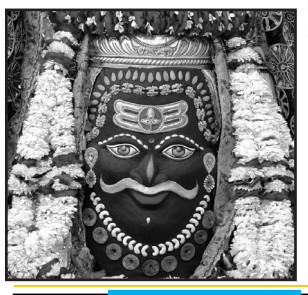
mahanagarmetro.com
@mahanagar_metro @mahanagar_metro @mahanagar_metro

MONDAY

MAHANAGAR METRO

VOICE OF THE CITY, PULSE OF THE NATION

AHEMDABAD/GUJRAT
Monday, November 16, 2026



MAHANAGAR METRO
For News Coverage, Press Releases & Advertisement Bookings, Please Contact Our Office
PAWAN MAKAN
+91-9638877700
mahanagarmetro7@gmail.com

Belagavi: Jarkiholi bats for better prices for cane farmers

BELAGAVI. (Agency).

While endorsing the higher prices offered to sugarcane farmers by some sugar factories in Belagavi, PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi has said on Saturday, the government wants sugarcane farmers to get better prices for their produce and there is no objection to financially strong sugar



factories offering higher rates.Jarkiholi said mills differ in their sugar production, cane recovery, sugar sale prices and overall financial position. And therefore, expecting all factories to offer an identical price would not be realistic.Referring to the recent negotiations between cane farmers and factory owners in Belagavi, the minister said the formula worked out during the discussions had fixed a base price of Rs 3,600 per tonne.The rates announced by individual factories now do not significantly differ from the framework agreed upon earlier, he said.

Activist Sonam Wangchuk Under 60-Day House Arrest Over Ladakh Anti-Poll Protest

Srinagar(Agency).

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk has been placed under a 60-day "house arrest" and barred from participating in public rallies or processions. An order by the Leh additional district magistrate was issued a day after Wangchuck was removed from a site amid protests by Ladakhi groups opposing the government's decision to hold hill council elections on December 4.The administration has cited a police report and a letter by the Leh police chief requesting to issue preventive orders and imposition of restriction orders upon Wangchuk. The magistrate has invoked Section 163 of the BNSS to impose restrictions on Wangchuk's movement."This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of 60 days," the order said.The restriction order has come ahead of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council elections, scheduled for December 4. Wangchuk and other local leaders have opposed the timing of the polls, arguing that winter conditions and seasonal migration will disenfranchise many voters in Ladakh.Hours before the formal restoration order against Wangchuk, the climate activist said he was put under house arrest and dozens of cops surrounded his home.I am under house arrest. Dozens of armed guards surround my house while the government version says 'I have been advised to stay at home'. All for asking uncomfortable questions like... why is the Judicial Enquiry Commission Report (of last year's killings in Leh) is delayed and a phoney council election

"Buy My Ticket Too": DK Shivakumar Recalls Metro Ride With PM Modi

"I told him that I did not have money to buy a Metro ticket and asked him to buy my ticket as well. PM Modi paid for the tickets using his own card," DK Shivakumar said

Karnataka (Agency).

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday recalled a humorous exchange with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during their Metro journey during the Pink Line Metro inauguration on November 13, saying he had asked the Prime Minister to buy his ticket as he did not have money."I told him that I did not have money to buy a Metro ticket and asked him to buy my ticket as well. PM Modi paid for the tickets using his own card," Shivakumar said while responding to questions from the media.Further asked about his close relationship and bonding with Prime Minister Modi and what they discussed while travelling together in a helicopter to Mysuru, Shivakumar said, "I cannot reveal everything that we discussed."Responding to a question that he gets time with PM Modi, which even BJP leaders may not get, the Chief Minister said it was a matter of human relationships and mutual respect."Even our party leaders Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge also treat me with love and respect. Not everyone has leadership qualities. I do not hesitate to speak to anyone. We should



maintain good relations with everyone," he said.On encouraging Bengaluru residents to use public transport instead of relying only on private vehicles, Shivakumar said Karnataka has the highest number of buses deployed for public transport in the country.Despite having limited road space, we have more buses. Along with buses, the Metro is also very important," he said.The Chief Minister also said he has instructed Metro authorities to use granite and other stones available in Karnataka in Metro stations instead of sourcing them from outside the state.

"When high-quality stones are available in our own state, why should we bring them from elsewhere? Using local stone will support our industries and generate employment for local people, from cutting to processing," he said.Shivakumar said he had told the Metro Managing Director not to hurt the state's stone industry by procuring materials from outside.He said granite is available in several parts of the state, including Chamarajanagar, Tumakuru, Sira, Badami, Ilkal, Kanakapura and Magadi. Karnataka has a wide variety of stones, including Hassan Green, Tumakuru Barpari, Bengaluru Blue, Multi Colour, Jubrani, Kollegal Black and Ilkal Red, he added.

Gujarat Early Elections? Modi's Visits, BJP's Political Strategy & Opposition's Growing Attacks Fuel Fresh Speculation!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad / Gandhinagar: Political activity in Gujarat has gathered momentum amid growing speculation about the possibility of Assembly elections being held ahead of schedule. Frequent visits by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the state, the inauguration of major development projects, foundation stone-laying ceremonies and intensified organisational activities within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have sparked discussions across political circles.Political observers, analysts and media reports have increasingly focused on whether the state could witness Assembly elections before the scheduled timeline. Although no official announcement regarding an early election has been made, the developments have triggered a fresh debate over the political strategy of both the ruling party and the opposition.The BJP's growing political engagement, public outreach programmes and organisational preparations have added to the speculation. Meanwhile, opposition parties are attempting to draw attention towards issues affecting ordinary citizens, particularly farmers, unemployed youth and economically weaker sections.Opposition Highlights Farmers' Distress, Inflation and UnemploymentOpposition parties and several political observers believe that the discussion surrounding early elections cannot be separated from the prevailing social and economic challenges in Gujarat. According to opposition leaders, several issues at the grassroots level require urgent government attention.Farmers Facing Multiple Agricultural ChallengesAgriculture remains one of the major political issues in several regions of Gujarat. Opposition leaders and farmer organisations have raised concerns over drought-like conditions in certain areas, crop damage, irrigation difficulties and inadequate availability of fodder for livestock.Farmers have repeatedly demanded appropriate compensation for crop losses and timely assistance from the government. According to representations made by various farmer organisations, delays in relief measures and difficulties related to agricultural resources have added to the concerns of the farming community.The opposition argues that farmers' economic security, irrigation facilities, crop insurance and effective implementation of agricultural welfare schemes should receive greater priority. These concerns could become important political issues in the run-up to the next Assembly elections.Inflation and Unemployment Become Key Political Is



suesRising prices of essential commodities and unemployment among young people are also being highlighted by opposition parties. They claim that increasing household expenses have placed an additional financial burden on middle-class families and economically weaker sections.Unemployment, recruitment opportunities, examination-related concerns and the availability of stable jobs are among the issues being raised in political discussions. Opposition leaders argue that young people expect concrete employment opportunities rather than political assurances.They further claim that dissatisfaction over economic conditions and certain government policies could influence voter sentiment in different parts of the state.Questions Over Ground-Level Political FeedbackAnother subject being discussed in political circles is the possible concern within the ruling establishment over public sentiment at the grassroots level. Some political observers believe that continuous political outreach and organisational activities may also be aimed at assessing public opinion and strengthening the party's position before the next electoral battle.However, these discussions remain political assessments and speculation. There has been no official confirmation of any internal disagreement or concern within the ruling party regarding the possibility of early elections.BJP Rejects Political Pressure Narrative, Emphasises DevelopmentWhile opposition parties are attempting to build their political narrative around public dissatisfaction, the BJP has maintained that the government's activities should be viewed through the perspective of development and governance rather than electoral speculation.According to the ruling party's position, the Prime Minister's frequent visits to Gujarat are part of ongoing efforts to accelerate development initiatives, review important projects and ensure effective implementation of Central and State Government schemes.Development Projects and Public Welfare InitiativesThe BJP maintains that infrastructure development, connectivity, industrial investment, education, healthcare and other public welfare initiatives remain central to its governance agenda.

Tribals 'bore brunt' of Naxal violence; past govts 'remained mute spectators': PM Modi

New Delhi(Agency).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said tribal communities had suffered the most from Naxal violence, accusing previous governments of leaving them to

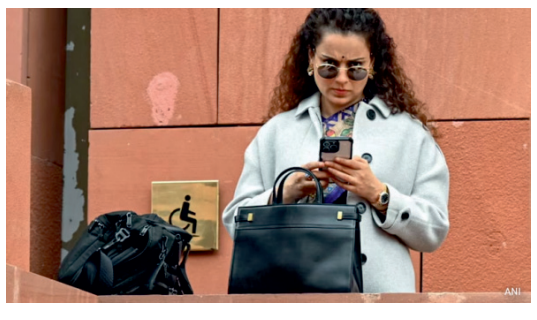


fend for themselves. He also said Naxals had denied tribal communities their voting rights, while previous governments had remained mute spectators.Addressing the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas programme in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra, virtually on the 151st birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda, Modi said tribal communities had always stood up against injustice.He said his government had made concerted efforts to develop tribal areas that had long lacked basic facilities, allocating more than Rs 1 lakh crore for their development.Highlighting his government's poverty alleviation efforts, the prime minister said bringing 50 crore people out of extreme poverty was among India's biggest achievements since Independence.On the occasion, Modi inaugurated 173 development projects and laid the foundation stones for 73 others, taking the total to 246 projects worth around Rs 3,000 crore. The projects aim to strengthen education, healthcare, livelihood opportunities and community infrastructure in tribal areas.Among the 173 projects inaugurated were 38 Eklavya Model Residential Schools for tribal students and 100 Multi-Purpose Centres under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).

"Politically Motivated": BJP As Kangana Ranaut Faces FIR In Himachal, Congress Responds

New Delhi(Agency).

A police case registered against BJP MP Kangana Ranaut in Shimla over her remarks targeting Congress leader Sonia Gandhi has triggered a fresh political confrontation in Himachal Pradesh, with the actor-politician's party calling it a "politically motivated" move.The Shimla Police on Friday charged Ranaut, the Lok Sabha MP from Himachal's Mandi, under charges of promoting enmity, hatred, or disharmony, public mischief and defamation over a social media post on the Gandhi family. The case was registered after a complaint alleged that Ranaut's November 10 post contained inflammatory insinuations regarding the deaths of former prime minister Indira Gandhi and her sons Sanjay Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.BJP's Jairam Thakur accused the Congress government in Himachal of cracking down on detractors over their social media posts.The former Himachal chief minister said that Ranaut's remarks were her



personal opinion and in a democracy, every individual has the right to express their own views.Thakur, the Leader of Opposition in the Himachal assembly, called the FIR an act of political vendetta by the Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu-led government, and called the Congress intolerant of social media criticism.

"The people who are taking care of the social media handles of the state Congress put out ... such posts against senior BJP leaders which are so objectionable that they cannot be read or seen, and an FIR should also be registered against them, but despite several requests, no cases are registered against them," he said.

Congress Defends Kangana Ranaut FIR

Congress' Jagat Singh Negi defended the FIR, saying action against false and defamatory allegations is justified.He also accused the BJP of making baseless allegations against Sonia Gandhi.The minister claimed that the BJP was uncomfortable with the contents of Sonia Gandhi's memoir, 'Belonging: A Journey of Love', which released on Tuesday, because it had no answers to the issues raised in it.

Two men behind series of house break-ins in Dadri held after gunfight

Noida.(Agency)

Two men suspected of being involved in a series of house break-ins in Dadri were arrested following a gunfight with police on Friday. One of the suspects was shot in the leg as the two tried to escape, police said.

A police unit from Dadri station was conducting checks near Nayi Basti turn, close to RV Northland, when they spotted the two men — Sajid alias Tichkale alias Satmola (29) and Rizwan alias Kale (28), residents of Mohalla Mewatiyan in Dadri — approaching on a motorcycle. When cops signalled the men to stop, they allegedly turned their motorcycle around and attempted to flee towards a nearby cremation ground.

As cops chased the two men, one of them allegedly fired at the police personnel. In the retaliatory firing, Sajid was shot in his leg. He was subsequently taken to a hospital for treatment. Rizwan was arrested during a combing operation later.

Police recovered a country-made .315-bore pistol, one live and one spent cartridge, a knife and a stolen motorcycle from the accused.

Biryani seller pushing cart towards market killed in hit and run near Greater Noida

Noida.(Agency)

A 45-year-old biryani seller died after he was hit by an nidentified vehicle in Kulesara early on Friday.An FIR has been filed at Ecotech-3 police station and efforts are on to trace the car and the driver. The victim was pushing his biryani cart towards Phase-2 when the accident occurred, leaving him critically injured.The deceased, Sabir (45), was originally from Saura Jabar village in Bihar's Purnia district. He was living in Haldoni in Greater Noida and sold biryani from a handheld cart. On Friday, he was pushing his cart towards Phase-2 when the accident occurred.As he neared Navjeevan Hospital in Kulesara, an unidentified vehicle allegedly struck him. The driver was allegedly driving rashly and negligently, causing Sabir to sustain severe njuries.Following the accident, family members rushed Sabir to govt hospital in Bhangel for emergency medical assistance. Considering the seriousness of his injuries, doctors referred him to the district hospital in Sector 39.

Gurgaon councillor alleges assault at in-laws' house, 5 held

Noida.(Agency)

Five persons were arrested on Saturday for allegedly assaulting a BJP councillor and his father with sharp-edged weapons, hockey sticks and a pistol butt during a meeting called to discuss a marital dispute at his in-laws' house in Silokhra.Pratham Vashishth, a resident of Greenwood City in Sector 45 and councillor from ward 14, told police that he and his father, Praveen Chandra Vashishth, had gone to his in-laws' house around 11am on Friday following a call from his father-in-law, Satbir Sharma, the previous day.

Pratham married Satbir's daughter, Toshiba, in Feb 2022. She has been living with her parents since Oct 2025.

According to the complaint, Satbir had called Praveen on Nov 12 to discuss the marital dispute. The two families subsequently met at his house the following morning.

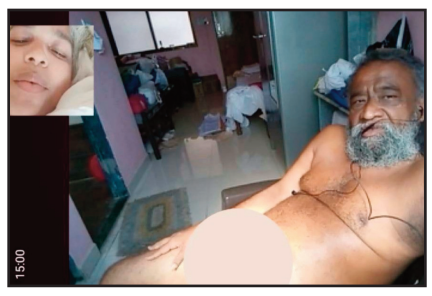
Pratham alleged that an argument broke out during the discussion, following which Satbir and others attacked them. Satbir allegedly struck him on the head with the butt of a pistol.

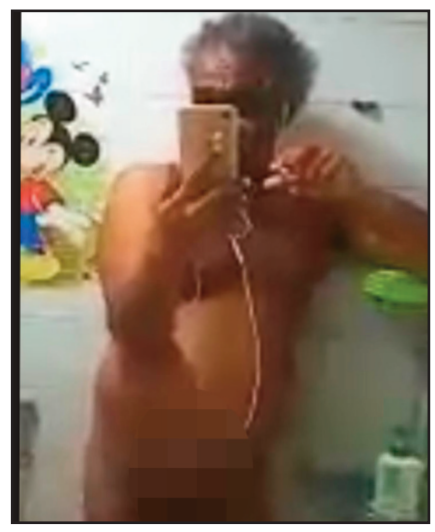
From Alleged Audio to Religious Donations: Sagar Chandra Sagar Controversy Enters a New Phase!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Mandsaur/Palitana/Ahmedabad: The controversy surrounding Sagar Chandra Sagar within the Jain community appears to have taken a new and serious turn. The issue is no longer limited to viral photographs and alleged WhatsApp conversations. Questions are now being raised over an alleged audio recording, the credibility of forensic investigations, religious discipline and the utilisation of funds collected in the name of religion.In a report published on November 6, journalist and Jain community member Hardik Hundia raised several questions regarding Sagar Chandra Sagar's clarification and called for an impartial investigation into the entire matter, along with greater financial transparency in religious institutions.Questions Raised Over the Forensic InvestigationDuring a conversation with a journalist, Sagar Chandra Sagar reportedly claimed that an investigation into the viral photographs had been initiated at the level of religious leaders. According to his explanation, the concerned individuals were asked to provide documents so that scientific examination could be conducted. He also claimed that the necessary co-operation was not received.However, Hardik Hundia questioned which specific photographs were examined and at which laboratory the investigation was conducted. He demanded an independent forensic examination through a government-recognised forensic laboratory to establish the authenticity of the disputed images.Alleged Audio Recording Mentions ₹10 LakhThe controversy has taken another turn following Hardik Hundia's claim.







Behind Every Smiling Face Lies an Untold Story!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Rupesh Solanki: A smile on a person's face is not always a reflection of happiness within. Often, there is laughter on the lips, while countless unspoken sorrows remain hidden deep inside the heart. The world observes a person's face, but very few people make an effort to understand the struggles taking place within.In today's world, every individual is fighting their own battles in life. Some are exhausted by family responsibilities, some are struggling with financial difficulties, while others are living with the disappointment of broken relationships, silently carrying their pain in their hearts. Some bear the burden of unfulfilled dreams, while others experience loneliness even when surrounded by their loved ones. Yet, amidst all these struggles, they continue to stand before the world with a smiling face.We often see someone smiling and naturally assume that they must be living a happy life. But have we ever wondered how many sleepless nights lie behind that smile? How many unfulfilled wishes remain buried within? How many tears have been shed in solitude to ensure that no one else sees them?Some people do not like expressing their pain. They fear that perhaps there will be no one willing to listen to their suffering, or that their emotions may be mistaken for weakness. As a result, they cover their inner pain with a veil of silence. Gradually, this silence becomes a part of their personality.In reality, people do not always need advice. Sometimes, all they need is someone who will listen to them selflessly. They need a companion who asks, "Is everything alright?" and who can also understand the hidden pain behind the usual response, "Yes, everything is fine."The true beauty of relationships lies precisely here. Laughing with someone in their happiness is easy, but quietly sitting beside someone during their moments of sadness is a sign of genuine sensitivity. It is not necessary to provide a solution to every problem; sometimes, simply being present can give someone the courage to face life.We are living in the age of social media, where people showcase the beautiful moments of their lives to the world. Photographs are filled with smiles, travels, celebrations and glimpses of success. However, no one can see the reality hidden behind these pictures. Every person wants to show the beautiful pages of their life to the world, while the pages filled with struggles are often kept private.That is why we should never judge someone's life merely by their smile.

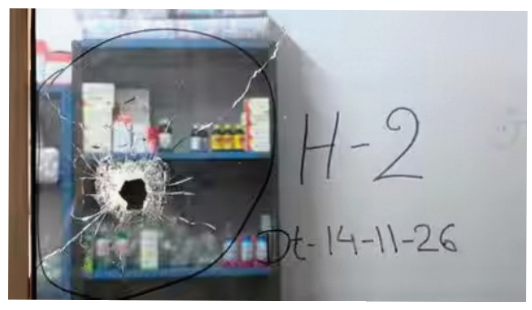


Jailed YouTuber's family shot at outside Loni hospital, none injured

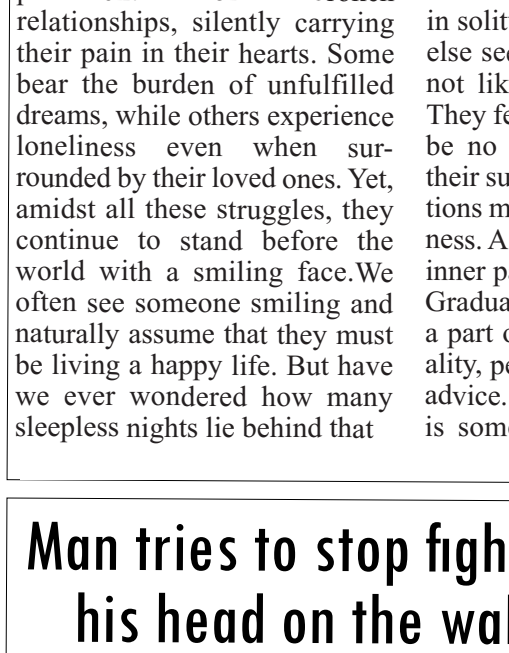
Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Several family members of jailed social media influencer Haji Salman were shot at when they visited Shiven Hospital near Loni Tiraha with an ailing relative on Friday night.The windows of the family's Swift car parked near the hospital were also smashed in and its tyres punctured. Police said nobody was injured in the incident.

An FIR was registered based on a complaint by Boondu Khan, who is Salman's father. He alleged that Afzal, who is his grandson by relation, had gone to the hospital with an ailing relative. Boondu's wife and Salman's mother, Sanjeeda, and another female relative had also gone with Afzal. He said around 10.30pm, a group of seven to eight persons arrived at the hospital and shot at Afzal, but he escaped unhurt. Sanjeeda said that when she heard the gunshots, she and the other female relative hid inside the hospital washroom.After this, the group vandalised the car and fled the spot. SHO at Loni police station Yogendra Singh said the family had blamed someone named Gaurav."The incident has been captured on CCTV camera and we are trying to identify the persons involved," he added.Meanwhile, a female hospital employee, Naseema, alleged that she was assaulted during the incident. "I work at the hospital and have nothing to do with their dispute, but the attackers assaulted me as well," she alleged.Salman, who has around 3 lakh social media followers, is a history-sheeter at Loni police station and is accused in 12 cases ranging from criminal intimidation, assault to attempt to murder.



Man tries to stop fight, dies after hitting his head on the wall in Gurgaon, his neighbour had pushed him



Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 35-year-old man died after his neighbour allegedly pushed him against a wall, injuring the back of his head, when he intervened in a quarrel between the neighbour and his wife in Mohammadpur Jharsa. The neighbour was arrested on Saturday.Police said the incident happened after 9:30 pm on Friday when Vinay Kumar tried to intervene in a fight between his neighbour Rajan Kumar and his wife. Vinay and Rajan were daily-wage workers who lived in rented accommodation.During the altercation, Rajan allegedly pushed him, causing his head to hit a wall behind him. Vinay fell unconscious following the impact.

He was taken to a hospital for treatment, where doctors declared him dead.Police received information at Sector 37 police station on Saturday that a man had been brought to a hospital in an unconscious condition and was declared dead. A police team reached the hospital where Vinay's wife narrated the sequence of events and eventually filed a complaint.Based on her complaint, an FIR was registered under BNS Section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) at Sector 37 police station.Police spokesperson Sandeep Turan said, "A police team from Sector 37 police station arrested Rajan Kumar (35), a resident of East Champaran district in Bihar, from Mohammadpur Jharsa on Saturday."

Rajan told police that Vinay, who lived in his neighbourhood, had intervened to settle an argument between him and his wife. He admitted to pushing Vinay during the intervention, following which Vinay's head struck the wall. Police said the injury sustained in the incident led to his death.

RRTS fast service to cut Delhi to Meerut ride time by 14 mins

Gurgaon.(Agency)

With non-BS-VI vehicles registered outside Delhi barred from entering the capital amid deteriorating air quality, National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has decided to operate eight additional rapid rail trains from Nov 16 to ease commuting between Delhi, Ghaziabad and Meerut.

The fast trains with limited stops will cover the distance from Anand Vihar to Begumpul in 36 minutes, compared with 45 minutes that regular trains take. At nine minutes, the biggest time saving is on the Ghaziabad-Begumpul stretch. While regular trains complete the Ghaziabad-Begumpul journey in 37 minutes, fast trains will take just 28 minutes. The entire corridor from Sarai Kale Khan to Modipuram depot will be covered in less than 50 minutes, compared with the 64 minutes that regular trains take."In the morning peak hour, two fast trains will depart from Sarai Kale Khan and Modipuram at 8 am and 8.30 am. In the evening, two fast trains will again leave Sarai Kale Khan and Modipuram at 6 pm and 6.30 pm in each direction. The fast trains will stop at only five stations, including Sarai Kale Khan, Anand Vihar, Ghaziabad, Begumpul and Modipuram," an NCRTC official said.Passengers for the remaining stations — New Ashok Nagar, Sahibabad, Guldhar, Duhai, Muradnagar, Modinagar South, Modinagar North and Meerut South — will have to use the regular services, which continue to run every 10 minutes.

The Namo Bharat corridor has recorded a daily average footfall of 1.1 lakh and recently crossed the milestone of five crore commuter journeys. NCRTC officials said over the past three months the corridor has seen an average monthly ridership of more than 32 lakh.

"The enhanced peak-hour connectivity is aimed at shaving crucial minutes off daily commutes, particularly benefiting students and ofice-goers who depend on reliable, high-speed transit to reach their educational institutions and workplaces on time," the oficial said.



Another cyclone over Bay of Bengal by Monday, Odisha awaits heavy rains

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

The Bay of Bengal is set to witness its third cyclone within a month as a well-marked low pressure area is likely to intensify into a storm by Monday evening. There is no clarity on the system's landfall point yet.

As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the well-marked low pressure is expected to move northwestwards and intensify into a depression over the same region during the next 24 hours.Tracking north-northwestwards, the system will take the shape of a cyclone over the central parts of south and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal around Monday evening, said the national weather body.However, there is no consensus yet on the system's course after intensifying, leaving its eventual impact on the east coast uncertain.

Various models have issued different forecasts regarding the track and further intensification of the system. The GFS group of models, including AIGFS have indicated an initial northward movement, followed by north-northeastwards/northeastwards movement reaching towards Myanmar-Bangladesh coasts with intensity reaching up to severe to very severe cyclonic storm around Thursday.However, ECMWF model, associated AI models and Mithuna model indicated the system's nearly northwestwards movement reaching near Andhra Pradesh coast across southwest and west-central Bay of Bengal by Thursday.

Health activists to go on strike in Bengaluru from November 17

TIRUCHY.(Agency)

Accredited social health activists from across the state will launch an indefinite protest at Freedom Park from November 17, seeking a fixed monthly honorarium of Rs 15,000, mobile phones and other benefits.Announcing this on Saturday, the Karnataka Rajya Samyukta ASHA Karyakarteyara Sangha alleged that the state government has not fulfilled their long-pending demands despite repeated representations.

The sangha said health activists have been providing essential healthcare services at the grassroots for over 18 years, often working for six to eight hours a day and remaining available round-the-clock.However, their payments continue to be largely incentive-based, leaving them financially insecure. It pointed out that other states provide higher fixed honorarium.The sangha has placed seven major demands before the government. They include a fixed monthly honorarium of Rs 15,000 for health activists, good quality mobile phones and recharge allowances, six months' paid maternity.

Pink Line stretch saves time for South Bengaluru commuters

BENGALURU.(Agency)

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the elevated section of the Pink Line, the 7.5-km stretch from Kalena Agrahara to SG Palya was opened for public service on Saturday.Commuters and residents welcomed the launch, expressing enthusiasm over the improved Metro connectivity and hoping it would ease travel in south Bengaluru.Speaking to on the first day of public operations, several commuters said the new stretch had significantly reduced their travel time and offered relief from being stuck in traffic.Faidhi Ashiq, a resident of Hulimavu, said the line was particularly beneficial as he frequently travelled to Madiwala, where his shop is located. "Earlier, driving from Hulimavu used to take at least 35 to 40 minutes. Now, it takes barely 10 to 15 minutes to get to SG Palya making it easier to reach the shop," he said."I have been travelling on this route for the past 20 years, from Gottigere to Wilson Garden. What used to take nearly an hour now takes just 10 minutes with the Metro barring the first and last mile travel. I have saved considerable time on my commute," said Anitha, an entrepreneur and a local resident.Another commuter, Rebecca (name changed), said traffic near Nexus Vega City Mall becomes particularly heavy on weekends and during festivals, and the new line would offer some relief.

Dramatic jungle chase ends in Navsari village well in Gujarat: Leopard dies, boar survives

Tough for leopards to swim or survive in water, while wild boar can manage: Forest dept officials.

Kolkata (Agency)

Navsari district saw an unusual, wild chase when a leopard hunting a wild boar chased it right into the well and died, even as the boar survived.The incident took place on Friday late evening in the Vansda forest range where the leopard spotted the wild boar in the deep jungle and began to chase it. The two reached the outskirts of Chikhatiya village where the boar jumped into a 20-ft well."The incident came to light on Saturday early morning, when a villager passing by heard some noise from the well. He spotted a wild boar struggling to save its life. The villager informed the village sarpanch Kiran Chaudhary, who reached the spot. The villagers then informed the forest department. Before our team reached the spot, the villagers made all possible efforts to rescue the wild boar, but to no avail. Our



teams used expert techniques and lifted the wild boar from the well," said Amit Tandel, Vansda Range Forest officer.The villagers found the boar clinging on to the wall even as the leopard had jumped into the water.

Later, the forest department personnel also spotted the carcass of the leopard and fished it out.Tandel said, "We sent the carcass to the veterinary hospital in Vansda where doctors conducted a postmortem on Saturday. The doctors pointed out that the cause of death is due to drowning. It is difficult for leopards to swim or survive in the water, while wild boar can manage…The leopard was a 4-year-old male and the boar is around two-and-half years old."The previous census pegged the leopard population in Gujarat at 2,274 of which 52 were spotted in Navsari district.

Chikhatiya village Sarpanch Kiran Chaudhary told this newspaper that it has now been decided to raise the height of the wall of the well to prevent such incidents. "The well was built a long time ago. This well is around 20 feet deep and around 13 ft in diameter. The water from the well is used for agriculture and drinking. As our village has few other wells. There is no cover but we have a 3-ft-high compound wall," said Chaudhary.

'Not a single prescription': How pharma firms are 'moving' codeine cough syrup to Bengal border districts

After seizing and destroying nearly two lakh bottles in Balurghat, police probe alleged diversion of codeine-based syrups worth crores; 65 arrested in 44 cases in Dakshin Dinajpur since June

Kolkata.(Agency)

A pharmaceutical company based in Panipat, Haryana, supplied medicines worth Rs 64 crore to West Bengal between April 1 and September 18 this year. Of this, Rs 44 crore came allegedly from the sale of codeine-based cough syrups, with investigators saying they have not found a single prescription to support the volume of these sales.The findings have brought three pharmaceutical companies under the scanner of West Bengal Police following the unearthing of an alleged narcotics trafficking network in Dakshin Dinajpur district. Investigators suspect that codeine-based cough syrups manufactured in Himachal Pradesh are being diverted through licensed distributors and stockists before reaching border districts and, allegedly, Bangladesh.Nearly two lakh bottles of codeine-based cough syrup seized in Balurghat have been destroyed, 65 people arrested and 44 cases registered in Dakshin Dinajpur since June.South Dinajpur Superintendent of Police Abhishek Gupta said the scale of sales raised serious questions about the intended use of the medicines.

"Out of the total Rs 64 crore generated by the pharmaceutical company, Rs 44 crore, approximately 65 per cent of the company's revenue, came exclusively from codeine-based syrup sales," he said.The police suspect that the medicines, instead of reaching patients, through legitimate medical channels, were being diverted for recreational use and cross-border smuggling. The investigation is examining the role of manufacturers, carrying and forwarding (C&F) agents, licensed wholesalers and other intermediaries.

From licensed channels to illegal markets



According to police, the alleged diversion takes advantage of the way codeine-based cough syrups move through the pharmaceutical distribution network.A company supplies the product to a nodal C&F agent, who receives a commission of around 4 per cent, the official said. The agent then transfers the stock to licensed drug dealers across different districts.The official said that while the initial transactions take place through authorised channels, some licensed dealers allegedly store the stock in unauthorised premises or sell it to people who do not hold drug licences.Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, the dealers involved in the distribution chain hold licences, including those under provisions 20B and 21B, the official said. However, investigators suspect that the stock is subsequently diverted outside the regulated supply chain."For codeine-based syrup, if you have one licence, there is no cap on whether you purchase one lakh bottles or 10,000 bottles. Once the stock reaches licensed godowns, it is sold to other drug licence holders in different districts. Some then store it in unauthorised places and sell it to people who are not licensed. That is where it moves from an official channel to an illegal narcotics liability," the official said.The SP also estimated that the annual turnover of pharmaceutical companies from such sales in Bengal was between Rs 5,000 crore and Rs 6,000 crore. The estimate could not be independently verified.

Cash deposits and suspected hawala links

Investigators are also examining the financial transactions behind the alleged diversion. According to police, the network uses cash collected in border districts, including money converted from Bangladeshi taka into Indian rupee, before transferring the funds electronically.

Kerala High Court calls for lowering juvenile age limit to 16 years

KOCHI.(Agency)

The Kerala High Court has observed that it is high time the legislature considered amending laws dealing with 'juveniles and children in conflict with the law' to lower the age threshold from 18 to 16 years, as the state recently witnessed a series of crimes and fatal road accidents involving minors.Justice A Badharudeen made the observation, noting the present trend indicating that children attain sufficient maturity by the age of 16. The court also expressed concern over minors getting easy access to liquor despite statutory restrictions.The court made the observation while considering a petition by Vinod Vikraman Pillai of Kollam, seeking strict enforcement of Sections 15A and 15B of the Kerala Abkari Act, which prohibit serving liquor to persons below 23 years. The petition cited the October 11 accident at Nedumbassery, in which a 19-year-old, allegedly under the influence of liquor, rammed his luxury car into a scooter, killing three youths.Advocate U Jayakrishnan, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the student had allegedly been served liquor at multiple bars in Ernakulam without age verification, exposing serious lapses in excise enforcement. He sought an independent vigilance probe and mandatory digital age-verification systems at licensed bars and criminal action against violators.

Observing that the matter required a detailed hearing, the court directed the excise commissioner to file a statement detailing the instructions issued to enforce the statutory provisions and suggest measures to prevent such incidents.The court observation assumes significance in the wake of several recent incidents involving juveniles, including on November 2, when a 17-year-old boy was identified as the prime accused in the murder of a Plus-I student at Pangappara in Thiruvananthapuram.In another incident, a luxury car allegedly driven by the 17-year-old son of an judge fatally knocked down a 55-year-old man on Container Road in Kochi. In August, a 13-year-old girl was booked for allegedly conspiring with three teenage boys to murder her 67-year-old grandfather at Karuvatta in Alappuzha.

Why a Mumbai Metro line is waiting for one man in a crumbling building to move

Mumbai.(Agency)

At Juhu Circle, one of the busiest junctions in Mumbai's western suburbs, two crumbling apartment blocks stand almost empty. The residents moved out over the years as the buildings grew dangerous. One man remains. In his mid-fifties, he has lived here since childhood. The building he calls home is the last thing standing in the way of a Metro line.Mumbai is building Metro Line 2B, a 23.643-kilometre elevated corridor across its suburbs at a cost of Rs 10,986 crore. On the 8-kilometre stretch due to open next — between Andheri and Khar, the tracks are laid on every inch, except 185 metres. That missing piece of the elevated track has to pass over the plot where the man lives.It has taken eight years, a High Court case and two failed deals to clear those 185 metres. Until they are built, trains can't run. The gap sits between DN Nagar and ESIC Nagar stations, at the point where the new line joins the operational Line 2A, so there is no way around it.Because of the gap, tracks cannot be laid along the full stretch. Until that is done, the MMRDA cannot put up the overhead electric poles, power the line or begin trial runs. The stretch has been held up for at least eight months, and commuters in Vile Parle, Santacruz and Khar are still waiting for the Metro to reach them.The story of the gap is the story of competing claims on air space in a crowded city, where a housing society's plan to rebuild, a Metro line and an airport's height restrictions all met on one plot.

The plan to rebuild

The two buildings belong to the Juhu Gulmohar Cooperative Housing Society. It has a prime address, at Juhu Circle and a short walk from Juhu beach, in an area where house prices have boomed. The buildings, three to four storeys tall, were built in 1980 and have 40 members.In 2011, the society began



preparing to tear down its old buildings and put up new ones, a process Mumbai calls redevelopment. Later that year it appointed a builder, Bhoomi Realtors.

The society stands on land leased from MHADA, the state housing authority, so a long round of approvals followed. This also included clearance from the MMRDA, the state agency building the Metro. At that point, the Metro's planned route passed along the periphery of the society's buildings, old and proposed, without touching either.

Cop jailed in 2019 Vadodara custodial death case gets bail to ready son for rifle-shooting contest

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

A Police inspector accused in one of Vadodara's high-profile Fatehgunj custodial death cases in 2019, involving a 65-year-old migrant from Telangana, has been granted temporary bail for an unusual reason — to arrange a shooting kit, a rented rifle and a school certificate for his son's state-level competition.The Gujarat High Court (HC) granted temporary bail for seven days to jailed Police Inspector D B Gohil, from November 14 to 20, to facilitate his minor son's participation in a state-level rifle shooting competition scheduled in Jamnagar on November 17 and 18.Justice Mool Chand Tyagi issued the order on November 12 after Gohil's counsel, H Y Kothari, submitted that his son earlier secured first position in a district-level rifle shooting competition and was keen on participating in the state-level event. Participants were required to report at the venue on November 16, as per the submissions made by Gohil.Gohil's counsel told the court that his presence was "genuinely required" to make the necessary arrangements for his son's participation, including procuring a shooting kit, arranging a rifle on rent and obtaining the requisite school certificate, besides completing other formalities.Gohil had sought temporary bail for 30 days. However, the court granted bail for seven days. The order states, "Taking into consideration the grounds urged in this application, the applicant is ordered to be released on temporary bail for a period from 14.11.2026 to 20.11.2026." He has been directed to furnish a personal bond of Rs 5,000 and surrender before the jail authority concerned on November 20, upon expiry of the temporary bail period.



This is the second occasion in four months that Gohil has secured temporary bail from the HC. On July 10, the court partly allowed his application after considering that he was required to appear for examinations at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University in Ahmedabad on July 12 and 13. He was granted temporary release for three days, with a direction to surrender immediately after the period expired.

Fatal attraction of spies and chips: The public price of private lives

In the Insta world, the 'Kodak moment' has morphed long ago into the 'Coldplay moment'. This week, the romantic dalliance of Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang with Alice Huang, allegedly a Chinese spy, lit screens across the world. The meme-world is ablaze. If the old maxim said that two wrongs don't make a right, it's now saying two Huangs don't make it right. As the headlines play out, the capital markets are trying to price the risks.Markets pride themselves in their ability to price anything and everything. They price wars, monsoons, elections, the derby and even the mood of central bankers. Nvidia can insure against fire, hedge its currencies, buy cover for its directors and even takes out a key-man policy in case the boss meets a bus. What companies and markets have struggled with is how to price character, how to map the unknown risks of leadership. The fatal attraction here is not the one between the Huangs, but between the market and a stock.Beyond the salacious imagery, the worry for the investor world at large is if the AI rally will hang with Huang. Nvidia is around 6 percent of the S&P500 index, 10 percent of the Nasdaq100 and is on pension fund assets across the world. The best they have is phraseology: key-man risk. Ergo, they assume it and pay for the assumption when the unknowns become known.Since Jensen Huang confessed to his extramarital affair on November 8, his company has lost over $500 billion in market cap. Huang, who owns 3.6 percent of the stock, lost more than $15 billion. Of every dollar that vanished, a little under four cents was his.The rest belonged to index funds, pension plans, insurers and the households behind them—none of whom were consulted on his weekends. The affair was private. The invoice is public.Economists, being economists, have looked at the phenomenon. In 2018, Brandon Cline, Ralph Walkling and Adam Yore published a paper in the Journal of Financial Economics with the unimprovable subtitle 'Sex, Lies and Firm Value'. They tracked 219 indiscretions by executives, the sexual, the dishonest, the intoxicated and the violent. On disclosure, the average company lost 1.6 percent of its value, or $110 million. When the sinner was the CEO, the loss was 4.1 percent, or $226 million. Nvidia's Monday was a textbook illustration with more zeros.As the markets lathered, as Nikkei and Nasdaq yo-yoed, the board lawyered up preparing for a multitude of probes by an array of three-letter agencies, and enquiries by US House and Senate committees. Setting the stage for the company's defence, the board ousted Huang on November 12 and sppointed Chief Financial Officer Colette Kress as interim CEO.

Great power, great temptations

Nvidia's is not the first CEO tripping on frailties. With great power comes great temptations. Literature has covered the ground the prospectus is struggling with. "I can resist everything except temptation," says Lord Darlington in Oscar Wilde's Lady Windermere's Fan.Harry Stonecipher, brought back to clean up Boeing's ethics, was asked to resign in 2005 over an affair with a female executive. Mark Hurd left Hewlett-Packard in 2010 after an inquiry into his relationship with a contractor.

Time to revisit philanthropy in India

Gandhi's trusteeship and Gates' monitoring model are among the pathways to choose from

PHILANTHROPY is both an old and a new idea in India. We get a glimpse of the old idea, which has its basis in caste, religion and trade practices, in Pushpa Sundar's 2017 book Giving with a Thousand Hands: The Changing Face of Indian Philanthropy. The Parsis, for example, have a reputation for being an active philanthropic community. Perhaps their worldview of Manashni (good thoughts), Gavashni (good words) and Kunashni (good deeds) has something to do with it.Similarly, the Lalbhais of Ahmedabad, drawing on Jain and Vaishnav philosophies and the institution of the Nagarsheth that they occupied, acquired a reputation as philanthropists; they established the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) and the Ahmedabad Educational Society.In contrast to this old-world philanthropy, the new idea that has caught the imagination of India looks at philanthropy in the US. Bain & Company, the global consultancy firm that publishes the annual India Philanthropy Report, notes a growing trend towards philanthropy by individuals, families and corporates in India. Unsurprisingly, from the Bain perspective, capitalism and philanthropy go together.

Beyond these two positions, however, there are at least three reasons for us to revisit philanthropy in India. The first is the current imbroglio concerning the governance of Tata Trusts. Established in 1892, it was deliberately given a majority stake (66%) in the principal holding company of the Tata Group, Tata Sons. They would thereby have a steady source of income for philanthropy. Why then is there a governance controversy today? What is it telling us about ourselves? What will be its implications for the philanthropy of Tata Trusts?

The second curious factor is the extremely small number of Indian billionaires, just five, who have signed the "Giving Pledge" that voluntarily commits individuals to giving 50% of their wealth during their lifetime. According to the Forbes Billionaire List (2026), India has 229 billionaires and is ranked third after the US and China. So, why have so few made this pledge? It's another hard question to which we need answers.

The third reason is Mahatma Gandhi's concept of trusteeship. It is an ethical idea superior to philanthropy and yet, despite his campaigning for it, there were no takers. According to Gandhi, only Jamnalal Bajaj came close to embodying this concept.Rather than retrace the Indian discussion, which to me is "same old, same old", let me present ideas/practices that have a bearing on Indian philanthropy. I will begin with Gandhi's idea of trusteeship and then move on to the contrasting perspectives of Bill Gates, MacKenzie Scott and Elon Musk.The core of Gandhi's idea is to convert an "owner" into a "trustee". This requires a change of heart: even though capitalists retain control of their wealth, they hold most of it in trust "for God", by which Gandhi meant "the people". Only a small "portion" is available for personal use. Trusteeship recognises capitalists' special skills at wealth creation but does not see this as providing moral grounds for them to use, and alienate, as they so desire. No private zoo for them — they are merely its trustees, not owners. They have to always keep the public good in mind.When asked how much of this wealth should be for the capitalist's personal use, Gandhi suggested 1%, a

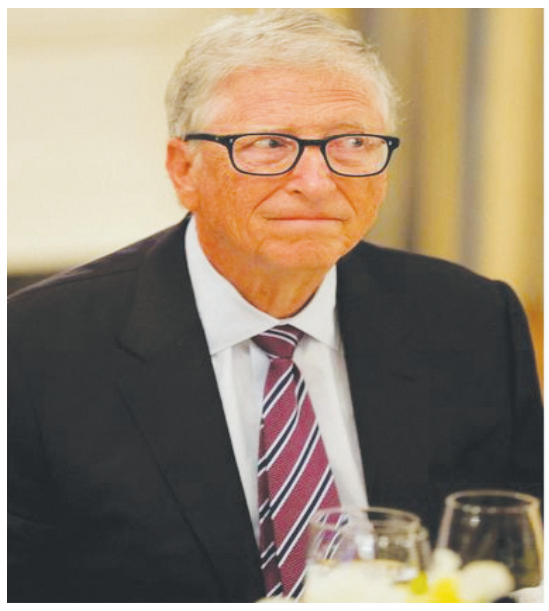




figure similar to the proportion of his net assets that Warren Buffett considered enough for him to fulfil all his desires. Trusteeship, for Gandhi, was opposed to capitalism, which he believed was rooted in violence.

However, giving up ownership of one's wealth and becoming a trustee puts too great an ethical burden on capitalists, who prefer to remain owners. Despite trusteeship's roots in the Bhagavad Gita's concept of aparigraha (non-attachment), capitalists here, as elsewhere, want to enjoy social and political power. Control of wealth gives it to them.

In contrast to trusteeship was the idea of philanthropy propounded by Andrew Carnegie in his slim book The Gospel of Wealth. The philanthropy he practised was about controlling both the giving of his wealth and its destination. Philanthropy was, for him, an opportunity to make available to the subaltern classes institutions for their uplift, such as parks, concert halls, museums and libraries — which he built. Carnegie also sponsored research, especially in the medical field, in universities. Philanthropy was the way to provide facilities for the less well-off to improve themselves. He, however, remained a profit-maximising capitalist. This conundrum of hard capitalism with soft philanthropy is at the heart of philanthropic work in America.Bill Gates endorses Carnegie's philosophy. He uses management tools to monitor the flow of money. To his credit, his work has had a significant impact on global public health. Unlike a trustee, Gates seeks to both decide the cause to which he will give money and the process by which it will be disbursed. For Gates, capitalism and philanthropy need each other.Although MacKenzie Scott is a capitalist by default, having acquired her wealth because of her divorce from Jeff Bezos, she has adopted a light-touch approach to giving. She chooses not to monitor how her funds are deployed once she has identified a recipient. She makes the grant and allows the grantee to decide how and where it should be spent. Most of her awardees work with underserved communities. She cedes spending decisions to them, a strategy applauded by Melinda French Gates and Jack Dorsey, who now seek to emulate it.

MacKenzie Scott's strategy of giving (nearly $26 billion and counting) has been described by Musk as "making the world a worse place". For him, the way forward to address the problems of the world is not philanthropy but capitalism. In his view, more for-profit companies like his that are mission-driven are more effective in achieving good than philanthropy.

India Story is not just about the paths taken, also those lying ahead

Modi is a master of nuanced communication: with characteristic humour, he thanked journalists for attending a gathering of "non-breaking news".

Explaining India's growth story can be a complex task. But then, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an expert at unravelling complexities. His message at the Diwali media meet in Delhi was concise: go beyond the daily news cycle and become chroniclers of a nation in the midst of transformation. Modi is a master of nuanced communication: with characteristic humour, he thanked journalists for attending a gathering of "non-breaking news".The lighter moment set the tone for a larger message about the urgency of India's development ambitions. His analogy between newsroom deadlines and national development targets was an innovative twist on how deadlines speed up the pace of work, sharpens priorities and creates a sense of purpose. India's ambition of becoming a developed nation by 2047, he clarified, needs similar commitment.Modi's appeal to showcase the India Story was particularly significant. Citing the country's young population, affordable data services and achievements such as Chandrayaan-3, the Chenab railway bridge and UPI, he highlighted India's growing technological and engineering capabilities.

Journalists must seek out grassroots stories of innovation, enterprise and social transformation was the fundamental message, as he drew a parallel with Mann Ki Baat, which brings lesser-known achievers and local initiatives into



the national conversation. Most important was his appeal to publicise the danger of substance abuse among youth, and raising awareness about deepfakes.It was a reminder that journalism's influence extends beyond reporting events to shaping public awareness and encouraging collective action.Modi was both Prime Minister and chief editor on the stage; his view was that reporting on infrastructure expansion, technological innovation and entrepreneurial energy must go hand in hand with explaining their economic and social impact.This explains how the country's progress is not a single narrative but a multitude of stories unfolding across regions, industries and communities. Bringing them together can help citizens understand both the scale of change and the possibilities ahead through sustained effort from every institution.The media has a distinctive contribution to make in this endeavour: showcase achievements while illuminating shortfalls, connect local successes with national aspirations and keep public attention focused on the road ahead. Telling the India Story is not simply about celebrating how far the country has travelled; it is also about helping Indians understand how much farther India can go.

Slow and stodgy on the eastern front

From New Delhi's perspective, this will also mark the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit, with a key focus on improving maritime security cooperation.

The word 'jamboree' probably accurately sums up what will unfold in Manila this Monday. As the 49th ASEAN Summit commences with the Philippines as the chair, the build-up to main summit of Southeast Asian leaders will be preceded by a flurry of meetings to set the tone and agenda, as well as multiple related mini-summits.Most of this work is coordinated by the ASEAN secretariat. That and all the other coordinating group meetings in the run-up to the main event seek to align both the final declarations and review of the annual progress of the grouping. As an official process, it is a massive effort of many moving parts.

This year's summit theme—'Navigating the future, together'—remains critically distinct. For the first summit chaired by President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr, it could not be more apt in describing what the bloc is facing given the turbulent world order at present, where fragmentation remains the key determinant of how systemic factors are shaped.

The year beyond the summit will be crucial for ASEAN's relevance in the region and the larger cause of how multilateralism evolves in the current environment. Given this backdrop, this article focuses on the year's core issues for the bloc and the manner in which the grouping may move prior to handing the chairmanship to Singapore in 2027.The most interesting set of issues to watch out for during the summit will fall in three critical areas. First, how the ASEAN leadership under the Philippines addresses two of the core issues within the grouping—the situation in Myanmar, which remains far from seeing any resolution, and the manner in which geopolitics of the South China Sea is being shaped through the year.



The question that looms large is whether either of these issues will find any long-term answers at the summit.The continuing military rule in Myanmar and the kind of electoral process held over three phases from late last year to early this year have not gone down well either within the ASEAN or in the rest of the international community. While ASEAN's principle of remaining out of the domestic politics of its member States may have held some significance in its early years, this option of ignoring the situation in member countries is no longer tenable.Increasingly, the civil societies in countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines are coming out stronger against violence within States. ASEAN itself has been less than endorsing of the electoral results and the efforts of the Filipino special envoy to Myanmar has met with little success, though some progress is seen in terms of meeting the conflicting parties.The situation also reflects the fact that the government of President Ming Aung Hliang is not in full control of the country and National Union government supported by the People's Defence Force and various ethnic armed organisations have a hold on a bit over 40 percent of the nation's territory. This unprecedented situation pushes ASEAN to continuously reiterate its original five-point consensus, which looks at an inclusive dialogue of all stakeholders. While the ban on inviting the Myanmar president continues, the ASEAN has been unable to deliver a resounding and effective result on the country. This remains far from being adequately addressed.

Through te past year, the bloc has had several rounds of meetings to look at furthering the Code of Conduct (CoC) for South China Sea. Even in January, when the Philippines took over the chair, it was assumed that the CoC would feature strongly in this year's agenda, based on the host's position and increasing geopolitical tensions in the area.



Paint your house Green this Winter

Love plants, but not sure if you can maintain them with ease? Ashok kumar mundetiya tells you how to add an extra edge to your balcony garden and interiors this season...

The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul

With space being a rarity these days, it is difficult to dream of a garden space — more so, if you are staying in a small apartment. But fear not! For terrace garden — big or small — is a wonderful way to add colour to your otherwise dull life. You can just sit there, listen to music, read books or simply pull up a couch to lie down and soak in the natural beauty. Low space in metros and big cities has also compelled plant lovers to grow vegetables on their balconies. It is not only a great stress-buster, but the benefits of consuming home-grown vegetables also compensate for the time spent on pruning it. But wait... Before you start painting your house green, a few things should be taken into account, because no matter how much you care, your plants aren't going to thrive if you are ignorant of their specific needs. CT provides the basic guidelines to beginners...

Know your plants

Before adding a plant to your potted collection, it is advisable to ask an expert at a nursery about the conditions the plant needs. "It's usually much easier to grow plants that do well in your region, temperature and soil. For instance, don't try to grow a flower like a rose — which requires six hours in the sun — on a porch that gets sunlight only for an hour in the morning. While it's important to maintain a steady temperature for indoor plants, a terrace garden needs adequate sunlight. Again, if you notice your plant becoming thin and reaching out toward the light, it needs to be closer to sunshine," informs AB Karmakar, executive/ administrator for The Globe Nursery on Lindsay Street.

Maintenance of indoor plants

- Most indoor plants do best in partial shade, which works out well since indoor areas don't usually get direct sunlight. Keep this in mind before you decide to put a potted plant in a place where it will get hours of direct sunlight; you may end up exposing
it for too long.
- One must select the right size of the pots. For indoor plants, go for pots either 4 inches or 6 inches in size. Allow enough space for the roots to grow. Make sure the pots are light and strong, so as to hold the plant for a long time.
- Place plastic saucers under the pots to avoid soil and water spillage.
- Ficus Elastica, Areca Palm, a variety of philodendron or dracaena are best suited for indoors. These plants can do without sunlight for 7-10 days with minimum requirement of water.

Water the plants carefully

"Water the plants as and when required. Many first-time gardeners or potted plant owners water plants more than necessary, believing that the more water the plant gets, the better they grow. While it holds true for certain plants, it can kill others," suggests Dr SL Rahman, consultant at Agri-Horticultural Society of India.

Kitchen garden in pots

- If you thought a kitchen garden only works in bigger houses, you are highly mistaken. Get creative. Don't throw away buckets, containers etc. Use them along with hanging baskets for smaller plants. You can even grow vegetables in the little balcony of your apartment.
- Do not use soil from the garden. It can be filled with weed seeds, insects, and fungal diseases. It is better and easier to buy readymade potting soil (a mixture comprising clay, bone dust, vermicompost, neem cake and mustard cake) from the local nursery. You can also go for coco peat, which are made from coconut husks and is a medium for growing plants.
- Get various seedlings from the nursery. Remove the plants from its nursery container. Never pull a plant out by its stem. If it is stuck, tap the sides of the pot to loosen it. Gently tease the ends of the roots free before planting it in the bigger pot.
- For the proper growth of vegetables in your balcony, the pot size should be between 8-10 inches.
- Make one or more drain holes in the pot. Place small chips right over them so that they don't clog and excess water can pass through.
- Do not pile soil on top of the plant; make sure the stem is completely above the surface. Leave about an inch between the soil surface and the rim of the pot.
- All vegetable plants need constant moisture. Some plants need water on a daily basis.

Veggies for beginners

Coriander: How many times did you get sad looking at half-dried coriander leaves (dhania) in the market? Coriander is something that is used in everyday cuisine to spice it up. And that makes it a must-grow for every kitchen garden. The seed is technically a fruit containing two seeds in it. When split, it increases the germination rate since it scarifies the seed. Take a tray with potting mix filled up to half inch from the top. Then make rows by drawing a line with your index finger or a stick. Simply sow the split coriander seeds in each row. Once done, water them and wait! It starts germinating between 5-7 days.

Potatoes: Plant potatoes during late February and March. When the green shoots begin to appear above the soil, cover them with more compost. You only need remember to water them. After 10 to 20 weeks, dig around in the soil to collect your home-grown potatoes!

Peas: It's a trouble-free crop that enjoys cooler weather. Sow them in the pots between March and June. Erect some sticks or posts for support. You'll be amazed at how good fresh peas taste and the more that you pick them, the more they produce!

Tomato: With a little water and a lot of sun, tomato plants are quick to grow. Roots of a tomato plant grow deeper into the soil. So, choose a bush variety like 'Cherry Cascade' that can be planted in hanging baskets and window boxes. Just cut a tomato into four pieces and bury it about 1/2 an inch into the soil. Wait for 3-4 weeks for the seeds to start sprouting.

Cucumber: These grow best when the soil is warm. Cucumber plants tend to sprawl all over. Provide your plants with ample space to stretch their roots. Again, since these are climbers, you must get a proper support. Go for smaller varieties if there's less space.

Green chilli: These are good companion plants for tomatoes and coriander. Just take two or three dried red chillies. Slit them open and sprinkle the seeds in a pot filled with soil and a little manure, available in the nurseries. Ensure the seeds don't go too deep. Cover it with little soil and water it. It takes about a week or so for the seeds to sprout. If the pot is not large enough, you can replant the sprouts into a bigger pot. You may need to tie up the chili plant to a pole to let it grow and avoid bending.

Winter blossom

- According to Nirupom Sen, secretary-cum-CEO, Agri-Horticultural Society of India, if you have a garden without flowers, you have got to do something about it. So, before deciding where to plant your flowers, you should know when the best time to grow flowers is. "During winter, the best flowers to grow in Indian climate are Petunia, Cockscomb, Antirrhinum, Cineraria, Zinnia, Calendula, Chrysanthemum, Marigold and Dahlia," he says.
- Flower plants need up to 5 inches deep soil. So take an earthen pot of 6-8 inches in height. Dig a hole in the potted soil. Bury the seed about 2 inches deep. Flowers do not need to be smothered with the soil. Do not bury them too deep. After 6 weeks, you will see the seeds sprout into saplings.
- The after-care is very essential. Sprinkle water as and when required.

Terrace talk

- As the main element of a terrace garden comprises watering of plants and keeping the soil wet, it is important that the best quality water-proofing material is selected.
- One has to bear in mind that the area selected to build a terrace garden should have a slight slope, so that it can drain water easily and has the capacity to bear the load.
- It is always advisable to pick plants which don't grow big in size.
- You can install a separate tank to store water or have a mechanical watering arrangement. But most often, people love to water their garden themselves and see the plants grow.

Preparing the potting mixture & sowing seeds

'These days, one can easily get exotic and hybrid seeds of capsicum, chilly, cabbage, broccoli, coriander, tomatoes, brinjal, basil and parsley. The potting mixture should have 20% of leaf mould, 40% sand and 40% soil. You can add mustard cake and cow dung cake as fertilizers. After the seeds are sown, one should cover the soil with a layer of fine sand. Sand makes the soil porous and helps the roots grow.

Keeping insects away

'Use neem-based organic pesticides. Or you can take 100 gram of chillies, 4-5 cloves of garlic and a few bulbs of turmeric, paste it and mix it in 1 litre of water. Pour the liquid in a container and simmer it till it is reduced to half. Refrigerate it and use it
whenever necessary. All you need to do is take out about 20 ml or the concentrated paste, mix it in a litre of water and sprinkle it on the plants. However, if insects or diseases do strike your plants, go for the safest botanical or microbial pesticides'

- For the proper growth of vegetables/ flowers, the pot size should be between 8-10 inches. Make one or more drain holes in the pot
- Place small chips right over them so that they don't clog and excess water can pass through
- Do not pile soil on top of the plant
- Get various seedlings from the nursery
- Carefully remove the plants from its nursery container. Make sure the stem is completely above the surface
- Leave about an inch between the soil surface and the rim of the pot

A calmer home



Do you know that if your home is cluttered, disorganised and poorly designed it doesn't nourish your energy? A survey by London-based Ministry of Calm — that designs spaces to enhance wellbeing — found that a whopping 99 per cent of the respondents believe that changing your space can affect how you feel. Healing places of stillness and calm in your home are uplifting. Here are some ideas on how you can do that...

Try minimalism: Don't accumulate things - de-clutter. Japanese author Marie Kondo says that anything that doesn't make you happy or isn't necessary should be touched, thanked and sent on its way.

Keep your home clean : Keisuke Matsumoto writes in his book A Buddhist Monk's Guide to a Clean House and Mind: "We remove dust to sweep away our worldly cares. We live simply and take time to contemplate the self, mindfully living each moment." Keeping your home clean brings Zen peacefulness.

Use natural light: For a relaxing space, replace harsh fluorescent lights with natural light or use candles. Place different sources of light which will allow you to control the intensity. Avoid projecting a direct light from the ceiling.

Calming colours: Energy healer Seema Midha says, "The colours you use will calm you as a person. Use green plants to take away negative energy."

Simplify the bedroom: Don't pile on fancy things, as they bring a negative chi. Feng shui expert SBS Surendran says, "Keep harsh lights and all technology out of the bedroom. Add a soft white rug and swing where you can lounge."

Use minimum decorations: Simplicity should be a ground rule if you want to bring in calmness to your home. Avoid collections of paintings or photos and keep only those that are dear to you.

Go green: Greenery soothes your nerves. Caring for plants is a big stressbuster

Keep it soft: Keeping soft rugs and throw pillows around brings softness in your home



Tips to keep Woollens as never as ever!

Avoid washing machines to clean your sweaters and avoid hanging your sweaters for drying, says an expert.

Bhavya Chawla, chief stylist, Voonik, an online stylist-handpicked apparel store, has suggested some tips to keep woollens as new as ever!

Use the right brush

Avoid washing machines to clean your sweaters as they may lose their sheen. Instead, use an electrostatic garment brush after every wear as woollens tend to accumulate a lot of dust and are vulnerable to moths. Airing them and spot-cleaning is another effective way to keep them new.

Gently clean tough stains

If you accidentally stain your sweater or scarf, take it to the dry cleaner. In case the stain is not that tough and you feel you can manage to clean it at home, use a high quality detergent meant for woolens. Mix it in lukewarm water and soak your woollens in the mixture. Gently wash the piece of clothing with your hands. But remember to do this only for items that don't come with a "Dry clean only" tag!

Avoid hanging

Woollens should never be hung up on a clothes line like other articles as this causes the fabric to stretch and it may lose its shape eventually. Lay the sweater or cardigan on a flat surface and allow it to dry at room temperature. Steer clear of sunlight and intense heat as these can sap all colour and life from your precious woolens.

As they are really prone to stretching out of shape, you must also avoid hanging woollens on hangers in the closets. Instead, fold them neatly and place them.

Don't iron when dry

Woollens shouldn't be ironed when they are completely dry as this won't ease out the deep creases. They can also scorch easily under direct dry heat. Instead, use a steam press. If that's not an option, wet a plain white cotton cloth very slightly and use this as a buffer between the iron and the woolen. It's also advisable to keep the sweater turned inside out when not in use.

Prevent moth attacks and germs

Wool is very vulnerable to moth attacks and germ build-ups. That is why it's imperative to never stack even remotely damp woollen clothes in your wardrobe as you will end up creating a breeding ground for germs. Remember to stash some moth balls in the section of your cupboard where you are placing your woollens.

Winter is here and your woollens are your best companions during this season. It require extra care as the fibres are more delicate and are prone to being damaged very easily.



Easy decorating ideas to instantly Update your home



If you are planning to refurbish your home, there is nothing better than including small changes which will make your pad look different and interesting. From a colourful wallpaper in your living space to a clever lighting fixture — these are instant ways to brighten up your dull room.

Add a splash of colour to your living room

Whether it is by way of having some colourful throws into the room or adding some vibrant cushions — you can easily brighten a corner of your living space. Choose wooden furniture for your room to make it look vintage. Instead of the usual curtains, opt for floral ones for an interesting look.

Vibrant lantern to spruce up your kitchen

For those who are thinking of ways to make their kitchen look bright, there is nothing better than adding a vibrant lantern. This festive season, you can choose from a variety of lanterns which are available in colourful shades — pink, blue, purple, orange, yellow, red and even turquiose to add a statement to your kitchen.

Choose sunshine yellow for your bedroom

Many a times when you are planning a colour option for your bedroom, you end up picking hues like pink, blue or beige. But, adding a colour like yellow can instantly make a drab room come alive. You can either have a side table in that colour or maybe wall hangings or lights to make your room look inviting.

You can also go in for various shades of yellow in case you feel one shade may look boring.



Khadi drapes for home

Are you ready for an 'interiors renaissance' from India? How about some khadi curtains and swadeshi bed covers for the lounge? After celebrating the success of 'Make in India' in fashion and food, the world is now falling for khadi for their homes. In fact, khadi rugs have become a hot favourite in Europe, and khadi throws keep you ultra warm in winter.

Wooing the world

Designer Peter D'Ascoli, who works with khadi for interiors, says, "Khadi is becoming a new hot favourite in the world of interior design for its weave, simple elegance and understated look." From its humble beginnings, it has now reached Hollywood. Actor Goldie Hawn loves her khadi cushions, director Mira Nair swears by khadi rugs and Deepa Mehta shops for khadi napkins. Clothing designer Christina Kim's khadi home textiles have been bought by the likes of Michelle Obama and Jennifer Aniston.

Earthy appeal

Being an eco-friendly fabric, khadi in your home adds a sense of warmth and well-being. Take your pick from khadi gamchha and mats to khadi pillows and bags. Design director Mann Singh showcased khadi sofas at Milan design fair to a great response. Says Singh, "We didn't showcase exotic materials. We visited our neighbouring villages, met some weavers and asked them about a fabric which has an Indian touch. And what did they come up with? Khadi!"

As the world moves towards ethical shopping, khadi is turning out to be the most sustainable yet fashionable buy.

Fast Namo Bharat trains to start operations from Monday, cut travel time by 50 mins

Delhi.(Agency)

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has introduced faster Namo Bharat train services between Sarai Kale Khan and Modipuram, aimed at covering the entire corridor in less than 50 minutes. The trains will halt only at five major stations along the corridor, allowing passengers to complete their journeys more quickly. The latest train will start operations from November 16. NCRTC said that the new limited-stop services will cut commute time, enabling passengers to travel from Anand Vihar to Ghaziabad in just eight minutes, Ghaziabad to Begumpal in 28 minutes, and Anand Vihar to Begumpal in 36 minutes, while covering the entire corridor in less than 50 minutes. The fast trains will stop at only five major stations along the corridor—Sarai Kale Khan, Anand Vihar, Ghaziabad, Begumpul, and Modipuram.

In morning, two fast trains will operate from each terminal station, Sarai Kale Khan and Modipuram, at 8am and 8.30am in both directions. Similarly, during evening, the trains will depart from both terminals at 6 pm and 6.30pm.

These services will supplement the existing Namo Bharat trains, which will continue to run at regular 10-minute intervals, NCRTC said.About 1.1 lakh commuters are travelling every day on the corridor, said officials. The corridor recently crossed the milestone of five crore journeys, and over the past three months alone, it recorded an average monthly ridership of more than 32 lakh.

NCRTC advice

Regular Namo Bharat train services will continue as usual. The NCRTC has advised commuters to check station display boards and listen to bulletins before boarding.

Green area can't be used for Chhath Puja, says Delhi HC

Delhi.(Agency)

Faith and long practice cannot claim a public park, observed the Delhi High Court on Friday, as it held that a public green area maintained for the benefit of all cannot be given for Chhath Puja merely because puja was being held there for years.Justice Jasmeet Singh dismissed a plea seeking permission to organise Chhath Puja at Chintoo Park in Naraina Village on November 15 and 16. The HC observed that longstanding practice of organising Chhath Puja at a particular location can't justify permitting the use of a public green area for the religious festivities."The fact that the applicant has been organising the Chhath Puja at the said location for several years, or that the present request is confined to a limited area and period, cannot, by itself, constitute a ground for permitting the use of a green area," the HC noted.The applicant, Lalit Anand, sought permission for Sandhya Arghya on November 15 evening and Usha Arghya on November 16 early morning over about 1,000 square metres at Chintoo Park. He submitted that the puja had been organised there for 23 years and undertook to restore the park after festivities.

Opposing the request, the DDA said that the park was being maintained as a green area, trees and flowers had been planted there, and permitting the event could adversely affect the park. The applicant cited 'Chhath Puja 2026: Single Window Management, Central District', listing Chintoo Park as a venue. It held it could not supersede its August directions.While dismissing Anand's plea, the HC said, "It is a settled position that an administrative decision of the Executive or any other body cannot nullify or dilute a judicial order."Despite NGT curbs, Calcutta HC allows Chhath PujaThe Calcutta High Court has allowed Chhath Puja celebrations at Sagardighi Ghat in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal on November 15 and 16, notwithstanding the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) restrictions on the use of non-biodegradable materials and immersion activities.

Delhi pollution: 47 monitoring stations record 'very poor' AQI, seven in 'severe' zone

Delhi.(Agency)



Delhi's air quality remained in the 'very poor' category on Sunday morning, with the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 350 by the Sameer app and 352 in Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data, as a thick layer of smog engulfed several parts of the national capital.Of the 54 monitoring stations in Delhi, 47 recorded 'very poor' air quality, while seven were in the 'severe' category, according to the Sameer app.

IIT Delhi recorded the highest AQI at 428, followed by ITO at 414, according to the app. CPCB data, however, put the readings at 425 and 415, respectively.Among other monitoring stations, the Commonwealth Sports Complex recorded an AQI of 403, while North Campus of Delhi University and Pusa recorded 402 each. Burari Crossing registered 400.Punjabi Bagh recorded an AQI of 386, followed by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) at 383, Akshardham Temple at 365, RK Puram at 339, Okhla Phase-2 at 330 and Maidan Garhi at 325.Some stations recorded comparatively better air quality, with Najafgarh registering an AQI of 298, IGNOU-Maidan Garhi 278 and IMD Lodhi Road (IITM) 280, all in the 'poor' category. The Cantonment Area recorded an AQI of 165, placing it in the 'moderate' category.PM10 and PM2.5 continued to be the prominent pollutants in the national capital.The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) had invoked Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas on November 6.Meanwhile, a study published in the Journal of Vascular Diseases has found that long-term exposure to fine particulate matter is consistently associated with a 10-16 per cent higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes.The study synthesised data covering more than 200 million cumulative participant observations worldwide, highlighting the potential impact of air pollution beyond respiratory and cardiovascular health.

The findings suggest that air pollution could also contribute to metabolic disorders, with significant implications for highly exposed regions such as South Asia.The study was co-authored by Anoop Misra, Padma Shri awardee and executive chairman and director of Diabetes and Endocrinology at Fortis C-Doc Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences, New Delhi, along with Yashendra Sethi, Nirja Kaka, Saurabh Singhal, Manvi Vasudev and Giuseppe Biondi-Zoccai.

Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 18.6 degrees Celsius on Sunday, 5.1 degrees below the seasonal average, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).The weather department has forecast a cloudy sky with light rain or drizzle, with the maximum temperature expected to reach 27 degrees Celsius. Relative humidity was recorded at 91 per cent at 8.30 am.

According to the CPCB, an AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 to 100 'satisfactory', 101 to 200 'moderate', 201 to 300 'poor', 301 to 400 'very poor', and 401 to 500 'severe'.

'Obsessed fan' harasses influencer, threatens to stop her Dec wedding

Delhi.(Agency)

A social media influencer ignored repeated messages from an obsessed fan until he appeared at her doorstep and harassed her.The woman, who has a social media following running into lakhs, had been receiving persistent messages from multiple unidentified accounts. However, she initially ignored them, as such messages were not unusual for her.The harassment reportedly escalated after she got engaged in June and announced the development on her social media accounts. She continued receiving messages of a similar nature from an account that had been contacting her for a long time.In July, the accused allegedly showed up at her residence, created a ruckus and shouted, "I love you, madam; don't marry anyone else," along with other vulgar remarks, the complaint stated.

The commotion brought her family members and neighbours out of their homes. They confronted the man and warned him against repeating the behaviour. He allegedly assured them that he would not return or contact the woman again.

However, the man reportedly resurfaced on November 7, after the woman updated her social media accounts about her wedding, which is scheduled for December. He allegedly entered her residence and began shouting her name. When she stepped outside, she recognised him as the same man who had visited in July.Her family members again confronted him, but the situation soon turned violent. The accused, who was allegedly heavily intoxicated and struggling to stand, misbehaved with the woman's father and other relatives. He threatened that he would not allow her to marry anyone else before allegedly assaulting her father, the complaint stated.Neighbours rushed to help the family and attempted to escort the accused away from the residence. During the commotion, he allegedly fell on the roadside several times.

This is Islam for you: Ex-Muslim Sahil says attacked in Mumbai by group of Muslims

YouTuber and activist, Ex-Muslim Sahil claimed in a video with blood on his face that he was attacked by a group of Muslims in Mumbai over his views on Islam. Sahil said he would have been killed had he not managed to escape from the spot.

Delhi.(Agency)

Ex Muslim Sahil, a popular YouTuber and activist, claimed in a live video that he was attacked in Mumbai on Saturday night by a group of around 12 Muslims. He claimed the group attacked him over his views, and he would have been killed had he not managed to escape from the spot."I had gone to a place in Vashi with my new friends and a group of people from Dharavi, where I resided earlier, attacked me. They wanted to kill me," said Sahil, adding that he was unarmed.Mumbai Police hasn't confirmed or reacted to Sahil's post on X with the video, which has now gone viral. The article will be updated if there is any official reaction."This is Islam for you," said Sahil, showing the blood on his face and an injury to his hand. He said Ex-Muslims weren't safe in Mumbai and in India.Ex-Muslim Sahil has emerged as one of the popular Ex-Muslim activists in the last six years. The others include Maryam Namazie, Zafar Heretic, Harris Sultan, Adam Seeker, and Ayaan Hirsi Ali among others. His social media handles and YouTube channels have hundreds of thousands of followers, with Exmuslim Sahil Uncensored having 2.75 lakh subscribers.Sahil's livestreams on YouTube, where he countered Islamic practices and debated clerics, lasted for hours, with thousands of viewers attending them. There have been several instances when clerics, without being able to withstand his scrutiny, simply abandoned the debate.While people join and leave faiths, leaving Islam is considered apostacy and is punishable by death in several Muslim countries. That is why an entire segment of people who renounce Islam have adopted the identity of Ex-Muslims. In countries where renouncing Islam isn't considered an offence by the nation's law, the Ex-Muslims face a threat to life from radicals.



EX-MUSLIM SALEEM WASTIK WAS STABBED IN THE NECK, ABDOMEN

In February, two Muslim men stabbed Ghaziabad-based Ex-Muslim Saleem Wastik in the neck and abdomen repeatedly inside his office.Saleem Wastik battled for life in hospital and survived. The attackers were injured in separate police encounters, and died during treatment.Zeeshan was killed during an exchange of fire with Uttar Pradesh Police in Loni area on March 1, and Ghulfam, who carried a Rs 1 lakh reward, was injured on March 3 in a police encounter in the Indirapuram-Vasundhara area. Both died in hospital.Referring to the attack, Sahil said, "The attackers will not be spared. The treatment that was given to the attackers of Saleem Wastik sahab should be given to these people too. They would have killed me had I not managed to escape."

It has become a habit: Bengal minister says extortion still there under new govt

Delhi.(Agency)

West Bengal Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta has acknowledged that extortion continues in the state despite a change in government in the state, news agency PTI reported. He said public confidence could not be fully restored until the practice was stopped.Dasgupta said the Suvendu Adhikari-led BJP government should be given a year to eliminate extortion.His remarks came a day after BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya warned party workers against allowing lawlessness and misconduct in the name of the party.

Responding to reporters on Saturday, Dasgupta described extortion as a disturbing reality that must be addressed through political and economic measures."Extortion is happening here. That is the truth. As long as it is not stopped, people's trust cannot be fully restored," he was quoted as saying by PTI.The minister admitted that he had not been able to completely eliminate the practice even in his Assembly constituency of Rashbehari in south Kolkata, despite efforts to curb it."Personally, I have done whatever I could to stop it in my constituency. But I cannot claim to have achieved it 100 per cent. It has become a habit among people. When nothing else works, this seems to have become the new normal," Dasgupta said.At a party programme in Dum Dum on Friday, Bhattacharya asked BJP workers to identify those involved in wrongdoing and lodge police complaints against them, irrespective of their political affiliation.

"Lawlessness cannot be allowed. Identify those who are trying to tarnish the party's name and flag, and file FIRs against them. Police minister Suvendu Adhikari is there. Give me the documents, and I will ensure action," Bhattacharya said.Dasgupta's comments, made within 24 hours of Bhattacharya's remarks, prompted fresh political reactions.



Opposition parties questioned the BJP government's claim that the state's political culture had changed.CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakraborty said the statements exposed contradictions within the ruling party."On the one hand, Bhattacharya says those involved in wrongdoing are not from the BJP, while on the other, he acknowledges that lawlessness exists. Dasgupta admits that extortion has not been stopped. It is becoming difficult to distinguish between the BJP's face and its mask," he said.

Trinamool Congress leader and MLA Kunal Ghosh also criticised the BJP, alleging that its leaders and workers were increasingly becoming involved in extortion and

Guwahati-bound IndiGo flight returns to Pune after landing gear glitch mid-air

All passengers and crew members on board flight 6E 0623 were de-boarded safely after the emergency landing, and no injuries were reported. IndiGo was arranging another aircraft to take the affected passengers to Guwahati.

Delhi.(Agency)

A Pune-Guwahati IndiGo flight with 192 people on board returned to Pune airport on Sunday after its landing gear failed to retract shortly after take-off.All passengers and crew members on board flight 6E 0623 were de-boarded safely after the emergency landing, and no injuries were reported. IndiGo was arranging another aircraft to take the affected passengers to Guwahati.In a statement, the airline said, "IndiGo flight 6E 623, operating from Pune to Guwahati on 15 November 2026, returned to origin and landed safely at the Pune International Airport after a technical snag was detected shortly after take-off."



The pilot informed Air Traffic Control (ATC) that the landing gear had not retracted and remained extended, Pune airport authorities said in a statement.The airport authorities coordinated with the ATC, the airline and other agencies. The Indian Air Force (IAF), which manages the airport, declared a full emergency and activated the prescribed emergency response procedures.Fire services, ambulances and other emergency response teams were placed on high alert to ensure the safety of passengers and crew, the statement said.

As a precaution, the aircraft made a low pass over the runway so that its landing gear could be visually assessed. It then landed safely at Pune airport at 9.04 am, officials told news agency PTI.After landing, the aircraft was escorted to Bay No. 7 by three fire engines and two ambulances.The ATC withdrew the full emergency at 9.10 am after confirming that the aircraft was in a safe and normal condition, officials said.An aerobridge was subsequently connected to the aircraft, and everyone on board was safely deboarded."The aircraft is undergoing maintenance checks and will resume operations after securing necessary clearances," IndiGo said in its statement.It added, "An alternate aircraft has been arranged promptly to operate the flight."

PNB eyes Rs 200 crore quarterly profit each from credit card, cash management verticals

New Delhi. (Agency)

The country's second-largest public sector lender, Punjab National Bank (PNB), expects its credit card and cash management services verticals to generate around Rs 200 crore each in quarterly profit from the next financial year as it steps up its focus on digital businesses to boost fee-based income.The bank has created dedicated digital platforms for three key businesses -- credit cards, supply chain management and cash management services -- each headed by a general manager to drive growth, PNB Managing Director and CEO Ashok Chandra told PTI in an interview.

The initiatives are aimed at strengthening the bank's non-interest income amid anticipated challenges in treasury earnings and loan recoveries, he said.Chandra said PNB's credit card business, which started in 2008, had a base of around 6.04 lakh cards till March 2025.

Following the rollout of its digital platform, the bank added another 5 lakh cards over the subsequent nine months, taking the total base to around 11 lakh.The bank has also launched its premium PNB Metal Credit Card Luxura, which has attracted 27,140 customers so far.

PNB aims to expand its overall credit card base to more than 13 lakh, while targeting at least 30,000 premium cardholders by March 2027, he said, adding that the vertical should contribute around Rs 200 crore in profit every quarter beginning next financial year.On the supply chain finance front, Chandra said the bank has built an end-to-end digital platform for dealer and vendor financing.Within nine months of launching the vertical, PNB has recorded sanctions of approximately Rs 7,800 crore, with an outstanding portfolio of around Rs 5,200 crore, he said.

Ahead of IPO, Coke bottler flags pricing pressure from Campa

New Delhi. (Agency)

The carbonated drinks market in India is witnessing intensifying competition, with Coca-Cola, the country's largest cola company, warning that it may have to cut prices or spend more on marketing to defend its market share against new entrant Campa, the cola brand owned by Reliance Industries.

Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings (HCCH), Coca-Cola's largest bottler in India, has highlighted these risks in the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) for its proposed initial public offering (IPO). The company recently filed the DRHP with the



Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

The IPO will comprise an offer for sale of up to 99.75 crore shares by Coca-Cola's holding arm, Hindustan Coca-Cola Overseas Holdings. HCCH is owned 60% by Coca-Cola, through its subsidiary Hindustan Coca-Cola Overseas Holdings, and 40% by the Jubilant Group. Coca-Cola is selling a 15% stake in the company, which will reduce its holding to 45% post-IPO.In the DRHP, HCCH says players such as Reliance Consumer Products (RCPL), through Campa, and regional beverage companies are expanding their presence by offering products at competitive price points.Intensifying competition, it warns, could force it to reduce prices or increase marketing expenditure, putting pressure on profitability.

AI retreat fuels India's stock market comeback in great rotation trade

New Delhi. (Agency)

Indian stocks suffered bruising losses in the first nine months of the year as the artificial intelligence trade hoovered up global investor capital. The unwinding of that strategy has turned the Asian nation's equities into world beaters.

The MSCI India gauge has rebounded 11% from a six-month low set in October, adding more than $400 billion in value and almost erasing this year's losses, as the country's relative lack of AI exposure has become a prime advantage. Global funds are also turning more positive on India's $5.4 trillion equity market as oil prices retreat and earnings growth accelerates."We've become more positive on India and have added back to our exposure in recent weeks," said Tan Altundag, an investment manager for emerging equities at Pictet Asset Management in Hong Kong. "We see an improving balance between macro headwinds, portfolio flows and valuations," while "diversification away from the increasingly volatile AI trade also appears likely to benefit India," he said.

The bounceback in Indian shares over the past month illustrates a broader rotation by global funds away from crowded tech bets toward markets backed by strong earnings.

Over 132,000 sign petition demanding Jensen Huang's reinstatement at NVIDIA

The petition, hosted on a campaign website titled 'Stand with Jensen', had recorded 133,326 names, according to its displayed counter.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

More than 132,000 people have signed a petition calling for NVIDIA's board to reinstate co-founder Jensen Huang as chief executive. Signatories are demanding answers and an independent probe into his abrupt exit after a 33-year tenure.

The petition, hosted on a campaign website titled 'Stand with Jensen', had recorded 133,326 names, according to its displayed counter. The signatories included 6,667 current NVIDIA employees, 1,251 former employees, 72,265 shareholders and 53,143 other supporters.The open letter calls on the company's board to bring Huang back while an independent investigation establishes the facts, unless it can provide clear evidence that his removal serves the company's interests.

"33 years of leadership do not place anyone above accountability. But accountability requires evidence, a fair hearing, and a reasoned decision," the letter stated.The campaign has also attracted support from prominent technology industry figures, including Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, Replit CEO Amjad Masad and Epic Games CEO Tim Sweeney. Musk publicly confirmed his support for the petition on social media.The development follows NVIDIA's November 12 announcement that Huang had resigned as president, chief executive and board member with immediate effect.The company appointed Chief Financial Officer Colette Kress as interim CEO while its board begins searching for a permanent successor. Harvey C. Jones was also appointed chairman of the board.

Huang co-founded NVIDIA in 1993 and led the company for more than three



decades, overseeing its transformation from a graphics processing unit (GPU) manufacturer into a major global supplier of chips powering artificial intelligence infrastructure.His departure followed reports concerning his personal relationships and allegations involving a businesswoman suspected by US authorities of having links to Chinese intelligence. The intelligence-related allegations have not been independently established.The petition organisers have argued that the circumstances surrounding his departure warrant greater transparency and a fair investigation before a permanent leadership decision is made.The campaign is seeking three key actions from the board: Huang's reinstatement pending an independent investigation, a fair hearing and a timely public explanation of the decision and the evidence behind it.The petition is an independent campaign and is not affiliated with or endorsed by NVIDIA or Huang.

BALCO laboratory gets BIS recognition under Laboratory Recognition Scheme

The recognition covers eight Indian Standards (IS) and certifies the laboratory's technical capabilities to conduct quality assessments and product testing.

RAIPUR. (Agency)

Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), a unit of Vedanta Aluminium Metal Limited based in Korba district of Chhattisgarh, has received recognition for its laboratory from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Laboratory Recognition Scheme (LRS).The recognition covers eight Indian Standards (IS) and certifies the laboratory's technical capabilities to conduct quality assessments and product testing. It will strengthen BALCO's quality assurance system and testing facilities, supporting its manufacturing processes and external stakeholders.BALCO has also secured BIS re-certification across eight product categories: EC Ingots and Alloy Ingots, Primary Ingots and Wire Rods, Aluminium Alloy Rods and Rolled Sheets, Rolled Conductor Plates, and Rolled Plates



f General Engineering Purposes.

S eaking on the achievement, Rajesh Singh, CEO and Whole-Time Director of BALCO, said: "As India advances towards becoming a global manufacturing powerhouse, quality, reliability, and innovation will remain key differentiators. The BIS recognition of our laboratory is a testament to BALCO's commitment to building world-class capabilities that support product excellence and customer trust. We always aimed towards development of a stronger, more resilient aluminium industry that supports India's industrial and energy transition ambitions."

The recognition will enable BALCO's laboratory to undertake quality testing of a wider range of aluminium products.

The company also follows internationally recognised standards covering quality, environmental protection, energy management and safety.

From bicycle crankshafts to satellites: Sunil Mittal's 50-year journey and his next big bet on AI

New Delhi. (Agency)

When Sunil Bharti Mittal set up a small manufacturing unit making bicycle parts in Ludhiana in 1976, he was barely 18.Fifty years later, the founder of Bharti Enterprises is presiding over a business empire whose flagship, Bharti Airtel, has become one of the world's largest telecommunications companies.The journey from bicycle crankshafts to mobile networks, submarine cables and satellite communications has been marked by bets that often ran ahead of the market, setbacks triggered by policy changes and three major crises that Mittal describes as Bharti's "Mahabharatas".Now, as the group marks its 50th anniversary, Mittal is preparing for another transformation.

He wants Airtel to evolve from a telecommunications operator into a digitally enabled technology company, with connectivity at its core and businesses spanning artificial intelligence, sovereign cloud, digital finance and satellite services.His prescription for India's digital economy is equally expansive: higher mobile tariffs, financially stronger telecom operators, a substantial expansion of network infrastructure and greater national control over strategic communications systems.The most immediate part of that agenda concerns what consumers pay for mobile services.Mittal believes average revenue per user, or ARPU, in India should rise to about Rs 350 a month against the Rs 300 benchmark he advocated roughly a decade ago.Rising operating costs and the investment needed to expand digital infrastructure justify the higher level, he said.

"Everything is up.

So, Rs 350 would be the right ARPU for our industry," Mittal told in an interview. He compared the cost of mobile services with everyday purchases.

"Now, you buy soap and a packet of chips. You know what it costs. Having a bottle of Pepsi costs you a lot more than that".At Rs 10-12 a day, he argued, consumers receive access not only to calls and data but also to banking, education, healthcare records, direct benefit transfers, UPI payments and entertainment.

"I think you can't say that is not affordable.

"Airtel reported mobile ARPU of Rs 271 in the September quarter, up from Rs 256 a year earlier.

Reaching Mittal's proposed level would require about a 29 per cent increase from the latest figure.

India, Egypt look to strengthen trade, investment ties: Piyush Goyal

CAIRO. (Agency)

India is looking to expand trade and investment opportunities in Egypt, widen market access for its goods and services, and encourage imports of Egyptian products and capital inflows into India to foster mutually beneficial economic cooperation, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.Addressing a community event organised by the Indian Community Association in Egypt (ICAE) here, he said the bilateral trade between the countries stood at about USD 6.5 billion.But for the size of the two economies, "I believe it's just a beginning; it cannot be our destination; the sky's the limit", he said here late last evening.India's exports to Egypt during 2025-26 amounted to USD 3.87 billion, and imports stood at USD 2.60 billion.India's major exports to Egypt include meat and poultry products, petroleum products, organic chemicals, cotton and machinery, and its major imports include crude petroleum, fertilisers, cotton and mineral products.

"We are looking at investment opportunities in Egypt; we are looking at marketing our goods and services. We are looking at Egyptian products coming to India and investments coming to India in areas of Egypt's strength, because ultimately trade has to be two-way. It has to be a win-win between the two nations," Goyal said, adding that the two countries need to aim for high trade numbers.Goyal is here on a two-day visit. He is leading a 132-member business delegation.

During his visit, he will meet business leaders and Egyptian leaders to discuss ways to boost bilateral trade and investments.India has received only USD 11. 5 million in foreign direct investment from Egypt between April 2000 and June 2026.He also said that India has made trade the centre point of its economic agenda."We are opening the doors for greater competition with the world, opening the doors of markets across the world for preferential access for Indian goods and services, particularly with our friendly countries. Towards that end, we have expanded our free trade agreements to many more developed nations," he added.In the last five years, India implemented trade pacts with Mauritius, Australia, UAE, Oman, the EFTA bloc, New Zealand and the UK.A trade agreement with the EU will be signed next month.

Further, India is negotiating trade pacts with regions and countries, including Canada, Chile, the South Africa-led SACU group, Brazil-led Mercosur, and Russia-led EAEU bloc.

Sebi to issue AI usage guidelines for capital markets, focus on investor protection: Tuhin Kanta Pandey

New Delhi. (Agency)

Markets regulator Sebi will soon issue detailed guidelines for the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the capital markets, its chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said, emphasising the need to balance technological innovation with investor protection.The Sebi chief said the proposed guidelines would focus on establishing appropriate guardrails for AI use, including disclosures, accountability of regulated entities and a 'human-in-the-loop' approach to ensure that critical decisions are subject to human oversight.In June 2025, Sebi floated a consultation paper proposing guiding principles for responsible usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI)/ Machine Learning (ML) applications/models in securities markets.

These guiding principles are intended to optimise benefits and minimise potential risks associated with the integration of AI/ML based applications in securities markets to safeguard investor protection, market integrity, and financial stability.Speaking at the inauguration of Sebi's pavilion at the 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2026, organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), on Saturday, Pandey said the regulator has been continuously strengthening its cybersecurity framework to address rising cyber threats.

He highlighted growing concerns over cyberattacks targeting financial institutions and cryptocurrency platforms, as well as digital frauds involving social media influencers.Following emerging threats, the regulator also introduced a structured incident response



mechanism in May this year, aligned with the Financial Stability Board's FIRE reporting template, he said at the sidelines of an event here on Saturday.On quantum computing-related risks, the Chairman said Sebi is undertaking an inventory of cryptographic systems and identifying areas where cryptography is being used to assess potential vulnerabilities.He said markets globally are preparing for the risks posed by quantum computing, with concerns expected to become more pronounced around 2032-35, and stressed the need to complete preparations well in advance.On AI adoption, he said Sebi has also developed several supervisory tools, including its 'Sudarshan' tool, which is being demonstrated at international regulatory forums.

The regulator is also working on strengthening its AI capabilities through international initiatives and supervisory toolkits, he added.The Chairman further said Sebi is reviewing the regulatory framework to ensure that the use of AI by market participants does not compromise investor protection, market safety or integrity.On startups and the listing framework, the Sebi chief also said the regulator has formed a working group to examine ways to make the Innovators Growth Platform (IGP) more attractive for startups, particularly deep-tech and biotech companies that require long gestation periods before generating profits.

He said the existing platform has not gained the desired traction, and the regulator is reviewing potential changes to help such companies access public markets at an earlier stage.The objective is to provide investors clarity about the higher risks associated with such businesses while allowing them to participate in their long-term growth potential.

Canadian woman, 61, reaches Rajasthan for marriage; man backs out, police step in

Kotputli.(Agency)

A Canadian woman's search for a life partner brought her to India, but a marriage plan that had taken nearly a year to take shape unravelled within two days of her arrival. The 61-year-old had travelled to Rajasthan to marry a man she had met on a dating app. However, after the two met in person, the man refused to go ahead with the marriage on learning her age. A disagreement followed, eventually drawing in the Canadian Embassy and the local police.The woman had first connected with the man, identified as Nitin, on a dating application around a year ago. Their conversations gradually moved to social media, and the two eventually decided to get married. She then travelled to India on a tourist visa, landing in Delhi on November 11.Nitin, a resident of Haryana's Panipat, went to the airport to receive her. He took her to a flat belonging to his maternal uncle and aunt at BB Builders Society in Neemrana, in Rajasthan's Kotputli-Behror district. The two stayed there for around two days.However, the marriage plans fell apart after Nitin learnt that the woman was around 61 years old.

Axiom was practice, my real mission is to see Tricolour on Moon by 2040: Captain Shubhanshu Shukla

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Captain Subhanshu Shukla, the first Indian astronaut to visit the International Space Station, on Saturday said that his real mission was to see a fellow Indian plant the Tricolour on the Moon by 2040. Recalling his Axiom Mission 4 journey in June 2025, Shukla said he never felt alone in space because "the whole nation was part of the mission"."After Axiom, I am actively engaged in preparing our national mission Gaganyaan to succeed and further contribute to India's growth and prosperity," he said while addressing a session at the 10th Military Literature Festival.

During the session, titled "From Fighter Cockpit to Spacecraft: India's New Frontier in Air and Space Power", Shukla gave a presentation of his 20 days and 3-hours-long journey to space.Sharing his experience, he said taking off from the International Space Station (ISS) on the Space Capsule was "violent and chaotic", contrary to his expectations. "As we lifted off from the ISS, a doubt crossed my mind whether I had made the right decision to travel to space," he said, adding that initial anxiety and confusion are in-built in any challenge.Urging youngsters to take up science and follow their dreams with courage, he said classrooms foster audacious dreams, which should be nurtured with courage and spirit for one to succeed and serve society.

Himachal woman injured as speeding car sends parked vehicle hurtling into her

Solan, Himachal Pradesh. (Agency)

A speeding car rammed into a vehicle parked along a roadside in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district, sending it flying into a woman pedestrian and leaving her seriously injured. The incident took place in Dattowal area of Nalagarh, where a CCTV camera captured the violent collision.The footage shows a woman walking along the roadside as a car remains parked nearby. Moments later, another car approaches at high speed and appears to lose control before crashing into the stationary vehicle.

The impact was so powerful that the parked car was sent flying several metres, hitting the woman as she walked past. The collision also caused the speeding car to overturn in the middle of the road.The woman sustained serious injuries in the accident. Local residents rushed to help her and took her to a hospital for treatment. Her current condition was not immediately known.The collision triggered panic in the area, with the CCTV footage capturing the sequence of events leading up to the accident. The video shows the parked vehicle being thrown into the air and the other car overturning following the impact.The accident took place in Dattowal, in the Nalagarh area of Solan district.

UP couple wanted a daughter. Then they heard cries in their field

Lucknow.(Agency)



A 53-year-old farmer and his wife rescued a newborn girl found partially buried in a field in Etah district on Saturday morning, after they heard her cries while working nearby.Jitendra Singh and his wife, Reena Devi, 50, were working in their field in Nagla Banjara village when they heard a faint cry. They rushed towards the sound and found the infant partially buried in the soil. The couple pulled her out and alerted other villagers working in nearby fields.

Acting on the advice of residents, Jitendra took the baby to a community health centre for medical attention. A police team also reached the CHC after receiving information about the discovery."The newborn girl was brought to the health centre by the man who found her, accompanied by a police team. After examining her, we kept her under observation in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for some time. She was later handed over to members of the Child Helpline who arrived at the centre," said Dr Sarvesh, posted at the Aliganj Community Health Centre.A staff member at the centre said Jitendra had expressed his wish to take the baby home and raise her as his daughter. However, the authorities handed her over to the Child Helpline, citing the legal procedures governing adoption.

Jyoti Sharma, in-charge of Etah's Child Helpline, said the infant would be produced before the district Child Welfare Committee (CWC), which would decide on arrangements for her care and rehabilitation."The baby will be produced before the CWC on Monday. Until then, she will be kept at a government-run Specialised Adoption Agency in Etah," Sharma said. She added that the infant appeared to be around a day old.

Jitendra said he and his wife had been preparing the field for wheat sowing when they heard the cries. The baby was covered in mud, with soil also lodged in her mouth, he said."We were deeply moved when we found the little girl. We have six sons but no daughter, and have always wished to have a girl in our family.

We want to raise her as our own and are willing to take full responsibility for her upbringing if the administration permits," he said.Raja Ka Rampur Station Officer Rohit Rathi said a police team had visited the village after receiving information about the newborn's recovery. He said the situation was under control.

From bridal hands to highway medians, henna plants take root as green barriers in Andhra Pradesh

The Nellore-Naidupeta corridor is part of this approach, with 'gorintaku', yellow bells and bougainvillea among the plants used along highway stretches.

TIRUPATI/NELLORE(Agency)

A plant traditionally associated with weddings, natural hair colouring and traditional medicine is finding a new role along the Nellore-Naidupeta highway corridor. Lawsonia inermis, popularly known as henna or 'gorintaku', is being planted along highway medians, raising an interesting question: can a commercially valuable traditional plant also contribute to road safety?

The National Green Highways Mission guidelines explicitly include Lawsonia inermis among the shrubs suitable for median plantations. Based on IRC SP 21:2009 principles, the guidelines favour pollution-resistant, dwarf shrubs that can reduce headlight glare from vehicles travelling in the opposite direction. Lawsonia inermis is classified as a tolerant, quick-growing evergreen shrub, with an April-July flowering season and a suitability score of 3.79.

Highway median plantations serve purposes beyond beautification. Properly designed and maintained green barriers help reduce glare, improve driving comfort and contribute to road safety. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' specifications for four-laning projects also call for shrubs on stretches where the median is wider than 2.5 metres.

The Nellore-Naidupeta corridor is part of this approach, with 'gorintaku', yellow bells and bougainvillea among the plants used along highway stretches. Their selection depends on local conditions and the landscaping plans adopted by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and its maintenance agencies.The Indian Institute of Science's India Flora/Flora of Peninsular India database describes Lawsonia inermis as a shrub or small tree belonging to the Lythraceae family. It records the species in Nellore district and several other parts of Andhra Pradesh and notes its commercial cultivation for henna.However, plantation alone is not enough. A 2026 study involving researchers, including Varun Kumar Reja of IIT Bombay and researchers from the University of Cambridge, cautioned that unattended roadside vegetation could pose a significant road safety hazard. Regular pruning, height control, replacement of dead plants, irrigation management and keeping median openings clear are therefore essential.Speaking to , Shivakumar, Project Director of NHAI's Chittoor region, said the primary objective of median plantations was to prevent glare from headlights of vehicles travelling in the opposite direction. There was no single plant species prescribed for all medians, with the choice depending on local conditions and landscaping plans for individual stretches, he said. Around 200 km of National Highways fall under the Chittoor region.The Green Highways Policy, 2015, provides a framework for plantation, transplantation, beautification and maintenance. In a reply to the Rajya Sabha in February 2026, the Ministry said plantations were being undertaken along available highway right-of-way areas and medians wherever feasible to reduce air pollution, dust and noise, provide shade, prevent soil erosion and minimise headlight glare.



APPCB to Ayyappa devotees: Adopt eco-friendly practices at Sabarimala

Lucknow.(Agency)

The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) has urged Ayyappa devotees from the State to follow eco-friendly practices during the upcoming Mandala-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season at Sabarimala in Kerala.The 2026-27 pilgrimage season will begin on November 17, 2026, and continue until January 20, 2027.In view of the expected influx of pilgrims, the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has appealed to devotees to help maintain environmental cleanliness across the pilgrimage region. It wrote to the APPCB, requesting it to create awareness among pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh about environmental protection and proper waste management. In response,



the APPCB issued a release on Saturday, outlining guidelines for devotees.Pilgrims have been advised to avoid plastic items in their Irumudi and use eco-friendly alternatives. They have also been asked not to litter forest routes, hills and surrounding areas with plastic or other waste.The guidelines call for segregation of wet and dry waste and disposal of biodegradable and non-biodegradable materials in separate dustbins.

The boards have specifically urged devotees not to throw waste into the Pamba River or discard used clothes in the river and Bhasmakulam.The KSPCB stressed that maintaining cleanliness at Sannidhanam, Pamba, Nilakkal, Erumeli and surrounding forest areas was essential to protecting the region's biodiversity and natural ecosystem.

Remote town in Punjab's Tarn Taran turns to ex-servicemen to keep gangsters away

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Chohla Sahib is a remote small town in the Tarn Taran district, situated a few kilometres ahead of the Beas River, which divides the Majha and Doaba regions. The town's primary market spans an L-shaped road less than a kilometre long.Yet, ex-servicemen can still be spotted guarding the street 24×7 as a repeated severe ransom and threat calls to local traders has severely impacted the town.Shopkeepers and traders in Chohla Sahib are reluctant to speak on the record about why ex-servicemen have been deployed in the market. They have been paying these individuals from their own pockets.However, the town has shattered conventional assumptions about the extortion industry run by local gangsters. Targets have expanded beyond major businesses to include ordinary local vendors — such as electricians, mobile shop owners, and retail shop owners in small towns like Chohla Sahib — who would typically fall outside a criminal hit list.Recently, two people were murdered in a village near Chohla Sahib, which police later linked to gang rivalry. This episode once again highlighted that the area is affected with criminal gangs. A central figure known to everyone in the town is Gurwinder Singh, alias Afridi. Recently deported from a foreign country to Punjab, Afridi is now in police custody."Not only Chohla Sahib, Afridi was behind the extortion calls made across the Tarn Taran. We have been investigating him to break the bone of his network," Tarn Taran SSP Surinder Lamba said.While residents hope his arrest will bring relief, many note that the situation remains complex.Residents express surprise that gangsters are targeting small traders in such a small town with limited business potential. The historical town associated with the fifth Sikh Guru Guru Arjan Dev has previously been targeted by gangster Lakhbir Singh Landa, followed by Afridi and his gang headed by Prabh Dasuwal.Locals emphasise that while Afridi's arrest is a welcome step, it is not enough, as the Dasuwal gang operates as a broader systemic network within Chohla Sahib.In off-the-record discussions with The Indian Express, local shopkeepers shared that they have stopped using WhatsApp on their primary numbers, unlisting them entirely. Instead, they use secondary numbers not legally registered in their names to keep their main contacts restricted to close family and friends. Because gangsters frequently use WhatsApp to issue threats and extort victims, traders take extreme precautions to prevent their numbers from being leaked to criminal networks, noting that criminals rely heavily on internet messaging rather than standard phone calls.



Dramatic jungle chase ends in village well — leopard dies, boar survives

Surat.(Agency)

Navsari district saw an unusual wild chase, when a leopard hunting a wild boar, chased it right into the well and died even as the boar survived.The incident took place late on Friday night in the Vansda forest range where the leopard spotted the wild boar in the deep jungle and began to chase it. The two reached the Chikhatiya village's outskirts where the boar, jumped into a 20-feet well."The incident came into light on Saturday early morning, when a villager passing by heard some noise coming out from the well. He spotted a wild boar struggling to save his life. The villager informed the village Sarpanch Kiran Chaudhary, who reached the spot. The villagers then informed forest office. "Our teams used expert techniques and lifted the wild boar from the well", said Amit Tandel, Vansda Range Forest officer .Later the forest officers spotted the body of the leopard and fished it out.Tandel said, "We sent body of the leopard to veterinary hospital in Vansda where doctors carried out postmortem, on Saturday. The doctors had reported that the cause of death is due to drowning…The leopard was 4-year-old male and boar was around two-and-half years old. We have cremated the body of leopard in deep jungle areas on Saturday."

The last census pegged the leopard population in Gujarat at 2274 of which 52 were spotted in Navsari district.

Chikhatiya village Sarpanch Kiran Chaudhary told The Indian Express that after this incident the village has decided to raise the height of the wall of the well to prevent such incidents. "The well was age old and … is around 20 feet deep and around 13 feet in diameter… As our village has few other wells. There is no cover but we have a 3-feet-high compound wall. This is for the first time we have come across the incident to leopard and boar both fell into the well", said Chaudhary.



Ronaldo's farewell night ends in misery for Portugal with worst home defeat vs Denmark

New Delhi.(Agency)

Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal farewell was meant to be a night of celebration, but the occasion quickly turned into one the hosts would rather forget. In their first match since the 41-year-old announced his international retirement, Portugal were thrashed 4-1 by Denmark in the UEFA Nations League at the Estadio Municipal de Braga on Saturday.The result was particularly damaging for Jorge Jesus, whose side had won their first four matches in the competition. Denmark handed Portugal their heaviest-ever defeat in a competitive match on home soil, leaving the home crowd with little to celebrate despite the pre-match tribute to their former captain. Portugal had not conceded four goals at home in a match since their 4-4 draw against Cyprus in



September 2010.ning game, taking the initiativThe night had begun with a fitting acknowledgement of Ronaldo's extraordinary contribution to Portuguese football. Players walked out wearing shirts bearing his name and iconic No. 7, while supporters displayed a banner reading 'Obrigado, capi7o' (Thank you, captain). Portugal had also unveiled a redesigned No. 7, with a permanent mark to ensure the number remains associated with Ronaldo.

A classic India-Pakistan final, but did U19 boys go too far with celebrations



New Delhi.(Agency)

For a few minutes on Saturday evening, India's Under-19 team looked beaten. They were chasing 338 in the Asia Cup final against Pakistan, had lost eight wickets and still needed 86 runs from 51 balls. Pakistan could almost see the trophy. Then Mohit Ulva and Manal Chauhan decided the final wasn't over.Captain Lakshya Raichandani had given India a fighting chance with 80, while Aaryavir Sehwag's 58 had kept the chase alive. But at 252 for 8, those efforts looked destined to end in defeat. India needed something extraordinary, and two players from the lower order delivered it.

IND vs PAK, U19 Asia Cup Final: Highlights

Manal, batting at No. 7, scored 47 from 32 balls. Ulva, coming in at No. 10, made an unbeaten 49 of just 26. Their 57-run partnership for the ninth wicket brought India within touching distance before Manal fell at 302. India still needed 36, with only one wicket remaining.There was little reason to believe they could finish the job. Chigurupati Venkata, playing his first match of the tournament, walked in at No. 11. His unbeaten 11 from eight balls gave Ulva the support he needed. India entered the final over requiring eight runs, with leg-spinner Ahmed Hussain defending the total. Five came ofthe first five deliveries, including a wide. Three were needed It was an extraordinary finish, the sort of match that makes young cricketers believe anything is possible. The celebrations were inevitable. But some of what followed has left an uncomfortable aftertaste.

Sehwag like Dravid, and a Dravid like Sehwag

Sehwag and Dravid are batting for India, once again. Aaryavir Sehwag and Anvay Dravid stole the limelight in the U19 Asia Cup 2026. They are carrying two of Indian cricket's biggest surnames.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Sehwag and Dravid are back playing for India again. The two youngsters, Aaryavir Sehwag and Anvay Dravid, took centre stage in India's victorious campaign at the U19 Asia Cup 2026, where the side beat Pakistan in a nail-biter.Aaryavir top-scored (361 runs at 90.25 avg) in India's campaign, winning the Player of the Series award. Anvay, on the other hand, was extremely assured as a wicketkeeper on pitches that seamed and bounced considerably in the first 10-15 overs of every game.Throughout the tournament, the two youngsters caught the eye with their contrasting styles of batting.

Aaryavir Sehwag, the opener, has impeccable foot movement and takes his time to settle against the new ball. In sharp contrast to his father, Virender Sehwag, Aaryavir slowly opens up after seeing of the new ball.And once he does, it turns into utter carnage, just like his father, as he has the ability to crash his cuts through covers, lift the ball over the bowler's head and slog spinners out of the park.This was evident in the final against Pakistan as well. Aaryavir took his time at the crease against the spirited opening spell from Ali Raza and Mohammad Sayyam, getting India off to a steady start in the final.Sehwag's watchful approach made sure that India did not crumble early, as they had against Pakistan earlier in the tournament.The 98-run opening partnership between him and Lakshya Raichandani was the perfect stand India needed to chase down the huge target of 338 runs.Anvay, on the other hand, walked out to bat in the 33rd over with India having lost four wickets. India were under pressure and in desperate need of boundaries.Without fear, he pulled his second ball aggressively to deep mid-wicket



and then cut his third ball hard for a four.This is a classic trait of Anvay's batting: his ability to score runs quickly in the middle order. In the recent Youth ODIs against Sri Lanka, Dravid blasted 87 of 67 balls and 38 of 18, taking on the bowlers from the very first ball. While his innings of 19 off 12 balls was cut short by a run-out, it had enough signs of his class and how good he could be under pressure situations.

WEIGHT OF THEIR NAMES

For all their diferences at the crease, Aaryavir and Anvay have one thing in common. They are growing up with surnames that carry enormous weight in Indian cricket. Every innings, every dismissal and every promising stroke invites comparisons with two of India's most celebrated batters.Both players know very well what their names mean in the context of Indian cricket. Before going to play the U19 Asia Cup, Aaryavir asked Delhi's U19 head coach for advice.How do I shed the weight of my name and play freely?"

"I told him not to take the pressure of the name. His style of play is diferent from his father's," Aaryavir Sehwag's coach Rajeev Nayyar told India Today.

Aaryavir was asked to keep things simple.

"I told him that once he gets a good start, he should look to bat long. Earlier, he was getting starts and then getting out after scoring 40 or 50. I reminded him that he is an opener. If he bats for 40-50 overs, he can score 150 or even close to 200.

Lakshya Sen doubles up Hylo Open win with Japan Masters victory

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's Lakshya Sen on Sunday produced a remarkable comeback to beat Koki Watanabe in the men's singles final to win the Japan Masters in Kumamoto on Sunday. After losing the first game, Sen, the world No. 13, bounced back in the next two games to win the contest 13-21, 21-18, 21-14 in an hour and four minutes.In the final game, Sen produced a dominant display to extend his lead to an overall nine points after taking a crucial lead of 11-7. He did not give his opponent a chance to stage a comeback thereafter.Sen, who won the Hylo Open title in Germany in his last outing, continues to show signs of getting back to his best form after a poor World Championships and Asian Games campaign.On Sunday, the Indian star once again showed strong mental resilience to out think Watanabe in a court that had ample sideways drift on the far side.Lakshya started of slowly and let Watanabe take a big lead in the first game, eventually losing 13-21. He fought back with his cross-court smashes in the second game to level the final 1-1.After winning the second game 21-18, things were rather straightforward. A tired Watanabe was not able to judge the length and width of the court well and ended up committing heavy mistakes. Lakshya kept things strong in his defence and pulled off a dominant 21-14 win to clinch the title.The Japan Masters title is another boost for Lakshya, who has now won back-to-back tournaments after lifting the Hylo Open title in Germany earlier this month. The Indian had entered the Kumamoto event looking to build on that momentum and strengthen his chances of qualifying for the BWF World Tour Finals.

LAKSHYA OVERCOMES FARHAN IN SEMI-FINAL

Lakshya had booked his place in the final with a



three-game win over Indonesia's Alwi Farhan, the world No. 10, on Saturday. The Indian won 21-12, 15-21, 21-11 to reach his second consecutive men's singles final.

The victory was particularly significant as Lakshya had lost both his previous meetings with Farhan without managing to take a game off the Indonesian. He changed that record with a composed performance, relying on patient rally construction to counter Farhan's high-tempo, attacking approach.Lakshya took the opening game comfortably before Farhan fought back to force a decider. The Indian then regained control in the third game, building an early lead and using his attacking strokes to pull away from his opponent.

Let them celebrate: BCCI secretary defends India U19 team after Pakistan win

Sydney.(Agency)

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Devajit Saikia has come out in support of India's Under-19 players amid the debate over their celebrations after a thrilling Asia Cup final win against Pakistan. Saikia believes the youngsters had every right to let their emotions show after pulling off a victory that looked unlikely for much of the contest.Speaking to ANI, Saikia was asked about India's aggressive celebrations after their one-wicket win in Oman on Saturday. He backed the players, saying their reaction was a reflection of the fight and belief they showed when the match seemed to be slipping away.

IND vs PAK, U19 Asia Cup Final: HIGHLIGHTS

"That reflects their character and fighting spirit. Consider how much of a cliffhanger today's match was. At one point, it really didn't look like it was in India's favour. Yet, India managed to win. This speaks volumes about the team's confidence level and their 'never-say-die' attitude," Saikia said.When they win a match from such a difficult position, they certainly deserve to celebrate. That's something we must allow," he added.

Saikia's comments come after India's celebrations became a talking point following Mohit Ulva's winning boundary off the final delivery. The players were understandably ecstatic, but videos circulating on social media appeared to show some of them making gestures towards their Pakistan counterparts, prompting criticism from sections of fans.

WHAT SPARKED THE CELEBRATION DEBATE?

India pulled of a remarkable chase in the Under-19 Asia Cup final, hunting down Pakistan's 337 for 9 to win by one wicket. At one stage, the chase looked all but over, with India eight wickets down and needing 86 runs from 51 balls.

Manal Chauhan and Mohit Ulva then gave India a lifeline with a crucial ninth-



wicket stand. Manal made 47 of 32 balls, while Ulva remained unbeaten on 49 from just 26 deliveries. Chigurupati Venkata also chipped in before Ulva struck the winning boundary of the final ball to seal a memorable victory.The celebrations were just as dramatic. The Indian players rushed onto the field, with Ulva soon wrapped in the tricolour. However, footage appearing to show gestures directed at Pakistan wicketkeeper Hamza Zahoor and his team-mates drew criticism.

Is Pat Cummins lying or Usman Khawaja? Sandpapergate 12th-man speaks up amid controversy

Chadd Sayers, Australia's 12th man during the 2018 Cape Town Test, has backed Usman Khawaja's version of the Sandpapergate scandal. Sayers believes the entire Australian team knew about the use of sandpaper, contradicting Pat Cummins' account.





New Delhi.(Agency)

Usman Khawaja and Pat Cummins's contrasting narratives about the Sandpapergate controversy have taken the cricketing world by storm. Khawaja, who reignited the 2018 incident with his new book, Sabr, has alleged that every single member of the Australian team knew that sandpaper was being used on the ball, and that only three cricketers took the fall for it.Cummins responded to the allegations in a one-hour-long press conference, where he reiterated his stance from 2021: that the Australian bowling group did not know about the use of sandpaper on the ball. He also said he was unaware of Khawaja's claim that the team had discussed taking collective responsibility in the dressing room, a plan that was eventually scrapped.Now, Chadd Sayers, Australia's 12th man during the third Test against South Africa in Cape Town in 2018, has broken his silence on the matter and offered his version of events. In an interview with SEN, Sayers has backed Khawaja's account, saying he believes every member of the Australian team knew that sandpaper was being used during the South Africa series.

Sayers was quick to clarify that he was not taking sides in the dispute, insisting that he was only recounting what he believed had happened."I'm neutral in all this. I'm just trying to tell my side of the story and what I believe happened. There are no sides, they've both (Pat Cummins) been great to me throughout my time in the Test squad, so I'm not taking sides, I'm neutral in all this," Sayers said."I'm comfortable sitting here right now and where I stand on the situation, that I believe that everyone in that side knew what was going on and what was being used."

WHAT SAYERS REMEMBERS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Sayers claimed that he first became aware of the use of sandpaper during the Port Elizabeth Test. He also recalled discussions in the Australian dressing room about how the team could get the ball to reverse swing."In Port Elizabeth, so as it's known now, it was used in two Test matches and there were discussions in changing rooms of how we were going to get the ball to reverse and what was going to be used," he said.

Asked whether he remembered whose idea it was initially, Sayers said he could not recall that detail. However, he claimed that David Warner was not going to be involved and that Cameron Bancroft had stepped in to carry out the act."No, I don't recollect that, but obviously David Warner was not going to do it. Cam Bancroft stepped in and said he would," Sayers said.When asked whether he personally recalled that discussion, Sayers was emphatic: "100 per cent."He also ofered an explanation for why Warner, who was eventually handed a one-year ban for his role in the ball-tampering scandal, did not want to be directly involved.

Hurt Suryakumar Yadav vows to break the door down for India comeback

New Delhi.(Agency)

Suryakumar Yadav is not ready to give up on his India career just yet. After spending a difficult few months out of the national team, the Mumbai batter has found fresh motivation to fight his way back, making his intentions clear with a stunning knock in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy on Saturday.

Returning to action for Mumbai after being left out of India's T20I plans, Suryakumar smashed a 21-ball 60 against Hyderabad in their tournament opener. His explosive innings helped Mumbai chase down a target of 173 in just 13.1 overs, sealing a seven-wicket win with 41 balls to spare.Speaking after the match, the former India captain admitted that being overlooked following India's T20 World Cup triumph had hurt him. Having expected to continue representing the country after being part of a historic campaign, Suryakumar said the disappointment had now become a source of motivation.

"After winning the World Cup, you naturally expect that you will play after the IPL or whenever India's first series takes place. Because you have won a major



tournament, and winning an ICC event is not easy, especially on home soil, something nobody had achieved before," Suryakumar was quoted as saying by PTI."But the selectors must have had their reasons and must have thought things through before taking that decision. But yes, I was hurt. If you don't feel sad or hurt, how will you turn that into passion, and how will you play with that passion? That is what I am trying to do now," he added.



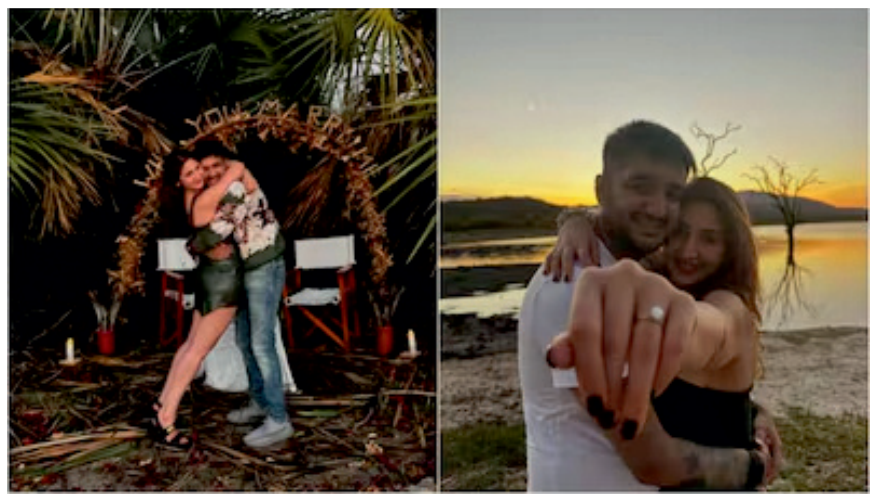
Dhvani Bhanushali

Gets Engaged To Yash Bhanushali, Drops Dreamy Proposal Pics: 'Found Me My Cupcake For Life'

Dhvani Bhanushali is engaged to her boyfriend Yash Bhanushali. The 'Vaaste' singer announced the delightful news on Instagram and shared a series of romantic photos from the proposal. The couple looked ecstatic, and Dhvani was seen flaunting her huge diamond ring in one of the photos. Soon after she announced her engagement on social media, congratulatory messages poured in. Singers Sukriti Kakar, Asees Kaur and others congratulated the couple.

Dhvani Bhanushali Announces Engagement To Yash Bhanushali

Dhvani Bhanushali took to Instagram to share a series of pictures with Yash Bhanushali, announcing their engagement. The pictures capture the couple at a scenic location, with hills, a lake and a beautiful sunset forming the backdrop.In the first picture, Dhvani is seen hugging Yash tightly following the proposal, while an arch bearing the words 'Will You Marry Me?' can be spotted in the background. Another picture shows Yash planting a kiss on Dhvani's cheek. In a subsequent frame, the singer poses with her fiancé, proudly flaunting her



diamond engagement ring, with the stunning sunset adding to the romantic setting.In the caption, Dhvani wrote, "Found me my cupcake for life Said yessss."

Commenting on the post, Sukriti Kakar wrote, "Congratulations." Meanwhile, Asees Kaur also showered love on the couple.

Who Is Dhvani Bhanushali's Fiance Yash Bhanushali?

While Dhvani Bhanushali has shared glimpses of her special moment with Yash on social media, not much is known about her fiancé. According to media reports, Yash is an entrepreneur with interests in the gaming, esports and creative industries. He is also associated with Orangutan, an Indian gaming and esports organisation.

More About Dhvani Bhanushali

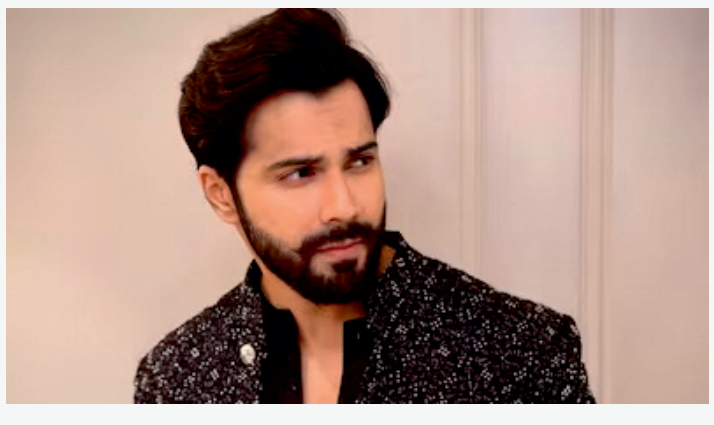
Dhvani Bhanushali is an Indian singer and pop artist who rose to fame with her 2019 hit single 'Vaaste'. She has also lent her voice to several popular Bollywood tracks, including 'Dilbar' from Satyameva Jayate, 'Duniyaa' from Luka Chuppi, 'Psycho Saiyaan' from Saaho and 'Leja Re'. She made her acting debut with the 2024 film Kahan Shuru Kahan Khatam.



Varun Dhawan

To Headline YRF's First-Ever Horror Film, Set For March 2028 Release

Varun Dhawan, who was last seen in the rom-com Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai, is all set to star in Yash Raj Films' first-ever horror film, which is set to be directed by Abhay Pannu. It has been revealed that the movie will be backed by Akshaye Widhani, and Aditya Chopra will oversee the project. The movie is eyeing a 2028 release.Business expert and trade analyst Taran Adarsh took to Instagram and shared the news about Varun Dhawan's upcoming project. He also revealed the release date of the film. In his post, he confirmed that the movie will hit the big screen on March 31, 2028.This news has left Varun's fans excited. A user wrote, "YRF stepping into the horror genre with Varun Dhawan is the ultimate cinematic treat! Huge congratulations to the entire team. Can't wait for March 31, 2028!"



Why Was Varun In The Headlines?

Varun Dhawan made headlines recently when he appeared on Koffee With Karan with his Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari co-star Janhvi Kapoor. During the episode, Varun opened up about his fallout with filmmaker Karan Johar.

During the conversation, Varun explained that Karan had suddenly stopped communicating with him, leaving him unaware that the filmmaker was upset with him. Janhvi Kapoor, who was also part of the episode, was aware of the tension between Karan and herself."There are two people in this room whom Karan stopped talking to. He just ghosted us and stopped talking. She (Janhvi) knew you were fighting with her, I didn't know you were fighting with me. I don't know Karan's capable of fighting with me in my head," Varun said.Janhvi then reminded Varun that he had called Karan a child. However, the actor maintained that he did not believe his remark was offensive. "I called him a child, which is nothing to get offended about. I still stand by that," he said. Explaining the reason behind the fallout, Karan revealed that the disagreement stemmed from a clash between their respective film release dates.

Diljit Dosanjh Faces Restrictions Ahead Of Ahmedabad Show; Govinda's Co-Star Komal Rani Posts First Pics With Actor



Ahead of his November 21 concert in Ahmedabad, singing superstar Diljit Dosanjh has been asked to refrain from performing four of his songs allegedly promoting alcohol, substance abuse and violence.Govinda and his wife Sunita Ahuja have been in the news for quite some time now, with several reports talking about trouble in their marriage. Now, the actor's upcoming film Roopa has also become a talking point, thanks to his co-star Komal Rani Swarnkar.Moushumi Chatterjee and Jayanta Mukherjee had been married for more than 50 years. While the actress made a name for herself on the big screen, Jayanta worked behind the camera and produced several films. He also came from a family with a strong connection to music.

Bigg Boss 20 contestant Scout OP left his fellow housemates stunned after making an unexpected move inside the house. Following a tense exchange with Love Gill, Scout decided to shave his head completely, a moment that has now become one of the highlights of the show's latest promo.

Veteran actor Mukesh Khanna has once again voiced his displeasure over Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana: Part 1, questioning the creative liberties taken by the makers while adapting the revered epic. After raising objections to Sai Pallavi's portrayal of Goddess Sita in an action sequence, the Shaktimaan actor has now criticised the film's reported Rs 4,000-crore budget, arguing that visual grandeur should not take precedence over the story itself. He also suggested setting up a dedicated committee comprising scholars to examine films based on religious texts, history and mythology. He felt filmmakers should obtain clearance from such a panel before being allowed to proceed with projects involving revered religious figures and stories.

Samay Raina To Appear On Karan Johar's 'Koffee With Karan 9'? Comedian's Post Leaves Fans Guessing



Comedian Samay Raina has left fans wondering if he is all set to appear on Karan Johar's popular chat show, Koffee With Karan 9. The comedian recently shared a poster of the show on his Instagram story, setting off speculation about his possible appearance. While Samay has not offered any explanation behind the post, social media users are already guessing that he could be one of the remaining guests this season.Adding to the speculation, several posts on X have claimed that Samay might appear on the show with his rumoured girlfriend, actress Medha Shankr. According to these posts, the episode could be the second-last one of the season. However, neither Samay nor the show's makers have confirmed these claims.

Karan Joha On Samay Raina's Koffee With Karan 9 Appearance

Interestingly, Samay's name had already come up in conversations around the show. In a recent interview with The Hollywood Reporter India, Karan Johar spoke about the guest selection process for the ninth season and spoke about an episode with Samay Raina, Tanmay Bhat and Farah Khan.Talking about how he chose the guests, Karan said that this season's line-up was largely based on his personal comfort and equation with people. He explained that he wanted to invite those with whom he shared a certain warmth, rather than approach anyone who might feel obliged to accept his invitation.The filmmaker also spoke about the challenge of finding two guests for an episode, which is why the season featured several celebrity couples.

He revealed that three couples had appeared on the show, along with some unusual combinations that he chose not to disclose.Meanwhile, he also spoke about an episode featuring Samay Raina, Tanmay Bhat and Farah Khan. KJo said he expected to have a great time because the three would probably take his case. He added that he had not followed one fixed format for every episode and instead planned conversations around the guests' personalities and the stage of life they were in.

Netanyahu calls for Israeli unity government, Eisenkot dismisses 'tricks'

JERUSALEM.(Agency).

Israel's caretaker prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday reiterated his calls for a national unity government with his opponent Gadi Eisenkot, who in turn dismissed the appeal as a ruse.
The latest exchange comes as Eisenkot is in the midst of negotiations to form a government, after he was tapped for the post of premier on Sunday.A meeting with Eisenkot on Thursday "only strengthened the conviction that it is essential to form a national unity government" to guarantee Israel's security, Netanyahu said in a video statement, adding that such a government could "eliminate the Iranian threat once and for all".He said this government would be made up of parties that recognise Israel "as a state for the Jewish people".It would address security challenges, he added, most notably Iran which he claimed would "not hesitate to use nuclear weapons against us".

"Offered Me Green Card": Lebanese Woman Accuses ICE Agent Of Sexual Assault

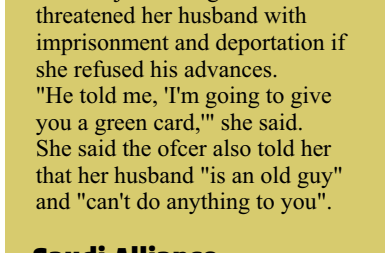
world.(Agency).

A 21-year-old Lebanese woman has accused an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent at a Texas detention facility of sexually assaulting her and offering to help her get a green card in exchange for sex, a claim denied by the US oficials.
The woman, Rahaf Ali Almerhij, who goes by Lucy Wise and agreed to be identified, claimed that the ICE deportation oficer, Markell Wallace, took her into an isolated, self-locking room at the El Valle Detention Facility in Raymondville, and touched her sexually without her consent.
In an interview with Newsweek, Almerhij also alleged that he threatened her husband with imprisonment and deportation if she refused his advances.
"He told me, 'I'm going to give you a green card,'" she said.
She said the ofcer also told her that her husband "is an old guy" and "can't do anything to you".

Saudi Alliance Intercepts 2 Houthi Missiles, 3 Drones Targeting Riyadh

Riyadh.(Agency)

The Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said on Sunday it had intercepted two Houthi ballistic missiles launched towards the Saudi capital Riyadh and three drones in the kingdom's oil-rich Eastern Province.
The Houthis, who control most of the populous parts of Yemen, have intensified attacks on the Saudi capital in recent days. A Houthi attack last week damaged an administrative building of the state oil company Saudi Aramco in Riyadh's financial hub.
The Eastern Province, the economic powerhouse of Saudi



Arabia, has been subject to multiple attacks by Houthis in the past few weeks.It contains the majority of the kingdom's oil and gas reserves and is home to Aramco's headquarters, which suffered extensive damage in an attack in October.The Houthis have stepped up strikes on Saudi airports, ports and oil facilities, while Saudi Arabia has ramped up airstrikes on Houthi targets in Yemen in response.

Moscow confirms Trump, Xi, Putin meeting in China's Shenzhen this week

The talks on Thursday, previously announced by Washington, would mark the first ever three-way meeting between the heads of state.



MOSCOW.(Agency).

Russia confirmed President Vladimir Putin would take part in a historic meeting with China's Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump at a summit in Shenzhen in the coming week, state media reported on Saturday."An agreement has been reached to hold a trilateral meeting on the 19th (of November) between President Putin, President Xi, and President Trump. This meeting will take place in Shenzhen on the sidelines of the APEC summit," the Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told TASS news agency.The talks on Thursday, previously announced by Washington, would mark the first ever three-way meeting between the heads of state.China has not yet confirmed the meeting.The leaders will meet on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in the southern Chinese city, a White House spokeswoman told reporters on Friday.Discussions would include the reduction of nuclear weapons globally as well as the war in the Middle East, but not the conflict in Ukraine, according to the White House.

Global powers converge on Manila as ASEAN summit kicks off

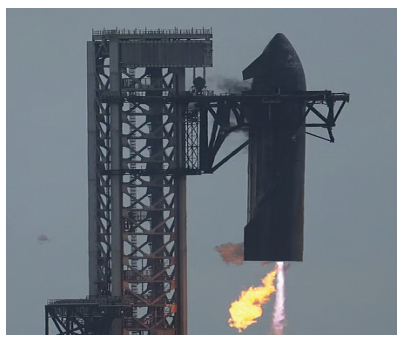
World.(Agency)

MANILAA key regional summit opens on Sunday in Manila, with Southeast Asian heads of state facing questions on trade, security and an ongoing energy crisis while playing host to a who's who of global leaders.US President Donald Trump is scheduled to arrive on Tuesday near the summit's conclusion, a visit expected to include a sideline meeting with fellow Quad countries India, Japan and Australia -- the first of his second term.The meeting of the Quad -- a grouping broadly aimed at counterbalancing China's regional influence -- would come days before a historic sit-down with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin in Shenzhen.Brazil's recently re-elected Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, meanwhile, is set to attend a plenary session of the 11-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Sunday, while Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will sign a new defence pact with host country the Philippines.
Nearly 20,000 police oficers have been deployed around Metro Manila for the summit, with progressive groups predicting a turnout of thousands on Tuesday for an anti-Trump march on the summit site.Much of the uproar targets the US Pax Silica programme -- a supply-chain initiative designed to counter China's dominance in semiconductors and rare earths -- whose flagship Philippine project, a 1,620-hectare AI manufacturing hub north of Manila, threatens to displace Indigenous families.US Ambassador to the Philippines Lee Lipton said last week that a widely rumoured November target date for a deal signing timed to Trump's visit was never in the works.Unfinished businessA day of early meetings kicked of on Saturday with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announcing a Philippine trade deal, and ASEAN leaders huddling on key issues including haze from Indonesia and potential fuel-sharing schemes as members struggle with Iran war-driven shortages.

SpaceX's Starship returns from orbit and is captured by launchpad arms in a dramatic first

world.(Agency)

SpaceX's Starship made a triumphant return to Earth on Saturday, caught in midair by giant mechanical arms where its journey began 22 hours earlier.
It was the grand finale that Elon Musk and his team hoped for — the first-ever capture of a Starship flying back from space. But with the first-stage booster exploding shortly after Friday's liftof from Texas, the company fell short of its desired double catch, still the goal for accelerating moon and Mars travel.
Wreckage remained in the Gulf of Mexico, cordoned off by buoys, as the stainless steel, bullet-shaped spacecraft lowered itself upright at the launchpad.
The dramatic, sci-fi-like capture helped



blot out the booster's messy miss. Cameras panned the spacecraft up and down as it hung high above the ground, supported by the arms of the launch tower."Can you believe it?" SpaceX commentator Dan Huot shouted, dragging out each word. "Look at her! Baby, she's back!"Calling it an "epic day," Musk later ascended the launch tower to take up-close video with his phone. He even hugged the spacecraft. "Looks great," he reported via X.SpaceX oficials said Saturday's catch demonstrates the full reusability of Starship, crucial for rapid and low-cost recycling. Although Friday's booster recovery failed, the company had already made three previous booster catches, validating the technique.NASA welcomed Saturday's news. The space agency is paying billions of dollars for Starship to land Artemis astronauts on the moon later this decade and help build a permanent lunar base. Musk's ambitions are even grander:

Israeli military says it struck senior member of Hamas military wing

JERUSALEM.(Agency).

The Israeli military said on Sunday its forces had struck a senior militant from Hamas's military wing, which confirmed the death of one of its commanders in Gaza.
Samir Abu Younis, a military leader who played a key role in planning Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, was killed on Saturday, according to a statement from the Islamist movement's Al-Qassam Brigade.
"A short while ago, the IDF and ISA struck a senior terrorist in Hamas' military wing," the Israeli military said in a joint statement with internal security agency Shin Bet, in the early hours of Sunday morning.
It did not elaborate but said it would later provide further details."He was killed yesterday evening... in a cowardly assassination operation," the Al-Qassam Brigade posted on Telegram, adding Younis was "among the most important commanders involved in the planning and supervision of the 7 October attack."
A security source told AFP shortly after midnight that Younis, the commander of Al-Qassam's Rafah Brigade, died in a strike "targeting him moments ago in Al-Mawasi, west of Khan Younis."Gaza's civil defence spokesman, Mahmoud Bassal, told AFP the agency had received the body of Younis, 53, and said two people were wounded in the strike in Gaza's south.
Israel and Hamas have accused each other of violating the ceasefire that came into effect in October 2025, after two years of war triggered by the October 7 attack.
While the US-backed ceasefire has largely subdued the fighting, Israel has kept up regular strikes in the territory.More than 1,600 Palestinians have been killed since the start of the ceasefire, according to the Gaza health ministry, which operates under Hamas authority and whose figures are considered reliable by the United Nations.During the same period, the Israeli military has reported the loss of seven soldiers, as well as one civilian contractor.Israel's former army chief Gadi Eisenkot is currently locked in negotiations to form a governing coalition while his rival, caretaker Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, remains responsible for

Francophone summit opens with DR Congo, Rwandan clash

PHNOM PENHN.(Agency)

A summit of French-speaking nations opened Sunday in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh, with leaders including France's President Emmanuel Macron seeking to avoid a walkout by the group's biggest African member.The Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), a post-colonial entity resembling the Commonwealth, gathers around 90 states and nations including 53 full members, from the Democratic Republic of Congo to Canada.But the two-day talks are being overshadowed by tensions between two men, DR Congo President Felix Tshisekedi and Rwanda's Paul Kagame, and a row over the organisation's new head.Rwanda's Louise Mushikiwabo has led the OIF for eight years and is running for a third term, but the DR Congo is strongly opposed -- and has threatened to quit the organisation if she is re-elected on Monday.Kinshasa accuses Rwanda of supporting the M23 armed group's activities inside DR Congo, which Kigali denies.
Last year Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso withdrew from the OIF after successive coups that saw Paris-friendly governments replaced by pro-Russian juntas.The departure of DR Congo -- the second most Francophone country after France with 57.3 million speakers, according to the OIF -- would be a major blow.In his opening speech to an audience that included Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni and Prime Minister Hun Manet, Macron called for unity.The enlargement of the OIF, which promotes economic and cultural cooperation, "requires us to build consensus in order to preserve the union", the French president said.Warning against "internal fractures" in the organisation, he said: "We must ensure that we preserve what constitutes its strength -- namely, its unity." France's influence -
The row has revived debate over the influence of France, the former colonial ruler of many



member states and the Francophonie organisation's biggest donor.
Rwanda has denounced Paris's involvement in the election of a new secretary general, saying Macron asked Kagame to withdraw his candidate -- a request it said it rejected.
The news raised eyebrows. "With that intervention we're going backwards, to the idea that France decides," one member of a non-African delegation said Saturday on condition of anonymity.France had supported Rwanda's Mushikiwabo in 2018 as ties warmed between Paris and Kigali, but had publicly expressed neutrality in this year's contest.

India votes against UNGA resolution calling for global moratorium on death penalty

It called upon all states to establish a moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty. It also called upon states which have abolished the death penalty not to reintroduce it.

world.(Agency)

India has voted against a draft UN General Assembly resolution calling on nations to establish a moratorium on the death penalty.The 193-member UNGA adopted by recorded vote the resolution on Friday introduced by Mexico on 'Moratorium on the use of the death penalty', with 133 countries voting in favour of the resolution, 33 against and 16 abstentions.India, along with Bahrain, China, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kuwait, Maldives, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the US, voted against the resolution.The resolution expressed deep concern about the continued application of the death penalty and reaffirmed the right of all countries to develop their own legal systems, including determining appropriate legal penalties in accordance with international law.It called upon all states to establish a moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty. It also called upon states which have abolished the death penalty not to reintroduce it.The resolution expressed deep concern that, despite the global trend towards limiting the application of the death penalty, there was a significant surge in reported executions in 2025.The resolution called upon all States to progressively restrict the use of the death penalty and not to impose capital punishment for offences committed by persons below 18 years of age or whose age above 18 years at the time of the commission of the crime cannot be accurately determined.It also called for restricting the use of the death penalty on pregnant women or on persons with mental or intellectual disabilities, as well as on older persons, and to reduce the number of ofences for which the death penalty may be imposed, including by removing the mandatory application of the death penalty.