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Provide immediate assistance to cyclone-hit Andhra Pradesh, CM Naidu urges FM Nirmala Sitharaman

VIJAYAWADA. (Agency).

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to provide immediate financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh, which suffered extensive damage across several sectors, including agriculture, due to two consecutive cyclones.During his visit to New Delhi on Tuesday, he met the Finance Minister, and discussed the State's financial situation, the damage caused by the recent cyclones, the Rayalaseema Horticulture Hub, release of Purvodaya funds and region-specific development plans.

Naidu explained the extensive damage caused by Cyclones Arnab and Murasu.According to preliminary estimates, the two cyclones together caused losses exceeding Rs 7,000 crore. He briefed the Finance Minister on the precautionary measures taken by the State ahead of the cyclones, and the subsequent relief and restoration efforts.Standing crops, which were ready for harvest, were submerged in floodwater, causing severe loss to farmers.Despite the impact of El Nino, the State government had ensured irrigation water supply to several areas through the Pattiseema project, he highlighted.Naidu pointed out that infrastructure had suffered extensive damage, with power distribution network.

CM Shivakumar pitches Karnataka as global AI hub

BENGALURU.(Agency).

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar pitched Karnataka as a global hub for artificial intelligence, deep technology, semiconductor manufacturing and biotechnology, backed by progressive policies, strong research institutions, a thriving startup ecosystem and skilled human resources. Speaking at the inauguration of the 29th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit, themed 'AI and Beyond', the Chief Minister said Karnataka had consistently been at the forefront of technological advancement and was now preparing to lead the next phase of global innovation.He said Bengaluru had evolved into one of the world's largest technology clusters by embracing talent, diversity and ambition from across the globe, and some of India's most ambitious scientific and engineering projects have found a home in Karnataka. Alluding to Karnataka's contribution to India's technology economy, Shivakumar said that the state accounted for two out of every five dollars earned by India through software and services exports, amounting to approximately $ 173 billion in 2025. Karnataka received $ 9.4 billion in FDI equity inflows in the first half of FY 2025-26, accounting for 26.7 per cent of India's total inflows.

"More than 1,000 Global Capability Centres (GCCs) had chosen Bengaluru as their base, with over 30 new GCCs bringing investments exceeding $ 1 billion into the State in 2025 alone", the CM informed. Citing Karnataka's scientific achievements, he drew references to Chandrayaan-3, the digital identity platform developed at IIIT-Bengaluru, Biocon's global pharmaceutical.

Did PM Modi ride a Made-in-Pakistan auto at ASEAN Summit?

PM Narendra Modi, along with several other world leaders, took a ride in specially decorated three-wheelers as they arrived for the gala dinner in Manila. Several Pakistani handles called it a Pakistani-made vehicle. But the truth is very different.

Chandigarh (Agency).

Pakistan is known for exporting terror. But since when did it start exporting e-rickshaws? Pakistani social media handles have found a new way to embarrass themselves, claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi rode a "Made-in-Pakistan" auto-rickshaw at the ASEAN Summit in Manila. The truth, however, is quite different. The vehicle was a custom-decorated three-wheeler made by India's Bajaj Auto.On Tuesday, PM Modi, along with several other world leaders, took a ride in specially decorated three-wheelers as they arrived for the gala dinner in Manila. The colourful vehicles, which featured Filipino jeepney-inspired artwork, were arranged by the host country as part of the summit. Such abstract artwork can be found on public vehicles in the Philippines.The Prime Minister was seen wearing the traditional Filipino outfit, called the Barong Tagalog, as he arrived for the dinner. The attire featured intricate tonal embroidery with elaborate floral motifs.



TRUTH BEHIND PM MODI'S AUTO RIDE

As videos of PM Modi riding in the decorated three-wheeler went viral, some Pakistani handles attempted to pass it off as a Pakistani-made vehicle. "Narendra Modi takes a ride in a Made-in-Pakistan e-rickshaw at the ASEAN Summit," tweeted one, Hammad Hassan, a Lahore-based journalist. Several other accounts also amplified the claim.

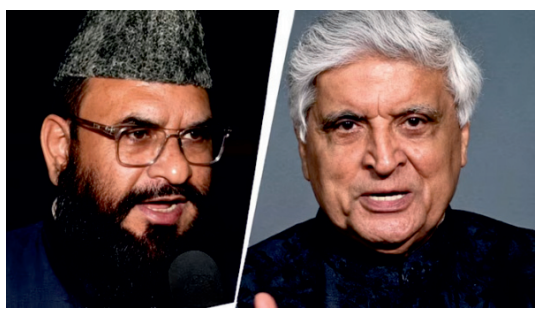
The claims appear to rest on one thing. Last month, Pakistani auto firm Sazgar, which manufactures three-wheelers, opened its first overseas manufacturing facility in Laguna, Philippines. It was part of the firm's plans to expand into Southeast Asia.However, the three-wheelers used to ferry world leaders at the ASEAN Summit were manufactured by Indian automobile major Bajaj. Close-up videos of the modified autos clearly showed the Bajaj logo on their digital instrument clusters.Another posted, "Bajaj Auto: Made in India, roasted whole Pakistan."Bajaj, which entered the Philippines market in 2015, has since gone on to become an established name in the country's three-wheeler market. It has several assembly facilities and a network of dealers. It exports its vehicles to more than 70 countries.The reality will be tough to stomach for Pakistan, the masters at launching propaganda campaigns.

The latest episode shows how quickly such

Change name to Ram Pal: Cleric takes offence at Javed Akhtar's praise for Ramayana

New Delhi.(Agency)

A cleric has criticised veteran lyricist and screenwriter Javed Akhtar for praising the Ranbir Kapoor-starrer Ramayana and the ideals associated with Lord Ram."Change your name from Javed Akhtar to Ram Pal," Maulana Sajid Rashidi, president of the All India Imam Association, said and added that this would help Akhtar earn the respect of Hindus.The cleric's reaction came after Akhtar said that Lord Ram was not merely a person but represented morality, a way of life and certain aesthetics.He added that Lord Ram was "in the blood of every Indian, whatever religion they follow."Reacting to the remarks, Rashidi accused him of making statements for commercial gain, alleging that the lyricist was trying to "straddle two boats at once."'Javed Akhtar is a businessman. Songs are sold in



Bollywood; if he doesn't make such statements, who would buy his songs?" Rashidi said.He pointed out that Akhtar had publicly identified himself as an atheist and questioned his expression of faith in Lord Ram.The cleric further claimed that Akhtar's comments were driven by business interests, pointing to the involvement of his family members in the film industry as producers, writers and lyricists."I am a Muslim; I am proud of that—and I am living a decent life. But in this country, you are trying to have a foot in both camps—trying to straddle two boats at once. I don't think that is right," Rashidi said.He further accused Akhtar of compromising his integrity, saying that people like him would "trade away their very integrity."

WHAT DID JAVED AKHTAR SAY

During a media interaction on Tuesday evening, the veteran lyricist was asked about the lines "Mann se Ravan jo nikale, Ram uske mann main hai" from 'Pal Pal Hai Bhaari', a song he penned for the film Swades.In response, Akhtar said Lord Ram was not merely a person but represented morality, a way of life and certain aesthetics."Lord Ram was in the blood of every Indian, whatever religion they follow," he added.

Chhattisgarh govt's welfare, development push bridges divide with tribal heartland

RAIPUR.(Agency).

Chhattisgarh's tribal heartland in the recent years has seen a marked shift in the relationship between its people and the state, officials said. Since December 2023, under CM Vishnu Deo Sai's government, a renewed push for welfare and development has steadily bridged the long-standing divide between remote tribal settlements and the institutions, services, and opportunities of governance, they added.Out of Chhattisgarh's 20,551 villages, as many as 6,691 across 32 districts nearly one-third are now covered under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA).Designed to fill critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihoods, the campaign has seen 1,413 activities approved with an outlay of approximately ₹733 crore.Essential services such as Ayushman cards, ration cards, Jan Dhan accounts, and Kisan Credit Cards are being delivered directly to indigenous communities.Under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), 1,544 villages and 2,365 settlements of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) have been integrated into the mainstream.Official data shows that 2,901.95 km of roads have been sanctioned, with 1,869 km laid already, while on-grid electricity connections have reached 7,349 households, and 521 out of 1,425 targeted villages have received comprehensive drinking water facilities.Additionally, projects worth ₹1,538 crore for roads and ₹837 crore for clean drinking water were approved over the past three years, the government spokesperson said.Securing legal ownership of ancestral land has been a core priority. So far the state government has granted 12,531 individual forest rights, 192 community forest rights, and 105 community forest resource rights, totalling 12,828 title deeds covering approximately 27,494 hectares of land.

1 crore Telangana families to get Rs 5 lakh insurance cover under new scheme

Hyderabad(Agency).

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced that one crore families in the state will receive insurance cover under the proposed Indiramma Family Insurance scheme, news agency Press Trust of India reported.Reddy will formally launch the application process on November 19. He will also begin the distribution of Indiramma Sarees to eligible poor women.

The two initiatives will be launched at a public meeting in Siddipet. During a review meeting, the chief minister directed officials



to consolidate insurance schemes run by various government departments under a single umbrella, according to an official release cited by PTI on Tuesday.Under the Indiramma Insurance scheme, life insurance cover will be increased from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. Officials informed Reddy that existing schemes provide life insurance cover of up to Rs 2 lakh and accidental insurance cover of up to Rs 10 lakh.Reddy directed that the existing accidental insurance benefits should remain unchanged after the schemes are consolidated. He also said no person currently receiving insurance protection from the government should be excluded.Officials were directed to ensure that every eligible.

India, Japan set to review defence ties as Rajnath, Jaishankar arrive in Tokyo

New Delhi(Agency).

India and Japan are set to review their bilateral defence ties and strategic cooperation as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday for the fourth edition of the 2+2 ministerial dialogue.Singh and Jaishankar will co-chair the Foreign and Defence Ministers' Dialogue (2+2) with their Japanese counterparts, Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.The two-day visit comes a day after the Quad leaders' summit in Manila, Philippines and as India hosts a joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise involving the four member countries.The Quad, comprising India, the US, Japan and Australia, is a strategic grouping focused on promoting a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific through cooperation in maritime security, technology, infrastructure and disaster response.The India-Japan 2+2 dialogue follows the previous round held in New Delhi on August 20, 2024.India and Japan will review the full range of bilateral strategic and defence cooperation,



exchange views on regional and global developments and reaffirm their shared commitment to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific, the MEA said.

The two sides are expected to discuss defence equipment and technology, maritime security, joint military.

Haryana CM Saini's 100 Punjab visits in 11 months power BJP's 'Mission Punjab'; experts question strategy

CHANDIGARH.(Agency).

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has visited Punjab nearly 100 times over an 11-month period, a frequency that has not gone unnoticed by rival parties or even within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).From visits to religious shrines and political conferences to bypoll campaigns and party inductions, Saini has emerged as a familiar face and a star campaigner in Punjab's political landscape ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. His visits are expected to increase further in the coming days. However, political experts believe that such narratives do not work in Punjab, nor does caste arithmetic.

Saini's sustained engagement reflects the BJP's organisational strategy to strengthen its base in a state where the party has traditionally struggled, while projecting the 'Haryana model' as a viable alternative to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led government in Punjab. It is also an effort to consolidate a non-Jat coalition comprising Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Dalits and urban traders, mirroring the social formula that secured the



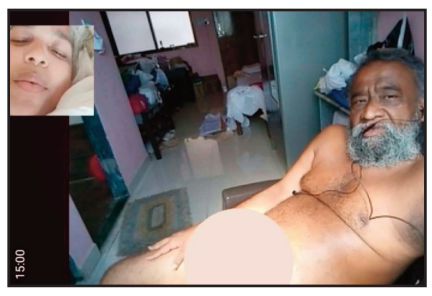
BJP's victories in Haryana.

This marks a departure from the 59-year inter-state political precedent since Punjab and Haryana were bifurcated in 1966. Never before had a sitting Haryana Chief Minister undertaken autonomous, large-scale political outreach and campaigning across the border in Punjab with such frequency. During his visits and campaigns in the state, Saini has contrasted the economic performance of the two states.Before Saini, Haryana chief ministers, including Manohar Lal Khattar of the BJP, Om Prakash Chautala of the Indian National Lok Dal and Bhupinder Singh Hooda of the Congress, visited Punjab only a handful of times during their tenures. On some occasions, they were invited as guests to events organised by regional allies such as the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD).Saini has moved away from that template. Fixing his own dates, choosing his own venues and drawing his own crowds, he operates without an ally or local host as the BJP prepares to contest all 117 Assembly seats on its own in 2027.

Serious Allegations Spark Debate in Jain Community; Calls for Fair Investigation Intensify

Mahanagar Metro Desk
Gandhinagar/Ahmedabad: The Jain religion has been known for centuries for its sacred principles of non-violence, non-possession, self-restraint, renunciation and rigorous spiritual discipline. However, a highly sensitive and controversial matter involving Jain monk Sagar Chandrasagar has triggered widespread concern within the Jain community across Gujarat and other parts of the country. Allegations concerning his purported conduct, along with controversial material circulating on social media and digital platforms, have raised serious questions and caused distress among devotees.The controversy has prompted young members, senior devotees and socially conscious sec







tions of the Jain community to demand transparency, accountability and an impartial investigation.

Questions are being raised about the dignity of the monkhood and the responsibility of religious institutions in addressing such allegations.Alleged Audio Recordings and Viral Digital Material Trigger ControversyAccording to information available, the controversy intensified following the circulation of certain alleged conversations, audio recordings and other suspicious digital material reportedly associated with Sagar Chandrasagar.However, the authenticity of these recordings and the circumstances surrounding the material have not yet been independently established through forensic examination. Community members believe that while no individual should be declared guilty without conclusive evidence, allegations of such seriousness cannot be ignored.They are demanding an independent, high-level investigation.

Contractor fined after four-day water supply breakdown

Gurgaon.(Agency)

MCG on Tuesday imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on a contractor after a four-day disruption in water supply in Hari Nagar near Khandsa Road left residents without water. The prolonged outage had prompted residents to block a road on Sunday, raising slogans against the civic body and bringing traffic to a standstill.
In its order, MCG attributed the disruption to lapses in the operation and maintenance of the water supply network. It also flagged the contractor's failure to deploy water tankers to provide relief to residents during the outage. The four-day disruption raised concerns over the agency's performance and deployment of the required manpower.The contractor, Narendra Singh, was assigned the operation and maintenance of water supply networks and boosting stations in wards 9, 10, 16 and 17. The agency was issued an acceptance letter for the work on July 24 this year.
MCG commissioner Dr Pankaj said, "The penalty amount will be recovered from the contractor's running bill."
The civic body has directed the contractor to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the water supply system in the four wards.

90-day window open for owners to check land ownership info in Lal Dora areas

Gurgaon.(Ajency)

Residents of villages will have 90 days to verify land ownership details of their plots in Lal Dora areas and report discrepancies before the records are finalised under the Centre's Swamitva scheme. The district administration will display maps with individual plot numbers at village panchayat buildings, gram sachivalayas and other prominent public places. Residents will be able to check their property details and file objections, if any.
The exercise is intended to bring properties in village abadi areas, many of which have remained outside formal records, into an organised and verifiable ownership system. Officials said this could help reduce disputes related to property ownership and boundaries.
Deputy commissioner Uttam Singh said the process would help establish clear property rights for villagers and minimise future disputes. "Officials have been asked to ensure transparency and fairness so that no eligible person's rights were affected during the process.

Man clicks on link for investment site, loses Rs 12 lakh to scammers

Noida.(Agency)

A 72-year-old Greater Noida resident was cheated out of nearly Rs 12.5 lakh under the pretext of investing his money through an online platform. The man clicked a link after watching a fraudulent advertisement urging people to invest and was redirected to the scam portal.
P Anbalahan, a resident of Eldeco Golf View Apartments in Omega-1, came across the video on Aug 17. The video allegedly appeared to be from a TV programme offering investment advice."Believing the programme to be genuine, I clicked on the link displayed and submitted my mobile number and email address. I was subsequently contacted by a person claiming to be an account manager of an online trading platform named Axwell," Anbalahan told cops.
The accused allegedly persuaded him to join a Telegram channel where people shared trading links.

City's AQI deteriorates to 290, one station records very poor air quality

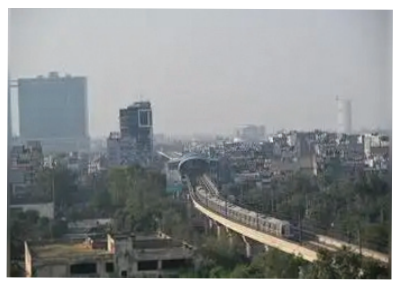
Ghaziabad.(Ajency)

Air quality deteriorated on Tuesday, with city's average Air Quality Index (AQI) worsening from 247 on Monday to 290. While the city's overall AQI remained in the 'poor' category, one of its four active monitoring stations recorded 'very poor' air quality. According to CPCB's 8pm report, Sector 51 recorded the highest AQI at 320, followed by TERI Gram at 271. NISE Gwalpahari recorded an AQI of 262, while Vikas Sadan registered 266.
The deterioration comes as meteorological conditions are expected to become less favourable for the dispersion of pollutants over the next few days. According to the Air Quality Early Warning System's forecast for Delhi-NCR, the mixing depth is expected to be around 1,550 metres on Tuesday, compared with 2,000 metres on Monday. It is projected to decline further to 1,400 metres on Wednesday and 1,100 metres on Thursday.A lower mixing height restricts the vertical movement and dilution of pollutants, allowing them to remain concentrated closer to the ground.Wind conditions are also expected to influence pollution dispersion. The forecast indicates a shift from northwesterly winds on Tuesday to northerly and northeasterly winds over the next two days, with wind speeds of up to 10 kmph. The ventilation index is forecast to remain unfavourable for pollutant dispersion on Wednesday and Thursday.The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has revoked Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across Delhi-NCR following a downward trend in daily AQI, which reached 204 on Tuesday.The city's AQI had improved to 247 on Monday from 296 on Nov 15, before deteriorating again on Tuesday. The November AQI calendar shows that pollution levels remained largely in the poor and very poor categories.

AQI 'moderate' in Noida after 17 days, but relief may not last long

Gurgaon.(Ajency)

Air quality improved further in the region, with Noida and Ghaziabad both recording 'moderate' AQI on Tuesday. The cities' AQI shifted to 155 and 176, respectively, from Monday's 214 and 213 in the 'poor' category. Greater Noida also saw a slight improvement with an AQI of 157 against 171 the day before. The last time Noida and Ghaziabad recorded a satisfactory AQI was on Oct 31, at 106 and 110, respectivelyExperts said increased wind circulation due to a western disturbance from Monday night till Tuesday afternoon helped clear pollutants in the region. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) revoked Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across Delhi-NCR following a downward trend in daily AQI.
Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) across



the three cities recorded varied air quality levels ranging from 'very poor' to 'satisfactory' on Tuesday.
Noida's Sector 62 recorded the worst AQI in the region at 308 (very poor), followed by Sector 150 (188), Sector 1 (138), Sector 125 (127), Sector 39 (123) and Sector 116 (108) in the 'moderate' range. Sector 110, meanwhile, recorded the best AQI in the city at 90 in the 'satisfactory' range.In Greater Noida, all five stations recorded 'moderate' AQI. Gaur Yamuna City saw the worst air quality on Tuesday with an AQI of 199, followed by Knowledge Park V (156), Ghodi Bachheda (149), Knowledge Park III (144) and Shiv Nadar University (139).
In Ghaziabad, Dasna Dehat recorded 'poor' AQI at 245, followed by Ved Vihar Loni (200), New Tehsil Loni (190), Wave City (185), Vasundhara (178), Indrapuram (170) and Loni (168) – all in the 'moderate' category. Govindpuram recorded the best AQI in the city at 108.

2 held for Sidhrawali murder got Chinese gun from gangster, chatted on Signal

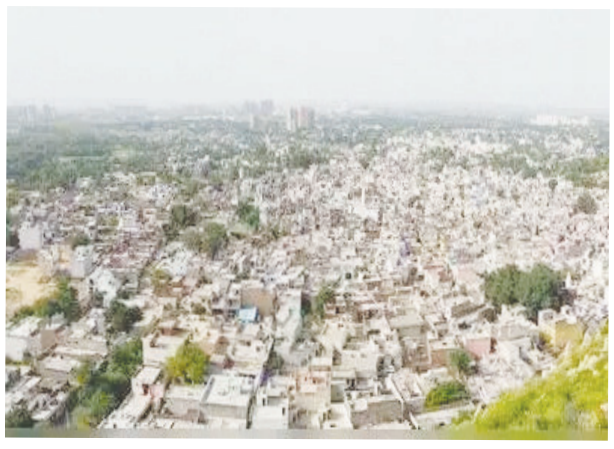
Ghaziabad.(Ajency)

A probe into the murder of an alleged gangster near Sidhrawali bus stand on Nov 9 has revealed that two shooters arrested in the case were supplied weapons by fugitive gangster Lipin Nehra. The accused allegedly contacted Nehra's associates through the encrypted messaging app, Signal, and were asked to collect the firearms from a pre-decided location in Palwal.
Jatin (21) and Monu (27) – the two arrested accused – never met the person who had stashed the guns there, police said, pointing to how gangs are keeping arms suppliers and shooters apart to evade detection. According to cops, Monu had known a relative of Nehra for around 10 years. The accused first contacted the relative before reaching out to Nehra and his associates through Signal.
"They found the weapons at the location shared with them on Signal. However, they did not know who had kept the firearms there. This is the modus operandi adopted by gangs, where the person supplying the weapons does not come face to face with the person collecting them," a police officer said.
Police recovered a country-made pistol, a foreign-made PX-30, seven live cartridges and a mobile phone from the accused. The PX-30 is the .30-bore variant of China's Norinco PX-3 pistol. "It is an original PX-30, not a copy. The trail is suspected to be cross-border," the officer said. Police suspect the gun was smuggled from Pakistan through Punjab.The accused allegedly did not pay for the firearms either. "Gang weapons are returned after the task is completed. Gangs also draw youngsters into their fold by helping them settle personal scores," the officer said.Deepak (35), a Sidhrawali resident allegedly associated with the Ashok Rathi gang, was found dead in his Maruti Swift on Nov 9, his seat belt still fastened. CCTV footage showed a man approaching the car and opening fire. Police recovered 18 empty cartridges. Deepak had eight criminal FIRs registered against him in Gurgaon and Rajasthan, including two for murder, attempted murder, extortion and illegal arms possession.

Land acquisition process begins for building roads, sewers in Sohna sectors 4 and 5

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana govt has initiated the process to acquire land for external development works, including sectoral roads and basic civic amenities, in HSVP's Urban Estate Sohna. The move follows a Punjab and Haryana High Court directive asking MCG, HSVP and the Town and Country Planning Department to furnish timelines for land acquisition and



infrastructure development within four weeks.
The HSVP's zonal administrator-cum-additional director, Urban Estates, Gurgaon, has been appointed nodal officer to initiate the proceedings for providing external development services in the urban estate.
The acquisition process will involve a detailed land survey, verification of ownership records, preparation of project reports and assessment of financial and technical feasibility. The proposal will subsequently be sent for social impact assessment through HSIIDC, designated as the assessment unit.
The HC passed the order on Oct 27 after MVN Infrastructure and GLS Infratech filed petitions seeking execution of pending external development works around their licensed colonies in Sohna's sectors 4 and 5. The court had pointed out that the Director, Town and Country Planning, had collected a large amount as external development charges (EDC) from developers, which was supposed to be utilised for the development work.
The court directed the agencies to file an affidavit specifying timelines for completing the process of land acquisition, construction of sectoral roads and provision of basic amenities..
Following the court's directions, the urban estates department has now initiated the administrative process for acquisition. The zonal administrator has been asked to send a formal land acquisition requisition, along with the prescribed documents in Form-I under Rule 3 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Haryana) Rules, 2018, to the concerned deputy commissioner.

SC asks CPCB to frame Yamuna penalty formula on entry-exit water quality

Noida.(Agency)

Supreme Court has asked Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to devise a formula for penalising states and districts if the Yamuna becomes more polluted within their borders. Under the test, water quality will be checked where the river enters and leaves each jurisdiction. If any parameter worsens, the state or district can be held accountable and fined.
CPCB has been asked to compare chemical composition and indicators such as biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), faecal coliform and total suspended solids (TSS). The exact formula and fine amount are yet to be decided.According to the order, the fine will have to be deposited in the Supreme Court registry. Depending on the pollution levels, an inquiry will be conducted to find out violators. Once that is done, state govts and district administrations may recover the fine amount from polluters and officials who failed in their duties.
In its 24-page order on Nov 4, the court said while it considered appropriate to give administrators the power and flexibility to do their jobs, they should also be held accountable if they fail to achieve results."This court proposes to lay down a broad test and to levy fines on those states/Union territories that fail in their duty to check pollution of the river Yamuna, whether through inefficiency or for lack of the political will to take hard decisions. This court is of the view that this approach will put an end to the defence of 'passing the buck," division bench of Justices Manoj Mishra and Manmohan observed.
The case began in 2018, when Noida environmentalist Abhisht Kusum Gupta moved National Green Tribunal over untreated sewage entering an irrigation canal near Sector 137. The canal carried wastewater from Delhi, Ghaziabad and Noida into the Yamuna, which eventually meets the Ganga. On Aug 3, 2022, NGT ordered Noida Authority and Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to pay interim compensation of Rs 100 crore and Rs 50 crore, respectively, for restoration.
Both authorities appealed to Supreme Court, which initially stayed the deposit. The apex court later widened its scrutiny to the entire Yamuna basin as pollution sources across Delhi, UP and Haryana were interconnected.
On March 19 this year, senior advocate K Parameshwar was appointed amicus curiae (lawyer assisting the court) in the case. On May 21, the court formed a Yamuna Action Plan committee headed by the Union home secretary. It presented its plan on Oct 7.

Odisha: Teacher rescued from hills shifted to Berhampur as health condition worsens

BERHAMPUR.(Agency)

After surviving nearly a fortnight in the wilderness following the devastating floods triggered by cyclone Arnab, Kandhamal teacher Mohan Maharana has been shifted from Phulbani hospital to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur due to deterioration of his health.Mohan, who was rescued from a hilly terrain in Raikia area of Kandhamal district after remaining missing for 15 days, was admitted to the Medicine department of MKCG MCH on Monday night. A team of doctors is currently attending to him.

According to senior medicine specialist Professor Uma Mishra, Mohan's condition is stable though his blood pressure has dropped. He is also displaying signs of irritability and restlessness.A teacher in Duba primary school located atop the remote Ghati hills under Raikia block, Mohan had gone missing during the floods caused by cyclone Arnab following which his family lodged a missing person complaint at the local police station. His miraculous survival came to light when a cattle grazer spotted him stranded in the hills and alerted local residents, leading to his rescue.

The ordeal was particularly harrowing as Mohan reportedly survived for nearly 15 days without food, relying only on muddy water to stay alive. However, the teacher is not yet ready to recount his traumatic experience. He has declined to speak about the ordeal, while his wife Priyanka Nayak said she was also unable to share details as Mohan has not been able to recall the horrifying experience.

IndiGo pilot's split-second call averts tragedy in Mangaluru

MANGALURU.(Agency)

An IndiGo pilot's split-second decision to abort the takeoff averted a potential tragedy at the Mangaluru International Airport on Monday evening. The pilot detected a technical fault in the engine of the flight, which headed from Mangaluru to Bengaluru, and applied emergency brakes just in time, recalled a passenger.The IndiGo Flight 6E388 was carrying 222 passengers and seven crew members. The technical fault was detected in the left engine even as the aircraft was taxiing on the runway. The pilot applied the brakes, bringing the aircraft to a halt before safely returning it to the bay.The passenger, Shawaz Yakoob, a resident of Jeppu who was travelling to China on a business trip, said the aircraft had almost reached the takeoff speed when he noticed sparks near the left engine. The pilot immediately applied the brakes, bringing the aircraft to a halt. It took around 30 seconds for the aircraft to stabilise, and the passengers were deboarded about an hour later, Yakoob said.He was scheduled to board a connecting flight from Bengaluru to Hong Kong at 1 am, but missed it. For him, the incident brought back painful memories of the 2010 Mangaluru air crash, in which he lost four of his relatives.

NTCA traces Debrigarh tiger's trek from Udanti-Sitanadi through Barnawapara

SAMBALPUR.(Agency)

Confirming the identity of the male tiger recorded in Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary earlier this month, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has traced the big cat's dispersal route from Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve through Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary in Chhattisgarh before it reached Odisha. The male tiger is estimated to be around five years old.

The confirmation follows an examination of camera-trap photographs and other field evidence shared by wildlife authorities in Chhattisgarh. Individual identification through distinctive stripe-pattern matching established that the tiger recorded in Debrigarh on November 9 is the same animal documented in Udanti-Sitanadi reserve during 2025.Further examination of photographic records and field inputs has now helped establish its subsequent movement to Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary before it entered the Debrigarh landscape. The findings provide a clear picture of the animal's dispersal across protected forests in two states, offering scientific evidence of natural movement between these landscapes.

According to the Wildlife Institute of India's Tiger Cell report received by forest officials here on Monday, the big cat has been assigned the identification number U93641 (CIEG) in Debrigarh, with its previous photographic .

Pushed off a Mumbai local, he was told his foot was lost. How surgeons sewed it back

Ronak Bhuptani's train was running late and he had an office to get to. So he squeezed into a crowded local for one short stop. He never made it to work that day.

Mumbai (Agency)

Doctors at the hospital where his family took him didn't hold out much hope. Ronak Bhuptani's left foot had been severed under the wheels of a Mumbai local train, and his family says they were told it couldn't be saved. The plan was to cut a little higher and fit a prosthetic leg.Two months later, the foot is still his. Surgeons at Nanavati Max Super Speciality Hospital in Vile Parle reattached it after it had gone nearly nine hours without blood supply, according to the hospital. The 30-year-old chartered accountant was discharged on October 17, the wound has almost completely healed, and he is set to begin rehabilitation in a week or two.It started with a delayed train. On September 18, Ronak was returning to Mumbai from Mathura and needed to reach his office in Andheri quickly."On September 18, 2026, I was returning from Mathura to Borivali on the Rajdhani Express. Because the train was delayed and I needed to reach Andheri quickly for office work, I boarded a local train from Borivali to Kandivali. Due to the heavy morning rush as we approached Kandivali station, I got pushed since it was crowded, fell off the train, and my left leg got trapped under the wheels," Ronak said.

Railway personnel pulled him out and rushed him to hospital, he recalled. "Fortunately, a friend spotted me, and because I remained conscious throughout, I gave him my phone password so he could alert my family," he said.After initial treatment at Shatabdi Hospital, his family moved him to a private hospital in Kandivali West. There, he says, doctors told them the leg couldn't be fixed, that they would have to amputate a little more and fit a prosthetic leg, and that "any surgeon in Mumbai would say the same".The family's spiritual guide pushed



them to try a super-speciality hospital and arranged an appointment with Dr Nilesh G Satbhai, Director of Plastic, Reconstructive Microsurgery and Hand Transplantation at Nanavati Max.A multidisciplinary team led by Dr Satbhai and Dr Gautam J K Tawari, Senior Director, Arthroscopy and Sports Medicine, attempted an emergency replantation of the completely severed foot. They restored blood flow by repairing the damaged blood vessels, nerves and muscles.Reattaching the foot was only half the job. The skin and soft tissue around the injury had been badly torn. "The complexity of this case lay not only in reattaching a completely amputated foot but also in repairing the extensive damage to the surrounding skin and soft tissues," Dr Satbhai said.Over several more surgeries, doctors stabilised the foot and covered the wound with healthy tissue and skin taken from Ronak's thigh to protect the structures underneath. They also used dermal substitutes and laser therapy to help the tissue grow and the wound heal. Once the foot was back on, Dr Tawari said, the focus shifted to making sure it healed properly.

No boarding status or update, SpiceJet crisis leaves flyers stranded at Mumbai airport

Passengers on a Delhi flight waited more than four hours with no boarding passes or updates, they allege, as the cash-strapped airline struggles with a shrinking fleet and crew shortages.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Passengers were left stranded at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) on Tuesday after SpiceJet cancelled several flights and delayed others, leaving many unsure when, or whether, they would fly.The airline had cancelled 12 scheduled flights from Mumbai by Tuesday, and no SpiceJet flight had taken off from the airport since 7 pm, according to airport sources. Across airlines, Mumbai airport recorded 422 delays and 39 cancellations on Tuesday, data from flight-tracking website Flightradar24 showed.



While several cancellations were reportedly planned, there was confusion at Terminal 1 as some SpiceJet flights were delayed without adequate communication from airline staff, passengers alleged. Some said they got no clarity on revised departure times, weren't issued boarding passes and didn't receive timely updates on their flight status.Videos on social media showed passengers raising slogans against SpiceJet at the airport.

Among the affected flights was SG-511 to Delhi, scheduled to leave at 11.20 pm. It departed at 3.54 am, around four-and-a-half hours late. Vignesh Koli, a resident of Uran in Raigad district, was among the passengers left waiting. "The airline staff failed to provide clear updates or even issue boarding issues in time, leading to a lot of chaos," Koli alleged.

Late-night cancellations from Mumbai included SG-676 to Bengaluru and SG-5113 to Dubai, hitting passengers on both domestic and international routes.The disruptions come as the financially distressed airline grapples with mounting operational problems. SpiceJet has been operating with a smaller fleet and facing crew shortages amid reported delays in payments to staff, according to airport sources. These constraints have hurt its ability to run scheduled flights.

On November 12, Dubai Airports suspended check-in services for SpiceJet over unpaid dues of over Rs 30 crore owed to ground-handling company Dubai National Air Travel Agency.

CSMIA had earlier issued an advisory warning that some SpiceJet operations could be affected by the airline's operational difficulties, and urged passengers to check their flight status with the airline before leaving for the airport.

Karnataka HC refuses to quash case against geologist over alleged irregularities in quarry clearance

BENGALURU.(Agency)

The Karnataka High Court has refused to quash criminal proceedings against Geologist Ramalingaiah, who was serving as In-charge Deputy Director of Mines and Geology in Ramanagara, for allegedly approving a quarrying plan and granting environmental clearance while suppressing the views of the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority.Justice H P Sandesh passed the order dismissing the petition filed in 2019 by Ramalingaiah, challenging the proceedings initiated before the trial court in Ramanagara based on the complaint filed by social activist Dinesh Kallahalli before the then Anti-Corruption Bureau in 2016.

The petitioner allegedly granted H A Sardar Ahamed



permission to mine three acres of land in Survey No. 205/2 in exchange for a bribe, causing financial loss to the state.Counsel for the petitioner argued that he was innocent and had merely granted permission to resume quarrying operations on the land, an action that did not attract the provisions of Sections 13(1)© and 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

He submitted that the permission was granted in good faith, based on the quarrying plan approval dated November 9, 2015, and the environmental clearance issued on January 12, 2016. The registration of the complaint was therefore bad in law, he argued.Opposing the petition, the special public prosecutor reiterated the allegations.

'Where's the liquor?': Three men barge into house, harass two minor sisters in Porbandar

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Police on Tuesday said they arrested three men for sexually harassing two minor sisters after barging into their house by terming their action a "janta (people's) raid", in Porbandar last week.The three men also allegedly shot and posted a video of their altercation with the sisters, who were alone in the house at the time, on social media.The girls' father has been booked in multiple prohibition cases, the police said.Deputy Superintendent of Police (Dy SP) Dhruval Sutariya said Nilesh Ram Vasra (39), Meru Ranmal Odedara (45) and Jaymal Sukka Bharvadiya (28) kept asking the girls, "Where is the liquor?" He added that the incident took place on November 13. The sisters are aged 16 and 13 years old.



The local police arrested the three after the latter were apprehended by the Local Crime Branch (LCB).The police learnt about the incident from the video and then spoke to the girls' mother, who then filed a complaint.The three men were booked under BNS sections for sexual harassment, insulting the modesty of a woman, criminal trespassing, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace, as well as section 12 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.On a question about the girls' father, Sutariya said that his house was raided by the police 11 times in as many months this year, and that he was booked in two prohibition cases this year and eight others previously.

"But even the police cannot enter any private premises without following proper regulations as per the law. But these people just entered the house, harassed the girls and made a video… One of the accused made a similar video previously, too."DySP Sutariya also spoke about what he claimed was a narrative that the police had been lax in acting on liquor cases. He said, "In 2025, in the area in question, we filed 611 cases, booked 13 under PASA, got externment orders against three persons and took preventive detention action against 56 people."He added, "In 2026, until October, we have filed 594 cases, booked 11 under PASA, got externment orders against 10 persons, and placed 45 under preventive detention."

GIFT City recognised as India's first MCR2030 'Resilience Hub' by UN body

BENGALURU.(Agency)

THE Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) Gandhinagar has been recognised as country's first 'Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) Resilience Hub' by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).The designation makes GIFT City the newest Resilience Hub in Asia and the Pacific and positions it as a platform for sharing practical experience in urban resilience with cities in India and across the world, a statement issued on Tuesday said.Speaking about the recognition, Sanjay Kaul, Group CEO and Managing Director, GIFT City, said, "Resilience is fundamental to the credibility of a global financial centre. Businesses and communities need confidence that the city can anticipate risks, protect people and suffer critical services through disruption. This recognition strengthens our resolve to make resilience an integral part of GIFT City's growth. As India's first MCR2030 Resilience Hub, we will share our experience and work with partner cities to translate learning into practical improvements in urban preparedness. Our ambition is to demonstrate how financial competitiveness and resilient urban development can advance together."The recognition marks a step in GIFT City's efforts to embed disaster preparedness and risk management into its urban development and operations.GIFT City joined MCR2030 in July 2022 with support from the Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) and guidance from UNDRR. It has completed Stages A and B of the



initiative's Resilience Roadmap and is progressing through Stage C, which focuses on implementation. A Detailed Disaster Resilience Scorecard assessment in June 2023 informed its Resilience Action Plan, finalised in March 2024 and now under implementation.Its preparedness framework includes disaster management plans at city, building and utility levels, supported by a Crisis Management Group, an Incident Response System and designated disaster management officers. More than 15 mock drills have tested responses to emergencies, including earthquakes and

Counting castes, questioning categories: The politics of caste enumeration

The Union Government has initiated steps to conduct a population census, which will also include caste enumeration. Such an exercise is essential for advancing social justice and refining reservation policies in education, employment and other sectors. However, how the data collected through the caste census are classified, and what decisions are subsequently made on the basis of those data, are equally important. Merely collecting numerical data will not, in itself, ensure social justice.The complexities of classifying caste names

Some argue that the caste names reported by individuals during the census should not be recorded exactly as given. Instead, respondents should be required to select a caste from the existing list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs).They contend that recording the thousands of caste names that people might report would create practical difficulties in implementing reservation policies. However, this approach raises fundamental questions. Is it appropriate to treat existing lists as definitive? How should the identities of communities not included in these lists, as well as the differences within and among them, be taken into account? Is it justifiable to force people's identities into predefined categories merely for administrative convenience?These questions apply not only to OBCs but also to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (Sts).The existing SC and ST lists are historically rooted in classification systems developed during the colonial era. Although these lists acquired legal validity under the constitutional framework after independence, their historical origins and the inconsistencies in their classification must be critically examined.Lessons from Dharma Kumar's researchThe renowned economic historian Dharma Kumar examined the reliability of caste census data from colonial India. Her research on nineteenth-century census records demonstrates that caste enumeration is not simply a matter of counting people (Sumit Sarkar and Tanika Sarkar (Eds) Caste in modern India : A Reader, Volume 2, Permanent Black, e edition, 2014) .

Kumar begins by emphasising the difficulty of defining caste. As she writes:

"The first problem is to define 'caste'; the point at which one distinguishes a caste from a sub-caste, is almost a matter of individual preference." (87)She explains that this would not be a serious problem if all census reports followed the same principles of classification and if all the subgroups within a caste, as defined by the census, shared the same traditional occupation. However, neither condition was satisfied.Kumar observes that the 1871 and 1881 censuses grouped several communities together under the categories of Palli and Pariah, although later reports classified some of these communities as separate castes. This inconsistency makes direct comparisons between caste population figures from different census years problematic.The problem becomes particularly serious when broad caste categories include communities whose traditional occupations differ cAgain, where the sub-division of castes is very broad, the danger of the inclusion of castes whose traditional occupation is not agricultural labour is great." (88)onsiderably. Kumar writes:

India must repair the Gorkha bridge

Nepali PM Balendra Shah's upcoming visit offers Delhi an opportunity to make amends



NEPALI Prime Minister Balendra Shah is scheduled to visit India later this week — his first foreign trip after he assumed office in March. Even though Nepali PMs have traditionally chosen India for their maiden visit abroad after taking charge, incumbents Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and KP Sharma Oli chose to tour China in 2008 and 2024, respectively. Shah has revived the "India-first" tradition, which signifies an improvement in bilateral ties.New Delhi should use this opportunity to reverse a setback to its military capabilities and regional engagement, caused by the suspension of recruitment of Nepali citizens into the Indian Army after the launch of the Agnipath scheme in 2022.This is not just a military issue. If India is to be acknowledged as a credible power, it must first secure its own neighbourhood. And there is no neighbour more critical than Nepal, given its geographical location as a buffer between the two Asian giants: India and China.Historically, the Nepali Gorkha has been the sword and bridge for India for two centuries. The courage and gallantry of the Gorkha soldier are legendary. This was recognised during the colonial era; these doughty men were recruited into the Army by the British.Personnel serving in Gorkha regiments received 26 Victoria Crosses (VCs) between 1858 and 1965 — 13 each awarded to British officers and Gorkhas. Until 1911, Indian soldiers were not even eligible for the VC. In the two World Wars alone, Gorkhas won 12 of the 39 VCs awarded to Indian soldiers — nearly one in three from a community that was a tiny fraction of India's population.Since 1947, Gorkha regiments have had a mixed composition of Indian and Nepali citizens. These regiments have won three Param Vir Chakras (out of 21 awarded so far): Capt Gurbachan Singh Salaria (Congo, 1961), Maj Dhan Singh Thapa (Ladakh, 1962) and Lt Manoj Kumar Pandey (Kargil, 1999). Add to that 33 Maha Vir Chakras and 84 Vir Chakras.No other regiment in the Indian Army has matched the Gorkhas' valour in war and peace. Tactically, the Gorkhas gave India its finest mountain infantry — 39 battalions in seven regiments out of the Army's 385 regular infantry battalions. The Army also has one pure Gorkha artillery regiment, 64 Field Regiment. This was raised in October 1962 and blooded at Bomdila a month later. Gorkha gunners made their presence felt with their 75/24 Pack Howitzers at Gobindganj and Bogra in the 1971 Bangladesh war.Politically, the Nepali Gorkha gave India something rarer: a constituency. Some 1.25 lakh ex-servicemen and widows in Nepal draw Indian pensions, which exceed $600 million or 3% of Nepal's GDP.

These veterans constitute a pro-India presence in every hill district and that is why the military link survived even the worst political crises — the 1989 blockade and the 2020 map controversy.The unique reciprocal tradition, under which each Army Chief is made Honorary General of the other's Army, has continued since 1950.

Agnipath severed this precious bridge. Kathmandu's argument was that a four-year term with 25% retention violated the 1947 Tripartite Agreement, which promised recruitment, service and resettlement as a Nepali citizen.

Consequently, since 2020 (when the Covid-19 pandemic broke out), no Nepal-domiciled recruit has joined. About 15,000 have retired and there has been no replacement from Nepal. The 60:40 Nepal-India ratio in the battalions is collapsing.Nature abhors a vacuum, and this pattern applies to geopolitics too. Deprived of recruitment in the Indian Army, Nepali youth have already gone to Russia. Some have even said that they would join the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) if the pay is attractive. Beijing has not yet made a formal offer to recruit Gorkhas, and it may never raise a formal Gorkha battalion — an ethnic foreign unit can pose loyalty problems for the PLA. But China does not have to do that. It only needs to offer training, scholarships and a narrative that India has abandoned the Gorkhas. Five to 10 years of that, and the Himalayan buffer can become a bridgehead.In contrast, the UK has understood what Delhi seems to have forgotten. Last year, the King's Gurkha Artillery was raised at Larkhill — the British Army's first such dedicated unit, recruited directly from Nepal. London is expanding the Gorkha gunner idea that the subcontinent innovatively conceived, while Delhi is closing the door on Gorkha recruits from Nepal.

Shah's visit presents India with a chance to make amends. The Indian Army cannot run two separate recruitment templates — one for Indian citizens and another for Nepali nationals — while maintaining parity in rank, pay, discipline and career progression. That is a hard institutional constraint.However, the recent revisions to the Agnipath scheme create practical room. The original four-year, 25% retention model has been modified; a large majority of the first batch is now being offered a further two years, with a clearer pathway into regular service for those who meet the standards.These changes bring the terms closer to what Nepal has sought since 2022: longer service, higher retention and the prospect of full pension for those who stay. Most of Kathmandu's core demands can therefore be accommodated within the revised Agnipath framework rather than by creating a parallel system.What's required i empathetic and patient negotiation, not a unilateral Indian concession or an outright Nepali climbdown. A hybrid understanding, retaining the single recruitment template while adjusting retention, service length and resettlement support in ways that address Nepal's economic and security concerns, would allow both sides to claim success.This is not a concession to Nepal.

Inflation above 6%, and RBI's easing cycle comes under strain

Rising raw material prices, amid supply chain disruptions since the start of the US-Iran conflict, have forced automakers, consumer durables and FMCG companies to pass on higher costs to consumers



Retail inflation in October breached the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6 percent for the first time in two years—a development that had been building for months. While a breach was expected, the persistence of inflationary pressures above this level warrants attention from monetary authorities. The hardening of inflation reflects the transmission of global supply chain shocks, a below-average monsoon and seasonal factors. It also shows that the impact of last year's GST rate cuts, and the subsequent reduction in prices of goods and services, is finally beginning to wear off.Retail inflation hit 6.09 percent in October, its highest level since October 2024, when it touched 6.21 percent, driven largely by high food prices. Food inflation climbed to 8.94 percent year-on-year, up from 7.74 percent in September. As food accounts for 35 percent of the CPI basket, it has a major bearing on overall inflation. Other factors contributed, too. Fuel prices remained elevated following the May 2026 increase in petrol and diesel prices, while aviation turbine fuel prices continued to rise. This resulted in a 5.84 percent increase in the cost of passenger and goods transport. Commercial LPG prices also continued to rise, with a ₹62.5 per cylinder hike in October, pushing up the cost of restaurant and accommodation services by over 10 percent.Rising raw material prices, amid supply chain disruptions since the start of the US-Iran conflict, have forced automakers, consumer durables and FMCG companies to pass on higher costs to consumers. Carmakers have been raising prices since early this year and continue to do so. The impact of last year's GST rate cuts has also begun to fade as companies find it increasingly difficult to keep prices in check amid rising production costs.The concern now is that these factors could keep inflation above 6 percent through the first half of next year. The RBI has already signalled the end of the low-interest-rate regime in its October monetary policy review, raising the repo rate by 25 basis points. That this hike may be only the beginning is reflected in October's inflation numbers and the price pressures building up in the coming months. The central bank will now have to consider not just further rate hikes but also where and when to stop. We should all be prepared for another 50-75 basis points of rate increases by the end of this fiscal year.

The rediscovery of India that is Bharat

Yet, from the moment I arrived in Delhi, having driven from Paris in a caravan of five cars at the tender age of 19, I felt I had come home.



Sonia Gandhi and I have something in common. We were both born in Europe, both raised in the Catholic tradition, both married Indians, and both eventually made India our home. But the comparison stops there.I came to India as a young Frenchman, with my Western education, Christian background and European prejudices. I knew practically nothing about this extraordinary civilisation. Yet, from the moment I arrived in Delhi, having driven from Paris in a caravan of five cars at the tender age of 19, I felt I had come home.Slowly, through years of living among Indians, travelling across the country, studying its ancient wisdom and meeting its spiritual masters, I discovered a civilisation far greater, deeper and more sophisticated than anything I had imagined. Knowledge came down the ages via the Hindus, this unique people who had been so much persecuted.Therefore, contrary to Sonia Gandhi, I have nothing to give or prove to Bharat. It is Bharat which has given everything to me. Indeed, like Mother Teresa before her, Sonia Gandhi seemed to me to approach India through a Western Catholic prism: as if India is a country that needs to be guided, corrected, uplifted or even lectured.I observed Sonia's political career at close range during my decades as a journalist covering South Asia. What struck me was not simply her rapid ascent within the Congress, but the ease with which she appeared to accept the reverence, privileges and extraordinary deference surrounding her.I remember being so shocked when she got re-elected as president of the party in November 2000: she came in cavalcade of cars from her Janpath residence-fortress to her party's office on Akbar Road just a few hundred metres away, surrounded by dozens of security, and Congress workers touching her feet—so impervious, arrogant like a 'white memsa'ab'.Her mother-in-law Indira Gandhi being shot by her Sikh bodyguards and her husband Rajiv being killed by a Sri Lankan Tamil separatist must have traumatised her. But personal tragedy cannot confer a hereditary right to govern a nation of 1.4 billion people.

This is why I was even more shocked that when constitutionally she was only an MP, during the UPA's 10 years in power (2004-14), she behaved as the sovereign of India, Manmohan Singh being the puppet Prime Minister. The unfortunate karma of the Congress is that it was created by an Englishman and it remains even today a colonised party, which instinctively accords greater prestige to Westerners.

In her just-released book, Belonging: A Journey of Love, Sonia says, "I cried as I watched the demolition of Babri Masjid"—where nobody was killed on site.

But did she cry when 59 innocent Hindus, including 37 women and children, were burnt like animals in the Sabarmati Express in February 2002? No, certainly not!My greatest concern today is that Rahul Gandhi appears to have inherited much of his mother's political outlook. He speaks frequently of democracy, equality and constitutional values. These are noble principles. But I remain unconvinced because I think he has the same Westernised, Catholic-centric view of India and of Hindus in particular.He will never understand—nor will his sister Priyanka—that India is not simply a geographical territory, an electoral arithmetic or a collection of communities competing for political concessions. India is Bharat. It is a civilisation whose spiritual and philosophical achievements stretch back thousands of years. It gave humanity the Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, yoga, profound systems of metaphysics and an extraordinary tradition of religious pluralism.One cannot hope to govern India successfully without understanding this inheritance.Hindus have traditionally accepted many paths to the divine, they have often hesitated to defend their own traditions forcefully. I believe that Sonia Gandhi and the Congress establishment shamelessly exploited—and still do—this generosity.For centuries, European powers dominated much of the world politically, economically and intellectually. They colonised Asia and Africa, and persuaded generations of educated people that Western civilisation represented the summit of human progress.

That era is ending. The hour of Asia has come.Bharat has an exceptional role to play in this transformation, not merely as an economic or military power, but as a spiritual and civilisational force. I continue, therefore, to place my faith in Narendra Modi.I do not believe his government is beyond criticism. Indeed, I have criticised the BJP when I felt it failed to defend Hindu interests. But Modi has accomplished something historically significant: he has helped restore to millions of Indians a sense of pride in their own civilisation. He has challenged the assumption that India must imitate the West to become modern. I believe he remains the strongest political instrument of that rediscovery.

Superfoods For the face



5 superfoods for a beautiful face

Every skin has a story to tell. The outside coat reflects the inside reality. While consuming the right foods and avoiding the wrong ones can make or break a skin, using the right foods on the surface of the skin can also do wonders. And it gets better if they are superfoods with enhanced capability. So, don't just stuff your face with these wonder foods, do some face-timing with them for a healthy skin inside out.

Gritty glow

The best thing about oats as a beauty product is that it works for all skin types. Oatmeal face packs are brilliant for skin whitening and lightening. One can use honey and almond milk as combinations for a good oatmeal pack. Since oatmeal is gritty in nature, it makes a good scrub for the face or when bathing.

Best for Acne-prone skin, as it absorbs oil from the skin's surface.

Soothing agent

Using cool green tea bags on the skin has been proved to reduce the damage of sunburns and overexposure to ultraviolet light, which, in turn, reduces skin ageing and increases collagen in skin. Cool two used green tea bags in the fridge for 30 min and use on tired eyes. Also brewed green tea or ground leaves can be used in DIY face masks or rinses.

Best for Removing puffy eyes, dark circles, as it's rich in vitamin K.



Natural hydrator

Chia seeds are rich in fibre, protein, vitamin E and omega fatty acids. Chia seeds is an important ingredient for many hydrating creams and serums. Ground chia seeds mixed with melted coconut oil is a great skin serum.

Best for skin hydration.

-Inputs from Dr Apratim Goel, dermatologist & laser surgeon, Dr Soma Sarkar, dermatologist.

Tone up

Apple cider vinegar is extremely good at removing dead skin and also makes for a great toner. Mix 1 tbsp of apple cider vinegar with two cups of water and store it in the fridge. Use 2-3 drops of this potion as a toner every night before bedtime to tighten up your skin.

Best for Removing dead skin and toning.

Masked beauty

The healthy properties of avocado have made avocado face mask treatments very popular over the last few years. Avocado battles dry skin and adds moisture because it contains vitamins A and E, both of which have antioxidant properties.

Best for Fighting dry skin, ageing, and lackluster skin.

Age busters

Acai berries are an excellent source of antioxidants and their anti-ageing properties help prevent free radicals from attacking and damaging your cells. Mix a cup of mashed strawberries with acai berry powder and apply on clean, damp skin for great results.

Best for Fighting signs of ageing as the berries have anti-ageing properties.



6 common beauty mistakes and how to fix them



Are you making these mistakes?

There are many thoughts running through our head every time we do our make-up. Be it getting ready for work or going out for a party, we're all in a hurry and running behind schedule most of the time! In this rush, we tend to miss a few steps and even make few common beauty mistakes—which can break your look. Here, we've listed 6 such mistakes along with few hacks to fix them.

Wrong shade of foundation

Ending up with the wrong shade of foundation, which is way too dark on your skin, is a problem most of us have gone through. In order to lighten it out, mix a little face moisturizer with your foundation and to get the shade you desire.

Neglecting the neck

The most BASIC and frankly the most careless mistake that people make is ignoring the neck. Always blend your foundation and setting powder, past your chin and down to your neck. This will ensure an even-toned complexion and no traces of the outrageous foundation line.

Shadow under your eyes and on your cheeks

A lot of times while doing eye make-up like smokey eyes or glitter art, the sneaky little eye shadow particles settle into the creases under our eyes and even cheeks. In such a situation, try to place a tissue under your eyes before your start to catch any fallout.

Overdoing the blush

The right amount of blush can add color to your cheeks and brighten up your face. On the contrary, we've all been guilty of dramatizing the blush a little too much. Smooth it out by taking a clean brush or sponge, dipping it in translucent powder and dabbing it on your cheeks to blend the excess.

5 DIY hacks to get rid of dark elbows and knees







5 home remedies to treat dark elbows and knees

Embarrassed because your elbows and knees look dark and scruffy? Well, when pigmentation occurs on these areas of the skin, scrubbing the affected area with soap might make things worse for you. In fact, all you need to do to get an even skin tone try your hand at some home remedies that will help you lighten the dark skin of your of elbows and knees. Here's a look at five natural ways you can deal with this problem.

Lemon

Lemon being a natural bleaching agent helps in making the skin tone even. Apply the juice of a lemon on these areas, massage gently, leave on for 10 minutes, rinse with warm water. Repeat this for a couple of weeks and see the difference.

Aloe vera

Aloe vera helps make the skin supple. Break open a fleshy aloe vera , and apply the pulp on rough skin. Leave on for about 20 minutes and rinse with cold water. Top up with a aloe moisturiser.

Coconut oil

To soften rough skin, massage the affected areas with coconut oil, and then go for a warm shower. Do not apply soap, just pat dry. You can squeeze in a few drops of lemon juice, too.

Curd

Curd is known to be a good moisturiser. But not many know that sour curd can also help lighten one's skin tone. Add a teaspoon of vinegar and gram flour to sour curd, and apply the mixture. Rinse after 15 minutes with warm water.

Baking soda and milk

Mix baking soda with milk to get a thick paste. Apply the paste on your elbows and knees and rinse after five minutes. Do this once a week for two months.





Bad beauty habits to fix now



Pause and take a look at your daily beauty ritual. Time to bring it back on track if the don'ts overpower the dos

It's natural to pick a bad habit or two even when it comes to beauty. But not many of us are aware of these. Says Narcis Jordan, a beauty professional, "Poor hygiene could lead to severe skin and hair infections. Following a beauty routine according to your skin and hair type is not enough, you need to make sure that you are doing it the proper and healthy way." There's more...

Sleeping with make-up on

Beauty experts have often spoken about the harmful effects of sleeping with make-up on. Nevertheless, many still forget to cleanse their face before going off to bed. No matter how tired you are, make sure to remove each and every trace of make-up before you retire for the night. It can clog your pores and can cause acne breakouts. It can also make your skin look dull due to the product buildup.



Beauty advice: Make-up professional Meghna Butani says, "Use a make-up remover to clean your face thoroughly, before washing it off with water and cleanser. You can use unscented baby wipes to remove your eye make-up. Make sure to apply night cream after that."

Touching your face too often

A common mistake that most women make, consciously or unconsciously, is to keep touching their face throughout the day. Touching your face consistently can lead to a buildup of dirt and oil from your fingertips to your face; this will can clog your pores and cause breakouts.

Beauty advice: "Sanitise your hands if you've been outdoors or to the washroom before you touch your face. Further, you need to make a conscious effort to remember that touching your face too often can lead to a buildup of dirt on your face," adds Jordan.

Throw away old make-up

Make-up expires with time. Once opened, make-up products become susceptible to contamination and can also collect bacteria. Using old make-up items can cause blemishes and also lead to skin irritations.

Beauty advice: Always remember to throw away eye and face make-up products like mascara, kajal, foundation and compact which have been used for more than six months.

Overdoing the tweeze

Dermatologist Dr Aparna Santhanam says, "You might not have enough time to visit the salon, but plucking away uneven or extra hair with tweezers could be harmful for your facial skin. Do you know that too much tweezing of your eyebrows can completely change the look of your face? For example, if you have thin eyebrows and keep plucking it, it can make your face look larger and older than you actually are."

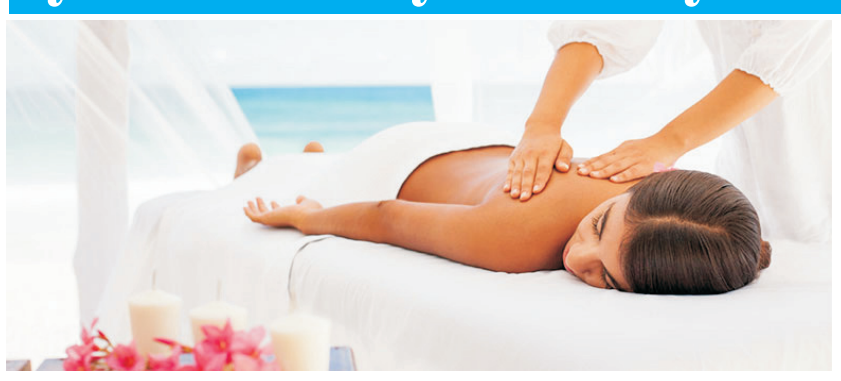
Beauty advice: If you feel that you have unwanted hair around your eyebrows, stick to just plucking one or two. Further use a thin comb to shape your eyebrows and use a little bit of gel to shape them properly.

Clear off dirty make-up brushes

More often than not, one forgets to clean the make-up brushes on a daily basis. Think about all the surfaces your make-up brush comes in contact with — bathroom countertops, inside of your make-up bag etc. They breed bacteria, if you do not clean them properly. They will irritate your skin and also cause itching and burning eyes. Apart from this, using dirty brushes may also impact the look of your make-up. The application of your foundation or compact will not be smooth as it's supposed to be.

Beauty advice: Clean your brush at least once a week. Wash them with water and shampoo and lay them flat to dry out in the sun. However, you must never blow-dry these brushes, else they might stay damp.

Spa therapies you must try before your wedding day



Heading towards your big, D-Day soon? The run-up to it is bound to be full of stress, to-do lists, shopping trips and more. And in all that, it's important to find the time to recharge, lose the fatigue and get prepared for your wedding day. To help you unwind, it's a good idea to chalk up trips to the spa for a mix of massages for your pressure points, body wraps, facials and other relaxation therapies. Here's more...

Skincare facials

Signature facials are definitely a part of the list. "Brides love the 'blue diamond' facial, with mineral ingredients and thermal spring water, which gives a brightening and even tone skin effect," says Husnavaz Dastur, spa director at a hotel at Lower Parel. And grooms get pampered, too. "Popular for men are facials that use minerals to remove dead skin cells and clarifying masks. You also have eye treatments that are part of the facial," she says.

One of the best ways to de-stress is via an Ayurvedic massage, which effectively drains away toxins and restores the energy balance in the body. The masseur uses vigorous strokes (not painful) in order to balance the energy centers. There's a lot to try — Abhyanga , a hot-oil massage, Shirodhara , where herb-infused hot oil is dripped onto the forehead or Tanlepa , an oil massage followed by a wrap. There's also an international blend to help you relax and get shipshape. Says Gunjan Chawla, spa director at a five-star hotel at Juhu, "We do an odyssey, a total indulgence trip, which is an hour-long massage followed by a scrub and a facial that enhances one's glow. Brides-to-be also love the Mediterranean sojourn — a luxe scrub with marine salt, brown sugar and lemon that softens the skin and the Egyptian one, where you relax in a milk bath with brown algae extracts and gold flecks, that lends the body a silky smoothness." And to bust fatigue, opt for a de-stress massage. Says Nalini Naegamvala, "This is a scalp, neck, shoulder, hand and foot massage that eases away aches. It's a lunchtime regimen that can be done without taking off the clothes or having a shower."

Skin pampering soaks for the bride and couple-to-be are also big on the agenda. Informs Dastur, "In demand are 'royal baths' that use rose bath salts, crystals with rose oil and coloured flower petals and Moroccan lamps — all of which go to enhance the whole experience. So it's really a colour therapy experience, which is very popular, now." Traditional herbal baths are also a great option. They offer a tranquil and beautifying experience. "You can use herbs such as triphala churna or mulgari churna which are added to water or milk and poured over the person. Not only does it help with skin disorders but it is also cooling and refreshing," says Nitin Rajen, ayurvedic spa co-ordinator.

One of the biggest skin woes is tanning and roughness on the skin of the feet. Spa foot therpies are now as exotic as it gets. You can choose from a variety of foot treatments — with roses, chocolate, peppermint oils, Mandarin oranges, lime and honey.

It's not just for the bride alone. The trend is to round up the gals and head to the spa. The therapies have now translated into girl getaways to places like Goa and Maldives before the big day. "Each spa has a curated menu designed to ensure that the bride and her friends feel rejuvenated. Popular now, are massages using heated coconut sticks and organic scrubs made from pineapple and papaya, followed by lunch, yoga and meditation," says Lyle Lewis, general manager at such a facility.

Check into a salt room

One of the latest wellness trends, this uses one of natures' most basic ingredients — salt, which is anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory. Say hello to the 'salt therapy'. Opened at Horniman Circle in Mumbai, you check into the salt room here and breathe in the grain, This helps combat respiratory ailments and leaves you feeling calm and refreshed. Salt also acts as a cleanser on the skin and gives it a glow.



Skincare for working Women



The facial skin is the most sensitive and deserves the highest attention. These days due to exposure to pollution, climatic changes and stress the skin looses it sheen very easily. Investing in a planned beauty treatment that works deep from within can be very helpful in such cases. Opting for therapies using organic products like argan oil, goji berry extract, avocado oil, gold elements etc over a couple of months show a lot of positive results.

The beauty of using organic products is that they blend with the body's natural system, supporting the skin in its regeneration process.



Organic facial helps in fighting dead skin cell and reveal the new skin underneath, leaving the skin visibly lighter. Thus, washing your face with homemade ingredients is the best way to care for your skin.

Argan Oil is another ingredient used extensively for the skin, hair and body. Extracted from the magical Argan tree, it is the best secret weapon for red-carpet like radiance. It's deep conditioning properties works wonder on the entire skin. A lot of celebrities vouch by Argan oil for their perfect and blemish-free skin. After all, there is nothing more beautiful than having a naturally glowing skin for a woman.

Two killed, six injured in east Delhi building collapse

Delhi.(Agency)

Two persons, including a three-year-old boy, were killed on Tuesday morning after a 50-year-old building collapsed in east Delhi's Jwala Nagar, officials said.

A senior police officer said a PCR call reported the collapse, with several people feared trapped under the debris. Police personnel rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation.Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Rajendra Prasad Meena said six people sustained injuries in the incident. Khushboo (27) and her minor son, Devansh, were on the first floor, while Pintu (35), Vikesh (35), Akash (25) and Dalip alias Dimpa (22) were on the ground floor. Devansh and Pintu later succumbed to their injuries at the hospital.All the occupants of the building were tenants. Surendar Singh the owner of the building was later arrested. The injured were shifted to Hedgewar Hospital for treatment. Further investigation is underway, said officials.North East District Magistrate Ajay Kumar said the building was approximately 40–50 years old, with a railway track running behind it. He said vibrations caused by trains may have affected the structure over time, while the alleged lack of regular maintenance and repairs by the landlord may have further weakened it.According to Kumar, the balcony slab on the upper floor of a small section of the building, measuring around 20–22 square yards, collapsed, triggering the collapse of the entire structure. Seven people were residing in the building as tenants. Two lost their lives, while the others sustained injuries and were hospitalised. A team had also been deployed at the hospital to ensure that the injured received proper medical care and assistance, he said."The debris was being cleared manually, and the possibility of someone remaining trapped could not be ruled out until the rescue operation was completed.

CJP's Das, Ranka appear before special magistrate

Delhi.(Agency)

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka appeared before a Special Executive Magistrate (SEM) here on Tuesday for verification of their sureties and supporting documents, a condition imposed at the time of their release from judicial custody in connection with the October 13 protest.Security arrangements were tightened at the Mandir Marg police station ahead of their scheduled appearance.The two leaders had last appeared before SEM Assistant Commissioner of Police Ritu Raj on October 23, two days after their release from Tihar jail following seven days in judicial custody. They were directed to return on



November 17 for verification of their sureties and the accompanying documents.

During the previous hearing, Das was also asked to submit a verifiable document establishing his current residential address in Delhi, as he had failed to furnish proof of the same.At the time of their release on October 21, both leaders had furnished personal and surety bonds and submitted written undertakings before the SEM, assuring that they would not call for any protest at Jantar Mantar as long as it remained a denotified protest site.The leaders had also earlier undertaken not to indulge in any activity that could disturb public peace.

Saurav Das submits proof of residence

Cockroach Janta Party leader Saurav Das on Tuesday said that his residential address in Delhi was verified during a hearing before the special executive magistrate(SEM) and questioned why the Delhi Police had been unable to establish it over the past month.

Rs 94-lakh Patek Philippe watch seized at IGI. How flyer from Dubai was busted in Green Channel

Delhi.(Agency)

A luxury watch worth nearly Rs 1 crore can catch the eye at an airport. But for an Indian passenger arriving from Dubai, a "pre-owned" Patek Philippe Aquanaut ended up drawing the attention of customs officials instead, triggering a metal detector alert and eventually leading to an arrest.The watch, valued at Rs 94 lakh, was seized at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport after customs officers intercepted the passenger on the basis of intelligence. The passenger was arrested under the Customs Act, 1962, with officials citing the recovery of the Swiss-made luxury timepiece.



The seizure has brought the spotlight back on India's customs rules governing expensive personal belongings brought into the country by international travellers. So, what exactly triggered the arrest? Why did the passenger who was meant to pass through the Red Channel, land up in the Green Channel?

HOW DELHI CUSTOMS OFFICIALS RECOVERED THE RS 94 LAKH WORTH WATCH

According to Delhi Customs (Airport and General), officers at Terminal 3 intercepted an Indian passenger arriving from Dubai on November 11 aboard SpiceJet flight SG5106.The authority, in a post on X on Tuesday (November 17), said it acted on intelligence, officials diverted the passenger to X-ray screening and a personal and baggage search within the Green Channel.

.During the examination, the Door Frame Metal Detector (DFMD) triggered an alert.The Green Channel and Red Channel are customs clearance paths at international airports that let arriving passengers declare goods or walk through based on what they are carrying.A search later led to the recovery of a "pre-owned" Patek Philippe Aquanaut luxury wristwatch. A Chartered Engineer examined the timepiece, certified it as genuine and assessed its value at Rs 94 lakh.Customs officials seized the watch under Section 110 of the Customs Act, 1962, and arrested the passenger under Section 104 of the Act. Further investigation is underway.

In the same post on X, Delhi Customs advised international travellers to declare all dutiable goods and use the Red Channel instead of the Green Channel when required.

WHY WAS A PRE-OWNED WATCH SEIZED BY DELHI CUSTOMS?

The fact that the watch was old and used does not automatically exempt it from customs duty. What matters is whether it qualifies as a duty-free personal effect or falls under the category of imported goods on which customs duty is payable.Under India's Baggage Rules, 2026, eligible Indian residents and tourists of Indian origin arriving in India by air are entitled to a general duty-free allowance of Rs 75,000.The rules also separately provide for the used personal effects required to meet a traveller's daily necessities during the journey.

However, the general duty-free allowance is subject to prescribed conditions. It does not mean that every expensive item carried by a passenger automatically qualifies for duty-free entry.

Kejriwal's 'Sheesh Mahal' to be opened for public viewing

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi government will open former CM Arvind Kejriwal's official residence, popularly known as 'Sheesh Mahal', at 6 Flagstaff Road for public viewing next week, Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma announced on Tuesday.Verma said a ticketing system would be introduced to allow people to reserve visits. Initially, media tours would be organised, followed by public visits through paid tickets."Looking at public demand, we will open 'Sheesh Mahal' for a public tour. We will show the biggest example of corruption to people, how a person who said he would not even use a government vehicle built a lavish residence for himself by demolishing several other houses," the minister said.

He claimed that the public had earlier been shown only one room displaying portraits of Bhagat Singh and Dr BR Ambedkar. The bungalow, he alleged, featured expensive curtains, imported Vietnamese marble, smart lighting systems and luxury fittings.Kejriwal lived at the bungalow during his tenure as chief minister from 2015 to 2024. The BJP coined the term 'Sheesh Mahal' to target the Aam Aadmi Party over alleged extravagance and corruption during the February 2025 Assembly elections.The property also came under scrutiny in a Comptroller and Auditor General report tabled in the Delhi Assembly in March 2026. The audit flagged procedural lapses, cost escalation and gaps in documentation. It noted that the built-up area increased from 1,397 square metres to 1,905 square metres, while the PWD revised its preliminary estimates four times.

According to the CAG report, the renovation was completed at Rs 33.66 crore, 342.31 per cent above the estimated cost of Rs 8.62 crore. The work, which began in 2020, reportedly included an 88-inch OLED television costing Rs 28.9 lakh, a refrigerator costing Rs 3.2 lakh, and jacuzzi, sauna and spa facilities worth Rs 19.5 lakh.

As UP gears up for Assembly polls, ECI team to review election preparedness

The review, to be held in Agra, is part of the Election Commission's preparations for Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa.

Delhi.(Agency)

A team of senior Election Commission officials will review Uttar Pradesh's preparedness for the Assembly elections on November 19 as part of a phased assessment ahead of polls expected early next year, news agency Press Trust of India reported.The review, to be held in Agra, is part of the Election Commission's preparations for Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa.Officials told PTI that the team, led by a Senior Deputy Election Commissioner, had recently visited Meerut to assess the preparedness of election officials in some divisions of western Uttar Pradesh. The review in the state is being conducted in phases.The Election Commission has completed its review visits to Uttarakhand, Manipur and Punjab, while a visit to Goa is being planned.While recently ordering a Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls in 17 states, the poll body noted that Assembly elections in the five states could take place "early next year."The term of the 403-member Uttar Pradesh Assembly ends on May 22, 2027. The terms of the Assemblies in Manipur, Goa, Punjab and Uttarakhand end on different dates in March 2027.The Representation of the People Act, 1950, allows the Election Commission to hold elections earlier than six months before the end of an Assembly's term.As part of election preparations, Uttar Pradesh and Goa have also begun first-level checks of electronic voting machines and voter-verifiable paper audit trail units.During these checks, engineers from Bharat Electronics Limited



and Electronics Corporation of India Limited, the two public sector companies that manufacture the equipment, examine the machines for mechanical defects. Faulty units are sent back to the manufacturers for repair or replacement.

Mock polls are also conducted in the presence of representatives of political parties to test the machines. The process includes clearing data from previous elections stored in the control and ballot units.

Machines that pass the tests are marked "FLC OK" and sealed with specialised pink paper seals to prevent unauthorised access before the next stages of election preparation.

An EVM set comprises at least one ballot unit, one control unit and one VVPAT machine.The November 19 review in Agra will continue the Election Commission's phased assessment of Uttar Pradesh, alongside preparations and equipment checks in states expected to go to the polls early next year.

Lawyer challenges CJI's integrity in courtroom, SC initiates contempt proceedings

Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notice on a plea by the Supreme Court Bar Association seeking contempt action against a lawyer over unsavoury remarks against Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, the Press Trust of India reported.A three-judge bench of Justices Dipankar Datta, Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana sought the lawyer's response and made the notice returnable on January 20, 2027."Having perused the papers before us, which include the consent of the AG under Section 15(1)(b) of the Contempt Act, we are prima facie satisfied that the motion of SCBA for initiation of a pleading against the sole respondent referred in the petition requires to be taken forward. We issue a notice returnable January 20, 2027," the bench said.



Supreme Court Bar Association president and senior advocate Pradeep Rai, appearing for the association, submitted that such conduct was "totally unacceptable".The proceedings followed an incident on Monday when the lawyer was escorted out of a Supreme Court courtroom after making unsubstantiated and unsavoury remarks against the CJI.According to PTI, the lawyer sought an urgent hearing after a bench comprising the CJI and Justices Bagchi and Mohana assembled in the afternoon.The lawyer wanted to make submissions regarding alleged corruption in the judiciary. He alleged that he had received no response from the CJI's office to a communication sent on November 2 and urged the court to hear him immediately."You cannot mention anything like this," Justice Mohana observed. When the lawyer persisted, the CJI said, "We will see, you just wait."

The lawyer then allegedly told the CJI, "No, I will not wait. You cannot sit in that chair. You do not deserve. You do not have the integrity for that."The court's virtual proceedings were stopped for some time after the remarks. The lawyer was later escorted out of the courtroom by security personnel, according to sources.

Criminals don't stop at borders: NCW pushes for women's safety in Delhi-NCR

NCW chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar said women's safety must be the top priority of every district police administration and called for a shift from reactive to preventive policing.

Delhi.(Agency)

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has called for better communication, coordination and consultation among police forces in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan to strengthen women's safety across the National Capital Region, news agency Press Trust of India reported.Commission Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar said women's safety must be the top priority of every district police administration and called for a shift from reactive to preventive policing.



Rahatkar was speaking at a meeting with senior police and administrative officers from 39 districts across Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Tuesday. Criminals do not recognise state boundaries, and police forces must work beyond administrative jurisdiction, the commission said in a statement.She stressed the need for effective coordination among police forces, particularly in cases with interstate links. She also called for safer public transport through effective CCTV surveillance, GPS tracking, police patrols, street lighting, SOS facilities and verification of transport personnel.Rahatkar sought effective implementation of the commission's Guidelines for Safety of Women Passengers, which were shared with the participating officers. Referring to NCRB 2024 data, she said police performance should be assessed not only by the number of FIRs registered but also by crime prevention, response time and the quality of investigations.She called for the identification of vulnerable locations, increased patrolling around educational institutions, markets, public transport hubs and isolated stretches, and safe transport arrangements for women working late hours. She also sought prompt action against cybercrimes, including cyberstalking, sextortion, morphing and online harassment.

Emphasising policing centred on victims, Rahatkar called for functional Women Help Desks staffed by trained personnel and timely access to legal, medical and counselling support. She urged senior officers to regularly review serious crimes against women.

Sensex, Nifty open flat after 2-day rally; SBI, ICICI Bank among top gainers

New Delhi. (Agency)

Domestic equity benchmarks opened marginally lower on Wednesday, taking a breather after a two-day rally. At 9.21 am, the BSE Sensex was trading at 82,438.98, down 93.21 points or 0.11%. The NSE Nifty50 was at 25,346.85, lower by 40.55 points or 0.16%. The benchmarks opened in the red even as select banking stocks, including State Bank of India and ICICI Bank, saw buying interest. The muted opening comes after a strong run on Dalal Street, raising the possibility of some profit-booking at higher levels. The Nifty 50 and Sensex had climbed to near nine-month highs, with the Nifty gaining around 13% in 12 trading sessions, according to Reuters. The rally has been supported by sustained foreign investor buying and a decline in crude oil prices. Foreign portfolio investors have pumped around $10 billion into Indian equities this month and bought shares for 12 consecutive sessions through Tuesday. Meanwhile, Brent crude was trading at around $92.70 a barrel, down nearly 21% this month. Global cues remained mixed, with Asian markets gaining after Nvidia issued a stronger-than-expected sales forecast. Investors will also keep an eye on banking and financial stocks, as well as developments around regulatory curbs on leveraged stock trading.

WHAT SHOULD INVESTORS EXPECT NEXT?

Dr V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Limited, said the market could see a minor correction after its sharp rally, but any dips are likely to attract buying. "After a sharp surge of above 10% in Nifty so far in November, the market may experience a minor correction any time. However, the dips are likely to be bought into, since the bulls are calling the shots now," he said.

Vijayakumar said improving corporate earnings would remain a key support for the market. He pointed to Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank, which together account for 27.6% of the Nifty's weight, saying improving fundamentals at these companies bode well for the benchmark index.

PFRDA eases NPS account rules for NRI seafarers: Which documents will work?

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has eased Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) seafarers opening National Pension System (NPS) accounts. The move will help those working on ships who often find it difficult to provide proof of an overseas residential address while opening an account. In a circular dated November 13, 2026, the pension regulator said regulated entities must accept certain employment-related documents as proof of address for NRI subscribers with a seafarer work profile. The change applies to the opening of NPS Tier I accounts.

WHICH DOCUMENTS CAN NRI SEAFARERS SUBMIT?

Under the revised rules, NRI seafarers can submit either of two documents as proof of address. The first is a valid employment contract with the employer or shipping company. This option is available to seafarers who are proceeding on a fresh contract. The second is a Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC), provided the disembarkation stamp or record on it is not more than six months old. These documents will help establish the subscriber's employment and non-resident status, while addressing the difficulty of providing overseas address proof during NPS onboarding.

Chinese steel imports a growing threat to India, warns Tata Steel CEO

New Delhi. (Agency)

Chinese steel imports continue to pose a challenge to India's domestic steel industry, Tata Steel CEO T V Narendran said on Wednesday. He added that Indian steelmakers are in talks with the government on measures to protect the sector from the impact of cheap imports, reported Reuters. Narendran said Indian steelmakers investing heavily in expanding capacity should not be unfairly affected by cheap imports.

INDIAN STEELMAKERS SEEK PROTECTION FROM CHEAP IMPORTS

The comments come amid concerns among domestic steel producers over the rising flow of cheaper steel imports from China. India's steel ministry is unlikely to seek fresh curbs on cheap imports in the near term, Reuters reported in October, despite calls from domestic steelmakers for stronger protection.

China accounted for nearly a third of India's finished steel imports in the first half of the current financial year, the report mentioned. Indian steelmakers have been seeking measures to protect domestic producers as they continue to invest in expanding production capacity.

Narendran said Tata Steel expects to reach an annual production capacity of 40 million metric tonnes between 2033 and 2035. The expansion will build on the company's planned capacity additions through the end of this decade. He also highlighted the rising cost of iron ore in India. Tata Steel continues to source most of its imported coking coal from Australia, while smaller quantities come from Indonesia. Narendran added that the company has no plans to invest in overseas coking coal mines.

Separately, Narendran said Tata Steel had sought financial assistance from the Dutch government, with discussions on the matter still underway.

Gold, silver lose their shine after Diwali: Buying opportunity or warning sign?

The festive shine has faded for gold and silver, with prices falling sharply after Diwali. Should investors see this as a buying opportunity or wait for the correction to deepen?

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Gold and silver prices are witnessing another sharp sell-off, leaving investors wondering whether the precious metals have further to fall or are nearing a recovery. The decline has gathered pace after Diwali, with a stronger US dollar, rising expectations of an interest rate hike in the US and sustained selling pressure weighing on prices. On Wednesday, November 18, both metals extended their losses in the domestic futures market. At around 12 noon, MCX gold was trading at Rs 1,31,250 per 10 grams, down 2.18%. Silver was trading at Rs 1,64,196 per kg, falling 3.24%.

Both precious metals are hovering near their lowest levels in more than a year. The sharp correction has also raised concerns among Indian buyers who are planning purchases during the ongoing wedding season. So, what is driving the fall in gold and silver prices? Is this a temporary correction or could prices decline further? And should investors wait for a recovery before buying?



WHY ARE GOLD AND SILVER PRICES FALLING AFTER DIWALI?

The latest decline is largely linked to changing expectations around US monetary policy, a stronger dollar and rising bond yields.

Expectations of a US Fed rate hike

One of the biggest reasons behind the recent fall is growing expectations that the US Federal Reserve could raise interest rates next month. Markets are increasingly preparing for tighter monetary policy as concerns about inflation persist. According to CME's FedWatch tool, traders are pricing in a 95.7% probability of a 25-basis-point rate hike in December. The probability of a bigger 50-basis-point increase stands at 4.3%. Higher interest rates generally put pressure on gold and silver because neither metal offers regular interest income. When interest rates rise, investors may find bonds and other interest-bearing assets more attractive than precious metals.

Stronger US dollar and rising bond yields

A firmer US dollar has added to the pressure on gold and silver. Since both metals are priced internationally in dollars, a stronger dollar makes them more expensive for buyers using other currencies, potentially reducing demand.

Rising US Treasury yields have also made interest-bearing investments more attractive, reducing the appeal of gold.

Kelvin Wong, senior market analyst at OANDA, told Reuters that the decline in gold prices was largely driven by market sentiment and technical factors. He pointed to hawkish comments from Federal Reserve officials and rising US Treasury yields, which have supported the dollar.

Former Tata trustee Darius Khambata says all agreed to find Chandra's successor: Report

What changed between August and September? Former trustee Darius Khambata says Tata trustees had agreed to find Chandrasekaran's successor before the board backed another five-year term.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Senior advocate and former Tata Trusts trustee Darius Khambata has claimed that all trustees, including vice-chairmen Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh, had agreed to find a successor to Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran after he indicated he did not want another term, reported Mint. In a four-page letter dated November 17, Khambata questioned whether Srinivasan had informed Tata Sons' Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC) about the agreement before it recommended that Chandrasekaran continue as executive chairman.

Khambata's letter comes amid an escalating dispute within Tata Trusts over Chandrasekaran's reappointment, the proposed listing of Tata Sons and the role of trustees in the group's governance.

"After Chandra announced on 12 August 2026 that he did not seek reappointment, all of us, including



both of you, agreed at our meeting of 13 August 2026 to respect his wishes and to begin constituting a Selection C mmittee for a new Chairman," K ambata wrote. He then directly questioned Srinivasan's role as a Tata Trusts nominee director on the Tata Sons board. "Did Venu, as a Trust nominee Director, draw the attention of Tata Sons' NRC to that resolution when it resolved on 3 September 2026 to ask Chandra to continue? Your 'complete' sequence of events leaves out these crucial facts," he wrote.

The is important because the NRC's September 3 decision set in motion the process that eventually led to Chandrasekaran's third five-year term being approved by the Tata Sons board on September 17.

WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER?

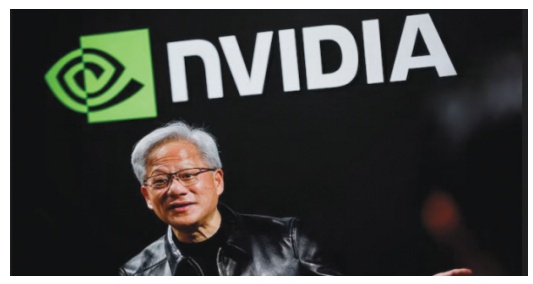
The succession question emerged after Chandrasekaran informed the Tata Sons board on August 12 that he did not wish to seek another term when his current tenure ends in February 2027.

Nvidia delivers blockbuster quarter, but can it keep growing without Jensen Huang?

New Delhi. (Agency)

Nvidia has delivered another blockbuster quarter, with revenue more than doubling to nearly $116 billion, highlighting the extraordinary demand for its artificial intelligence chips. But the latest earnings from the world's most valuable chipmaker come at a particularly turbulent moment, with the company navigating the sudden departure of its co-founder and longtime chief executive Jensen Huang amid a widening controversy involving alleged personal relationships and questions over China-linked business dealings.

The third-quarter fiscal 2027 results, announced on Tuesday, November 17, offer a striking picture of Nvidia's financial strength even as uncertainty



surrounds its leadership. Revenue for the quarter ended October 25 rose 103% year-on-year and 20% sequentially. Net income climbed 105% to $65.3 billion, while diluted earnings per share came in at $2.70, compared with $1.30 a year earlier.

The company's data-centre business, which has become the biggest beneficiary of the global AI infrastructure boom, continued to drive growth. Revenue from the segment surged 110% to $107.6 billion, accounting for nearly 93% of Nvidia's total quarterly revenue. Nvidia also forecast revenue of $130 billion for the ongoing quarter, plus or minus 3%, signalling that demand for its AI computing infrastructure remains strong. The results are Nvidia's first since Huang's resignation on November 12, following revelations about his alleged relationships, including one involving Alice Huang, a businesswoman and former executive at Nvidia customer Megaspeed International who is under US scrutiny over suspected links to Chinese intelligence.

Why Jeff Bezos thinks Nvidia should avoid hiring an outsider as its next CEO

New Delhi. (Agency)

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos believes Nvidia should look within the company to find its next chief executive rather than hire someone from outside. He said the chipmaker is too complex for an outsider to take charge successfully, making an internal candidate a better choice, reported Business Today.

Speaking at a Semafor event, Bezos also praised former Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang for building the company and said he deserved admiration and respect for his work.



BEZOS BACKS INTERNAL HIRING FOR NVIDIA CEO ROLE

When asked whether Huang should return to Nvidia, Bezos said he did not have enough information about the circumstances surrounding his departure to comment on the possibility. He pointed out that several details of what happened during the company's board meetings were not known publicly.

However, Bezos was clear about what the board should consider while looking for Huang's replacement. He believes hiring an outsider should be the last option, given the complexity of Nvidia's business. According to Bezos, an outsider would have very little chance of succeeding at a company like Nvidia. He suggested that the board should first look at people who already understand the company's operations, business and culture.

NVIDIA BOARD RULES OUT JENSEN HUANG'S RETURN

Bezos' comments come at a time when Nvidia's board has made it clear that it is not considering bringing Huang back as CEO. Huang, who stepped down last week after leading the company for 33 years, said on Tuesday that he would be willing to return if the board felt it was the right decision for Nvidia.

However, board chairman Harvey Jones told investors that Huang had left voluntarily and would not return. He made the remarks during an investor call following the company's latest quarterly results, according to Reuters.

No car is getting damaged: Nitin Gadkari hits back at anti-ethanol campaign

Gadkari alleged that a campaign was launched two to three months ago to portray ethanol-blended petrol as harmful to vehicles. He claimed that the campaign was paid for and aimed at creating doubts about the use of ethanol in petrol.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has hit back at criticism of ethanol-blended petrol, alleging that a paid campaign was launched to create fears among car owners about its impact on vehicles. He accused oil-import lobbies of opposing ethanol blending to protect their business interests. Speaking at the 14th CII Bioenergy Summit in New Delhi, Gadkari defended the government's push for alternative fuels and said concerns about vehicles getting damaged due to ethanol-blended petrol were unfounded. “No one's car is getting damaged. The car is fine now,” Gadkari said.

GADKARI ACCUSES OIL LOBBY OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST ETHANOL

Gadkari alleged that a campaign was launched two to three months ago to portray ethanol-blended petrol as harmful to vehicles. He claimed that the campaign was paid for and aimed at creating doubts about the use of ethanol in petrol.

The minister accused oil-import lobbies of trying to discourage ethanol blending because of their business interests. He has repeatedly backed the use of alternative fuels, arguing that they can help India reduce its dependence on imported crude oil. At the summit, Gadkari also discussed alternatives to conventional petrol and diesel, including ethanol, methanol, biodiesel and hydrogen.



WHAT GADKARI SAID ABOUT E20 PETROL AND OLDER VEHICLES

The minister's latest remarks come amid continuing concerns among motorists about the impact of E20 petrol on older vehicles. In August, Gadkari told Parliament that E20 petrol was safe for older vehicles, including those manufactured before E20 compatibility standards were introduced. He said laboratory studies and field trials had not found abnormal wear and tear or major changes in vehicle performance after using the fuel. Gadkari was responding to a question by DMK MP Constandine Ravindran, who sought clarity on the impact of nationwide E20 availability on older vehicles, including BS-III models manufactured and registered before April 1, 2017.

However, the minister acknowledged that E20 petrol could lead to a 2% to 6% drop in fuel efficiency.He also pointed out that mileage depends on several factors apart from the type of fuel used. These include driving habits, timely oil changes, air-filter cleanliness, tyre pressure, wheel alignment and the use of air conditioning.

GADKARI PITCHES ALTERNATIVE FUELS TO REDUCE OIL IMPORTS

Apart from defending ethanol blending, Gadkari highlighted the need to expand the use of biofuels and other alternative energy sources. He spoke about around 3,000 upcoming GOBARdhan plants, which will help convert organic waste into useful energy. He also discussed the possibility of producing aviation fuel from ethanol and converting carbon dioxide into urea.

Seize stray cattle, auction them if unclaimed, rules Madras HC

CHENNAI.(Agency)

In an order having far reaching consequences in addressing stray cattle menace, the Madras High Court has ordered the civic bodies to seize cattle straying or tethered on public roads and auction them if the owners fail to take them back within a time frame.The first bench of Chief Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and Justice G Arul Murugan issued the orders on Tuesday while disposing of a petition filed by M Kamesh of Thiruverkadu seeking directions to the authorities to check the menace.

It stressed that the authorities shall enforce Section 3 of the Tamil Nadu Animals and Birds in Urban Areas (Control and Regulation) Act, 1997, in letter and spirit. "All cattle owners within municipal limits must obtain a valid licence. The authorities shall inspect sheds to ensure proper hygiene, waste disposal and domestic tethering. Every licensed animal must be tagged for easy owner identification," the bench said.

Directing the authorities to form dedicated teams for seizing the stray cattle, the bench said the police shall provide adequate security to the civic body personnel in the crackdown.

Andhra Pradesh: Low Somasila storage casts shadow over Rabi cultivation

NELLORE.(Agency)

The sharp decline in water storage in the Somasila reservoir, coupled with inadequate rainfall under the influence of El Nino, has cast a shadow over Rabi cultivation in Nellore district, leaving farmers anxious about the availability of irrigation water. With the reservoir holding barely 19.754 TMC of water against the minimum requirement of 45 TMC for agricultural operations, the prospects of extensive paddy cultivation this season appear bleak.The situation is particularly worrying as Rabi is the most important agricultural season in the district, during which farmers traditionally cultivate paddy across the entire available agricultural area. However, the present water storage is unlikely to meet irrigation requirements, as authorities are expected to prioritise drinking water needs.

Of the 19.754 TMC currently available in the Somasila reservoir, around 7 TMC constitutes dead storage. The remaining water is considered insufficient to meet irrigation requirements after accounting for drinking water needs. Consequently, releasing water for agricultural operations appears difficult.The Somasila reservoir had 71.791 TMC of water during the corresponding period last year, whereas the present storage stands at 19.754 TMC, registering a decline of 52.037 TMC.

40 KGBV girls taken ill in Andhra's Rayadurg, probe ordered

ANANTAPUR.(Agency)

Around 40 girl students of a Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) at Gummagatta in Rayadurg constituency of Anantapur district fell ill after complaining of stomach pain and vomiting in the early hours of Tuesday.The incident came to light around 5 am when school staff noticed several students experiencing the symptoms. The authorities alerted the Gummagatta Primary Health Centre (PHC), following which a medical team comprising two doctors and six support staff rushed to the school and provided treatment.Of the affected students, 17 were shifted to the PHC and administered intravenous (IV) fluids, while the medical team treated the others on the school premises.One student was later shifted to the Area Hospital in Rayadurg for further treatment. Officials said they would refer other students to the hospital if necessary.The school has 279 students from Class VI to Intermediate, of whom 263 attended classes on Tuesday. Around 40 students complained of stomach pain and vomiting. According to preliminary information, the school served rice, sambar and ridge gourd curry for dinner on Monday night.

3 years on, 3-hour parole for Amritpal Singh to visit Punjab for grandmother's cremation

Amritsar.(Agency)

A court in Amritsar on Tuesday granted custody parole of three hours to jailed Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh to attend the cremation of his grandmother on November 21, paving way for the self-styled chief of Waris Punjab De to walk out of the prison for the first time in over three years.The order came on a fresh plea filed by Amritpal seeking a three-day interim parole from November 21 to 23.Earlier, on November 13, the court had granted Amritpal three-hour custody parole for November 14. The same day his team filed the fresh plea after authorities expressed their inability to make arrangements on such short notice to bring Amritpal, who is lodged in Dibrugarh Jail in Assam, to Punjab.

Amritpal's grandmother Charan Kaur (84) died on November 8, bu the family deferred the cremation so that the Khadoor Sahib MP could attend the last rites. Kaur's mortal remains have been kept at the family's native village of Jallupur Khera in Amritsar. The family has now scheduled the cremation on November 21, collection of ashes on November 22, and the 'bhog' on November 23.In the court, Punjab government did not raise any objections to the new date, but submitted that "the State cannot be made to bear expenses of travelling and other security arrangements" and argued that keeping the applicant in the region for an extended period could disrupt public order. The State also opposed the applicant's request to ensure his presence at the time of the collection of ashes and the 'bhog' ceremony.It further submitted that it would not be in the State's interest to keep the applicant in Amritsar for long as there are chances of disturbance of law and order. However, the State is well prepared to maintain law and order for a short period on a single day.Disposing the plea, Additional Sessions Judge Parinder Singh directed the Punjab government to ensure Amritpal's physical presence at Jallupur Khera in custody on November 21 from 12 noon to 3 pm at the applicant's cost and subject to the conditions set in the November 13 order.



"It is hereby made clear again that in case of breach of law and order, or happening or reasonable apprehension of untoward incident, the state would be at liberty to immediately remove the applicant/accused from the place of cremation and even out of state," read the order.The court noted that while Amritpal desired to participate in the last rites, the financial conditions settled by the duty officer could not be reopened at this stage. The court directed that the State must charge reasonable expenses without claiming an exorbitant amount that would render the relief useless.The court further directed Punjab government to ensure that Amritpal attends the collection of ashes and 'bhog' ceremonies scheduled on November 22 and 23 through video conferencing.The court made it clear that the applicant's request to modify the condition of payment for the expenses incurred on his travel and security arrangements cannot be entertained at this stage, as this was duly considered by the court earlier.

Over 30 villages in Gujarat's Valsad flag 'poor' mobile network connectivity

A memorandum to the authorities says this has created a dire situation in affected areas, leading to serious & potentially life-threatening consequences for the local population

Surat(Agency)

RESIDENTS OF over 30 villages in Kaprada taluka and Nanaponda areas in Valsad district on Tuesday made representations to the district administration over "poor mobile connectivity" in the interior areas and have demanded installation of adequate mobile towers.The memorandums were handed over to the Dharampur Mamlatdar and addressed to the Valsad district collector Nitin Sangwan.The memorandum states that this "lack of connectivity" has created a dire situation in the affected areas, leading to serious and potentially life-threatening consequences for the local population. In a single settlement area, the majority of the population – approximately 500 families – have highlighted the issue.



Also, villages of Kakad, Kopar Kajali, Gha, Varana, Ozar, Sukhala, Veribhoda (Veribhavda), Mani, Chijda, Piparoni, Meghval, Rohyal, Talat, Vadi, Shildhavar, Chandvegan, Meghdha, Matuniya, and Dinbari — are affected; these are located in remote terrain that is difficult to access.Due to the lack of network connectivity, people are forced to travel miles to reach high, hilly areas just to make or receive a phone call. Students attending schools and colleges are deprived of online education, the memorandum pointed out.A manager of a fair-price (ration) shop had to travel to a high-altitude area to find a network signal to process a rationing coupon; while doing so, he was bitten by a venomous snake.On this issue, the Kaprada BJP MLA Jitubhai Chaudhary had, on July 16, made a representation requesting the approval of new mobile towers. BJP MP from Valsad, Dhaval Patel, also supported such demand and made representations.

Apart from this, on September 3, 2026, Dakshaben Gaikwad (Valsad district panchayat member and Irrigation department chairperson) addressed a written letter to the Valsad District Collector, apprising the administration of such poor mobile connectivity network.Furthermore, the tribal community has submitted a formal memorandum (representation) addressed to the Dharampur Mamlatdar and the District Collector.

A tribal leader (non-political) of Kaprada taluka, Jayendra Gavit, expressed strong indignation, underlining that the affected residents remain deprived of basic communication infrastructure. He said, "It is time to move beyond mere proposals and assurances from other ends. The community is prepared to launch an agitation to demand the installation of a BSNL or other government telecom tower to serve the 13 surrounding settlements. If no concrete action is taken, the community will be compelled to launch a vigorous protest against the administration."Valsad Collector Sangwan told The Indian Express, "We know that there are mobile network problems in some of the interior areas in the district. We have identified government pockets, and BSNL has been urged to set up mobile network towers. They will start work on it and in the coming days the issue will be resolved."

Sunshine time in TN: 3K MW solar project bids in two weeks

CHENNAI.(Agency)

The Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) has received around 110 applications proposing a combined solar power generation capacity of nearly 3,000 MW across the state within two weeks of launching its online application portal.

As the state had added just 1,887.65 MW in installed solar power capacity from April 2025 to April 2026, the proposal for 3,000 MW in just two weeks is seen as a significant jump.The corporation has directed its officials in five regional zones (Chennai, Tiruchy, Madurai, Tirunelveli and Coimbatore) to conduct field inspections to assess the feasibility of the proposals before granting approvals.A senior TNGECL official told TNIE that the corporation had temporarily halted the acceptance of applications for new projects in May 2026 after the new TVK government detected certain irregularities."Subsequently, the corporation developed an online single-window portal to streamline the application process and ensure transparency in renewable energy (RE) and rooftop solar projects. Electricity Minister C T R Nirmal Kumar launched the portal on November 3," the official said.

'Opposition to EB transmission networks by ryots continues'

Officials have flagged infrastructure constraints, particularly the availability of substations and transmission lines, as major challenges to expand solar power generation. These are essential for evacuating the electricity generated by new projects into the grid."Though the state and central governments are keen on expanding renewable energy capacity, it is equally important to assess the availability of substation connectivity and transmission lines to carry power from generation points to substations. Expanding the transmission network also poses several challenges," another official said.The official said residents in several localities and farmers were opposing the installation of transformers and electricity poles required for laying transmission lines. Without resolving these issues, commissioning new solar and other renewable energy projects would be difficult, the official added.

Vehicle check turns into gunfight: UP gangster wanted in 35 cases killed

Lucknow.(Agency)

An Uttar Pradesh gangster wanted in 35 criminal cases was killed in a police encounter after a routine vehicle-checking drive allegedly turned into an exchange of fire in Ambedkar Nagar district, leaving two policemen with bullet injuries.Wahid Abu, 35, a resident of Ghazipur district, was killed on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday. He was allegedly involved in dacoity, contract killing and illegal arms supply cases registered across Ghazipur, Azamgarh, Chandauli and Sultanpur districts, the police said.



According to the police, a vehicle-checking drive was underway in the Kotwali area on the intervening night of November 17 and 18 when officers spotted two men approaching on a motorcycle from the Ahirauli side. When the police team attempted to stop the motorcycle, the pillion rider allegedly opened fire.Bhupendra Singh, Station House Officer of Akbarpur police station, and Head Constable Sonu Yadav sustained bullet injuries to their hands in the firing, the police said.

A chase and an escape

The two accused then fled towards the Shiv Baba ground area on the motorcycle, the police said, adding that though they pursued the suspects and repeatedly asked them to surrender, the duo continued firing at them.The police allegedly retaliated in self-defence, during which one of the men, identified as Wahid, sustained bullet injuries. His associate escaped under the cover of darkness, the police said.Wahid was rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

From 2014 to 2023

The first case against Wahid was registered in Azamgarh district in 2014 on charges of attempt to murder. Subsequently, nine more cases were lodged against him in the district, followed by cases in other districts.The last case against Wahid was registered under the Arms Act by the Government Railway Police in Chandauli in 2023."He was also wanted in a case registered in Gorakhpur," Arun Kumar, Circle Officer, Ambedkar Nagar, said.

Bhadra Festival returns to the venue after 12 years on November 19

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

If one place in Ahmedabad shows the imprint of the Mughals, British and Marathas, it is Bhadra, a square at the centre of the old city that hosts a market and shares its name with a fort built by Ahmed Shah in 1411.Named after the Bhadra Kali temple that the Marathas are said to have built here, the fort was earlier called Arak, according to the Mirat-e-Ahmadi, an 18th-century chronicle of Ahmedabad by the emperor's diwan Muhammad Ali Khan.

The stretch between the fort and Teen Darwaza, which is now called Bhadra Plaza, served as the royal square for processions during the Sultan's rule. Now, Bhadra and Teen Darwaza host a popular street market that sells everything from household wares to traditional block-printed fabric and affordable jewellery.The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation on Tuesday (November 17) cleared the area to give it a makeover for the upcoming heritage festival by Crraft of Art, an initiative to "reintroduce monuments to people". The Bhadra festival, returning to the venue after 12 years on November 19, marks the beginning of the World Heritage Week.Three stages have been built for events that will feature a Dadi Pudumjee puppet parade, the Sidi Dhamaal dance, Mallakhambh, a musical concert by Ustad Fazal Qureshi (tabla), Ustad Shujaat Khan (sitar) and George Brooks (saxophone) at Teen Darwaza, and other art performances.

Unlike the imposing forts of Delhi or Rajasthan that have several metres long walls, the Bhadra fort is smaller, with two towers around a massive brick structure that has a clock added by the British in 1849—when the fort served as a prison.The fort, however, draws attention mostly because of the popularity of the marketplace, said residents and traders. The recent Diwali holidays were an exception when it saw a surge of visitors. Shankar Sharma, a security personnel who has been guarding the fort for 15 years, says at least 1,000 people visited the fort during the Diwali weekend."Many visitors were from outside Gujarat. There were times when two of us on security duty could not manage the crowd. The footfall this year was higher," said Sharma."The fort catches people's attention.



Mohammed Siraj's place uncertain as India weigh pace options for Wellington Test

New Delhi.(Agency)

India bowling coach Morne Morkel on Wednesday declined to offer clarity on Mohammed Siraj's place in the playing XI for the opening Test against New Zealand, leaving the final decision to captain Shubman Gill as the team weighs its pace-bowling options ahead of the Wellington contest.

Asked whether Siraj's place was under scrutiny following a recent dip in form, Morkel was careful not to commit either way, although he was quick to underline the fast bowler's credentials."Siraj is a world-class performer, whenever he has stepped in the India jersey, whenever he has played," Morkel said on the eve of the first Test."My feedback to Gautam (head coach Gautam



Gambhir) was that we have enough in attack to take 20 wickets. Ultimately the call will be taken by Shubman," he said.The comments came a day after Gill indicated that India would field four fast bowlers, without revealing the final combination. With Jasprit Bumrah an automatic choice, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Anshul Kamboj and Gurnoor Brar are competing for the remaining three spots in the pace attack. Siraj had a modest outing in his only practice match for India A against New Zealand A, returning figures of four for 118.

Dhoni bhai: Rohit Sharma's warm farewell message for CSK legend

New Delhi.(Agency)

For years, they were on opposite sides of one of the Indian Premier League's fiercest rivalries. MS Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings and Rohit Sharma's Mumbai Indians traded titles, last-ball finishes and memorable battles, with the two captains often finding themselves at the centre of the contest. But when Dhoni finally called time on his IPL playing career, Rohit had a message that went beyond the rivalry."Congratulations on an incredible IPL career, Dhoni bhai. It's been fun sharing the field and so many memories with you over



the years. Much respect!" Rohit wrote on X on Wednesday morning.It was a short message, but one that carried the warmth of a relationship built over years of playing together for India and competing against each other in the IPL.Rohit and Dhoni have been two of the defining figures of the tournament since its inception in 2008. Between them, they have led Mumbai Indians and CSK to 10 IPL titles, with both franchises winning the competition five times. Their teams have produced some of the league's most memorable finals and high-pressure encounters, often with little separating them.Rohit, who led Mumbai Indians to five titles between 2013 and 2020, was frequently Dhoni's biggest rival in the competition. Their tactical battles became a familiar feature of the IPL, with the two captains bringing contrasting styles to the field. Dhoni's measured approach and instinctive reading of situations often went up against Rohit's .

Yellove: How Thala Dhoni became the face of Chennai's cricket obsession

For nearly two decades, Chennai has cheered, chanted and claimed MS Dhoni as its own. From packed practice sessions to the Thala phenomenon, this is the story of how a cricket-mad city found its hero, and why that love will outlast his playing days.

New Delhi.(Agency)

A walk down Wallajah Road, one of the lanes leading to the MA Chidambaram Stadium, offers a curious glimpse into Chennai's relationship with two of Indian cricket's biggest names. There is a shop called Sachin Sports and, a little further down, another called Dhoni Sports. A tea shop sits between them. It is an unremarkable stretch of road, especially on a non-match day, but the names on those shopfronts tell a story about the city's enduring love affair with cricket. Sachin Tendulkar and MS Dhoni may have come from different corners of India, but Chennai has always found room for both in its heart.Ask the staff at Sachin Sports what sells fastest, and the answer is a Chennai Super Kings shirt with Dhoni's No. 7 on the back. A store named after Tendulkar sells more shirts bearing the number of a man who never played for Tamil Nadu. On Wallajah Road, nobody seems to find that unusual.

The city had made up its mind about Dhoni before he ever wore yellow. The long-haired batsman from Ranchi who flayed Pakistan at Visakhapatnam in 2005 was adopted in Chennai the way he was adopted everywhere else, from a distance and in a hurry, and the formal papers followed three years later. To understand why that happened, it helps to understand the city he walked into. Chennai has never needed the Indian Premier League to discover its love for cricket.Idli, filter



kaapi, Rajinikanth, Ilaiyaraaja and Marina Beach are all part of Chennai's identity. So is cricket, though it is not confined to stadiums or television screens. On any Sunday morning, it is likely to be playing out on almost every available patch of open ground.My mother still tells the story of Kris Srikkanth visiting our school for its annual day function as chief guest in the early 1990s. The auditorium held about 500-600, and by her account a good many more squeezed in, for an opener whose following the social media age has no real means of reproducing. Later in that decade, in 1999, Chepauk watched Pakistan beat India by 12 runs after Tendulkar had batted through a bad back, and the crowd rose to applaud the winners on their lap of the ground. Javed Miandad, then Pakistan's coach, was moved enough to salute the city for it.

The affection was never in doubt. What it lacked, until 2008, was a face.When the IPL arrived, franchises were expected to look like their cities, and most of them borrowed a local hero to prove it. Mumbai had Tendulkar, Kolkata had Ganguly, Delhi had Sehwag. Chennai had declined an icon player altogether, which looked like an oversight until they bought a man from Ranchi.

AIFF files complaint over alleged racist gesture in India-Palestine U17 qualifier

Kuala Lumpur.(Agency)

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has lodged a formal complaint with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) over an alleged racist gesture by a Palestine player towards India U17 captain Dallalmoun Gangte during their AFC U17 Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers match in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

The incident took place during India's 4-1 victory over Palestine at the Kuala Lumpur Football Stadium on November 17. A Palestine player was seen making a fanning-the-nose gesture while standing close to Gangte. The action drew criticism after footage emerged from the live broadcast, with many interpreting it as a racist stereotype suggesting an unpleasant smell.Despite the incident being visible during the broadcast, match officials did not take disciplinary action during the game.

AIFF SEEKS ACTION

In its formal complaint, the AIFF has urged the continental governing body to review the incident, examine the available match footage and take appropriate action under the applicable regulations.The federation reiterated its opposition to racism and discriminatory behaviour, stating that such conduct goes against the fundamental values of football, including respect, equality, fair play and sportsmanship.The complaint puts the focus on the AFC and its response to the alleged incident, with the AIFF seeking appropriate action from the continental governing body.

INDIA CLOSE IN

The controversy came on a night when India's U17 team produced an impressive performance to beat Palestine 4-1 and maintain their unbeaten run in Group E.

Mehrajuddin Wadoo's side took an early lead through Kamgouhao Doungel in the eighth minute. Palestine captain Yazan Khalifah converted a penalty in the 32nd minute to restore parity, sending the teams into the break



at 1-1.The second half was delayed by more than two hours because of heavy rain, with both teams forced to remain in their dressing rooms as conditions deteriorated.

India returned with greater intent after the restart. Mukundo Singh Ningthoujam restored the lead in the 52nd minute before Gangte extended the advantage seven minutes later. Zoramdinthara Lalhunmawia added a fourth in the 89th minute to complete the emphatic win.

Sandpapergate: Cricket Australia ready to hear all sides, but won't probe again

Sydney.(Agency)

Cricket Australia has decided against reopening its investigation into the 2018 ball-tampering scandal but will establish an independent forum for players and support staff involved in the infamous Cape Town Test to share their accounts of what happened.The forum will provide a confidential setting for those who wish to come forward and offer their recollections of the events that brought Australian cricket to its knees. Cricket Australia (CA) said participation would be voluntary and stressed that the process was not intended to reopen the original investigation, impose fresh sanctions or revisit the punishments handed out to Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft.The decision comes after a fresh wave of controversy surrounding Sandpapergate, triggered by revelations in former Australia batter Usman Khawaja's autobiography, Sabr. His account of the 2018 tour of South Africa has reopened questions about how much the wider Australian team knew about the plan to tamper with the ball.

CA chairman David Boon said the board believed the forum offered the best opportunity for those involved to be heard while allowing Australian cricket to move forward."For almost a decade, the fallout from those events has remained part of the conversation around Australian cricket. It has been a difficult chapter for many people and, increasingly, the ongoing debate has become a distraction from the game. We believe it is time for a circuit breaker," Boon said.

"This forum is not about relitigating the past. It is about creating an opportunity for those who wish to be heard to tell their



stories in a respectful environment, and for our sport to listen."The renewed debate began after Khawaja wrote in Sabr that he knew about the use of sandpaper during the South Africa series and had even warned Bancroft to be careful. He also described an earlier incident during the second Test at Port Elizabeth, where players had experimented with sandpaper on the ball. Khawaja argued that the episode should have been treated as a collective failure rather than one for which three players bore the brunt of the punishment.His account drew a strong response from Australia captain Pat Cummins, who rejected suggestions that he and other members of the bowling group knew about the plan. In a lengthy press conference, Cummins described Khawaja's claims as "complete and utter nonsense" and said.

Sporting spirit shines as Pakistan give India guard of honour after SAFF final

In a heartwarming display of sporting spirit, Pakistan's footballers gave India a guard of honour after the SAFF Championship final in Dhaka. The gesture stood out amid recent handshake snubs between the neighbours in other sports.

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a sporting rivalry increasingly defined by the absence of handshakes, Indian and Pakistani footballers offered a reminder that competition need not come at the cost of camaraderie. After India defeated Pakistan 2-1 in the SAFF Championship final in Dhaka on Tuesday, the Pakistani players lined up to give the newly crowned champions a guard of honour, providing a striking contrast to the strained sporting exchanges between the neighbouring countries in recent times.The gesture stood out against the backdrop of the no-handshake policy that has become a feature of India-Pakistan cricket encounters since the 2025 Asia Cup. The two cricket teams have repeatedly avoided customary greetings, both at the toss and after matches, with the practice extending to the men's and women's teams across competitions.The trend began after the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025 and the subsequent military escalation between the two countries. It continued through the 2025 Asia Cup, the Under-19 Asia Cup, the Women's World Cup and the Women's Asia Cup in



2026. Even at the Asian Games in Japan last month, India captain Shreyas Iyer and Pakistan skipper Sahibzada Farhan did not shake hands at theThe final in Dhaka was not the first instance of the two teams exchanging pleasantries during the tournament. Before their group-stage meeting on November 5, India head coach Naushad Moosa had indicated that his players would follow customary pre-match greetings. India captain Bijoy Varghese subsequently shook hands with Pakistan skipper Yousuf Ijaz Butt.

The post-final scenes offered another illustration of that sporting spirit, with players from both sides exchanging handshakes and high-fives during the medal ceremony. Pakistan's guard of honour for the Indian champions was a particularly memorable moment after a fiercely contested final.The contrast was also visible at the Asian Games, where Indian and Pakistani athletes across hockey, volleyball, table tennis and squash exchanged greetings despite the strained relations between the countries. India's hockey players and their Pakistani counterparts shook hands after a dramatic semifinal, while Pakistani volleyball players were seen consoling Indian opponents after a victory.

On the pitch, India had to fight back from a goal down to secure their 10th SAFF Championship title and complete a hat-trick of consecutive triumphs. toss before the men's cricket final.Pakistan, appearing in their maiden SAFF final, took the lead through Alamgir Ghazi in first-half stoppage time, catching India off guard. The Blue Tigers struggled to find their rhythm in the opening period but were handed an advantage when Junaid Shah was sent off in the 59th minute following a VAR review for a dangerous challenge on Brison Fernandes.India made their numerical advantage count. Suhail Ahmad Bhat restored parity in the 60th minute before Sandip Mandi struck an 88th-minute winner to complete the comeback.The 2026 SAFF Championship, the premier men's football competition for South Asian national teams, featured.

Tiger Woods to return to competitive golf ending two-year absence

New Delhi.(Agency)

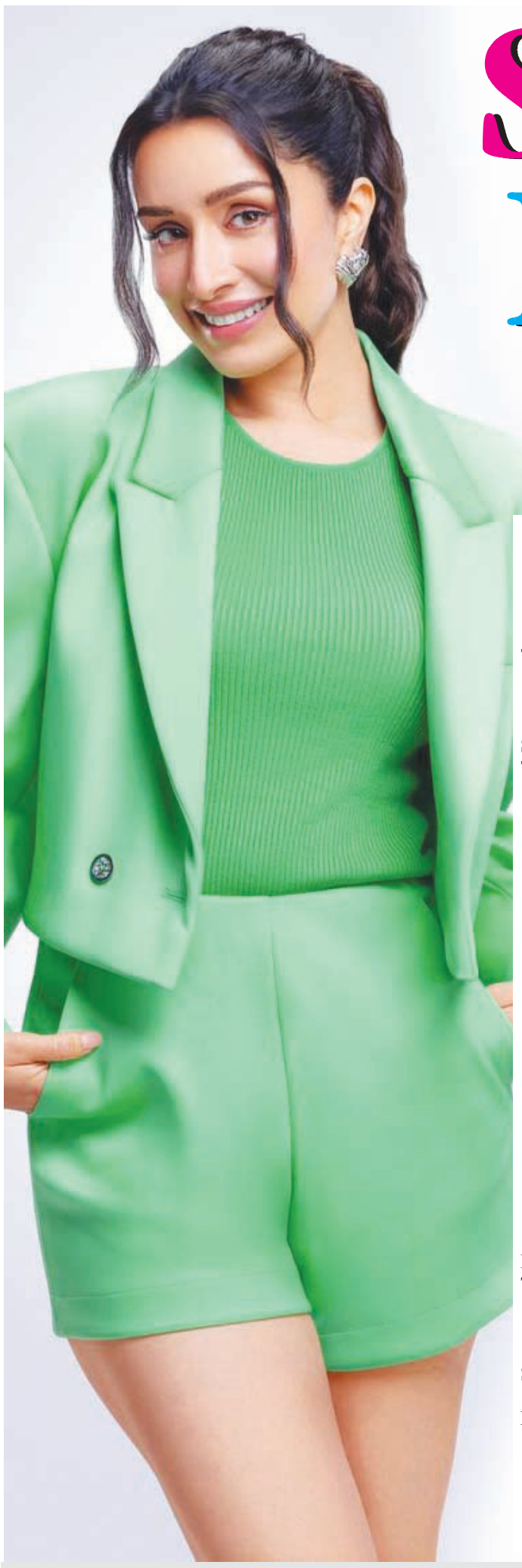
Tiger Woods will end more than two years away from official competition when he tees it up at next month's Hero World Challenge, an unofficial event he hosts in the Bahamas, organisers said on Tuesday.

The 50-year-old, who hosts the 20-player event, has not competed in a world-ranking tournament since missing the cut at the 2024 British Open due to a combination of injuries, surgeries and legal complications.The Hero World Challenge is a 72-hole event with no cut.Woods had surgery to repair a nerve impingement on his lower back in September 2024 and then ruptured his Achilles tendon the following March



while ramping up training at home, an injury that forced him to miss the 2025 season. He had another surgery in October 20The 15-times major champion, regarded as the greatest golfer of his generation, returned to practice this year but his comeback attempt was derailed when he was arrested in March on a misdemeanor driving under the influence (DUI) charge after a rollover crash in Florida.

Woods, one of the most famous athletes on the planet, has largely remained out of the public eye since his arrest and even spent time outside the US so he could seek treatment and focus on his health.25 to replace a disc in his lower back.



Shraddha Kapoor

Performs Lavani In Eetha's First Song Ji Ji Re Ji, Shreya Ghoshal Lends Vocals

Shraddha Kapoor has unveiled Ji Ji Re Ji, the first song from her upcoming film Eetha, directed by Laxman Utekar. The track features the actress performing a traditional Lavani dance, dressed in a colourful Nauvari saree. Sung by Shreya Ghoshal and composed by the celebrated musical duo Ajay-Atul, the song introduces audiences to the performing arts tradition at the centre of the film, which chronicles the life of legendary Tamasha and Lavani artiste Vithabai Bhau Mang Narayangaonkar.

The song arrives weeks after the film's trailer was released on October 30. Eetha is scheduled to hit theatres on December 4, 2026, setting up a box office clash with Salman Khan's Maatrubhumi: May War Rest in Peace. The film also stars Randeep Hooda, Mohd. Zeeshan Ayyub, Siddharth Jadhav and Ishtiyak Khan in prominent roles.

Shraddha Kapoor Showcases Lavani Dance In Ji Ji Re Ji

Taking to social media, Shraddha shared the music video of Ji Ji Re Ji, giving fans another glimpse of her portrayal of Vithabai."EETHA ka pehla gaana, aapke naam. #JiJiReJi song out now. #EETHA cinemas mein 4 December ko," she wrote alongside the video.The song features Shraddha performing on stage in a vibrant Nauvari saree, embracing the traditional attire associated with Lavani performances. The choreography places the actress within the world of Maharashtra's folk entertainment, which forms an important part of Vithabai's story.The musical collaboration also brings together Shreya Ghoshal and Ajay-Atul, with the singer lending her voice to the composition.While the film's trailer established the circumstances surrounding Vithabai's personal and professional journey, Ji Ji Re Ji concentrates on the performance aspect of her life, placing Lavani at the forefront.



Eetha Trailer Explores The Life Of Vithabai Bhau Mang Narayangaonkar

The makers previously unveiled Eetha's trailer on October 30, introducing Shraddha's transformation into the celebrated Marathi folk performer.The footage follows Vithabai's journey through the world of Tamasha and Lavani, highlighting both her accomplishments as an artiste and the difficulties she encountered away from the stage.

Several portions of the trailer feature Shraddha performing before packed audiences, with elaborate stage arrangements and spectators cheering during the performances.

However, the film does not restrict its narrative to Vithabai's public success. The trailer also offers glimpses of the personal struggles that accompanied her career, suggesting that her experiences beyond the stage will form an important part of the story.The film marks Shraddha's collaboration with filmmaker Laxman Utekar, with whom she brings the life of the renowned performer to the big screen.



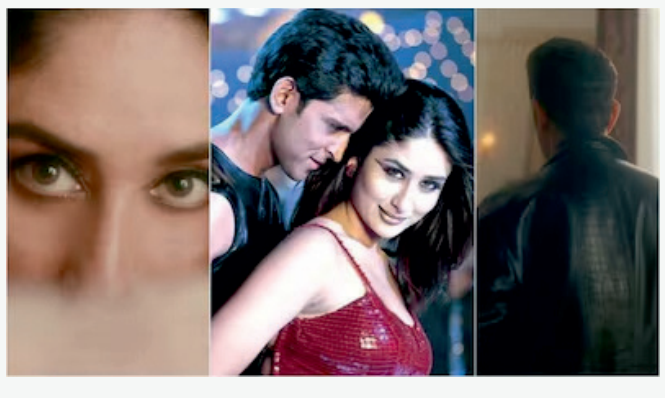
Kareena Kapoor

Khan And Hrithik Roshan Reunite In New Video 25 Years After K3G, Fans

Kareena Kapoor Khan and Hrithik Roshan, who were once among Bollywood's most-loved on-screen pairs, have reunited for a new advertisement. While the two actors haven't starred together in a film since 2003, they reunited recently for a new advertisement. Filmmaker Karan Johar shared a teaser giving a glimpse of Hrithik and Kareena's reunion, and it has sent fans into a frenzy. While most fans hailed it as the collaboration of the year, many others said they want to see them together in a film again.

Kareena Kapoor Khan And Hrithik Roshan's Reunion

The teaser of the advertisement shared by Karan Johar shows Kareena Kapoor Khan and Hrithik Roshan recreating their characters Poo and Rohan from the iconic 2001 film 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham'. The clip shows Bebo applying lip gloss, much like her K3G character Poo, while Hrithik is seen wearing a black leather jacket. The teaser offers only fleeting glimpses of their faces, keeping their full looks under wraps. Meanwhile, the song 'You Are My Soniya' plays in the background.The teaser appears to hint at an upcoming Airbnb advertisement, which will be unveiled on 19th Novemeber. Sharing the video on Instagram, KJo wrote, "Kuch kahaaniyan 25 saal baad bhi khatam nahi hoti…." Check out the video below!



Fans Root For A Full-Fledged Film Reunion

Soon after KJo shared a video, fans flooded the comments with excitement, expressing their desire to see Kareena and Hrithik reunite on the big screen for a film."We want a movie with them," commented Tahira Kashyap. One fan wrote, "Collab of the year," while another one commented, "NO WAYYYYYYY IM SATTTTTTT." A third fan commented, "A movie please," while another netizen wrote, "Some of us really manifested this."

Kareena Kapoor Khan And Hrithik Roshan's Movies

Kareena Kapoor Khan and Hrithik Roshan have shared screen space in several Bollywood films, including Yaadein (2001), Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham (2001), Mujhse Dosti Karoge! (2002) and Main Prem Ki Diwani Hoon (2003). Their on-screen chemistry, marked by effortless camaraderie and sizzling screen presence, struck a chord with audiences, and their pairing became particularly popular among fans.

Koffee With Karan 9: Shah Rukh Khan To Grace Finale With Karan Johar's Twins? Deets Inside



The latest season of Koffee With Karan is special for Karan Johar as it marks the end of one of the most loved talk shows. A latest report suggests that the season finale is going to be one of the closest episodes to Karan's heart, as it will feature Shah Rukh Khan along with two special guests.As per Variety India, SRK will not be there for the entire episode, but he will only grace the Koffee couch for a short duration. Meanwhile, the episode will mark the television debuts of Johar's twins, Roohi and Yash, on the show. Shah Rukh Khan was the very first guest on the Koffee couch when the show first premiered in 2004, and now his return for the last episode will be a nostalgic moment for Johar.

Shah Rukh Khan was shooting for King when this episode was shot, and he had little time to spare as he is busy getting his film King ready, which is possibly the reason why he hasn't shot for an entire episode. Reports also suggest that Suhana Khan will join the episode.

Who Has Appeared On Koffee With Karan 9 So Far?

The ninth season has featured several well-known names from the entertainment industry. The guest line-up so far includes Salman Khan, Varun Dhawan, Janhvi Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, Kiara Advani, Sidharth Malhotra, Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna.

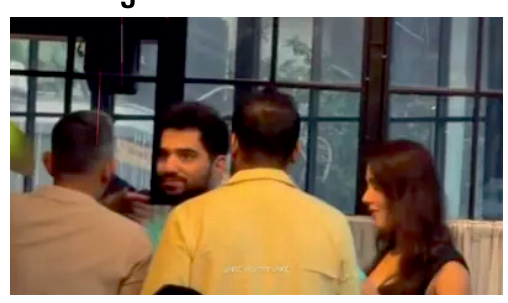
The Possible Guests on KWK 9

Reportedly, celebs including Sara Ali Khan and Ibrahim Ali Khan, Samay Raina, Diljit Dosanjh, Dimple Kapadia and others are rumoured to be gracing the couch in upcoming episodes.

About Koffee With Karan

Hosted by filmmaker Karan Johar, Koffee With Karan is one of India's most popular celebrity chat shows. It first premiered in 2004 and features Bollywood stars discussing their careers, relationships, friendships and personal lives over a cup of coffee. The show is known for its rapid-fire round, where guests answer questions about fellow celebrities, and the Koffee hamper.

Samay Raina Spotted With Rumoured GF Medha Shankr At Mumbai Cafe After Dismissing Wedding Rumours



Stand-up comedian Samay Raina and actress Medha Shankr have once again sparked dating speculation after being spotted together at a cafe in Mumbai. The two, who have been linked romantically for some time, stepped out on Sunday evening, November 15, and a video of their outing has since surfaced on social media. Neither Samay nor Medha has confirmed that they are in a relationship.The latest sighting comes weeks after Medha attended Samay's Diwali celebration and the comedian admitted to having a girlfriend during an episode of Koffee With Karan Season 9. Their social media exchanges have also attracted attention, particularly after the two jokingly responded to reports claiming they were preparing to get married in December.

Samay Raina And Medha Shankr Seen Together At Mumbai Café

In the video circulating online, Samay is seen wearing a blue T-shirt while greeting a friend with a hug. Medha, dressed in black, stands beside him. Content creator Shakshi Shetty, who is also a friend of Samay, was present at the café.Although the footage does not establish anything about their relationship, their appearance together has drawn attention amid the existing rumours.

The speculation surrounding the two gained momentum after Medha appeared as a panellist on Samay's comedy show, India's Got Latent Season 2.During the episode, Samay introduced the 12th Fail actress as his "sabse achhi dost", which translates to his best friend. Their interaction subsequently became another talking point among viewers following their public appearances.

Medha Shankr Posed With Samay Raina's Mother At Diwali Party

Medha was also among the guests at a Diwali party hosted by Samay at his Mumbai residence. Several of the comedian's close friends attended the celebration, with photographs from the gathering later appearing on social media.One picture shared by Shakshi Shetty showed Medha posing alongside Samay's mother, Sweety Raina. Samay also posted a photograph featuring just himself and Medha.

Madison Huang vs Colette Kress: The Power Struggle Inside Nvidia

WASHINGTON.(Agency).

Jensen Huang has launched a bid to return as the chief executive of Nvidia, the company he co-founded decades ago. His departure created an unusual leadership situation at the world's leading chipmaker company. While Colette Kress, who was a longtime finance chief, took over as interim CEO after Huang's resignation, questions are emerging over the future influence of the former chief executive's daughter, Madison Huang, who had become an increasingly prominent figure within the company. The two women have reportedly had disagreements over business decisionsWith Jensen no longer at the helm, Kress has an opportunity to reshape the company's internal power structure.According to The Information, Kress had clashed with Madison and her husband, Nico Caprez, both of whom had risen rapidly through Nvidia's ranks. Two people familiar with the matter told the publication that the disagreements could have consequences for the couple's influence following Jensen's departure.

McDonald's Faces Backlash Over AI-Generated Mural With Landmark Mistakes, Spelling Blunders

world.(Agency).

Fast-food giant McDonald has been mocked for putting up a large mural that was generated using artificial intelligence (AI), BBC reported. The artwork was displayed inside a restaurant in Blackburn, UK. It was meant to highlight local landmarks, community history, and regional pride. But things went terribly wrong when locals spotted mistakes in it. Several customers pointed out that the software made several major errors, mixing up local sights with famous locations from entirely different cities.Instead of featuring real landmarks from Blackburn, the AI-designed artwork accidentally included structures from miles away.The three major errors were: Blackburn Cathedral was replaced by Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.

Foreign Applicants To US Colleges Rise By 9% This Fall, 17% More From India

world.(Agency)

International applicants to US colleges this fall jumped by 9% from the same time last year, reversing a steep decline spurred by President Donald Trump's crackdown on student visa holders, according to data from Common App.

The rebound was driven largely by a resurgence of applicants from Europe and Asia, which increased 15% and 9%, respectively.

Applicants from India, which sends more international students to the US than any other country, rose by 17%, recovering from a 14% decrease last year.

Other countries saw a similar change in tide: Applicants from Ghana rose 21% after a 43% drop last year, and the number from Pakistan increased by 41% after a 10% dip last fall.It's a surprising turnaound as the Trump administration continues to try to curb the number of foreign students and scholars on US campuses. In the past six months, federal officials have placed a four-year limit on student visa duration, proposed a $100,000 fee to participate in a popular postgraduate work program and investigated colleges including Harvard and Stanford over their foreign scholars and PhD students.

Trump wants to show strength in China, but series of technological snafus raises concerns at home

SHENZHEN.(Agency).

US President Donald Trump is heading to China on Wednesday, wanting to reinforce America's status as the world's leading technology power, but a distressing series of technical outages back home has left the administration scrambling to calm the American public.Trump had been nonchalant on his first day on the ground in Asia about the outages that left people in the US worried about accessing their email, checking their bank accounts or safely flying on an airplane."It's fine," Trump pronounced on Tuesday from the Philippine capital of Manila, suggesting it was all just a consequence of being a nation that is "big and powerful."But the outages involving Microsoft, the Federal Aviation Administration, JPMorgan Chase and the National Security Agency's communications network are starting to overshadow Trump's visit.They raised the spectre that artificial intelligence can disrupt daily life, as new cyber vulnerabilities identified require software to be constantly upgraded to fix flaws or other security holes, known as patching, which is supposed to improve how the technology runs.So at the start of the second day of Trump's trip, Secretary of State Marco Rubio stepped in to reassure Americans on Trump's behalf. He told reporters there was "zero" evidence that the outages are connected or tied to rival nations, cyber hackers or criminals.

"Sometimes when you are going in to fix your system because you've identified a vulnerability, it creates a short-term disruption," said Rubio, who is also Trump's national security adviser. "That's how it's been described to me in terms of the role" that AI "might have played in it."Trump is trying to project strength in Asia, but the outages challenge that image

The issues put the administration on the defensive at a moment when the president wants to project strength and certainty at a potentially complicated trilateral meeting in China with that country's president, Xi Jinping, and Russian leader Vladimir Putin. Trump has signalled that he wants to take an improvised approach during his time in Shenzhen, China, the skyscraper-filled tech hub that is hosting world leaders for the Asia-



Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. It's a bet that his unscripted brand of diplomacy based on personal relationships can create some kind of legacy to reshape world affairs during his final two years in the White House. Trump said he plans to talk with Xi and Putin about limiting nuclear weapons and bringing an end to the war in Ukraine, which began in 2022 with Russia's invasion. Analysts are not expecting substantive breakthroughs, despite the unprecedented nature of the meeting.Before the trip, Trump's aides had told reporters that the war in Ukraine would not be part of the trilateral meeting. Still, the president said on Tuesday that the deaths of tens of thousands of Russian troops every month had created an opening to resolve the conflict."I think it's very close to getting it done," Trump said. "We're going to have a good meeting on that."Trump also teased the possibility of a private meeting with Putin and a separate sit-down with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, though neither event has been confirmed beyond the US president's own musings.Rubio clarified on Wednesday that Trump was "serious" about meeting with Kim as a way of resolving tensions with North Korea. But he suggested no meeting was currently scheduled between Trump and Kim for Thursday."I'm not telling you that there will be a meeting tomorrow," Rubio said.

US lawmakers demand federal probe into Diwali event disruption in Seattle

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

US lawmakers, including Pramila Jayapal and Suhas Subramanyam, have written to Attorney General Todd Blanche seeking an investigation into the disruption of a Diwali celebration in Seattle by far-right activists Jake Lang and Thomas Allen.In a letter to Blanche on Tuesday, a copy of which was marked to FBI Director Kash Patel, the lawmakers from the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) wanted the probe agencies to treat the Seattle incident involving Lang and Allen as a potential federal hate crime."We write to urge you to immediately investigate the November 7, 2026 disruption of a public Diwali celebration in Seattle by Jake Lang and Thomas Allen as a potential federal hate crime and to look at all options to hold these individuals accountable for an ongoing pattern of hateful conduct across the country," the lawmakers said.

Allen and Lang both have troubling records of reckless and criminal conduct, including Lang's assault of police officers during the January 6 insurrection, after which he received a pardon from President Donald Trump, the lawmakers said.The signatories also include US Representatives Grace Meng, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), Raja Krishnamoorthi, Yassamin Ansari, Ami Bera, Judy Chu, Suzan K. DelBene, Ro Khanna (CA-17), Emily Randall, Lateefah Simon, Adam Smith, and Shri Thanedar."It is vital that those of us entrusted with public offices confront hate wherever it appears. No family should have to wonder whether it is safe to light a lamp, perform a dance, or bring their children to a festival in their own city," they stated, adding that the events in Seattle follow a troubling series of threats against South Asian communities across the country.The lawmakers termed the Diwali celebration disruption as a hate incident, contending that the far-right activists were promoting the so-called "replacement" theory, a false claim that non-white and non-Christian people are brought in to replace white Christian Americans.

US proposes stricter green card rules, longer hiring process for foreign workers

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

The US has proposed stricter rules for employment-based green cards for foreign workers to ensure Americans get priority in recruitment for jobs ranging from physical therapists and nurses to highly skilled professionals.The Department of Labour on Tuesday proposed a new rule to modernise the labour market test under the Programme Electronic Review Management (PERM) immigrant visa process, marking the first major revision of the rules in 20 years.Under the proposed changes, employers would be prohibited from tailoring job opportunities to foreign workers. The rule would require employers to level the playing field during recruitment by using the same channels and methods to advertise vacancies.The proposal seeks to replace traditional print advertisements with online recruitment through employer websites, job portals, social media platforms, job fairs and campus recruitment.It would also extend the minimum advertising period for vacancies from the existing 30 days to 90 calendar days and require employers to demonstrate that they had made genuine efforts to recruit qualified American workers."This proposed rule change will ensure American workers are first in line for high-skilled, high-paying job opportunities over foreign labour," Secretary of Labour Keith Sonderling said.The department also proposed eliminating the administrative exemption that allowed employers to bypass the statutory labour market test for certain occupations.Under the revised framework, employers recruiting physical therapists.and candidates for positions requiring exceptional ability in the sciences or arts would have to consider qualified American applicants.

Democrats flipped nine US Senate seats — the most in almost 70 years

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Former Rep. Mary Peltola's victory over Republican incumbent Sen. Dan Sullivan in Alaska's competitive US Senate race has flipped a ninth Republican-held seat to the Democrats, giving Peltola's party its biggest midterm gain in nearly 70 years.

Democrats last gained nine or more Senate seats in a midterm election in 1958, during Republican President Dwight Eisenhower's second term. That year, Democrats wrested away 13 Republican-held seats and also won both of Alaska's newly created seats, for a total gain of 15 seats.Peltola's victory gives Democrats a 56-44 majority when the new Congress begins in January, marking the party's largest advantage in the Senate in 16 years. Democrats held 58 Senate seats in the waning days of the 111th Congress, which concluded on Jan. 3, 2011."56 seats was an unimaginable result even just a few months ago," Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said in statement posted on social media. "Most people didn't think 51 Democratic Senate seats was a possibility at the beginning of this cycle."

Even without Alaska, Democrats would have secured their largest majority since January 2015, when Republicans took control after flipping nine Democratic seats in the 2014 midterms during President Barack Obama's second term.Democrat Scott Colom's Wednesday victory in Mississippi's US Senate race gave his party its eighth Republican-held seat. That win delivered Democrats their most midterm pickups since President Ronal Reagan's second midterm election 40 years ago.Democrats also reclaimed the House, picking up 42 seats as of Tuesday. The gains continued a historical trend of midterm losses for the president's party.The Senate has tended to be less susceptible to the midterm effect than the House. In seven of the last 16 midterms prior to 2026, the president's party either held its ground or gained seats in the Senate, though all but one of those midterms occurred in the president's first term. A president's second midterm tends to be more punishing.

By comparison, thepresident's party had gained House seats in only two midterms since the end of World War II.

Nabeel Rajab, prominent Bahraini human rights activist, dies at 62

world.(Agency)

Nabeel Rajab, a prominent democracy activist from Bahrain who helped lead the island nation's 2011 Arab Spring protests and spent years in prison for challenging its monarchy, died on Tuesday. He was 62.

His family found him unresponsive at their home in Turkey on Tuesday morning, friends and activists said. The Bahrain Center for Human Rights, which Rajab once led as president, confirmed his death in a post on X.



"We extend our sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to his esteemed family. We pray that God may encompass him with his vast mercy and reward him abundantly for his efforts and contributions," the group wrote.

Ebrahim Sharif, an activist and close friend of the family, said Rajab's wife and daughter took him to a hospital in Istanbul, where he was pronounced dead. He said after speaking with Rajab's brother that the family believes Rajab likely died of a heart attack.Rajab for decades was one of Bahrain's leading human rights activists. He frequently posted on social media about Bahrain's treatment of dissidents, and was an unusually visible figure in a country where voicing criticism can carry enormous risk.In 2002, Rajab helped establish the Bahrain Center for Human Rights, which became a platform for him and his colleagues to call for democratic reforms in the island nation, where a Sunni monarchy rules over a predominantly Shiite Muslim population.

He rose to international prominence in 2011 as the Arab Spring uprisings swept the region and demonstrations erupted in Bahrain.

As one of the movement's best-known voices, he joined thousands of demonstrators occupying Manama's Pearl Roundabout and kept protesting even after a violent crackdown by security forces. He and the protesters described their demands as fair elections, constitutional democracy and an end to preferential treatment for Bahrain's Sunni minority.Bahrain ultimately put down the uprising with the help of troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.Though Bahrain's constitution guarantees freedom of speech, Rajab was prosecuted under laws criminalizing remarks that insult foreign countries or government agencies or spread false rumors during wartime.He was imprisoned on multiple occasions in the years that followed. The detentions drew international criticism from the United Nations, human rights groups and some of Bahrain's closest allies, including the United States, which bases its Navy's 5th Fleet in the island kingdom.

Xi and Putin set to huddle ahead of historic trilateral summit with Trump

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin were set to huddle on Wednesday a day ahead of a historic three-way summit with Donald Trump in Shenzhen.Thursday's trilateral summit has triggered fears that the three men could decide the fate of Ukraine over the heads of Kyiv and Europe, and seek to carve up the world into 21st-century spheres of influence.Washington had signalled Ukraine was not expected to be addressed -- before Trump said that it would. China has said the talks would cover "safeguarding world peace".

Also up for discussion is nuclear disarmament, according to Washington, but Beijing is believed to be reluctant to engage as it builds up its comparatively smaller arsenal.Xi and Putin were both due to address the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) before two meetings; one about energy and finance and another, smaller one tackling foreign policy including Ukraine and North Korea, Russian officials said.Trump was on Wednesday still in the Philippines where a day earlier he met fellow leaders of the Quad -- Australia, Japan and India.Trump said he was eyeing one-on-one talks with Putin and possibly North Korea's Kim Jong Un at his next stop in Shenzhen. He added that Kim "would like" to meet in China, hours after Beijing said it had no information about an encounter between the two.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday stopped short of confirming the meeting with Kim. "If we have a problem with North Korea, the only way we're ever going to solve it is if we engage with them. Now that may not be



possible, and I'm not telling you that there will be a meeting tomorrow," Rubio said in Manila.Trump's Quad meeting at the 11-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit was the security alliance's first since his January 2025 return to power.

While the Quad –- broadly aimed at counterbalancing China's regional influence -- has quietly progressed in deepening coordination, the short time allotted for Tuesday's meeting meant it was unlikely to extend beyond pleasantries, according to analysts.