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TUESDAY

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Punjab: Parties queue up at Deras for share in 32% Dalit vote pie

CHANDIGARH. (Agency).

Ahead of Punjab Assembly elections, deras with a strong following among Dalit and backward class communities have again come into political limelight. Dalits, constituting 32% of Punjab's population, play a key role in state politics. Of the around 9,000 deras in the state, the influential ones, such as Dera Radha Soami Satsang Beas, Dera Sacha Sauda and Dera Sachkhand Ballan, can swing an election.BJP national president Nitin Nabin will flag off `Samrasta Sankalp Yatra' in Jalandhar on November 18 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas in a drive to reach out to Ravidassia community, a prominent Dalit socio-religious group aligned to Dera Sachkhand Ballan. Dera followers owing allegiance to the ruling AAP and the opposition BJP are at loggerheads over the starting point of the yatra. Punjab BJP SC Morcha president Sheetal Angural said, "We are inviting the entire sant samaj for the launch of the yatra and the starting point might be shifted."

In February, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Dera Sachkhand Ballan to attend a ceremony on Guru Ravidas and sought the blessings of dera chief Niranjan Dass, who was later conferred Padma Shri.

Ram temple donation theft: Congress seeks new SIT reporting exclusively to Supreme Court

New Delhi(Agency).

Escalating its attack on the BJP over the Ram temple donation theft case, the Congress on Monday demanded a new, independent SIT reporting directly to the Supreme Court to investigate all aspects of the matter.The opposition party also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "silence" on the issue was "deeply troubling" and asserted that those who had betrayed people's faith must be held accountable.In a post in Hindi on X, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Chanda Chori Aastha Dhokha. As the saying goes, theft never remains hidden; sooner or later, it is bound to be exposed."New revelations emerging daily regarding the theft of offerings at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya are exposing the attempts by the Central and Uttar Pradesh governments to shield individuals associated with the BJP, RSS, and VHP, Ramesh claimed."The matter is no longer just about theft. The question now arises: were both the public and the Supreme Court misled in the name of an investigation? It is evident that two SITs (Special Investigation Teams) were constituted -- one to pull the wool over the public's eyes, and the other over the Court," Ramesh said.On July 20, the government informed the Supreme Court that the first team was not conducting an investigation and yet, on August 4, why did the chief minister, while speaking in the Legislative Assembly, cite the preliminary investigation conducted by that very same team, he asked.On what basis was this done, and was the House provided .

Ties With ASEAN At Heart Of Act East Policy:

PM As He Emplanes For Philippines

PM said India's ties with ASEAN, rooted in centuries of civilisational exchanges, have evolved into a dynamic partnership spanning trade, connectivity, maritime security, technology and people-to-people relations.

Karnataka (Agency).

India's relationship with ASEAN countries is at the heart of its Act East Policy and occupies a central place in its MAHASAGAR vision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday as he embarked on a two-day visit to the Philippines.PM Modi is visiting Manila on Monday and Tuesday to participate in the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit at the invitation of Philippine President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr.In a post on X, the prime minister said, "India attaches immense importance to close friendship with ASEAN nations.

I'm also looking forward to interacting with the Indian community based in the Philippines.

"In his departure statement, the PM said India's ties with ASEAN, rooted in centuries of civilisational exchanges, have evolved into a dynamic partnership spanning trade, connectivity, maritime security, technology and people-to-people relations.



PM Modi said he looks forward to working with fellow leaders at the ASEAN-India Summit to build on the progress of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and give further momentum to shared aspirations for growth, connectivity and prosperity.

He said the East Asia Summit will provide an important platform for discussing regional and global challenges and that he will exchange views with participating leaders on strengthening peace, stability and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.The prime minister will also interact with the Indian community in the Philippines, whose contributions, he said, strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries.He expressed confidence that the visit will impart fresh energy to India's partnership with ASEAN and reinforce the collective commitment to a peaceful, prosperous and resilient Indo-Pacific.In a social media post, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said PM Modi has departed for Manila.

DRUGS FACTORY BUST IN AHMEDABAD: MAS TER MIND MUDASSARKHAN PRODUCED IN COURT, 3-DAY POLICE REMAND GRANTED!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

AHMEDABAD: In a major development in the fight against drug trafficking in Gujarat, Ahmedabad Police have uncovered an alleged illegal MD drug manufacturing unit operating from a luxurious bungalow valued at approximately ₹1.5 crore. The property, which was reportedly being used as a secret manufacturing facility, has emerged as a major focus of the ongoing investigation. The police have arrested the alleged mastermind, Mudassarkhan, and produced him before the court under tight security.Seeking further custody to investigate the entire network, police requested additional interrogation time. Taking the seriousness of the case into consideration, the court granted three days of police remand. Investigating agencies are now attempting to uncover the complete supply chain, identify other individuals allegedly involved and establish the financial and logistical connections behind the operation.The seizure of approximately 130 kilograms of suspected chemicals and raw materials believed to be associated with MD drug manufacturing has significantly increased the seriousness of the case. Investigators suspect that the facility may have been intended for large-scale production rather than limited local distribution.A



₹1.5 CRORE LUXURY BUNGALOW TURNED INTO AN ALLEGED DRUG FACTORYAccording to preliminary investigation details, the accused allegedly selected an expensive bungalow in a posh residential locality to conceal illegal manufacturing activities. The luxurious property reportedly served as a secret centre for the production of MD drugs, also known as Mephedrone.From the outside, the bungalow appeared to be an ordinary high-value residential property. However, following specific intelligence inputs, investigating agencies reportedly conducted a raid and discovered equipment and materials suspected to have been used for manufacturing narcotic substances.The recovery has raised questions about how such an operation allegedly continued inside a residential property without attracting immediate attention. Investigators are also examining who owned or controlled the property, how it was acquired or rented and whether other individuals provided logistical or financial assistance.130 KG OF SUSPECTED CHEMICALS: INVESTIGATION INTO A LARGE-SCALE OPERATIONOne of the most significant aspects of the case is the recovery of approximately 130 kilograms of suspected chemicals and raw materials. These substances are believed to be associated with the manufacturing of MD drugs.The quantity has prompted investigators to examine whether the alleged facility was part of a larger manufacturing and distribution network extending beyond Ahmedabad.Police are trying to establish the origin of the recovered chemicals, the suppliers involved, the transportation routes used to bring the materials into the city and the intended distribution channels. The investigation will also seek to determine whether any finished narcotic substances were manufactured or supplied through this facility.Authorities are examining financial transactions and communication records to identify possible buyers, suppliers and associates.WEST BENGAL CONNECTION UNDER INVESTIGATIONInvestigators are also examining the alleged links of the accused with West Bengal and other states. The possibility of an interstate supply network has become an important part of the investigation.Police are attempting to determine whether raw materials were transported from other states and whether the alleged finished products were intended for distribution in different cities and regions.The possibility of international connections is also being examined. However, the exact nature and extent of these suspected links will become clear only after further investigation and verification of evidence.THREE DAYS OF POLICE REMAND: SEVERAL QUESTIONS REMAIN UNANSWEREDWith the court granting three days of police remand, investigators have an opportunity to question the accused in detail and examine the evidence recovered during the operation.Key questions before the investigating agencies include:Who supplied the approximately 130 kg of suspected chemicals?Where were the raw materials procured from?Who financed the alleged manufacturing operation?Were other individuals involved in operating the facility?Was the alleged network connected to other states, including West Bengal?Where was the suspected manufactured drug intended to be distributed?

Men On Bike Chase Lion On Motorcycles At Gujarat Safari Park

New Delhi(Agency).

Three outsources forest staff officials were relieved of their after a video purportedly showing them chasing a lion on a motorcycle at Ambardi Safari Park in Gujarat's Amreli district went viral on social media, an official said on Sunday."We had launched an inquiry into the incident. Some forest personnel were directing the lion towards its 'kraal' in the safari park in the evening. Usually, this routine exercise is carried out using a jeep, but some personnel used motorcycles," Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Jaipal Singh told news agency PTI.A video showed men on bikes with the lion scampering around, with some pointing out that the animal was being harassed. In-charge Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Mitesh Vaniya, PTI reported, said the video was recorded during the Diwali festival. He, however, denied that the lion was harassed, adding that the officials were directing the animal towards an enclosure.The safari park spans over 300 hectares, and every day at 5 pm, the lions are fed in a 100x100-metre fenced area called a kraal. The officials in the video spotted a lion straying from the kraal and



were directing it towards the enclosure. There was no intention to harass the animal," Vaniya said.Ambardi Safari Park witnessed heavy tourist rush this season, and the forest staff worked continuously for 12 hours to ensure smooth management .

RSS Chief Warns Of Efforts To Divide India By "Magnifying Smaller Identities"

Jodhpur (Rajasthan)(Agency).

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday stated that attempts are being made to divide India by magnifying smaller identities and inciting internal conflict, comparing such efforts to the divide-and-rule politics of British rule.

Addressing the 'Maru Ninad-2026' Ghosh Shivir organised by the RSS Jodhpur Prant at Rajaram Ashram in Shikarpura, Bhagwat remarked that while India is moving in the right direction today, certain global forces do not want the nation to become great."India is the treasure trove of everyone's hopes. But the state of the world is very strange. For their own selfish reasons, they don't even want India to become great. India moves forward; efforts are underway to create divisions by magnifying smaller identities and provoking conflict among people—tactics he compared to those used during British rule," the RSS Sarsanghchalak said. Urging society to remain united, Bhagwat stressed the need to



shed selfishness, petty differences, and ego while building an organised life rooted in Dharma and national service."Citing the Mahabharata, he noted that despite having a larger force of 11 Akshauhinis and stalwarts like Bhishma, Dronacharya, Karna, and Ashwatthama, the Kauravas lost because of internal discord. In contrast, the Pandavas won with seven Akshauhinis because they stayed united and resolved disputes to preserve harmony," he said.Highlighting the importance of grassroots leadership, Bhagwat said society follows trusted elders and role models.He stated that every village, street, and neighbourhood needs 25 to 100 selfless individuals of pure character who stand with people in times of joy and sorrow and are dedicated to the country. Referring to the principle that actions shape habits, habits shape nature, and nature builds character, he remarked that character is true strength.

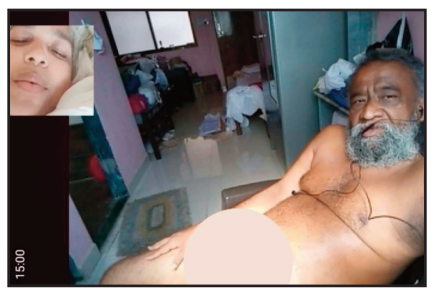
Speaking on the significance of the RSS Ghosh programme, Bhagwat traced the tradition of battlefield music to ancient texts like the Bhagavad Gita, citing the blowing of sacred conches such as Panchajanya and Devadatta.

Sagarchandrasagar Maharaj Under Fire Over Viral Audio and Serious Allegations!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad/Surat: Jainism is founded on the principles of truth, non-violence, renunciation and strict self-discipline. However, a controversy involving Jain monk Sagarchandrasagar has reportedly triggered widespread debate within sections of the Jain community in Gujarat.The controversy gained momentum after certain photographs allegedly associated with Sagarchandrasagar Maharaj circulated on social media. The images prompted reactions from Jain followers, with several people questioning whether the alleged conduct was consistent with the principles and discipline expected from Jain monks.The matter took another turn







when a purported audio recording surfaced online. The recording allegedly contains a conversation concerning the circulation of photographs, attempts to exert pressure and warnings about the possible consequences of the controversy.One of the statements reportedly heard in the recording is: "Delete these photographs and be careful about your next steps. Where this matter will end is no longer in my hands."The alleged recording also reportedly refers to financial transactions, payments involving substantial amounts and claims of personal pressure. Allegations concerning the involvement of intermediaries to exert pressure have also emerged.However, the authenticity of the audio recording has not been independently established. The identities of the speakers, the context of the conversation and the accuracy of the claims require proper verification.Apart from the photograph and audio controversy.

Man on way to night shift killed as bike rams scooter in Manesar, rider flees

Noida.(Agency)

A 36-year-old machine operator was killed in a hit-and-run accident after a motorcycle allegedly rammed his scooter while he was on his way to work the night shift at IMT Manesar on Saturday. Police seized the motorcycle from the spot, but the rider remains unidentified.The victim, Kanhaiya Jagdish Paudar, was travelling from his rented accommodation in Nawada Fatehpur, Sector 86, to his workplace in Sector 7, IMT Manesar, when the accident occurred around 8.45pm on November 14.According to the complaint filed by his father-in-law, Rajkumar Paudar, the family repeatedly tried calling Kanhaiya when he did not answer his phone. They later received a call from police personnel, who informed them that he had met with an accident.The family rushed to the spot and found him injured. Police shifted him in a private ambulance to Civil Hospital in Sector 17, where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment. In his complaint, Rajkumar alleged that the rider of a Hero Passion Pro motorcycle (HR26BU8068) was driving at high speed and negligently when he rammed Kanhaiya's scooter.

Woman climbs high-tension pole in Greater Noida after row with husband; rescued after 5 hours

Noida.(Agency)

A 35-year-old woman climbed a high-tension electricity pole in Greater Noida's Pali village on Saturday after an argument with her husband, setting off panic in the area and a nearly five-hour rescue operation.

She was brought down safely by a joint team of police, electricity department officials and rescuers, police said on Sunday. According to police, the woman climbed the pole at around 11am. A police team from the Surajpur station reached the spot and tried to persuade her to descend, as did her two children, but she refused. "The presence of a high-voltage electricity line made the situation particularly dangerous, leaving us with the challenge of bringing her down without risking her life," Surajpur station house oficer (SHO) Sanjay Singh said.

6 villages in Noida to get up to 22 hours of power after new substation link

Noida.(Agency)

Six villages in Jewar have been connected to YEIDA's 33/11kV substation in Sector 28 through a dedicated 11kV feeder to prevent overloading at the Jewar substation. The new arrangement is expected to ensure 18 to 22 hours of daily power supply and reduce frequent outages and tripping in the villages.The villages covered under the arrangement are Nagla Kanchan, Nagla Chandan, Dayanatpur, Rampur Bangar, Begmabad and Sivara. Previously, they received electricity from the Usrah substation in Aligarh district, resulting in irregular supply and frequent tripping. The new connection is expected to benefit thousands of consumers in the region.Jewar MLA Dhirendra Singh said the state's power infrastructure had undergone a transformation since 2017, when frequent power cuts and irregular supply were major concerns across Uttar Pradesh."Before 2017, the power crisis was a major issue for the general public, not just in Jewar but across the entire state of Uttar Pradesh.

Fire guts 25 shops at Pataudi woollen market, traders lose stock worth lakhs

Gurgaon.(Ajency)

Around 25 shops at the woollen market in Pataudi's Ramlila Ground were gutted in a fire that broke out early Sunday, destroying winter clothing stock worth lakhs and leaving traders from Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir facing heavy losses just as the seasonal business was picking up.The fire broke out around 4 am and quickly spread across the temporary shops on the ground. The flames engulfed the stalls before traders could salvage their merchandise, reducing jackets, sweaters, woollen clothes and other winter essentials to ashes.The afcted shops belonged to traders associated with the Himalayan Tribal Trade Association, who had travelled from Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir to sell winter clothing in the area. Most had stocked up for the winter season, but much of their merchandise had yet to be sold when the fire broke out.A trader said, "Each shop had merchandise worth lakhs of rupees, much of which was yet to be sold as the winter business had only recently begun." With their seasonal stock destroyed, the traders are now staring at substantial financial losses, as winter accounts for the bulk of their annual business at the market.A fire officer said fire tenders from Pataudi and Manesar were rushed to the spot after the incident was reported. "Firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control, but not before it had spread through around 25 shops and destroyed their entire stock," the officer said.The incident has also raised concerns over the traders' ability to resume business during the remaining winter months. Affected traders said the loss of merchandise had wiped out much of their investment, while the exact value of the damaged goods was yet to be assessed.The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. Oficials are investigating the incident to establish how the blaze started and whether any safety.

4 women lure kids with books, food to convert to Christianity, held

Gurgaon.(Ajency)

Four women were arrested for allegedly trying to persuade children from economically weaker families to convert to Christianity by offering free education, books, food and outings at a makeshift school in Ghata village.

The case came to light after a man approached Sector 56 police station on Saturday, alleging that some women were running a school for children living in slum settlements and makeshift rooms near a service station along Southern Peripheral Road (SPR). He alleged that the women distributed food and essential items while engaging in activities aimed at religious conversion.Acting on the complaint, a team led by SHO Sukhpal raided the premises and found four women and several children there. The women were subsequently arrested."They used to come there to educate the children and work towards their development. By offering books, food items and the lure of picnics, they



were allegedly motivating children towards religious conversion and encouraging them to adopt Christianity," ACP (Sadar) Kapil Ahlawat said.Police said the women had been visiting the premises every Saturday for nearly a year. One of them, Suman Kumari (21), regularly taught the children, while the others also visited and gradually became acquainted with them.Apart from Suman, a recent graduate from Azadpur in Delhi, the others who were arrested are Lalnunpuii (31), an HR professional from Mizoram living in Dwarka; Ashmita Chahar (35), a Nepal native living in Kotla who volunteered with cancer patients at a hospital; and Rajkumari Chaoba Singh (36), a Manipur resident who worked as a lead analyst in a private company in Gurgaon.

Police recovered a CCTV camera, a mobile phone from Suman and a register containing the children's names and other details. "We are examining CCTV footage and the register. More names have emerged, and a team has been formed to trace these children," Ahlawat said.

2 cattle smugglers killed in Nuh encounter, second in a month

Gurgaon.(Ajency)

Two alleged cattle smugglers were killed and a third critically injured in an exchange of fire with police in Nuh's Bima village early on Sunday. The suspects allegedly opened fire when a police team signalled their pickup truck to stop, prompting the cops to retaliate. A policeman was also injured in the gunfight.The men were allegedly transporting seven cows when a crime investigation agency (CIA) team from Ferozepur Jhirka intercepted them near Bima around 4.30am. According to police, the team had received a tip-off about cattle being transported illegally and set up a barricade in the area. When signalled to pull over, the truck's occupants allegedly opened fire at the cops. Police retaliated, triggering an exchange in which all three occupants suffered bullet injuries. A constable was also hit by a bullet.The injured trio were rushed to Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati Medical College at Nalhar, where two of them succumbed to their injuries. They were identified as Gabbar alias Hadiya, from Rajasthan's Dausa, and Sabir. The third, Tahir, a resident of Ghatmika in Rajasthan's Deeg district, is undergoing treatment.Tahir, police said, has 10 criminal cases registered against him, including those related to murder and cattle smuggling, while Gabbar faced a dacoity case in Nuh. Police are still checking Sabir's criminal antecedents. "The autopsies of the deceased have been conducted. The cattle were being transported to Fondawas for delivery to a man identified as Waris, who also has four to five cases registered against him," a police officer said.Apart from seven animals, police recovered three country-made .315-bore pistols, three live cartridges and five empty cartridge cases. The vehicle was also seized.A magisterial inquiry was initiated into the deaths. "We have kept the bodies in the mortuary and informed the families. A magisterial inquiry has been initiate into the matter," a senior police oficer said.This was the second encounter involving suspected cattle smugglers in Nuh in a month. On Oct 15, Shahid alias Advani (27), a resident of Kharkhari village in Nuh, was killed near Silani village on the Gurgaon-Nuh border.

AQI improves to 'poor' after six days of 'very poor' air

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The city's air quality improved marginally on Sunday after six consecutive days of very poor readings, with the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) dropping to 296 by 4.05pm, which falls in the poor category. The overall AQI had been above 300 from Nov 9 to 14, at 334, 323, 301, 320, 324 and 340, respectively. On Sunday it stood at 320 at 9.05am before dropping to 296 by 4.05pm, ending the spell.



Pollution remained high at individual monitoring stations. TERI Gram recorded an AQI of 320 and Gwalpahari 317, both in the very poor category. Vikas Sadan recorded 300, while Sector 51 reported 248. All four monitoring stations were active.Pollution levels have been considerably higher this year than in the past two. Between Nov 1 and 14, Gurgaon had already recorded 11 days above the 300 AQI mark, compared with six in the first 15 days of Nov 2024 and four in 2025. The city's average AQI for Nov 1–14 stood at around 311 this year, against 283 for the first 15 days of Nov 2024 and 278 for the corresponding period in 2025. The periods are not identical, so the averages should be treated as indicative rather than a like-for-like comparison.

The improvement came even as the forecast pointed to continued pollution concerns across Delhi. India Meteorological Department and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology's Nov 14 bulletin projected very poor air quality in Delhi through Nov 17.

Mixing depth was forecast at 1,500 metres on Sunday rising to 2,350 metres on Monday before declining to 1,500 metres on Tuesday. Winds were forecast from the north to northeast on Sunday and northwesterly on Monday and Tuesday, at speeds of up to 15 kmph.Mixing depth determines the vertical volume of air available for pollutants to disperse. A higher mixing depth generally allows greater dispersion, while a lower one can restrict it. Despite the rise on Monday, the forecast kept Delhi's air quality in the very poor category over the next two days.

Woman shot dead in Loni after row over public urination; five arrested, shooter remains absconding

Noida.(Agency)

A 36-year-old woman was shot dead by her neighbour in Indirapuri near Loni border during an altercation that allegedly began after her brother urinated in front of their neighbours' house. Five people were arrested on Sunday, while police are still searching for the alleged shooter and a teenager.

Her brother Aman filed a complaint at Loni Border police station on Sunday. He told the cops that on Nov 14, Anil Kumar Panchal stopped him from urinating in a drain that ran in front of their house in Block D. He alleged that Panchal had beaten him as well. Later that evening, Aman, his sister Pooja and another family member, Amit, had gone to the Panchal house to confront him about the assault.

But soon an argument broke out between the two parties and Panchal's son Prashant alias Baba took out an illegal pistol and fired at them. One of the bullets hit Pooja and she fell to the ground. Some of the other members of the Panchal family also started pelting stones at Aman and his family. Amit was hit by a stone and was seriously injured. Both of them were rushed to a hospital where doctors declared Pooja dead on arrival.The hospital administration informed the police about the incident and a police team went to the spot and began its investigation.Deputy commissioner of police (rural) Surendra Nath Tiwari said several people were taken into custody and were being questioned. An FIR was registered under BNS sections 103(2), 91(2) (rioting) and 125(b) (rash and negligent acts endangering life) and Section 3(2)(v) of the SC/ST Act. A Loni Border police station team arrested five accused: Anil Kumar Panchal (53), Vikrant Panchal (33), Shubham (30), Mohit Kumar (34) and Akshay (24) on Sunday. Three of them live in Indirapuri, while Mohit and Akshay are from Gurana village in Baghpat district.Anil Kumar Panchal told police that the first confrontation began when Aman was urinating in front of their house. "We told him not to urinate, but he did not listen." He said his family chased Aman on the street and an argument and beating followed. But they returned home after a while. Later at night, he said, Aman, his sister and Amit came to the house and a second argument began. "My son Prashant Panchal alias Baba fired a pistol with the intent to kill," he said. He added that the family then threw bricks and stones, injuring Amit on the head.

Prashant Panchal alias Baba (24) and a teenager remain absconding. Police said they are checking whether the accused have any other criminal history. Further legal action is under way.

Odisha government to renovate Upper Indravati canal at a cost of Rs 239 crore

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

The state government will undertake the renovation and rehabilitation of a 42.606 km stretch of Upper Indravati right main canal in Kalahandi district at an estimated cost of Rs 239.13 crore to reduce water losses and improve irrigation efficiency.The project covering Reach-II of the canal from chainage 41.100 km to 83.706 km will be implemented under the Canal Lining and System Rehabilitation programme.The renovation is expected to reduce seepage and transmission losses, improve water-carrying capacity and ensure more reliable irrigation to agricultural fields.The canal serves farmers of Jayapatna, Kalampur and Junagarh blocks of Kalahandi district with a designed irrigation potential of 27,195 hectare. It currently provides irrigation to 25,846 hectare during the kharif season and 20,074 hectare during the rabi season.The rehabilitation of the canal is expected to benefit farmers, particularly in the tail-end of the system by ensuring better water distribution. Improved irrigation availability during both agricultural seasons will also help farmers plan their crops with greater confidence and enhance agricultural productivity.The Upper Indravati right main canal is an integral component of the multi-purpose project, one of the major water reservoirs of the state.Under the project, water from Indravati river in the Godavari basin is diverted to Hati river in the Mahanadi basin.

No 'Dahibara Haat' at Balijatra as Cuttack vendors refuse to open stalls

CUTTACK.(Agency)

With vendors declining to set up stalls together at a single location during Balijatra, Cuttack's popular Dahibara Aloodum will not have the dedicated pavilion 'Dahibara Haat' at the fair this year.As per the Dahibara Traders' Association, the decision was taken as vendors had suffered heavy financial loss when they set up stalls at the Dahibara Haat during Balijatra last year.

Sources said the district administration had planned to organise a separate 'Dahibara Haat' again at Balijatra this year and reserved around 24,500 sq ft space in the upper ground for the purpose. Vendors were also given the opportunity to operate their stalls free of cost after submitting applications. However, the association has declined the proposal of the district administration.Dahibara Traders' Association president Pradipta Sahu said vendors were not interested to set up their stalls at the Dahibara Haat as they had incurred heavy losses during the festival last year."Since all the stalls were set up at a common location, people did not show much interest in buying Dahibara.

Sankranti ticket scramble begins early in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

With Sankranti two months away, passengers travelling from Hyderabad to major destinations in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are already struggling to secure train tickets. Several popular services are showing no availability on peak travel dates between January 8 and 15.Regular trains such as Garib Rath, Godavari, Janmabhoomi and Visakha Express have already moved to the 'regret' status, while premium services, including Duronto and Vande Bharat Express, are showing waiting lists of nearly 200 in several cases.With advance reservations opening 60 days before the date of journey, passengers planning to visit their native places have been closely monitoring the booking portal, trying to secure confirmed berths as soon as reservations begin. While some have managed to book tickets, many others are now exploring private buses and other alternatives. Passengers are also hoping that the South Central Railway will announce special trains to handle the festival rush.Speaking to , R Nava Teja, a software employee, said he had planned to travel to his native place, Visakhapatnam, on January 9, as the festival coincides with a long weekend. "The bookings were to open at 8 am and I was ready with my laptop. The website took nearly two minutes to load and, by the time I reached the payment stage, the Garib Rath was showing a waiting list of 200.

6 in 10 births in Maharashtra's private hospitals are C-sections. Why?

The health department has ordered monthly audits in public hospitals to check that the surgery is done only when medically necessary

Mumbai (Agency)

Maharashtra has ordered an audit after recording a stark gap in the number of caesarean or C-section deliveries at public and private hospitals, with nearly six out of every 10 women who deliver babies at private facilities undergoing C-section, compared with 37 per cent in public hospitals.The state health department has directed public health institutions to conduct regular audits to ensure that surgical interventions are performed only when they are medically necessary.According to the Health Management Information System (HMIS) data for 2026-27, up to September 2026, Maharashtra recorded 1,18,036 (37%) C-section deliveries out of 3,23,245 institutional deliveries at public hospitals. In private facilities, 1,89,152 of 3,18,683 deliveries were caesarean sections, taking the proportion to 59 per cent.According to a November 3 communication issued by the Additional Director of Health Services, the number of C-section deliveries in government facilities rose from 18.3 per cent in NFHS-4 (2015-16) to 23.8 per cent in NFHS-6 (2023-24). In private facilities, it increased from 39.1 per cent in NFHS-5 to 48.5 per cent in NFHS-6.In Mumbai, 12,654 (51%) of 25,002 institutional deliveries in public facilities were performed through C-section. In private hospitals, the figure was 14,606 (59%) out of 24,740 deliveries.

Across municipal corporations in Maharashtra, the C-sections stood at 50 per cent in public facilities and 64 per cent in private hospitals.At 86 per cent, Bhandara, among the districts, recorded the highest number of such deliveries in private facilities, followed by Gondia at 84 per cent and Amravati at 77 per cent. In public



facilities, Bhandara recorded 64 per cent and Sindhudurg 58 per cent.Dr Tushar Palve, Medical Superintendent of Cama and Albless Hospital, Mumbai, said, "Delayed pregnancies, and the growing prevalence of diabetes, hypertension, thyroid disorders and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) are factors that could complicate pregnancies and influence the mode of delivery. IVF pregnancies, concerns about the baby's weight, breech presentation, low amniotic fluid and a previous C-section could also contribute to decisions to opt for surgical delivery."Hospital practices, staffing and patient preferences could also play a role, Dr Palve said. A normal delivery may take 12-18 hours, while a C-section generally takes 30-45 minutes, making the latter easier to schedule. Fear of labour pain, family pressure, choosing an auspicious date or muhurat, and anxiety fuelled by information on Google and social media could further influence decisions.

A house or a mephedrone lab? 130 kg chemicals recovered in Ahmedabad drug bust

The NCB's Ahmedabad Zonal Unit said the raid in Sarkhej was part of a joint operation with Gujarat Police. Mephedrone is a banned substance under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Mumbai.(Agency)



The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Sunday said it busted a mephedrone laboratory that was being operated out of the basement of a house in Ahmedabad and seized 130 kilograms of precursor chemicals.The NCB's Ahmedabad Zonal Unit said the raid in Sarkhej was part of a joint operation with Gujarat Police. Mephedrone is a banned substance under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.A statement from the NCB said, "The NCB Ahmedabad team launched Operation Synthetic Drug and conducted a search on the premises owned by one Mudassar Ahmed Khan in Gyaspur, Sarkhej. During the investigation, a clandestine laboratory, suspected of being used to produce mephedrone, was discovered in the basement of the premises. Tools, equipment, and chemicals were found in this laboratory, which are suspected to have been used for the manufacture of synthetic drugs."The NCB team also found and recovered a 26.85-gram vial of mephedrone in liquid form, and 0.70 grams of the narcotic in powder form.

In a video statement, IRS Ghanasyam Soni, the NCB Zonal Director of Jodhpur who holds the additional charge of Ahmedabad, said the accused ran a cafe, and it was from his house that mephedrone and the precursor chemicals were recovered.

Sodium hydroxide pellets (0.424 kg), sodium hydroxide flakes (0.607 kg), sodium bicarbonate (0.535 kg), acetone (0.398 kg), sulphuric acid (1.311 kg), methylamine (0.592 kg), hydrochloric acid (0.810 kg), sulfur-free toluene (12.920 kg), industrial-grade methyl dichloride (MDC) (86.650 kg) were among the chemicals recovered from the house.

Also, laboratory equipment and apparatus, including heating mantles, digital magnetic stirrers, pipettes, round-bottom flasks, droppingfunnels, separating funnels and beakers were seized from the premises.A detailed investigation was underway to establish the modus operandi, identify the source of the seized chemicals and their intended use, determine the roles of other individuals involved, and uncover potential inter-state links connected to the illicit manufacture and trafficking of synthetic drugs.Director Soni said, "We have found links between the accused and Mandsaur in Madhya Pradesh. We are investigating this as well. The accused had just started the lab and was also running a cafe frequented by young people. We will coordinate with police, the Anti-Terrorist Squad and other agencies to crack down on such illegal operations."He also urged citizens to call the MANAS '1933' helpline to report suspicious activities related to narcotics and drugs.

Leopard-chase reel in MTR forest lands Minister Vanni Arasu in trouble

NILGIRIS.(Agency)

Social Justice Minister R Vanni Arasu is under fire after posting an Instagram reel on Saturday that shows him enter a forest area inside the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR). The video has triggered an uproar among wildlife activists, who have alleged that his act disturbed wild animals.The minister was in Mudumalai on October 10 to inspect tribal residential schools and distribute welfare assistance to people, including tribals.The minister, dressed in black and wearing sunglasses, was seen deliberately sitting on the bonnet of an MTR jeep to film a reel and chasing a black leopard along with a few others who were filming the incident. The minister, who is also the deputy general secretary of the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), was accompanied by anti-poaching watchers, forest range officers and a senior forest official of the MTR.The video showed the minister apparently chasing the black leopard soon after spotting the big cat. The animal subsequently disappeared behind bushes due to the presence of humans. His actions have raised questions about whether he was aware of wild animal behaviour and the need to maintain a safe distance from them.Though he received applause and appreciation from party supporters in the comments on his Instagram post, the video, which surfaced on Sunday evening, soon invited criticism from wildlife activists, who questioned the minister's conduct and the filming of such a video inside the tiger reserve.

"I was shocked after seeing the video. The minister should set an example for others in protecting forests. However, without understanding the animal's behaviour, he was seen chasing the big cat. In the same video, a wild elephant appeared frightened when he was inside a vehicle during a safari at the Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR).Even forest department staff were unable to convey the animal's behaviour to him, as he is a minister. If a common man stops even for a minute near a forest road, the Forest Department imposes a fine. What action can be taken against a minister who entered the forest in a vehicle specifically to film a reel?" questioned a Nilgiris-based wildlife activist.

Rampurhat: Two meat shops on Chhath route ordered shut for 2 days

Kolkata.(Agency)

The Rampurhat Municipality in Birbhum district has directed two meat shops falling on the Chhath Puja procession route to remain closed for two days during the festival, after objections by locals.According to a notification issued on November 13 by municipal chairman Soumen Bhakat, the shops, lying on the city's Court Lane, will remain closed on November 15 and 16 until 10 am, after which they can reopen subject to prescribed conditions. The notice also directs meat shops to cover the meat being cut and sold with red or black cloth on other days.A municipal official said the order was limited to two shops located close to the road on Court Lane, along which the Chhath procession passes."There are two shops in front of the court where animals are slaughtered and meat is sold openly on the roadside. Earlier, they had been verbally instructed to cover the area with black curtains or red cloth while conducting their business. Schoolchildren also use this road," Bhakat told reporters.

He said people hailing from Bihar had raised objections at a meeting attended by officials, police and the local MLA. "Chhath Puja is a major festival for people of Bihar. After discussions, it was decided shops would remain closed for Sunday and Monday, until 10 am. After that, they can reopen as usual, provided they follow the prescribed rules," he said.A shopkeeper, Noor Ali Sheikh, questioned the lack of prior consultation. "I received a notice asking me to shut my shop for two days. They could have discussed it with us first. Sunday is a busy business day, and our regular customers will not be able to buy mutton. This will affect our business," he said.The order has also triggered questions over whether similar restrictions are imposed during other religious festivals.The decision



drew criticism from the CPI(M) and the Congress. Sanjib Mallick of CPI(M) Birbhum district committee alleged that the move was part of an attempt to impose a different cultural identity on Bengal. "A few days ago, someone called Bageshwar Baba came to Bengal and advised people not to eat fish or meat during Durga Puja. This government does not want Bengali culture. It wants to replace Bengali traditions with the culture of the BJP. People of Bengal are organising themselves against this, and they will respond through protests," he said.

At 2.17 lakh already, Surat may break vehicle registration record

Surat.(Agency)

Surat's vehicle count rose nearly 20 per cent before the recent Diwali, even as officials hoped the year would end with all-time high registrations.As per Regional Transport Office (RTO) data, the city saw 2.17 lakh new vehicle registrations till October, second only to Ahmedabad (3.52 lakh). The growth is the highest in Surat in the last four years.

In October alone, as many as 33,187 vehicles were registered in Surat, almost 14 per cent more than the figure in the corresponding period last year.Meanwhile, the city, which is a hub for diamond and textile industries, saw tremendous growth in electric vehicles, too. If 2025 saw just over 12,000 electric vehicles being registered, this year, till October, people bought 20,294 new EVs. In Ahmedabad, over 23,000 new EVs were registered.To promote EV usage, authorities collect lower road tax from users and have provided 50 charging points in Surat.

"With more charging stations coming up and due to subsidies, EV registration has increased. While ICE (internal combustion engine) vehicles attract 6 per cent tax, the rate for EVs is 1 per cent," said Surat RTO Ankit Shah.In Surat, as many as 2,17,987 vehicles were registered between January and October this year, against 1,79,871 in 2025, 1,72,133 in 2024 and 1,61,036 in 2023."Surat has just one RTO office against two in Ahmedabad. Still, we saw a record number of vehicle registrations. By the time the year ends, we expect they will be at an all-time high. There was a (year-on-year) rise of 5.32 per cent in 2023, followed by 6.32 per cent in 2024, and 8.26 per cent in 2025," he added.



Shah added that more people were applying for Driving License. "Over the last couple of months, we've been seeing about 450 daily applications for two-wheelers and 170 applications for cars and other four-wheelers.""Currently, a testing track is operational at our Pal office; another track is being readied in Masma."Meanwhile, EV registrations in Vadodara stood at 11,026. Out of the total of 1.18 lakh new vehicles in Rajkot, 7,894 are EVs.

A Decade into post-truth world

Tomorrow, the post-truth age will officially be a decade old. On November 15, 2016, the Oxford English Dictionary made 'post-truth' its Word of the Year. Not because it was hatched that day, but because its use had spiked 2,000 percent that year. Neologisms—and the ideas, hopes and fears they represent—come and go in long cycles. But in that watershed year, the Brexit referendum and the US elections leading to the first Trump presidency propelled 'post-truth' to the top of the mind.

The next month, Kellyanne Conway, counsellor to the US President, dropped another neologism: 'alternative facts'. The post-truth age was still young. The majority had not lost their bearings yet, and they correctly identified alternative facts as falsehoods.This week, M John Harrison's Booker Prize for a post-apocalyptic novel featuring aliens whose origins, nature and purpose are unknown—and who may not even be aware of the human race—seems to suggest that the species knows it has suffered an unprecedented epistemological failure. It can no longer differentiate clearly between truth and falsehood. Sadly, the sum of our knowledge at present could be this: we don't know a thing for sure. But a controversy about another literary prize awarded in London suggests that humanity may know a little more than nothing. At least, it suspects that its salvation lies in its own hands, in recovering the ability to tell truth from falsehood more reliably than the machines and mechanisms it has created.

In October, an article by Vauhini Vara in The Atlantic, titled 'Yet Another Literary Prizewinner Seems To Be AI', suggested that Simbarashe Steyn Kundizeza, winner of the Caine Prize for African Writing 2026, had relied upon AI. However, the claim itself relied upon machine intelligence—the AI-detection tool Pangram. It had flagged almost the whole story as AI-aided.

Brian Krzanich quit Intel in 2018 over a past relationship with an employee. Steve Easterbrook was sacked by McDonald's in 2019, and Andy Byron of Astronomer gave the Coldplay moment its name in 2025.

As it always turns out, the plot is older. Ever since Washington curbed sales of advanced chips under the Biden administration in 2022, the many eyes and arms of US intelligence were tracing transactions and relations. Last Spring, a highly confidential memo went around to the top honchos of the Trump administration that a Chinese woman close to the Nvidia chief was a spy for the China's ministry of State security.In response, the trustees of the prize took a refreshingly retro course. They conducted a month-long human-driven investigation combining digital forensics and interviews with the author and the editors of the journal in which the suspect story, 'The Blue Fighter', had appeared. The entire process was conducted by human experts, using human reasoning and the traditional method of creating knowledge—people asking questions. It found the text to be authentically human and confirmed Kundizeza as the winner of the £10,000 prize. The trustees also criticized The Atlantic for publishing without conducting a human-centred investigation.

The controversy rekindled suspicions that the AI-detection software delivers disproportionately high false positives against writers who are not of Western origin, including regional winners of this year's Commonwealth Short Story Prize.

An Indian love story

The Great Game : Punjab's relationship with the Congress is complex — it has voted in the party only 3 times since 1984



SONIA Gandhi's memoir, 'Belonging,' has taken India by storm — certainly, you can judge this particular book by its cover. The black-and-white photograph of a young European woman — who travels halfway across the world, following a man she loves, and stays on, even after his death, and even after the Opposition as well as her own party colleagues taunt her about her foreign origin — is simply gorgeous.What's more, despite 55 unforgivable errors that have escaped its clearly shoddy editing, the book seems to have properly inserted the Gandhi family and the Congress back into the national conversation; certainly the Congress hopes it will give the party a fresh lease of life beyond the politics of the moment, that too on the eve of five key state elections expected to shift the political character of the nation.

It seems as if a masterclass in communication is afoot. This masterclass feeds into India's love of stories, the Kathasaritsagara, the ocean of stories, that Salman Rushdie tapped into and explained to the English-speaking universe a few decades ago; that Atal Bihari Vajpayee instinctively understood with his Hindi poetry and flourish, which is why the country loved him even if it didn't always vote for the BJP — Sonia's memoir has a lovely interlude on how Vajpayee once explained to her that even if the Congress and the BJP were at daggers drawn politically, the two sides could always have a relationship outside it; and when, years later, she went to see him when he'd had a stroke, he wordlessly reached out and held her hand.You can even order Sonia's book on Blinkit — that's part of the political strategy. Only days before it hit the bookstores, the senior Congress leader was launched on Instagram. And while she is a babe in the woods compared to Prime Minister Modi on Insta — only 355,000 followers in the last 3 weeks, compared to 107 million for the PM's account, the idea is to clearly tell the complex and often contradictory stories of India's oldest political dynasty to India's vast young audience. To bring the past back to life in all its shades, including grey, and remind the country why it has a special bond with the Gandhis.The whole effort reinforces the old marketing adage that there is no such thing as good or bad publicity. What better than an Indian love story, its central protagonist Bharat Mata, its cast of characters pulled from several parts of the world as well as from different religions?None of this means the book is going to help the Congress party get a leg up in the state elections it is fighting, even if the past is never fully past as we know and has a rude habit of interrupting the present. This is as true for Punjab, which still remembers the horror of the 1984 riots vividly, as it is for Uttar Pradesh, which has repeatedly brought the BJP to power on the promise of building the Ram Mandir — and now wonders if the thieving in the temple in Ayodhya will impact its political fortunes.

In Punjab and Delhi, Sonia Gandhi's description of the 1984 "carnage" as "tragic and shameful" has stirred up the pot, with the BJP bringing in some of the widows of the anti-Sikh riots to Gurdwara Rakab Ganj to tell their stories — how, despite the death of Sajjan Kumar in jail some months ago, the Congress leader convicted of instigating the riots, none of the 2,800 affected families has ever really got justice.

The BJP is right; the Congress party has never formally apologised for the 1984 riots — Prime Minister Manmohan Singh came closest to it on August 11-12, 2005, speaking in the Rajya Sabha soon after the report of the Nanavati Commission, set up five years prior by the BJP-led NDA in 2000 to investigate the causes, extent and course of the 1984 riots, was tabled. Dr Singh said "the tragic events deeply wounded the nation's conscience and negated the concept of Indian nationhood enshrined in the Constitution."It was not a formal resolution tabled by the Congress, but as PM, speaking on behalf of his party and the country, the Congress hoped it was enough. Six years earlier, soon after she took over as Congress president in 1999, Sonia Gandhi, along with Capt Amarinder Singh as Punjab Congress chief, went to the Golden Temple. (Capt Singh told me he had taken Sonia Gandhi "twice to the Darbar Sahib.") The gesture of her visit was said to constitute an apology, although Sonia Gandhi never verbalised her grief. Three years later, in 2002, Punjab voted for the Congress, led by the Captain.As for Rahul, he said only lat year, "what happened in the 80s was wrong, I have been to the Golden Temple multiple times, I have an extremely good relationship with the Sikh community in India and a loving relationship with them."Certainly, Punjab's relationship with the Congress is complex — it has voted in the party only three times since 1984. Beant Singh won in 1992, but was killed three years later by terrorists; and again in 2002 and in 2017, Capt Amarinder Singh led the party to power — he is now with the BJP.

Revisit law on IVF, set up reliable donor network

The woman donating eggs must be married and be aged 23-35, should have had at least one child, and provide a maximum of seven oocytes only once in her lifetime.

In trying to solve one problem, the government often creates another. The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act of 2021, a national law that came into force in January 2022, is one such example.

Its intentions are honourable, but in practice it has ended up defeating the very purpose for which it was enacted. An illegal network recently busted in Hyderabad, which was exploiting women to harvest their eggs for commercial in-vitro fertilisation, has once again revealed why.

In this case, 43 poor women, mostly from West Bengal, Odisha and Chhattisgarh, had been brought to the Telangana capital by a gang that housed them in hostels with the promise of Rs 20,000-30,000 payment for one egg donation cycle.They were administered hormone injections without the mandatory insurance cover. Nine culprits have been arrested so far and notices slapped on 14 fertility clinics, hospitals and egg banks. A similar racket was busted in Maharashtra's Badlapur last month.

The ART Act, which seeks to facilitate safe procedures and prevent commercial exploitation of women, covers children's rights and age caps for commissioning couples. But the major problem is in provisions regarding the



donor.The woman donating eggs must be married and be aged 23-35, should have had at least one child, and provide a maximum of seven oocytes only once in her lifetime. All this aids the cause of safety. But the mandate that the donor should be motivated purely by altruism fails the reality test when the supply is nowhere near the ever-increasing demand.Juxtapose this with delayed parenthood, declining fertility and the burgeoning IVF industry, which is estimated to be around Rs 12,000 crore and is projected to double in five years.

The black market is also massive by all counts. So it is no wonder that the poor are being preyed upon. A number of petitions challenging the Act are pending at the Supreme Court. But instead of waiting for its orders, the government ought to revisit the law. It could draw lessons from Spain.While making a provision for compensation, the European nation has created a mechanism for tracking donors. We do not have a foolproof system to find donors and enforce the Act. An idealistic law looks fine on paper; but as the saying goes, the road to perdition is paved with good intentions.

Slow and stodgy on the eastern front

By asking for her passport, Sheikh Hasina has put Tarique Rahman's government in a bind. As Dhaka sidles up to Islamabad and Beijing, it is traipsing on the brink of economic and social chaos.

The Bangladesh government is caught between a rock and a hard place. Tarique Rahman's administration is facing two difficult choices, either of which could invite trouble. It's about how to deal with Sheikh Hasina's request for a new passport and national identity card, which were cancelled in 2024 by the American-sponsored unconstitutional regime of Muhammad Yunus.The request, filed by Hasina's British lawyers at the Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi, has set the cat among pigeons in Dhaka. The country's inexperienced junior foreign minister, known for making gaffes at press meets, rejected Hasina's request and called her a "terrorist". Another minister was more circumspect, saying the request was being examined. Dhaka is caught in a bind: issue the documents or keep demanding Hasina's extradition.

So far, Delhi has ignored Dhaka's extradition request, indicating that it is a judicial process that has to be followed. Bangladesh has not taken any steps to initiate the process, clearly signalling that it does not want to risk going down that path. Meanwhile, Dhaka has pegged its India policy on Hasina's presence in Delhi, signalling that the bilateral ties cannot improve while the situation remains so.Tarique has repeatedly rebuffed Delhi's overtures and declined to visit despite formal invitations. Testing Delhi's patience may be useful for the Bangladesh Prime Minister in signalling to his anti-India political opposition, and to Pakistan and China. Tarique's party BNP's legacy is peppered with anti-India policies that are a part of his political grooming. The BNP's origin in 'Bangladeshi nationalism', as opposed to 'Bengali nationalism', gives it a separate identity with roots in Islamism.Beijing and Islamabad wish to co-opt Dhaka into their anti-India caucus, and the latter seems willing to oblige. It has moved closer to Islamabad with an agenda of intelligence cooperation. Government officials are being sent to Pakistan for training, some of whom might be recruited by Inter-Services Intelligence for anti-India operations from Bangladesh. Tarique has also visited Türkiye and indicated willingness to join the Mecca alliance. Bangladesh has collaborated with China to facilitate Chinese vloggers' visit to some poorer areas of Dhaka for a fake social media campaign claiming that the footage was from India.

Dhaka seems to believe that seeking closer ties with countries hostile to India would generate greater leverage—there seems to be no other rational explanation for its stance. India's response would cause considerable discomfort to Bangladesh.

The posturing on Hasina displays an ambiguity emanating from nervousness concerning her return's impact. Dhaka appears apprehensive her arrival would trigger mass gatherings of her supporters. Awami League members have allegedly held demonstrations and several incidents of violence have occurred in Dhaka and Gopalganj, Hasina's home district. The suppressed anger of persecuted Awami Leaguers may burst forth when Hasina returns.Bangladesh's politics is often fought out on the streets. If that happens again, the country will be plunged into chaos and further economic crisis. At present, there seems to be no consensus on the pathway to follow if Hasina returns. Hotheads are threatening to take her from the airport to the gallows. Some legal experts have said that she cannot appeal her death sentence as the 30-day period has expired. This is despite the fact that there was no opportunity to defend her in court.

Clearly, Dhaka seems reluctant to facilitate Hasina's return despite bold statements about wanting her back. Hasina, for herself, has reiterated she will return this December, the month when Bangladesh's Liberation War ended with independence.

Tarique's hands are tied—he cannot roll back all the



concessions Yunus gave to the US. Today, Bangladesh is forced to buy 80 percent of its gas from the US on terms set by the latter. Yunus also facilitated a lopsided trade agreement, which forces Bangladesh to source cotton from the US to avail of tariff concessions, raising costs. This is significant as the garment industry contributes 80 percent of Bangladesh's exports. The Yunus regime had stopped road and rail connections with India, forcing Delhi to cancel transhipment facilities for Bangladesh's ready-made garment exports, increasing their logistics cost.These days, garment workers are demonstrating in Dhaka demanding a wage raise. Under Hasina's tenure, exports shot up to make Bangladesh the second-largest readymade garment exporter after China. More than 4,000 factories employed around 40 lakh workers, most of them women. The sector integrated politicians and workers as stakeholders, too. That's why a crisis in the sector can cause a massive social upheaval.

Meanwhile, high inflation is fomenting a broader anger among the people. An energy crisis has forced closure of several commercial outfits and long hours of blackouts. There is an outpouring of public comments by Bangladeshi citizens that they were better off under Hasina. Dhaka's default reaction has been to blame India—an old habit whose shelf-life has long expired.

Tarique may be ensuring his own survival or bowing to the wishes of his opponents. After all, he spent 17 long years in exile in London during Hasina's tenure. That may be another factor preventing Hasina's return anytime soon, to rule out any challenge to his government. If the BNP government collapses, the ultimate beneficiary will be the Islamists whose agenda is to turn Bangladesh into a Sharia-compliant Islamic state.Meanwhile, Hasina's determination to return cannot be underestimated. The astute former PM knows her people well and realises that her return would galvanise her party members. International opinion, too, does not support the ban on the Awami League.Bangladesh's endless cycle of political revenge has to end. If the country plunges into chaos again, the Army may be forced to adopt the 2007 model of installing a caretaker government to ensure fair elections.

7 signs that you are too stressed out at Your job!

Here's how you can come out of it



Are you battling with stress issues?

Sometimes, it is good to be a 'little' stressed at work. It helps you to push your boundaries, motivate yourself and bring out the best in you. But on the other hand, if you are always stressed, needless to say, it is surely a danger sign for your health and professional life as well. Here are some subtle signs, which indicate that you are dealing with high stress level at your office, and what you can do to tackle the situation…

You avoid taking breaks

If you think twice before taking a lunch or coffee break, there is a high probability that you are over stressed. In fact, a loo break is a luxury for you just because you are constantly thinking about work and deadlines. You prefer to sit in front of your computer screen for hours and munch snacks rather than going for a lunch in that cafeteria or heading out for a walk.

You are turning forgetful

Did you forget to submit that finance report? Do you constantly struggle to recall the name of the colleague from the HR department? Oh, where are the car's keys? And what about filing the reimbursements for the previous month? You are becoming forgetful and to focus on anything or anyone is becoming a Herculean task.

You are developing a negative attitude

You are gradually becoming a pessimistic person. You doubt your capabilities and find it difficult to make decisions. You are low on motivation and feel like running away from everything. You are slowly realising that you never felt this bogged down before, and can't remember the last time you felt really happy during office hours.

You have problem sleeping

You think about work all the time and always feel tired. Even your sleep cycle is disturpted. You either find it difficult to fall asleep, or feel like sleeping more than the usual hours. Even your dreams are work related, and you wake up anxious in the middle of the night.

Self-care has taken a back seat

You no longer feel like dressing up for office and taking care of your health. You have developed self-harming habits like biting your nails, drinking/smoking (or feeling the urge), eating junk food all the time, or not eating anything.

Here's what you need to do

Whether it is because of excessive work pressure, office politics, unrealistic work expectations, frequent deadlines or a personal problem, try to find the reason behind your stress. Try talking to your manager and figure out a pragmatic solution. Meanwhile, start practising deep breathing whenever you feel anxious, and do not skip taking short breaks. In fact, research shows that going for a walk,

listening to music and taking short breaks help to reduce the production of the hormone cortisol (that makes you feel anxious) and in turn, improves your productivity.

Speak up at work

If you feel you are overburdened with work, do not be afraid to raise your concern and opine what you feel is justified. For all the obvious reasons, maintain a healthy lifestyle and cultivate a positive attitude towards everything. Understand that nobody can wave a magic wand and simply solve all your problems. You are the only one who can help yourself.

Do you worry too much about Office work even after you reach home?



Are are struggling to detach yourself from office work after reaching home?

If you want to strike the perfect work-life balance, it is important to detach yourself from office work after you reach home. Unfortunately, it is easier said than done. When we end up spending more time in office than being home, it is not an easy task to detach ourselves from all the office works and assignments. Deadlines and competition only make matters worse. It's okay to struggle to strike the perfect balance but the struggle can be made a little easier if we follow a few things:

Work-life balance goals should be realistic

This is the first and the most important step. Just like we make career goals, its equally important to set some goals to strike work-life balance. However, be realistic when you are setting your work-life balance goals. If spending time with your friends in a bar helps you relax, then do not hesitate to include that in your list. If you want to spend eight hours in office and do not want to work overtime, be clear. Only you can figure out what is best for you and stick to your resolutions.



Set boundaries

Ah! We know how difficult this can be. With a demanding boss and competitive colleagues, no doubt we are forced to carry out passive office work even after we reach home. Be it attending calls or sending a few mails, although it might seem like a task that takes only few minutes, it does affect your mood and energy when you are home. You should be very clear about your boundaries. Working from home during emergencies is acceptable, but if you make it a habit your work-life balance will definitely go for a toss.

The importance of disconnecting…

Think twice before answering work-related calls or emails. Ask this question: Can this be answered next day? If yes, then just disconnect and keep your phone on silent mode. Try not to check your emails before going to bed because if you do so, it will not only increase your stress level if you happen to see some work-related emails but will also prevent you from having a good night's sleep.

Switch off personal social media account notifications during office time

There is no denying the fact that the world of social media—be it Facebook or Twitter—can be very tempting and once we are in it, we can hardly keep track of the time spent there. These can not only prove to be a big distraction but can affect our productivity at work. If we waste time in replying to personal messages or posting pictures on social media, it is obvious that we will never finish our work on time and end up staying back beyond office hours. Turning off your social media account notifications can be a good practice.

The danger of over commitment

There is a saying that goes something like this: Good work means more work. We hardly say no to more or 'extra' work, which a manager or the boss asks us to do as a 'reward' for doing a good job. Sometimes it is a wise career move to pick up more work, but at the same time such a move might push your personal life to the backseat. So, do not overcommit yourself to work at the cost of your personal space and life.

Be punctual

School days are the best days to learn the importance of punctuality. Unfortunately, as we start our work life, this is the first lesson that most of us unlearn. If we are assigned a certain number of hours as office hours, there must be a reason behind it. Reach office on time and wrap up work within office hours. Yes, we agree, this might be difficult but certainly this isn't impossible. Remember, punctuality does not mean just reaching office on time, it also applies to everything—be it completing a project or leaving office.

Value your health and personal space

Remember, you can be productive only when you have a healthy mind residing in a healthy body. When you overwork and do not allow yourself enough time to relax, the stress would affect both your physical and mental health. Therefore, it is essential the realise the importance of inculcating work habits that allow you breathing space, which will help you to strike better work-life balance.

Dear Employers

keeping your employees happy will increase

Your profits!



Are you a happy employee?

It seems an employee's salary is not the only factor that impacts his/her productivity level. A recent study done by economists at the University of Warwick has suggested that it is their employee's happiness at the workplace that influences the productivity.

The study

The researchers surveyed around 700 people. Out of them, a set of randomly chosen participants were shown a ten-minute comedy clip or were given free snacks and drinks. Then the participants were asked a bunch of questions to determine whether they received the 'happiness shocks' and were in a good mood.



How it was done

Next, these participants were given regular tasks and their productivity levels were measured. Interestingly, the workers who were given 'happiness shocks' reported an average increase of 12 percent in their work productivity, and the figure reached as high as 20 per cent.

The not-so-happy workers

turned out to be ten per cent less productive. Also, the participants who watched the comical clip but did not report 'happiness shocks', were not able to improve their productivity levels as well.The unhappy workers

Other reasons

The research also mentioned how the loss or illness of a family member within the past two years worsened an employee's performance by ten per cent.

Money isn't a factor always

Going by another survey done by Gallup Poll (a management consulting company), 70 per cent of the working professionals confessed they were not working to their true potential. Also, this study suggested that salary hike was a temporary solution to boost an employee's job satisfaction.

What brings happiness?

Interestingly, the study concluded that it was the autonomy in decision-making that made workers happy. When the employees did not need to take approval for every little thing on an email, and did not need to take their senior's permission for day-to-day tasks, their job satisfaction levels improved.

Employers, are you listening?

The findings of these studies make sense. When a company cares for an employee's happiness, he/she is, in turn, feels motivated to perform better. No employee appreciates constant supervision from seniors (because office isn't school), and it is high time for business managers, HR departments to look for practices that actually boost employee happiness. Why? Because it would only increase the company's profits.



Good news!

Experts suggest we should have four

Working days in a week!



Is Monday to Friday a torture for you?

Are you one of those employees who dread Monday mornings and your mood starts dipping right from Sunday evening? Do you actually count the number of days left for Friday and the thought of Friday night brightens up your day? Well, if you are nodding your head to every question, this article can be your ray of hope!

The news!

This year's World Economic Forum's meet at Davos in Switzerland made heads turn when two experts suggested reducing the number of working days in a week to just four. According to them, this would actually be beneficial for employees and companies. Yes, you read it right! Imagine slogging from Monday to Thursday and having a three-day long weekend. Whoa!

The expert's opinion

Adam Grant, a psychologist from the Wharton School in Pennsylvania opined that reducing the number of working hours can improve a worker's productivity and creativity levels. "I think we have some good experiments showing that if you reduce work hours, people are able to focus their attention more effectively, they end up producing just as much, often with higher quality and creativity, and they are also more loyal to the organisations that are willing to give them the flexibility to care about their lives outside of work," suggested Adam.

What one of the experts suggested…

Economist and historian Rutger Bregman who is also the author of Utopia for Realists agreed on this subject and elucidated it with the example of legendary Henry Ford. He shared, "For decades, all the major economists, philosophers, sociologists, they all believed, up until the 1970s, that we would be working less and less. In the 1920s and 1930s, there were actually major capitalist entrepreneurs who discovered that if you shorten the working week, employees become more productive. Henry Ford, for example, discovered that if he changed the working week from 60 hours to 40 hours, his employees would become more productive, because they were not that tired in their spare time."

The tweet

Interestingly, this proposal was received with mixed reaction at the meet but it was tweeted by the official account of World Economic Forum. That's a positive sign, isn't it?

This notion is science backed!

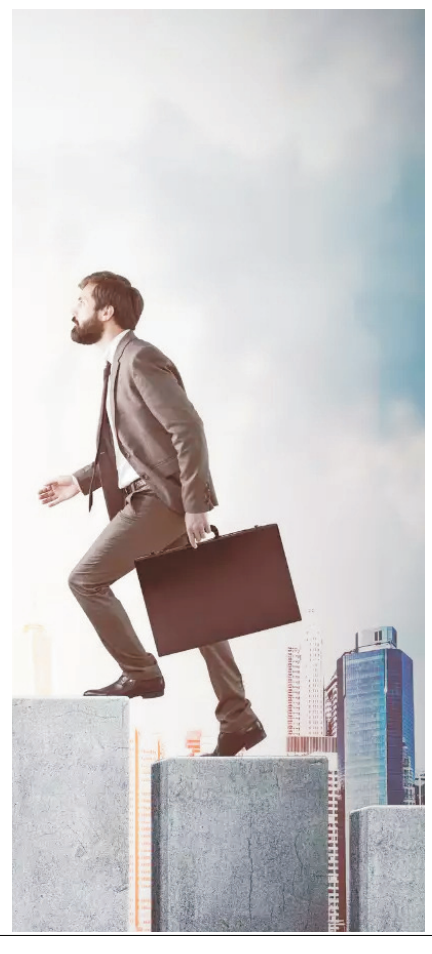
In fact, multiple researches indicate that a shorter working week can make employees happier and in turn, more productive. A few studies also suggest that countries with the culture of long working hours often scored low on productivity and GDP per every working hour.

A firm is actually adopting this practice!

A company in New Zealand experimented with four-day working week. Guess what! The company is adopting this practice on permanent basis.

Three-day weekend sounds amazing!

Well, a three day off would surely improve the work-life balance, given the fact we are not expected to work from home or reply to official emails. Also, this change would reduce stress levels and improve job satisfaction. Are our employers reading this?



It's appraisal time and this 7 tips would help you to make a

Better deal

The appraisal period

The coming months hold special importance for every employee. Whether you like it or not, the appraisal period is the time when your work performance is reviewed, your achievements and shortcomings are discussed, and everyone looks forward to a good raise in salary. To make the most out of this opportunity, here are seven tips that would help you to prepare better for this procedure and proceed a step ahead in your career.

Don't doubt yourself

"Am I good enough to ask a 20 per cent hike?" "Shall I talk about promotion?" "What would my manager think if I talk about my achievements?" The first mistake many of us make during the appraisal period is underestimating our self-worth. Therefore, don't stay in a bubble where you forget about all the work you have done for a year and consider yourself mediocre. Be confident, respect your hard work and stop doubting your potential. Remember, 'you get what you demand, you encourage what you tolerate.



Do your homework!

Spare some time and gather all the information, statistics and evidences that prove you have done your job well. Write down how you overcome all the issues that could have impacted your project or assigned task, and let these facts do all the talking during the interview.

The interview

This is the most crucial part of the entire procedure, and your conversation with senior is one of the major factors that decide your appraisal. Stay polite and be prepared for what all you want to discuss with your manager. Start the discussion on a positive note by highlighting all the opportunities you have got so far and how you have grown as a professional. Next, talk (not brag) about your achievements and share your plans on how you plan to contribute in the team this year.

Be straight forward

You need to be calm, polite but make sure you put down your expectations in clear and crisp words. Whether you are looking for a good hike, change in designation or the new role you would like to take up, be upfront about your expectation and justify them by explaining how these changes would keep you motivated and improve your work performance.

Feedback

It is obvious that your performance would be evaluated and you would be getting feedback about the same. Whenever you think your performance has been perceived in the wrong manner, make sure you politely speak up and defend yourself. Also, in case you have made some mistakes or have recognised your weak areas, own up and talk about the lessons you have learnt and how you plan to work on them now.

Reflect on what you need

This period is also the perfect time to reflect on the way your career is heading. Are you satisfied with your current profile? Where do you want to see yourself in the coming years? Does this job offer enough learning opportunities? Most importantly, what can you do to achieve your professional goals? Brood over carefully and the answer to these questions will help you decide what you can do to improve your professional life.

If you are looking for a job change

In case you are not happy with your present job or are certain your appraisal won't be good enough, this is the best time to start looking for a new job. You might take a few months to land into a good job offer and by that time, you would be able to negotiate your package depending upon the hike you have got.

Allowing sale of liquor during festival an insult to Purvanchalis' faith: AAP

Delhi.(Agency)

AAP leaders on Sunday lashed out at the Delhi government for "insulting" the faith of Purvanchalis— people who belong to or hail from Purvanchal, a geographic and cultural region in the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh or adjoining parts of western Bihar and Jharkhand—by keeping liquor shops open amid Chhath Puja. AAP also called into question the 'Sanatani' credentials of the saffron party, as it allows the sale of liquor amid Hindu festivals.Party MLA Kuldeep Kumar visited liquor shops that were open on the occasion, and remarked, "Today, Chhath Mahaparv is being celebrated with fervour. But the CM Rekha Gupta-led BJP government in Delhi has kept the liquor shops open. Even though the BJP calls itself Sanatani, the liquor shops remain open, just as they were open across the national capital on Dussehra. The CM also holds the Excise portfolio. How can she keep liquor shops open during Hindu festivals?"Kumar also sought an explanation from the government, saying, "The BJP and CM Rekha Gupta must explain why liquor shops have been kept open in Delhi amid a festival that holds special importance for the Purvanchalis." He also slammed the government for allegedly putting revenue generation over faith, saying, "How much revenue does the BJP government need, after all?"Notably, AAP has also criticised the BJP government for alleged lack of arrangements for tens, lighting and cleanliness at the ghats.

Traffic curbs in place

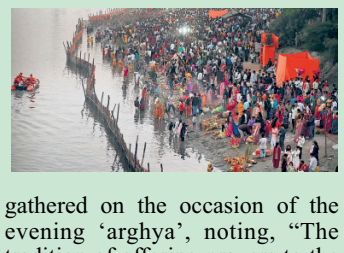
Traffic curbs will be imposed on several roads leading to and adjoining Yamuna ghats in Delhi from 2 pm on Sunday till 8 am on Monday in view of the ongoing Chhath Puja celebrations.

Chhath festivities keep Yamuna ghats abuzz

Delhi.(Agency)

Devotees thronged ghats across the national capital on Sunday to celebrate the Chhath festival. A large number of worshippers were seen gathered along the Yamuna banks in traditional attire to offer prayers to Chhathi Maiya. Chhath songs, lamps and traditional bamboo baskets (soops) used for offerings lent the ghats a festive atmosphere.Chief Minister Rekha Gupta also offered 'arghya' to the setting sun at the Chhath ghat along the Yamuna in Sonia Vihar and performed prayers to Chhathi Maiya and Lord Bhaskar. Several Delhi ministers and BJP MPs took part in the festivities.

Gupta also took stock of the Chhath ghats along the Yamuna. She extended wishes to the devotees



gathered on the occasion of the evening 'arghya', noting, "The tradition of offering prayers to the setting sun during Chhath is a beautiful reflection of gratitude towards nature and the values of Sanatan culture."The CM also stressed the unifying nature of the festival, expressing, "During Chhath, not just families but the entire community comes together." Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, also present, noted, "Today, BJP president Nitin Nabin inaugurated the 11-km Chhath Ghat on the Munak Canal. It is the longest Chhath ghat in Delhi and the first of its kind in the country. I am proud that this work was carried out by my Irrigation and Flood Control Department. For years this stretch of the canal lay dry and neglected. Today, it has proper steps, lighting and a wide road."

Metro to start services at 4.30 am on Monday

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) will start train services at 4.30 am on Monday, two hours earlier than its usual schedule, to facilitate the movement of devotees observing Usha Arghya during Chhath Puja. The early services have been arranged for Monday.

What Shields India's Military Against Honey Traps? Air Force Chief Shares Insights

Delhi.(Agency)

India's military and its research networks have put in place technical and institutional safeguards to counter foreign espionage rings that are increasingly moving beyond traditional honey traps to deploy cyber warfare and other forms of scams, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit said.He said romantic entrapment on social media was only a small part of a bigger intelligence challenge that targets personnel across both public-sector laboratories and private defence contractors, Air Chief Marshal Dixit said at the ANI National Security Summit 3.0 in Delhi today."It is not a honey trap thing. It is basically cyber espionage. It is an espionage issue. Nowadays espionage happens through cyber means and through various means and enticing. Honey traps are only one aspect of the overall picture. There are other things," he said, addressing questions on whether India's defence industry was vulnerable to compromise operations."Multi-level marketing is there and loan sharks are there. They're also active. So we are fully aware of this. We are keeping a close eye and there is a systemic effort to control this," he added.Since the core military communication networks are physically isolated from the public internet, foreign intelligence handlers are targeting human operators rather than hardware, the Indian Air Force (IAF) chief said."Our networks are air-gapped, so people cannot do cyber attacks on that. But an insider threat is being generated and we are aware of that. Some technical solutions and some institutional solutions are already in place."On training the private sector, he said awareness in using the correct software is a key element. "Whatever advice we are giving... we have an agency which gives advice to private sector people on how to use their network. If they just follow that, I think most of the time we will be safe," Air Chief Marshal Dixit said.The remarks come after a string of high-profile counter-intelligence arrests across the defence establishment, where operatives linked to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) used fake social media personas alongside financial lures to extract classified military data.



In recent cases, the Delhi Police arrested a defence officer for allegedly leaking sensitive operational deployment details and attempting to install data-stealing malware on a colleague's mobile phone. Investigators told NDTV that the officer, who was going through a difficult phase in his personal life, had been befriended on social media by a woman suspected to be working for a Pakistani handler.In October, the Andhra Pradesh Police arrested 31-year-old Indian Navy sailor Pradeep Mukherjee and a contractual driver in Visakhapatnam. Mukherjee had been lured over several months by a female Pakistani operative online.The latest case is over allegations surrounding Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang and his past association with Alice Huang, an executive accused by the US of links to Chinese intelligence, a claim that Beijing has denied.

Delhi boutique murder: CCTV footage shows accused dragging teen to trial room

Delhi.(Agency)

The CCTV footage of a West Delhi boutique has captured the chilling details of the moments before an 18-year-old was murdered inside its trial room.Shabnam, 18, was allegedly killed by Suraj with her throat slit inside the trial room of the boutique in Moti Nagar market.The horrifying visual shows the accused clad in an orange T-shirt entering the boutique. Shabnam is seen sitting alone inside the boutique, and Suraj stands in front of her. After interacting with her for a short while, he starts assaulting her and Shabnam is heard screaming. Suraj can then be seen dragging her by her hair into the trial room.Police found her dead with her throat slit open inside the trial room. Suraj was arrested after examining the CCTV footage on Sunday.A police official said Suraj was allegedly forcing Shabnam to marry him. Shabnam's brother Arjun claimed that Suraj, a cab driver, had been stalking Shabnam and had threatened that he would kill her unless she agreed to the marriage.Arjun, her brother, reached the boutique after his mother received a call regarding the incident. "She was lying on the floor… butchered like an animal… she had played in my lap as a child," he said.A police officer said, "The owner told Shabnam to attend to customers and pull the shutter down before leaving for home. She then went out to run errands. She had remote access to the shop's CCTV footage."Suraj is Shabnam's sisters' brother-in-law, whom Shabnam first met in 2023, when she was 15. "In 2023, two of my sisters married into the same family. They live near our home. My brother-in-laws have two more brothers; one of them is Suraj," said Arjun, an e-rickshaw driver. He alleged that as the two families grew close and visits became frequent, Suraj developed a "liking" for Shabnam.



Just hot air: Delhi's annual pollution battle continues as curbs hit daily-wage workers hardest

Delhi's air is foul again even when authorities and courts are in an overdrive to order and implement measures that they feel are necessary to improve air quality. However, citizens are confused if the city's air is in good hands, say Anup Verma, Ifrah Mufti, Udayan Kishore, Nitin Rawat and Aditi Ray Chowdhary

Delhi.(Agency)

AQI in the 'poor' category, slipping into 'very poor', then 'severe' and back to 'very poor' — the cycle continues, raising fresh questions about the effectiveness of the city's pollution-control measures. For the past two months, Delhi has been undertaking dust-control measures, deploying hundreds of sprinkling machines, mechanical sweepers and anti-smog guns. Yet, concerns persist over the effectiveness of its pollution-control strategy, gaps in monitoring and enforcement, and the disproportionate burden of GRAP restrictions on daily-wage workers, who often bear the brunt of curbs on construction and other economic activities.

The Supreme Court questioned the unchecked movement of vehicles, the High Court scrutinised the protection of green spaces, and the civic bodies have expanded pollution-mitigation infrastructure, yet the lived reality of those breathing the toxic air tells a different story.The story has been retold multiple times over the years with little change. This year is no different. There is a city choking under a blanket of smog despite stricter restrictions, official interventions, and judicial responses while its citizens ask if the measures are addressing the problem or merely responding to it. However, the story forgets the ones most affected--thousands of migrant workers--dependent on construction and other labour-intensive activities who face an uncertain livelihood whenever restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) are intensified.For them, a ban on construction work can mean an immediate loss of daily wages, often without any alternative source of income. The contrast between the pollution-control machinery and the



economic vulnerability of those most exposed to polluted air puts forth a larger question: Is Delhi's pollution response addressing the problem at its source, or is it largely revolving around seasonal interventions and restrictions that often leave the most vulnerable paying the price?

Growing fleet of machines

A study by the Delhi-based environmental think tank 'Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)' revealed that vehicular emissions are the top contributor to Delhi's winter pollution. Hence, the dust generated from the roads also remains a significant contributor to the city's deteriorating air quality. The MCD, which maintains a substantial share of the capital's road network, has been focused on addressing all gaps in the existing cleaning infrastructure to reduce the dust pollution.It has deployed 207 water-sprinkling machines, including 40 anti-smog guns, of which only 28 are currently operational. Twelve additional anti-smog guns were inducted into the fleet last month.According to MCD officials, it currently operates 64 mechanical road sweepers, each covering .

8 injured in Old Delhi building collapse: Owner, contractor nabbed

Delhi.(Agency)

The owner and a contractor of an under-construction hotel in Old Delhi's Paharganj were apprehended after a part of the structure collapsed Sunday evening, injuring eight people, a police officer said.

According to police officers the building was being constructed by a man named Raman, who had given the contract of the building to Anwar.Senior officers said though the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) had found in its initial report that the building had prior permission for construction and nothing 'unauthorised' was being undertaken at the site, it will be investigated if the building material was compromised.



A police official also confirmed that as GRAP-4 measures are in place, it will be investigated if the owners were undertaking any dust-generating construction.

This was the second such incident in Old Delhi in 10 days. On November 5, a three-storey under-construction building collapsed in Chawri Bazar, killing six people.

Sunday's collapse

According to the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), a call was received around 4:40 pm on Sunday, claiming that a building had collapsed in Paharganj. When a unit of the DFS reached the spot, they found a two-floor structure collapsed in a narrow lane surrounded by three -floor and four-floor residential buildings."A PCR call was received at Paharganj police station regarding the partial collapse of a building situated at Kasheruwalan, Paharganj, opposite Government Girls Senior Secondary School," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Rohit Rajbir.At least eight workers were found trapped inside the debris — Sheikh Saddam, 37; Sheikh Raja, 20; Mohd Suhail, 50; Sanjud Khan, 40; Gautam Yadav, 28; Varun Yadav, 36; Raja, 36; and Mantsu, 40."At the time of the incident, the roof slab (lanter) of the second floor was being laid when a portion of the building collapsed," an officer said.

SC halts life sentences of 2 men convicted in Bilkis Bano rape case, grants bail

A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and Prasanna B Varale ordered the release of Bipinchand Kanaiyalal Joshi and Pradip Ramanlal Modhiya on bail, subject to conditions to be imposed by the trial court. The order was passed on October 28.

Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court has suspended the life sentences of two convicts in the 2002 Bilkis Bano gangrape case and granted them conditional bail, citing their prolonged incarceration of more than 17 years.A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and Prasanna B Varale ordered the release of Bipinchand Kanaiyalal Joshi and Pradip Ramanlal Modhiya on bail, subject to conditions to be imposed by the trial court. The order was passed on October 28.In its order, the Supreme Court noted that the two men had been in prison for over 17 years. It also took note of the fact that one of them was severely physically disabled. The bench further observed that one of the convicts had not been named in the FIR and was implicated nearly three years after the incident.The court was hearing their appeals challenging the Bombay High Court's 2017 order upholding their conviction and life sentences. The lawyers appearing for the two convicts argued that they had been arrested nearly three years after the incident but had spent more than 17 years behind bars.The Supreme Court observed that there were issues of fact and law that remained to be decided in their appeals. It directed that the two be released on bail on terms and conditions to be fixed by the trial court.The two men were among 11



people convicted in the case involving the gangrape of Bilkis Bano and the murder of seven members of her family during the 2002 Gujarat riots.In January 2024, the Supreme Court had quashed the Gujarat government's remission orders that led to the premature release of all 11 convicts in August 2022, directing them to return.

Banks ramp up gold loans amid rising stress

KOCHI.(Agency)

Banks continue to lend at a faster pace to retail customers at a time there is a stress build-up in the gold loan portfolios and amid reports of job layoffs across industries. According to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), bank credit against gold jewellery recorded the highest year-on-year growth in September at 82.6% as of September 30.Although this is lower than the 124.8% growth recorded in the year-ago period, gold loans continued to expand at the strongest pace in the personal loan segment, suggesting high gold loan prices continue to nudge investors to borrow against the yellow metal.Recently, a report by TransUnion Cibil had showed that delinquencies in the country's gold loan portfolio nearly doubled between March and August, although they remained below year-ago levels, as the portfolio almost trebled since August 2023 to Rs 22.5 tn.However, one important trend is the increase in stress between March and August. During this five-month period, the delinquency rate has nearly doubled," said Bhavesh Jain, managing director and chief executive officer, TransUnion Cibil.

Ashok Leyland reports net profit of Rs 891 crore in Q2

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Ashok Leyland Ltd reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 891 crore in Q2FY27 against Rs 819 crore during the same period previous year, a rise of 8.71% year-on-year as the profit took a hit due to a sharp increase in raw materials and forex exchange rate.The commercial vehicle maker's consolidated revenue stood at Rs 17,030 crore in Q2FY27. The cost of materials shot up by 45% to Rs 9,899 crore. Commercial vehicle (CV) volumes surged 32% to 64,677 units, compared with 49,116 units in the corresponding quarter last year. Revenue grew by an impressive 39% to ₹13,364 crore, up from ₹9,588 crore in the previous year, driven by strong market demand and better price realisation and mix.Both the Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicle (MHCV) and Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV) industry witnessed healthy growth during Q2.

Commerce ministry seeks export push in budget

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

With Budget consultations between the Ministry of Finance, industry stakeholders and other Ministries set to begin the third week of November, the Ministry of Commerce is pushing for more export led initiatives in the upcoming Budget, focusing on boosting manufacturing and building resilient supply chain with reduced import dependence, officials confirmed.Alongside, the Commerce Ministry is also asking for budget allocation for the extension of Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) and more custom duty exemptions, while addressing the challenges of inversions in custom duties imposed on various products. "...We do engage with Department of Revenue to convey our point of view on many of these asks... So, that is something which is a work in progress...," said Commerce Secretary, Rajesh Agrawal.

industry priorities

Ministry is asking for funds to extend RoDTEP and expand customs duty exemptions Budget focus sought on manufacturing, resilient supply chains with reduced import dependence

Check if your deposit is insured before you renew

New Delhi.(Agency)

Take a retired schoolteacher in Thrissur. Every year she walks into the service co-operative bank near the market to renew her fixed deposit. The staff know her by name, and the rate is a little better than at the nationalised bank across the road. For someone living on interest, that matters.

At the Karuvannur Service Co-operative Bank, also in Thrissur, the story went differently. Serious irregularities in its lending came to light in July 2021. In December 2025, The Times of India reported, citing government data, that more than Rs 263 crore belonging to 30,078 depositors was still to be returned. In September, the bank said it had returned Rs 178.78 crore in all, including interest, since the crisis began.

Karuvannur is not alone. Mathrubhumi reported in August that 441 co-operative institutions in Keralam were struggling to return deposits in full. The State Economic Review, as this paper reported in January, found that 929 of Keralam's 1,687 primary agricultural credit societies were loss-making in 2025. That signals strain, though not necessarily unpaid depositors. Many co-operatives are well run and have served their villages for generations. The trouble is that a depositor cannot easily tell which ones.Many retired depositors assume their money is insured as it would be at any bank, but often it is not. DICGC, the Reserve Bank's deposit insurer, covers deposits in commercial banks and licensed co-operative banks up to `5 lakh per depositor per bank. Its own guide says primary co-operative societies are not insured. And despite the word bank on the board, most of Keralam's service co-operative banks are registered as primary agricultural credit societies: village credit societies without a banking licence.

Under an order issued this January, the state's own guarantee for these societies covers up to Rs 5 lakh per depositor. It rises to Rs 10 lakh where a separate contribution for that tier has been paid. Ask your society which applies, and whether it is registered with the guarantee board and up to date on its payments.The fund itself is small. Mathrubhumi reported in January that it had received only Rs 376 crore in contributions, while primary agricultural credit societies alone held Rs 1.68 lakh crore in deposits in 2025. That is about Rs 22 for every Rs 10,000.A depositor can claim the guarantee only after an order is passed to wind up the



society. Karuvannur was kept running under a government rescue plan instead, so its depositors have not received that cover. The board can also lend to a struggling society, but that is its choice.

Under a January circular from the state Registrar of Co-operative Societies, these societies may pay senior citizens at most 8.6% on deposits of two years or more. That is well above SBI's 7.05% on five-to-10-year deposits and PNB's 6.75% on deposits of over five years. But the government's Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme pays 8.2% this quarter, with the central government behind it.

Against the scheme, a society pays at most 0.4 percentage point more: about Rs 4,000 a year in interest on `10 lakh.Before you renew, ask four questions. Is this a licensed bank or a society?Ask the staff plainly whether your deposit is insured by DICGC. At a society that is not a licensed bank, the honest answer is no. Which guarantee covers me, and what makes it pay?Ask how much is covered, by whom, and what has to happen before you are paid. Under the state scheme, your own claim arises only after a winding-up order, which may never come.'How much of my money is sitting here?If the deposit is larger than the cover, the difference is unprotected. At a bank, keep your total across all branches and accounts in your name, including interest, within Rs 5 lakh, and spread anything more across different banks.Could I get nearly the same rate with less risk?Often, yes. One option to compare is the Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme, though it is meant to be held for five years. Rs 4,000 a year on Rs 10 lakh is small pay for the risk.

Stocks decline in Asia as investor concerns over Nvidia fallout

New Delhi.(Agency)

Asian shares mostly declined Monday as investors' worries over the future of the artificial intelligence trade extended into another week following Nvidia's fallout.U.S. equity futures were trading lower. Investors and traders are closely monitoring any signals on what is next for the global AI industry ahead of Nvidia's earnings report due Tuesday and Anthropic's massive stock market debut set for later this week.Jensen Huang's resignation as Nvidia CEO last week after his extramarital affair sparked U.S. national security concerns shook global markets. Huang has been one of the biggest advocates for AI and his downfall triggered questions over how the global AI boom could be impacted.Those worries have spread to Asia, where AI hardware stocks are prominent on markets including in South Korea and Japan.South Korea's benchmark Kospi index lost 2.8% to 5,142.84. Shares fell for memory chipmaker SK Hynix and Samsung Electronics, two of its most valuable companies. SK Hynix plummeted 5.5%, while Samsung Electronics gave up 3.2%.Japan's Nikkei 225 fell 1.6% to 60,182.50 after official data Monday showed Japan's economy contracted in the latest quarter. Several of Japan's big AI stock names also traded lower. OpenAI investor SoftBank Group slipped 4.2%, while memory maker Kioxia Holdings dropped 5.5% and chip equipment maker Tokyo Electron dipped 5.2%.Also a beneficiary of the global AI frenzy, Taiwan's Taiex sank 4.1%, with shares of its leading chipmaker TSMC, or Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., falling 3.4%.There have been increasing



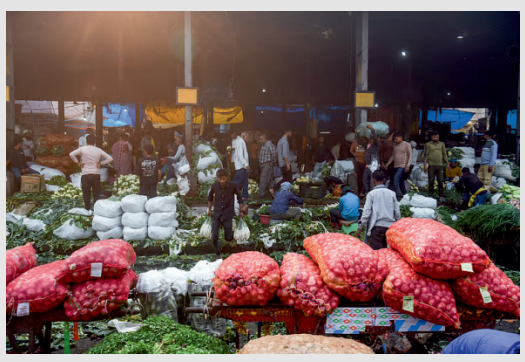
concerns that the robust growth of the AI capital spending may slow, analysts have said, even before the Nvidia episode. For one, uncertainties surrounding developments of AI data centers in the U.S. were also growing following the U.S. midterm elections."The market was already worried about this risk before what happened at Nvidia," Zhiwei Zhang, president and chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management said in a commentary Monday. "Now the risk has become even more serious."Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 0.9% to 23,852.96. The Shanghai Composite index declined 0.4% to 3,621.46 following latest Chinese official economic data released Monday, including on retail sales and industrial production, that disappointed analysts.

On Friday, Wall Street's benchmark S&P 500 dropped 0.4%. The Dow Jones Industrial Average edged 0.1% higher, while the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite fell 0.9%.Nvidia lost 2% Friday, after falling 4.3% Thursday as the company announced Huang's resignation. Some of its rivals' shares were also lower, with Broadcom declining 4.8% Friday and AMD, or Advanced Micro Devices, giving up 8.8%.In commodities trading, oil prices declined as tensions in the Middle East dragged on while oil flows in the Gulf were recovering from prewar levels. The International Energy Agency said last week that Gulf exports "recovered much faster than global oil demand."Brent crude, the international standard, slid 1% to $94.91 per barrel, though that is still much higher than the approximately $72 a barrel in late February before the Iran war began.Investors are also looking for updates this week as U.S. President Donald Trump, Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin are expected to meet Thursday on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shenzhen, China.

WPI inflation climbs to 12.29% in October on higher fuel, food prices

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

Wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation rose to 12.29 per cent in October, up from 11.39 per cent in September, driven by a sharp increase in fuel and power prices, along with higher rates in food articles and other commodities.Inflation in the fuel and power segment surged to 32.84 per cent in October from 25.85 per cent in the previous month. Prices of food articles rose 8.26 per cent, marginally higher than 8.14 per cent in September.Inflation in non-food articles increased to 11.69 per cent from 10.28 per cent, while the rate of price rise in minerals climbed to 12.64 per cent from 9.51 per cent.The primary articles basket recorded inflation of 9.24 per cent in October,



compared with 8.67 per cent in September.However, inflation in manufactured products eased to 9.54 per cent from 9.76 per cent in the previous month.According to the Commerce and Industry Ministry, mineral oils, crude petroleum and natural gas, electricity, food and non-food articles, basic metals, chemicals, food products, textiles, and rubber and plastic products were among the key drivers of WPI inflation during October.The latest wholesale inflation data comes days after figures showed that retail (CPI) inflation rose to 6.09 per cent in October, breaching the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance limit for the first time in two years.The rise in retail inflation has fuelled expectations of a possible policy rate hike by the RBI at its monetary policy review next month.

Rupee rises 6 paise to 94.13 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI.(Ajency)

The rupee rose 6 paise to 94.13 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday amid declining crude oil prices and positive domestic markets.

However, a robust dollar and rising US Treasury yields amid uncertainty between the U.S and Iran capped the upside. Iran attacked



a U.S. military base in Bahrain on Sunday (November 15, 2026).At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 94.22 against the greenback. It touched a high of 94.13 and a low of 94.25.On Friday (November 13, 2026), the rupee depreciated 7 paise to close at 94.19 against the dollar."We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on an overnight surge in the dollar and rising U.S. Treasury yields. However, softening of crude oil prices and foreign inflows may support the rupee at lower levels."At the domestic markets, traders may take cues from the Empire State manufacturing index data from the U.S. and Fed Chair Kevin Warsh's speech," said Anuj Choudhary, research analyst, Mirae Asset Sharekhan.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was at 103.44, higher by 0.03%.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.03% lower at $94.85 per barrel in futures trade.On the domestic equity market front, Sensex jumped 414.36 points to 82,010.15 in early trade, while the Nifty rallied 102.10 points to 25,252.50.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) purchased equities worth ₹5,736.55 crore on Friday (November 13, 2026), according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, India's forex reserves increased by $2.49 billion to $719.547 billion during the week ended November 6, according to the RBI data released on Friday (November 13, 2026).In the previous week, the forex reserves had dropped by $2.691 billion to $717.056 billion.

Know RBI's domestic money transfer rules

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has consolidated the rules governing domestic money transfers into a single framework, retaining existing transaction limits while formalising safeguards on customer verification, authentication and fraud monitoring.

How much can you transfer?

The limits depend on the channel used and whether the beneficiary has a bank account. For beneficiaries with bank accounts, cash-based remittances of up to Rs 50,000 can be made through NEFT. Transfers through business correspondents and ATMs are subject to a limit of `5,000 per transaction, with monthly ceilings varying by channel.If the recipient does not have a bank account, money can still be sent through an authorised banking correspondent, who can pay it out in cash. Such transfers are capped at Rs 10,000 per transaction and Rs 25,000 a month.

What safeguards are in place?

The revised framework formalises safeguards against fraud and misuse of the remittance system. Senders must be registered with verified mobile numbers and officially valid documents. Every transaction must also have an additional factor of authentication.Banks and authorised payment system operators are required to deploy automated checks to identify unusual transaction patterns, including abnormal increases in the frequency or volume of transfers. They must investigate suspicious activity and send transaction alerts to customers.

Will the service be free?

Not necessarily. The RBI framework



allows service providers to levy charges for domestic money transfers. Customers should therefore check the applicable fee before initiating a transaction.The directions apply to commercial banks, regional rural banks, urban, state, district and central co-operative banks, as well as authorised payment system operators and participants. Card-to-card transfers are excluded. The framework offers a more structured route to access formal domestic remittance service.

Class 10 girls found dead on Himachal riverbank in suspected twin suicide

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Two minor girls, aged 14 and 15, were found dead on a riverbank in a suspected twin suicide in Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur district within 24 hours after they went missing, the police said Monday. Rescue teams recovered the body of one girl Sunday evening, followed by that of the other girl Monday morning.Abhishek Dhiman, Superintendent of Police, Bilaspur, said the two girls were friends and in Class 10. One came from a migrant family from Nepal that had been residing in the district for a long time, while the other was a local resident.According to police, the girls left their homes on Saturday morning, telling their families that they were going to Sundernagar town in the Mandi district to appear for an examination. In the evening, the families reported to the police that the girls were missing.The families were informed that the girls had been seen at Ghumarwin, also in Bilaspur district, and sent two local youths to bring them home. However, one of them later informed the families that the girls had died by suicide.

Will ensure improved facilities for pilgrims: TDB president K Jayakumar

SABARIMALA.(Agency)

Elaborate and effective measures have been taken to ensure improved facilities for pilgrims during the Sabarimala pilgrimage season beginning on Tuesday, according to Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) president K Jayakumar.Speaking to , the TDB president said, as part of the arrangements, a buffer stock of 50 lakh containers of aranava would ensure smooth availability of the prasadam for pilgrims. With a daily production of around 3 to 3.5 lakh containers, the pilgrims would not face any shortage, he said.Regarding appam, he said around 5 lakh packets would be kept as buffer stock, and with a daily production of 50,000 packets, the prasadam would be adequate to meet the demand. To reduce the hardship of waiting in long-winding queues for buying prasadam, half a dozen counters have been opened at Sannidhanam.Measures are also in place to ensure quality while providing free food, including sadya for lunch, to devotees at the Annadana Mandapam near Malikappuram temple. The motive behind the whole exercise is to cater to the requirements of all devotees who come for darsan during the season, Jayakumar said.At Pampa, devotees would be given free food at the facility located opposite the foot overbridge at Manappuram.

Telangana's healthcare spending below national average

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

Telangana's out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) on healthcare accounted for 37.9% of its total health expenditure in 2023-24, below the national average of 42.7%, according to the National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimates for India 2023-24 released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Sunday.The lower share points to a relatively smaller direct financial burden on households. Government-supported treatment through the Rajiv Aarogyasri scheme and services at public hospitals are among the mechanisms offering financial protection, particularly to families requiring hospitalisation and specialised care.

The NHA report recorded an expenditure of Rs 473 crore under Aarogyasri in 2023-24. The scheme provides cashless treatment for specified procedures and serious ailments to eligible families at empanelled government and private hospitals.

The Telangana government has expanded its coverage to Rs 10 lakh per family annually.According to the state socioeconomic outlook report in 2024, Aarogyasri covered 90.1 lakh BPL families and offered 1,672 treatment packages across 32 specialities. It had 1,406 empanelled facilities, including 364 private hospitals.

Cyclone threat clouds Jagaddhatri Puja celebrations in Bengal

Kolkata.(Agency)

With a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal likely to intensify into a cyclone, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday warned of rain and thunderstorms across South Bengal from Wednesday, raising the possibility of weather disruptions during Jagaddhatri Puja celebrations.IMD said a low-pressure area over the south-east Bay of Bengal became a deep depression Monday, November 16, moving north-westwards. At midnight, it lay 680 km from Andaman and Nicobar's Sri Vijaya Puram, 720 km from Chennai in Tamil Nadu, 820 km from Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam, and 940 km from Odisha's Gopalpur."It is very likely to move north-northwestwards, intensify further into a Cyclonic Storm over the central parts of the south and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal on November 16 and into a Severe Cyclonic Storm over the west-central Bay of Bengal on November 17, 2026. Thereafter, it is likely to intensify further and move northwestwards towards the Andhra Pradesh coast during the subsequent two days," it said.Under the influence of this system, the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Kolkata warned of rain in South Bengal from Wednesday, November 18.

It issued a yellow alert for all South Bengal districts from Thursday till the early hours of Sunday for thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph at a couple of locations, coinciding with Jagaddhatri Puja in West Bengal.This year, the main puja rituals will be performed on Wednesday, and the idols will be taken out in processions and immersed on Dashami, Thursday.



A few places in districts along the Bay of Bengal coast, South 24 Parganas, East and West Midnapore, and Jhargram are also expected to receive heavy rainfall of 7-11 cm, along with gusty winds of 40-50 kmph, on Thursday and Friday.Light rain and thundershowers are likely in isolated pockets in South Bengal districts of Kolkata, Howrah, North and South 24 Parganas, and East and West Midnapore on Wednesday. Dry weather will prevail over Hooghly, Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura, East and West Bardhaman, Murshidabad, and Nadia.

From Thursday onwards, all the South Bengal districts are set to experience light to moderate rain and thundershowers till Sunday. The Western and Central districts of Purulia, Bankura, East and West Bardhaman, Birbhum, Murshidabad, and Nadia will receive light rain in isolated pockets.Scanty, isolated rain is forecast for Thursday. On Friday, North and South 24 Parganas, East and West Midnapore, Jhargram, Kolkata, and Howrah are expected to receive fairly widespread rain at many places, ranging from 51-75 per cent.No rain has been forecast for North Bengal. No large temperature variations are also expected.

The minimum temperature in Kolkata and its neighbouring areas is expected to rise by 1-2℃ in the coming week, while maximum temperatures are to dip by a similar amount.

Warning for fishermen and ports

Due to squally weather with wind speeds reaching 40-50 kmph, gusting to 60 kmph, fishermen have been advised not to venture into the deep sea over the North-West Bay of Bengal adjoining the Central Bay of Bengal from Tuesday, November 17, till further notice.

Bad weather with strong winds is developing at sea, and a cyclone may form. Therefore, storm warning signals are to be hoisted at Sagar Island Port, while ships and port authorities at Kolkata and Haldia Ports should remain alert and take necessary precautions.

Once a Badal challenger, now an ally: Jagir Kaur returns to SAD, second time in 2 years

Once among the most vocal challengers of Sukhbir Badal's leadership, former SGPC chief recalls Parkash Singh Badal's personal gestures, pledges support to Harsimrat's anti-drug campaign; appointed Bholath halqa in-charge

Chandigarh(Agency)

Former Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee president Bibi Jagir Kaur on Sunday returned to the Shiromani Akali Dal for the second time in just over two years, making peace with the Badal family she had once accused of treating the party and the Sikh shrine body as their "personal property".The 72-year-old three-time former MLA rejoined the SAD in her hometown Begowal in Kapurthala district, where she repeatedly invoked her personal ties with the Badals, particularly former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, and pledged to work under the leadership of party president Sukhbir Singh Badal.

The political reversal marked a striking full circle for Kaur. Once among the most vocal challengers to the Badal family's control over the party and its religious affairs, she said on Sunday that political differences were now behind her and that she would work wholeheartedly to strengthen the SAD and help bring it back to power.Welcoming Kaur and her supporters, Sukhbir appointed her Bholath halqa in-charge, giving her a formal organisational role ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. Bholath is currently represented by Congress leader Sukhpal Singh Khaira, while Kaur had represented the constituency three times as a SAD MLA — in 1997, 2002 and 2012.Kaur's return came days after former MP Prem Singh Chandumajra, another prominent rebel Akali leader, rejoined the SAD.

From rebellion to reconciliation



The return is particularly significant given Kaur's confrontation with the SAD leadership over the past four years.In November 2022, she was expelled from the party after refusing to withdraw her candidature for the SGPC president's election against the SAD-backed Harjinder Singh Dhami, who eventually defeated her.During that confrontation, Kaur accused the Badal family of exercising excessive influence over the SGPC and demanded that the religious body be freed from political interference. She questioned the practice of choosing the SGPC president through what she called the "lifafa" or envelope system, alleging that the decision was effectively made by the Badal family before the election.She also proposed that the SGPC have its own television channel for live Gurbani telecasts instead of depending on PTC, which she associated with the Badals. Her broader argument was that neither the SAD nor the SGPC should be treated as anyone's personal fiefdom.She returned to the SAD in March 2024, with both sides acknowledging mistakes and calling a truce. At the time, Kaur had said she had returned unconditionally and did not want an election ticket, describing herself as ready to work as a "sewadar".Kaur, a former minister and four-time SGPC president, subsequently joined other dissident Akali leaders in the SAD Sudhar Lehar. In August 2025, she and leaders including Chandumajra, Parminder Singh Dhindsa, Ranjit Singh Talwandi, Gurpartap Singh Wadala and others formed the SAD (Punar Surjit), with former Akal Takht jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh as its president. Kaur became one of the prominent faces of the breakaway group, and her differences with Sukhbir increasingly acquired a Panthic dimension.

Uninterrupted aravana prasadam supply assured: Keralam Minister K Muraleedharan

PATHANAMTHITTA.(Agency)

The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) is confident of maintaining an uninterrupted supply of aravana prasadam during the upcoming annual Sabarimala pilgrimage season, Devaswom Minister K Muraleedharan has said. He also said that the police have been directed to allow 75 pilgrims a minute to climb the 18 holy steps to regulate the rush and ensure smooth darshan.Dismissing concerns over the availability of aravana and appam, the minister said the production facility was functioning round the clock to meet the demand. He said he had personally visited the production unit and was convinced of the dedication and hard work of the employees."The employees are working 24 hours a day to ensure uninterrupted production. The board has promised that the pilgrimage season can be completed smoothly if 75 lakh tins of aravana are made available," he said. The minister said there was no reason for concern over the availability of the two major prasadam offerings, adding that arrangements were being made to ensure their adequate supply throughout the pilgrimage season.The minister was addressing a gathering at Pampa after the inauguration ceremony of the renovated Chalakkayam-Pampa road on Sunday.Meanwhile, the government has been giving priority to improving infrastructure and pilgrim facilities.The PWD has completed the renovation of the 4.5-km Chalakkayam-Pampa road in one-and-a-half months, reflecting effective coordination among departments, Muraleedharan said.

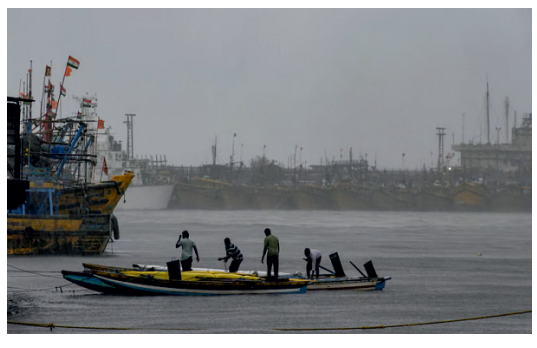
The government has also approved a special PWD package worth `553 crore for infrastructure development linked to the Sabarimala pilgrimage, of which 80% of the works have already been put out to tender.Additional bus services, including hired buses, will be operated on the Chalakkayam-Pampa route.

The KSRTC has assured the availability of the required number of buses. Pilgrims can also book KSRTC tickets through the information centre set up by the Devaswom Board, which provides facilities for booking virtual queue slots, and prasadam.

Andhra braces for 'Akvan' after back-to-back severe cyclonic storms

VISAKHAPATNAM.(Agency)

After two back-to-back severe cyclonic storms Arnab and Murasu, Andhra Pradesh is bracing for a third cyclone, with a depression over the Bay of Bengal likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by November 17, and a very severe cyclonic storm by November 18.The system, which will be named 'Akvan' once it intensifies into a cyclonic storm, is likely to move northwestwards towards the Andhra Pradesh coast, with the possibility of crossing the coast as an extremely severe cyclonic storm, according to the Visakhapatnam Cyclone Warning Centre.The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a pre-cyclone watch for the Andhra Pradesh and adjoining south Odisha coasts.It has also warned of heavy to extremely heavy rainfall over several coastal districts from November 18, with the likelihood of gale-force winds as the system approaches the coast.



According to the India Meteorological Department's bulletin issued at 4.30 pm on Sunday, the depression over the southeast and adjoining southwest Bay of Bengal, was located about 800 km east-southeast of Chennai, 960 km south-southeast of Visakhapatnam, and 1,070 km south-southeast of Gopalpur in Odisha.

Cyclonic system may intensify into very severe storm by November 18

The system is likely to intensify into a deep depression by Sunday night, and a cyclonic storm by Monday. It is forecast to strengthen into a severe cyclonic storm on November 17, and a very severe cyclonic storm by November 18.The IMD's forecast indicates that the system could attain wind speeds of 115-125 kmph, with gusts up to 135 kmph, by the night of November 18, increasing further to 125-135 kmph, with gusts up to 145 kmph, by November 19.

PLN Murthy of the Visakhapatnam Cyclone Warning Centre said the system was likely to intensify further, and approach the Andhra Pradesh coast. He said it could become an extremely severe cyclonic storm by November 18.Officials clarified that a clearer assessment of its likely trajectory would be possible only after the system intensifies into a cyclonic storm on Monday, to identify the probable landfall region.Meanwhile, some private weather forecasters have predicted that the system could make landfall somewhere along the south AP coast.While light rainfall is forecast at isolated places over Coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema during the next three days, the weather is likely to deteriorate from November 18.

NCD survey: 21% of Andhra adults screened have hypertension, 17% have diabetes

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

Out of the 2.85 crore adults screened across Andhra Pradesh during the extensive 14-month Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD 4.0) survey, 20.92% (59.63 lakh) of the surveyed population are afflicted with hypertension, 17.18% (48.95 lakh) are battling diabetes, and 11.93% (34 lakh) are concurrently managing both chronic conditions, according to official survey findings submitted to Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav.The comprehensive statewide screening campaign launched on September 17 last year in Visakhapatnam by Chief Minister N Chandrababu, and concluded on November 10, 2026 was officially presented to the Health Minister by Family Welfare Commissioner and NHM MD KVN Chakradhar Babu, alongside State Nodal Officer Shyamala.Driven by a massive grassroots network of over 40,000 ASHA workers, 22,000 ANMs, and community health officers utilising digital mobile applications for door-to-door testing, the survey also newly identified 12,23,185 individuals with high blood pressure and 11,58,632 people with diabetes.In addition to metabolic disorders, the public health drive screened 1.46 crore women for breast and cervical cancers, successfully diagnosing 12,768 confirmed cases following clinical evaluations at secondary and tertiary hospitals. This clinical breakdown includes 3,339 oral, 5,832 breast, and 3,597 cervical cancer cases.



Min stresses early cancer checks and healthy living

Districts such as East Godavari, NTR, West Godavari, Kakinada, and Eluru showed heavy disease burdens, while urban and regional hubs like Visakhapatnam, West Godavari, and Tirupati recorded the highest numbers of new diagnoses.

Demographic analysis reveals that lifestyle illnesses are heavily concentrated among older cohorts, with citizens aged 60 and above accounting for 47.60% of hypertension and 43.39% of diabetes cases.The 50–59 age bracket also registered critically high infection rates, although screenings did identify early-onset cases among youth aged 18 to 19, including 11,827 young adults with hypertension and 10,360 with diabetes.

England stun Spain at home, end world champions' 43-game unbeaten run

New Delhi.(Agency)

England produced a statement victory on Spanish soil, beating the world champions 3-2 in Madrid to bring an end to their 43-match unbeaten run in competitive football. On a dramatic night in the UEFA Nations League, Belgium also turned on the style to thrash Italy 4-1, while France overcame Turkiye 2-1 to seal their place in the quarter-finals.For Thomas Tuchel, it was a night to savour. England not only got the better of the reigning world champions but also finished top of Group A3, level on 15 points with Spain. Belgium's stunning comeback against Italy and France's routine victory over Trkiye completed an eventful final round of group-stage fixtures.England were in no mood to sit back in Madrid.



Harry Kane opened the scoring from the penalty spot just before half-time, taking his international tally to a record-extending 93 goals. Ezri Konsa doubled the advantage shortly after the restart before Ben White finished off a Jude Bellingham pass in the 57th minute to make it 3-0.Spain, however, were not going to go down quietly. England's comfortable advantage quickly turned into a nervy evening when Elliot Anderson brought down Lamine Yamal inside the box and was sent off. Mikel Oyarzabal converted the resulting penalty, giving the hosts a lifeline.

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



New Delhi.(Agency)

Those words from Gautam Gambhir still resonate with Indian cricket fans who have grown increasingly weary of the relentless run-fests in white-ball cricket. Chasing down mammoth totals was once a novelty, something that left spectators in awe. But with 400-plus scores becoming increasingly common, the spectacle has begun to lose some of its charm.India had chased down 406 runs in Guwahati that night on September 31, but Gambhir was not entirely impressed. The Indian head coach chose to look at the other side of the spectacle, expressing sympathy for the bowlers who had been taken apart on a surface that offered them very little.Because imagine a young bowler bowling on this wicket, and the opposition getting 400 and then we go on to chase 400.

Obviously, for the records it's outstanding, for the crowd it's outstanding, for the broadcaster it's outstanding, but if you ask me as a genuine cricket fan and as a coach, because I have to have sympathy for the bowlers as well," he concluded on the matter.There was little room for sympathy when the numbers from that match came in.

Gurnoor Brar conceded 96 runs in his 10 overs, while Auqib Nabi went for 84 in less than nine overs. This was an Indian bowling attack without Jasprit Bumrah, and it was expected to deliver in New Zealand as well.The scrutiny only intensified when Gurnoor conceded 220 runs in 175 balls during the series and Nabi struggled to make an impact.

Mirra Andreeva's biggest thank-you after becoming youngest WTA Finals winner

Mirra Andreeva had plenty of reasons to celebrate after becoming the youngest WTA Finals champion in 22 years. But when it came to handing out thank-yous, the 19-year-old had one very special person at the top of her list: herself.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Mirra Andreeva saved her biggest thank-you for herself after signing off a breakthrough season with another landmark achievement. The 19-year-old Russian defeated Elina Svitolina 7-5, 6-3 to become the youngest WTA Finals champion in 22 years, adding the season-ending crown to her maiden Grand Slam title and a rise to No. 2 in the world rankings.Andreeva was in a league of her own at Indian Wells, winning all five matches without dropping a set. But when it came to the trophy ceremony, the teenager was not interested in making the moment all about the silverware or the prize money. Instead, she turned to a message that has become something of a trademark."I want to thank myself for always doing the hard work, for never quitting, for always believing in myself, for not taking the days off, for working every day and for committing to what I have to do," Andreeva said. "Just thanks to myself without any reason."



It was a moment of confidence from a player who admitted that the pressure of her first WTA Finals campaign had nearly overwhelmed her. Andreeva revealed that she had a little breakdown during a practice session before the tournament, having been so anxious about the prospect of losing a match in the group stage.

ANDREEVA HOLDS OFF SVITOLINA CHALLENGE

The final was anything but a routine victory. Svitolina, back in the WTA Finals title match for the first time since 2019, made Andreeva work for every inch, dragging her into lengthy baseline rallies and repeatedly finding ways back into the contest.The Russian, however, showed the maturity that has marked her progress this season. After taking the opening set 7-5, she recovered each time Svitolina threatened to turn the match around and won five of the final six games to seal the title.Andreeva saved nine of the 12 break points she faced and finished with 19 winners, nearly twice Svitolina's tally. She also became the 11th player to win the WTA Finals without dropping a set, joining an illustrious list featuring Serena Williams, Martina Navratilova and Chris

Rajat Patidar smashes 13 sixes for record-breaking 135 day before IPL retention

New Delhi.(Agency)

Rajat Patidar produced a stunning display of power-hitting in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy on Monday, smashing an unbeaten 135 off just 48 deliveries to propel Madhya Pradesh to a commanding 250 for six against Assam in New



Chandigarh.The Madhya Pradesh captain struck 13 sixes and eight boundaries, bringing up his century in just 41 balls. He became the first Madhya Pradesh batter to score a hundred in the history of the tournament. His tally of 13 sixes was also a new record for the state in a single Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy innings.Patidar's assault came at a crucial juncture for Madhya Pradesh, who were struggling at 57 for three in the eighth over when he walked in. Rather than take time to settle, the right-hander took the attack to Assam's bowlers and completely changed the complexion of the innings.

He found an effective partner in Shivang Kumar, who had come in at No. 3. The pair added 153 runs in just 62 deliveries, the second-highest partnership for Madhya Pradesh in the competition. Patidar faced only five dot balls in his innings, underlining the extraordinary consistency of his assault.The innings is particularly encouraging given Patidar's recent decision to withdraw from India's squad for the Rising Stars Asia Cup in Doha. The Madhya Pradesh captain had initially been named vice-captain of the India A side, led by Tilak Varma, for the tournament scheduled from November 19 to 29. However, he subsequently informed the BCCI that he did not wish to be considered for 50-over cricket while managing existing injuriesThe BCCI confirmed his withdrawal on November 8, naming Delhi batter Ayush Badoni as his replacement, with Rinku Singh taking over as vice-captain. Patidar's decision came after he scored two half-centuries in three matches during the one-day series against Australia A in Puducherry.Monday's explosive knock, therefore, offered an encouraging indication of his form in the shortest format after stepping away from 50-over cricket to manage his fitness. It was also a timely boost for Royal Challengers Bengaluru, with the IPL 2027 retention deadline falling on Tuesday, November 17..

Bangladesh have their Hridoy in the right place, don't let it stop beating

Sydney.(Agency)

Gold reveals its true worth in the fire. The heat does not diminish its value; it brings out the purity within. Towhid Hridoy's journey has followed a similar course. There have been difficult days, painful dismissals and moments when his place in the side has come under scrutiny. But each setback has tested him, shaped him and brought him closer to the batter Bangladesh are beginning to recognise today.Perhaps the two dismissals he endured in Mirpur against the West Indies were the beginning of the emergence of a more complete Hridoy. At the Wanderers in Johannesburg against South Africa, he showed just how much he had learnt from those difficult moments. Walking in at a precarious 22 for 3, Hridoy helped Bangladesh reach 327 for 6, sharing a record sixth-wicket stand of 206 with Litton Das.His 137 was more than a century. It was an answer to the doubts, a statement of resilience and a reminder of the talent that Bangladesh have had in their hands for years.In Bengali, Hridoy means 'heart'. And perhaps there is no name more fitting for his journey. Through the blows, the doubts and the disappointments, he has kept his heart beating, found the strength to breathe life into his dreams again and reminded everyone that as long as there is a heartbeat, there is hope.

WHEN THE QUESTIONS GREW LOUDER

Hridoy's recent journey has not been without its difficult chapters. During the opening Test against the West Indies in Dhaka last month, he endured two dismissals that invited criticism over his shot selection and suitability for the longest format.

South Africa vs Bangladesh, 1st Test Day 1: Highlights | Scorecard

In the first innings, Hridoy had made a



patient 42 before Joshua Bishop brought his stay to an end. Facing an arm ball on a fuller length, Hridoy cleared his front leg and attempted an expansive drive through the covers. He played down the wrong line, missed the ball with his inside edge and watched it crash into his leg stump.If that dismissal raised questions, his second-innings duck only intensified the scrutiny.

Prince William out to schoolgirl in gully cricket, Princess Kate cracks a joke

Prince William found himself outwitted by a young schoolgirl during a game of gully cricket in Mumbai, while Princess Kate had a cheeky take on their cricketing skills. Sachin Tendulkar added to the fun as the royal couple swapped formalities for some street cricket.



New Delhi.(Agency)

Prince William and Princess Kate swapped royal engagements for a game of gully cricket in Mumbai, with Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar giving the couple a taste of the city's deep-rooted love for the sport. The royal couple needed little encouragement to join in, taking turns with the bat and ball alongside local children.The Prince of Wales even managed to dismiss his wife, but had little time to celebrate before a local young girl playing alongside them bowled him out. Kate later admitted that both she and William needed more practice. However, not before they had faced a few deliveries from the Master Blaster himself, with Kate even managing to send one of those flying.ot going to take part in it," he said.They joined cricket legends Tendulkar and Punam Raut, along with young players, for a game at Ballard Estate. They also met women and girls from The Right Pitch, a non-profit supported by the UK's MCC Foundation that uses cricket to help children from under-resourced communities develop confidence, leadership skills and stay engaged with education.Princess Kate told local schoolchildren, who came out to cheer them on and meet their hero, Sachin Tendulkar, the legendary former captain of India's cricket team, that she would be back for another go in the future.Prince William and Kate arrived in Mumbai on Monday for a three-day visit to India, with cricket featuring prominently on their itinerary. The royal couple are in the country primarily to attend the annual Earthshot Prize awards, an environmental initiative founded by William in 2020. The prize seeks to identify and support innovative solutions to some of the world's biggest environmental challenges, with five winners receiving 1 million pounds each to help scale up their projects.

SACHIN SHOWS ROYAL COUPLE AROUND MUMBAI

The cricket session was part of a morning that offered William and Kate a more personal introduction to Mumbai. Earlier, the couple walked through Ballard Estate, stepping away from the usual ceremonial settings to explore one of the city's historic neighbourhoods. Tendulkar accompanied them, taking on the role of guide as he showed the royal visitors around.The Mumbai leg of their visit also includes a ride on the city's metro rail and interactions with Bollywood personalities expected to attend Tuesday's awards ceremony.The trip is particularly significant for Kate, marking her most high-profile overseas visit since she underwent cancer treatment in 2024. Following their engagements in Mumbai, the royal couple will travel to New Delhi to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, bringing their three-day visit to India to a close.

Jay Shah gets second term as ICC chairman, reappointed unopposed

New Delhi.(Agency)

Jay Shah has been reappointed unopposed as International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman for a second term, with cricket administrators from England, Zimbabwe, New Zealand and the Associate Members endorsing his continued leadership at a defining moment for the sport.Jay Shah, who became the youngest ICC chairman at 36, was first elected unopposed on August 27, 2024, and assumed office on December 1 that year, succeeding Greg Barclay. His reappointment was announced following a proposal by ICC directors at the global governing body's Board meetings in Bali.His second term comes as cricket prepares for its return to the Olympic Games in Los Angeles 2028, while the ICC looks to expand the sport's global footprint, strengthen international competitions and create more opportunities for emerging cricketing nations.

As ICC chairman, Jay Shah has had to navigate the challenge of balancing cricket's commercial growth with the interests of its diverse membership. The sport's return to the Olympics after more than a century will be a major opportunity during his second term. However, cricket's inclusion at LA28 was secured before Shah assumed offThe ICC has identified strengthening the foundations of the sport, supporting the continued growth of women's cricket,



expanding opportunities for Associate Members, protecting the integrity of international cricket and developing sustainable commercial opportunities as key priorities.ice, through the ICC's earlier Olympic engagement.The backing for Shah's reappointment was evident in the statements from several member representatives.England and Wales Cricket Board chair Richard Thompson said Shah's continued leadership came at an important time for international cricket. He stressed the need to strengthen the international calendar and protect the relevance and competitiveness of bilateral cricket.



Katrina Kaif

Says Vicky Kaushal Reminds Her To Take Breaks From Work: 'He Is The Peace To My Hysteria'

Katrina Kaif has revealed that her husband, Vicky Kaushal, often has to remind her to put her phone away because of how invested she is in her beauty brand, Kay Beauty. The actress admitted that running a business frequently means working beyond conventional hours, with professional discussions sometimes continuing even on Sundays. However, she believes that such commitment comes naturally when someone is genuinely passionate about their work.In a conversation with CNBC-TV18 alongside Nykaa co-founder Adwaita Nayar, Katrina spoke about her entrepreneurial journey and the challenges of managing her professional commitments alongside her personal life. The actress, who welcomed her first child with Vicky in November 2025, also reflected on adjusting to motherhood and explained why she does not believe in putting unnecessary pressure on herself to balance everything perfectly.

Katrina Kaif Reveals Vicky Kaushal Keeps Reminding Her To Take A Break



Discussing the demands of building Kay Beauty, Katrina explained that entrepreneurship requires considerable dedication, often making it difficult to maintain fixed working hours.“You cannot count the hours. There is one person who keeps counting them, and that’s my husband, who keeps telling me to put my phone down. But when you are passionate about something, you don’t count the hours or look at the clock. There are days when we find ourselves discussing work even on Sundays," she said.Katrina further explained that passion is among the most important qualities an entrepreneur can possess. According to her, believing strongly in one’s work provides the motivation to take risks, navigate setbacks and remain committed to long-term goals.Her involvement with Kay Beauty has consequently meant juggling her responsibilities as an entrepreneur with her acting career and family life.

‘He Is The Peace To My Hysteria’: Katrina On Vicky’s Support

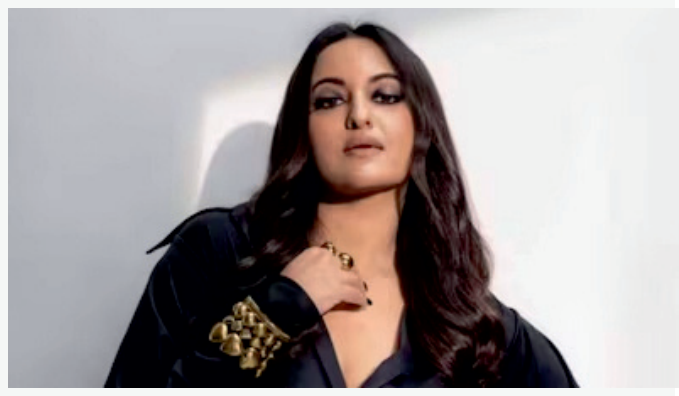
Katrina also addressed the adjustments that come with marriage, motherhood and managing a business. Rather than expecting herself to excel at everything immediately, she believes it is important to acknowledge that different responsibilities require time and patience.“I think you have to be graceful with yourself. Give yourself time and breathing space, and allow yourself to find your feet in each of these roles as they change. Whether you are an actor, a businesswoman, a wife or a mother, you have to allow yourself the time to figure out how to balance everything," she explained.



Sonakshi Sinha's

Morphed N*de Pics Case: Delhi Man Arrested, Then Released By Mumbai Court

Sonakshi Sinha has approached the Mumbai Police after fake obscene pictures of her were shared on social media. The actor wanted action to be taken against the person behind the pictures. The complaint led the police to a man in Delhi, but the case took an unexpected turn when he was brought before a Mumbai court.According to a report by India Today, Sonakshi filed a complaint at the Bandra police station. She alleged that a Delhi-based man was sharing her morphed n*de pictures on social media.The police identified the accused as Aryan Deepak Jain. He was arrested on Saturday morning from the Jagatpuri Police Station area in Delhi’s Shahdara and brought to Mumbai.The Mumbai Police then took him to the Bandra court and asked for three days of custody. They told the magistrate that they wanted to find the electronic device allegedly used to make the fake pictures of Sonakshi.



However, the court did not agree to the police’s request. Instead, it ordered Jain’s release, saying that the police had not followed the proper legal procedure while arresting him and bringing him to Mumbai.During the hearing, Jain’s lawyers opposed the police custody request. They said the police had not given him the required notice or clearly told him why he was being arrested.The lawyers also pointed out that Jain was brought from Delhi to Mumbai without first being taken to the nearest magistrate in Delhi.The defence further claimed that the police had acted in a hurry because the complaint involved a celebrity. Jain also told the court that he had done nothing wrong and that the charges against him did not apply to the allegations.The magistrate noted that Jain had been brought directly to the Bandra court instead of being presented before a magistrate in Delhi.“Thus, it appears that the police have directly brought the accused from Delhi before this Court without following the procedure of production before the nearest Magistrate," the court observed.The court also said that the police had failed to give a proper explanation for not following the required steps. The magistrate further noted that the offences in the case carried a maximum jail term of seven years. The court made it clear that wanting to investigate a case further was not enough reason to arrest someone or keep them in custody without following the law.

Josh Actor Sharad Kapoor Seeks Work After Viral Videos Spark Concern Over His Health: 'Money Is Not The Issue’



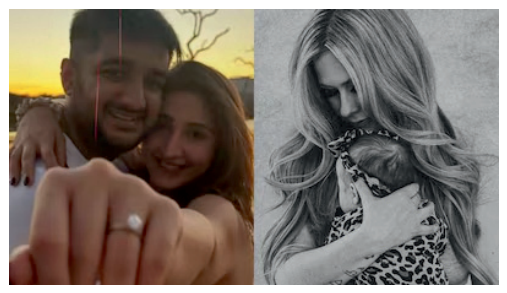
Actor Sharad Kapoor, best known for his appearance in Shah Rukh Khan and Aishwarya Rai’s Josh, has appealed to the entertainment industry for acting opportunities after videos showing his deteriorating mobility raised concerns among fans. The actor, who was recently seen using a walker to move around, has clarified that he is not struggling financially. Instead, he wants to return to acting once he recovers from a leg injury.The clarification comes after an emotional video featuring Sharad circulated on social media, showing his four pet dogs being moved to an animal welfare centre because his health condition had made looking after them difficult. Following the attention surrounding the videos, actress and animal activist Jaya Bhattacharya visited Sharad and shared a conversation with him on Instagram, during which he spoke about his health, financial situation and plans to resume work.

Sharad Kapoor Appeals To CINTAA For Acting Opportunities

During his conversation with Jaya, Sharad reached out to the Cine & TV Artistes Association (CINTAA), requesting assistance in finding suitable acting assignments. He explained that he was not looking for financial assistance but would appreciate some encouragement and professional support.“I want to appeal to CINTAA that I am looking for good work. And I need your support, and I know you have always supported people around you. A little bit of moral support is also enough for me," he said.Sharad also addressed the speculation about his financial circumstances, which had intensified after videos of him struggling to stand and walk began circulating online.“I am a great actor and you know that. Money is not the issue. The only issue is I am just looking forward to start work again," he clarified.

The actor’s remarks were intended to clear up assumptions about his situation while drawing attention to his desire to return to the profession.

Dhvani Bhanushali Gets Engaged To Yash Bhanushali; Avril Lavigne Welcomes First Baby At 42



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.Avril Lavigne has stepped into a new chapter of her life as she embraces motherhood. The ‘Complicated’ singer has welcomed her first child, a baby girl, and shared the happy news with her fans through a series of photos on Instagram on November 13. The announcement quickly caught the attention of her followers, who showered the singer with love and congratulatory messages.Music composer Anirudh Ravichander and businesswoman Kaviya Maran have returned to Chennai after tying the knot in Greece on November 11. The newlyweds were spotted at the Chennai airport, marking their first public appearance as a married couple. Their arrival comes days after Anirudh shared photographs from the intimate wedding ceremony on social media, giving fans their first glimpse of the celebrations.

On the occasion of Children’s Day, actress Aditi Bhatia took a trip down memory lane as she revisited a special chapter from her childhood.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.

11 dead, 15 injured as fire rips through buildings in Thailand's Phuket

World.(Agency).

At least 11 people were killed, and 16 others were injured after a fire ripped through a commercial shophouse on Thailand's southern resort island of Phuket early on Monday, police said.The blaze started in a building housing a vehicle rental business and later spread to several nearby buildings, news agency Reuters reported,



citing local authorities.The fire erupted at around 3.1 am (2017 GMT), and it took firefighters about two hours to bring it under control, per officials.

Of the 16 injured, 15 were Thai nationals and one was a citizen of Myanmar. According to the police, no tourists were among those killed or injured.The cause of the fire was being investigated.The building is in a town area, near the popular beach of Patong on Phuket's western coast.

Nvidia needs dramatic shake-up, Bessent demands external CEO after Huang exit

World.(Agency).

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has called for Nvidia to appoint a chief executive from outside the company, saying the chipmaker needs a “dramatic shake-up” following the resignation of Jensen Huang amid an alleged espionage-linked infidelity scandal.Bessent also demanded an urgent investigation into Nvidia's compliance with US export restrictions, questioning whether the company's executives deliberately ignored warning signs about Singapore-based companies allegedly acting as intermediaries to supply advanced AI chips to China.

Speaking to Fox News on Sunday, Bessent said Nvidia's board should look beyond its existing leadership while searching for Huang's successor. “They need to go outside the company. Just what was going on inside the company, they needed a dramatic shake-up,” he said.

Prince William, Kate to meet PM Modi in Delhi during 3-day India visit this week

London.(Agency)

Britain’s Prince and Princess of Wales, William and Catherine, have arrived in Mumbai on Monday for a three-day visit to India.The royal couple will attend the 2026 Earthshot Prize awards ceremony on Tuesday before travelling to New Delhi for a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, the British government announced on Sunday.This will be Prince William and Princess Catherine’s second official visit to India. Their first visit to the country took place in April 2016.

According to the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the couple will meet people from different walks of life in Mumbai and learn about the innovation, creativity and optimism contributing to India's development.“The future of the UK-India partnership will not be shaped by our governments alone, it will be shaped by our people and this visit is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate those deep personal connections between our countries,” Ben Mellor, Acting British High Commissioner to India, said.

We'll find you: Iran threatens to two US Navy officers for Minab school strike

Iran had previously singled out the officers in a March 28 post, accusing them of ordering the Tomahawk missile launches that struck the elementary school in Minab, Iran, killing 168 children.

World.(Agency).

Iran has threatened two US Navy officers whom it has accused of ordering Tomahawk missile strikes on an elementary school in Minab that killed 168 children, warning them that "we will find you." The threat was issued by the Iranian Embassy in South Africa in a social media post identifying the officers, Fox News reported. On February 28, the US forces launched the major strike on the school, which killed at least 168 children.The embassy named Commander Leigh R Tate, commanding officer of the USS Spruance, and Lieutenant Commander Jeffrey E York, the warship's executive officer. In its November 13 post on X, it shared photographs of the two officers alongside the warning, "We will find you."Iran had previously singled out the officers in a March 28 post, accusing them of ordering the Tomahawk missile launches that struck the elementary school in Minab, Iran, killing 168 children."Remember these two criminals," the embassy had written in that post, before asking, "Don't they have children of their own?"The latest threat came as the USS Spruance returned to San Diego on Friday after completing a 357-day deployment that included combat operations against Iranian forces.The public targeting of the two American officers has prompted security concerns. Behnam Ben Taleblu, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), told Fox News Digital that Tehran's warning should set off alarm bells in Washington."This should be setting off alarm bells in Washington, in the White House, the Pentagon, and even within CENTCOM," Taleblu said.He added that Iran had identified American military personnel it accused of participating in strikes against the country and was openly talking about retaliation."If indeed there is any plot to go after these individuals, it is critical they're detected, they are disrupted, they are defeated," he warned.



TRUMP WARNS IRAN AGAINST TARGETING US OFFICERS

The Iranian embassy's warning came a day after US President Donald Trump cautioned Tehran against assassinating senior American officials.During a November 12 interview with radio host Hugh Hewitt, Trump was asked how the US would respond if Iran killed a senior American official."They will not exist very long, any longer," Trump responded.

US TREASURY SECRETARY RELOCATES AMID DEATH THREATS

Meanwhile, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent confirmed that he had relocated from his Washington-area residence to a military base amid death threats allegedly linked to Iran.Speaking to CNBC on Friday, Bessent said he had moved on the advice of the Secret Service."Why am I going to be afraid when the brave military personnel in the Gulf, President Trump, constantly receive death threats?" he said.

Don't lecture India: Meloni ally slams Italian socialist over 'vote chor' remark

JAKARTA, Indonesia.(Agency)

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's party has entered the political row over the 'Vote Chor, Gaddi Chhod' slogan raised at the Bharat Summit in Hyderabad.Deborah Bergamini, a leader of Meloni's Forza Italia party, defended India's democratic institutions and electoral system while responding to Giacomo Filibeck's remarks targeting the Narendra Modi government."It is inappropriate to lecture on democracy a nation that enables 970 million citizens to vote," Bergamini said, stressing that India has its own democratic institutions and judiciary.Her comments came after Filibeck, the Secretary General of the Party of European Socialists (PES), backed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's campaign against irregularities in electoral rolls.Filibeck also repeated the opposition's 'Vote Chor, Gaddi Chhod' slogan while addressing the gathering in Telangana.

ITALIAN POLITICIAN BACKS



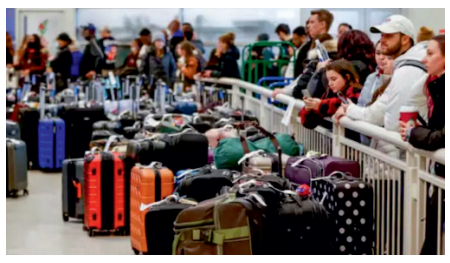
RAHUL GANDHI'S CAMPAIGN

Speaking at the Bharat Summit, Filibeck praised Gandhi for defending the principle of "one person, one vote" and called for clean and transparent electoral rolls."Rahul Gandhi has defended a simple principle on which every democracy rests; 'one person, one vote'.His campaign for clean and transparent voter rolls and the thousands who marched with him to Ramlila Maidan just two weeks ago remind us that democracy is not given.It is defended by people willing to stand up for it. 'Vote Chor Gaddi Chhod'," Filibeck said.He also translated the slogan into English, saying, "Vote thief, leave your seat."Filibeck defended his participation in the summit, arguing that international gatherings were important to draw attention to challenges facing democracy."Democracy is under attack in India, and we need to defend it. And the best way to defend it is to stand by Rahul Gandhi and the Indian Congress Party," he said.He also described the Congress and several political movements across the world as part of a progressive alliance that supported social justice, climate justice, human rights and democracy.

US flight disruptions continue for 3rd day, over 10,000 flights hit

World.(Agency)

More than 10,000 flights across the US were cancelled or delayed on Sunday as air travel disruptions continued for a third consecutive day, with Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy predicting a return to normal operations by Monday. Airlines continued scrambling to restore schedules after a nationwide ground stop on Friday brought nearly all departing flights to a halt for almost five hours.According to aviation data tracker FlightAware, more than 2,300 flights were cancelled and around 7,700 delayed across the country on Sunday. The disruption followed an even worse Saturday, when airlines cancelled over



6,400 flights and delayed more than 8,000.Speaking on ABC's 'This Week', Duffy said there was no evidence of a cyberattack or deliberate sabotage behind the disruption, although investigators had yet to establish its root cause. He said flight operations could return to normal by Monday, while stressing that passenger safety remained the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) priority.

JetBlue was among the worst-affected airlines on Sunday, cancelling 28 per cent of its flights, followed by American Airlines at 17 per cent. United Airlines, Southwest and Delta reported cancellations ranging between 3 and 5 per cent of their scheduled flights.

Petulant tone, teenage behaviour: Biden’s blunt take on Putin in memoir

World.(Agency).

Former US President Joe Biden has described Russian President Vladimir Putin as behaving like a “teenager” during their meetings, while offering a mixed assessment of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in his new memoir, Promise Me, America, HuffPost reported.According to excerpts from the memoir shared by The Wall Street Journal, Biden said Putin adopted a “petulant tone” and liked to “slouch during a meeting, feigning indifference, like a teenager”.Biden also praised Zelenskyy's acting background, saying it had provided “very good training” for his role as Ukraine's wartime leader. However, he acknowledged that their private conversations were not always cordial.The former US president said Zelenskyy “could be moody and stubborn in our private conversations, and not as grateful as I would have expected”.Biden also revealed that members of US President Donald Trump's team had asked him to sign a letter authorising them to negotiate directly with Putin. The request reportedly came after Trump won the 2024 presidential election but before he took office in January 2025.Biden was in the White House when Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. His administration provided substantial military and financial assistance to Kyiv, including a USD 500 million military aid package shortly before Trump returned to office.Trump, meanwhile, has pursued a markedly different approach to the conflict. Despite promising to end the war within 24 hours of taking office, his administration has struggled to secure a breakthrough in negotiations.Trump has also faced criticism over his approach towards Putin, including hosting the Russian leader at a summit in Alaska last year. His administration has simultaneously faced scrutiny over efforts to ease restrictions affecting Russian energy exports.The US president has repeatedly criticised Zelenskyy, questioned continued American support for Kyiv and made statements that have drawn criticism for downplaying Russia's responsibility for starting the war.

Meanwhile, Ukraine recently rejected fresh Russian proposals conveyed through Washington, which reportedly called for a broader restructuring of Europe's security order in exchange for a possible ceasefire.

Sheikh Hasina supporters clash with police in Bangladesh, torch vehicles

World.(Agency)

Supporters of deposed Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League staged violent demonstrations in her hometown of Gopalganj on Sunday, attacking police vehicles and installations as tensions escalated over her proposed return to the country in December, PTI reported.

VIOLENT PROTESTS IN HASINA'S HOMETOWN

Hundreds of protesters took to the streets armed with machetes and spears, setting a police armoured personnel carrier on fire and vandalising a police outpost, according to officials and media reports. Demonstrators also broke through police barricades, blocked roads and pulled down a monument marking the fall of Hasina's government on August 5, 2024. Several women activists also joined the protests."Our movement on the streets will continue until we can bring former prime minister and Bangabandhu's (Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman) daughter Sheikh Hasina back to the country," Awami League's Gopalganj district leader Ilyas Haque told a party rally.

HASINA'S PROPOSED RETURN, EXTRADITION ROW

The demonstrations come amid renewed political tensions over Hasina's stated plan to return from India, where she has been staying since fleeing Bangladesh in August 2024 following a student-led uprising that toppled her government.

Bangladesh has been seeking her extradition from India under a bilateral treaty. Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman said on Saturday that Dhaka had completed the legal process to secure her return and that the decision now rested with New Delhi.India has acknowledged receiving Bangladesh's extradition requests but has not announced a decision. On Friday, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson



Randhir Jaiswal said Hasina's extradition was a legal matter and would be dealt with accordingly.Bangladesh has also linked progress on Hasina's extradition to a possible visit to India by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, saying the return of Hasina and other fugitives sought by Dhaka would help create a conducive environment for the visit.

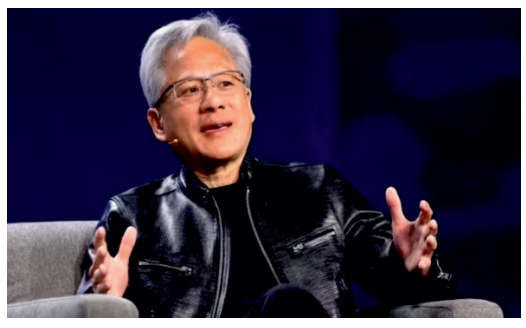
BNP OFFICES TORCHED, OFFICIALS REMOVED

Meanwhile, tensions in Gopalganj had escalated after unidentified persons allegedly set fire to two offices of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in Tungipara, Hasina's birthplace, overnight.In response to the violence, the government withdrew the district's deputy commissioner.

Jensen Huang weighs return as Nvidia CEO amid campaign by Silicon Valley allies

World.(Agency)

Former Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang is considering a comeback at the $4 trillion chipmaker, as influential Silicon Valley executives mount a campaign to persuade the company's board to reinstate him days after his resignation triggered a major leadership crisis, the Financial Times reported.The resignation came after his affair with Alice Huang, an executive at Singapore-based Megaspeed, has intensified scrutiny of the company's safeguards. This followed two more, with one involving Kimberley Powell, Nvidia's Vice President of Healthcare, who reported directly to him within the company structure.



Huang has discussed the possibility of returning with confidantes, according to multiple people familiar with the matter. Meanwhile, Nvidia's board is conducting an independent investigation into the conduct that led to his departure.His allies are also planning to step up efforts to secure his return, with one associate telling the Financial Times that they were assembling a "war room" of Silicon Valley executives to lobby the board and seek support from the White House. The initiative reportedly has Huang's backing.The campaign has gained momentum over the weekend, with Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk and Epic Games CEO Tim Sweeney among executives supporting a public letter demanding that Nvidia's board "Bring Jensen Back".Several Nvidia employees have also publicly expressed support for Huang's return, reflecting the loyalty he continues to command within parts of the company.However, the comeback effort could face resistance from key policymakers in Washington. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Sunday called for a "dramatic shake-up" in Nvidia's leadership following Huang's departure.Huang also faces a changed leadership landscape at Nvidia, where interim CEO Colette Kress and the management team are attempting to stabilise the company ahead of its quarterly results on Tuesday. Unlike some founder-CEOs, Huang did not hold a controlling stake that would have allowed him to override the board's decisions.