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AHEMDABAD/GUJRAT
Weadnesday,November 18, 2026



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160-year-old heritage structure 'Kumarakrupa' renamed 'Ganga', to be CM Shivakumar's new residence

BENGALURU. (Agency).

'Ganga' is the new abode of Chief Minister D K Shivakumar. Despite opposition from BJP members and historians, the state government had stuck with its decision to renovate the 160-year-old heritage bungalow, 'Kumarakrupa', on Kumarakrupa Road as the official residence of Chief Minister.The housewarming ceremony was held at 'Ganga' on Monday on the auspicious occasion of 'Karthika Somavara.' Shivakumar participated in the 'homa' and 'havan' rituals at 'Ganga' before leaving for New Delhi to attend the formal launch of Congress stalwart Sonia Gandhi's autobiography, Belonging: A Journey of Love. The CM is expected to shift to 'Ganga' in a couple of weeks.

Sources say that the 12-room, east-facing bungalow, once the official residence of Mysuru Dewan K Sheshadri Iyer, aligns with the CM's 'vastu' preference. Over the last five months, renovation work was going on to make the place more 'vastu'-compliant.The building was renamed following a suggestion by Nonavinakere Ajjayya, Shivakumar's spiritual guru. Earlier the building served as Kumarakrupa Guest House for several years.

Ahead of Punjab polls, PM Modi attends gurdwara redevelopment ceremony in Manila

CHANDIGARH.(Agency).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the historic 97-year old Gurudwara Khalsa Diwan in Manila on Tuesday, where he offered prayers and took part in a ceremony to mark the beginning of the shrine's redevelopment.As PM Modi reached Manila, the capital of The Philippines as a part of three day trip to attend the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit, his visit to the gurdwara comes as the 2027 Punjab assembly elections are less than two and half months away.

Sharing his experience on X, the prime minister wrote, "Feeling very blessed to be at the Gurudwara Khalsa Diwan in Manila.'' During his visit, Modi interacted with community leaders, granthis and members of the Indian diaspora who had gathered at the shrine to welcome him.He also acknowledged the Sikh community's contribution across the world, particularly its commitment to service and humanitarian work.

Established in 1929 by pioneering Punjabi migrants, the Khalsa Diwan Temple is among the prominent symbols of the Sikh community's historical presence in the Philippines.

Over the decades, it has evolved into an important religious and cultural centre for Indian-origin residents, preserving Punjabi traditions and fostering community ties.The redevelopment initiative is expected to strengthen the historic institution's role as a centre of worship and community engagement while preserving a significant part of the Indian diaspora's heritage in Manila.

Amarinder Singh At Sonia Gandhi's Book Launch, BJP Says "It's Personal"

On Monday, Rahul publicly acknowledged Amarinder at the launch of his mother Sonia Gandhi's memoir, 'Belonging: A Journey of Love', in New Delhi, recalling an old family anecdote involving his late father, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Chandigarh (Agency).

A series of remarks by senior Congress leaders over the past six months, followed by Rahul Gandhi's latest public interaction with the former Punjab Chief Minister, Amarinder Singh, at Sonia Gandhi's memoir launch, has revived speculation about a possible thaw in their relationship.The signals have come at different intervals.On June 4, former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda claimed Amarinder was in touch with Congress leaders. On August 7, Rahul Gandhi named him his favourite politician in the BJP and called him "Uncle Amarinder". On October 15, Congress Punjab in-charge Sachin Pilot said "anything is possible in politics" when asked about the 84-year-old Amarinder Singh's possible return to his parent party.On Monday, Rahul publicly acknowledged Amarinder at the launch of his mother Sonia Gandhi's memoir, 'Belonging: A Journey of Love', in New Delhi, recalling an old family anecdote involving his late father, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.The





remarks have thrust Amarinder back into Punjab's political conversation, particularly as the Congress and BJP prepare for the state polls early next year. The BJP has sought to dismiss any political interpretation of his appearance at the Congress event, insisting that it was driven by personal relationships.

November 16: Rahul recalls old family association at Sonia's book launch

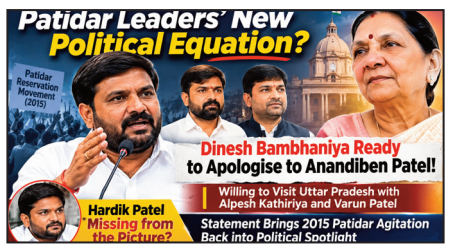
Amarinder's presence at the November 16 launch attracted attention as he attended an event alongside several senior Congress and INDIA bloc leaders, despite having left the Congress in 2021 following a bitter power struggle.At the book launch, Rahul Gandhi, 56, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, was speaking about his parents' marriage and turned to Amarinder while talking about the only "fight" the Gandhi couple had, probably in the 1980s.

"I see Amarinder Singh ji here. You will not believe me when I say this, and you can ask my sister. We saw them argue, but we only saw them fight once. And the coincidence was that my father was speaking to Amarinder Singh ji on the phone when it happened. You remember that?" Rahul said.

Old Patidar Movement Allies, New Political Equations! Dinesh Bambhaniya's Statement Raises Questions Over Hardik Patel!a

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar: A fresh political debate has emerged in Gujarat following an important statement by former Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) convenor Dinesh Bambhaniya, who has expressed his willingness to visit Uttar Pradesh along with former movement associates Alpesh Kathiriya, Varun Patel and other leaders to seek an apology from former Gujarat Chief Minister and current Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel.The statement has attracted considerable attention in Gujarat's political circles, particularly because Bambhaniya referred to several prominent leaders associated with the Patidar reservation movement but conspicuously avoided mentioning Hardik Patel, who was one of the most prominent faces of the 2015 agitation. This omission has triggered discussions about the changing relationships, political equations and possible differences among leaders who once stood together during one of Gujarat's most significant political movements.2015 Patidar Agitation: A Movement That Changed Gujarat's Political LandscapeThe Patidar reservation agitation of 2015 remains an important chapter in Gujarat's political history. The movement, which gained momentum under the leader



ship of young Patidar community representatives, demanded reservation benefits for the Patidar community under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category.The agitation witnessed massive public gatherings, demonstrations and confrontations between protesters and the then Gujarat government led by Chief Minister Anandiben Patel. The movement quickly developed into a major political and social issue, attracting national attention.The massive rally held in Ahmedabad in August 2015 became one of the defining moments of the agitation. Subsequent developments, including police action and clashes, further intensified the situation and brought the state government under considerable political pressure.The agitation also had a major impact on the political environment within Gujarat. In August 2016, Anandiben Patel resigned from the post of Chief Minister, although her resignation was officially linked to the BJP leadership's decision regarding leadership transition and her reaching the age of 75.Dinesh Bambhaniya's Statement: An Initiative to End Past DifferencesAgainst this historical backdrop, Dinesh Bambhaniya's recent statement has brought the issue of reconciliation back into the spotlight.According to the reported statement, Bambhaniya indicated that the events that took place during the agitation were influenced by the circumstances prevailing at that time. He suggested that if any bitterness or misunderstanding had developed between the movement leaders and senior political figures, efforts should be made to resolve it.He further expressed his readiness to travel to Uttar Pradesh with Alpesh Kathiriya, Varun Patel and other former associates to personally meet Anandiben Patel and seek an apology.The statement is being viewed as an indication that some former leaders associated with the Patidar movement may be interested in putting past controversies behind them and rebuilding relationships with senior political figures.However, the proposed visit and meeting have not yet been independently confirmed.Why Was Hardik Patel's Name Not Mentioned?One of the most discussed aspects of Bambhaniya's statement is the absence of Hardik Patel's name.Hardik Patel emerged as the most recognisable face of the 2015 Patidar reservation agitation. His speeches, public meetings and political activities played a significant role in bringing the movement into the national spotlight.Alpesh Kathiriya, Varun Patel and Dinesh Bambhaniya were also associated with the agitation and its organisational activities. However, over the years, the political journeys and public positions of these leaders have evolved differently.The fact that Bambhaniya mentioned Alpesh Kathiriya and Varun Patel while not referring to Hardik Patel has raised questions about whether the former associates are now operating through separate political and organisational circles.It is important to note that the omission of Hardik Patel's name does not, by itself, establish any specific disagreement or conflict between the leaders. Nevertheless, it has become an important point of discussion because of their shared history during the agitation.From Street-Level Agitation to Mainstream PoliticsThe political journeys of the prominent leaders associated with the Patidar movement have undergone considerable changes since 2015.Several leaders who once participated in protests.

"Taking Us For A Ride": Delhi High Court Pulls Up Arvind Kejriwal, Other AAP Leaders In Contempt Case

New Delhi(Agency).

The Delhi High Court today pulled up Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal and other party leaders over delay in a criminal contempt case, granting them a final three-week window to file their replies. Issuing a stern warning against any further delay, the bench made it clear that no additional extension would be granted to the AAP leaders."You are taking us for a ride," the high court said during the hearing today.The court warned Kejriwal and the other respondents that a failure to submit their responses within the three-week period would lead to an automatic closure of their right to respond in the matter.The criminal contempt proceedings were triggered by remarks made by the AAP leaders against Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma of the Delhi High Court.The comments were allegedly made when Justice Sharma was hearing a petition filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) challenging their discharge in the Delhi excise policy case.Justice Sharma in May this year initiated criminal contempt proceedings against Kejriwal and AAP leaders including Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh and Saurabh Bhardwaj, among others, over their social media posts



"vilifying" her in the context of the excise policy case.

Justice Sharma had said the former Delhi chief minister "orchestrated a calculated campaign" of vilification against her on social media instead of pursuing his legal remedies.

Calcutta HC comes down on Abhishek Banerjee over 'BJP-aligned judges' remark

Kolkata.(Agency).

The Calcutta High Court has issued a notice to Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Abhishek Banerjee, asking him to explain within 15 days why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against him over his remarks questioning the impartiality of judges.Justice Krishna Rao initiated the proceedings on his own after examining a transcript of Banerjee's remarks, in which he allegedly accused some judges of having "sold their spines to the BJP."

The court took exception to the remarks, observing that Banerjee, being an educated person and a sitting MP, could not be treated as an ordinary person unaware of the implications of his statements.During the hearing, Justice Rao challenged Banerjee to identify the judges he believed were aligned with the BJP."You ask your client, who are the judges of the BJP and who aren't. Since he is so intelligent, let him give a list. I will see," the judge remarked.The remarks in question were made while Banerjee's petition seeking security-related



relief was pending before the High Court. The transcript was submitted to the court by the West Bengal government's counsel.In a separate order on Banerjee's petition seeking personal security, the bench directed the Principal Secretary of the West Bengal Home Department to convene a meeting of the Security Review Committee within two weeks.The committee will assess the threat perception of the Trinamool MP, examine whether he needs dedicated security cover and submit its decision to the court.The contempt proceedings stem from Banerjee's remarks following an attack on his residence and office in Kolkata on November 7.

He had accused a section of the judiciary, along with others, of ignoring threats to his security.He alleged that attacks against him had begun on June 19, when he visited Sonarpur, and continued after his return from Delhi.He also claimed that a man seen in photographs with Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari had tried to attack him with a gun at the airport.Banerjee said he had filed a police complaint but no action was taken against the accused.

4 held for farmer's murder in Greater Noida

Noida.(Agency)

Police arrested two people in connection with a murder case following a gunfight near Old Mirzapur Road in Greater Noida on Sunday. The accused both sustained bullet wounds and were rushed to a nearby hospital. Police said two of their associates were arrested from Rabupura later that night. According to police, a team was conducting checks at the T-point on the road connecting Old Mirzapur Road to Rustampur when two motorcycles approached the spot. They were signalled to stop, but the riders attempted to flee. During the chase, two of the accused fell off their bike and began firing at the cops. They both sustained bullet wounds during retaliatory firing.Rajkumar (22) and Sachin (22) were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment and are now in police custody. Their associates, Kamal (26) and Harendra alias Hatendra (30), were later arrested as well. During interrogation, cops found that the accused had murdered Ismail, a resident of Mehdipur village, on Nov 8 while attempting to commit a theft at a field in the Rabupura area.Rabupura police station SHO said that on Nov 9, the body of the 55-year-old farmer was found on the field with injuries to his head and neck.

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Armenia barber used to route Rs 25k advance in Delhi extortion plot

Gurgaon.(Agency)

An Armenia-based barber was used to route around Rs 25,000 to one of three men accused of plotting an extortion attack in Delhi, a month-long probe has revealed. Men who approached his shop claiming they wanted to send money to relatives in India used his side business to arrange the transfer as an advance for the operation, sources in police said.

The barber has admitted he regularly facilitates transfers to Indian bank accounts for a small commission. He told police he had no idea that this particular transfer was linked to a crime and could not recall the men who approached him for this. Police are now tracing how the payment reached the three accused hired to carry out the extortion plot in Delhi and checking whether the network used similar channels for other transactions.The trail leads back to Oct 2, when the three accused – Abhay alias Maulad (20), Jatin alias Jony (29) and Sagar – were arrested in Gurgaon for allegedly plotting the attack on a Delhi businessman. According to sources, a fugitive gangster originally from Rajasthan had hired the trio after the Delhi businessman refused to meet an extortion demand.

Viral Audio Rocks Jain Community!

Sagarchandrasagar Controversy Intensifies!

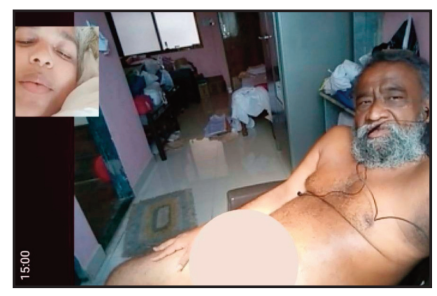
Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad/Surat: A controversy involving Jain monk Sagarchandrasagar Maharaj has triggered widespread discussion and concern within sections of the Jain community in Gujarat. Allegedly controversial photographs, a purported viral audio recording, claims of threats and allegations of financial irregularities have brought the matter into the spotlight.The controversy reportedly began after certain photographs allegedly involving Sagarchandrasagar Maharaj circulated on social media. The images raised questions among devotees regarding religious discipline and the strict principles of renunciation, restraint and spiritual purity expected of a Jain monk.Purported Viral Audio Intensifies the ControversyWhile discussions surrounding the photographs were continuing, a purported audio recording surfaced on social media, further intensifying the matter.The recording allegedly contains a conversation involving Sagarchandrasagar Maharaj and a woman concerning the circulation of photographs and attempts to exert pressure over the issue. One of the statements attributed to the recording reportedly includes the warning:





"Delete these photographs and be careful about your next steps. Where this matter will eventually end is no longer in my hands."The alleged conversation also reportedly includes references to financial transactions involving lakhs of rupees and the woman's claimed deteriorating mental condition. Allegations regarding the possible involvement of intermediaries to exert pressure have also surfaced.



World Pancreatic Cancer Day 2026: All Together We Can

Mahanagar Metro Desk

World Pancreatic Cancer Day provides an important opportunity to unite communities, healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers and patients in addressing one of the most challenging forms of cancer. Guided by the campaign message "All Together We Can," the initiative highlights the importance of collective responsibility, greater public awareness, early recognition of symptoms, improved access to healthcare and continued investment in research. The World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition (WPCC) brings organisations across countries together to strengthen this global movement. Pancreatic cancer develops when abnormal cells grow uncontrollably in the pancreas, an organ responsible for producing digestive enzymes and hormones, including insulin. It is particularly concerning because symptoms may remain unnoticed during the early stages, and many patients are diagnosed only after the disease has progressed. Common warning signs



include persistent abdominal or back pain, unexplained weight loss, loss of appetite, fatigue, nausea, digestive disturbances and jaundice. New-onset diabetes or an unexpected deterioration in existing blood glucose control may also warrant medical evaluation, particularly when accompanied by other symptoms. Smoking, obesity, chronic pancreatitis, increasing age and certain inherited genetic factors are among the recognised risk factors. These symptoms do not necessarily indicate cancer, but persistent or unexplained changes should never be ignored. Early diagnosis remains central to improving outcomes. Individuals with concerning symptoms or significant inherited risk should receive appropriate clinical assessment and specialist advice. Advances in diagnostic imaging, endoscopic ultrasound, tissue sampling, molecular profiling and genetic testing contribute to more informed diagnostic and treatment decisions. Multidisciplinary management involving surgical oncologists, medical oncologists, gastroenterologists, radiologists, pathologists, dietitians, nurses and rehabilitation professionals is essential to individualise patient care. Physiotherapy has an increasingly important role in the comprehensive management of pancreatic cancer. Its contribution extends beyond postoperative recovery and should begin, wherever feasible, before cancer treatment through a structured approach known as cancer prehabilitation. This involves assessing cardiorespiratory endurance, muscle strength, mobility, balance.

Ghaziabad set to get Rs 220cr power infra upgrade before summer

Ghaziabad.(Ajency)

The power department has proposed infrastructure upgrades worth Rs 220 crore across Zone 1 for 2026-27, including doubling the capacity of four substations and installing 119 new transformers, in a bid to prevent power outages during next summer.

The proposal, submitted under the SCADA scheme, is awaiting approval, which is expected within this month. The works include setting up new infrastructure and upgrading existing substations and transformers, with most projects targeted for completion by February 2027.According to Zone 1 Chief Engineer Pawan Aggarwal, the department has submitted an additional budget proposal of Rs 220 crore for approval. The funds will support plans to double the capacity of four 33/11 kV substations located in Lal Kuan, Govindpuram, Rathi Ispat and Shastri Nagar-2.

A senior Zone 1 official said, "Electricity demand rises sharply during summer, often overloading transformers and triggering outages. Lal Kuan, in particular, has reported frequent power cuts during peak summer months, causing inconvenience to residents."Each of these substations will get a 10 MVA transformer in place of the existing 5 MVA units, increasing their capacity to handle higher electricity demand during summer, Aggarwal said.

Besides the substation upgrades, 119 new transformers will be installed at various locations across Zone 1. The capacity of 84 existing distribution transformers will also be increased by March 2027 to improve supply, Aggarwal said.

In April, PVVNL sanctioned Rs 51.56 crore for Zone 1 as part of a Rs 213.44 crore allocation for strengthening the distribution network. More than 300 electrical works were undertaken, including the construction of a new 33/11 kV substation, capacity upgrades to existing substations and distribution transformers, and the laying and reinforcement of 33 kV and 11 kV feeder lines.d. Shahid died, while his two associates escaped.

Behind the Habit of Smiling, a Hidden Pain Lies Within!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Rupesh Solanki: A person's face does not always reveal the true state of their mind. Often, there is a smile on their lips, a sparkle in their eyes, and a sense of lightness in their conversations. Yet, somewhere in a corner of their heart, countless sorrows may remain silently hidden. Even a person who always appears cheerful in the eyes of the world may be carrying an unfulfilled desire, a shattered hope, or an unspoken pain.In today's world, smiling all the time has almost become a social expectation. People hesitate to reveal their struggles because they fear that others might interpret their helplessness as weak ness. As a result, they



conceal their pain behind a veil of smiles. When someone asks, "How are you?" the immediate response is often, "I'm fine!" But no one seems to have the time to understand how many unspoken stories may be hidden behind those two simple words.Some people find their happiness in making others laugh. They are always joking among friends, keeping their family members cheerful, and making the atmosphere around them lively. However, when the same person is left alone, their inner silence may speak volumes. Even someone who brings smiles to the faces of others sometimes needs a few affectionate words. They, too, need someone who will listen without interrupting and understand their emotions without immediately offering advice.Every individual goes through some kind of struggle in life. Some are burdened with financial responsibilities, some are caught in the complexities of relationships, while others struggle between their dreams and reality. Every person's pain is different, and so is their ability to endure it.

12 years gone, approach road to Majhawali bridge over Yamuna yet to be built

Noida.(Agency)

Jewar MLA Dhirendra Singh has asked PWD officials to expedite construction of the approach road to Majhawali bridge connecting Greater Noida to Faridabad across Yamuna within a week.

Currently, the 630-metre section of the four-lane bridge and approach road on the Faridabad side are ready, but the Greater Noida-side stretch remains incomplete due to land-related hurdles.

The Rs 315-crore project to connect Atta Gujran village in Greater Noida near Buddh International Circuit (BIC) to Manjhawali village in Faridabad was initiated in 2014, but construction began only in 2018, four years after its foundation stone was laid.

The initial completion deadline was 2019, but it was completed in Dec 2022 after missing six deadlines."The approach road to the Majhawali bridge is still incomplete. We have directed PWD officials to start work within a week. We reviewed the development works and made it clear that dereliction of duty will invite strict action. Once ready, the bridge will facilitate commuting between Greater Noida and Jewar too," the MLA said.

With Narendra Modi International Airport now operational, the bridge could become an important connectivity link for passengers travelling from Haryana. It is also expected to ease congestion on the Kalindi Kunj route and Eastern Peripheral Expressway while significantly reducing travel time between Faridabad and Greater Noida from around 90 minutes to 30 minutes.

While PWD executive engineer Kanchan Verma was unavailable for comment, officials told TOI that land acquisition hurdles delayed the project. Nearly 90% of the land required for a 1.7-km approach road has been acquired, but the remaining portion is yet to be secured. Construction, the official said, will commence once the land is acquired.

The incomplete road has been linked to several accidents in the past. In June, a 45-year-old hospital manager from Faridabad died after his motorcycle plunged into a pit on the unfinished stretch of the road near the bridge in Greater Noida. Police said that Atul Kumar Joshi of NIT-1 was travelling towards Noida after work when his bike went of the unpaved section and fell into a deep pit.

Madras HC seeks white paper on books procured in 20 years

MADURAI.(Agency)

The Madurai Bench of Madras HC on Monday urged the state government to undertake a detailed probe and submit a white paper on the manner in which the procurement of books for public libraries was made in the last two decades.A bench of justices GR Swaminathan and MD Sumathi observed that the recent scam has shaken the conscience of the people of TN, and their faith in the system must be restored.The judges also suggested custodial interrogation of the 'bogus' publishers identified by the DVAC. "Unless they are custodially interrogated, one will never know how much money was paid to which public servant. The modus operandi must be brought out," they added.

The bench made the observations while hearing a contempt petition filed by V Ramasubbu of Tirunelveli, over non-compliance of an order passed by the court in 2024.

Stating that the court's earlier guidelines have been rendered 'toothless', the judges annexed elaborate suggestions made by stakeholders, such as founder of Kizhakku Pathippagam, Badrinarayanan Seshadri, and two more unnamed individuals, to the order copy and expressed hope that the government would go through the same and evolve a fresh, foolproof procedure.

Need no lecture from MP, says High Court judge

During the hearing, Justice Swaminathan slammed Madurai MP Su Venkatesan for his remark on social media against a comment.

Odisha's out-of-pocket health spend drops by 35 per cent in 9 years: Report

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

The financial burden of healthcare on households in Odisha has recorded a sharp decline over the past nine years, with the government's share in total health expenditure jumping from 21.5 pc in 2014-15 to 57.9 pc in 2023-24, according to the latest National Health Accounts (NHA) estimates.Out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) for families on healthcare has declined from a whopping 73.6 pc to 37.8 pc during the period, indicating a substantial shift towards publicly financed services. The report indicates that healthcare financing has increased by 36.4 pc while the share borne by the households has gone down by 35.8 pc.

The latest NHA report, released by the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has put Odisha's total health expenditure at Rs 29,525 crore in 2023-24, of which the government contributed Rs 17,104 crore. Households, however, still had to spend around Rs 11,151 crore directly on healthcare.In 2014-15, the state's total health expenditure stood at Rs 15,052 crore, with government spending accounting for Rs 3,233 crore.

Opposition readies Kotia, flood ammo as Odisha Assembly session begins today

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

The winter session of the Odisha Assembly is set to commence on Wednesday amid a charged political atmosphere, with the Opposition BJD and Congress ready to take on the BJP government over a string of issues, ranging from the Kotia border dispute and flood mismanagement to law and order, communal harmony and farmers' distress.The Opposition has planned to raise the Kotia issue from day one, demanding urgent steps to stop Andhra Pradesh from making inroads into Odisha's territory. It has accused the state government of failing to check AP's advances in the region and secure Odisha's borders. Delegations of both BJD and Congress recently visited Kotia and returned claiming that the state's presence on the ground was weakening.BJD deputy leader in the House, Prasanna Acharya said his party will seek a discussion and question the government on the measures it has taken to keep the people on Odisha's side.

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Rama Chandra Kadam also said the issue would be at the top of his party's agenda.Flood management in the wake of cyclone Arnab is likely to be the other big flashpoint.Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik has already termed the flood in Ganjam as manmade, alleging mismanagement in the release of water from dams and lack of preparedness.

KPSC job fraud case: Member Geetha denied interim protection from arrest in SIT probe

The special court rejected the KPSC member's plea, citing a lack of medical evidence, and posted a hearing for regular anticipatory bail on Tuesday.

Bengaluru (Agency)

A Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) member under police investigation in an alleged recruitment fraud was denied interim protection from arrest by a special court on Monday. B V Geetha was released from judicial custody last week in a separate money laundering case.Geetha sought interim anticipatory bail after being summoned for questioning on Monday through a notice issued on November 13 by the Special Investigation Team (SIT).The Karnataka High Court constituted the SIT on November 3 to investigate an alleged fraud in the recruitment of as many as 29 veterinary doctors for 400 vacancies through an exam held on January 8 and 9, 2026.

The KPSC member sought protection from arrest citing medical grounds, but the special court rejected the plea and posted a hearing for regular anticipatory bail on Tuesday.

What the court said

During the hearing, Geetha's lawyer M Shyam Sundar said she had a medical issue and that a special court for ED cases had granted her bail on November 11 on the ground that she is a woman. He also argued that she had not been named in the FIR registered in the alleged veterinary doctors' job fraud case.However, Special Prosecutor Ashok Naik argued that the SIT's case does not stand on the same footing as the ED case and that statements from some aspirants who paid bribes to be recruited indicated they paid Geetha.The court rejected Geetha's interim anticipatory bail plea, saying she had not produced medical records to show she had a health problem which requires regular



care and treatment.

"As per the contents of the prescription dated November 13, there is no life-threatening disease which requires immediate or regular medical treatment, and it is a recent document," the court said."On perusal of the contents of the application and the petition, even according to the petitioner, she was arrested in an ED case and was in custody from November 6 and released on November 12. Therefore, at this stage the petitioner has not made out a prima facie case for grant of interim anticipatory bail," the court added

What probes claim

The SIT, which began investigating the alleged KPSC exam fraud on November 5, obtained warrants on November 11 to take Geetha and suspended KPSC chairman Shivashankarappa Sahukar into its custody from Bengaluru Central Prison. The two were lodged there following their arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on October 6 in a money laundering case.

Maharashtra's new nursery age rule: Why many toddlers must repeat playgroup

The revised criteria require a child to have completed three years of age by June 30 of the year of admission to nursery. Under the earlier provision, the cut-off was December 30, allowing children who were around two-and-a-half years old at the time of admission to enter nursery school.

Mumbai.(Agency)

A change in Maharashtra's minimum age criteria for nursery admissions has left several parents scrambling to replan their children's schooling, with children who have already spent a year in playgroups facing the prospect of repeating the same for another academic year.The revised criteria require a child to have completed three years of age by June 30 of the year of admission to nursery. Under the earlier provision, the cut-off was December 30, allowing children who were around two-and-a-half years old at the time of admission to enter nursery school.



Children currently enrolled in playgroups who were expected to move to nursery but do not meet the revised age requirement will have to continue in playgroups until the next admission cycle. For parents, this means not just a delay in their children's transition to formal schooling but also the additional expense of another year in playgroups.

A parent whose son attends a reputed playgroup in Juhu said, "This certainly feels like a loss as my son would spend another year in the same playgroup doing the same activities he has already learnt. But with pre-schools not accepting admission this year owing to this new rule, we have no option but to continue with the same playgroup. We cannot let the child sit at home for one year."For some, the change has come even after they had nearly completed the admission process. Another parent, whose daughter is currently two years and two months, said the process of securing admission to the nursery section of the school associated with her playgroup was almost complete when the revised criteria were announced.

"The school has now asked us to reapply for the next year's admission cycle when the child fits the prescribed age criteria for nursery admission," the parent said.Early childhood education experts, however, have welcomed the revision, saying a uniform age of entry into formal schooling was long overdue. The change is in keeping with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which envisages three years of pre-school education for children aged three to six, followed by two years of primary education.Swati Popat Vats, president of the Early Childhood Association (ECA), said the revision was necessary but acknowledged that its implementation had created confusion among parents and educational institutions."This revision was much awaited. And whenever a new rule is brought in, there is likely to be a certain amount of chaos. We are counselling parents on the same," she said.Purnima Contractor, president of the Association for Early Childhood Education and Development (AECED), said children below three were not developmentally ready for formal schooling and that an additional year in playgroups need not be viewed as lost time."We urge playgroups catering to such children to advance the activities so that they continue to develop their motor, social and emotional skills for the additional year," she said.

Karnataka HC: Prevent removal of sacred thread for CET

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Recording the statement of the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) that there are no instructions or guidelines instructing students to remove the 'Sacred Thread' worn by them during the frisking at the Common Entrance Test (CET), the Karnataka High Court directed the KEA to take steps for the conduct of the examinations in an orderly and uniform manner across the state and for the issuance of appropriate directions to the commissioners and deputy superintendents.A division bench of Justice Anu Sivaraman and Justice KS Bharath Kumar passed the order while disposing of the public interest litigation filed by Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Maha Sabha praying to issue directions for formulation of specific guidelines and instructions regarding the examinations.The petition was filed following the alleged incidents of not permitting students wearing sacred thread to appear in CET 2025 held from April 17 to 19.The counsel for the petitioner submitted that there have been instances of the respondents selectively not permitting students to wear sacred threads to the CET, which is discrimination.Even after the writ petition was filed in 2025, there have been such incidents. It is in the said circumstances that the petition has been filed, he argued.The KEA filed the objections stating that the deputy commissioners are the chief superintendents for the conduct of the entrance test in each district.

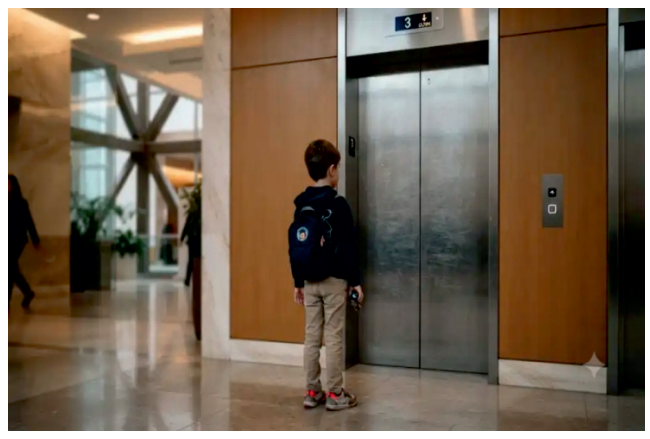
The deputy chief superintendents are appointed in all districts to assist the commissioners in conducting the exam.The guidelines regarding 'dress code' are to be adhered to by the students. KEA has also stated that there are no instructions or guidelines instructing students to remove the 'sacred thread' worn by them and that, where such incidents have been reported, necessary steps have been taken.The Karnataka State Human Rights Commission and Karnataka Child Rights Protection Commission had taken cognisance.Considering the same, the court noted that it is for KEA to take appropriate steps to see that all arrangements for the proper conduct of the examinations are uniformly provided across the State.

New lift rules in Maharashtra: Why children under 12 can no longer ride alone

Mumbai.(Agency)

Children below 12 years will not be allowed to use lifts, escalators or moving walkways on their own under new rules notified by the Maharashtra government, which kicked in on November 1.Rule 10(13) of the Maharashtra Lifts, Escalators and Moving Walks Rules, 2026, makes it compulsory for children below 12 to be accompanied by an adult while using these facilities. The restriction applies to residential buildings, shopping malls and other establishments covered by the rules. Children aged 12 and above are not covered by this particular restriction.The provision is part of a wider set of safety measures that housing societies, building owners and commercial establishments will have to follow.Under the new rules, lifts, escalators and moving walkways must be inspected and maintained every month by an approved contractor. An annual safety audit and testing are also required. Owners will have to maintain records of servicing and inspections.

The rules also make CCTV cameras mandatory in new lifts. Owners of existing lifts that do not have CCTV cameras, automatic rescue devices (ARDs) and overload protection devices (OLPDs) have been given a year from October 28 to install them.Any accident involving a lift, escalator or moving walkway must be reported to the Electrical Inspector and the local police within 24 hours. The rules also stipulate that



lift operators must be at least 18 years old.

The state has also strengthened its enforcement mechanism. Authorities can take action against installations found unsafe and order their closure if they do not meet the prescribed safety requirements.

The rules have been framed under the Maharashtra Lifts, Escalators and Moving Walks Act, 2017. The state amended the Act in 2026 to decentralise the licensing and inspection process.

Meters must for Uber, Ola taxis in Karnataka soon

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Ola, Uber and other app-based taxis operating in Karnataka will soon be required to install meters and charge passengers fares fixed by the government as the department is drafting necessary rules and legislation that will be implemented shortly, said Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh on Monday.The minister added that the government is also preparing legislation to prohibit the use of half helmets across the state by the New Year.Suresh told the media that the move is aimed at protecting taxi owners and drivers from alleged exploitation by app-based aggregators.Several taxi owners and drivers had approached the government seeking mandatory meters, citing difficulties they faced while operating on these platforms.The government had decided to consider their demand in the interest of thousands of drivers and vehicle owners, Suresh said, adding that taxis found violating the prescribed fare policy will be seized.

Footpath riding: New law likely to double fine

Penalties for riding two-wheelers on footpaths will also be doubled. Violators will be fined Rs 5,000 for the first offence and Rs 10,000 for the second. The vehicle will be confiscated in case of a third violation, he said. The necessary legislation is being prepared and will be passed, he added.He said the registration of new Green SM taxis, operated by Vietnam-based company Green SM, has been stopped until further orders. Around



100 such taxis have already been registered in the state.A decision on whether to permit further registrations would be taken after discussions with Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, he said.

Govt releases Rs 280 cr towards pending salaries

Suresh said the government has released Rs 280 crore towards pending salary arrears of employees of the four state road transport corporations (RTCs). Of the total Rs 1,200 crore in arrears, the government had earlier released Rs 450 crore and Rs 170 crore in two instalments.The remaining Rs 300 crore will be released depending on the availability of funds, he said.

Universe: How to be happy in the present

To be in the here and in the now is the basic practice of Buddhism. In our daily life, our body may be at one place, but our mind is elsewhere. Our mind may be caught in the regret or sorrow concerning the past, or worries concerning the future. Often, we are locked into the prison of the past and are not able to live the present moment deeply.

But if you know how to bring your attention to your in-breath and breathe in mindfully, you will be able to release both the past and the future. If you bring your mind to the present, you will be able to release both the past and the future. In the Sutra on Mindful Breathing, the Buddha advises us to use that practice in order to become alive, and in order to release the tension and stress in our body.We know that Anathapindika was a very wealthy merchant. One day he came to visit the Buddha with 500 colleagues, and the Buddha gave them one teaching — how to be happy right in the present moment.

I think of that teaching of the Buddha as very relevant to our times when most of us are so busy thinking of the future. We don't have the time to take care of ourselves; we don't have the time to take care of the people we love.

But when you practise mindful breathing and go back to yourself, you are established in the present moment. And you find that there are many conditions for you to be happy right in the here and in the now.

the controversy, is of Indian descent.

AI has put the post-truth world on a spectrum. The depiction of any fact or artefact can now range from completely true to completely false, and one suspects that as in human speech, shades of grey will predominate and keep fact-checkers busy, pending regulation. But this year's controversies about literary prizes suggest that one aspect of the fondly remembered age of truth remains unchanged—authenticity and perceived value depend on reliable proof of provenance. This applies to all things intellectually estimable, not just creative work. The practices of mindful breathing and mindful walking help us to come home to the present moment in order to be in touch with the present moment. To be in touch with the wonders of life that are available. If you are not in touch with the refreshing and healing elements of life, you cannot be nourished, and you cannot go very far.When you love someone, the best gift you can offer him/her is your presence. To love means to be present — to be there for him/her. When you are extremely busy; when you are preoccupied with your worries, your fears, or with your projects, you have no time to be there for the person you love. That is why my definition of love is to be present for the person you love. If you know the practices of mindful breathing and mindful walking, with one breath or with one step you can bring your mind back to the body, and become available in the here and in the now. And when you are truly there, you have something very precious to offer him/her, the person you love — your true presence.This is a mantra we can practise today — to offer our presence to the person we love — but it is effective only when you are really established in the present moment. When you know that you are fully established in the here and in the now, you are free from the worries about the future and the sorrow concerning the past, you can go to your loved one and practise this mantra.

Touchstones: Another kind of Indian

People like Justice Tarkunde, Madhav Gadgil, Vinod Raina, Anil Agarwal, Bunker Roy, to name a few, ushered in a new age of civic awareness



There have been Diwali celebrations before this one but the levels of noise and the lingering pollution this year has made everyone sit up and take note. In our area, with many upmarket gated communities and educated, socially-aware occupants in most, it was appalling to hear the non-stop fusillade of crackers for over a week. Despite the ban on crackers after 10 pm, there were merrymakers who went on lighting them well beyond midnight.Across the road from us is a village that has grown into a prosperous shopping area and is peopled by another class of citizens who have earned huge amounts of money by selling their agricultural land to the land sharks that snap up these deals instantly. These erstwhile farmers now drive around in expensive cars, often drunk, and are a nuisance to young girls and our maids, who have to put up with their disgusting behaviour. And how can I forget the wandering cattle and stray dogs that add their own nuisance value?

All over the NCR, from Greater Noida to Gurugram and beyond, the story is the same. No one takes responsibility for cleaning up the environment and the joke is that they all blame the government and local municipal bodies. Public accountability or ownership is simply not an idea they are willing to entertain. Schoolchildren design posters that say, 'Say no to crackers', but when they come back, they are the ones who light the firecrackers. I know I'm not saying anything others have not pointed out before me, yet it bears repeating this angst until one day all Indians will become civil citizens.Let me take you all back to another kind of Indian: one who wants to change old mindsets and usher in radical change. The father of them all was Gandhiji, who managed to change so many by setting an example that some of us struggle to follow still. Fifty years after the Emergency that has been vilified for suppressing human rights and ushering in a quasi-fascist rule, it is time to celebrate what it gave birth to. Within a few years of its lifting, a dedicated band of social activists set up independent clusters beyond the Delhi darbar and changed the face of state-led 'development'. From political, social, environmental issues to education, village upliftment and women's rights — people like Justice Tarkunde, Madhav Gadgil, Vinod Raina, Anil Agarwal, to name just a few, ushered in a new age of civic awareness.Among them was a man called Bunker Roy, who left us recently. For those who have not heard the TED Talk he gave over a decade ago, I urge you to google it. Bunker belonged to India's elite creamy layer — studied in Doon School, then at St Stephen's College, was the national squash champion for three years and belonged to a very eminent bhadralok Bengali family. Before choosing what career to opt for, he decided on a whim to go to a village in Bihar to see what a drought actually is. What he encountered there changed him completely: people dying of starvation, lack of water and a soul-grinding poverty that robs one of any hope. He realised then that his elite education and background was of little consequence if India still had such a bleak hinterland.After travelling all over for a year and more, he set up base in a village near Ajmer called Tilonia and experimented with what many dismissed as madcap ideas. Following a philosophy that he learnt from Gandhiji, he realised the value of local wisdom and village-level skills, and the uselessness of an elite education that made no sense to the common problems that all Indian villages face. Moreover, there is an enormous storehouse of traditional wisdom that had been lying untapped because it was with people who are invisible to the 'educated'. Over the years, Bunker set up a Barefoot College, 'for cop-outs, drop-outs and wash-outs' and opted for a system of life-related problem solving that made him a hero.He was astute enough to realise that old women, the grannies of the village, must be brought in and despite their illiteracy, he trained them to become experts in creating and setting up solar panels. All of Rajasthan and several countries of Africa are today powered by solar energy that these grannies have set up. There are night schools for children because many have to work in the fields by day. Nothing escaped Bunker's keen eye and he always found a unique solution for it.

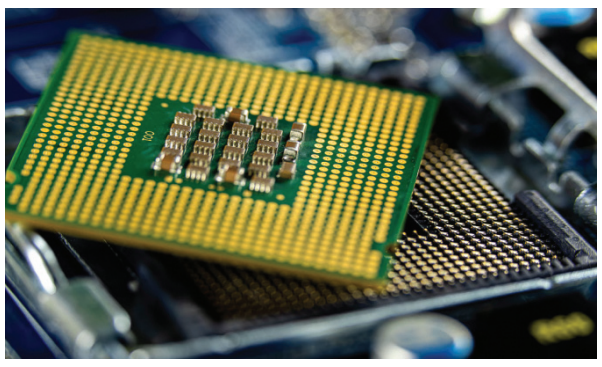
We first encountered this madcap in 1978 or so, when he and his barefoot engineers were setting up a project near Kasauli. Our home became the base camp for the workers and lively youngsters he brought along. No one could afford to remain untouched by the energy he exuded and the schemes he undertook. Aruna Roy, his partner in every way, resigned from the IAS to join him and set up a weaving and printing centre in Tilonia. Each time they came, Aruna brought beautiful bedcovers, curtain material and cushion covers until our home began to look like a Tilonia bazaar. Till I die, I will never forget either Bunker or Aruna for the joyous transformation they brought into our staid lives.He changed us forever and I know we'll meet again as he cleans up heaven, telling the cooks there that vegetarian food is bad for his complexion.

Nvidia episode prods India to speed up its semiconductor mission

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.

The goings-on at Nvidia, one of the most valuable companies in the world, have brought semiconductor geopolitics into sharp focus. China's alleged use of invidious methods to gain access to cutting-edge technology—and the sharp reaction it's provoking in the US—has raised concerns in other global capitals, including New Delhi, about the possible fallout.On November 12, the US House Speaker claimed that a bipartisan consensus in Congress favoured restricting China's access to advanced chips. Lawmakers are weighing tighter oversight of exports, systems to prevent diversion of AI processors to China and pressure on US allies to limit supplies of chip-making equipment. They also want to regulate Chinese companies' remote access to advanced chips through overseas data centres. As scrutiny grows, even countries with no intention of helping China could find their access less predictable.The stakes are considerable. Chips power everything from phones and computers to defence systems, factory machinery and critical infrastructure. The more advanced the chip, the greater the economic and military advantage it confers. This explains why the US-China rivalry is no longer just about tariffs, but about who gets access to the technology that will shape the future.

For India, this has important implications. Its plans to



expand digital infrastructure and AI data centre capabilities depend heavily on hardware supplied by the US. On the other hand, broad retaliatory curbs by China, which dominates the supply of critical raw materials and rare earth magnets, would squeeze Indian manufacturing inputs. Tighter export rules could mean delays, higher costs and fresh uncertainty for Indian businesses. A country cannot exercise full control over its digital future if access to essential computing infrastructure depends on decisions taken elsewhere.

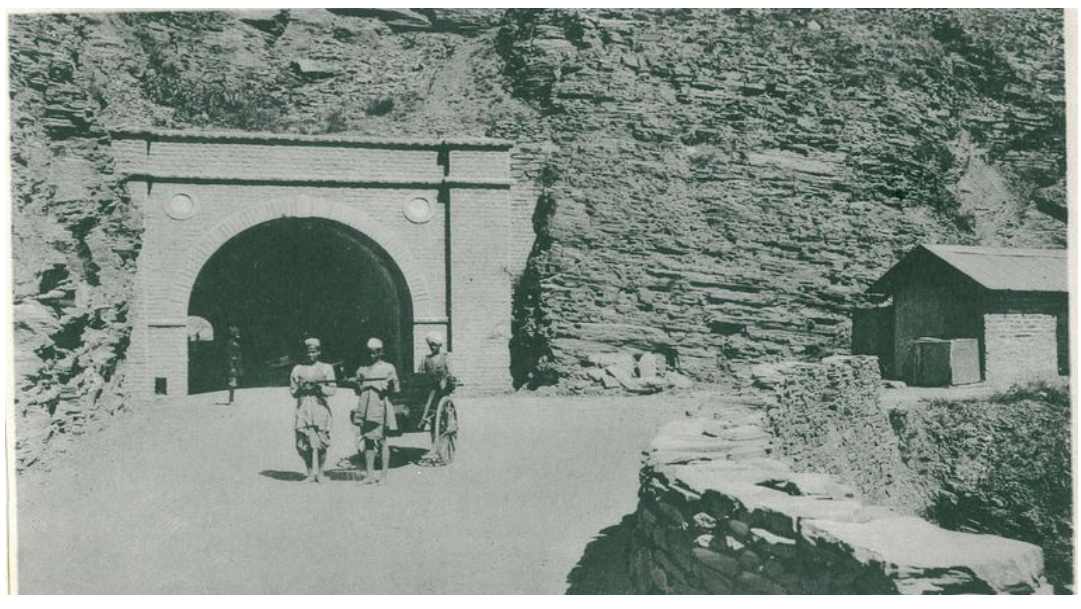
This does not mean India should distance itself from its technology partners. International cooperation, investment and access to global supply chains remain essential. But the risks of excessive dependence can't be overlooked. India's Semiconductor Mission, including manufacturing, design, research and advanced packaging, must gather greater momentum. Self-reliance cannot be achieved overnight—building an ecosystem requires sustained investment, a skilled workforce and technological partnerships.The Nvidia episode shows how depending on other countries for vital technology can become a security risk. India must ensure that changes in global technology policies do not undermine its own ambitions.

Horatio Herbert Kitchener, Wildflower Hall's famous resident

The first definitive mention of ownership of this Shimla property comes from Edward Buck's 1925 book

AT different points of time, the Hotz family owned several hotels in India. There was the Alasia in Kasauli, the Gables in Mashobra, and the Cecil Hotels in Shimla, Agra and Delhi — the last one now houses St Xavier's School. An iconic property was Wildflower Hall, which has been in the news in recent years. After a fresh bid, for the next 35 years, this is back with the Oberoi Group through East India Hotels Limited (EIHL), who were managing this; 47.1 per cent of the annual gross revenue will be handed over to the Himachal Government.The first definitive mention of ownership of the property comes from Edward Buck's book, 'Simla, Past and Present' (1925). He noted: "Another well-known house on the Mahasu range is 'Wildflower Hall', for many years the property of Mr GHM Batten, CS, who officiated at one time as Private Secretary to the Earl of Lytton, and a favourite retreat of Lord Ripon's." (Both Lytton and Ripon were British Viceroys of India).Briefly, its most famous resident was Horatio Herbert Kitchener, Commander-in-Chief of the British Indian army. With less than perfect eyesight as a child, Kitchener was a poor shot — and later named three gun dogs "Bang", "Miss" and "Damn". Born in 1850, he and his brothers were trained for the army by their father as they grew up in Ireland. With his large body, piercing blue eyes and a moustache that went down in history as it bore down on army recruitment posters during the First World War, he had a coterie of admirers and an equally large band of 'sworn enemies'.

He was unexceptional at the Royal Military Academy but in 1898, he returned to London as the hero who had avenged the death of General Gordon, who had been



killed in the Sudan in January 1885 by the Madhi's forces. At Omdurman, he killed 10,000 Sudanese for the loss of 28 British soldiers — and complained over the waste of ammunition required in terminating the wounded on the ground. Queen Victoria bestowed upon him the title of 1st Earl Kitchener of Khartoum.As Commander-in-Chief of the British forces during the Boer War, he was a brilliant strategist who was ruthless in the execution of his plans. His concentration camps held Boer women and children and thousands of black Africans — many of whom died there. A man who had a remarkable collection of fine china, devoured detective novels and enjoyed arranging flowers, he loved all the panoply and trappings that came with his office.When the battle-weary Boer General, Jan Smuts, arrived at the little station of Kroonstad, in what was the Orange Free State, Kitchener arrived to meet him trailed by a mounted bodyguard of turbaned Pathans in crimson jackets, jackboots and gold-mounted scimitars. (Mahatma Gandhi also met Smuts several times and presented him with a pair of leather sandals that he crafted himself at Tolstoy Farm in South Africa. In 1939, Smuts returned the sandals to Gandhiji on his 70th birthday, writing: "I have worn these sandals for many a summer, even though I may feel that I am not worthy to stand in the shoes of so great a man.")

Meanwhile, Lord Curzon had come to India in 1899 as the youngest Viceroy to rule the country; he was still not 40. With the idea that his own image would be enhanced by Kitchener's presence, and despite warnings against Kitchener who was called "an uncouth and ruthless man", Curzon requested that the office be given to him. It seemed only a matter of time before the two would clash — and the battle between the Lord of the Indian Empire and the Lord of War, brought about by the acrimony over the extent of control that the civil government would exercise over the Indian army, led to Curzon's resignation.

In Shimla, Kitchener's official residence was Snowdon and for his personal comfort, he took the lease of Wildflower Hall as a suburban retreat — this still belonged to GHM Batten, who acted through his agent, Felix von Goldstein. While Kitchener's stamp on Snowdon remained up to the last moments of British rule in India, it is on record that he spent lavishly to maintain and develop the grounds of Wildflower Hall, but did not spend a penny on the house itself.

Kitchener's stay at Wildflower Hall contributed rather strangely to the development of Shimla and the Sanjauli tunnel. At that time, this was little more than a hole in the hill. On November 14, 1903, when Kitchener was riding back from Wildflower Hall, his horse shied away from a passing labourer. Kitchener's left leg twisted and snapped. Help came in the form of a Mr Jenn, who was coming in a rickshaw.

Simple hacks to make Rotis soft and fluffy



Do you often struggle to make soft and fluffy rotis? Then you need to stop and read on as we share some simple tips and tricks to make perfect soft chapatis. Then you need to pause and read this!

Why roti?

Roti is a staple in most Indian households and is an inseparable part of the Indian cuisine, which is prepared using whole wheat flour, millet flour or refined flour. There's no denying that this staple is mostly loved soft and fluffy, but making the art of making perfect rotis each time may seem like a daunting task. However, here are some tricks to make perfect rotis every time.Type of flourThe first step towards making a soft, fluffy roti starts with choosing the right flour. While most rotis are made with whole wheat flour or refined flour, the quality of the flour you use plays a big role in the texture of your roti. It is best to buy high-quality whole wheat flour that is finely ground. Coarse or low-quality flour may produce dense and hard rotis. Add a bit of all-purpose flour to the whole wheat flour if you want an extra soft texture. Always use freshly ground flour when possible, as it retains more nutrients and results in better texture and flavor.

Knead the dough well

Properly kneading the dough is one of the most crucial steps in making soft and fluffy rotis. The gluten in the flour needs to be activated to form a dough that is elastic and smooth. Knead the dough for at least 8-10 minutes until it's soft and smooth. If the dough feels rough or dry, add a little water. The dough should be slightly sticky but not too wet. After kneading, let the dough rest for at least 15-20 minutes. This resting time allows the gluten to relax, which will make rolling out the dough much easier and the rotis softer. Apply a little oil to the dough after kneading and cover it with a damp cloth to prevent it from drying out.

Use warm water for kneading

Using warm water instead of cold water for kneading the dough can make a significant difference in the texture of your rotis. Warm water softens the flour more effectively, which helps activate the gluten and makes the dough more elastic and easier to roll. It also results in a smoother, more pliable dough that will yield softer rotis. Tip: If you're kneading the dough by hand, keep a bowl of warm water nearby, adding it gradually until you get the right consistency. The dough should be soft but not sticky.

Roll out the dough evenly

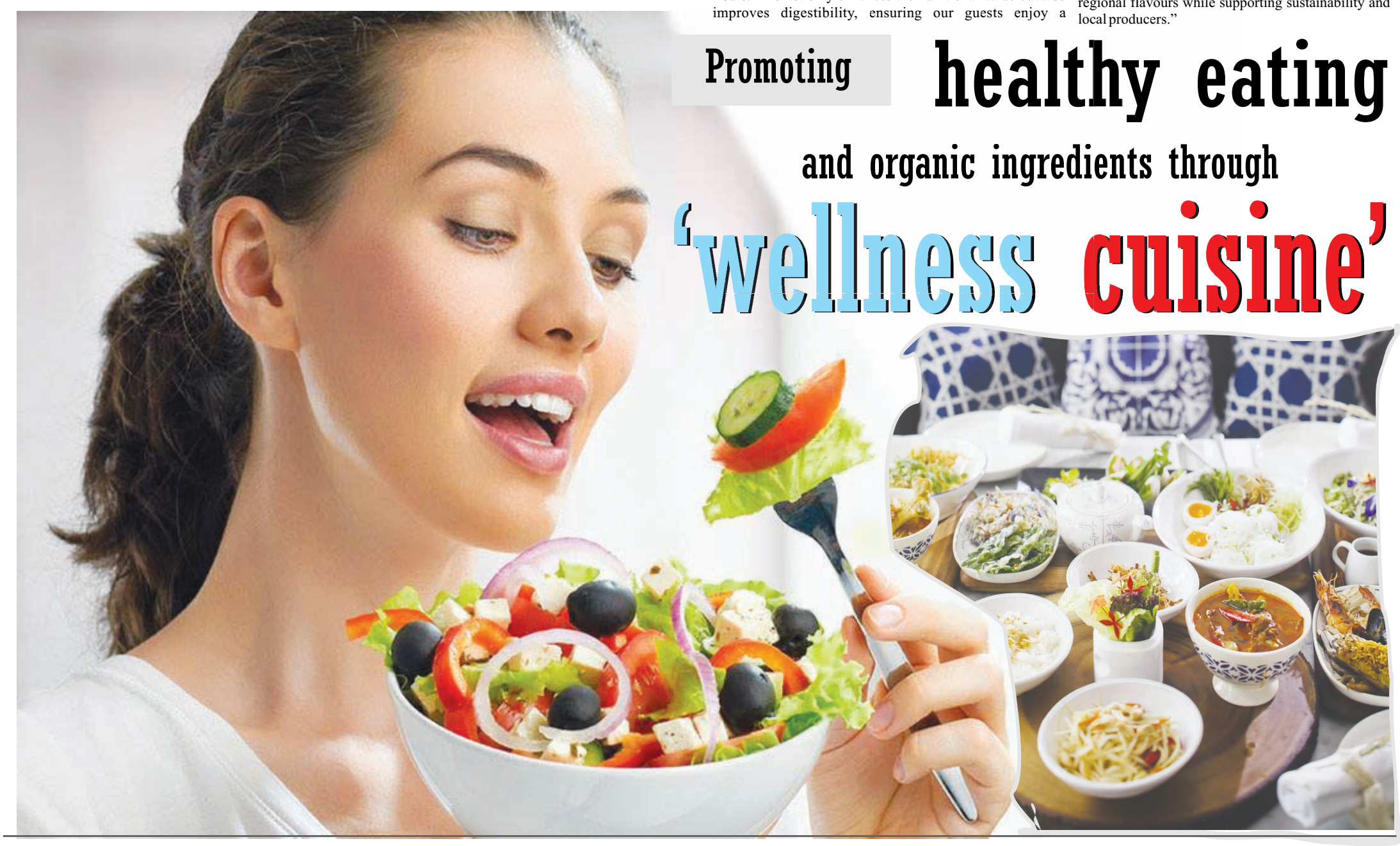
The way you roll the dough can influence whether your roti turns out fluffy or not. Uneven rolling results in uneven cooking, which leads to flat, dense rotis. Roll the dough out evenly to ensure the roti cooks uniformly. Use gentle, even pressure while rolling, and avoid pressing too hard on any part of the dough. Tip: Use a light dusting of flour to roll the dough, but avoid using too much flour as this can make the roti dry.

Heat the tawa or griddle properly

The griddle or tava you use for cooking the roti must be properly preheated to ensure the roti cooks evenly and puffs up.

An inadequately heated tawa can lead to tough, uncooked rotis. Preheat the tawa on medium-high heat for at least 3-4 minutes before placing the rolled-out dough on it. You can test if the tawa is hot enough by sprinkling a few drops of water on the surface. If the water sizzles immediately, the tawa is ready for the roti. Tip: Adjust the heat as necessary while cooking the roti. .

Promoting healthy eating and organic ingredients through 'wellness cuisine'



In the last few years, wellness has emerged as a buzzword in tourism and as part of this, wellness cuisine has gained immense popularity. As a concept, wellness cuisine focusses on promoting healthy eating, regional flavours, organic produce and healthy cooking methods. Chefs say that wellness cuisine is all about promoting holistic well-being through food and a lot of research goes into planning such a menu. The team at one of the premiere hotels at a leading wellness destination, Dharamshala, shares with us details about curating a menu that promotes local food and focusses on health and nutrition.

Giving a brief about their wellness menu, Rajesh Rajpurohit, general manager, Radisson Blu Resort, Dharamshala, says, "We have keenly observed the rising trend of wellness tourism and have tailored our menu to cater specifically to health-conscious travellers seeking rejuvenation. Our culinary offerings have been thoughtfully curated to include a diverse range of wholesome and nutritious options that align with the wellness journey of our guests."

From detox salads to gluten free options, an ideal wellness cuisine caters to guests with varied food choices. "We have granola bars and quinoa tart served to the guests upon entering the room. We have also incorporated dishes like chia seed puddings, detox salads, and gluten-free options using kale, avocado, and almond milk. Each dish is designed not only to be delicious but also to provide nutrient-dense alternatives that support mindful eating and overall well-being. We believe that dining should be an integral part of the wellness experience, and our menu reflects our commitment to offering meals that nourish both the body and the spirit."

The team at the hotel shares that significant adjustments have been made in preparation styles and ingredient selections to align with current wellness trends. "For example, we have reduced the use of refined sugar in our desserts, opting for healthier alternatives such as jaggery, honey, and coconut sugar, which provide both rich flavor and enhanced nutritional benefits.

To retain natural flavors and health properties, we prioritise the use of cold-pressed oils instead of refined oils. Our commitment to nutrition is further reflected in our choice of ingredients wherein several of our bread and dessert offerings are made of whole grains and millet instead of processed flours. This not only enhances the nutritional value but also improves digestibility, ensuring our guests enjoy a wholesome dining experience that supports their wellness goals," says Rajesh.

He adds, "To provide guests with a unique and healthy dining experience, we have thoughtfully integrated local Himachali ingredients into our menu, enhancing nutritional value while providing authentic experiences. For instance, we use buckwheat (locally known as kuttu) in our pancakes and bread, which is naturally gluten-free and nutrient-rich. Traditional dishes such as siddu have been created using organic whole wheat flour and fresh local vegetables. We also use wild honey, mountain herbs, and locally sourced vegetables, which not only create a farm-to-table appeal but also ensure our meals are both nourishing and flavourful. This approach enriches our menu with regional flavours while supporting sustainability and local producers."

7 Ways to make eggs for breakfast interesting



Bored of eating the same old roti sabzi for breakfast, then give your mornings a twist of taste by trying out some delicious and interesting egg recipes that are not just tasty but are super healthy! Read on to find out...

Why eggs?

There's no denying that eggs are one of the most simple and versatile breakfast options, which can be tweaked to make so many interesting and delicious delicacies. In fact, consuming eggs in the morning is the best time to include this high-protein food in the diet, as it helps in keeping you active and agile throughout the day. Last but not least, eggs are loaded with amino acids that make them a high-quality source of protein and healthy fats. However, one needs to keep the intake of eggs in moderation, as each egg contains around 73 calories. So, here are seven exciting ways to prepare eggs that will spice up your breakfast routine.

Shakshuka

Shakshuka is a vibrant and flavorful dish made by poaching eggs in a spicy tomato sauce, often seasoned with cumin, paprika, and garlic. This Middle Eastern and North African breakfast is served with warm crusty bread, making it perfect for dipping. The combination of poached eggs and the rich, zesty sauce creates a mouthwatering and satisfying breakfast. Add veggies like spinach or bell peppers for extra nutrition.Eggs BenedictEggs Benedict is a decadent breakfast that combines poached eggs, toasted English muffins, and a rich, buttery hollandaise sauce. This breakfast is a great way to treat yourself on weekends or special occasions, adding a touch of luxury to your morning.

Avocado and Egg Toast

Avocado toast has become a breakfast staple for a reason; especially when paired with eggs, it becomes even more delicious and nutritious. Simply mash some avocado on toasted whole-grain bread, season with salt, pepper, and lemon juice, and top it with a poached, fried, or scrambled egg. The creamy avocado balances the richness of the egg, creating a wholesome and satisfying meal.

Egg Muffins



Egg muffins are an easy and portable breakfast option, ideal for busy mornings. Whisk together eggs, your favorite veggies like spinach, bell peppers, or mushrooms, and a sprinkle of cheese, then bake the mixture in muffin tins. These egg cups are fully customizable and can be stored in the fridge for a quick breakfast throughout the week. They are high in protein, low in carbs, and easy to take with you on the go.

Frittata

Frittatas are similar to omelets but are baked in the oven, making them easier to prepare for multiple servings. To make a frittata, whisk eggs with vegetables, cheese, and herbs. Cook the mixture on the stove for a few minutes and then transfer it to the oven to finish cooking. You can add meats like bacon or sausage for extra flavor. This dish is perfect for a leisurely weekend breakfast or brunch.

Egg and veggie stir-fry

For a more savory breakfast, consider an egg and veggie stir-fry. Simply sauté a variety of vegetables like bell peppers, mushrooms, and spinach, then scramble in eggs for a healthy, protein-packed meal. You can add soy sauce or hot sauce for extra flavor, and top with herbs or a sprinkle of cheese. This breakfast is low-carb and provides a good balance of protein, fiber, and healthy fats.

Cloud Eggs

Cloud eggs are a fun and visually appealing way to make eggs for breakfast. To prepare cloud eggs, separate the egg whites from the yolks and beat the whites until stiff peaks form. Spoon the whipped egg whites onto a baking sheet, create a small indentation in the center, and carefully place the yolk into the indentation. Bake until the whites are golden and crispy and the yolk remains soft.



7 Foods to avoid Eating on an empty stomach



Eating the right foods on an empty stomach is crucial for maintaining digestive health and overall well-being. When you wake up in the morning or haven't eaten for a while, your stomach is in a sensitive state. Consuming the wrong foods can irritate your stomach lining, spike your blood sugar, or disrupt the balance of your digestive system. To ensure a smooth start to your day and to avoid any digestive discomfort, here are 7 foods to avoid eating on an empty stomach.

Citrus Fruits

While citrus fruits like oranges, grapefruit, and lemon are packed with vitamin C and antioxidants, eating them on an empty stomach can cause discomfort. The high acidity in these fruits can irritate your stomach lining, leading to acid reflux, bloating, or heartburn. Additionally, their tangy flavor might trigger the production of gastric acid, which could be overwhelming for an empty stomach.

Why to Avoid:

High acidity can cause irritation or heartburn.Can increase the production of stomach acid, leading to discomfort.

CoffeeFor many people, a cup of coffee is the first thing they reach for in the morning. While coffee provides a quick energy boost, drinking it on an empty stomach can be problematic. The caffeine in coffee stimulates the production of stomach acid, which, when there's no food to absorb it, can lead to acid reflux, heartburn, or stomach ulcers over time. Additionally, coffee can cause dehydration, especially when consumed without any food.

Why to Avoid:

Stimulates stomach acid production, leading to discomfort.Can irritate the stomach lining, causing gastritis or acid reflux.Dehydrates the body if consumed in large quantities.

Spicy Foods

Spicy foods, although flavorful, can be harsh on an empty stomach. When consumed without any food to buffer the spices, they can cause an increase in gastric acid production. This may lead to discomfort, such as acid reflux, heartburn, or even gastritis. Moreover, certain spices can irritate the stomach lining, making it more vulnerable to inflammation.

Why to Avoid:

Increases stomach acid production, leading to heartburn and discomfort.

Can irritate the stomach lining, causing inflammation.



Sweets

Sugary foods like pastries, cakes, and sugary cereals may seem like a sweet way to start the day, but they can spike your blood sugar levels when eaten on an empty stomach. This leads to a quick burst of energy followed by a crash, leaving you feeling sluggish and irritable. Additionally, consuming sugary foods on an empty stomach can cause bloating and indigestion.

Why to Avoid:

Rapid blood sugar spikes followed by crashes.Can cause bloating and digestive discomfort.

Yogurt

Although yogurt is generally considered healthy, consuming it on an empty stomach may not be the best idea, especially for those with sensitive stomachs. The high acidity of yogurt can interact with stomach acid, causing irritation or discomfort. Additionally, the live bacteria in yogurt, which are beneficial for gut health, can be disrupted by the acidic environment, rendering them **less effective.Why to Avoid:**

Can cause acidity or bloating when consumed on an empty stomach.

The live bacteria in yogurt may not be as effective when stomach acid is high.

Fried Foods

Fried foods like French fries, doughnuts, or fried chicken are heavy and hard to digest. Eating these on an empty stomach can overload your digestive system, leading to indigestion and bloating. The high-fat content in fried foods can also slow down the digestion process and may cause discomfort or even nausea, especially when there's no food to buffer the fat.

Why to Avoid:

Difficult to digest and can cause bloating or indigestion.Can overload the stomach, causing discomfort or nausea.

Raw Vegetables

While vegetables are an essential part of a healthy diet, eating raw vegetables on an empty stomach can cause bloating and gas. This is because raw vegetables contain fiber and certain enzymes that can be tough on the stomach when it's empty. For example, cruciferous vegetables like broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower are particularly known to cause bloating and discomfort due to their fiber content.

Why to Avoid:

Raw vegetables, especially cruciferous ones, can cause gas and bloating.

The fiber in raw vegetables can irritate an empty stomach.

Services won't be denied due to lack of Aadhaar authentication, says Delhi govt

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi government will not deny any service to residents due to a lack of Aadhaar authentication, allowing verification through alternative documents such as voter ID, driving licence and passport, an official notification said.

The notification issued recently by the Information Technology (IT) Department under the Aadhaar Act, 2016, makes Aadhaar authentication "voluntary" for residents, it said.The IT department is now mandated to inform Aadhaar



number holders about alternative and viable means of identification and ensure that no service is denied even if they are unable to undergo Aadhaar authentication or refuse to do so, the notification said. Aadhaar authentication will remain voluntary for the Unified Citizen Data Platform (UCDP).The alternative identity documents specified in the notification include voter identity card, driving licence, passport and any other photo identity card issued by the Central or state governments. The department will also be required to obtain the consent of the Aadhaar holders before carrying out the authentication.

Other papers

1. Alternative ID documents include voter I-card, driving licence, passport, etc
2. The IT Department now has to inform people about other means

6k CCTV cameras to keep an eye on Delhi parks

Delhi.(Agency)

In a major step towards women's safety in the national capital, the Delhi Police has stated that over 6,000 CCTV cameras have been installed in all public parks, and action has been initiated to ensure that fencing and boundary walls are completed by January 26.

The move follows Union Home Minister Amit Shah's directions during a review meeting in October at the Delhi Police Headquarters to formulate a three-month action plan for women's safety. According to the police, the crime against women has shown a decreasing trend from 2016 to 2025.A total of 19,822 dark spots have been identified and are being covered with CCTV surveillance. Audits have been completed for 1,635 public parks, and the boundary walls, fencing, and lighting



systems in these parks are being reinforced.Gates and regular patrolling have reached 100% coverage in 503 large parks. The deployment of PCR vehicles outside public parks is also being ensured.

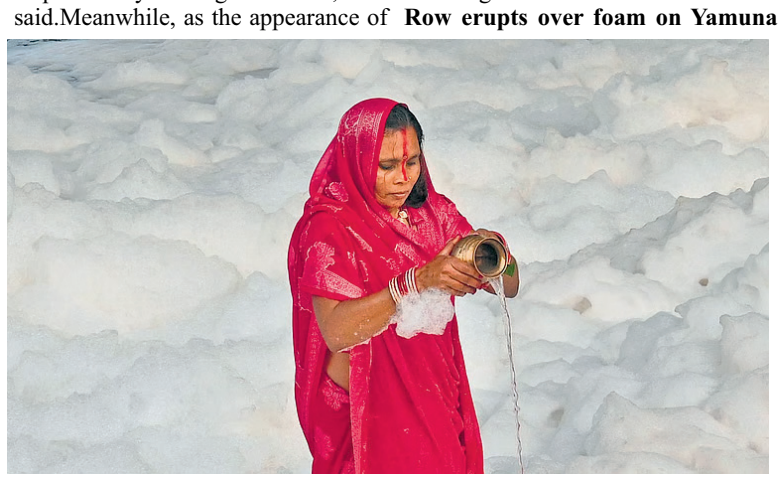
Technology is also being used for the women's safety framework, as the response time of the emergency response support system 112 has been reduced from 11.53 minutes to 8.02 minutes.A total of 178 pink scooters are actively patrolling, averaging 7.4 hours per scooter. Police have also deployed 35 all-women PCR vans. The department is also targeting to increase the current number of women personnel in the force from 17.3% to 25% by 2030.Around 308 walk-in complainants visit 125 pink booths on a daily basis, and 24x7 women help desks are fully operational at airport, railway, and metro police stations, police stated. There are 15 police districts across the city, and every district has an anti-human trafficking unit, and round-the-clock women help desks are functioning in all relevant police stations, including airports, railways, and metro stations.

Chhath devotees bask in devotion, Delhi CM lauds Purvanchalis' role in city

Delhi.(Agency)

A vast congregation of fasting women and devotees offered 'arghya' to the rising Sun God on Monday, the final day of the grand festival of Chhath Mahaparv, bringing their arduous four-day fast to a close.Marking this occasion, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta visited Hathi Ghat, joining devotees in prayers and offering prayers to Lord Bhaskar. Immersed in the fervour at the ghat, the Chief Minister enthusiastically participated in the sacred traditions of Chhath and extended her warm greetings to all.Gupta appeared completely steeped in the rich folk culture and heritage of Purvanchal— the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh and adjacent areas of western Bihar. Adorned in traditional attire, she sang soul-stirring traditional Chhath songs alongside fasting mothers and sisters, sharing in the joy of the holy festival.

She actively participated in the traditional rituals with the fasting women, applying vermilion as part of the customs, sharing the festive bliss, and seeking the divine blessings of Chhathi Maiya. The Chief Minister also interacted with the devotees.Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister emphasised that Chhath Mahaparv is a festival deeply rooted in faith and emotion for millions of Purvanchali brothers and sisters residing in Delhi."Today, the entire community stands united along the banks of the Yamuna, offering prayers to Chhathi Maiya. The people of Purvanchal have played a pivotal role in driving Delhi's progress through their hard work and dedication. They are an integral part of the Delhi family, and upholding their culture, traditions, and festivals is a primary responsibility of the government," she said.Meanwhile, as the appearance of



foam on the surface of the Yamuna river near Kalindi Kunj drew sharp criticism from the Opposition, the Delhi BJP on Monday hit back at AAP and the Congress. Instead of politicising the issue, the BJP said, AAP and Congress should explain why they failed to set up sewage treatment plants (STPs) when they were in power.Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor asserted, "The BJP government has taken steps toward cleaning the Yamuna. The construction of Chhath Puja ghats along 11 km of the Munak Canal, cleaning work in the Yamuna stretch from Sonia Vihar and Wazirabad to ITO, and the initiation of STP installation projects reflect the government's commitment to restoring the river's cleanliness."

Row erupts over foam on Yamuna river surface

As the appearance of foam on the surface of the Yamuna river near Kalindi Kunj drew sharp criticism from the Opposition, the Delhi BJP on Monday hit back at AAP and the Congress.

Instead of politicising the issue, the BJP said, AAP and Congress should explain why they failed to set up sewage treatment plants (STPs) when they were in power.

Two foreign nationals held at Delhi airport for smuggling gold worth Rs 3.21 crore

Delhi.(Agency)

In one of the biggest gold seizures at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport in the recent past, Customs officials recovered gold worth Rs 3.21 crore being smuggled by two foreign nationals who arrived from Kyrgyzstan. They had concealed it on their person.According to a customs officer, "The seizure took place on November 12. The duo was nabbed based on intelligence inputs received. They were nabbed while crossing the Green Channel (it is meant for flyers who have nothing to declare and are not carrying restricted items or have not crossed the duty-free limit) at the airport."An intensive personal search of both the passengers led to the recovery of eight oval black pouches inside which the yellow metal was concealed in paste form on the person of both of them, he said. "The pouches were wrapped in adhesive tape to keep the gold intact. Four gold bars were made by extracting it, which totally weighed a little over 2.31 kilograms. An extensive search of the luggage revealed they had nothing," he added.In the case of international travel, the import of gold or silver into India by a foreign national is prohibited under the Customs Act, while those of Indian origin are permitted to bring a maximum of 1 kg of gold if they have stayed abroad for at least six months.

The passengers were arrested under Section 104 of the Customs Act, 1962, which empowers a customs officer to arrest a passenger conducting an offence. The gold was seized under Section 110 of the Act.Further investigations are underway. "It is being checked if they are operating on their own or are part of a bigger cartel," he added.

Nov 12 incident

An intensive personal search of both the passengers led to the recovery of eight oval black pouches inside which the yellow metal was concealed in paste form on the person of both of them, he said. The seizure took place on November 12.

Paharganj roof collapse: Incident occurred while workers tried to remove lintel shuttering, says MCD

According to the MCD report, the collapse occurred during the removal of shuttering at the ground floor, when a portion of the newly constructed lintel gave way.

Delhi.(Agency)

A day after a roof under construction collapsed in central Delhi's Paharganj area, injuring eight people, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) reported on Monday that the incident occurred while workers were removing a lintel's shuttering.The report, however, did not establish the exact reason behind the collapse. The circumstances surrounding the incident that occurred on Sunday morning are currently being examined by the concerned authorities. According to the MCD report, the collapse occurred during the removal of shuttering at the ground floor, when a portion of the newly constructed lintel gave way.

The civic body said that the building was being constructed after obtaining approval



through a sanctioned building plan issued on June 4, 2024. No unauthorised construction was found at the property during the inspection.At the time of inspection, construction had been carried out up to the basement, stilt floor and part of the upper ground floor, the report said. While the MCD report recorded five people as having sustained minor injuries, police said eight people were taken to hospital for medico-legal examination following the incident.An FIR was registered at the Paharganj police station under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including Section 290 (negligent conduct during repair or construction of a building) and Section 125(a) (rash or negligent act endangering life).

Police nabbed the building owner, Raman, and contractor Anwar on Monday in connection with the collapse.The incident comes just over a week after a three-storey building in Old Delhi's Chawri Bazar area collapsed on November 5, killing seven people and triggering an extensive multi-agency rescue operation.

In the Chawri bazaar incident, the preliminary report from the MCD said that the building collapsed while the shuttering of the third floor roof was being removed.

Owner and contractor arrested

Police nabbed the building owner, Raman, and contractor Anwar on Monday in connection with the collapse. An FIR was registered at the Paharganj police station under relevant sections of BNS, including Section 290 (negligent conduct).

Delhi govt to conduct structural audit of 17 flyovers constructed before 2004

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi government has decided to conduct a structural safety audit of flyovers constructed more than two decades ago. According to sources, the Public Works Department (PWD) of the city government has identified 17 flyovers constructed before 2004 that will go for a comprehensive audit.These include the ITO flyover, operational since 1982, and the IIT flyover, constructed in 1992. The move was initiated following a report of a crack in the Old Rao Tula Ram flyover on the Outer Ring Road heading towards Vasant Vihar from Delhi Airport last month.

The flyovers which will go for comprehensive structural audit are Africa Avenue, Mayapari, Moti Bagh, Savitri Cinema, IIT, Sarita Vihar, Nehru Vihar, Kalkaji, Andrews Ganj, Nelson Mandela, Safdarjung Hospital, Britania Chowk, Panchsheel Enclave, Jagatpuri and Loni Road. These flyovers were constructed earlier by PWD, DDA and DTTDC.Following the discovery of cracks on the Rao Tula Ram (RTR) Flyover, the PWD has stepped up its measures regarding the safety of old flyovers. The PWD has directed officials to inspect flyovers built before 2004. The department will assess their current condition through technical inspections.Based on the findings, necessary repairs, structural strengthening and other improvement works will be undertaken.

In addition, officials have been asked to inspect several flyovers constructed between 2001 and 2004. These include the Andrews Ganj, Nehru Place, Savitri Cinema, Raja Garden and Safdarjung-AIIMS flyovers. There might be a possibility that expansion joints and bearings may have developed defects at several locations.



In view of this, it has been directed that all old flyovers be surveyed.

The flyovers set to undergo comprehensive review

The flyovers which will go for comprehensive structural audit are Africa Avenue, Mayapari, Moti Bagh, Savitri Cinema, IIT, Sarita Vihar, Nehru Vihar, Kalkaji, Andrews Ganj, Nelson Mandela, Safdarjung Hospital, Britania Chowk, Panchsheel Enclave, Jagatpuri and Loni Road. These flyovers were constructed earlier by PWD, DDA and DTTDC.

1 stenographer, 4,500 cases: Why Delhi court order in domestic violence case has been pending for 6 months

The Delhi High Court has sought an explanation from the trial court on the delay and its stenographer remark

Delhi.(Agency)

For over six-and-a-half months, an application related to the eviction of a woman from a property in North Delhi's Majlis Park has been awaiting an order in a trial court. The reason cited in the court's order sheet: just one stenographer is handling a pendency of over 4,500 cases.The Delhi High Court has now sought an explanation from the trial court on the delay. It is pending before a Judicial Magistrate First Class (Mahila Court) at Rohini Courts.

The case

The case was filed under the Domestic Violence Act. In an interim order dated December 1, 2023, the trial court had stayed the eviction of the woman's side from the upper ground floor of the residential property.When the order was not pronounced after four hearings, the petitioners approached the Delhi HC seeking an "expeditious and time-bound disposal of the application dated 08.04.2024", in which they had asked the trial court to vacate the interim stay granted on December 1, 2023.

After hearing the petitioners on November 6, Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora said in an order, "This Court has perused the order sheet filed on record… This Court is unable to discern from the order sheet the reason for the non-pronouncement of the order."Justice Arora directed the Registry to seek a report from the judge concerned, as well as the Chief Judicial Magistrate and the District Judge, on the reasons for not pronouncing the order. The report has to reach the High Court two days before the next hearing on December 3."The learned



CJM and the learned District Judge, in their report, will also explain the context of the remark, 'This Court is working with only one stenographer and having pendency of more than 4,500 cases', as it appears on the order sheet of the learned Trial Court, and similar such remarks appearing in the further orders of the concerned judge," the HC said in the order.The counsel for the petitioners told the High Court that arguments on the application were heard on January 6, and that the matter has remained pending for pronouncement of the order since April 22.

Days after Microsoft outage, top US banks see service disruptions due to 'bug'

New Delhi. (Agency)

Thousands of customers at some of the largest banks in the United States faced difficulties accessing their accounts and completing transactions on Monday, after a technical glitch at JPMorgan Chase triggered disruptions across financial services. Bank of America, Chase, Wells Fargo, US Bank and Truist were among the financial institutions that attracted a spike in outage reports on Downdetector. Customers also reported problems with Zelle, the digital payments platform used by major US banks. Chase, the largest US



bank by assets, said the disruption was caused by a software bug in its on-premise hardware systems. The bank ruled out a cyberattack, saying there was no evidence that the incident was cyber-related.

"JPMorgan Chase has experienced a temporary issue related to a software bug in on-premise hardware systems – there is no evidence it is cyber-related. It is taking longer than usual to service some customers," a bank spokesperson said. The bank added that customers could still access their accounts and funds, although some transactions were taking longer than usual to complete. Downdetector recorded a sharp increase in complaints involving Chase, with thousands of customers reporting difficulties logging into their accounts, checking balances and completing money transfers.

India ready to order 1,000 more planes amid aircraft shortage: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi. (Agency)

India is ready to order another 1,000 civilian aircraft to meet rising air traffic demand as the country faces an acute shortage of planes, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

Speaking to reporters during his two-day visit to Egypt, Goyal said India had already placed orders for more than 1,200 aircraft but would need over 2,000 planes to meet its requirements. He added that the government was pursuing established aircraft manufacturers to ensure faster deliveries. "We have ordered more than 1,200 planes, and we are ready to order another 1,000 planes, we need more than 2,000 planes for our requirements. So we are pursuing the established manufacturers of aircraft for faster supplies," Goyal said.

The minister also highlighted the need to expand air connectivity between India and Egypt, saying additional aircraft would help airlines introduce more flights on the route. "We need to see more (air) connectivity... as we get more aircraft, we are sure we will be able to have more flights to Egypt," he said. Goyal is in Egypt to discuss ways to strengthen trade and investment ties between the two countries. Currently, EgyptAir operates direct flights between India and Egypt. India is among the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets, with domestic carriers IndiGo and Air India placing large aircraft orders with global manufacturers Airbus and Boeing to meet growing passenger demand.

Tata Steel eyes 50 MT capacity, to direct 75% capex to India: TV Narendran

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tata Steel is targeting an ambitious expansion of its annual steelmaking capacity in India to 50 million tonnes over the next decade and is exploring the possibility of setting up a 15 MT greenfield plant in Maharashtra, as it seeks to capitalise on the country's growing steel demand, Managing Director and CEO T V Narendran said. The company, which currently has an annual capacity of around 27 million tonnes, believes its existing manufacturing facilities can support expansion to 50 million tonnes, while Maharashtra could emerge as a major growth destination beyond its ongoing projects. "We have a roadmap for 40 MT. We also know that the existing facilities can go up to 50 MT, so that is clear. The path is available. It is up to us how fast we can move," Narendran said in an interview. "We are constantly looking five years, 10 years ahead. How do we create a pathway so that we can grow fast? It is not that we are going to move from 27 MT to 60 or 70 MT overnight," he said.

The expansion plans underline India's growing importance for the Tata Group steel major, with the country's contribution to its revenues rising significantly over the past 15 years. "Fifteen years back, India was 30 per cent of our revenues. Today, it is 70 per cent," Narendran said.

The company will continue to allocate the bulk of its annual capital expenditure towards India, which has emerged as its principal growth market at a time when steel consumption in Europe remains largely stagnant. Tata Steel plans to spend around Rs 18,000-20,000 crore on capital expenditure this year, of which approximately 75 per cent will be invested in the country.

8th Pay Commission: Why Railway employees want 2 more days to present their demands

From salary hikes and allowances to pension changes, Railway employees have several demands before the 8th Pay Commission. But will the Commission give them more time to put forward their concerns?

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

The 8th Pay Commission's discussions on salary, allowances and pension changes are gaining momentum. Now, the All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) wants the Commission to set aside at least two more days to ensure that the demands of several Railway employee categories are heard.

Formally established on November 3, 2025, the 8th Central Pay Commission is tasked with reviewing the salaries, allowances and pensions of central government employees and pensioners. Its recommendations are expected to benefit more than 50 lakh employees and nearly 69 lakh pensioners. In a letter to Pankaj Jain, Member Secretary of the 8th Pay Commission, AIRF General Secretary Shiva Gopal Mishra has requested another meeting with the Commission's Chairperson and members. He said several categories of



railway employees are yet to get an opportunity to present their specific demands and service-related concerns.

Mishra referred to the meeting held between the AIRF delegation and the 8th Pay Commission on October 30, 2026. During the meeting, the federation presented its views on the demands of Loco and Traffic Running Staff, Technicians, Track Maintainers and other employees of the Civil Engineering Department. Thanking the Commission for giving the delegation an opportunity to present its views, Mishra said the discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere and that the members patiently heard their submissions.

However, he pointed out that railway employees work across several departments, each with different responsibilities, working conditions and service-related issues. As a result, many categories still need to be covered in discussions with the Commission.

AIRF has already submitted its detailed memorandum through a letter dated October 10, 2026. Mishra has now requested another meeting to present the demands of the remaining employee categories.

WHICH RAILWAY EMPLOYEE CATEGORIES ARE SEEKING REPRESENTATION?

In his letter, Mishra listed several categories of railway employees whose demands AIRF wants to place before the 8th Pay Commission.These include all non-gazetted employees of the Railway Medical Department, along with supervisory staff from technical departments. The latter includes Drawing and Design staff, CMT staff, Depot Material Superintendents (DMS) and employees of the Information Technology (IT) cadre. The federation has also sought discussions on non-gazetted employees of the Traffic Department, including controllers, excluding train managers.

He quit a high-paying US job to build in India. Now, his first batch is sold out

From leaving a high-paying US job to building a product for the Indian market, Anand Balakrishnan's entrepreneurial journey is gathering pace. The moulds are ready, the first batch is sold out, and production in India is the next big step.

New Delhi. (Agency)

An entrepreneur who left a high-paying job in the US to build a manufacturing business in India is now moving closer to bringing his product to the domestic market. The product's moulds have been developed and tested, and the next step is to bring them to India and begin production. The development was shared by Prakash Dadlani, an electronics appliance manufacturer in India with over three decades of experience in OEM, ODM, imports and exports. He said his company, Topsail, has been working closely with entrepreneur Anand Balakrishnan to take the product from the design stage to manufacturing. The market response has already been encouraging, with the first batch selling out after Anand



tested the product.

FROM PRODUCT IDEA TO MANUFACTURING

Building a product from scratch involves more than just having a good idea. It requires design, sourcing the right components, testing and several rounds of changes before it is ready for production. Anand went through this process after returning to India from the US. Using his engineering skills, he designed a product that he believed was missing from the Indian market. He also worked with industrial designers, sourced components himself and made multiple changes to the product. Dadlani said Topsail joined the project at the tooling stage and worked closely with Anand to prepare the product for manufacturing.

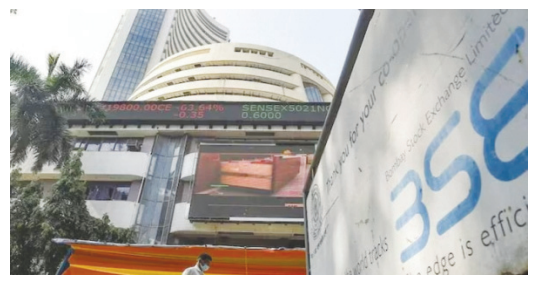
"We worked alongside Anand from the tooling stage, coordinating with our manufacturing partners in China to get the moulds developed and ready for production," he wrote in a post on X.

Sensex surges over 600 points: reasons why Dalal Street is on a roll

New Delhi. (Agency)

The bulls are back on Dalal Street, and this time the rally has some powerful triggers behind it. The Sensex surged over 600 points on Tuesday, extending gains for a second consecutive session as foreign investors returned to domestic equities, crude oil prices cooled and banking stocks powered ahead.

At 1:04 pm, the 30-share BSE Sensex was trading at 82,726.40, up 621.61 points, or 0.76%. The NSE Nifty 50 stood at 25,442.50, gaining 151.40 points, or 0.60%. The banking rally was particularly strong, with the Bank Nifty touching a fresh record high of 62,414.90. The advance was broad-based, with all sectoral indices trading in the green. PSU banks, realty, automobiles, metals and IT stocks were among the



leading gainers. Here are four reasons behind the latest market rally.

1. Foreign investors are pouring money back into domestic equities One of the biggest drivers of the rally has been the return of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), who had pulled money out of domestic equities over the previous two months. The reversal has been striking. Foreign investors bought domestic equities worth Rs 4,864.68 crore on Monday, according to exchange data. Their cumulative investment in domestic equities during November has also climbed sharply, with NSDL data cited by market reports putting the inflow at around Rs 89,856 crore. The renewed buying has helped lift market sentiment and provided support to heavyweight stocks. VK Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Investments, said the combination of stronger foreign inflows, improving earnings and a firmer rupee was strengthening the outlook for domestic equities.

Adani Green issues clarification after stop-work notice to Tarali project

Satara. (Agency)

Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) has issued a clarification after the Maharashtra Forest Department directed it to stop work on its Tarali Pumped Storage Project in Satara district, saying construction began only after obtaining the necessary approvals from the concerned authorities. In a statement issued on November 16, the company said no component of the project falls within any notified Protected Area and that no forest land is involved. It added that it had received a no-forest-land certificate on January 23, 2024.

The clarification came after the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, issued a stop-work notice dated November 13 to the project manager of Tarali Pumped Storage Project. The notice directed the company to immediately halt all ongoing work until the required wildlife approvals were obtained. According to the Forest Department's notice, an inspection found that work had



commenced at Mauje Tarale, which the department described as falling within the deemed Eco-Sensitive Zone of the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve. It said the project had started without obtaining mandatory prior approval from the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).

WHAT THE FOREST DEPARTMENT'S NOTICE SAYS

The notice, issued by Amol Satpute, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Satara Forest Division, described the commencement of work without the required wildlife approval as a serious matter and referred to provisions of the applicable forest and wildlife laws. The department directed the company to stop all ongoing work at the Tarali project site until the necessary prior approval was obtained from the competent authority and the NBWL. It also asked the company to submit a detailed written explanation within three days of receiving the notice, clarifying under what authority and on what basis project work had commenced without the required NBWL approval.

Explained: What led to Intel's 29% stock plunge and why shareholders are suing

Intel lost nearly $140 billion in market value in a single trading session in October. Now, investors allege that Intel failed to disclose the extent of its PC business troubles even as it raised $23 billion through a share sale.

New Delhi. (Agency)

What happens when investors discover that a company's biggest problems may have been hiding behind its biggest growth opportunity? That is the question confronting Intel, one of America's most prominent semiconductor companies, after shareholders sued the chipmaker over allegations that it concealed the extent of a slowdown in its personal computer (PC) business.cipate in their long-term growth potential.

The lawsuit comes weeks after Intel suffered a dramatic stock-market rout. Its shares plunged 28.6% on October 30, wiping out approximately $140 billion in market value in a single trading session. The fall followed disappointing financial guidance and warnings that weakness in the PC market could continue into 2027. But the shareholders' complaint goes beyond a disappointing quarter. It alleges that Intel failed to adequately disclose the problems affecting its business even as it raised billions of dollars from investors and sought to capitalise on the artificial intelligence (AI) boom. So, what went wrong, and why are investors now taking the company to court? And most importantly, what triggered the 29% crash in its share price? The trigger was Intel's third-quarter earnings announcement on October 29. While the company reported overall revenue of $16.5 billion, its traditional PC business showed signs of considerable strain.



Revenue from its Client Computing and Physical AI Group stood at $8.1 billion, down $800 million sequentially. Within this, notebook and desktop PC revenue was $6.9 billion, down $424 million from the same quarter a year earlier. Sales volumes declined 14%, reflecting weaker demand and a competitive market.

Intel also warned that the PC slowdown could persist through at least the first half of 2027.

Its fourth-quarter revenue forecast of $15 billion to $16 billion disappointed investors, who had expected approximately $17.1 billion. And the market reaction was brutal. Intel shares fell from $92.07 on October 29 to $65.76 on October 30, a decline of 28.6%. The plunge wiped out around $140 billion in market value.

INTEL'S STRUGGLE WITH PC SALES

For decades, Intel's business was closely linked to the global personal computer market. Its processors powered computers used in homes, offices and businesses worldwide.However, the economics of the PC industry have changed, rather drastically. Consumers are holding on to computers for longer, businesses are cautious about technology spending, and competition in the processor market has intensified. Another problem that has taken shape is rising memory prices. Memory is a crucial component of computers. When its price increases, manufacturers face higher production costs, which can eventually make PCs more expensive for consumers. This can discourage purchases and leave manufacturers and distributors with unsold inventory.

Madras HC seeks white paper on books procured in 20 years

MADURAI.(Agency)

The Madurai Bench of Madras HC on Monday urged the state government to undertake a detailed probe and submit a white paper on the manner in which the procurement of books for public libraries was made in the last two decades.A bench of justices GR Swaminathan and MD Sumathi observed that the recent scam has shaken the conscience of the people of TN, and their faith in the system must be restored.The judges also suggested custodial interrogation of the 'bogus' publishers identified by the DVAC. "Unless they are custodially interrogated, one will never know how much money was paid to which public servant. The modus operandi must be brought out," they added.

The bench made the observations while hearing a contempt petition filed by V Ramasubbu of Tirunelveli, over non-compliance of an order passed by the court in 2024.Stating that the court's earlier guidelines have been rendered 'toothless', the judges annexed elaborate suggestions made by stakeholders, such as founder of Kizhakku Pathippagam, Badrinarayanan Seshadri, and two more unnamed individuals, to the order copy and expressed .

Husband not liable for debts of wife's firm: Andhra HC

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has ruled that a husband cannot be held legally responsible for the financial liabilities and contractual obligations of a sole proprietorship business owned by his wife merely because of their marital relationship.Justice Nune Palli Harinath delivered the verdict on Monday while dismissing two petitions filed by Krishna District Milk Producers Mutually Aided Cooperative Union and its directors Dasari Balavardhana Rao and Vemuri Sai Ramana, challenging orders of the Andhra Pradesh Cooperative Tribunal in an election dispute. The court upheld the tribunal's decision to set aside the August 12, 2023 election to two director posts and order fresh elections.

The dispute arose after the nomination of Veerapaneni Sivarama Prasad, president of Penamakuru Milk Producers Cooperative Society, was rejected on the ground that his wife Padmaja's sole proprietorship, Ratnalamma Dairy, allegedly owed money to the cooperative union.His nomination was rejected in August 2022, citing outstanding dues of Rs 4.26 lakh. When he filed another nomination, the alleged dues were stated to have increased. His nomination was also rejected on the ground that his proposers had not attended the previous two general body meetings.

Ayodhya's business boom: How Ram temple changed shops, rents and livelihoods

Ayodhya.
(Agency)

There was a time when traders in Ayodhya waited for festivals and religious fairs to make their money. The crowds would arrive, shops would get busy, and business owners would try to earn enough during those few days to sustain themselves through the quieter months.

That rhythm of business has changed.Since the construction of the Ram temple and the consecration of Ram Lalla in January 2024, Ayodhya has witnessed a sustained flow of devotees and tourists. What was once a market dependent on a handful of religious occasions is increasingly becoming a year-round commercial destination.

The change is visible in the city's shopfronts, rental agreements and property market. Shop rents that once ranged between Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,000 a month are now reportedly fetching Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000 in some locations. New businesses have opened, existing traders say their earnings have multiplied, and people from outside the city are exploring opportunities to invest in hotels, shops and other commercial properties.

From Naxalite crackdown to five shootings in six months: Bengal's troubled tryst with police encounters

Kolkata.(Agency)

Five deaths in police firing in six months have brought West Bengal's troubled history of encounters back into focus, drawing parallels with the Naxalite crackdown of the 1970s, the Gorkhaland agitation and subsequent anti-crime operations, while raising questions over the limits of police power and the new government's endorsement of retaliatory firing.The five men, killed in Baruipur, Gaighata, Samserganj, Raiganj and Nanoor since July, were accused of serious crimes, including rape, murder and firing at police personnel. Police maintained that officers opened fire in self-defence after the accused allegedly attacked them.For a state that witnessed the disappearance of a generation during midnight raids, custodial interrogations and alleged staged encounters during the anti-Naxalite crackdown, the latest shootings have revived memories of a turbulent past. The circumstances may differ, but the debate over how far police can go in the name of law enforcement remains familiar.Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, who also holds the Home portfolio, has repeatedly backed the police response."Will the police throw rasgullas if they are fired upon by criminals?" he asked, saying personnel had been given operational freedom in rape and murder, drug trafficking and infiltration cases.To understand the latest debate, it is necessary to revisit the phases in which "police encounters" shaped Bengal's political and security landscape.Former DG-rank officer Raj Kanojia said encounters and retaliatory firing had occurred under successive governments, cautioning against categorising every police shooting as an encounter."Such incidents are not new to Bengal. During the Naxalite period, they were quite common. There were also instances during the Gorkhaland agitation, when armed men in the hills confronted the police. When I was in Kolkata Police's Detective Department, there were encounters as we dealt with dreaded gangs.



However, I would not necessarily describe all these incidents as encounters. These were retaliatory firings in self-defence," he told PTI.The first and perhaps most traumatic phase was the crackdown on the Naxalite movement, which began with the 1967 Naxalbari uprising and subsequently spread to Kolkata. Confrontations between police and underground revolutionary groups intensified in the early 1970s, amid allegations of torture, custodial deaths and staged encounters.Operation Steeplechase, conducted in July-August 1971 under President's Rule, marked a major military and police offensive against the movement. The crackdown intensified under then chief minister Siddhartha Shankar Ray after he assumed office in 1972. Naxalite ideologue Charu Mazumdar died in police custody, while the Baranagar-Kashipur killings of August 1971 remain another grim episode.

The next major phase came during the Gorkhaland agitation in the Darjeeling hills, led by Subhas Ghising's Gorkha National Liberation Front between 1986 and 1988. The movement witnessed repeated confrontations between security personnel and armed supporters.

'I felt a presence… there were footsteps': The ghost stories haunting Shimla

From government bungalows that officers avoid to a hospital ward and a stretch of road associated with spirits, stories of hauntings and misfortune remain part of the hill town's local folklore.

Chandigarh(Agency)

The winding road climbs towards a sharp bend, where a heavy black iron gate stands at the corner. Beyond the gate, glimpses of a two-storey bungalow emerge through the dense foliage lining the pathway. A small white plaque beside the gate reads: "CORNER HOUSE RESIDENCE COMMISSIONER M.C. SHIMLA".



The bungalow, once known as MC Quarter during the colonial period, had stood vacant for years. Situated on Shimla's US Club Road, which connects Sanjauli with Snowdon, it has acquired a reputation for unexplained occurrences — footsteps heard in empty rooms, movements no one can account for and shadows glimpsed inside the house.None of this deterred Bhupender Kumar Attri. When he was appointed Shimla Municipal Corporation Commissioner in July 2023, he decided to move into the bungalow with his family, despite having heard the stories and being advised against it."I have heard many things about this house… that there are unusual spirits. Every night, somebody walked in the house. You would find yourself in the presence of invisible shadows," says Attri. "Whoever occupied this house was unable to complete his tenure," he adds.He says that most officers allotted the bungalow had preferred to stay away from it, though some had their own houses in Shimla and did not need the accommodation. "But that was not the case with me. I don't have a personal house in Shimla, and I decided to stay here with my family."

Shimla's stories of hauntings and misfortune are not confined to old, abandoned houses. They have attached themselves to government residences, hospital wards and even stretches of road.At Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, for instance, Room No. 13 in the women's surgical ward is associated with the spirit of a woman who is believed to have died during childbirth. Another local legend surrounds a stretch of road known as 'Chudail Baudi'. Passed down through generations, these accounts have become part of local folklore.For Attri, the house turned out to be rather lucky. "Both my daughters cracked the prestigious NEET examination during their stay in this house. My elder daughter, Khushi, is pursuing MBBS at KM Medical College and Hospital in Mathura, while the younger one, Anvi, is pursuing MBBS at Dr Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, Tanda, in Kangra," he says proudly.

He is now the Managing Director of Himachal Pradesh Milkfed and continues to live in the bungalow.

Attri, however, admits that conversations about the house's supposed paranormal activities were not uncommon within his family. "Whenever my daughters tried to discuss 'unusual things' or tell me about some strange experiences in the house, I told them to keep quiet, with a simple advice: 'The more you discuss these things, the more they will happen'," he says.

Man feared drowned while trying to retrieve woman's body near Bengaluru

Bangalore.(Agency)

A man who entered the Dakshina Pinakini water channel in Bengaluru Urban district's Anekal taluk on Sunday night to retrieve the body of a 35-year-old woman who had allegedly died by suicide is feared drowned, the police said.Neither body has been recovered. A team from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is expected to join the search operation.

According to the police, the woman, identified as Kavitha Srinivas, a native of Kolar district, initially attempted to jump into the water channel near Mugaluru with her 10-year-old daughter. However, after the child resisted, passersby intervened, but Kavitha allegedly jumped into the water.The police, along with Fire and Emergency Services personnel, conducted a search operation that night and on Monday morning.The police denied that the man, Manjunath, entered the water after they sought his assistance in the recovery operation. According to the police, he was brought to the spot by the woman's relatives. He was allegedly intoxicated and claimed he had experience retrieving bodies from canals.The police and Fire and Emergency Services personnel reportedly cautioned Manjunath, a resident of Malur in Kolar, against entering the water, explaining that the channel was deep and filled with sewage and other waste, which made the recovery operation particularly hazardous."Manjunath was sent back after being warned. However, while the rescue personnel were continuing the search using ropes, he entered the water from the other side despite the warnings. He is feared to have drowned in the deeper stretch," a police officer said.Dakshina Pinakini is a river course, though this stretch currently operates as a primary drainage waterway carrying sewage and stormwater runoff from eastern Bengaluru.The police said the water channel carries drainage and sewage and the accumulation of waste could have prevented the bodies from moving to other locations."Both bodies are yet to be recovered. The search operation is continuing, and an NDRF team is expected to reach the spot shortly to assist in the operation," the police officer said.

Odisha on alert as Cyclone Akvan brews; 74 teams on standby

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

The state government has put its disaster management machinery on high alert as cyclonic storm Akvan develops over the Bay of Bengal. Revenue and Disaster Management minister Suresh Pujari on Monday chaired a high-level review meeting here to assess the readiness of districts likely to be affected.Stressing that public safety and saving lives should be the foremost priority, Pujari directed all departments and district administrations to stay fully alert and coordinate closely to handle any emergency.

Collectors, particularly of Ganjam, Gajapati, Puri, Rayagada, Koraput and Malkangiri, were asked to speed up preparedness, keep district emergency operation centres (DEOCs) running round-the-clock, appoint nodal officers and hold regular situation reviews. Authorities have also been asked to compile data on vulnerable zones and at-risk families with special focus on children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and pregnant women.

Cyclone shelters are being readied with drinking water, sanitation, electricity and backup generators, vehicles and essential supplies. Given the recent landslides, Pujari asked officials to remain fully vigilant and expedite the evacuation of residents from pre-identified landslide-prone areas.A total of 74 emergency response teams, comprising 60 Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) and 14 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) units, are being deployed or pre-positioned in Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Puri and other districts, he said.The minister directed the Water Resources department to continuously monitor reservoir levels, inflows, river gauges and vulnerable embankments, while the Works and Rural Development departments will identify weak stretches on roads, bridges and culverts. The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare and Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water departments have been told to ensure adequate stocks of food grains, dry ration, drinking water and fuel.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Akvan formed on Monday and lay over the central parts of the south and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal at about 5.30 pm. It is likely to move north-northwestwards and intensify into a severe cyclone over the west-central Bay of Bengal around Tuesday evening.It is then expected to track northwestwards and become a very severe cyclone by Thursday morning. The storm is forecast to cross the Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts between Nellore and Tuni around Friday afternoon, with maximum sustained wind speeds of 120 to 130 kmph, gusting up to 145 kmph.Odisha's south and western districts.



Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh under dense fog alert from November 17 to 20

Chandigarh.(Agency)

With temperatures dipping and winter conditions gradually setting in, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for dense fog in Chandigarh, Punjab and Haryana for the next four days, from November 17 to 20.

The Chandigarh Meteorological Department has warned of dense fog in isolated places, which could reduce visibility, particularly during morning and night hours. The conditions may affect commuters, especially those travelling on highways and other road stretches during early morning hours.The alert comes after a noticeable fall in temperatures across the Tricity on Monday, with Panchkula recording the lowest minimum temperature.



Chandigarh recorded the season's lowest at 11 degrees Celsius, which was 3.5 degrees below normal, early on Wednesday.Meanwhile, the minimum at the Panchkula weather station dropped by 3.6 degrees Celsius from the previous day to settle at 10.9°C.According to the IMD's forecast, there is unlikely to be any major change in the weather pattern over the next five days, with mainly clear skies expected across the Tricity of Chandigarh, Panchkula and Mohali. However, the dense fog warning remains in force till November 20.Maximum temperatures will hover between 27°C and 28°C, while minimum temperatures are forecast to hover around 14°C on Wednesday, rise to 15°C on Thursday and Friday, and dip further to 12°C on Saturday.According to IMD, the weather is expected to remain dry across Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh through Sunday, with no rainfall activity forecast.The weather department has advised caution during foggy conditions as reduced visibility can make road travel difficult.

NZ vs IND: Ravindra warns of early seam threat, backs batters to score big in Tests

New Delhi.(Agency)

New Zealand's pitches may o er plenty of assistance to fast bowlers early in a Test, but batters can expect better conditions as the match progresses, feels all-rounder Rachin Ravindra. With India set to begin their two-Test series in Wellington on Thursday, Ravindra expects a competitive contest, with the new ball likely to pose the biggest challenge. The 26-year-old believes the green tinge on New Zealand pitches can make batting look di cult, but there is enough in



the conditions for batters to score big once they settle in and trust their plans.Typically, a lot of people say about Test cricket, New Zealand always plays a bit better than it looks. I think the grass coverage and the green tinge sort of makes us wonder what's it going to do? Is it going to nip, bounce or seam? But that's a standard Test wicket," Ravindra said ahead of the opening Test.

He expects the Basin Reserve to o er good bounce and carry, while acknowledging that seamers are likely to have the upper hand, particularly with the new ball."I think the new ball is always going to do that. But you've seen some fantastic scores and great games of cricket played here at the Basin in the last few years.

Bumrah returns as Shubman Gill confirms four-pacer plan for New Zealand Tests

New Delhi.(Agency)

India will field four fast bowlers in the opening Test against New Zealand, captain Shubman Gill confirmed on Tuesday, with Jasprit Bumrah returning to lead the pace attack for the two-match



series starting Thursday.

With several players competing for places in the playing XI, India are yet to settle on their final combination. However, Gill made it clear that the team is keen to stick with a four-man pace attack, having been encouraged by the performances of its fast bowlers in recent months."We will be playing four fast bowlers for sure," Gill said at the pre-match press conference.India head into the series after winning the ODI leg 3-1, with their young fast bowlers making a strong impression. Gill said their performances had given the team a selection headache, but one he was happy to have."All our fast bowlers have done well and it is a good headache to have. Fast bowlers stepped up in the ODI series. We are still deciding on the final combination. We will play with four fast bowlers," he said.

Bumrah is expected to lead the attack, with Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep and Prasidh Krishna among the contenders for the remaining places. Gurnoor Brar has also retained his place in the squad following his performances in the ODI series, while spinner Kuldeep Yadav was released.Gill said India were also weighing their batting options before finalising the playing XI.

MSD-ejavu: Dhoni keeps CSK guessing ahead of IPL 2027 retention deadline day

As CSK prepare for IPL 2027, uncertainty over MS Dhoni's future has resurfaced. With the veteran wicketkeeper yet to make a decision on his availability, the franchise and its supporters await clarity ahead of the retention deadline day.

New Delhi.(Agency)

You either die a hero or live long enough to see yourself become the villain. The famous line from *The Dark Knight* might apply to many sporting greats, but MS Dhoni has seemingly found an exception. At least in Chennai, where his relationship with the fans of the Super Kings has rarely been dictated by results, age or even the number of matches he plays.There have been trade rumours, last-minute deals and plenty of movement in the build-up to the IPL 2027 retention deadline. But as November 17 approaches, the Yellove Army has found itself returning to a familiar question. Will Thala turn up in yellow again?

It has been six years since Dhoni famously responded with a 'Definitely Not' when asked if IPL 2020 would be his last season in yellow. Since then, speculation about his future has become an annual feature of the IPL calendar. The curious thing is that Dhoni, who walked away from international cricket with an unannounced retirement on Independence Day in 2020, has found it considerably harder to bring the curtain down on his IPL career.

THE FAREWELL WAIT

In November 2021, after leading CSK to their fourth IPL title, Dhoni told the fans that he hoped his last T20 game would be played in Chennai. "Whether it's next year or in five years' time, I don't know," he said. It was a simple assurance, but one that has kept an



entire fanbase waiting ever since.

The farewell could have come in 2023. In fact, few sporting careers have o ered a more cinematic ending. Dhoni had led CSK to a fifth IPL title, with Ravindra Jadeja producing a last-ball heist in the final against Gujarat Titans. The captain lifting Jadeja in celebration at the Narendra Modi Stadium was an image that could have comfortably occupied the final page of his IPL story."The easy thing for me to say is thank you and retire. But the hard thing to do is to work hard for nine months and try to play one more IPL season," he said after the triumph. He called another season a gift for the fans, adding that it would not be easy on his body.

WHEN THE CHEER FADES

The body, meanwhile, has hardly been a willing accomplice. Dhoni underwent knee surgery after the 2023 season but returned for IPL 2024. Ahead of the 2025 mega auction, CSK retained him for Rs 4 crore under the reinstated uncapped-player rule. He played all 14 matches that season, scoring 196 runs at a strike rate of 135.17. When Ruturaj Gaikwad was ruled out with an elbow injury.

Virat Kohli will regret Test retirement, angry decision not right: Kapil Dev

New Delhi.(Agency)

Former India captain Kapil Dev believes Virat Kohli made the biggest mistake of his career by retiring from Test cricket, arguing that the batting great had the fitness and ability to continue playing the longest format. Kapil also feels Kohli could regret his decision a decade from now.In an interview with Mid-Day, the 1983 World Cup-winning captain questioned



why Kohli chose to walk away from Test cricket when he still had the physical conditioning to compete at the highest level."I think Virat Kohli made the biggest mistake. He retired from Test cricket. He will regret his decision after 10 years. He should not have retired. Kohli has fitness on his side, and his fitness is far better than any other player. He can challenge even a 25-year-old cricketer on fitness," Kapil said.The former India all-rounder also drew a comparison with Mohinder Amarnath, pointing out how the former India batter repeatedly fought his way back into the national team after being dropped."Getting angry and retiring is not right. They should be like Mohinder Amarnath. He was dropped so many times, but he came back and proved others wrong," Kapil added.

Kohli announced his retirement from Test cricket in May 2025, bringing the curtains down on a 14-year career in the format. He finished with 9,230 runs in 123 Tests at an average of 46.85, including 30 centuries and 31 half-centuries. His final Test appearance came against Australia in Sydney in January 2025.The decision came ahead of India's five-Test tour of England, with Kohli having endured a di cult run in the longest format in the preceding years. He had also retired from T20 Internationals after India's triumph at the 2024 T20 World Cup.Kohli subsequently ofered an insight into his thinking while addressing questions about his international future and the 2027 ODI World Cup. Speaking on the Royal Challengers Bengaluru podcast in May 2026, he said he did not want to be in an environment where he constantly had to prove his worth."If I can add value to the environment that I am a part of and the environment feels like I can add value, I will be seen. If I am made to feel like I need to prove my worth and my value, I'm not in that space," Kohli said.

Meanwhile, Kohli's focus remains on ODI cricket as he looks towards the 2027 World Cup in South Africa. However, his recent tour of New Zealand did not go as planned. After opening the five-match series with a 74 of 51 balls in Auckland, he managed scores of 7, 0 and 5 in his next three outings.

Cristiano wasn't respected, happy Portugal lost vs Denmark: Ronaldo's mother

Sydney.(Agency)

Cristiano Ronaldo's mother, Dolores Aveiro, has criticised the Portugal national team for failing to respect her son, admitting that she was happy to see them lose 1-4 to Denmark in the UEFA Nations League.Portugal sufered a heavy home defeat, with Rasmus Hojlund scoring twice, in what was their first major outing without Ronaldo following his international retirement. Dolores, however, felt the result was deserved, accusing the team of treating her son unfairly."The Portugal national team deserved the loss. I was happy about it!" she said, as quoted by 433. "They deceived him. He was not respected, not even by his teammates," she added.

Ronaldo's retirement followed a dificult period with coach Jorge Jesus, amid disagreements over his role in the team. He had been left out of the match against Norway during the previous international break and was also handed a suspension by the Portugal Football FederationPortugal paid tribute to their former captain during the Denmark match. The players wore his iconic number 7 on their shirts before kick-o , while supporters applauded him in the seventh minute as his picture appeared on the giant screen.Dolores, however, was unhappy with the timing of the tribute.

"The tribute should have been held in front of him, not without him. The tribute will be here at Sporting (Sporting CP, Cristiano's boyhood club). They value him," she said..Coach Jorge Jesus was asked about her comments and responded with understanding."Now I have to respond to Cristiano Ronaldo's mother? My mother too... Ronaldo's mother is a lady I greatly respect. What can she say? A mother is a mother, there's no way around it. I understand her statements," he told RTP, as quoted by Goal.com.

RONALDO LEAVES PORTUGAL WITH RECORDS



Ronaldo ended his international career with 146 goals in 234 appearances, making him the leading goalscorer and most-capped player in men's international football. His journey began on August 20, 2003, when he made his debut as a substitute against Kazakhstan. He scored 11 goals in 27 World Cup appearances, the most by a Portuguese player, and holds the men's record for goals in European Championship final tournaments with 14.

Pat Cummins discredited Usman Khawaja the man, it was shocking: R Ashwin

R Ashwin has questioned Pat Cummins' response to Usman Khawaja's Sandpapergate revelations, saying the Australia captain discredited the former opener personally rather than challenging his version of events.





New Delhi.(Agency)

Former India spinner R Ashwin has criticised Pat Cummins for the way the Australia captain responded to Usman Khawaja's revelations about the 2018 Sandpapergate scandal, saying he was surprised by the personal nature of the remarks directed at the former Australia opener.Speaking on JioHotstar's show Sandpapergate: The Unsettled Debate, Ashwin said Cummins had questioned Khawaja's character rather than simply challenging his version of events in his recently released autobiography, Sabr."But, what's happened in Pat Cummins' press conference is that he has not discredited Usman Khawaja's account of the story, but he has discredited the man himself. And that is the problem for me. When you can't discredit someone's information, you discredit the person," Ashwin said.

The former India spinner, who has played alongside Khawaja, vouched for the Australian's character and said he did not expect Cummins to respond in such a manner.I know Usman Khawaja, I've played a lot of cricket with him; not on a personal front, he is a man of high integrity and really honest and upfront person, and I would really-really would have thought that Pat wouldn't have discredited the person himself in that particular instance," he added.

The controversy resurfaced after Khawaja's book, revisited Australia's ball-tampering scandal during the 2018 tour of South Africa. Khawaja wrote that knowledge of the use of sandpaper was more widespread within the team than the subsequent investigation suggested. He also recounted how he was sitting next to Cameron Bancroft when the latter was told to be careful while using sandpaper.Cummins responded to the revelations at a press conference in Sydney last week, strongly rejecting the suggestion that the Australian bowling group knew about the plan."When he says we all knew, if by that he means we knew sandpaper was going out on the field, he's 100% wrong," Cummins said.He also rejected Khawaja's suggestion that he and other bowlers were architects of a ball-tampering plan, calling it "complete and utter nonsense". Cummins said he was particularly shocked by Khawaja's account of warning Bancroft and questioned why the former opener had not intervened.Ashwin, however, raised another aspect of the controversy. He pointed to the 2021 statement issued by Australia's fast-bowling group, which included Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon, after Bancroft's comments again brought the bowlers' knowledge of the incident into question. The bowlers denied involvement.

'VERY SUPRISING FROM CUMMINS'

Ashwin said revisiting that position would be dificult for the players who had made the statement.

From sister's gift to 100th ton: Sachin Tendulkar recalls stories behind special bats

New Delhi.(Agency)

Sachin Tendulkar has plenty of memories attached to the bats he used during his career. Some were part of historic milestones, while others hold a special place for personal reasons. From the first bat gifted to him by his elder sister Savita to the one he used to score his 100th international century, the batting great recalled the stories behind some of his most treasured possessions.Tendulkar shared these memories during the unveiling of the 'Batography' section at the MCA Sharad Pawar Museum, where 25 of his bats have been put on display.Among the stories he revisited was his career-defining knock of 57 against Pakistan in the 1989 Sialkot Test. Tendulkar also spoke about his famous sixes against Abdul Qadir in Peshawar, his decision to play with a blank bat during the 1996 World Cup and how he once ended up taking a bat that had been made for former India spinner Sunil Joshi.

For Tendulkar, the innings in Sialkot meant more than the sixes he hit against Qadir during the same tour. Aged just 16, he scored 57 in India's second innings after the team had slipped to 34 for 4, helping the visitors avoid defeat."The career-defining innings for me was in the fourth Test match, in the second innings, when India was 34/4 and I scored (some) 57 or 58 runs. That's the photo of that innings," Tendulkar said.



"That saved the series for us, but people only remember those fours and sixes," he added.The sixes came during an exhibition match in Peshawar. The scheduled international match had been washed out, but the organisers arranged an exhibition game after thousands of spectators turned up at the ground.

Tendulkar, who was 16 at the time, scored 53 of 18 balls against Pakistan's spin duo of Mushtaq Ahmed and Abdul Qadir.



Sonakshi Sinha

Morphed Pictures: Accused Claims Actress Used Influential Background To Bypass Legal Procedure

The accused arrested in the case of Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha's morphed pictures has claimed that the actress used her influence to bypass the legal procedure.A Mumbai Magistrate Court observed that the arrest made in relation to the case of Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha's obscene videos and photos didn't follow the official protocol.The court declared the arrest of Aryan Deepak Jain, the accused, as illegal and ordered his release. Aryan was arrested from Delhi on Saturday and produced before a magistrate court in Mumbai on a complaint filed by the actress.The accused's lawyers claimed that the accused was not given the requisite notice before his arrest, nor was he told the reason for his arrest. He also said that the accused was taken out of Delhi's border by a flight in a very confidential manner.The counsel for the accused further argued that he was not produced before the local magistrate court in Delhi, which is required by law, and the authorities acted in haste pointing out the actress' influential background. The actress is politically well-connected as her father, actor Shatrughan Sinha is a Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha from Asansol constituency as a member of All India Trinamool Congress.



The magistrate observed that it appears that the police brought the accused directly from Delhi to this court, while the legal procedure to produce him before the nearest magistrate court there was not followed earlier, the investigating agency has not given any satisfactory reason on record to understand why the mandatory legal procedure was not followed.

The actress' morphed pictures and videos went viral on social media a while ago, for which one of the accused was arrested. Sonakshi alleged that a man from Delhi had shared her morphed pictures on social media. Aryan was arrested from Jagatpuri police station in Delhi's Shahdara. However, he was not produced before the nearest magistrate court in Delhi before being brought to Mumbai.The accused claimed that he has not committed any crime and prima facie the sections imposed on the facts of this case are also not applicable."It is not clear from the record that the investigating officer has complied with these mandatory rules satisfactorily", the court said. Arresting and detaining a person merely on the ground of the need to investigate further cannot be justified, especially when the legal rules relating to arrest have not been followed.



Amitabh Bachchan

Recalls Kayaking Mishap During Nepal Shoot: 'Koi Bachaane Nahi Aaya'

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan shared a candid anecdote about a kayaking incident he experienced while shooting for a film in Nepal in an upcoming episode of the quiz-based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati Season 18'.Asked if he had ever tried kayaking, cautioning how notoriously difficult and risky it can be, Big B replied: "Sir, yeh bada heen khatarnak hota hain yeh kayak, dubli patli naav hoti hain usmein ghusne mein aadha pauna ghanta lagta hain aur humne ek baar yeh kiya tha aur badi takleef hui thi hume andhar ghusne mein. Ek chapu dete hain aur usse chalane ka ek tarika hota hain. Ek baar hum Nepal mein film ki shooting kar rahe the aur vaha kisine toh kaha ki yeh badi achi cheez hain aur iss naav ki sawari lijiye aur humme kisi tarah usmein ghusa diya."(Sir, kayaking is quite dangerous. It is a very narrow, slender boat, and it takes almost 45 minutes to get into it. I tried it once, and I had a great deal of difficulty getting inside. They give you a paddle, and there is a particular way to manoeuvre it. Once, we were shooting for a film in Nepal, and someone there suggested that it was a wonderful experience and that we should take a ride in the boat. Somehow, they managed to get me into it.)



"Joh chapu tha, usse sahi disha mein chalana padta hain aur hua kya ki hume usse dhay ghumana tha lekin humne usse dusre taraf ghumaya aur naav palat gayi. Jab ulath gaya, toh humko bola gaya tha ki agar aisi sambhavna hui toh aap paani ke niche se haath upar ke taraf maariye toh voh naav seedhi ho jayegi aur agar nahi hua toh paani ke andar se apne dono hath jor se chalaye, toh joh vaha ke log hain unko pata chalega ki koi doob raha hain."(You have to paddle in the correct direction, and what happened was that I was supposed to turn the boat one way, but I turned it the other way, and the boat capsized. When it overturned, I had been told that if such a situation arose, I should push my hands upwards from underwater so that the boat would right itself. And if that didn't work, I should wave both my hands vigorously underwater so that the people around would realise that someone was drowning.)Describing the harrowing yet amusing sequence of events that followed underwater, the megastar added by saying, "Toh hum paani ke andar se haath chala rahe the jor se aur koshish kiye bahar nikalne ki aur kya hain saas bhi itne dher rok nahi sakte. Aap vishwas nahi karenge, koi nahi aaya bachane hume. Ek toh hum picture ki shooting kar rahe the aur picture ka hero heen doob raha hai, unko toh dusre hero ke saath kaam karna padta."

Samuk Release Date Out: Akshay Kumar's Film To Be Out In Theatres On May 28, 2027



Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar's next with Vipul Amrutlal Shah, 'Samuk', has locked in a release date. Touted to be a sci-fi action-survival thriller, the highly anticipated drama will be getting a theatrical release on May 28, 2027.On Monday, the makers shared the release date for 'Samuk' with a captivating motion poster. "The mission is human, the enemy is not", read the tagline. The motion poster hints at an ambitious cinematic world, where humans will be fighting an extraterrestrial threat.The motion poster shows Akshay holding an automatic gun and looking menacingly towards someone. He was seen wearing a tuxedo as he posed in the middle of a dense jungle.Dropping the motion poster on his official handle, Akshay wrote the caption, "The enemy isn't human. But the fight is for humanity. And backing down isn't an option. #SAMUK – The invasion begins 28th May, 2027. In Cinemas Near You (sic)."

Some hours before this, Akshay treated the netizens to another motion poster, featuring a gigantic hand belonging to what appears to be a monstrous creature.Hinting at an exciting update, the caption read, "One predator. One mission. A fight that has no rules. #SAMUK unveils at 2:07 PM. Stay Tuned! (sic)."Made under the direction of Kanishk Varma, 'Samuk' marks Akshay's reunion with Vipul after 13 long years.

The project also enjoys an ensemble cast featuring Rukmini Maitr, Vineet Kumar Singh, Rajat Kapoor, Banita Sandhu, and Swanand Kirkire alongside others.Talking about the technical crew of the drama, Academy Award-nominated creature-effects designer Alec Gillis, who is known for his work on the 'Alien and Predator' franchises, is reported to have been roped in for the project.Additionally, British action director Luke Tumber has reportedly designed and directed the action sequences for the upcoming drama.'Samuk' is slated to get a theatrical release on May 28, 2027.

Salman Khan Begins 10-Day Intense Shoot Schedule In Pune For Monster Co-Starring Nayanthara: Report



Salman Khan is already working on his next big project with Nayanthara, tentatively titled Monster. While the actor is awaiting the release of Maatrubhumi, he is reportedly on a 10-day shooting schedule in Pune for Monster, which began on November 15.As per Pinkvilla, the sequences are some of the most dramatic ones in the film and are expected to be crucial to its storyline. A source revealed to the portal, "Salman Khan and Seema Biswas are part of this Pune schedule, and the makers are shooting some intense and dramatic moments, with the ongoing leg marking an important phase in the film's production. The shoot is expected to continue in the city for the next 10 days."

The makers of the movie are reportedly planning to give a special surprise to Khan's fans with a glimpse into the world of Monster. The makers are reportedly planning to drop the teaser of the film on December 27, coinciding with Salman Khan's birthday.Salman is currently busy managing multiple duties. He is managing his Bigg Boss 20 commitments alongside the demanding action schedule of the film.Nayanthara will play the female lead opposite Salman. The film brings the two stars together for the first time, though the makers are yet to reveal details about their characters or the story. Vamshi Paidipally, known for films including Maharshi and Varisu, is directing the project. It is being developed in Hindi, Telugu and Tamil as a pan-India release.

Dil Raju is presenting the film under the Sri Venkateswara Creations banner, while Shirish, Kuldeep Rathore and Rafi Kazi are attached as co-producers.According to Filmfare, Monster has been finalised as the title of the Salman and Nayanthara-starrer. An announcement from the production team is expected on social media soon.

Monster Eyes Eid 2027 Release

If the reported release plan holds, Monster will arrive in theatres around Eid 2027, a festival window that has long been associated with some of Salman's biggest releases.

US intel indicates Iran is drawing up plans for potential 'dirty bomb' attack in Washington: Report

WASHINGTON.(Agency).

Fresh American intelligence indicates that Iran is formulating strategies to target high-ranking Trump administration figures in Washington, DC, using a "dirty bomb" or chemical weapon, CNN has reported, citing multiple US o cials.

The sources cited in the report noted that the intelligence showed no signs of an imminent attack, with Iranian actors instead mapping out plans to secure alternative options should they choose to move forward. Nonetheless, the plotting is reportedly highly detailed, identifying specific locations and targets, thereby triggering US contingency preparations."Whether they actually have the personnel in place to execute is a matter of debate," one of the sources told CNN.According o information provided to the cable network by a source, US intelligence has intercepted Iranian claims concerning bomb-making materials allegedly concealed inside the United States.materials allegedly concealed inside the United States.

Forensic expert claims Jeffrey Epstein was murdered in prison

world.(Agency).

A forensic expert has claimed that convicted sex o ender Jefrey Epstein was murdered in prison rather than dying by suicide.Professor Michael Freeman told BBC Newsnight that, after reviewing files from the New York City medical examiner, he believes Epstein was strangled, most likely from behind.Epstein was found dead in his prison cell on 10 August 2019 at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City, while awaiting trial on federal sex trafficking charges. However, the oficial medical examiner who conducted Epstein's autopsy ruled in 2019 that his injuries were consistent with suicide. The examiner also reported no evidence of the defensive wounds typically associated with a homicide.

What to know about Israel's Palestinian citizens, whose political clout grew after the elections

JERUSALEM.(Agency)

As complex negotiations take place to form a new coalition government, a major question is what role Arab-led parties will have after Israel's Palestinian citizens turned out in high numbers to give them historic gains in national elections.The electoral calculus is di cult enough. Benjamin Netanyahu has claimed that Arab politicians cannot be trusted and said his main rival, Gadi Eisenkot, would be committing an act of betrayal in joining forces with them. In turn Eisenkot has denounced Netanyahu's rhetoric as "hateful," but has also expressed reservations about partnering with Arab parties.Beyond politics, many Israelis — Jewish and Palestinian — see the discussion as indicative of how far this growing population is included in the life of the state — and how much they feel like they belong or not.As the country remains deeply divided and still scarred by the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attacks and the multifront wars they triggered, many Israelis see some Palestinians as a threat. And many Palestinians feel increasingly silenced, discriminated and treated as second-class citizens."They felt an existential threat as a result of the policies of the current government," said .

Taiwan may take a backseat when Xi and Trump meet for a third time at an APEC summit

TAIPEI.(Agency).

Taiwan is likely to be overshadowed as presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump are expected to meet on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Forum this week, even as the threat from China evolves and grows stronger.n Ukraine, according to the White House.Leaders from China, the U.S. and some 21 other economies will gather at the APEC summit this week in Shenzhen, China. Recent events like the scandal that forced Nvidia's CEO to resign, export controls and the ongoing trade dispute have made the tech competition between Beijing and Washington all the more pressing.

Few expect major breakthroughs on Taiwan, a self-ruled island that is claimed by Beijing. While the U.S. does not formally recognize Taiwan, it is the island's biggest informal ally and seller of arms."For the Trump administration, this isn't a core issue between the U.S. and China," said Arthur Zhin-Sheng Wang, an expert on cross-Straits relations at Taiwan's Central Police University.

US-Taiwan ties remain strong behind the scenesExperts largely say that cooperation with the U.S. remains strong below the level of rhetoric, despite Trump's public ambivalence toward Taiwan.One sign of this came from the summer, when the de facto United States embassy in Taiwan posted a photo showing joint patrols between the two coast guards, a rare occurrence, as the U.S. does not usually acknowledge it has direct cooperation with Taiwan in any defense capacity."This also is proof of the decades that Taiwan and U.S. have had of cooperation and training. I was also surprised," said Kuo Yu-jen, a defense studies expert and director of the Institute for National Policy Research in Taiwan.The U.S. is obligated by law to help Taiwan defend itself, which has manifested in the form of arms sales, while the government o cially adopts a stance of ambiguity on whether it would intervene militarily in the case of a Chinese invasion.The Taiwanese public is used to the continued uncertainties of the island's relationship with the U.S. Research from the Institute of National Defense and Security Research in Taiwan, a



government-funded think tank, showed that public attitudes toward the U.S. remain around the same. Polls conducted in the past five years show that about half of the public believes the U.S. will send soldiers to support Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion, and about half don't."I do think they will take some actions, though it may not be sending soldiers," said Allen Hsieh, a 28-year-old media professional in Taipei. "I think Taiwan's importance to the U.S. is even more important than Ukraine."

Stalled arms sales for now

Since starting his second term, Trump called for Taiwan to spend more on its own defense and Taiwan responded that it would commit to 5% of its GDP on defense.Arms sales are ongoing. While much media attention has focused on a $14 billion package that remains stalled, an earlier package of $11 billion approved at the end of last year is in progress. Some of the stalled arms packages have been delayed since before Trump came into ofice, experts have also said.

Those include fighter jets. Taiwan received the first two of long-delayed F-16V fighter jets from the U.S. in October, and three more jets earlier this month. The aircraft are a part of a long list of backlogged U.S. orders worth almost $30 billion, according to the Taiwan Security Monitor research project which tracks defense-related developments on the island at George Mason University.

JD Vance says Trump will avoid 'forever war' in Iran

WASHINGTON.(Agency)



US Vice President JD Vance has stated that US President Donald Trump will not allow the conflict with Iran to turn into a "forever war", rejecting even a two-year American commitment whilst defending the President's decision to strike Iran's nuclear programme.

During an interview with Fox News host Laura Ingraham on Monday (local time), Vance expressed confidence that Trump would bring the conflict to a successful conclusion, although he did not outline a precise withdrawal timeline."He is not going to let this become a forever war," Vance stated. "We told the American people we would do no more forever wars."Vance defended Trump's stated objective of dismantling Iran's nuclear programme, which he characterised as a threat to the United States, whilst simultaneously ruling out an extended military commitment."We are not going to allow this to become a 10- or 15-year commitment, or frankly, even a two-year commitment," he remarked.He criticised neoconservatives and other proponents of indefinite US involvement, emphasising his trust in Trump to bring the conflict to an end.These developments precede a high-level summit scheduled to take place in Shenzhen on Thursday, bringing together Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

China's Foreign Ministry confirmed on Monday that Xi will host the meeting on November 19.Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning described the upcoming summit as the first in-person meeting between the heads of state of the three countries, noting that discussions would centre on global peace and strategic stability.

Democrats eye first Black US House speaker in leadership vote

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Hakeem Jefries is poised to take a major step Wednesday toward becoming the first Black speaker of the US House of Representatives, as victorious Democrats choose their leader after a sweeping midterm election triumph.

The 56-year-old New Yorker faces no declared challenger in a closed-door party ballot, putting him on course to preside over a powerful Democratic majority during the final two years of President Donald Trump's term.

But the historic milestone comes with a warning from the party's energized left flank that, while winning an election is one thing, agreeing on how to wield power is another entirely.Wednesday's vote will nominate Je ries, who currently leads the Democratic minority in the House, as the party's candidate for speaker. He must still win a formal vote of the full House when the new Congress convenes on January 3.Both returning Democrats and newly elected members get a say in the nomination,



including the progressives seeking concessions from Jefries. Unlike January's formal election for speaker, it will be confined to his own party.Je ries's allies hope he will be chosen by acclamation -- without a recorded vote -- as Nancy Pelosi was before becoming the first woman speaker in 2007.Yet some newly elected progressives are withholding their backing, seeking concessions on issues ranging from US support for Israel to the influence of money in American politics.The dissent is unlikely to derail Je ries, whose supporters have been canvassing colleagues and meeting new lawmakers to consolidate a majority already enlarged by Republican losses blamed in part on the unpopular Iran war and soaring fuel costs.Je ries himself has sought to project confidence while promising to listen to the party's diferent factions."We're going to fight to make this country afordable," told a news conference last week, "to drive down the high cost of living and, at the same period of time, make sure that we're holding the crooks accountable who have visited unprecedented corruption on the American people."

Sudanese army airstrike kills at least 13 in West Kordofan, says rights group

CAIRO.(Agency)

A Sudanese army airstrike killed at least 13 people and destroyed several homes in western Sudan in a country ravaged by more than three years of fighting between the army and its rival paramilitary, a local rights group said Monday.Women and children were among those killed in the strike in the Abu Qalb area of Abu Zabad locality in West Kordofan, according to the Emergency Lawyers, a group that tracks violence throughout the war in Sudan. The AP couldn't independently verify the toll.The war between the army and the Rapid Support



Forces, or RSF, has created one of the world's worst humanitarian crises since it broke out in April 2023, killing at least 59,000 people, displacing around 13 million and pushing parts of the country into famine, according to aid organizations.

The Emergency Lawyers blamed the army for the airstrike in West Kordofan.

"The continued use of indiscriminate airstrikes on residential areas poses a direct threat to civilian lives and constitutes a grave violation of the rules of international humanitarian law," the group's statement said.Mohamed Didan, the oficial spokesperson for the Special Operations Forces fighting with the army, wrote on Facebook on Monday that his troops went through Abu Zabad locality and "eliminated" RSF positions in West Kordofan.Much of the fight in Sudan concentrated in Darfur and Kordofan and recently shifted towards Blue Nile province.

At COP31, Nepal pushes for billions to help disaster survivors. So far, $20 million is promised

NUWAKOT, Nepal.(Agency)

Villagers whose families prayed for generations at a local temple now gather around the mound of dirt where it once stood, unsure whether it will ever be rebuilt. Farmers who once grew rice to feed their families and earn a living now sit in makeshift shelters, wondering if they'll ever own land again.



In Nuwakot and surrounding areas of Nepal, where deadly floods in August washed away entire villages and left thousands dead or missing, life has ground to a halt.Along the Trishuli River, power lines, solar panels, cars and homes remain partially buried in the mud, while broken bridges leave communities cut of from neighboring towns. Survivors sleep in makeshift metal shelters, relying on donations for drinking water and food as they wait to see how, where and when they can get back on their feet."God knows how long we will have to stay here," 45-year-old Lakchin Bahadhur Tamang, a hydropower plant worker, told The Associated Press on a recent morning. "I fear that once these aid organizations and helping hands leave, we will be left helpless, without even enough drinking water."Meanwhile, thousands of miles away at the U.N. climate summit in Turkey, known as COP31, leaders from Nepal and other mountain countries are warning the world there is no time to wait, as they sound the alarm about future disasters from global temperature rise, including the collapse of Himalayan glaciers.

They and other climate activists are calling for discussions on the heightened peril that people face from a warming planet, caused mainly by the burning of gas, coal and oil.They are focusing in particular on a fund established three years ago to compensate developing nations hit hard by climate-fueled disasters. The fund doesn't have nearly as much money as needed and is mired in bureaucracy. Experts say more funding and faster disbursement are essential to prepare for more eficient recovery as climate disasters become more frequent and severe.Nepal pushes for Himalayan climate resilience at COPNepal and other mountain countries are pressing negotiators to make the dangers facing their communities a lasting priority.

While Nepal and Bhutan sought a dedicated negotiating agenda item on warming in mountain regions at the start of the summit, their proposal did not make the cut.Nepal's foreign minister, Shisir Khanal, said the country wants a dedicated program on mountains and climate change so mountain risks are reflected in international climate action, including funding decisions.

Elon Musk expected to accompany Trump on China visit; Iran on agenda for trilateral talks with Xi, Putin

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk is expected to accompany US President Donald Trump on his Asia tour, while discussions on Iran are likely to feature in the US President's upcoming trilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Shenzhen.According to CBS News, a senior White House oficial confirmed that Musk would be part of the presidential delegation travelling to Asia but would not participate in the meeting



between Trump, Xi and Putin scheduled for Thursday on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.The issue of Iran is expected to feature in the trilateral discussions, with a senior US o cial indicating that Trump intends to raise the matter with the Chinese and Russian leaders.

"I think the president does intend to talk about Iran in the trilateral meeting with Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin," the senior US o cial, speaking on condition of anonymity, told reporters, according to CBS News.The meeting, which would mark the first gathering between the three leaders, is expected to focus primarily on reducing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, even as the ongoing conflicts in Iran and Ukraine remain among the broader geopolitical concerns.

Speaking to reporters before departing for his Asia tour on Monday, Trump said the leaders would discuss denuclearisation, describing it as a "tough subject", alongside developments concerning Iran and Ukraine.However, a US oficial had indicated over the weekend that the Russia-Ukraine conflict was not expected to feature in the discussions.Trump's Asia tour comes amid continuing geopolitical tensions and Washington's e orts to engage Beijing and Moscow on nuclear arms control and international security issues.The US President is scheduled to first visit the Philippines to participate in the 49th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and hold discussions with regional leaders.