The riots were triggered when four coaches of the Sabarmati Express were set on fire and 59 pilgrims died. The train was returning to the state capital Ahmedabad from Ayodhya, carrying Hindu karsevaks, volunteers for the Ram temple. The cause of the fire remains disputed, but the turmoil that followed spread to many parts of the state."Reacting to the statement, Asthana said, "That is completely wrong, the investigation is authentic. It has been proved in the court of law. Even now, if someone is creating doubt about it, then it is



for political reasons; there can be no other explanation for it."Asked whether the political reason is because of a certain "vote bank", he said, "All the people who died in Godhra were Hindus. And whoever's death it may be - whether a Hindu's, a Muslim's, a Christian's, or a Sikh's - death is death, murder is murder. So we investigated it as a criminal act. But unfortunately, the issue was made out in such a way that an attempt was made to investigate the case to benefit Mr. Modi."On February 27, 2002, the Sabarmati Express carrying Hindu karsevaks was set on fire by a mob, resulting in the deaths of 59 people, including women and children. This was followed by communal riots across the state of Gujarat, where hundreds were killed.In 2011, a special court convicted 31 people in connection with the Godhra train burning incident, after which the Gujarat High Court in 2014 upheld the conviction of 11 people while acquitting 20 others.Finally, the Supreme Court of India upheld the verdict given by the Gujarat HC, dismissing the appeals filed by the convicts in connection with the Godhra train burning.

## Rs 1k cr payout to pave way for Greater SPR first phase

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) on Friday announced compensation awards for about 160 acres across six Gurgaon villages, paving the way for the first phase of Greater Southern Peripheral Road (GSPR). The payout is expected to total nearly Rs 1,000 crore.

Rates range from Rs 5 crore to Rs 9 crore per acre, depending on location, and include solatium and 12% interest. The land is in Behrampur, Ullawas, Kadarpur, Dhumaspur, Maidawas and Badshapur.

HSVP had issued a notification on Nov 11, 2025, to acquire 276 acres under Land Acquisition Act, 2013. Around 116 acres have already been transferred to the govt, with landowners receiving transferable development rights and project licences in return.

The 12km GSPR, estimated to cost around Rs 12,000 crore, is designed to link new sectors with Delhi-Jaipur highway and KMP Expressway. It will be 90 metres wide, with a 30-metre green belt on each side, and will run parallel to the existing SPR at a distance of 2.5km. The project aligns with Gurgaon-Manesar 2031 plan.

## Books on top, 20kg ganja below: Rs 10L drugs seized in Greater Noida warehouse

**Noida.(Agency)**

What appeared to be an ordinary consignment of books travelling from Odisha to Delhi turned out to be a shipment of cannabis worth around Rs 10 lakh. Police said the drug trafficking attempt was uncovered at a logistics warehouse in Greater Noida on Friday after an X-ray scan revealed nearly 20 kg of ganja concealed between layers of books inside two packages.

A consignment was intercepted at Swastik Logistics in Dhoom Manikpur on Thursday after warehouse workers detected suspicious packages booked through a private courier service.Workers scanned the packages, which had arrived as part of a delivery shipment and were to be sent to Delhi the next day. They found books forming the outer layers, while the middle was hollow.

This made them suspicious, and they alerted Badalpur police station. A police team went to the warehouse and scanned the packages again. The cops opened the packages and found the books had been placed along the outer layers of the packages, while cannabis had been carefully hidden in the middle.

## Power cuts, dirty water & garbage piles dampen festive cheer in Noida and Ghaziabad

**Noida.(Agency)**

Civic neglect has dampened the festive spirit of Chhath in several parts of the city and neighbouring Ghaziabad.

Sectors 100 and 72 in Noida continued to face power cuts on Friday. Residents have claimed that the power fluctuations have worsened since Diwali last week. In Sector 144, residents complained that the dirty water supply was unfit even for routine household chores.

Pawan Yadav, a resident of Century Apartments in Sector 100, said frequent power cuts had become a daily concern.

“For the past 10 years, our sector has rarely gone a day without a power cut,” he said.

Despite paying their electricity bills on time, residents continue to face erratic supply, a problem reported across several Noida sectors. The situation persisted during Diwali and on Friday, the first day of Chhath Puja, he added.

# Storm in Jain Community: Sagar Chandrasagar Con troversy Raises Questions Over Faith and Finances

**Mahanagar Metro Desk**

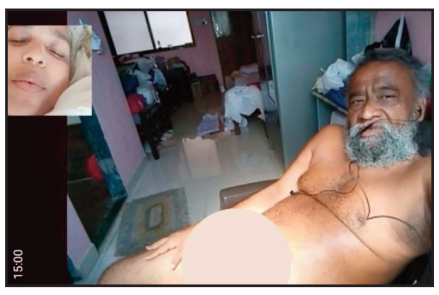
**Mandsaur/Palitana/Ahmedabad:** A controversy involving Sagar Chandrasagar has sparked widespread discussion within the Jain community, raising serious questions about religious discipline, the dignity of monastic life, the authenticity of viral digital content and financial transparency in religious institutions.Alleged WhatsApp conversations, audio recordings and photographs circulating on social media have triggered concerns among members of the community. Allegations involving certain women and nuns have also surfaced. However, the authenticity of the circulating material has not yet been independently established.Community members have called for an impar



tial investigation to determine whether the viral conversations and recordings are genuine or have been digitally manipulated. They have stressed that no individual should be declared guilty based solely on unverified social media content. At the same time, serious allegations should not be ignored without proper investigation.Demands are growing for a detailed digital forensic examination, including verification of the original sources of the



alleged conversations, identification of voices in the recordings and examination of any possible manipula



tion using artificial intelligence or other technologies.The controversy has also brought the financial management of Jain temples, pilgrimage centres and religious trusts under scrutiny. Questions are being raised about the utilisation of donations and offerings worth crores of rupees. Community members are demanding independent audits, disclosure of income and expenditure.

# The Lamps of Diwali Have Faded, Now It Is Time to Bring Light into Our Relationships

**Mahanagar Metro Desk**

**Rupesh Solanki:** KutchThe days of Diwali have now come to an end. The rows of lamps that once illuminated the courtyards of our homes have gradually faded away. The colours of rangoli are disappearing, the sounds of firecrackers have fallen silent, and the brightness of the markets has once again blended into the routine of everyday life. However, the true celebration of festivals is not limited to lighting lamps or sharing sweets. Festivals are an opportunity to awaken love, warmth, affection and emotional closeness in human relationships.During Diwali, we clean our homes, organise old belongings, decorate our houses with fresh paint and purchase new clothes. But a question arises in our minds: Have we ever tried to clean our relationships in the same way? Have we made an effort to remove the misunderstandings, ego, resentment and silence that have accumulated in our hearts over the years?In today's world, people's comforts and conveniences have increased, but the time devoted to relationships seems to be decreasing. Despite being con<



nected to hundreds of people through mobile phone screens, we often struggle to find time to exchange a few kind words with our own family members. During festivals, social media platforms are flooded with greetings and wishes, yet genuine conversations about someone's feelings and well-being are becoming increasingly rare.Festivals teach us the importance of coming closer to one another. They provide an opportunity to reconnect with relationships that may have grown distant due to work, responsibilities and busy schedules throughout the year. Seeking the blessings of elders, meeting an old friend, reconciling with a displeased relative or spending a few moments with someone who feels lonely—what could be a better occasion than a festival to do all this?There is another reality of life: the light of Diwali does not shine equally in every home. Some homes are filled with the happiness of new purchases, while others silently struggle with financial difficulties. For some families, festivals are occasions of togetherness, while for others, they are moments of loneliness spent remembering loved ones. Therefore, the true joy of festivals becomes meaningful only when our happiness also includes the desire to bring a smile to someone else's face.A lamp burns itself to spread light to others. Perhaps this is one of life's greatest lessons: we should let go of our ego and spread the light of happiness in someone else's life. If we illuminate our relationships with forgiveness, trust, compassion and understanding, every day of the year can feel like Diwali.Festivals will return every year and depart again. Markets will be decorated, and homes will once again sparkle with lights.

## Toxic Reelationship: Video ‘auditions’ make local recruitment a breeze for gangsters abroad

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Sitting in his father's jewellery shop last month, the young, reclusive man behind the counter transformed as he found himself alone, attached his camera to a selfie stand and turned on video recording. The 22-year-old picked up a gun, struck a pose and uploaded the video. Days later, a police social media monitoring team tasked with spotting early signs of delinquency paid him a visit.A gun raised for a reel. A Bhiku Mhatre, Manya Surve, Don dialogue delivered for the camera. A regional track, usually Haryanvi or Punjabi, as audio, also delivering a punchy line on violence. And a pose, preferably emanating raw male aggression, rounding it off.Not every video creator is looking to make it big online as an influencer. In cities, towns and villages, a number of youths — like the jeweller’s 22-year-old son — are doing it to make it into the algo badlands that have potential recruits on the other side looking for local guns for hire, believing it’s the fastest route to big money.Gangsters who ‘dunki-ed’ their way to Europe and the US have become one of India’s biggest law-and-order problems, appearing to strike at will. Whether it’s executing the hit on Sidhu Moose Wala (killed in Punjab in 2022), sending shooters armed to the teeth into Gurgaon’s tony Sushant Lok to intimidate a businessman (this July), or firing at actor Tiger Shroff (this October in Juhu), gangsters based abroad appear to have no problem recruiting local shooters for hit jobs.Social media is the easiest route. Hence, the video auditions.Regional connections have made Haryana a happy hunting ground for the likes of Goldy Brar (a designated terrorist who ordered the hit on Moose Wala and is believed to be operating from Canada), Himanshu Bhau (detained by the FBI last month), Anil Pandit (who claimed to be behind the attempt on Shroff), Deepak Nandal (who ordered the Sushant Lok shooting this July) and Rohit Godara (allegedly behind the firing at model-actor Disha Patani’s house in Bareilly in September 2025).

## Ex-Oppo staffer accused of workplace harassment and assault acquitted as court finds gaps in probe

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

A city court has acquitted a former Oppo Mobiles employee accused of assaulting and sexually harassing a woman colleague at the company’s Sohna Road ofice in 2017, after key prosecution witnesses turned hostile and the court found serious gaps in the police investigation.The woman, who was working as a company secretary and legal adviser with Oppo Mobiles NR Pvt Ltd in 2017, had alleged that her colleague Sunny Shrivastav, a brand manager, had slapped her, kicked her abdomen and private parts, abused her and threatened to kill her on Oct 3 that year following a disagreement over a company agreement and release of vendor payments.

She alleged that Shrivastav insisted that the agreement be executed and vendor payment cleared immediately. He assaulted her when she objected to his behaviour. An FIR was registered at Sadar police station under Sections 294 (obscene acts and songs), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

However, witnesses examined during the trial either turned hostile or failed to corroborate her allegations. Of the eight witnesses examined, Asha and Vijender Kumar turned hostile, while Ankita Tripathi said she had no personal knowledge of the incident and was not present at the spot.Judicial magistrate (first class) Dr Mohd Imtiyaj Khan, in his Nov 11 order, observed the alleged incident had taken place in an office, yet none of the witnesses examined by the prosecution independently corroborated the allegations. The court also took note that the investigating oficer admitted during cross-examination that he had not recorded the statement of any eyewitness during the investigation.The court also noted discrepancies between the allegations and medical evidence. While the FIR said the complainant had been slapped and kicked repeatedly on her abdomen and private parts, the medical record did not mention any external injury on the body parts. The court clarified that the absence of visible injuries, by itself, was not suficient to reject an allegation of assault. However, when considered alongside the lack of eyewitness corroboration, it created reasonable doubt about the prosecution’s version.Counsel S S Chauhan, representing Shrivastav, had told the court that the complainant was working in a senior position and had repeatedly asked his colleague, the complainant, to complete her work within deadlines and improve her performance. The prosecution, represented by assistant public prosecutor Yoginder Singh and assisted by the complainant’s counsel ND Dixit, maintained the woman’s testimony was consistent and supported by her medical record and statement recorded before a magistrate under Section 164 of the CrPC.The court held that the prosecution had failed to prove the charges under IPC sections 294, 323, 354 and 506 beyond a reasonable doubt and extended the benefit of doubt to Shrivastav and acquitted him of all charges.

## Noida airport eyes CAT III certification to help ease flight operations if fog hits Delhi this winter

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Every winter, dense fog at Delhi’s IGI Airport triggers flight delays, cancellations and diversions that disrupt schedules across India because of its role as a major aviation hub. Noida International Airport, recently renamed Narendra Modi International Airport, could ease some of that pressure by giving NCR a second airport capable of operating in low visibility conditions.

The airport, which began operations on June 15, is now working towards DGCA certification for CAT III landings, which allows aircraft to land in extremely low visibility conditions, reducing flight diversions, delays and cancellations caused by dense fog.Noida International Airport vice-chairperson Christoph Schnellmann told TOI on Friday that the airport has a 3,900-metre runway supported by an Instrument Landing System (ILS) and a complete aeronautical ground lighting system needed to facilitate CAT III operations.“With the systems in place, we are working through the certification process with DGCA for CAT III operations,” he said.NIA, however, did not comment on how soon the certification is likely. So, it remains unclear whether flight operations under extreme fog conditions will commence this winter.

DGCA has to conduct inspections and trial runs to ascertain the infrastructure readiness — whether the runway, lighting, instrument landing system, aircraft operations and air traffic control can safely support landings in extremely



poor visibility conditions — before issuing the certificate. The end-to-end process typically takes threeto four months depending on infrastructure readiness and regulatory flight calibration schedules.Rule 78 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, which provides for aerodrome licensing, does not make CAT III ILS certification a prerequisite for a DGCA aerodrome licence. Airports can be licensed to operate with lower-category instrument landing systems or visual flight facilities, depending on their infrastructure and approved operations.

## TVK union secretary booked for sexually harassing woman cadre

**COIMBATORE.(Agency)**

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Following a complaint from a woman functionary of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), the Karamadai police have booked the party's Karamadai union secretary and two others, including a woman, on charges of sexual harassment and offences under the SC/ST Act.The victim, a 29-year-old woman, who was working as a secretary of the TVK's village-level branch in Karamadai Union, petitioned the Coimbatore Collectorate on Thursday. She accused the union secretary of approaching her inappropriately and misbehaving with her during party-related work, and of ill-treating her by mentioning her caste when she refused to cooperate with him. She also accused him of instigating a couple, who allegedly issued a life threat to her and defamed her on caste grounds.Acting on her complaint, Superintendent of Police A Pavankumar Reddy ordered a probe led by the DSP and a case has been registered.The suspects have been identified as Karupusamy of Sirumugai, TVK local functionary Sabitha and her husband Pandi. Karupusamy was the TVK's Karamadai union secretary and the others were his supporters, police said.They were booked on Thursday under Sections 296(b) (uttering obscene words), 75 (sexual harassment) and 351(3) (aggravated criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and Sections 3(1)(r) and 3(1)(s) of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. No arrest has been reported yet.

## TNRERA flags use of AI-generated images to misrepresent project infra

**TIRUCHY.(Agency)**

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Some library books had facts that existed only on paper. Some real estate layouts now have roads that exist only in pixels.Tamil Nadu Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TNRERA) chairperson K Phanindra Reddy on Friday flagged instances of promoters and developers allegedly using AI-generated images to falsely portray infrastructure – such as roads, streetlights, underground drainage systems, and playgrounds – as completed in residential layouts.He raised the issue during an awareness session organised in association with the CREDAI Tiruchy chapter. Speaking to TNIE, Reddy said the authority had detected such malpractice in applications submitted through its online portal.

"Nearly 5%-10% of the images uploaded in applications are found to be AI-generated," Reddy said, adding that the malpractice was noticed particularly in layout applications across cities in Tamil Nadu. The authority had penalised a few applicants for such violations in the past month, he said."Earlier, promoters resorted to photoshopping images to make their projects appear more developed, but the use of AI has taken such manipulation.

## Bengaluru: Elderly raise concern over age certificate fee

**HYDERABAD.(Agency)**

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Senior citizens seeking pension benefits have raised concerns over the Rs 300 fee charged by Victoria Hospital for issuing age verification certificates, saying the amount is a financial burden on elderly people from economically weaker sections.

Around 800 senior citizens have reportedly approached ActionAid, an NGO working with vulnerable communities, complaining about the charge and seeking its withdrawal.Rajesh K, a representative of ActionAid, said senior citizens have been paying Rs 300 for the certificate for the past six months. Many of those approaching the organisation are residents of slums who depend on government pensions for their livelihood and find the additional expense difficult to bear.The organisation has urged the government to either withdraw the fee or provide certificates free of cost to economically disadvantaged senior citizens. The certificate is required by senior citizens to establish their age while applying for pension benefits.Applicants have to visit Victoria Hospital, where a designated doctor examines them, fills out the application and provides the necessary seal and signature.ActionAid representatives said the process and the fee create difficulties for elderly applicants, who are often dependent on others to accompany them to the hospital.

# Red carpets, special trains & Chhath tunes: Bengal railways prepare for festive rush

### Eastern and South Eastern Railways announce additional trains and crowd-control measures; Howrah station's cabway converted into a passenger holding area

**Kolkata (Agency)**

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With a large number of passengers expected to travel for Chhath Puja, the Eastern and South Eastern Railways have put in place additional trains and crowd management measures across West Bengal. The arrangements include converting a section of Howrah station into a passenger holding area, adding coaches to existing trains and playing Chhath devotional songs at Kolkata station.

**Howrah station's cabway turned into holding area**

In an advisory issued on November 11, Eastern Railway announced the closure of the cabway between platforms 8 and 9 in the old complex of Howrah station to vehicular traffic from November 11 to 14.The area has been converted into a designated passenger holding zone, with a red carpet laid along the stretch and multicoloured fabric installed between the roofs of adjoining platform sheds. Assistance centres have also been set up, and security arrangements strengthened.In a post on X, Eastern Railway said the arrangement was intended to provide a "comfortable and organised waiting experience for Chhath-bound passengers".During the closure, passengers can access the platforms only through Pedestrian Entry Gate No. 2.

**Special trains across Bengal**

Eastern Railways has scheduled special trains to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi to meet the festive rush. On November 11, 15 special trains were scheduled, 12 of which either originated from or terminated at stations in the state, including Howrah, Sealdah, Kolkata, Shalimar, Asansol, and Durgapur.For November 12, 30 special trains were scheduled, 22 of which were to run through the state. On November 13, 21 of



the 27 scheduled trains will pass through Bengal. Of the 24 trains scheduled for November 14, 17 were to run through the state. On November 15, 14 of the 17 trains will have stoppages in Bengal, while eight of the 11 trains scheduled for November 16 will run through the state.In a statement, South Eastern Railway said it would operate 35 pairs of special trains, making 407 trips between Diwali and Chhath Puja. It has also added around 33 coaches to various trains to increase passenger capacity.

**Chhath songs at Kolkata station draw mixed reactions**

Chhath devotional songs were played at Kolkata station, according to a post on the official Facebook page of the Sealdah Division.

The post said the initiative was intended to fill the station premises with the "spirit of devotion and celebration"The move drew mixed reactions on social media. While some welcomed the initiative, others questioned whether similar arrangements had been made during festivals such as Kali Puja, Durga Puja, Eid and Christmas.

# 88 years ago, an Indian doctor became China's hero. Now, AI makeover will tell his story

### Five decades after its opening, a memorial to Indian doctor, Dwarkanath Kotnis, in China is set for an AI makeover. He had travelled to China in 1938 to treat soldiers

**Mumbai.(Agency)**

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In a quiet corner of Shijiazhuang, the capital of China's Hebei province, a nine-foot marble statue of an Indian doctor stands amid stone panels depicting the Taj Mahal, elephants, lotuses and other Indian motifs. At its feet lies the tombstone of Dr Dwarkanath Kotnis, a physician from Maharashtra's Solapur who travelled to China in 1938 as part of an Indian medical mission during the Second Sino-Japanese War.Nearly nine decades after Kotnis and four other Indian doctors arrived in China to treat wounded soldiers, the memorial dedicated to their service is set for a technological makeover.Authorities at the North China Military Region Martyrs Cemetery plan to introduce artificial intelligence and interactive technologies at the memorial hall to make the history of the Indian medical mission more accessible to visitors. The work is expected to begin by the end of this year, representatives of the cemetery told .

Established in the 1970s, the memorial hall houses sculptures of the five doctors, letters, photographs, artefacts and information panels documenting their work. The proposed upgrade aims to make the exhibits more interactive.The plan comes amid China's broader efforts to modernise its cultural institutions. On October 20, the country announced a programme to upgrade small and medium-sized museums during the 15th Five-Year Plan period (2026-2030), focusing on collections, exhibitions and educational programmes.

**The Indian medical mission**

In 1938, as China battled the Japanese



invasion, Chinese military commander-in-chief General Zhu De, wrote to Jawaharlal Nehru seeking assistance from the Indian National Congress. A five-member Indian Medical Mission was subsequently dispatched, arriving in Guangzhou in September that year.

The team comprised Dr Kotnis, Dr Bejoy Kumar Basu, Dr Madan Atal, Dr Mohanlal Cholkar and Dr Debesh Mukherjee. They began treating wounded soldiers at Guaimao Hospital under difficult conditions. In a letter to his family, Kotnis recalled that between 500 and 800 patients arrived daily from nearby battlefronts.By December 1939, Kotnis, Basu and Atal had reached the headquarters of the Eighth Route Army in Shanxi province, serving close to the frontlines. Kotnis learnt Chinese and gradually became immersed in local society. In 1941, he became the first president of the International Peace Hospital, where he performed operations, treated patients and trained medical students. He also married Chinese nurse Guo Qinglan, with whom he had a son, Yinhua.While the other members of the mission eventually returned to India, Kotnis continued working in China. He died in Gegong village while serving with the Eighth Route Army. Initially buried in a nearby village, his remains were transferred to the North China Military Region Martyrs Cemetery in the 1970s.

A section of the cemetery is dedicated to the Indian medical mission, with memorials to Kotnis, Basu and Atal. Known in China by his Chinese name, Ke Dihua, Kotnis remains a symbol of India-China friendship.

**A family's enduring connection**

In Mumbai, Kotnis's extended family has followed the evolution of the memorial over the decades, making repeated visits to Shijiazhuang.

## Bengaluru real estate businessman hacked to death in front of wife

**Bengaluru.(Agency)**

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A 39-year-old real estate businessman in Bengaluru was hacked to death in front of his wife near Punjab National Bank in Yelahanka New Town on Friday morning, the police said, adding that they are on the lookout for two men.The victim, Charan Gowda, from Channapatana, had been in the real estate business for about 10 years.According to preliminary investigation, the incident occurred around 10.30 am when he arrived at his office, Dhani Properties, by car. The assailants, who were reportedly waiting for him, suddenly attacked him with weapons. His wife, who witnessed



the attack, raised an alarm, but the accused fled the scene, the police said.

**Police scour CCTV footage**

After receiving information of the attack, the Yelahanka New Town police visited the spot and shifted the body to a government hospital. CCTV footage from the bank and nearby buildings is being examined to identify the attackers and establish their escape route, the police said.The police are also looking into a possible dispute arising from real estate and land transactions. A possible contract killing angle is also being examined, though the exact motive is yet to be established.

**Special team formed**

"We are investigating who was behind the murder and why it was committed. A murder case has been registered. We have some clues…the probe is underway," said G K Mithun Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North East Division), adding that a special team has been formed.

# 12 witnesses, no station diary: Ex-cop acquitted in 2010 custodial torture case

**Mumbai.(Agency)**

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A Mumbai court has acquitted a 72-year-old retired police sub-inspector, Munir Shaikh, in a case alleging the wrongful confinement and torture of a woman and her then 14-year-old daughter at Malvani police station in December 2010. The woman died 10 days after attempting suicide inside the police station.Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate D S Khedekar acquitted Shaikh, holding that the prosecution had failed to prove the charges beyond reasonable doubt. The court noted that crucial records, including station diary entries and duty rosters that could have established the alleged detention and Shaikh's role in it, had not been produced.According to the prosecution, Kunda Shinde and her daughter were detained at Malvani police station from December 14 to 21, 2010, to extract a confession in connection with an alleged gold theft at a residence in Malad. Kunda's daughter had alleged that Shaikh assaulted her and her mother in custody.On December 21, Kunda allegedly attempted suicide by hanging herself in a washroom of the police station. Police personnel rushed her to a hospital, where she died of cardiac arrest on December 31 while undergoing treatment.An independent inquiry was subsequently ordered, and the case was transferred to the Detection Crime Branch (DCB) – CID. While the initial FIR included a charge of abetment to suicide against Shaikh, the chargesheet invoked sections relating to wrongful confinement and confinement to extort a confession, alongside provisions of the Bombay Police Act.Several police witnesses said Kunda and her daughter were seen moving freely in the police station premises, rather than being kept under confinement. The court also found inconsistencies in the testimonies of the witnesses.Defence lawyer Ajay Dubey argued that the station diary and duty assignment registers, which could have established whether the two had been detained



and whether Shaikh had been assigned responsibility for them, were not produced.The magistrate held that there was no conclusive documentary evidence of their formal detention or official duties in connection with their alleged confinement. The charges of wrongful confinement and physical coercion could therefore not be sustained on the evidence presented."The prosecution has failed to prove guilt against the accused beyond reasonable doubt, and the benefit of the doubt goes in favour of the accused," the magistrate said in the judgment delivered on Monday.

# 6 arrested for 'flogging' dalit man to death for 'cutting foliage' in Surat village

**Ahmedabad.(Agency)**

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Surat district police arrested six persons who are migrants from Uttar Pradesh, for allegedly flogging a dalit man to death for "cutting foliage" in their plot.The victim Anil Rathod, 27 and his friend Nilesh Rathod, 26, residents of Saniya Kande village in Sachin area of Surat were reportedly cutting foliage in the Krishna Seven Star Party plot on the outskirts of the village on Wednesday (November 11) when the plot owner Vijay Maurya saw them and accused them of "theft".The police however, is investigating the real provocation for the alleged murder.



According to the police, the owner and five others "abused them with caste slurs", allegedly kidnapped them and took them to the Radhakrishna Party plot in Karadva village some two kilometres away where they "tied them to the pillar of the party plot's dome and flogged them with pieces of wood and electric service cables". Party plots are commercially let out for social and cultural events like weddings.Anil was severely injured and Nilesh somehow managed to escape from the spot. Seeing his condition the accused fled.

Nilesh contacted Prakash Rathod, Anil's brother-in-law who reached the spot with his family members and found him unconscious. They took Anil to New Civil Hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.Prakash Rathod, 25, a farm labourer, lodged a complaint at Dindoli police station against Vijay Maurya alias Sonu and others at Dindoli police station, on Wednesday. Police registered an FIR charging them with murder, illegal confinement, kidnapping, unlawful assembly and under sections of the Atrocities Act.Acting on the complaint, police arrested Vijay Maurya, Rahul Maurya, Abhishek Maurya, Sumit Singh, Sujit Yadav and Mahendra Maurya, all residents of Saniya Kande village. The accused are originally from Uttar Pradesh and have settled in Surat."We have arrested the accused six youths and have started a probe to find out the major cause of the incident", Surat Assistant commissioner of police J Division A C Tarde said.

# Damming a river that runs through an anxious valley

The Siang Upper Multipurpose Project is still at the pre-feasibility stage, with no dam site finalised and not a single borehole drilled. Yet it has already become one of the most bitter arguments in the Northeast. It pits a government worried about a giant Chinese dam upstream against the Adi people, one of the largest indigenous groups in Arunachal Pradesh who fear losing their villages, farms and a river they regard as their mother.

This old soldier spent enough years on the China front—including commanding a brigade in Arunachal's Tawang—to feel the pull of both arguments. Therefore, this article is an attempt to do what the shouting on each side has made hard: taking both cases seriously and saying plainly where each holds.Let's start with the government's worry. China approved its 60,000-MW Medog dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo in December 2024 and began work on July 19, 2025, roughly 50 km from where the river enters India, without prior consultation with the downstream countries.India has no water-sharing treaty with China, and the flood-season data agreement that lapsed in June 2023 is still being renegotiated. Nobody in Pasighat, headquarters of East Siang district, needs to be told what a surprise from upstream looks like, because in June 2000 a dam burst in Tibet resulted in the Siang river rising nearly 14 metres above the danger level.Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu calls Medog an existential threat, and the Union government has pitched the Siang project as a buffer that can regulate floods. Frankly though, the "water bomb" language needs trimming, since roughly 65-70 percent of the Brahmaputra's annual discharge is generated inside India; China describes Medog as a run-of-the-river scheme.The sharper risks are operational—an unannounced release in monsoon season or a squeeze in winter, when the Central Water Commission is cited as putting China's share of the Siang's flow at about 84 percent. Those are good reasons to want data and warning time, and the government is right to want both.

Now, let's do the maths. At 11,200 MW, the Siang project is less than a fifth of Medog, so it cannot counter the Chinese dam in any like-for-like sense. Its honest case is storage and signalling. About 9.2 billion cubic metres of live storage could, in principle, absorb a sudden surge and sustain lean-season flows, though that depends on design and operating rules yet to be settled, and the project tells Beijing that India means to build on a river flowing through territory China claims.

Now for the other side that deserves the same respect. For the Adi, the river is Ane Siang—Mother Siang—and their opposition is no passing mood. The community's council rejected the first proposal in 1979 and the Bogum Bokang Kebang, the community's supreme inter-village decision-making assembly, met at Geku on August 20, 2025—for the first time in about 25 years—to reject this one.Their fears are not invented. A study this March by Tadu Rimi of Shiv Nadar University estimated that 27 villages could be submerged and 43 more affected, and a wall of 280-300 metres is being contemplated in a part of the Himalayan arc that the revised seismic map of 2025 puts in a new highest-hazard zone.

# Agnipath scheme deserves a rollback

## Fiddling with a tried-and-tested recruitment system comes at a price

Four years after its launch, the Agnipath scheme has met its first real test, and the government has quietly altered course. On November 4, the Union Cabinet approved a two-year service extension for Agniveers. Those not falling within the first 25 per cent on merit, after the completion of the four-year contract, will get another chance to join as regular soldiers.

If this is indeed the start of a rollback, it is welcome. But a rollback after four years demands the question that was never properly answered in 2022: why was a tried, tested and well-established working system replaced so peremptorily in the first place?The Press Information Bureau's note of June 14, 2022, said the scheme would "enable a youthful profile of the Armed Forces," bring "a fresh lease of Josh and Jazba" and produce a "more tech-savvy" force. Among its dividends, the note listed patriotism, teamwork, physical fitness and loyalty to the country.None of this justifies demolishing an established system of recruitment, basic training and phased induction of military recruits and replacing it with an untried and essentially unsound scheme. Anyone who has witnessed or heard about recruitment rallies knows that the youth of this country do not lack Josh and Jazba (zeal and enthusiasm); they turn up to join in thousands. Patriotism, teamwork and physical fitness have never been in question in our regiments, warships and squadrons; nor is inculcating "loyalty to the country" a good enough reason to initiate a measure that will — in the long run — impact the basic structure of the armed forces.Lowering the average age may sound a laudable aim, but age does not equate to combat effectiveness. Skills do, and acquiring them takes time. Basic training of four to six months is grossly inadequate for recruits who come mostly from rural areas and are products of our flawed educational system. It requires to be followed by two to three years of hands-on and on-the-job training before a soldier, sailor or airman can be trusted with complex, expensive systems or in live-fire situations.A "smart" fresh recruit may be adept at handling a smartphone, but he will need months of training to understand the working of a radar, fire-control system, drone, missile, aero-engine or even a simple diesel generator, and to qualify as an "operator"

Behind the operators are the "maintainers", who service and fix defects in these systems and take longer still to train. Above all of them are the "ustads" or instructors who, after decades of experience, teach everyone, including officers. For every recruit who joins at 17½ years, the services require experienced and combat-hardened Subedar Majors, Master Chief Petty Officers and Master Warrant Officers who will retire at 54-56 years. Fiddle with the system and a price will have to be paid somewhere, as the Navy is finding out after losing, in 2022, its Artificer cadre, which supplied all its weapon, sensor and machinery maintainers.Under Agnipath, once basic training, annual leave and the pre-release period are deducted from the four-year engagement, the recruit's net availability is just about three years. That raises uncomfortable questions: will the service invest in teaching technical skills to someone who may leave soon? Will the Agniveer be interested in acquiring them if his retention is uncertain? The incentives point the wrong way for both.Whether the idea originated in the service headquarters or was imposed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD), a change of this magnitude should have been made the subject of a pilot project — to be tried out in one or more military units, or better still in the Territorial Army — and the results analysed. Instead, the entire armed forces have been abruptly subjected to this hazardous experiment.While the government has consistently denied an underlying financial motive, the scheme is almost certainly driven by the need to control the MoD's rising personnel costs, which squeeze funds for capital procurement. And yet, trading defence capability against pension savings is a bad bargain. If savings were never the underlying objective, the scheme loses its most tangible justification, and if they were, the logic is selective.Ex-servicemen are not the only beneficiaries of the Central government's pension system. The civil bureaucracy's pension bill is also growing at the same rate, yet nobody proposes to fix it by cutting tenures or suspending biannual dearness allowance or shelving the 8th Pay Commission.



In his 1999 book Defending India, the late Jaswant Singh, a former BJP minister and retired cavalry major, had written that "national security is acknowledged as the first charge on the treasury". He warned that the pension bill was growing at three times the rate of pay and allowances, a problem the country would one day have to face. Twenty-three years later, Agnipath was introduced as the panacea — a fiscal solution fobbed off as a military reform.Lately, there have been far too many instances where the armed forces were forced to comply with political diktats or judicial orders that compromised their ethos and combat readiness. The military leadership must stand firm and deliver an unambiguous message: any proposed reform/change must pass one non-negotiable test — does it enhance or diminish combat efficiency? The Agnipath scheme fails this test: it truncates essential training, fractures unit cohesion by creating multi-tiered classes of soldiers and erodes the morale of those asked to risk their lives under terms their peers do not share.

The two-year extension may provide breathing space by postponing a difficult decision, but it creates more problems than it solves and leaves the military with a foot on two stools. If the government now accepts that retaining trained personnel matters for operational reasons, it should restore a recruitment model based on adequate training, define an optimal spell of Colour Service and rigorously evaluate any future military reform on the sole criterion of combat capability. Agnipath should not be patch-repaired. It deserves to be aborted.

# Independent tests should inform action on ethanol

**This is not an issue that should be treated as yet another BJP-versus-Congress slugfest of contesting claims. Politics must be kept out of the debate while the states conduct more tests.**

The Karnataka government has kicked up a controversy by claiming that some of the petrol sold in the state has higher levels of ethanol than the prescribed 20 percent. Worried at such irregularities, neighbouring Keralam has also started inspecting fuel outlets in four districts. Excess ethanol may result in corrosion of some parts, reduce fuel economy and affect vehicle performance and longevity.

Concerns increased after tests on 63 samples from seven Karnataka districts conducted at a government-accredited laboratory revealed ethanol content of 19-31 percent; more results are awaited. The state's Food and Civil Supplies Minister Rizwan Arshad demanded independent testing, options for consumers between E10, E20 and unblended petrol, and more transparency on how ethanol affects vehicles.The central government, which has rushed the introduction of blended fuel, dismissed Karnataka's claims as "sensationalising" the results and questioned its testing methods. While oil companies have not disclosed their own results, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said their tests on 893 samples from 27 states and Union Territories showed ethanol content averaging 19.3 percent.He claimed Karnataka had not followed due procedure while testing and retaining outlet-wise details. The effect of E20, a part of the Centre's push for cleaner fuel and lower dependency on fossil-based sources, on vehicles is a cause for considerable concern.Car makers and owners have spoken out on corrosion of plastic and rubber parts in older vehicles, contamination, stalling engines and a drop in mileage. A consumer who pays more than Rs 100 for a litre of E20 petrol has the right to know whether it is harming the vehicle. The pricing of unblended petrol at about Rs 60 higher effectively leaves the buyer with a Hobson's choice.This is not an issue that should be treated as yet another BJP-versus-Congress slugfest of contesting claims. Politics must be kept out of the debate while the states conduct more tests. Neither can the Union government brush the consequential allegations under the carpet, nor can opposition-ruled states create a panic among car owners. Once clarity is achieved on the quality and quantity of blended ethanol, those crossing lines in government and oil companies should be held accountable. It would also be the time to address Karnataka's demand for compensating consumers for losses incurred due to damaged vehicles—estimated at nearly Rs 1.01 lakh crore a year.




# Smokescreen on the subcontinent

## This Diwali, though some social media rants suggested those opposing polluting crackers to 'Go to Gaza', the war-torn Palestinian enclave's air was far cleaner than that hanging over the subcontinent. Air pollution does not mind borders. So regional countries that have little or no fireworks suffered, too

This year, the legacy and the social media were awash with warnings about the pollution apocalypse to come on Diwali. As ever, the blowback from the zealous proponents of gunpowder-based firecrackers was intense, hostile, threatening and evictive.

The politest jibes included "Go to Pakistan!" and the newest was "Go to Gaza!" No one said "Go to Nepal!"

India comprises three-fourths of the subcontinental landmass. On Diwali, geospatial imaging shows this mainland obscured behind a gauze of aerial pollution that extends in a perimetric flow into Pakistan in the west, Bangladesh in the east and Nepal in the north.

Sri Lanka escapes this battering ram because, largely, the celebrants are limited to the country's 13 percent Hindu population, which is disciplined by the proscription on firecracker trade. The country's defence ministry has criminalised the production of explosives "using raw materials and other chemicals issued for the firecrackers and fireworks industry".

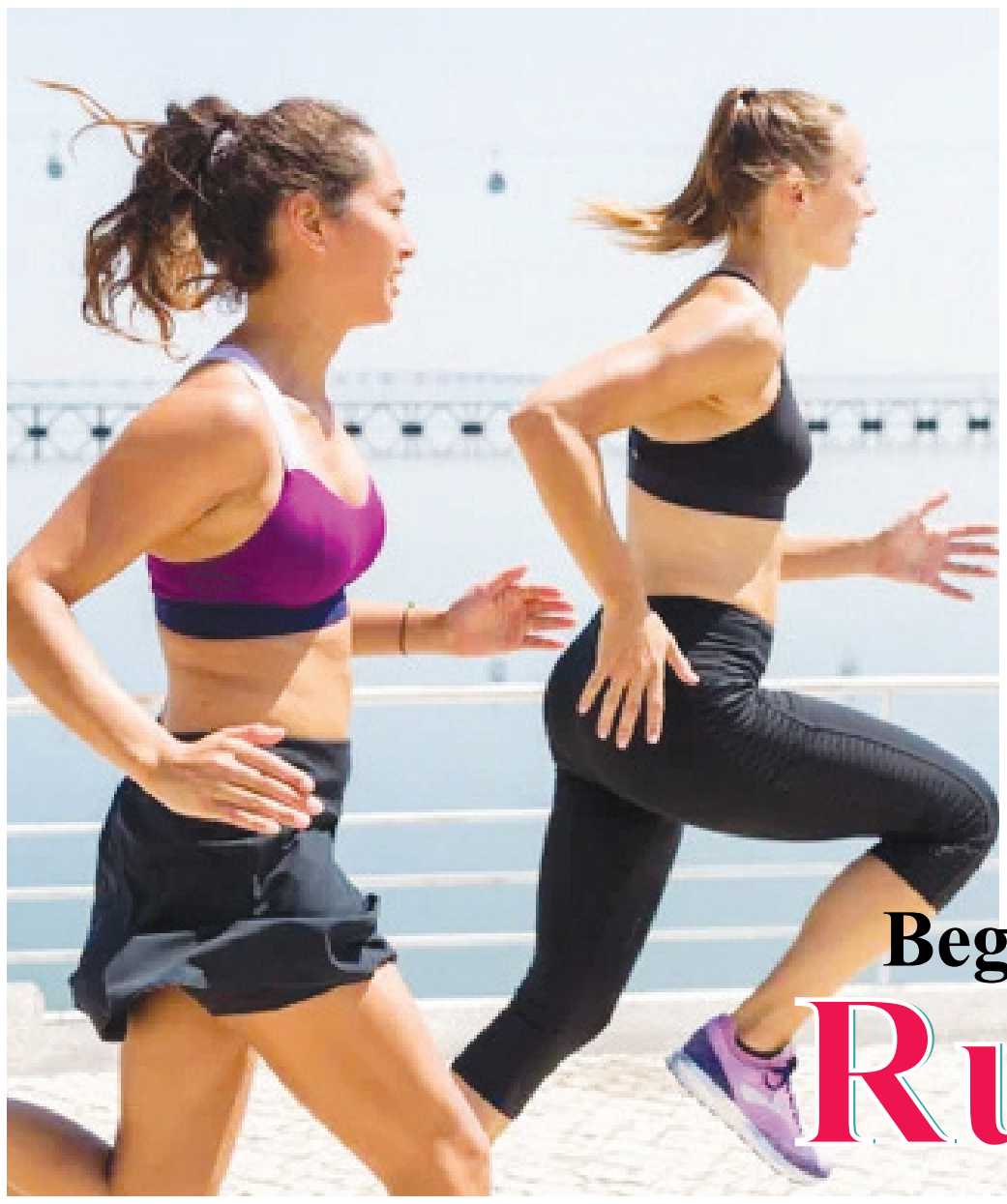
The southern hemisphere's southeast trade winds that cross the equator into India's high-temperature, low-pressure zone usually reverse their flow starting in October because India cools down by then—but the pollution from India is halted by ocean buffering and the distance of 1,600 km from northern India's vast Diwali ground zero, the Indo-Gangetic Plain.

Nepal has no such luck. The country banned firecrackers as far back as October 2006. Its criminal code outlaws the import, transportation, storage and distribution of fireworks. Violators can face up to three years imprisonment and up to Nepali Rs 30,000 in fine. Whatever homegrown firecracker pollution exists is concentrated in Madhesi pockets in the Terai region, where Indian-origin firecrackers find their way from just across the border. Nepal's upratcheting air quality index during the Diwali bracket is almost entirely blameable on pollution inflow from across the border.

In Pakisan, Diwali is celebrated by its Hindus, who comprise a mere 2.17 percent of the population, most of whom are concentrated in the Sindh province, which has Rajasthan and Gujarat to the east. Within Sindh, Hindus constitute slightly below 9 percent of the population. It is humanly impossible for Pakistan's Hindu minority to create the fug of fumes that covers Pakistan's east during Diwali. Pakistan's Punjab Environment Protection Department said that even sluggish easterly winds carry smog from India's north to Pakistan. The air quality in Lahore—which anyway has a heavy aeropollution problem—barely over 400 km from Delhi, peaked on Diwali, although it had been at a five-year low in October. The day after Diwali, almost miraculously, Lahore's air quality entered the non-hazardous zone. The AQI in the Sindh capital of Karachi, more than 1,000 km from Delhi, was satisfactory to moderate on Diwali—also probably because its celebrant Hindu minority is just over a mere 1 percent of the city's population—lower than that of Christians.Bangladesh has nearly 8 percent Hindus in its population, nearly all of them Bengali. Diwali is muted in the country because the predominantly Bengali festival of Kali Puja almost always falls on the same day as Diwali: Kartik Amavasya. The date vacillates annually with the lunar calendar, but the observances fall on the same night. However, Diwali in Bengal in India is typically boisterous, especially in Kolkata, nearly half of whose population is non-Bengali and is 60 km from Bangladesh.Cooling air subsides over India's northern plains of India and channels down the Indo-Gangetic Plain, cutting across Bengal into western and central Bangladesh. Satmaps show Diwali pollution pushing into these regions of Bangladesh riding these winds. Trans-boundary smoke drift characterises the border regions of western Bangladesh such as Khulna and Rajshahi, which are located directly downwind of Bengal.Meanwhile, katabatic winds flow across India's northeastern states into northern and eastern Bangladesh, where the AQI is significantly lower on Diwali, even though the Hindus in north and northeastern Bangladesh touch a quarter of the population—because Diwali is a very muted affair in India's Northeast.

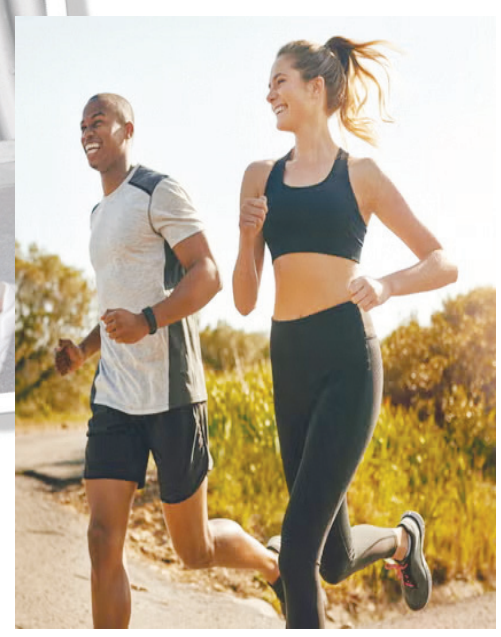


India's Diwali pollution does not infiltrate Afghanistan—because the winds face off against the towering wall of the Hindu Kush and the Himalayas, and Delhi and Kabul are separated by 1,000 km. Nor does it reach Iran, because the pollutants dilute and disperse along the way.If you place a compass point in the middle of the Indo-Gangetic Plain and draw a circle with a 1,000 km, it would encompass Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan and Bangladesh. China falls within the roundel, but is shielded by the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau. However, Tibet is not entirely protected from the Diwali pollution. North-South river gulches like the Kali Gandaki and the Yarlung Tsangpo form natural channels through which diurnal zephyrs vault polluted air onto the southern Tibetan Plateau.Diwali pollution is regionally omnipresent. There's no denying it. As for Gaza: bombed to smithereens and with cordite its predominant smell, it had an AQI of 59 on November 8—idyllic compared to India's.



# Beginners' guide to Running





Plan to do a little bit of running after a long time to stay fit? Don't compete with anyone else around you and start with abby steps, says an expert.

Adidas running expert Rajat Chauhan suggests how to go about it

- Don't try to rush back to being how active or fit you were at a particular stage in life. You'll get there and beyond, but you first need to understand the current situation too. Also, don't compete with anyone else around you. Start slow, make a solid foundation so that you don't get hurt.
- You'll notice that in running community everyone is too obsessed with numbers of all kinds. I suggest you don't worry about distance and speed for the first few months. Simply focus on 'time on feet'.
- Start by alternating gentle walking for one to five minutes with brisk walking for one to five minutes. Repeat three to six times. For the first week or two, stick to this.
- Once you get comfortable moving at brisk pace five to 10 minutes non-stop, then you can start jogging a little. Now start alternating one to five minute brisk walks with one to five minutes jogs. Repeat three to six times.
- You need to have strength training to get the best out of your running. It'll help you run more efficiently. Strength training could be done at home or at gym, using body weight or machines.
- The more you resist, the more unnatural will it become and more mistakes you'll make. Start by relaxing your shoulders and just by jogging in one spot. Have an imaginary papadum (papad) between your thumb and index finger of both hands. Since you aren't supposed to break it, you need to hold it softly, in effect relaxing your shoulders and upper body.
- Whether walking or running, you need to start working on your breathing. Don't take it for granted. Soon enough, when you start running, you'll get out of breath and start taking very shallow ineffective breaths. Practice breathing when you start walking by taking a long breath in, hold for a second or two and then breathe out. This will then come very naturally when you are even running at very fast speed.
- The only thing that you should listen to while running is your footsteps. If you can hear them, you are too loud. Be soft on your feet.
- Initially your body will tell you to just stop because it's not going to be comfortable. I suggest for first three to four weeks follow the above advice, but if there is pain that persists for a couple of days, seek medical help.
- For people who are just picking up running, I am not at all in favour of barefoot running. First learn how to run better and then do what you feel like but for now just pick up a decent running pair based on your needs. If you are a neutral runner, pick normal cushioned shoes, but if you are an over pronator, please pick stability shoes.
- Have a sip or two of water every 10 to 15 minutes, but no more. Best is to have electrolyte mix and not plain water. Never run straight after meal. Give a break of at least two hours. After a run, it's important you have some proteins within 20 to 30 minutes.

# 7 exercises you need to Avoid



Although it is true that there are no such things as "bad" exercises, certain faulty techniques can make an exercise useless and compromising.

While some of these exercises aren't optimal for fitness, some others should be avoided as they can easily lead to injury. However, it is important to understand that they are not always unsafe or unproductive. Adopting or avoiding any exercise technique depends on an individual's personal fitness goals and objectives. Read on to know more about these common red flags...

**Spot reduction exercises:** An ineffective method of 'burning fat' followed by many people is spot reduction. The popularity of this belief can be largely attributed to the many exercise gimmicks that we often see in infomercials regarding localized weight reduction. But always keep in mind that weight loss can never be isolated to a particular area. Localized strengthening and toning exercises will only help to firm muscles but will have no effect on the fat content of the target area. A better alternative is to adopt a well-rounded full-body weight reduction program.



**Leg extensions (Seated):** A very popular exercise for working the anterior thigh muscles, seated leg extensions are actually one of the most dangerous exercises in the gym. This is because the exercise places an unhealthy amount of stress on the knee joint. According to a research published in the "Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy", individuals who worked on the leg extension machines found no benefit during functional tests. This can be particularly dangerous for those who have any kind of knee problems. Safer alternatives are simple lunges and squats without any added weights.

**Leg press:** Another form of exercise that should be avoided is the leg press as this can place undue amount of stress on the lower back. This can thus predispose a person to low back injuries. Although, many claim that seated leg press exercises can train your hams, quadriceps and gluts, in reality, it does not engage these muscles at all. All it does is force the spine into a flexed position. Hence, instead of this, try working on body weight squats.

**Seated abduction or adduction:** Just like leg press, seated abduction/adduction movements can place great amounts of stress on your spine. Also, such movements only train these muscles as prime movers. But, in reality, during actual physical activity, they are used only as stabilizers and not as prime movers. An easy and effective alternative is lunges which can be used to train these muscles for their actual purpose of stabilizing.

**Leg curls:** According to strength and conditioning coach, Charlie Weingroff, exercises like deadlifts are more effective than leg curls. This is because the latter trains the hams only as knee flexors while, during activity, they are used mainly as hip extensors.

**Sit ups:** As per the recommendations by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a person should never apply more than 3400 newtons of force on his back at a time. Crossing this limit would place unnecessary stress on the back muscles leading to stress or injury. On an average, a regular sit-up program contributes around 3413 newtons of force on the back muscles. To avoid this, opt for short range crunch movements or tabletops.

**Lat pulldown exercises (behind the head):** This is a big "no-no" without proper form, as this may affect your shoulder joint functioning. Only those with extreme shoulder joint flexibility can opt for this exercise and that too, with extreme care for correct form. A better alternative for working your lats is by pulling the bar towards your chest and not behind the head. But, remember to keep your spine straight and abs pulled in while performing this.

# Use neem oil, garlic for mosquito-free home

*As the national capital battles one of its worst dengue seasons, experts suggest natural methods like neem and coconut oil concoction or garlic to keep the mosquito-borne tropical disease at bay.*



Neem oil acts as a great indoor mosquito-repellent owing to its smell that wards off mosquitoes. One can make an effective insecticide by mixing neem oil and coconut oil in equal proportion and rub it on the exposed parts of a body.

- Another natural method to keep mosquitoes at bay is to plant Tulsi near the window panes. The plant has properties that do not allow mosquitoes to breed.
- A mixture of lemon oil and eucalyptus oil is extremely effective in warding off mosquitoes naturally. Both have the active component cineole in it carrying antiseptic and insect repellent properties, which makes them effective when applied to the skin.
- Camphor is an easily available ingredient that kills mosquitoes in a house. Made from the extract of a tree, this compound has been found to have the longest mosquito repellent effect as compared to other natural products. Burning camphor in a closed room can be extremely effective in keeping mosquitoes at bay.
- Garlic might smell bad, but that is exactly why mosquitoes stay away. All you need to do is crush a few pods of garlic, boil them in water and spray the liquid in the room.

# Home remedies to battle stomach pain



The most common reason for stomach pain is indigestion. If the food you have eaten is not digested properly, it produces gas and toxic mucus in the stomach.

The half digested food also creates blockages in the bodily channels. In the long run, indigestion causes many health problems too. Dr. Smita Naram, Co-founder, Ayushakti shares some proven home remedies in Ayurveda which has helped lakhs of people to relieve pain, indigestion, gas, acidity, bloated stomach, etc. easily and stay healthy.

Low appetite, indigestion and pain

- One pinch each of dry ginger, black pepper, pipali, hing
- ½ teaspoon each of rock salt and black salt
- Kokum liquid extracted from 3 kokum.
- Mix all well and take it three times a day.

Home remedies to battle stomach pain

Slice fresh ginger in to pieces; rub it in rock salt and lemon juice. Dry it in sun shade and keep bottled. Eat 1 piece each after every meal. This is the best remedy to improve the digestion, reduce pain and gas.

Stomach pain due to acidity with gas

- Black Raisins 20 Nos.
- Jeshtimadhu Powder ½ Tsp.
- Amla Powder 1 Tsp.
- Cumin Seed Powder ½ Tsp.
- Fennel Seed Powder ½ Tsp.
- Dry Ginger Powder ¼ Tsp.
- Cardamom Powder ¼ Tsp.

Mix them to the water, mentioned in (1) and drink twice a day.

Acidity and burning

20 black resins soaked in 1 glass of water and smash it in the morning and drink on empty stomach. This reduces heat (pitta) and thus reduce acidity effectively.

Pain with diarrhea and dysentery

- 1 glass fresh buttermilk with 1 teaspoon of cumn seed powder.
- 1 cup pomegranate juice twice daily relieve from pain and also stops diarrhoea.

How panchkarma helps in relieving irritant abdominal pain ?

Basti karma is medicated enema effectively bring down the Vayu (air movement) and removes accumulated toxins through stool, and you feel relieved from pain and bloating of stomach.

Home remedies to battle stomach pain

Applying Hing paste on the naval area effectively relieves abdominal pain.

Home remedies to battle stomach pain

If you have pain and constant constipation: 1 teaspoon triphala powder with warm water daily at night relieves constipation. Also improves digestion and in the long run help to relieve from gas, acidity, bloated stomach.

# 7 baddies your kids can fall prey to





With the weather see-sawing between being mildly muggy and erratically rainy, some common ailments are likely to stage a return in the coming days. Here are simple ways to help your school-going child tackle them.

**Impetigo**

An infection caused by a bacterium, which infects healthy skin, the classic symptom of impetigo is a rash on the skin, typically the face. These rashes often look like moist, golden crusts stuck on to the skin. A spot of redness may develop under each patch. Sometimes the affected skin is just red and inflamed -— especially if the 'crust' is picked off. Children can also get secondary impetigo when the skin is already broken and they have had something like eczema.

Since it's infectious and typically affects nursery and primary schoolchildren, they should be kept away until there's no more blistering or crusting. The treatment usually lasts for seven to 10 days. And your general practitioner may often prescribe a fusidic acid cream. If it's badly infected or your child has a fever or swollen lymph glands, they might prescribe an oral antibiotic. To stay safe, don't share towels or bath water with someone who's got it until the infection has gone. Also, don't touch the affected area.

**Slapped cheek syndrome**

The most obvious symptom is a very distinctive red rash on the cheeks, which gives the condition its name. A child with it might feel sick, have a runny nose, fever and perhaps a headache too. This viral infection spreads easily and is caused by the air-borne parvovirus. Children are most contagious before the signs appear.

There's no specific treatment apart from regular fluids and pain relief for headaches. It's usually quite mild and will pass in a few days, so it's not something to keep them off school for. That said, the child should avoid contact with pregnant women and people with poor immune systems.

**Head lice**

If your child is tormented by an itchy scalp, you need to inspect the hair closely. The tiny eggs and lice are easy to spot. They are easily passed on when children are in close contact at school. You need a special toothcomb to get them out of the hair. If you miss any, they breed again. Apply the lotion again seven days later, which is the rough life cycle of an egg.

**Coughs and colds**

\The best way to prevent your kid from getting a runny nose or a sore throat is ensuring good personal hygiene. Regular hand-washing, for instance, may reduce chances of getting ill or passing on the infection.

Threadworms Threadworms are tiny parasitic worms in the bowel. At night they migrate to this area, lay their eggs and cause irritation. Tell-tale signs are a very itchy bottom area. The signs may be seen in underwear or pyjamas, and sometimes by an inspection of the bottom. It's passed from scratching then touching the mouth or biting nails. Good hygiene habits can prevent it.

Thankfully, it's easy to get rid of. One dose of a drug like Mebendazole or maybe a second dose a couple of weeks later is enough to banish them. Boil-wash bedding and towels to stop it from spreading.

**Molluscum**

Contagiosum These are small, almost wart-like lumps on the skin. Round and firm, they usually affect children of nursery age upwards. They are contagious but you don't need to keep children off school. Children don't tend to need any treatment unless they get infected, in which case they can be given an antibiotic. The lumps tend to last about 12-18 months. They're unsightly but don't do any harm. Though it can cause drowsiness, an oral antihistamine can be effective if the lumps itch.

Tummy bugs They can last 24 hours or longer, and in rare cases, can lead to a child being hospitalised. The symptoms are vomiting, diarrhoea and stomach cramps. In young children, the most common form is rotavirus, and for older ones, it's norovirus, which can last several days. The spread is very swift in a class and can catch on like wildfire. Children will need time off but can go back 48 hours after symptoms settle. Personal hygiene is key, and if the child has severe vomiting and diarrhoea, he/she will need to replace lost fluids. It's critical to have oral rehydration salts.



# The health dangers that each shoe carries

If stilettos harm feet, flat shoes can also be dangerous. Find out how these pretty shoes can be hazardous to health.

Jacqueline Sutera, a doctor of podiatric medicine and surgery, and Neal Blitz, Chief of Foot Surgery and Associate Chairman of Orthopedics at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital, share the dangers of our favourite shoes, reports a website.a

Running sneakers

Too much cushion is not the best thing. When you have a lot of cushion, you're not getting the foot-brain feedback that allows you to sense the ground. These shoes are ideal for forward motion like running, walking, jogging (not hiking, dancing, cycling, etc). Wearing these shoes can cause chronic stress injuries, particularly to the heel.

**Flip-flops**

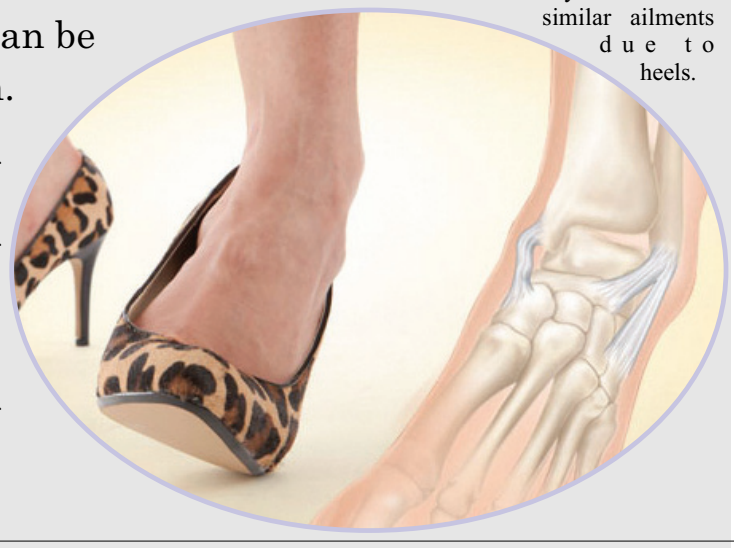
Most flip-flops are too flat, too thin and too open. This exposes the foot to the environment and doesn't provide arch support or cushioning. The thong between your toes is also dangerous as it forces your toe muscles to over-grip. Wearing these shoes can cause inflammation, heel pain, strains and fractures.

**Stilettos**

Wearing heels for long hours shifts your weight to the balls of your feet, which puts pressure on your foot. The sky-high heels can cause ankle sprains, midfoot fractures, neuazarsomas (benign nerve tumours).

Platform wedges

Wedges also have heels, which puts pressure on the foot. But the heels generally have more cushion. They often have platforms, which protect the ball of your foot and reduce the incline. But you can suffer similar ailments due to heels.



# Which workout should You pick?

Try some salsa and kickboxing to take care of that extra energy. Want to shed some kilos? Start spinning and weight training. Want to work on flexibility and core? How about some yoga and zumba? The choices are endless. Here are 10 easily available workouts that you can choose from today...and why they might be perfect for you!

**Zumba:** An hour of high intensity zumba can burn 400 to 600 calories, while strengthening your core and engaging your muscles. Add dance like movements, fun tracks to move to and you've got yourself a workout that you'll enjoy. Zumba comprised of a set of high tempo aerobic and bodyweight exercises, and has progressively difficult stages for those of you who believe in truly pushing yourself to achieve fitness results.

**Zumba fact:** Make sure that you progress in movements and engagement to avoid hitting an early plateau.

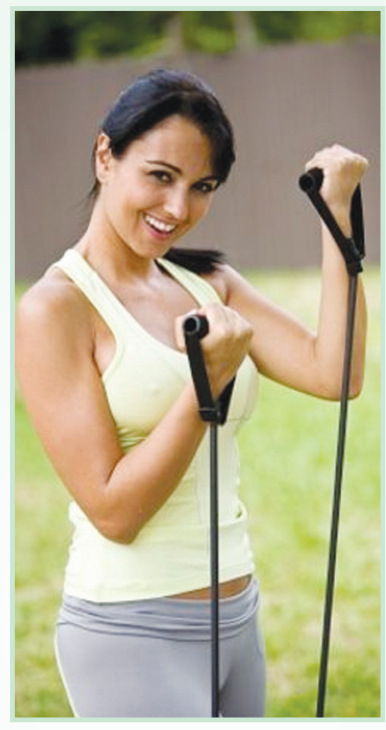
Kickboxing: If you're looking for a great fat burning and body toning workout that keeps you coming back, then kickboxing is the workout for you. Kickboxing burns approximately 800-900 calories per hour and builds speed, agility, strength and good form through some basic moves. Moves are combined and intensified to form workout routines that could even involve sparring, if you're up for it. Kickboxing is creating waves in most Indian cities as the new get-fit-now workout routine.

**Kickboxing fact:** Be prepared to sweat. A lot. Remember - the slower you move, the lesser you workout and the fewer the calories burnt per hour.

**Spinning:** Every second gym or fitness studio offers group-spinning classes with dedicated instructors. Several outdoor cyclists opt for spinning in the monsoon or winter months as a decent alternative to outdoor cycling workouts. Choose spinning workouts if you're looking to build stamina and resistance.

**Spinning fact:** Be prepared for a room full of sweaty folks with loud music (sometimes even disco lights!) and an instructor with a headset. To get the most out of a spinning workout - pay attention to what the instructor says.

**Cycling workouts:** If it's the real thing you want, then you don't even need a gym to start sweating it out on a cycle. Try urban cycling workouts. If biking through the city makes you feel nervous, simply go for early morning rides when the streets are empty and the air is fresh. An hour of moderate cycling can burn anything from 400 to 800 calories an hour, giving you a well-rounded workout that'll grow on you as you get used to cycling through your city's streets.



Cycling fact: Invest in a good bicycle and protective gear. Time yourself, and experiment with uphill and downhill cycling - yes, your city can offer you all this and more.

**Skipping workouts:** If you can jump rope for 10 minutes, then the skipping workouts might help solve your dilemma of how to clock daily workouts. Skipping as a cardio activity can easily be alternated with bodyweight exercises for a home workout. Since it's quite taxing, skipping burns approx. 400-500 calories an hour. Of course, skipping for an hour is near impossible for us mortal souls, but you can target 15 minute sessions spread through the day for similar results.

**Skipping fact:** Target a set number of revolutions. Buy a skipping rope with an in-built counter, and set goals of 100, 200, 300, or 500 revolutions in the shortest time.

**Dancing workouts:** With studios offering everything from street jazz to salsa and bollywood bhangra these days, Dancing is increasingly available to us city folk. Dancing engages your core, builds on your muscle range of motion through functional moves and keeps your heart pumping for that cardiovascular goodness. Although dancing workouts start out as low intensity, as you progress, they get tougher and therefore burn more calories eventually.

**Dancing fact:** Be sure to invest in a good pair of dancing shoes, and remember - the key is progression, so work hard to move up to higher levels.

Yoga: While yoga may not aid quick weight loss in its slower forms, it works wonders for joint flexibility, core strength and muscle tone. Forms like Iyengar yoga and Power yoga have made their presence felt in several new fitness studios that promise body-sculpting results as well. With 250-350 calories burnt per hour, yoga is a great way to stay in shape for those looking to maintain rather than lose. All you need is a yoga teacher and a yoga mat.

**Yoga fact:** Yoga also helps improve posture and breathing technique, which helps us fight daily stress more effectively.

**Aerobics:** Simple aerobic classes focus entirely on cardiovascular exercise. This can be as intensive as you want it to be. From 300 to 600 calories burnt per hour, aerobics depends on quick movements to build momentum and encourage weight loss as a by-product. A great way to avoid lifestyle diseases like diabetes and hypertension, aerobics class are now increasingly adding elements of resistance and strength to take their workouts further.

**Aerobics fact:** Simply practicing the same aerobics movements everyday isn't enough. Progression in intensity is key to reaping maximum benefits from aerobic activity.

**Weight training:** Weight training is a highly effective method to stay fit well into your middle to older years. As we age, our body's metabolic rate decreases. Through weight training, we build more muscle and evade slow metabolism since muscle burns calories more efficiently. Choose between weight training at the gym, or buying weights and following a home workout, but weight training is one of the best practices for healthy weight management, and immunity boosting.

Weight training fact: The right diet, rich in essential food groups is essential for a weight-training programme. You need to nourish your body to follow stringent weight training workouts.

## Bhikaji Cama Place gets 432-car parking place

**Delhi.(Agency)**

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In an attempt for a planned redevelopment and revitalisation of Bhikaji Cama Place—one of the city's busiest commercial hubs—a multi-level parking facility has been inaugurated.Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Friday inaugurated the facility that is likely to accommodate 432 cars and 193 two-wheelers including 20 bays reserved for persons with disabilities, and 193 two-wheelers, including 10 adapted two-wheeler parking bays.Congestion and unauthorised roadside parking have long been major challenges in these busy business district. Spread over a plot area of 6,040 sqm, the facility has a total built-up area of 15,449 sqm and comprises a basement, ground floor, two upper floors and a terrace-level parking area.

The facility has been developed with a range of modern amenities to ensure convenience, safety and efficient parking management. These include FASTag-enabled parking access, EV charging facilities for 18 cars simultaneously on a chargeable basis, CCTV surveillance, DG power backup for emergency services, a Parking Guidance and Management System, and lift access to every floor. Other facilities include drinking water, separate toilets for men, women and persons with disabilities, a drivers' waiting room, rainwater harvesting and firefighting and fire alarm systems.The project has been executed on an EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) basis, including all development works and services, along with operation and maintenance (O&M) for a period of two years, at an approximate tender cost of `40 crore.This is the second major multi-level car parking facility completed by DDA within a year. In February 2026, DDA inaugurated the six-level structured parking facility at Nehru Place, which has a capacity to accommodate 660 cars and 350 two-wheelers.

## Chandigarh filmmaker's documentary on city's original master plan selected for IFFI premiere

**Delhi.(Agency)**

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A 36-minute documentary directed by city-based filmmaker Suraj Kumar, 'Nirmanjali: The Chandigarh of Maciej Nowicki', has been selected for its world premiere at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), in the Best of Indian Panorama section. Kumar, who just recently won the 72nd National Film Award for Best Non-Feature Film.

The documentary revisits the early vision for Chandigarh through the leaf-shaped master plan associated with Polish architect Maciej Nowicki. It explores how the plan responded to the city's geographical setting and envisioned an urban environment centred on people, nature and everyday life.The film traces echoes of Nowicki's ideas in present-day Chandigarh, particularly in the planning and formation of Sectors 7 and 8, which are seen as a tribute to his influence on Swiss architect Pierre Jeanneret. It also examines the relationship between Nowicki's proposals and the city that eventually took shape, covering housing, markets, the industrial area, railway station, educational precincts, parks and gardens. It further looks at the locations envisioned for major civic landmarks, including the HC, secretariat, Assembly hall and Sukhna Lake, drawing connections between the original vision and Chandigarh's contemporary urban landscape.

The documentary features actor Victor Banerjee, Chandigarh College of Architecture Principal Prof Sangeeta Bagga, and architect SD Sharma, among others.The festival will take place from November 20 to 28.Fresh light on early ideas that shaped ChandigarhFilmmaker Suraj Kumar said the film is meant to bring attention to the early ideas that helped shape Chandigarh and Polish architect Maciej Nowicki's human-centred vision. He wants viewers to explore the history behind the city's streets, neighbourhoods and public spaces

# IAF officer accused of leaking war plans to Pakistan: Delhi court awaits prosecution sanction

**Delhi.(Agency)**

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A Delhi court may take cognisance of the chargesheet against an IAF wing commander held for sharing classified information with a Pakistani operative after the sanction to prosecute him is obtained.Directing the city police to expedite the process for sanction, the court has ordered the production of the accused Indian Air Force officer, Manorath Singh Sabharwal, on December 5. The Special Cell of the Delhi Police had registered a case against Sabharwal under the Official Secrets Act for sharing sensitive details, such as war-plan documents, deployment locations, troop movements and coordinates of crucial military installations with a Pakistani intelligence operative.

The city police earlier submitted its chargesheet in the case, and the matter is presently at the stage of taking cognisance of the final report. In its order dated October 31, Chief Judicial Magistrate Mridul Gupta noted that the sanction to prosecute the accused had not been obtained under Section 152 of the BNS.

"It is submitted on behalf of the state that the sanction qua Section 152 of the BNS (as required) under Section 217 BNSS and sanction qua offences under the Official Secrets Act, under Section 13 (3) Official Secrets Act, is pending. It is stated that the process of sanction is underway," the court said. The BNS section dealing with "offences against the state" penalises acts that endanger the country's sovereignty, unity and integrity.According to Section 217 of the BNSS, a sanction of the Central or state government is required to take cognisance of the alleged offence.

According to Section 13(3) in The Official Secrets Act, "No court shall take cognisance of any offence under this Act unless upon complaint made by order of, or under authority from, the appropriate government or some officer empowered by the appropriate government."In the October order, the magistrate said that the counsel of the accused claimed that there had been a considerable delay regarding the sanction. The court said, "The DCP concerned is directed to monitor the expeditious processing of the sanction in the present matter. Let a report as to the same be filed by the DCP concerned under his signature by the next date of hearing, considering the delay already caused in the present matter."

It directed that production warrants be issued against the accused for December 5.

**Eight district court judges transferred**

A total of eight judges of the Delhi district court, including two special court judges who have been hearing the DGHS scam case, the IRCTC hotel scam, and the railways land-for-jobs-linked money laundering cases, have been transferred.

**HC flags illegal construction on drain**

The Delhi HC has taken suo motu cognisance of the issues of waterlogging and "rampant illegal construction" on the Sriniwaspuri drain here. The court registered a fresh writ petition after the residents, who raised the issue withdrew their appeal due to threats.

## Delhi showcases Yamuna's mythological past through light and sound show on Chhath

**Delhi.(Agency)**

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The government on Friday hosted a light and sound show at the newly inaugurated Namo Yamuna River Safari in Sonia Vihar on the first day of Chhath, showcasing the mythological stories of Goddess Yamuna and Lord Krishna as part of its efforts to promote the riverfront as a tourism and cultural destination.The show traced the divine origins of Goddess Yamuna and her brother Yama before bringing alive the sacred tales of Yamuna and Lord Krishna through a captivating blend of music, illuminated visuals and a musical fountain.Chief Minister Rekha Gupta attended the event along with Union Minister of State Harsh Malhotra, city Cabinet Ministers Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Kapil Mishra and Ravindra Indraj, MP Manoj Tiwari, MLAs and other guests.Gupta said the show on the banks of the Yamuna at the beginning of Chhath was a special experience and would give the residents new opportunities to connect with the river, explore its cultural heritage and spend time with their families. She appealed to the Opposition not to politicise Chhath, saying the festival symbolises faith and unity and people should set aside political differences to celebrate it together.The chief minister added that the government was committed to the conservation and cleanliness of the Yamuna, the development of its banks and providing world-class facilities to residents.




# CBI searches 33 locations in Mahadev betting case, finds hawala links, mule accounts

**The searches were carried out over the past few days at premises linked to panel operators of the illegal betting platform in Delhi, Mumbai, Nagpur, Amritsar, Bhopal, Raipur and other cities, officials said on Saturday.**

**Delhi.(Agency)**

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The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted searches at 33 locations across six states in connection with its probe into the Rs 6,000-crore Mahadev online betting app scam, dismantling several live betting and gambling panels and recovering digital devices, mobile phones and incriminating documents.The searches were carried out over the past few days at premises linked to panel operators of the illegal betting platform in Delhi, Mumbai, Nagpur, Amritsar, Bhopal, Raipur and other cities, officials said on Saturday.The seized material allegedly points to the use of mule bank accounts and hawala channels to route betting proceeds abroad.The searches were conducted following disclosures made by Sourabh Chandrakar, one of the principal promoters of the Mahadev platform, after his extradition from Oman.He was arrested by the CBI on November 1 and questioned in connection with the functioning of the betting syndicate and its network of operators across India.According to the agency, Chandrakar's interrogation revealed details about the platform's operations and the network of panel operators. He was also confronted with documentary and digital evidence collected during the investigation.

The CBI said its investigation had revealed that the platform was being operated from abroad through a head office, while its operations in India were managed through an extensive network of panel operators.These operators allegedly created customer IDs, collected betting money through bank accounts opened or hired in the names of other people, and transferred the profits overseas through hawala channels, CBI spokesperson Beena Yadav said.The agency said the Mahadev Online Book was among India's largest illegal online betting syndicates. The platform allegedly facilitated betting on cricket, football, card games and other events through a network of franchised panels and branches across the country.The CBI has registered two FIRs in the Rs 6,000-crore betting scam after the investigation was transferred to the central agency by the Chhattisgarh government.After completing its initial questioning, the agency produced Chandrakar before a special CBI court in Raipur on November 12. He was subsequently remanded to judicial custody until November 19.The investigation is continuing into the role of other accused, including those based abroad, individuals who allegedly facilitated the betting operations and public servants suspected of involvement. The CBI is also pursuing the extradition of other accused who remain absconding, the spokesperson said.




# Man poses as PMO official to get CCTVs at steep discounts, CBI registers case

**A man has come under the CBI scanner for allegedly posing as a PMO joint secretary and intimidating CCTV firm CP Plus into installing surveillance equipment at his parents' home free of cost or at heavily discounted rates.**

**Delhi.(Agency)**

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The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case against an imposter who posed as a senior official in the Prime Minister's Office and pressured a CCTV company to provide equipment and services at steeply discounted rates, officials told news agency Press Trust of India.The case was filed against Manish Kumar, also known as Manish Kumar Gupta, following a complaint from the PMO.



He allegedly claimed to be a joint secretary in the office and used the supposed position to influence CCTV company CP Plus.According to the FIR, Gupta contacted CP Plus managing director Aditya Khemka on WhatsApp and introduced himself as the joint secretary for administration in the PMO.He allegedly asked the company to arrange and install indoor and outdoor CCTV surveillance equipment at his parents' home in Gaur Green Avenue, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad.He also provided the address and contact details of his brother, Mukesh Kumar Gupta.

When CP Plus officials sought clarification, Gupta threatened them with "dire" consequences if the installation was not completed immediately, either free of cost or at rock-bottom rates.He cited a mandatory "protocol" for his IAS officer brother, the FIR said."Due to intimidation and fear of official reprisal, CP Plus personnel and their CRM section directed concerned vendor Shri Anupam Kumar Gupta (M/s Secqua Technology) to prioritise the site survey and offer heavily discounted estimates," the FIR said, according to PTI.When the vendor said the costs could not be reduced further, Gupta threatened to take the matter directly to the owner of CP Plus.The vendor then stopped the work because of severe commercial pressure and harassment, the FIR claimed.The PMO confirmed to the CBI that no officer named Manish Kumar has ever served as a joint secretary or in any other official capacity in the office.

# DU gives nod to Rs 17 crore assistance for infant suffering from rare disease

**Child of a School of Open Learning faculty member suffers from SMA Type-II; crowdfunding and other contributions had raised Rs 3.11 crore towards treatment**

**Delhi.(Agency)**

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Delhi University has approved financial assistance of `17 crore for the treatment of a nine-month-old child suffering from spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) Type-II, a rare genetic disorder, according to a university statement. The child is the daughter of a faculty member at the university's School of Open Learning (SOL).Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh constituted a special committee to examine the proposal, which was unanimously approved after deliberations on its technical aspects, the official statement noted.The initiative was taken by SOL Director Payal Mago, who first placed the proposal before the school's Governing Body and secured its approval.

Representatives of the SOL Academic Association also made efforts to mobilise funds through crowdfunding and seek government assistance. The campaign raised `3.11 crore, with contributions from the Tata Trust, the chief minister's relief fund, crowdfunding platforms such as Impact Guru, Milaap, Ketto and GoFundMe, and the SOL Teacher Relief Fund and non-academic staff association.

However, the amount raised was insufficient to meet the treatment expenses, following which Mago approached the vice-chancellor for further assistance.The university statement credited Registrar Vikas Gupta, South Campus Director Rajni Abbi and other committee members for their role in the approval of the financial assistance. It said the decision was taken in view of the urgency of the child's treatment and the need to ensure that financial constraints did not delay medical care.



**Daughter of faculty with genetic disorder to gain**

The sum of `17 crore will aid in the treatment of a nine-month-old child suffering from spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) Type-II, a rare genetic disorder, according to a university statement. The child is the daughter of a faculty member at the university's School of Open Learning (SOL). The initiative was taken by SOL director Payal Mago.

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

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

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Gold rates drop on Saturday, currently standing at Rs 13,762 per gram for 24-carat purity on November 14, 2026. Rates for 22K and 18K gold are Rs 12,615 per gram and Rs 10,322 per gram, respectively.Prices of precious metal dipped by Rs 87 for 24K purity, Rs 80 for 22K purity, and Rs 65 for 18K purity compared with November 13, 2026.

Following the US mid-term election results uncertainty prevailed over the ongoing US-Iran conflict, easing inflation concerns sending the crude rates for a weekly decline.

Brent crude rose on Friday to $95.57 a barrel after the prices dropped on Thursday to $91.29. US President Donald Trump said that the US does not need a deal with Iran, sparking fresh concerns over the conflict in the Middle East. Earlier, he hinted towards easing of conflict in the Middle East region, saying that it is highly unlikely to launch fresh attacks on Iran as long as the talks proceed regarding ending the conflict. The easing crude prices with expectations of lowering tension in the Middle East supported bullion.US Federal Reserve's decision to keep the interest rates unchanged however 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.Also, the 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.

Gold continues to remain under pressure, as its trajectory is likely to be influenced by geopolitical concerns and energy prices, with the Federal Reserve's rate decisions further affecting its price.

On a different note, festive buying across India is also playing a role in determining the cost of the yellow metal in domestic market.

## NPS withdrawal rules: SLW vs SUR; how should retirees withdraw their pension corpus

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

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A person earns for years while planning for future stability, which depends on savings habits and financial choices. Among the many investment tools catering to retirement, the National Pension System (NPS) is quite prominent. It is a government-backed scheme that helps one accumulate dedicated funds that can later be drawn as a pension.The rules that guide the amount to be withdrawn are based on multiple factors. Moreover, the mode of these withdrawals also depends on the size of the corpus and one's personal situation.

For those with a corpus of up to Rs 8 lakh, there is no limit on the amount that can be withdrawn. A person is free to take the whole amount as a lump sum, use withdrawal options such as Systematic Lump-sum Withdrawal (SLW) and Systematic Unit Redemption (SUR), or opt for other PFRDA-approved options.If the corpus ranges between Rs 8 lakh and Rs 12 lakh, Rs 6 lakh is allowed to be taken as a lump sum, while the rest is withdrawn through SUR over a period of at least six years. The person may also choose to invest the remaining balance in an annuity.The rules differ for government employees and non-government subscribers if the total corpus exceeds Rs 12 lakh. Government employees are required to invest at least 40% of the corpus to buy an annuity at normal exit. A private-sector employee, meanwhile, can withdraw 80% of the corpus as a lump sum or through SLW and SUR, while the remaining 20% must be used for annuity purchase.

## Tata Trusts: Vijay Singh-Venu Srinivasan respond to Khambata; Tata Sons listing in focus

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

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Tata Trust vice chairman Vijay Singh and Venu Srinivasan have responded to the allegations of senior advocate Darius Khambatta's recent allegations on developments related to Tata Sons. Khambata had shot off a letter to Tata Trust chairman Noel Tata on November 2, stating his decision not to seek re-appointment as a trustee, raising questions on the functioning of Tata Sons, talks with the RBI regarding its regulatory status, possible listing of the company and issues related to governance in the Tata Group.

The reply letter sent on November 11 is signed by both Vijay Singh and Venu Srinivasan. In this he said that he is not questioning the honesty of Khambata, but in his letter, many important aspects have not been given complete information. Singh said that impartiality means that one's allies should be tested on the same criteria as opponents.ere it has had a presence for more than 15 years.

**On talks with RBI**

Khambata raised questions about Tata Sons' interaction with RBI. He said that this conversation was neither effective nor successful. In response, Singh rejected this claim. He said that the talks with RBI started in 2023. After this, Tata Sons paid off the loan and applied for cancellation of registration in March 2024.

# Chhath, wedding rush drives up airfares; traders' body urges government to act

**CTI has urged the Civil Aviation Minister to cap fares after prices rose by up to 50 per cent. The surge has increased costs for passengers travelling during Chhath and the wedding season.**

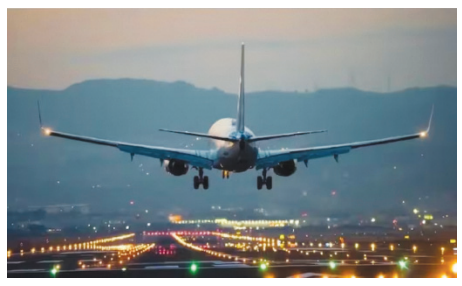
**New Delhi. (Agency)**

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Airfares have risen by up to 50 per cent over the past 15 days amid the Chhath festival and the upcoming wedding season, adding to the travel expenses of passengers planning to visit their hometowns.The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) has written to Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, seeking government intervention to curb the increase and introduce an upper limit on airfares.According to CTI, ticket prices on several routes have increased sharply, with fares on some sectors nearly doubling. The organisation said the surge has affected not only business travellers but also middle-class families and ordinary passengers who are planning to travel during the festive and wedding seasons.Chhath is expected to prompt a large number of people to travel to their hometowns, while the wedding season is set to begin on November 20. CTI said passengers are being forced to pay several times the usual ticket prices during this period.CTI Chairman Brijesh Goyal said the sudden increase in fares was putting an additional financial burden on passengers. He said airlines were charging higher prices at a time when people had limited travel options because of the festivals and wedding-related commitments.

**DELHI-PATNA AIRFARE TOUCHES RS 18,000, CTI SURVEY FINDS**

A CTI survey found that airfares from Delhi to several cities have increased significantly in recent days. According to the organisation, a ticket from Delhi to Patna is currently costing around Rs 18,000, while fares to Darbhanga have reached approximately Rs 20,000.



The survey also found that tickets from Delhi to Mumbai are priced at around Rs 15,000, while fares to Bengaluru range between Rs 16,000 and Rs 18,000. On other routes, tickets from Delhi to Ahmedabad are reportedly costing around Rs 11,000, while fares to Hyderabad range from Rs 11,000 to Rs 15,000.Goyal said tickets on several of these routes were available at nearly half these prices just a few days ago. He said the sharp increase was making air travel unaffordable for many passengers, particularly those travelling during the festive season.

**CTI SEEKS AIRFARE CAPS, MORE FLIGHTS ON BUSY ROUTES**

In its letter to the Civil Aviation Minister, CTI has put forward five demands to address the rise in airfares. The organisation has urged the government to intervene immediately and introduce an upper fare limit for each route to prevent airlines from charging excessive prices during periods of high demand.It has also prop, as the cost of a 500-km journey should not be comparable to that of a 1,500-km flight.

# Jensen Huang's Nvidia exit could be a shot in the arm for cousin Lisa Su's AMD

**A 158% stock rally, a CEO-of-the-Year award, a family connection between two rival chipmaking bosses and a congratulatory post that landed amid Nvidia's leadership crisis. Lisa Su's big moment has come at a rather extraordinary time for AMD.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

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It It has been quite a year for Lisa Su. The AMD chief has overseen a spectacular stock-market run, struck major deals in artificial intelligence and helped position the once-struggling chipmaker as Nvidia's strongest challenger.AMD, short for Advanced Micro Devices, is a US semiconductor company that designs processors and graphics chips used in computers, gaming consoles and data centres.On Thursday, November 12, she added another accolade to that list when Yahoo Finance named her its CEO of the Year for 2026. But the timing of the recognition made the moment even more striking.On the same day, Nvidia announced that its co-founder and longtime chief executive Jensen Huang had resigned with immediate effect. The development sent shockwaves through the semiconductor industry, putting the spotlight on AMD just as its chief was celebrating a year of remarkable gains.And there is a family connection that makes the coincidence even more intriguing.



Su and Huang are first cousins once removed, leading two companies locked in one of the most consequential battles in the global technology industry.

**A 158% RALLY AND A CEO-OF-THE-YEAR CROWN**

Yahoo Finance's recognition came after a stellar year for Su and AMD. The company's shares had risen 158% year-to-date, significantly outperforming Nvidia, whose stock was down 7% over the same period, according to Yahoo Finance's comparison.AMD's market capitalisation briefly crossed $1 trillion in September, marking a major milestone for a company that was struggling to compete when Su took charge in 2014.The business momentum has been backed by strong financial results. AMD reported record third-quarter 2026 revenue of $13.38 billion, up 45% from a year earlier. Its data-centre business generated $8.5 billion, a 97% jump year-on-year, driven by demand for EPYC server processors and its Instinct AI accelerators.

The company also reported adjusted earnings per share of $2.09, up 74% from the year-ago quarter.

For the fourth quarter, AMD expects data-centre revenue to rise 50% sequentially. Su has also outlined an ambitious growth outlook for 2027, projecting revenue growth of more than 80%, with server revenue expected to double and data-centre AI revenue more than double.

## India on track to achieve the $1 trillion export target; exports reached $570 billion up to Oct: Piyush Goyal

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

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India is well on track to achieve the $1 trillion export target in the current fiscal and exports during the first seven months (up to October) had reached $570 billion, an unprecedented achievement, according to Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal.

India recorded an all-time high in exports of nearly $90 billion in October 2026, comprising approximately $50 billion in merchandise exports and $40 billion in services exports.Goyal expressed confidence that India's international trade would grow by 15-16 per cent during the current year, despite two ongoing wars, global volatility and uncertainty, and subdued international trade growth, which is expected to remain around 3.5 per cent.

He said India's performance reflected the strength of its economy, the confidence of its exporters and the country's ability to face global challenges with determination and self-respect.

Inaugurating the '45th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2026' at Bharat Mandapam here, the minister called upon Indian businesses, manufacturers, exporters, artisans and entrepreneurs to leverage the opportunities created by India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and expand their presence in international markets.He emphasised that with markets across the developed world opening up for Indian goods and services, businesses must seize these opportunities and contribute to India's journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047.

Goyal said that the 45th edition of IITF reflected five dimensions of Bharat: its economy, exports, infrastructure growth, the demand generated by 1.4 billion Indians and the country's rich diversity.

Highlighting the new initiatives introduced at this year's fair, the Minister said that more than 30 States and Union Territories were showcasing their strengths, with over 3,500 exhibitors and participation from 11 countries.

The One District, One Product Pavilion initiative, would showcase products from different parts of the country, highlighting India's strengths in arts, handicrafts, handloom and food products.

The government would soon launch the next phase of expansion of Bharat Mandapam, which would almost double the available exhibition space for exhibitors.

He said that the success of recent exhibitions, including IITF, had demonstrated that even the significantly expanded facilities available today were no longer adequate to meet growing demand.

# Softbank further trims India exposure, offloads Meesho shares worth Rs 1,885 crore

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

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Japanese investor SoftBank Group has sold 1.65 per cent stake in Meesho for Rs 1,885 crore, further trimming its investments in India's e-commerce sector.In the latest transaction, SVF II Meerkat (DE) LLC, an affiliate of SoftBank, offloaded 7.64 crore shares in Bengaluru-based Meesho, according to the block deal data on the National Stock Exchange (NSE). The share sale was executed on Friday at an average price of Rs 246.75 apiece, taking the total deal value to Rs 1,885.17 crore. With this, the affiliate's holding in Meesho has fallen to 5.19 per cent from 6.84 per cent.The stake sale, however, found buyers, with a clutch of domestic and foreign institutional investors participating in the transaction, with Societe Generale (SocGen) emerging as the largest buyer.

Paris-based financial services firm SocGen picked up more than 1.47 crore shares, or a 0.32 per cent stake, for Rs 364.65 crore.Domestic institutional buyers included mutual funds managed by Motilal Oswal, HDFC, Edelweiss and Aditya Birla Sun Life, along with Bajaj Life Insurance.Overseas participants included Morgan Stanley, Fidelity Investments, BNP Paribas, Goldman Sachs, Ghisallo Capital Management, William Blair Investment Management and Texas Municipal Retirement System.The Singaporean government, Monetary Authority of Singapore and Norway's sovereign wealth fund Government Pension Fund Global, also participated in the transaction.

# Yes Bank denies report of $3.4 million cyber fraud involving govt accounts

**The statement from the bank refuted the report by The Banker, a publication of the Financial Times Group, titled 'India on high alert after alleged $3.4mn cyber loss at Yes Bank', alleging that the incident had occurred at the end of October 2026, according to multiple reports.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

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Yes Bank on Friday, Nov 13, denied a report claiming that a cyber fraud had resulted in a loss of nearly $3.4 million. The alleged fraud involved government accounts. The bank, however, refuted the claims, clarifying that its systems were intact and there were no financial losses.The bank issued the statement denying a report by The Banker titled 'India on high alert after alleged $3.4mn cyber loss at Yes Bank'. As per the report, Yes Bank suffered the loss in an incident that occurred at the end of October 2026.The bank called the claims factually incorrect and stated that the report did not reflect the actual position. As per the statement, the matter had been taken up with the media organisation to discuss the factual inaccuracies, and a retraction had been demanded.As per reports, the bank said that false claims published regarding the financial loss and cyber fraud were detrimental to its reputation and could potentially create unwarranted concerns among stakeholders."YES BANK remains committed to upholding the highest standards of banking security, operational integrity and customer trust," the bank said.

Earlier this month, Yes Bank rejected allegations of wilful disobedience levelled by Axis Trustee Services over the delay in reinstating Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) bonds worth Rs 8,415 crore, following the Supreme Court's order setting aside their write-off.




The lender, however, faces the prospect of contempt proceedings, with Axis Trustee Services warning that it would initiate legal action if the bonds were not restored within three days of its communication to the bank.

In a stock exchange filing, Yes Bank said it had responded to the trustee's letter of October 28, which sought the reinstatement of the bonds and completion of all necessary corporate actions within three days.

In its response, the bank said it did not accept the trustee's characterisation of its conduct as wilful disobedience, adding that its examination of the matter and assessment of the consequences were aimed at ensuring compliance with the Supreme Court judgment.Yes Bank reported a year-on-year jump of 65 per cent in its profit during the September quarter of FY27 to ₹1,080 crore. The lender said the results did not account for the impact of the Supreme Court ruling that overturned the bank's 2020 write-off of ₹8,400 crore worth of Additional Tier-1 (AT1) bonds. Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation holds a 24.99 per cent stake in the bank.

# 5,571 farm fire alerts, 1,536 FIRs: Why satellite detections don't translate into police action

**Jalandhar.(Agency)**

From September 15 to November 12, Punjab has recorded 5,571 stubble burning incidents. However, the number of FIRs registered in the same period was nearly one fourth or only 1,536. The less number of FIRs does not simply reflect a failure to act on satellite alerts, but there are a lot of factors involved.Officials involved in the enforcement process say each fire incident reported through satellite goes through field inspection and physical verification of the stubble fire, and subsequent action depends on whether burning is confirmed, the person responsible can be identified and the prescribed procedure is followed.According to the latest figures compiled by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), physical inspections have been conducted at 5,089 of the 5,571 satellite-reported locations.

Crop burning was verified physically at 2,176 locations. The state has registered 1,536 FIRs, accounting for approximately 27.6 per cent of the satellite-reported incidents.The figures also include



1,769 red entries in farm records and environmental compensation imposed in 1,884 cases. These are separate enforcement measures, with action taken after the prescribed verification process.

Interestingly, 161 additional cases of crop residue burning were detected through ground-level inspections at locations that had not initially been flagged by satellite remote sensing. These were identified by the Parali Protection Force (PPF) and designated nodal officers during their field visits. Such cases underline that physical monitoring also plays a role beyond satellite-based detection.Officials involved in the verification process attribute the difference between satellite alerts and subsequent enforcement action to several factors, including inaccuracies in satellite coordinates, instances where no stubble fire is found at the several reported location, delays in physical inspections and difficulties in establishing land ownership and identifying those responsible for burning."One of the major challenges is the margin of error in satellite coordinates. The location provided by satellites can deviate by 700 to 800m. Subsequently, when nodal officers reach the reported GPS coordinates, they sometimes find no evidence of burning at the spot. In such cases, the location is revisited by verification teams to establish whether burning actually took place," said a senior Agriculture Department officer.The officer said that where no evidence of burning is found, the concerned official is required to upload a 360-degree video of the location on the designated portal to substantiate the findings.

## Kerala police arrest man accused of tracking film stars for Lawrence Bishnoi gang

**Thrissur.(Agency)**

A 27-year-old man arrested in Kerala for his alleged links with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang had reportedly photographed film stars in Mumbai and shared the images with suspected gang members, news agency Press Trust of India reported on Saturday, citing police sources.Police said that Gurumoorthi, a Tamil Nadu native, had also monitored the movements of film stars and passed the information to gang members abroad. Money was allegedly transferred in return to his wife's bank account in Udumalpet, Tamil Nadu.A special team of the Thrissur City Police arrested Gurumoorthi from Ottapalam in Palakkad district on Thursday night. He had been working at a milk booth and staying in the area for the past several months.Gurumoorthi had earlier lived in Bharath Khandivelly West in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, before moving to Ottapalam, police said.The Thrissur East police station registered a case on Thursday after receiving intelligence that people allegedly linked to the Bishnoi gang were hiding in Kerala. Police said the gang was involved in several murder and extortion.

## TTD permits ASI to document and digitise Tirumala temple inscriptions

**TIRUPATI.(Agency)**

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has granted permission to the Epigraphy Branch of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to document and digitise inscriptions engraved on the walls of the Sri Venkateswara temple at Tirumala.

Permission has been accorded to a team of 21 ASI officials, including Director of Epigraphy K Munirathnam Reddy, to undertake the inscription-copying work on the second Prakaram (enclosure) of the temple from December 1 to 11.The project aims to digitise the inscriptions and upload them on the BharatSHRI website, making their estampages, transcripts and summaries accessible online to the general public and researchers.

The temple walls contain around 750 inscriptions of the rulers belonging to various dynasties, including the Pallavas, Cholas, Pandyas, Kadavarayas, Yadavas, Telugu Cholas, and Vijayanagara kings.The TTD has directed its officials to make necessary arrangements for the ASI team during the 11-day exercise.

Munirathnam Reddy thanked the State government, TTD Chairman and Executive Officer Muddada Ravichandra, and Additional Executive Officer Ch Venkaiah Chowdary for granting permission to undertake the work. The initiative is expected to preserve the invaluable epigraphical heritage of the temple in digital form.

## Keralam doctor taken into custody for sexually harassing junior at govt hospital

**Thiruvananthapuram.(Agency)**

A doctor at a government hospital in Keralam was taken into custody on Saturday for sexually harassing a house surgeon, police told news agency Press Trust of India.Keralam Health Minister K Muraleedharan said strict action would be taken against the doctor and that the government would ensure the safety of women doctors.The accused, Dr VK Vinu, works at the Nedumangad Government Taluk Hospital in Thiruvananthapuram.He was taken into custody from his residence at around 2 am following protests by Democratic Youth Federation of India workers and others at the Nedumangad police station.According to police, the house surgeon, who is a postgraduate student, approached Vinu on Friday afternoon after noticing a swelling on her body

Vinu asked her to meet him in a room, where he made sexual advances towards her.The student managed to leave the room and approached the police with the help of her colleagues. Alleging inaction by the police, DYFI workers staged a protest outside the police station on Friday night.Police told PTI that Vinu was taken into custody after the student's detailed statement was recorded. Officials said further legal proceedings would be initiated after his preliminary questioning.

# Andhra Pradesh: SEC issues notification for 1st phase of panchayat elections

## Polls for 3,967 Sarpanch & 40,012 ward member posts to be held on Nov 26

**VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)**

The State Election Commission on Friday issued notification for the first phase polling of gram panchayats which will be held in three phases.The rural local body elections will cover 13,167 Sarpanch posts and 1,32,514 ward member positions, with 2.61 crore voters set to exercise their franchise.Polling will be conducted on November 26, 29 and December 2, while notifications for the second and third phases will be issued on November 16 and 19, respectively.



According to the election statistics released by the Commission, the total electorate stands at 2,61,52,377, comprising 1,28,76,887 male voters, 1,32,74,208 female voters and 1,282 voters belonging to the other category. In the first phase, elections will be held for 3,967 Sarpanch posts and 40,012 ward member posts. The second phase will cover 4,960 Sarpanch posts and 49,224 ward member posts, while the third phase will involve 4,240 Sarpanch posts and 42,626 ward member posts.The nomination process for the first phase will begin on November 15 and continue until November 17. Scrutiny of nominations will take place on November 18, while the last date for withdrawal is November 21. The corresponding nomination process for the second phase will be held from November 18 to 20, and for the third phase from November 21 to 23.Polling in all three phases will take place from 7 am to 1 pm. Counting of votes will begin at 2 pm on the respective polling dates, and results will be declared soon after the completion of counting. Elections to the Upa-Sarpanch posts will also be conducted on the same day on which the results are announced.Of the 13,167 Sarpanch posts, 6,445 have been reserved for women across different categories. The reservations include 1,180 posts for Scheduled Tribes, 2,466 for Scheduled Castes and 3,105 for Backward Classes.Another 3,299 posts have been earmarked for women under the general category, while 3,117 posts fall under the unreserved category. Similarly, of the 1,32,514 ward member posts, 66,170 have been reserved for women.A total of 1,34,847 polling stations will be set up, of which 35,642 have been identified as sensitive and 28,568 as hypersensitive. The election machinery will involve 4,389 Returning Officers at Stage-1 and 13,169 at Stage-2, besides 4,389 Assistant Returning Officers.For security, 34 SPs, 51 ASPs, 151 DSPs, 768 Inspectors and Reserve Inspectors, 1,637 Sub-Inspectors and Reserve Sub-Inspectors, besides other police personnel will be deployed.

## No show at Delhi protests costs 90 UP Youth Congress leaders their posts

**Lucknow.(Agency)**

The Indian Youth Congress (IYC) has suspended nearly 90 office-bearers from across Uttar Pradesh for allegedly failing to attend three recent Congress protests in Delhi, including a rally at Ramlila Maidan on November 1.State vice-presidents, general secretaries, secretaries and several district presidents are on the suspension list dated November 12, it is learnt.In the order, the IYC said it had taken a serious note of the office-bearers' absence from the Delhi programmes and decided to suspend them with immediate effect till further notice.The action was part of an organisational review aimed at ensuring the participation of office-bearers in party programmes and protests. Besides the November 1 event at Ramlila Maidan, the other programmes included a march held on October 12.Of those facing the suspension, 67 office-bearers are from eastern UP, including three state vice-presidents, 33 general secretaries, 18 secretaries, a joint secretary and 12 district presidents, a youth wing leader said.The district presidents named in the list are from Ballia, Basti, Chandauli, Kaushambi, Kushinagar, Mau, Mirzapur, Prayagraj, Sant Kabir Nagar, Siddharthnagar, Varanasi and Maharajganj.Vishal Singh, IYC state president for the East Zone, told The Indian Express that while 67 office-bearers are from his zone in the list, the final number could come down as some of those named had subsequently submitted proof of their presence at the Delhi protests, while others had explained their absence citing personal reasons.Their explanations are being examined before a final decision is taken, he added.Confirming the action, Deepak Shivhare, Youth Congress state president for the Central Zone, said 12 office-bearers from his zone had been suspended and they included district presidents, general secretaries and secretaries.

"At a review meeting in Delhi, it was made clear that those who cannot spare time for organisational activities under the present circumstances should not continue holding positions. Attendance at these programmes was made compulsory. We have initiated the process of appointing new office-bearers to fill the vacancies," he said.

## 'Pension not favour, but lawful entitlement': Karnataka HC

**BENGALURU.(Agency)**

The state must understand that a pension is not a bounty or a favour to be dispensed at its convenience, but a lawful entitlement to be honoured when it falls due, the Karnataka High Court said.A division bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna and Justice Hema Kulkarni made these observations while dismissing the state government's appeal challenging the single judge's order directing payment of pensionary benefits to Chidananda Reddy S Patil under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

The bench ordered that Reddy is entitled to pension under the OPS, reckoning his qualifying service in accordance with law, with effect from the date following his superannuation on December 31, 2024, together with all consequential retiral and terminal benefits and arrears shall carry interest at the rate of 6 percent annum.

Reddy joined Karnataka University as a lecturer in 1996 and was appointed professor at Karnataka State Law University in 2013, Hubballi. He attained the age of superannuation on December 31, 2024.He was denied pension on the premise that the service rendered by him in the Karnataka University, between 1996 and 2013, could not be reckoned for determining his eligibility under the OPS.The stand of the authorities of the state is that, notwithstanding his initial entry into service in 1996 and his subsequent movement to the law university, through a technical resignation, he must be brought within the fold of the New Pension Scheme (NPS).

## Who is targeting Delhi schools with bomb threats? Trail leads to 20 lakh fake email IDs in Kanpur

**Uttar Pradesh.(Agency)**

On October 28, a team from the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) hurried towards a house in Ghatampur in Kanpur Nagar district.A credible intelligence input had led the ATS team to this house. Investigators had traced emails from a Gmail ID that threatened bomb attacks on schools in Delhi-NCR, a show by Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh and the house of a prominent Bollywood actor.Inside, the team found a 24-year-old man named Ankit Shankhwar. And when they examined his devices — laptop and a phone — officials were in for a shock.Shankhwar had allegedly created more than 20 lakh fake email accounts using fictitious identities. Officials said he then allegedly sold them in bulk to buyers in Pakistan, Bangladesh and other countries in exchange for payment in cryptocurrency.The ATS has now written to Google's Gmail office in California. They have sought blocking of these accounts to prevent their possible misuse. A senior officer said the agency had submitted an online request along with a list of the identified accounts.Sources said Shankhwar is an intermediate pass-out and had earlier worked in the share market. His father is an e-rickshaw driver and he is the youngest of three sons.

**The email trail that led to Kanpur**

According to officials, the investigation began with a set of threatening emails sent on October 12 from the Gmail account simenbriones9265@gmail.com. The emails were sent in the name of the Khalistan.

# 25 companies of CAPF deployed in Punjab for law and order duties

**Chandigarh.(Agency)**

In order to effectively deal with law and order issues in the state, the Punjab government has requisitioned additional companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). Around 25 companies of central forces comprising the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Border Security Force (BSF) have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and have started arriving in the state.The state government has deployed the additional forces in the border areas as well as the hinterland to bolster the presence of the state police personnel. This comes as the Punjab Police deals with poll preparations ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections and the ongoing festive season.The CAPF has been deployed in six border districts of Amritsar, Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, and Fazilka.The Special DGP, Law and Order, P K Sinha, said, "The deployment is not restricted to border areas alone. They have also been shared with various commissionerates and Mohali too, as these areas also require special attention in the run-up to the poll."



The deployment is to maintain law and order, keep a check on suspicious activities, and ensure that people can celebrate festivals and participate in the electoral process without security concerns.Senior police officials informed that the paramilitary personnel are working alongside local police teams, and special attention is being given to sensitive and vulnerable areas. Security checks have also been intensified at important locations to monitor the movement of suspicious persons and vehicles.Amritsar Rural SSP Kanwalpreet Singh Chahal told the media that four companies of BSF and CRPF personnel had been deployed in rural areas of the district. Amritsar Commissioner of Police has also announced the deployment of three CAPF companies in Amritsar city.

## Kumamoto Masters: Lakshya Sen downs Alwi Farhan to reach 2nd straight tour final

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

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Lakshya Sen is closing in on a second successive BWF Tour title. The Indian star-shuttler produced a clutch performance to beat Indonesia's World No. 10 Alwi Farhan and reach the men's singles final of the Kumamoto Masters Japan 2026 on Saturday. The eighth seed overcame the sixth seed 21-12, 15-21, 21-11 in 70 minutes. It was Sen's first victory over Farhan, having lost both their previous meetings. This time, he found a way to counter the Indonesian's speed and took charge when the match went into a decider.Sen set the



tone in the opening game, taking the initiative in rallies and keeping Farhan on the back foot. He was particularly effective at the net, an area where he had struggled to get the better of the Indonesian in their earlier encounters. His sharper work in the frontcourt allowed him to dictate the pace and take the first game 21-12.Farhan responded in the second, using his speed and court coverage to stretch Sen and force a decider. But the Indian did not get drawn into hurried exchanges. He picked his moments to attack, repeatedly targeted Farhan's backhand and timed his smashes well to take the final game 21-11. It was a composed finish to a match in which he had to adjust his approach after losing the second game.

**WORLD TOUR FINALS RACE IN FOCUS**

The victory takes Sen into his second consecutive BWF Tour final, following his title-winning run at the Hylo Open in Germany earlier this month. He

## Reopening Sandpapergate: Australian cricket has an Odyssey problem

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

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Odysseus returned from the Trojan War a hero. Homer celebrated the tale of a cunning man, one who found a way into the seemingly impregnable city of Troy and took the Greeks to victory with a move so swift that nobody had thought it imaginable at the time.

In Homer's telling, deceit was part of Odysseus's cunning. The grief that might have followed from his actions, however, did not seem to weigh on him.So



when Odysseus returned to his island, many years after the war, having indirectly played a part in the slaughter of his men and having cheated on his wife (he had spent years with the goddess and nymph Calypso), he was still celebrated.Christopher Nolan, in his 2026 (AD) film The Odyssey, reimagines the story very differently.Odysseus here is troubled by his actions, by the role he played in his men's deaths, and is full of grief when he returns to his wife and his only son.This is not my reading of the two versions of the story, but one borrowed from a lovely interview of Nolan by political theorist Yiyang Zhuge.

**SABR CREATES A STIR**

I bring this up because this looking at a past incident has made me take note of the Sandpapergate controversy that burst into the limelight this week, courtesy of Usman Khawaja's book.

# NZ vs IND: India release Kuldeep Yadav from Test squad, Gurnoor Brar added

Harry Kane marked a historic night for England with his 92nd international goal, while Italy stunned France with a memorable comeback. Spain maintained their perfect Nations League run, setting up a high-stakes clash with England for Group A3 top spot.

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

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India have made a late change to their squad for the upcoming two-Test series against New Zealand, adding fast bowler Gurnoor Brar and releasing Kuldeep Yadav to play domestic cricket. The move comes after Brar impressed in the ongoing ODI series, while Kuldeep endured a difficult outing in the fourth match.The 26-year-old Brar has been India's most successful bowler in the series, taking nine wickets in three matches at an average of 15.89. His best effort came in Wellington, where he claimed 4/30 to help India defend a modest total and secure a four-run win under the DLS method.Brar followed that up with figures of 2/69 in 10 overs in the fourth ODI at Mount Maunganui. He picked up the wickets of Tim Seifert and Michael Bracewell, although New Zealand went on to post 333 and beat India by 244 runs.The pacer will miss the fifth and final ODI, with no replacement named in the squad. Rishabh Pant has also joined the Test squad in Wellington ahead of the first match, which begins on November 19.Kuldeep, who was part of the original Test squad, has been released to feature in domestic cricket. He played his first match of the ODI series in



the fourth game but conceded 73 runs in eight overs without taking a wicket. His economy rate of 9.12 was the most expensive among India's bowlers in the innings.India's updated Test squad: Shubman Gill (captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul (vice-captain), Devdutt Padikkal, Rishabh Pant (wicketkeeper), Dhruv Jurel (wicketkeeper), Ravindra Jadeja, Anshul Kamboj, Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Sai Sudharsan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, Mohammed Siraj and Gurnoor Brar.

**KULDEEP'S IN-AND-OUT RUN CONTINUES**

Kuldeep's release comes after a stop-start run in India's limited-overs plans. He was left out of the first three ODIs against New Zealand before getting an opportunity in the fourth match. It proved to be a difficult return, with Will Young and Finn Allen taking him on during an expensive spell.

The left-arm wrist-spinner conceded 73 runs from eight overs, with Young scoring 42 off 24 balls against him. Kuldeep managed no wickets and was unable to slow down New Zealand's scoring during their big total.

## Stinks of cover-up: Warner makes bombshell Sandpapergate claim, names 3-star bowlers

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

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David Warner has questioned the credibility of Cricket Australia's investigation into the 2018 ball-tampering scandal, alleging that the governing body may have deliberately avoided speaking to key members of Australia's bowling attack. In a fresh Instagram post on Saturday, the former Australia opener named Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc and Nathan Lyon, and suggested that the inquiry was designed to protect a particular version of events.Warner's latest comments have taken the renewed Sandpapergate debate up another notch. He questioned how Cricket Australia could maintain that the bowlers had no knowledge of the ball-tampering plan if, as he understood it, none of the three had been interviewed during the original investigation."As far as I am aware, CA did not interview Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc or Nathan Lyon in their 2018 investigation. If that's correct, then how can CA push the idea that the bowlers didn't know?" Warner wrote.

He went further, questioning the intent behind the investigation and suggesting that the findings had been shaped from the outset."It looks like they had decided who they wanted to blame from the very beginning, ran a shoddy investigation to serve the purpose and now they want to maintain the false narrative that the bowlers had no idea. That stinks of a cover-up," he added.The post comes amid renewed scrutiny of Sandpapergate following the release of Usman Khawaja's autobiography, Sabr. The former Australia opener claimed that knowledge of the ball-tampering operation extended beyond the three players who were punished. Warner has backed Khawaja's account, while Australia captain Pat Cummins has rejected the suggestion that the entire bowling group knew sandpaper was being



taken onto the field.

**STARC STANDS BY HIS VERSION**

Starc, one of the three bowlers named by Warner, has already responded to Khawaja's claims. Speaking at the launch of Australia's summer of cricket on Tuesday, the left-arm pacer said his recollection of the 2018 incident had not changed and stood by the joint statement issued by Australia's bowling group in 2021."I won't speak on behalf of the bowlers, but, from where I stand, my opinion hasn't changed, and my recollection hasn't changed from what we said in 2021," Starc said.

## The Nazma Khan story: A father's belief, a mother's prayers and a WPL dream

**Sydney.(Agency)**

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God may take time, but justice is never denied. Delhi's Nazma Khan would know that better than most. At 30, after years of perseverance and quietly pursuing her dream through domestic cricket, the all-rounder has finally received her moment in the spotlight, earning her maiden WPL contract with Delhi Capitals.

Her journey to the WPL has been about much more than cricket. It has been about having the courage to follow her passion when people questioned her choices, a father who refused to let social barriers stand in her way and a mother whose prayers and faith have remained constant through the years.Having represented multiple teams, Nazma continued to work towards her goal even when recognition remained elusive. One of the most heartwarming moments of her journey came after India's memorable Women's World Cup semi-final victory over Australia in October 2025. Nazma sent Jemimah Rodrigues an Instagram message, expressing her dream of one day sharing the field with the Indian batter.A year later, that wish became reality. Delhi Capitals signed Nazma for Rs 10 lakh at the Kochi auction. For Nazma, it was a moment that made years of waiting worthwhile. It was also a reminder of the people who had stood by her when the journey was far from easy.

**THE GIRL WHO ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY**

Cricket was not the first sport Nazma fell in love with. Growing up, sports were an integral part of her life, thanks largely to her father, Israil Khan, a former cricketer who had also played kabaddi during his college days.His passion gradually rubbed off on his children. He encouraged



Nazma and her brother to spend time outdoors, experiment with different sports and stay physically active."I have played almost every sport with my father. We would go out to play football, and he would encourage us to take up cycling. I even trained with a group of boxers," Nazma recalled while responding to India Today's query, facilitated by the DDCA.

Nazma was oten the only girl among a group of boys. In fact, she was probably the only girl in her neighbourhood who could be spotted playing with them throughout the day."I was mostly around boys.

## Andorra goalkeeper gets 12-game ban for challenge that led to Spanish striker's death

The Spanish federation suspended Jesus Owono for 12 matches after his collision with Jesús de Miguel. The sanction is its maximum sporting penalty, while a separate judicial inquiry continues.

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

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FC Andorra goalkeeper Jesus Owono has received a 12-match suspension from the Spanish Football Federation following the collision with Tenerife striker Jesus de Miguel that preceded the latter's death. The federation handed the 25-year-old the maximum punishment available under its disciplinary code, citing the excessive force used in the challenge.The incident occurred during a Spanish second-division fixture between Tenerife and Andorra on November 2. De Miguel was chasing a long ball in midfield when Owono rushed out of his penalty area to clear it. The goalkeeper's raised leg struck the forward in the chest, leaving him motionless on the pitch. De Miguel suffered a cardiac arrest and died in hospital the following day, aged 30.Owono was shown a straight red card, while the match was abandoned in stoppage time with the score at 2-2. The Spanish federation later decided that the result would stand, ruling that resuming the remaining minutes would be inappropriate given the circumstances.

The disciplinary verdict came on



November 13, ten days after De Miguel's death. It was based on the referee's account of the challenge, which described a forceful impact with a raised leg while the ball was in play. The ruling carries a 12-match suspension and additional financial penalties under the federation's disciplinary regulations

**WHY THE 12-GAME BAN FROM SPANISH FA?**

The disciplinary committee applied Article 102 of the Royal Spanish Football Federation's (RFEF) code, which covers violent conduct during play that results in serious injury. The provision allows suspensions ranging from four to 12 matches. The committee decided that the nature of Owono's challenge and its consequences warranted the maximum sanction..In its explanation, the committee referred to the referee's report, which described Owono as striking an opponent in the chest with his leg raised and using excessive force while the ball was being contested.

"The referee's own description makes it possible to appreciate the particular seriousness of the action, both because of the way it was carried out, with the leg raised, and because of the forcefulness of the impact, which the referee expressly described as excessive," the committee stated.It also acknowledged De Miguel's death, saying the exceptional circumstances justified imposing the maximum 12-match suspension. The decision concerns sporting discipline and does not establish criminal liability.

**WHAT DID OWONO SAY?**

Owono has not returned to training since the incident and remains deeply affected by De Miguel's death. In a statement released through FC Andorra, the goalkeeper described the emotional toll of the tragedy and expressed his condolences to the forward's family.

"These have been the hardest days of my life. I'm struggling to find the words and find it very difficult to come to terms with anything that has happened. I feel immense grief at the loss of Jesus," he said."My thoughts are with him, his family and everyone who loved him. I know there will be many matters to address, and I will face whatever comes with the utmost respect. But right now, quite honestly, I cannot think of anything other than Jesus and the grief we are experiencing.

## PT Usha faces eligibility questions over Ice Hockey nomination ahead of IOA elections

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

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Australia has a new wild thing in their ranks, and his The controversy surrounding the Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) December 5 elections has taken another turn, with a formal objection being raised against President PT Usha's nomination as a representative of the Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI). The challenge centres on whether Usha meets the constitutional requirement to represent a national sports federation of which she is alleged to have no membership.ngest bowler to take a five-wicket haul on debut.Supreme Court advocate Atul Kumar submitted the objection to Electoral Officer Sanjay Kumar Srivastava on November 13, seeking verification of Usha's eligibility under Article 10.4 of the IOA Constitution, 2026. The provision states that representatives nominated by National Sports



Federations (NSFs) must be members of the respective bodies.The development comes after Usha failed to secure a place through the Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) elections. She finished fifth in the women's category with 40 votes, behind Anju Bobby George (53), Rani Rampal (50), Dola Banerjee (45) and Saina Nehwal (43). With only the top four candidates qualifying, the IOA president missed out on a place in the General Body through the SOM route.Her name subsequently appeared in the provisional Electoral College as IHAI's female representative, alongside Harjinder Singh.



# Shanaya Kapoor

## Says Student Of The Year After Dark Was A 'Challenging Series': 'Each Second Was Crucial'

Actress Shanaya Kapoor has revealed the challenges of playing a double role early in her career in the series “Student Of The Year – After Dark." Reflecting on her experience, the actress said the project pushed her to explore her acting range while navigating several demanding aspects of the shoot.Taking to social media, Shanaya thanked filmmaker Karan Johar for giving her the opportunity to take on a double role and allowing her to showcase different facets of her performance. The actress also acknowledged director Reema Sen for giving her the space to share her creative inputs.Shanaya further spoke about the demanding action and underwater sequences, which pushed her beyond what she thought she could manage. She credited the action team as well as the underwater team for guiding and supporting her through the difficult moments. The actress said that while there were difficult days during the shoot, the belief and support of the people around her helped her navigate the challenges.

Sharing a series of behind-the-scenes photos from the set, the ‘Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan’ actress shared, “This show means everything to me, and it wouldn’t have been possible without the entire, incredible, insane and best team. I want to thank @karanjohar for giving me this opportunity to carry forward such a special special franchise and allowing me so early on in my career to play a double role that allowed me to show my range as an actor. Thank you for believing in me. Hope I make you proud. Thank you @apoorva1972 for your support and guidance always, and for always being there whenever and I literally mean whenever.“To the entire action and underwater team — from action director Bunty Sir @vikramdahiya707 to the underwater team led by Sukesh Sir @sukesh_viswanath — thank you so much for pushing me to places I thought I couldn’t go. There were difficult days and without your belief in me I wouldn’t have been able to do any of it! @underwater.cartel you held my hand throughout the most challenging underwater shots. Thank you.""“Thank you to everyone on the crew — this was a challenging series to shoot, and I know each day, each minute, each second was crucial. It wouldn’t have been possible without all of you."



Concluding her note, Shanaya urged everyone to watch the show and wrote, “Please do watch our show Student Of The Year – After Dark TOMORROW on @jiohotstar — it’s made with a lot of sweat, blood, and tears (literally) only for you guys! I love you all.""“Student Of The Year: After Dark" reimagines the 2012 campus-romance franchise as a gritty murder mystery. The series marks Shanaya Kapoor’s OTT debut, with the actress stepping into a double role as twin sisters Aayesha and Aditi Malik.Produced by Karan Johar, the Hindi thriller series is scheduled to premiere on JioHotstar on November 13, 2026.



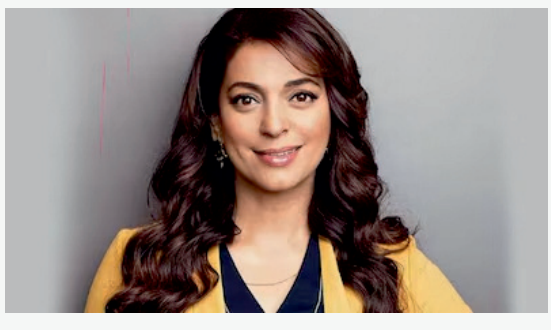
# Juhi Chawla

## Questions Strange 'Kerosene Or Diesel' Smell In Mumbai Air Amid Pollution Concerns

Juhi Chawla has raised concerns about an unusual smell lingering in Mumbai’s air, revealing that she has been noticing something resembling burnt fuel for several days. The actress took to social media to enquire about its possible source and asked fellow residents whether they had experienced anything similar. She described the odour as resembling kerosene or diesel, adding that it was noticeable at different hours of the day.Her post comes amid concerns surrounding deteriorating air quality in several Indian metropolitan cities, including Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Pune and Kolkata. With pollution levels remaining a concern following Diwali celebrations, Juhi’s observations have brought attention to the conditions she has been experiencing in Mumbai.

**Juhi Chawla Asks Mumbai Residents About Strange Smell In The Air**

On Thursday, November 12, Juhi shared a post on X, formerly Twitter, describing an unfamiliar odour that she had been noticing repeatedly.“Will someone please tell me what this strange burnt-fuel smell in the air is..?? Almost like kerosene or diesel. I’ve been noticing it for several days now, from early morning and at different times through the day. Is anyone else smelling this too? Let me know," she wrote.The actress did not attribute the smell to any particular source. Instead, she sought observations from other residents to understand whether it was something they, too, had noticed.According to Juhi, the odour was not confined to one particular time. She had encountered it early in the morning as well as at different points throughout the day, prompting her to raise the question publicly.Her post did not establish whether the smell was connected to the city’s pollution levels or another local source.



**Mumbai Records AQI Of 121 On November 13**

Meanwhile, Mumbai recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 121 on Friday, November 13, according to the figures cited in the report. The reading falls within the ‘Poor’ category under AQI.in’s classification.Under this system, AQI readings between 0 and 50 indicate good air quality, while readings between 51 and 100 are considered satisfactory or moderate, depending on the classification used.Levels between 101 and 200 fall under the poor category, while readings from 201 to 300 are classified as very poor. Figures exceeding 300 are considered severe.The pollution concerns come as Mumbai also experiences a decline in minimum temperatures.

## Suniel Shetty Gives Big Update On Awara Paagal Deewana 2, Confirms Early 2027 Shoot



Remember Yeda Anna and all the madness that came with Awara Paagal Deewana? The 2002 comedy gave us plenty of laughs, crazy moments and some memorable characters. Even after all these years, the film remains a favourite among fans of Bollywood’s comedy entertainers. And now, there is some good news for everyone who has been waiting to see the gang back together.Suniel Shetty, who played the much-loved Yeda Anna in the film, has shared a big update about its sequel. Speaking exclusively to Bollywood Hungama, the actor confirmed that Awara Paagal Deewana 2 is very much happening and is expected to go on floors early next year.“The sequel is happening for sure. I think early next year for sure," he said. When asked if he meant that shooting would begin early next year, Shetty replied, “Yeah yeah."

The actor shared this update while talking about Season 2 of his business reality show Bharat Ke Super Founders. He had earlier teased the possibility of a sequel through an Instagram post, but this is the first time he has spoken about its expected shooting schedule.For those who remember the original, Awara Paagal Deewana was produced by Firoz Nadiadwala and featured a fun ensemble cast. Apart from Suniel Shetty, the action comedy starred Akshay Kumar, Aftab Shivdasani, Paresh Rawal, Amrita Arora, Aarti Chhabria, Preeti Jhangiani, Supriya Pilgaonkar, Om Puri, Johnny Lever and Rahul Dev. With so many popular actors coming together, the film had plenty of comedy and chaos to offer.It has been a good year for Shetty, with his multi-starrer Welcome To The Jungle enjoying success. The actor also mentioned Border 2 when asked about his recent outings, even though his appearance in the film was brief.“I also had Border 2. I was there for one scene but I take that as a success as that’s finally our franchise.

## Sidhu Moose Wala’s Parents Threaten Legal Action Over Phantom Release, Say Label Had No Consent



The parents of late Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala, Balkaur Singh and Charan Kaur, have objected to the release of his song ‘Phantom’ by Saga Music, alleging that the music label has proceeded with the release without their permission or authorisation.In a statement, the singer’s parents said that Saga Music had gone ahead with the release despite their request to halt it and discuss the matter to arrive at a resolution. They further claimed that the label had not obtained any valid documentation from them authorising the release.“The song “Phantom" by Sidhu Moose Wala is being released by Saga Music without our permission or authorisation. Despite our request to halt the release and discuss a resolution, Saga Music has proceeded without any valid documentation from us. We are taking appropriate legal action to protect Sidhu Moose Wala’s legacy and rights," the statement read.



Expressing their displeasure over the development, Balkaur Singh and Charan Kaur said they were initiating appropriate legal action to protect their late son’s legacy and rights.The couple also issued a message to other artists and music labels claiming to possess documents or rights related to Sidhu Moose Wala’s songs, urging them to consult the family before making any public announcements or releasing his music.They requested that all matters concerning the singer’s musical works be taken up directly with the family.

## "Because Of Your D***?" Australian PM's Hot Mic Moment At Climate Summit

**world.(Agency).**

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Australian leader Anthony Albanese and his climate minister joked about their genitalia in a crude exchange captured on a hot mic.

In the footage, first broadcast by Australia's Channel Seven on Friday, Albanese and top climate envoy Chris Bowen chat on the sidelines of the COP31 climate summit in Antalya, Turkey.Albanese advises Bowen not to keep his phone next to his heart because "it can interfere with your rhythm".

The climate minister then replies that he's more worried about keeping the phone in his pocket, to which Albanese asks: "Because of your d***?"

"Arguably more important than the heart," Bowen replies, chuckling.A spokesperson for Albanese told AFP: "They were having a joke in between meetings".Australia is presiding over negotiations at the COP31, but has been accused of hypocrisy given its status as a major exporter of fossil fuels.

## New Zealand Workers Defecate In Shopping Aisles As AI Tracks Bathroom Breaks

**world.(Agency).**

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Workers at New Zealand's largest retailer have claimed that they were forced to defecate in the distribution aisles after their bathroom breaks were tracked by artificial intelligence (AI). Over 300 employees working at The Warehouse Group's distribution centres in Auckland and Christchurch staged protests this week against technology monitoring them and taking over their jobs.Union organiser Hayley Courtney highlighted that the upper management reprimanded the employees who took bathroom breaks and that she had been fighting the issue for eight months.“Having supervisors and managers follow people to the toilet and telling them off for a fundamental right is absolutely ludicrous,"

Courtney was quoted as saying by Radio New Zealand (RNZ).

Courtney said the company had brought in a "massive robot" for stock picking, while AI-powered drones replaced some members of the physical inventory team.

She said workers weren't against technology that improves efficiency but needed assurances about their future.

## Indian Student Jailed For 30 Years In UK For Grooming Girls Online

**World.(Agency)**

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A 27-year-old Indian student described by UK authorities as a "serial online groomer" was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment in north-west England on Friday for "exploiting and coercing" several children online to commit sexual acts.

Bilal Kazi was sentenced at Chester Crown Court after pleading guilty to a series of child sexual abuse offences committed online. The court heard that Kazi pretended to be a teenage boy on social media and gaming platforms to build trust with girls aged between 10 and 15.

"Bilal Kazi acted with absolute ruthlessness in grooming, manipulating and exploiting a large number of young vulnerable girls," said Martin McRobb, Specialist Prosecutor at the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)."He befriended them online and forced them to take photos and videos carrying out sexual acts. He then blackmailed those who refused to comply with his further demands, threatening to post the explicit imagery to others."He posed as a teenage boy in order to attract and gain the trust of his victims and caused many to think that they were in a genuine relationship with him. When the victims realised they had been deceived.

# US lifts nationwide flight halt after air traffic control system failure disrupts thousands of flights

**WASHINGTON.(Agency).**

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The Federal Aviation Administration said Friday night that airplane departures can resume after the agency lifted a nationwide ground stop that Trump administration officials blamed on “overloaded,” “outdated” systems.Even with the order being lifted, the airlines will not be able to return to normal operations immediately because so many of their planes and crews are out of position.

The FAA had grounded all flights nationwide Friday afternoon, causing hundreds of flights to be diverted. Ofials cited “extraordinary circumstances” caused by communications problems at regional air traffic control centers.Homeland Security Secretry Markwayne Mullin told reporters at the White House that the introduction of some new technology into an old air trafic control system overwhelmed it.The nationwide ground stop was the first since January 2023, when a key FAA computer system malfunctioned, and the second since the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

There was no indication the communications failure was related to a cyberattack. The consequences were profound, disrupting potentially thousands of planned flights through at least late Friday night and upending travel plans for passengers.

“It’s frustrating. This certainly sounds like it’s going to be more than the usual run-of-the-mill delay. I look forward to finding out why,” said Jef Dubner, a Washington attorney whose Alaska Airlines flight home from Los Angeles was already half an hour late and taxiing to the runway when the plane came to a halt.International flights were being handled on a case-by-case basis, according to Mullin, with some seen taking off Friday evening.Top oficial says no sign yet of nefarious actAsked whether Mullin could rule out a cyberattack or rogue artificial intelligence incident, he said: “There’s nothing completely certain right now. It doesn’t appear that way.” He said there are no “footprints” showing an attack and that it appears to be “mechanically driven,” adding that officials were still looking for the cause.

At least 827 flights were diverted so far as a result. As of 7:05 p.m. EST, 670 flights were sent back to the airport from where they originally took of, while 157 were redirected to a diferent airport, according to Cirium, an aviation analytics company.The airports where many of the flights ended up being diverted included Washington Dulles International Airport, Los Angeles International Airport, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport and Nashville International Airport.Some 11,000 flights carrying more than 1.5 million passengers were scheduled to take off from airports in the U.S. after 4 p.m. EST, raising the likelihood of more cancelations and flight diversions.

At Chicago O’Hare Airport on Friday afternoon, travelers passing through security learned about the ground stop when they looked up at screens that showed flight delays across the board.Some called friends or family members, debating whether to stay the night in Chicago or find another way to their destinations.

Amber McQuilkin, 27, sat on a bench, disappointed that she might miss a trip with friends to New York for the League of Legends world finals. Her friends, she said, had already arrived there.

“There’s not really any information being passed to me,” said the Seattle software engineer, who took a week of vacation for the trip. “I contemplated just abandoning the flight and driving, but then the more I thought about it, the mre I’m like, that would be miserable.”Austin Curtis and his wife were rethinking their trip from South Bend, Indiana, to a friend’s baby shower in Denver after getting delayed during a layover in Chicago.They had boarded a flight to Denver from O’Hare International Airport when they were told to get of the plane.

“We did see them taking luggage off our plane and others, so we’re assuming it’s going to be a pretty substantial delay,” Curtis said.

They were unsure whether to get a hotel room or keep waiting out the delay at the airport. With care already in place for their two young children at home, they might stay the weekend in Chicago, he said.

# Russian Couple Faces Deportation After Empire State Building Climb And Proposal

**WASHINGTON.(Agency)**

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A Russian couple who went viral for climbing to the very top of New York City's Empire State Building, before apparently getting engaged, might get deported from the US. Angela Nikolau, 33, and Ivan Kuznetsov, 32, scaled the skyscraper in July and displayed a flag bearing the message "when the power of love beats the love of power the world knows peace." Kuznetsov then proposed to Nikolau immediately.



Ivan and Angela, originally from Moscow, Russia, were in the process of hashing out a deal with the prosecutors, according to a report in Fox News. However, the deal was tanked following an email from the Manhattan District Attorney's Ofice.

The couple appeared in the criminal courthouse in New York on Thursday (Nov 12) for the hearing, where Nikolau could be seen tearing up as the threat of deportation loomed large.

"We didn't damage any property. We didn't intend to put anyone in danger. We just wanted to send a message of love, and we're ready to defend ourselves," said Kuznetsov, addressing the media.

Nikolau also delivered a statement after which she broke down in tears. "We wanted to share a message of peace. With so much pain in the world today, we wanted to create a performance to stay in the people's hearts," she said.Noam Biale, the couple's attorney, revealed that his team had accepted an offer from prosecutors to plead guilty to misdemeanour charges. in exchange, they would have been shielded from what he called "catastrophic immigration consequences". The deal, however, was taken off the table the night before the hearing.

# Microsoft Outage Explained: How One Glitch Caused Global Chaos, And Why It Will Happen Again

**world.(Agency)**

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A major Microsoft outage has exposed how dependent the world has become on a handful of technology companies. From businesses and government departments to hospitals and public services, organisations across several countries faced disruption after Microsoft's services, including Outlook, Teams and Copilot, stopped working.

The incident, which began on November 12, raised an important question: what happens when the digital systems that keep the world running suddenly become unavailable?

How One Outage Disrupted Services Across CountriesThe disruption was not limited to people being unable to send emails or attend online meetings. It affected organisations that rely on Microsoft's systems for their daily operations.According to WIRED, the outage afected users and organisations in Australia, Japan, the UK, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Canada and the US.In Britain, several police forces reported dificulties accepting online crime reports. Parts of the National Health Service also faced disruption. Germany's Deutsche Bahn experienced problems sending train timetable information, while some medical appointments and other essential services were afected.The incident demonstrated how a technical failure at one major provider can have consequences across multiple sectors and countriesWhat Caused The Microsoft Outage?Microsoft indicated that the disruption was linked to server failures across multiple data centres. The unavailability of several servers placed additional pressure on the remaining infrastructure.

# Bessent blames Lutnick's Commerce Department for delay in curbing Nvidia chip flow to China

**WASHINGTON.(Agency).**

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US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Friday blamed the Commerce Department for delaying action to restrict the flow of advanced Nvidia chips to China through Singapore-based Megaspeed International, a company at the centre of a scandal involving the chipmaker's former CEO Jensen Huang.

Speaking on CNBC, Bessent said the Treasury, Defence and State departments, along with the US Trade Representative's office, had supported adding Megaspeed to Washington's export control list for months, but the Commerce Department was responsible for implementing the move."But Commerce has the pen, and you will have to ask them about their internal processes," Bessent said. He said he was "frustrated" because President Donald Trump had "made it very clear China should not receive any Nvidia chips above H100s".Bessent's remarks amounted to an unusually public rebuke of the Commerce Department, which oversees US export controls on sensitive, high-tech goods.The department is headed by Howard Lutnick, who has come under scrutiny over his reportedly close relationship with Huang.

The New York Times reported on Thursday that Lutnick had resisted imposing tighter restrictions on the sale of Nvidia's advanced chips to China. Chinese firms have reportedly accessed the chips through companies such as Megaspeed.The Commerce Department did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Last year, Megaspeed was accused of illicitly shipping advanced Nvidia chips to China. The company denied the allegations in December, saying there was "no evidence" of such exports.On Thursday, it reiterated that it takes its obligations under American export control laws "extremely seriously" and is committed to working "constructively and transparently" with the US government.The controversy has also drawn attention to Huang's personal ties with Megaspeed. The company's former executive Alice Huang, with whom Jensen Huang reportedly had an affair, is suspected by US intelligence of being a Chinese spy, according to The New York Times. The two are not related.

# US Woman Wins Rs 7 Crore Compensation After Delivery Van Crashes Into Her Car

**Riyadh.(Agency)**

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A woman in the US state of Missouri has won $800,000 (Rs 7,54,06,360) in compensation after a delivery van driver pulled into traffic without checking for approaching vehicles, causing a collision that left her with a broken and dislocated ankle.According to a November 10 ruling by the Missouri Court of Appeals, the court upheld the compensation awarded to Amy Bolandis, rejecting an appeal filed by the driver, Thomas Bateman, and his employer, UniFirst Corporation.



The case dates back to December 19, 2018, when Bolandis was driving along Hall Street in St Louis.

**How The Accident Happened**

According to the Missouri Court of Appeals judgment, Bateman was driving a delivery van and attempting to cross Hall Street after leaving a parking area.A large truck had stopped in the right-hand lane to turn into the same parking area. The truck blocked Bateman's view of approaching trafic and also obstructed Bolandis's view of the van.The truck driver then waved Bateman forward, signalling that he could proceed. Bateman pulled out, but Bolandis's car struck the rear of his van.

During the trial, Bateman admitted that he had not checked for approaching trafic or maintained a proper lookout before entering the road. He acknowledged that he had pulled out blindly because his view was blocked.

He also accepted that the collision would not have happened if he had seen Bolandis's car before moving into trafc.

Woman Sufered Broken And Dislocated AnkleBolandis sufered a broken and dislocated ankle in the collision. She underwent surgery nine days after the accident and was cleared to return to work on January 22, 2019.However, she later reported that her ankle had started hurting again in April 2024.An orthopaedic surgeon who testified during the trial described the injury as a high-velocity trauma.

The jury awarded Bolandis $800,000 in damages, along with post-judgment interest.

Why The Delivery Company Challenged The AwardBateman and UniFirst Corporation challenged the jury's decision, arguing that Bolandis should also have been held partly responsible for the accident because she was allegedly driving too fast.The speed limit on Hall Street was 45 miles per hour. Bolandis estimated that she was travelling at around 40 miles per hour when the collision occurred.

The defence argued that she had passed other vehicles before the crash and should have been driving more slowly.

# Cousins To Rivals: How Jensen Huang's Fall Could Help AMD's Lisa Su In AI Chip Race

**world.(Agency)**

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Nvidia might have allowed its competitors to close the gap after Jensen Huang resigned as its chief executive, following a string of extramarital affairs which included an alleged romantic relationship with an alleged Chinese state asset. While rival AMD has already been gaining ground in the stock market, Nvidia's sudden leadership void gives the chipmaker its biggest opening yet and, ironically, the person best positioned to capitalise on it is related to Huang. AMD is led by Lisa Tzwu-Fang Su, Huang's cousin, who rescued the struggling semiconductor firm from the brink of collapse and rebuilt it into a global powerhouse capable of going toe-to-toe with Nvidia and Intel.

The Taiwanese American CEO joined AMD in 2012 when the company's market value was under $2 billion. As of this week, AMD's value as a company had leapfrogged to $950 billion, primarily due to Su's focus on innovation in high-performance graphics. Ryzen CPUs and EPYC server processors developed under Su's reign have given AMD its own identity over the years.Su and Huang are first cousins, once removed, with Huang being the elder. Su's maternal grandfather is the eldest brother of Huang's mother, according to a report in Business Insider.

While both grew up in the US, they never met until well into their respective careers.

Addressing his rivalry with Su, Huang once jokingly remarked, "When we give a presentation, the whole market goes up. When she gives a presentation, my stock price goes down."Su's Rise

Born in Tainan, Taiwan, in 1969 to Su Chun-hwai and Sand Ho, Su's family immigrated to America when she was around three years old as her father was pursuing his graduate degree at the University of Texas. The family eventually settled in Queens, New York City, and she went to Bronx High School of Science before graduating in 1986.

Afterwards, Su joined the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she completed her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees over the years. Upon leaving academia, Su worked in engineering, research, and managerial roles at Texas Instruments, IBM, and Freescale Semiconductor.

At AMD, Su adopted a "semi-custom" approach under which AMD modified its core technologies to meet individual customer needs, according to a report in Business Insider. This pivot allowed the firm to secure contracts to design and manufacture chips for Sony's PlayStation 4 and Microsoft's Xbox One. Two years after joining AMD.