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Congress' Punjab manifesto to continue women-centric schemes

CHANDIGARH. (Agency).

With the eye on the 97.24 lakh women voters out of the 2.01 crore total electorate for the 2027 Punjab assembly elections, women-centric schemes and issues increasingly dominating the political discourse of the state, the Congress is drawing up a manifesto that is expected to address their issues. The manifesto is expected to be ready at the latest by mid of DecemberThe manifesto will include continuation of the monthly Rs 1000 scheme which was started by the present Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government and it may enhance it. Other welfare measures including free 300 units of power will also continue.Highly placed sources in the party said that the draft of the manifesto will be submitted to the party high command in another three weeks around December 15 and then it will take a final decision on releasing it.

A party leader speaking on the condition of anonymity said, "The top party leadership including Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, party's national president Mallikarjun Kharge and other leaders will take the final look and decide what promises and announcements will be made in the manifesto. The date of release of the manifesto will be decided accordingly."

Congress scores big in Rajasthan local polls, BJP struggles in ministers' bastions

Jaipur.(Agency).

The BJP's strong performance in Rajasthan's urban local body elections failed to find a parallel in rural areas, with the panchayat polls exposing weaknesses in the ruling party's grassroots support and delivering a significant boost to the Congress.The results are particularly significant as several BJP ministers suffered setbacks in their respective areas of influence, raising questions about the party's ability to convert its position in government and urban electoral gains into support at the village level.Family members of Urban Development and Housing Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra lost the elections, while former BJP minister Rajendra Rathore's son and daughter-in-law emerged victorious.Overall, 17 state ministers and three Union ministers failed to secure the political ground they had sought to defend.The BJP suffered defeats in Deputy Chief Minister Premchand Bairwa's Dudu Assembly constituency, Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khinvsar's Lohawat constituency and Agriculture Minister Kirodi Lal Meena's Sawai Madhopur constituency.The setbacks suggest that the influence of prominent leaders did not necessarily translate into electoral support on the ground.The Congress, meanwhile, made substantial gains in the rural polls, winning 794 of the 1,271 zila parishad seats and 3,758 of the 7,520 panchayat samiti seats.

The BJP secured 357 zila parishad seats and 2,213 panchayat samiti seats, while the Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) won 51 and 497 seats, respectively.

Shah assures 'dialogue' to address concerns on Siang Dam project; says no Kashmiri youth involved in terrorism

Shah said he was aware of the sentiments and apprehensions of the people of the Siang region, and he had come to Arunachal Pradesh to address their concerns directly.

New Delhi (Agency).

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday assured residents of Arunachal Pradesh's Siang Valley that their concerns over the proposed 11,200-MW Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP) would be addressed through dialogue.He asserted that the region's culture, traditions and religious beliefs would not be compromised while taking the project forward.Shah also said that after over 35 years of unrest and violence, no local youth of Kashmir was involved in terrorism and the positive change was brought about not only by eliminating terrorists but also by ending discrimination and alienation.Addressing law enforcers at the Police Training Centre (PTC) at Banderdewa, near Itanagar, Shah said he was aware of the sentiments and apprehensions of the people of Siang region and he had come to Arunachal Pradesh to address their concerns directly."I want to assure my brothers and sisters from Siang that we will find a way forward through positive dialogue, and you need not worry about it," he said.The Union home minister said he has learnt about people's concerns through the media and acknowledged that many of the issues raised by them were significant.On the development potential of Arunachal Pradesh, the country's energy security and the state's economic and security interests, Shah said the government was conscious of the need to balance these considerations with the aspirations of local communities.



"The government and I have the same respect you have for the local culture. We will move forward without compromising the traditions, culture and religion of this place," he said.

Shah appealed to the people to engage in discussions with the state government and communicate their concerns to the Union Home Ministry through the state administration.He said the government would take the people into confidence while moving forward on the issue and reiterated that a positive dialogue would be the way to resolve the concerns surrounding the project.The home minister said the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 brought significant changes in Jammu and Kashmir.After over 35 years of violence, not a single local youth of Kashmir Valley is now involved.

₹60,000 Monthly Payment for Safe Passage? Explosive Allegations Surround 'Bapji' Vehicles and Illegal Sand Transportation in Karjan!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Vadodara / Karjan Bureau: A major controversy surrounding alleged illegal sand and soil mining has emerged from Karjan taluka of Vadodara district in Gujarat. Despite reports that all legal sand and soil mining leases in the area have been cancelled by the government, allegations suggest that illegal mining activities continue unabated along the Narmada River. The controversy has intensified following claims linking BJP MLA Akshay Patel and vehicles reportedly associated with the name "Bapji" to an alleged mining network. These allegations have triggered serious political and administrative questions.Illegal Barge Machines Allegedly Operating in the Narmada Riverbed Despite Lease CancellationAs per the allegations, prohibited barge machines and hydraulic equipment are being used to extract large quantities of sand from the Narmada River. Such operations are reportedly taking place during nighttime as well as in broad daylight.There are also allegations of widespread overloading and misuse of royalty permits. Trucks reportedly carrying up to 54 tonnes of sand against a permitted capacity of 23 tonnes are allegedly operating in the region. Sources further claim that a single royalty pass is being used to



Akshay Patel
Karjan MLA



Ghugho Bharvard



VehiclesAccording to local sources, Ghugho Bharwad and Gokul Bharwad are allegedly operating a mining syndicate in the Karjan region. The name of BJP MLA Akshay Patel has also surfaced in discussions surrounding the alleged network, particularly in connection with vehicles reportedly carrying the name "Bapji".One of the most serious allegations concerns an alleged monthly payment system. Local sources claim that vehicle operators are required to pay approximately ₹60,000 per month. It is further alleged that vehicles making these payments are allowed to operate without facing enforcement action.These claims require an independent investigation and verification by the concerned authorities.Questions Over the Silence of the Gandhinagar Flying Squad and Mining DepartmentDespite the seriousness of these allegations, questions are being raised over the alleged lack of effective action by the Gandhinagar Flying Squad and the Mining and Geology Department.Commissioner Dhaval Patel and the concerned departmental officials are also facing questions over the alleged continuation of illegal mining activities. The public is seeking clarification on whether inspections have been conducted and whether any action has been taken against those allegedly involved.Questions are also being raised about the roles of the District Collector, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, police administration and local mining officials. Has the alleged illegal mining network developed connections beyond the district? Are there administrative failures or other factors preventing.

MK Stalin's Second Coming? Kolathur Conqueror Dead, All Eyes On Bypoll

Chennai(Agency).

With the death of TVK MLA VS Babu, who emerged as the giant-killer of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections by defeating DMK chief and then Chief Minister MK Stalin, speculation is rife over whether Stalin will make a second attempt to enter the Assembly.Babu's death has left the Kolathur Assembly constituency vacant, setting the stage for a by-election in accordance with the Election Commission's schedule. The constituency witnessed one of the most spectacular upsets of the Assembly polls, with Stalin losing a seat he had represented since 2011.



The defeat compounded the DMK's electoral humiliation, with the party also losing power to the TVK, the new outfit floated by film star-turned-politician Vijay.

There are already voices within the DMK calling for Stalin to contest Kolathur again. DMK MP C Ravindran has said that the decision rests solely with Stalin, while adding that party workers would love to see him in the fray. "It's our leader's constituency, his decision, and only he can decide. Let me make it clear. As a DMK worker, we'd love it if he contested. But only our leader would decide," Ravindran said.

Apologise for 1962 humiliation: Rijiju hits back at Rahul's 'compromised PM' jibe

New Delhi(Agency).

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his "compromised PM" remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and asked the opposition party to answer four questions, the Press Trust of India reported.

The exchange followed Gandhi's comments on a trilateral meeting involving US President Donald Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in China on Thursday.In a post on X, Rijiju said, "Congress must answer 4 questions: My village was occupied by China in 1962. Will Congress apologise for the 1962 humiliation? 2. Congress kept India a poor nation. Why? 3. Why was India called the land of snake charmers? 4. Why was India's economy insulted as Hindu rate of growth?"Gandhi had shared a photograph of the three leaders at the meeting and said, "If Congress were in power, India's Prime Minister would be sitting at this table. A compromised PM can never sit at this table."Rijiju also told reporters in New Delhi on Friday that Gandhi should not make statements against India, whether at home or abroad, according to PTI.Gandhi's remarks triggered a war of words between the BJP and the Congress, with several BJP leaders accusing him of being "clueless" about global geopolitics.The BJP also shared an AI-generated image showing Gandhi serving drinks to the US president at the trilateral meeting in China. BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia shared the image on X with the caption, "Kuch aise (Something like this)", along with laughing and fire emojis.



The dispute centred on Gandhi's criticism of Modi's absence from the trilateral meeting and Rijiju's response questioning the Congress over India's past economic record and the 1962 conflict with China.

GB Nagar DM warns of action against officials skipping Census duty

Noida.(Agency)

Taking note of the slow rate of the self-enumeration process under Phase II of Census 2027, district magistrate and principal census officer of Gautam Budh Nagar Medha Roopam has directed officials to expedite the process.

Although the online self-enumeration process is optional, the DM has directed district-level officers to ensure that every employee working under their respective departments completes the process by the end of the day. "All department heads have been instructed to personally monitor the progress and ensure that no employee is left out of the exercise. All employees deployed for census-related duties to visit their allotted areas, establish direct contact with households and motivate families to complete their self-enumeration at the earliest," she said.

At a review meeting in the collectorate auditorium, the DM expressed displeasure over delays in assigning duties to enumerators and supervisors and reprimanded charge officers for failing to deploy personnel on time. She said carelessness, delay or dereliction of duty in the Census exercise would not be tolerated.

Court overturns JJB order, juvenile accused of attacking teenager with knife gets bail

Noida.(Agency)

A children's court on Thursday granted relief to a juvenile accused of stabbing a teenager, setting aside an Oct 9 order of Juvenile Justice Board rejecting his bail petition.

"The district probation officer (DPO) is directed to keep the juvenile-delinquent under supervision and submit a periodical report to the Juvenile Justice Board," special Pocso judge Abhishek Pandey said, while agreeing to release the accused who has been lodged in a juvenile home since May 29.

The accused, charged under BNS sections 352 (intentional insult to provoke breach of public peace) and 109 (1) (attempted murder) along with Section 4/25 of the Arms Act, was ordered to furnish one surety bond of Rs 50,000/- and a personal bond of the like amount to the satisfaction of Juvenile Justice Board.

Six sectors to get new transformers to accommodate peak power demand in summers

Noida.(Agency)

About half a dozen sectors in the city will get new transformers by March 2027, reducing the load on the existing power infrastructure and, thereby, the frequency of power outages. The move is expected to benefit 18,000 people who reside in these sectors.

Vivek Kumar Patel, superintending engineer (technical) of the Noida power department, confirmed that transformer installations have commenced in Sector 39, and work would begin soon in sectors 40, 41, 43, 45, and 50.

He said that several of the existing transformers are working at their limits and the new transformers would split the load, especially during the summer season when the demand is at its peak. "After the new transformers are installed, each unit will operate at only 50% of its total capacity, which signifcantly mitigates the risks associated with overloading and transformer failures," Patel added. By splitting the load, overheating and malfunctions of equipment is also expected to reduce, he said.

Viral Evidence and Crores in Donations Under Scanner! Jain Community Seeks Accountability!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Gandhinagar/Ahmedabad: A major controversy involving Jain monk Sagar Chandrasagar has triggered widespread outrage and serious questions within the Jain community, both in Gujarat and among Jain followers across the country and abroad.Jainism is founded on the timeless principles of non-violence, non-possession, renunciation and strict self-discipline. The robes of a Jain monk represent sacrifice, spiritual commitment and the highest standards of moral conduct. However, a series of disturbing allegations involving Sagar Chandrasagar has brought renewed attention to questions of religious accountability, the credibility of the ascetic tradition and the responsibilities of institutions entrusted with





protecting its dignity.The controversy is no longer being viewed merely as an individual conduct issue. It has also raised broader questions about the functioning of religious organisations and the mechanisms available to investigate allegations against individuals holding positions of spiritual influence.Viral Audio Clips and Digital Evidence: Serious Questions Await VerificationAudio clips and digital materials allegedly connected to Sagar Chandrasagar have been circulating across various social media platforms. The material has triggered serious discussions over alleged inappropriate conversations, exploitation and conduct that, if established, could undermine the trust placed in religious leadership.However, it is important to establish that viral recordings and digital documents cannot be treated as conclusive evidence without independent forensic examination.

Does Time Change a Person, or Does It Reveal Their True Identity?

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Rupesh Solanki: Time keeps changing throughout the journey of life. Sometimes, it brings the dawn of happiness, while at other times, it leaves behind an evening of sorrow. As time moves forward, a person goes through countless experiences. Relationships are formed, friendships grow stronger, promises are made, and numerous dreams for the future take shape. Yet, one question repeatedly arises in our minds: Does a person truly change with time, or does time simply reveal the true identity hidden within them?When everything in life goes smoothly, we are surrounded by people. Smiling faces, sweet words, and relationships filled with warmth make us believe that this companionship will last forever. However, life never remains the same. Circumstances change, financial conditions experience ups and downs, and sometimes a person reaches a difficult turning point where it becomes necessary to distinguish between those who are truly close and those who are merely acquaintances.Standing beside someone during happy times is



easy, but offering support during difficult days is the real test of genuine affection. When a person possesses wealth, power, success, and comfort, the number of people around them often increases. But when circumstances turn unfavourable, some of those familiar faces gradually begin to disappear. That is when one realises that relationships were not always based on emotions; sometimes, selfish interests and personal conveniences were hidden behind them.Time teaches us many lessons. Sometimes, even a small experience becomes a lifelong lesson. A person whom we consider the most trustworthy may eventually break our trust. On the other hand, someone from whom we never expected anything may come forward and hold our hand during difficult times. Such experiences in life help us understand the true value of relationships.However, it is not right to view every change negatively. A change in one's thinking, the development of maturity, the abandonment of bad habits, and a new perspective towards life are also beautiful gifts of time. Not every change is a betrayal, and not every distance is driven by selfishness. Sometimes, people make certain decisions to protect their mental peace, self-respect, and responsibilities in life.The world of relationships has also changed considerably in today's time. People become acquainted quickly, friendships are formed through social media, and numerous platforms are available for communication. Yet, finding someone who genuinely listens to our innermost feelings is becoming increasingly difficult. Earlier, people made time to maintain relationships; today, they remember relationships only when they.

No village sewer lines in Gurgaon till STPs are ready, minister tells MCG; directive aims to prevent sewer lines from becoming another infra headache for residents

Gurgaon.(Ajency)

Villages may get urban-style civic infrastructure, but sewer networks will have to wait until sewage treatment plants (STPs) are equipped to handle the waste. A new directive aims to prevent sewer lines from becoming another infrastructure headache for residents, with sewage flowing into drains or accumulating in areas without adequate disposal arrangements.

During an inspection of development works in Dhankot and Kherki Majra on Friday, industry minister Rao Narbir Singh directed municipal officials to ensure that sewerage projects are planned in tandem with treatment and disposal infrastructure. He stressed that drinking water supply in villages needed to be strengthened and development works should meet prescribed quality standards. Singh asked officials to regularly monitor projects to ensure that work was completed as planned and residents did not face problems such as waterlogging, poor sanitation or unsafe roads.The villages falling under MCG have been demanding better roads, drainage, sewerage and drinking water facilities as urbanisation puts pressure on existing infrastructure. Singh said villages should receive civic amenities on a par with urban areas, but development work must be planned keeping long-term requirements and public convenience in mind.

Rao directed officials to identify stretches on major village roads where table-top speed breakers are needed, particularly to improve safety for pedestrians, children and motorists.

The measures are intended to address concerns over unsafe movement on roads increasingly used by vehicles. During the visit, the minister also heard residents' complaints and asked officials to resolve them on priority. The inspection was attended by MCG superintending engineer Krishna Kumar, joint commissioner Ravinder Malik and district forest officer Surender Dangi, among others.

Gurgaon records season's first single-digit minimum temp at 7.3°C, fog alert for weekend

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The city recorded its first single-digit minimum temperature of the season on Friday, at 7.3 degrees Celsius, making it the coldest place in Haryana as night temperatures dipped across the state. The reading, taken at IMD's automatic weather station (AWS) in the city at 8.30am, was also the first time this season that the minimum fell below 10 degrees Celsius.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for dense fog at isolated places in Gurgaon, Faridabad, Nuh, Palwal, Rewari, Mahendragarh and Jhajjar on Saturday and Sunday. The alert indicates reduced visibility, particularly during morning hours, which could affect commuters. According to the district-wise forecast, fog warnings are likely to ease from Nov 23, with no weather warning issued for any district in Haryana on Monday and Tuesday.Among Haryana's reporting stations, Gurgaon's reading was the lowest. Mahendragarh recorded the second-lowest minimum at 8.3 degrees Celsius, followed by Jhajjar's KVK weather station at 8.9 degrees Celsius. Rewari's Bawal recorded 9.6 degrees Celsius and Narnaul 10.2 degrees Celsius. Faridabad and Nuh recorded 11.9 degrees Celsius and 11.8 degrees Celsius, respectively. Haryana's average minimum temperature fell by 0.2 degrees Celsius compared to Thursday but remained near normal across the state.

There was a nip in the air in the morning, though the sun kept the city warm during the day. The maximum temperature was 27.3 degrees Celsius, 0.9 degrees Celsius higher than the previous day. No rainfall was recorded at the reporting stations in the 24 hours ending 5pm on Friday.

Gurgaon's historical Nov record low is 2.6 degrees Celsius, recorded on Nov 28, 1969. According to IMD records, the city's all-time lowest minimum temperature was minus 0.4 degrees Celsius, recorded on Jan 5, 1966.



IMD has also issued a health advisory warning of risks from prolonged exposure to fog. These include wheezing, coughing and respiratory problems, particularly for asthma patients. Dense fog could aggravate existing respiratory ailments and cause eye irritation or infections.

Global City roads to link Dwarka Expressway, Delhi-Gurgaon eway, Pataudi Road; min asks HSIIDC to work out route alignment; officials told to submit report

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana's ambitious Global City project is set to get a third major access route. The state govt is planning to connect it directly to Delhi-Jaipur highway (NH-48) near Kherki Daula cloverleaf. The proposed link will add to the planned connectivity with Dwarka Expressway and the existing access from Pataudi Road, giving the 1,000-acre mixed-use development access to three major arterial roads and strengthening its links with Delhi, Manesar and the wider NCR.

Global City — being developed around sectors 36B, 37A and 37B — is envisioned as a large integrated business and urban hub, with commercial, residential, retail and social infrastructure. The project is expected to attract large corporate establishments and investments, making external connectivity crucial to its development.

Cabinet minister Rao Narbir Singh has directed Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) officials to work out the route alignment and address the hurdles in connecting Global City to NH-8. The proposed access point is located around 200 metres before the cloverleaf, where a right of way (RoW) is available. However, certain legal issues need to be resolved before work can begin, the minister said."Global City will also be connected to the Delhi-Jaipur highway. Officials are preparing the route map for this.

The process for connectivity with Dwarka Expressway has been completed and work will begin in Dec. Once the first phase is completed, the process of land allotment will also begin," Singh said.

Officials have been asked to assess the technical requirements and any land-related or other formalities involved in developing the link and submit a report. Once in place, the connection will allow traffic from Delhi-Jaipur highway to reach Global City without having to negotiate congested stretches of the city's internal road network.Kherki Daula cloverleaf is a key interchange connecting Dwarka Expressway and Southern Peripheral Road (SPR). A direct link from NH-8 would also improve access for businesses, investors and visitors travelling from Delhi, Manesar, Rewari and Jaipur. The move comes as HSIIDC works on establishing the project's connectivity with Dwarka Expressway.

For this, a tunnel will be constructed beneath the expressway to provide direct access to Global City. The plan has been finalised and HSIIDC will make the required payment to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for the work. Construction is scheduled to begin in Dec, Singh said.

Sai case: Andhra HC adjourns CI's default bail petition

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Friday adjourned the hearing on a default bail petition filed by former Krishna Lanka circle inspector Suda Suresh Veera Venkata Nagaraju, an accused in the custodial death case of Vijayawada resident Gade Sai Krishna, to November 30.

Justice Dr Y. Lakshmana Rao passed the orders after hearing the arguments advanced by counsel for the petitioner and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The court posted the matter for further hearing to enable the counsel representing the victim's mother, Vijayalakshmi, to present her arguments.Appearing for Nagaraju, advocate Challa Ajay Kumar argued that more than 60 days had elapsed since the Special Investigation Team (SIT) filed its charge sheet, but the jurisdictional court had not yet taken cognisance of it. Citing Supreme Court judgments, he contended that the petitioner was entitled to default bail under the applicable legal provisions.The counsel also informed the court that written submissions had already been filed in support of the petitioner's claim.Nagaraju approached the High Court challenging the Vijayawada court's order rejecting his request for default bail. The lower court had declined relief on the ground that the investigation into the disappearance and subsequent custodial death case of Gade Sai Krishna was still underway.The former CI sought the setting aside of the lower court's order and a direction granting him default bail.

Keralam HC nod for Mayilpeeli district-level exam

KOCHI.(Agency)

The Kerala High Court on Friday granted permission to hold the district-level Mayilpeeli Young Scholar Exam, scheduled for November 22, on the condition that the results are not published without its orders.The HC issued the order on a petition by T Anoop Kumar, state general secretary of Deseeya Adhyapaka Parishath (NTU), challenging the government order withdrawing the nod to conduct the exam in government and aided schools.The government argued that earlier permission was granted illegally. It said an inquiry had been conducted on a complaint, based on which the nod was withdrawn.

The court observed that withdrawing the permission without prior notice amounted to a violation of the principles of natural justice.General Education Minister N Samsudheen said the interim order was not a setback for the government."The government has already conveyed its position to the court," the minister said, adding that further aspects of the matter would be placed before the court when the case comes up for detailed hearing.

Low pilgrim footfall at Sabarimala baffles Keralam government

SABARIMALA.(Agency)

The unusually low pilgrim turnout at Sabarimala during the opening days of the Mandala-Makaravilakku season this year, despite virtual queue slots being fully booked, has baffled the government and devotees alike.As an immediate measure, the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) has increased the daily virtual queue quota by 5,000 till November 30, while proportionately raising spot booking slots on November 21 and 22.

The unusual gap between bookings and actual turnout has prompted the government to order a detailed probe into possible irregularities in the booking system.Although the entire 66,000 virtual queue slots are being booked daily, with bookings exhausted till January 9, fewer than 60% of those who secured slots turned up for darshan during the first three days of this season.

The contrast with last year is stark. While the opening days of the previous Mandala season saw huge crowds thronging the hill shrine, the Valiya Nadapanthal has remained relatively deserted this year, with a sharp drop in pilgrim footfall.On November 16, the opening day of the current season, 26,131 pilgrims, including those with spot bookings, offered darshan. The turnout rose to 35,073 on November 17 and around 40,000 on November 18.

Bengal CEO postpones electoral roll revision scheduled to begin November 23

No fresh date announced; decision comes amid scrutiny of documents submitted by voters excluded during the SIR

Kolkata (Agency)

The West Bengal's Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) office on Friday postponed the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the electoral rolls, which was scheduled to begin on November 23, citing "unavoidable circumstances". No fresh date has been announced for the exercise.In a statement, the CEO's office said: "The upcoming programme of Special Summary Revision of Photo Electoral Roll which was scheduled from 23rd November, this year, onwards is hereby postponed due to some unavoidable circumstances." It added that a fresh schedule would be communicated later.

The postponement comes amid the ongoing scrutiny of documents submitted by voters whose names were excluded from the final electoral rolls following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). An official in the CEO's office said their applications and supporting documents were being examined for possible inclusion in the rolls.

More than 25,000 voters across minority-dominated Bengal constituencies, including Murshidabad, Malda, Nadia, and Howrah, remain trapped in the "under adjudication" stage on the Election Commission's portal. Their cases remain pending before tribunals constituted under the Supreme Court's directions.Sources familiar with the process cited delays in the functioning of the SIR tribunals as one possible reason for the postponement. The tribunals are examining applications from people seeking reconsideration of their exclusion. The process has reportedly been affected by the resignation of several judges citing personal reasons, leaving the remaining members to handle a substantial workload. Delays in the submission of documents by some applicants have also added to the challenges.

According to a source in the Election



Commission, the revised electoral rolls are yet to be made available to the state CEO's office.The SSR is a routine annual exercise, unlike the SIR. The Commission ordinarily publishes revised electoral rolls in January. However, this year's exercise has assumed added significance amid the dispute over voter exclusions and pending appeals.

The Commission has clarified that Aadhar is not mandatory for the SSR. Applications and objections can be filed through the designated portal to report deceased or shifted voters. If an individual files five or more objections, the electoral registration officer is required to verify them. The Commission has also directed that members of the same family be kept together in the electoral rolls.The draft rolls were initially scheduled to be published on November 20, before the date was shifted to November 23. The CEO's office has now postponed the exercise. Bengal is among several states, including Maharashtra, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, where the revision process is under way. The draft rolls in these states are scheduled to be published on December 22, according to the PTI report.

Mumbai goes underground through Pataal Lok to beat traffic, CM Fadnavis okays project

CM Devendra Fadnavis has given nod to Mumbai's Rs 53,928.2-crore Pataal Lok tunnel network linking Bandra-Worli Sea Link, BKC, airport and Eastern Express Highway.

Mumbai.(Agency)

An underground road network branching out from beneath the Mithi River, connecting the Bandra-Worli Sea Link to the airport and extending eastwards towards the Eastern Express Highway — this is the alignment proposed for Mumbai's planned Rs 53,928.2-crore underground road network.The project, which received in-principle approval from Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday, envisages a 31-km tunnel network in each direction, connecting some of the city's busiest road corridors. The alignment is planned in two phases, with the first covering the western and central parts of the city and the second extending eastwards towards Ghatkopar.The central section of the network will run beneath the Mithi River, between Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) and Dharavi. From this point, the tunnel will branch out in four directions.The first arm will connect to the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, providing an underground link to the Coastal Road network. The second will head towards Dharavi. The third will connect to BKC's G Block, following a loop-shaped alignment, while the fourth will head north towards Mumbai's international airport.The BKC arm will have an exit at Chunabhatti, connecting motorists to the Eastern Express Highway (EEH). The northern arm, meanwhile, will run parallel to the Western Express Highway (WEH), passing beneath congested stretches of Bandra East, Vakola and Vile Parle. One section will emerge onto the WEH, while the tunnel will continue towards



Terminal 2 of the airport.

The second phase will take the network eastwards, beneath some of Andheri East's most congested neighbourhoods, including Asalpha and Sakinaka. It will eventually emerge near the EEH at Ghatkopar, creating another underground connection to the city's eastern road network.The Chief Minister's Office, in a press note issued on Thursday, said, "The project is planned to connect the Bandra-Worli Sea Link, the bullet train station at BKC, Dharavi, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai Airport, the Western Express Highway and the Eastern Express Highway through entry and exit routes."The tunnels are intended to provide an alternative to surface roads, where average vehicle speeds in several stretches are estimated at 15 to 20 kmph. The proposed underground roads are designed to allow vehicles to travel at speeds of up to 80 kmph.

Fadnavis had announced the project in November 2025, when the detailed project report was being prepared. With the in-principle approval now in place, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) can move towards the next stages, including appointing a general consultant, working out the funding structure, obtaining clearances and appointing contractors. A construction timeline is yet to be announced.The proposed alignment will pass beneath a densely built-up city, where existing Metro corridors, utilities and other underground infrastructure will have to be taken into account. The project is expected to require around 20 no-objection certificates from different authorities.Sections passing beneath or close to mangroves and the Mithi River will also require Coastal Regulation Zone permissions and other environmental clearances. Any proposal involving mangrove removal will require the necessary permissions, including from the Bombay High Court wherever applicable.

Tension as stones, petrol bombs hurled at Avinash Reddy's convoy in Kadapa district

KADAPA.(Agency)

Tension prevailed in Simhadripuram mandal of Kadapa district on Friday after stones and petro bombs were allegedly hurled at the convoy of YSRCP Kadapa MP YS Avinash Reddy when he was proceeding towards Ankalammagudur village to support party-backed candidates facing difficulties in filing nominations for the ongoing gram panchayat elections. Several vehicles in the MP's convoy were damaged, with their windowpanes shattered. His driver immediately drove the vehicle to the Pulivendula Urban Police Station, helping the MP escape unhurt. Avinash Reddy subsequently lodged a complaint with the police.The incident reportedly occurred on the final day of nominations for the second phase of gram panchayat elections covering 13 mandals in the Pulivendula and Kamalapuram constituencies.Several YSRCP-backed candidates had approached the High Court, alleging that TDP supporters were preventing them from filing nominations, assaulting them and tearing up nomination papers. The High Court had reportedly directed the authorities to provide adequate police protection to candidates.Avinash Reddy said candidates in Balapanur, the native village of former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, as well as Lomada and Ankalammagudur, were being prevented from filing nominations. He questioned the police for allegedly failing to implement the High Court's directions.At the Pulivendula police station, a heated exchange reportedly took place between Avinash Reddy and DSP Murali Naik. The DSP maintained that candidates were being facilitated in filing nominations and showed video footage in support of his claim. However, the MP objected that only partial footage was being shown.Police took Avinash Reddy into preventive custody, stating that the measure was intended to prevent clashes during the ongoing nomination process.The MP alleged that supporters of Pulivendula TDP in-charge B.Tech Ravi and his brother Jogireddy had attacked his convoy with petrol bombs and stones.

Maharashtra man duped 14 women, fled to UAE; dragged back to India

Mumbai.(Agency)

A 32-year-old man from Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, wanted for allegedly sexually and financially exploiting 14 women on the false promise of marriage, has been brought back to India from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) through Interpol channels, police said. He allegedly cheated one of the women of Rs 18 lakh.According to a CBI press release, the accused, identified as Mohammed Mozin, had fled India last year after police registered a case against him at City Chowk police station following a woman's complaint.She alleged that Mozin had allegedly promised to marry her, established physical relations with her, and taken money from her.



During the investigation, City Chowk police discovered that the accused had allegedly duped several other women using a similar modus operandi. Two more victims came forward, alleging that he had taken money from them on the false promise of marriage, although they did not allege any sexual exploitation. City Chowk police recorded their statements as part of the ongoing investigation to strengthen the case against him.A senior IPS officer said, after learning that the accused had fled abroad, the police approached the CBI's National Central Bureau (NCB), New Delhi, seeking Interpol assistance. A Red Corner Notice (RCN) was issued against him. Acting on the notice, UAE authorities traced his location and arrested him.The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Maharashtra Police, secured his deportation from the UAE on November 20. After completing the necessary legal formalities, the UAE authorities approved his deportation to India.A Maharashtra Police escort team travelled to the UAE and took custody of the accused. The team, accompanied by Mozin, arrived at Cochin International Airport on November 20. He was brought to Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar and handed over to the concerned police station for further investigation.

Gujarat bans display of caste-based signage on private vehicles

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

The Gujarat government, through a notification dated November 17, has banned caste-based signage – words, symbols, signs or text – on private vehicles. In the coming days, the Commissioner of Transport will inform Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) as well as Commissioners and Superintendents of Police in the state to enforce this new amendment in the Gujarat Motor Vehicle Rules.While having any kind of signage or tampering of registration plates with stickers are already banned under section 39 and punishable under 192 of the Motor Vehicles Act, this new notification, now introduced in Gujarat's Motor Vehicle Rules – since it is a state subject – makes it illegal to have any kind of "caste signage" on any private vehicle apart from those exempted by the state government as per a general or special order.Uttar Pradesh introduced a similar amendment to its own rules pursuant to an Allahabad High Court judgment against caste signalling, delivered on September 16, 2025.Sources in the Gujarat government told The Indian Express on Friday that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) had earlier this year, issued an advisory regarding the display of caste-based signage on private vehicles.Taking action on the same, the Gujarat Ports and Transport Department issued a gazette extraordinary on June 11, this year, inviting objections or suggestions from anyone likely to be affected by such a rule. Since the department did not receive any objections or suggestions within the 30-day timeframe, the government issued the notification on November 17.

Rule 125(1) of the Gujarat Motor Vehicles Rules has been amended to add the words "caste signage".Further, the new sub-rule (3) has been added under Rule 138, which reads, "No advertising device, caste signage, figure or writing



shall be exhibited on any private vehicle save as may be specified by the state government by general or special order."Gujarat Commissioner of Transport Dr Rajender Kumar told The Indian Express on Friday, "The Government of India had issued an advisory to notify guidelines and rules regarding to caste signage. So the Department of Ports and Transport in Gujarat has now issued it."Asked about the implementation of the new notification, the Commissioner said, "In the coming days, all RTOs and Police jurisdictions will be asked to enforce it.

Vote of confidence in Dalal St valuations and India fundamentals

India's economic fundamentals are speaking louder than the market pessimism of the past few months. The remarkable recovery in Indian equities, accompanied by the return of foreign institutional investors in record numbers, is a powerful endorsement of the resilience of the Indian economy and the policy framework that has sustained it.

Consider the scale of the turnaround. Between October 26 and November 16, the Nifty50 surged nearly 2,900 points or 13 percent in just three weeks. The Sensex has gained over 10 percent in November so far, putting both benchmark indices on course for their strongest monthly performance in nearly six years. The Bank Nifty is virtually back at its all-time high. On November 6, the BSE's market capitalisation crossed ₹500 lakh crore for the first time, with nearly ₹30 lakh crore of investor wealth added in the first 11 days of November.More significant, however, is the return of foreign capital. Foreign portfolio investors have purchased Indian equities worth approximately $8.9 billion in November so far, the highest monthly inflow since records began in 2002. In just nine trading sessions, their purchases exceeded ₹84,000 crore, surpassing the previous record of ₹66,135 crore for an entire month. On November 5 alone, FPIs made net purchases of approximately ₹14,900 crore, their largest single-day investment in over a year. Including bonds, foreign portfolio inflows have approached $9.8 billion.This is not merely speculative interest. There is a return of patient, long-term capital. Foreign investors have also purchased government securities worth more than ₹7,400 crore in the first nine days of November, their highest investment since July. Significantly, these purchases have been concentrated in bonds maturing in 2033 and 2036. Investors committing capital to Indian sovereign debt for 7-10 years are expressing confidence in the country's longer-term economic prospects.The global investment community is reassessing India. Goldman Sachs has upgraded Indian equities to overweight, HSBC has moved India from neutral to overweight, and Jefferies has increased India's allocation in its Asia-Pacific ex-Japan model portfolio. Citi Research has raised its Nifty50 target from 26,000 to 28,000 by December 2027. Morgan Stanley sees Indian equities at an inflection point and expects the Sensex to reach 95,000 by December 2027, supported by anticipated annual earnings growth of 18 percent through 2028-29.

HSBC has highlighted India's attractiveness for investors seeking to diversify away from concentrated exposure to artificial intelligence stocks, citing strong credit growth, resilient earnings and measures supporting economic growth and the currency. Bank of America Securities believes that valuations approaching long-term averages leave room for further expansion.The macroeconomic outlook reinforces this confidence. Moody's has raised its 2026-27 growth forecast for India from 6.5 percent to 7 percent, citing broad-based economic momentum and resilience to the energy supply shock.

Russia in a sweet spot

Despite its limited global economic engagement, Moscow has been invited to the Shenzhen high table



RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin would be pleased to appear on the world stage with Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping. It is still a G-2 world or, as I have argued elsewhere, a "bi-multipolar" world in which the US and China are top dogsWhile the Shenzhen trilateral summit has spawned speculation about a G-3, its agenda may be fairly limited. In any case, Russia is not quite there. Its huge arsenal of nuclear weapons still does not make it the old Soviet Union. The war with Ukraine has imposed costs and hurt Russia's standing. In the era of geo-economics, where economic heft and technological prowess define power, the US and China are the dominant powers today.Yet, despite its limited global economic engagement, Russia has been able to get an invitation to the global "high table". Putin has been invited to Shenzhen as a gesture on the part of both Trump and Xi, both of whom have their reasons to court him. In turn, Putin's own status has been boosted. So each interlocutor arrives with an IOU in hand, but only Trump and Xi have the bargaining clout offered by the power to deny something the other covets. In that sense, Russia is in a sweet spot, so to speak, without carrying the weight of the other two.Russia continues to matter and can still claim to be a great power because of geography and the sheer will of its people.About a decade ago, I invited my friend Sergei Karaganov, a distinguished scholar and an adviser to President Putin, to address a gathering of business leaders in New Delhi. I wanted him to try to convince his Indian audience, still living through the honeymoon of a newly minted India-US strategic partnership following the Manmohan Singh-George W Bush era, of the continued importance of Russia.Karaganov chose to speak on Russia's new "Look East" policy, turning away from its pursuit of a European identity to reinforcing its Eurasian personality, building a new equation with Asia. Western Europe had spurned post-Cold War Russian overtures. The eastward expansion of NATO, the trans-Atlantic military alliance, showed that Russia could not trust the West. Moreover, Russia needs to plug into a rising Asia.Karaganov's thesis was that "Russia has an opportunity to reap political and economic benefits from acting as another channel or maybe even a centre for integration between rising Asia and Europe, which is still wealthy and technologically advanced but withering in its crises… But most importantly, Russia has a chance to gain a new status, not that of a European periphery with possessions in Asia, but as an Atlantic-Pacific power committed to the future, as one of the centres in rising Greater Eurasia."It has taken some time for analysts to take Russia's "pivot to the East" seriously, but it is now clear that Karaganov was prescient in his early formulations of over a decade ago that Russia would focus increasingly on the Russian Far East, East Asia and Central Asia.

After the end of the Cold War, Russia tried to regain its global profile by turning to Europe. After being spurned by the West, Russia seeks a Eurasian identity. The Eurasian Economic Forum was a product of such thinking. Even India chose to develop an "Asian" route to Russia through the Chennai-Vladivostok link. However, to emerge as an "Atlantic-Pacific" power, as Karaganov put it, Russia needs a decisive edge in Ukraine.

I must add that a year later, I was at a conference in Russia that explored and elaborated upon Russia's Asian identity, links and interests. Central Asia, China and India figured prominently in the new thesis on Russia's place in the world. At the end of a long day, there was an impressive banquet. French wine was on offer. There was an assortment of European dishes. To top it all, a Russian band played jazz. That about sums up Russia's split personality. The mind pushing East, the heart still pulling towards the West.That also captures how Putin would feel standing between Trump and Xi. Of course, there would be no Europeans around and Trump is certainly not a representative of the "Old West" that Russian elites have long sought to identify themselves with. In any case, it is now clear that Trump has left Europe to its own devices. Europe, for its part, has to learn to deal with both Russia and China on its own.

The trilateral summit this week will be watched and analysed with great interest, and perhaps concern, across Asia and Europe. The emerging relationship between the US and China has consequences for Asia, including India, and the equation between Trump's America and Putin's Russia has already caused much concern in European capitals.India has been handed a lollipop with a long-delayed meeting of Quad leaders in Manila. For now, the relationship will go forward on a private-sector track and some maritime engagement on the side. As for Europe, more salt would be rubbed into its wounds when Putin lands in the US for the G-20 Summit next month.

There has been a tendency among analysts in India to imagine that Russia has become far too dependent on China. One should not exaggerate that dependence, even if it has increased. Few countries today can assert power on their own. Even the US has needed allies in its campaigns over the past half-century. China is certainly an economic and even a technological power, but it has not yet secured its credentials as a military power, not having them tested in the manner in which Russia has been subjected to in Ukraine. In other words, the China-Russia relationship is still one of mutual benefit and not one-sided.

Security, trade access in focus during week of summits in East Asia

Trade routes, supply chains and technology are on the same security map that India pores over with Quad partners. It must break the deadlock in concluding the free trade pact with ASEAN



As the Indo-Pacific remained firmly in focus at a flurry of summits in Manila on the first two days of the week, China featured as the elephant in all the summit rooms. The Quad leaders, who met after a gap of two years, hardly minced words when their joint communiqué expressed "grave concerns about economic coercion, including through arbitrary export restrictions", pointing at China's stranglehold on critical minerals that it has weaponised in response to the US's imposition of tariffs and technology export curbs. The group comprising the US, Japan, Australia and India also committed to closer cooperation on maritime surveillance, artificial intelligence, energy and cybersecurity. It's the result of quiet work by the four foreign ministers, who met a number of times to streamline the group's working themes even as the leaders skipped their summit.The US sees the Quad largely through the prism of strategic competition with China. However, the Jakarta-headquartered ASEAN does not want to be forced to choose strategically between Washington and Beijing. While it signed a disaster response and early warning pact with India, what remained unsaid in Manila was the tepid growth in trade between the bloc of 11 Southeast Asian nations and India. Here, too, China's influence in the region acts as a speed-breaker, fomenting worries about rules of origin and the possibility of Chinese-made products gaining preferential access after minimal processing in a third territory.As diplomatic action shifts for the rest of the week to Shenzhen for the APEC Summit and the first China-Russia-US trilateral, India must focus on negotiating the shifting geopolitical currents that may be made even more unpredictable with the emergence of a G3 among the three military superpowers, even if it's temporary and tactical. It must break the deadlock in concluding the free trade pact with ASEAN and offer the bloc's members better access, investment, technology and dependable maritime partnership. Trade routes, supply chains and technology are on the same security map that India pores over with Quad partners. While the Quad's prominence waxes and wanes with the mood of its most formidable constituent, the US, India should continue strengthening cooperation with the other two members. Whatever the shape of the world order to come, bilateral relationships will never go out of fashion.

Justice Kurian panel brouhaha | A committee ain't the cause

The Stalin govt had appointed the Justice Kurian Joseph panel on Centre-state relations by Executive order, not law. So it can be disbanded by the Vijay govt, which is on a fresh mandate. The increasingly important vocabulary of federalism belongs to all states, not one party

In February 2022, nine months after the M K Stalin-led DMK government had taken charge in Tamil Nadu, it revoked all appointments made to the state Child Rights Commission made by the previous AIADMK government. Can it then be charged that the DMK government was not serious about protection of child rights?In September 2026, the new Congress-led UDF government in Kerala dissolved the Loka Kerala Sabha, a forum created by the previous LDF government for welfare of expatriate Keralites. Does this mean the UDF government has ignored the millions of non-resident Keralites?These are obviously facetious questions. Disbandment of a committee constituted by a previous government after the people have voted for a change is neither new nor unusual. That's precisely why the recent brouhaha over the TN government's decision to disband the Union-state relations committee is silly and uncalled for.

On November 6, the C Joseph Vijay-led TVK government discontinued the High-Level Committee on Union-State Relations headed by former Supreme Court judge Kurian Joseph. It handed the panel's unfinished work to the State Law Commission. The DMK, which had set up the committee just months before the election, has raised an uproar, calling it a surrender of Tamil Nadu's rights. A few dozen retired bureaucrats have signed a petition in protest. The issue may sound grave and deep, but it is constitutionally, politically and ethically shallow.

One, the committee was not created by the Constitution or by an Act of the Assembly. It was set up by a DMK government order, under the state's Executive power, as an advisory body. What one government order creates, another can end. No statute, court ruling or convention obliges an elected government to keep the advisory machinery of the government voters have just replaced. If anything, when people have voted overwhelmingly for change, it is democratically incumbent on the new government to review Executive decisions of the previous government.

Two, politically, the discontinuation garners even more merit. One member of the committee and his family are deeply entrenched in DMK's politics, even contesting elections on a DMK symbol. Laudably, he realised the conflict and resigned from the committee soon after the people's verdict for change. This is the clearest acknowledgement that such a committee to speak for TN's rights must not only be but also perceived to be beyond political partisanship. Another member of the committee was known to be closely associated with the previous Chief Minister for long, well beyond his bureaucratic career. None of this diminishes their scholarship. It only makes a new government's wariness rational. Part I of the report was tabled in February, weeks before the Assembly election, and the DMK campaigned on it.Three, all these may still have een palatable had the political climate in the state not turned so acrimonious, with the DMK leadership even exploring a dalliance with their arch enemy AIADMK to prevent the TVK from coming to power. A party willing to contemplate a pact with its lifelong adversary to block a mandate cannot expect its successor to treat its hand-picked panel as a neutral arbiter. It is hypocritical and foolhardy to ignore this political cloud of mutual suspicion between the TVK and the DMK. Governance in a democracy happens in a certain political context, not in a vacuum that bureaucrats and political theorists pretend to believe.Four, the most

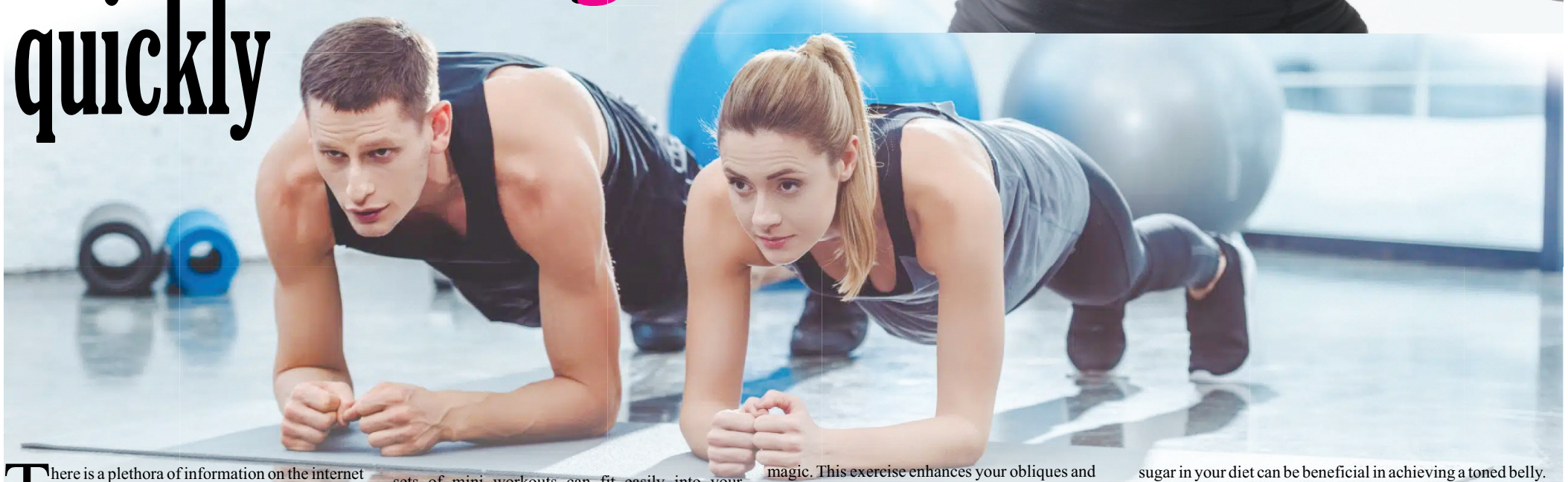


dishonest charge is that ending the committee means abandoning the cause itself. Federalism is a constitutional principle. A committee is a tool. The Kurian Joseph report's Part I—on governors, delimitation, GST, education and language—is on the record. Its papers go to the Law Commission, reconstituted in August with a mandate that includes Centre-state relations. The arguments do not die because a government order is withdrawn.Five, what the DMK really objects to is losing its monopoly over the vocabulary of state rights. That vocabulary never belonged to one party. When the panel was announced in April 2025, the AIADMK too stood with the DMK on state rights in the Assembly. Federalism belongs to TN, not to any party's letterhead. Only partisan reasoning can equate the life of one committee with the fate of the cause.None of this makes the cause less urgent. The case for fiscal, constitutional and political federalism has never been stronger.

The visceral attack on India's federalism in the last decade by the Modi government has extracted a huge price from all states. It has cost TN about ₹26,000 crore—the amount TN would have received had the central government kept cesses and surcharges, which it does not have to share with states, at their UPA-era share of tax collections.In 2014-15, 89.1 percent of the Centre's gross tax revenue was shareable, which fell to 74 percent under Modi. Cesses and surcharges have roughly tripled in the last decade. This robbed states of their legitimate share of cash. In TN's case, it lost more than a full year of the state's entire health budget. This is fiscal federalism loot.Parents of roughly 4 lakh students in state universities are eagerly waiting to watch their children adorn a robe and collect their degree. They are unable to experience this joy and the students are going through the misery of not being able to collect their degrees because the Modi government is insisting on six stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' and not the Tamil anthem being sung at the convocation function of state universities in Tamil land, presided over by an anointed Governor as the de facto chancellor. This is Modi's federalism robbing youth of their futures.

7 mini-workouts to shrink belly fat quickly





There is a plethora of information on the internet on how to lose those extra kilos. Belly fat remains a pain point, as no matter what you do, it is difficult to get rid of. While many somehow manage to lose weight, the stubborn belly fat often refuses to budge.

Eating fibre and protein-rich food and cutting high-fat and sugary treats is often recommended for fat loss, but it's always a good idea to include some exercises in your routine. In case you have a busy schedule, mini-workouts can be extremely helpful.A new research has highlighted the importance of micro walks, deeming them even more beneficial than longer walks. This small study published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B involved 10 participants who walked for varying lengths of time, including short bursts with breaks lasting several minutes, and walking longer durations of up to four minutes. Researchers from the University of Milan discovered that when people walked in stints of 10 to 30 seconds, taking in breaks, they used more energy and burned more calories than continuously walking the same distance.There are several types of workouts that can help with weight loss, including aerobic exercise (brisk walking, biking, swimming, and dancing) high-intensity interval training (HIIT), strength training using weights, resistance bands, spinning, yoga, pilates, jumping jacks, mountain climbers, burpees, rowing, jumping rope, cross training, and kickboxing. The number of calories you burn depends on the exercise you do, how hard you work, and other factors as well. However, there are a certain type of exercises that help one loose the belly-fat faster. Though spot reduction is not possible, while losing weight, you can certainly incorporate some exercises that help tone abdominal muscles and thus gradually reduce fat around the belly.

Whether you're a beginner or just short on time, these sets of mini workouts can fit easily into your everyday routine. Let's get ready to burn those stubborn belly fat, tone that core, and feel great! Grab some water, find a mat, and a towel. Let's begin the fitness journey!

Burpees

Burpees are the best way to work out your entire body. All the jumping action will help you to burn the overall fat. Burpees work well on your belly fat, however, the trick is in the consistency.

Cardio Blast

Cardio exercises are the quintessential way to fat loss. It is best to incorporate 15 minutes of cardio into your everyday workout routine. If you are a gym person, you can use the cardio machines. Outdoor exercise lovers can go for running, cycling, or dancing. Make sure to maintain the high-intensity activity for 15 minutes.

Crunches

The classic go-to exercise for toned belly is crunches. Crunches are the most effective workout for burning abdominal fat. By performing crunches regularly, you can engage your core, strengthen your midsection, and increase your overall calorie burn.

Mountain climbers

To burn the stubborn belly fat, you need to engage your core muscles. Mountain climbers target belly fat. This exercise works on your whole body, by engaging multiple muscle groups, including your core, arms, and legs. Mountain climbers also improve cardiovascular fitness.

Russian twists

Yes, yes, Russian twists might seem a bit too much, but trust us, this exercise works like magic. This exercise enhances your obliques and muscle definition. Though it might take a few days to get the hang of it, Russian twists are great for core strengthening. You can elevate the Russian twists with medicinal balls or weight plates.

Inclined Running

Running has its own benefits, but when burning belly fat is your goal, go for an inclined run. Running helps with improving your cardiovascular health. You can choose to go on a run, either on the treadmill or on a trek.

Plank

No matter how easy it might sound, planks are not so simple. They work on your whole body. Hold the plank position anywhere between 30 seconds to 1 minute. The only thing to keep in mind is to ensure your body is in a straight line. Remember that in any kind of weight loss, the 80/20 rule is applicable. 80 percent constitutes your diet, and 20 percent your exercise. Excess sugar intake is a major cause of weight gain in many people. Cutting processed sugar in your diet can be beneficial in achieving a toned belly. A healthy lifestyle comprising of a clean diet and lifestyle choices can help you in getting those washboard abs.



From right shoes to warming up right 5 safety rules to follow while walking



Walking is one of the simplest and most beneficial exercises we can do daily, but like any physical activity, it's very much important to prioritise safety. A safe, effective walk isn't just about moving your legs; it's about choosing the right shoes, warming up properly, and being careful of your stride and form. Here's a guide on 5 essential safety rules to make our walk a healthier, safer experience.

Choose the right shoes

Your shoes are the foundation of a safe walk, and not all footwear is created equal for walking. Look for shoes that provide proper arch support, cushioning, and stability. Walking shoes should be slightly flexible at the ball of the foot to allow natural movement but not overly loose, as they could cause ankle strain. Avoid flat, unsupportive shoes or shoes with high heels; these can lead to joint discomfort or even injury over time. Also, consider trying on shoes later in the day when your feet are more swollen to ensure a true fit.

Don't skip the warm-up

A quick warm-up before walking can prepare your muscles and joints for the activity, reducing the risk of injuries like pulled muscles or cramps. Try starting with some gentle ankle rolls, calf stretches, or even a minute or two of brisk marching in place. Focus on activating your legs, hips, and lower back muscles to improve flexibility and circulation. This short warm-up will prepare the body for increased movement, making each step feel smoother and more comfortable.



Maintain the right stride

An overly long stride helps us walk faster, but it can actually put more strain on our muscles and joints. The key to a safe, effective stride is to keep your steps at a natural, comfortable length. Focus on landing your foot underneath your body rather than reaching out too far with each step. Shorter strides reduce the impact on your joints and make it easier to maintain a steady, comfortable pace, preventing unnecessary stress on your knees and hips.

Pay attention to your walking angle

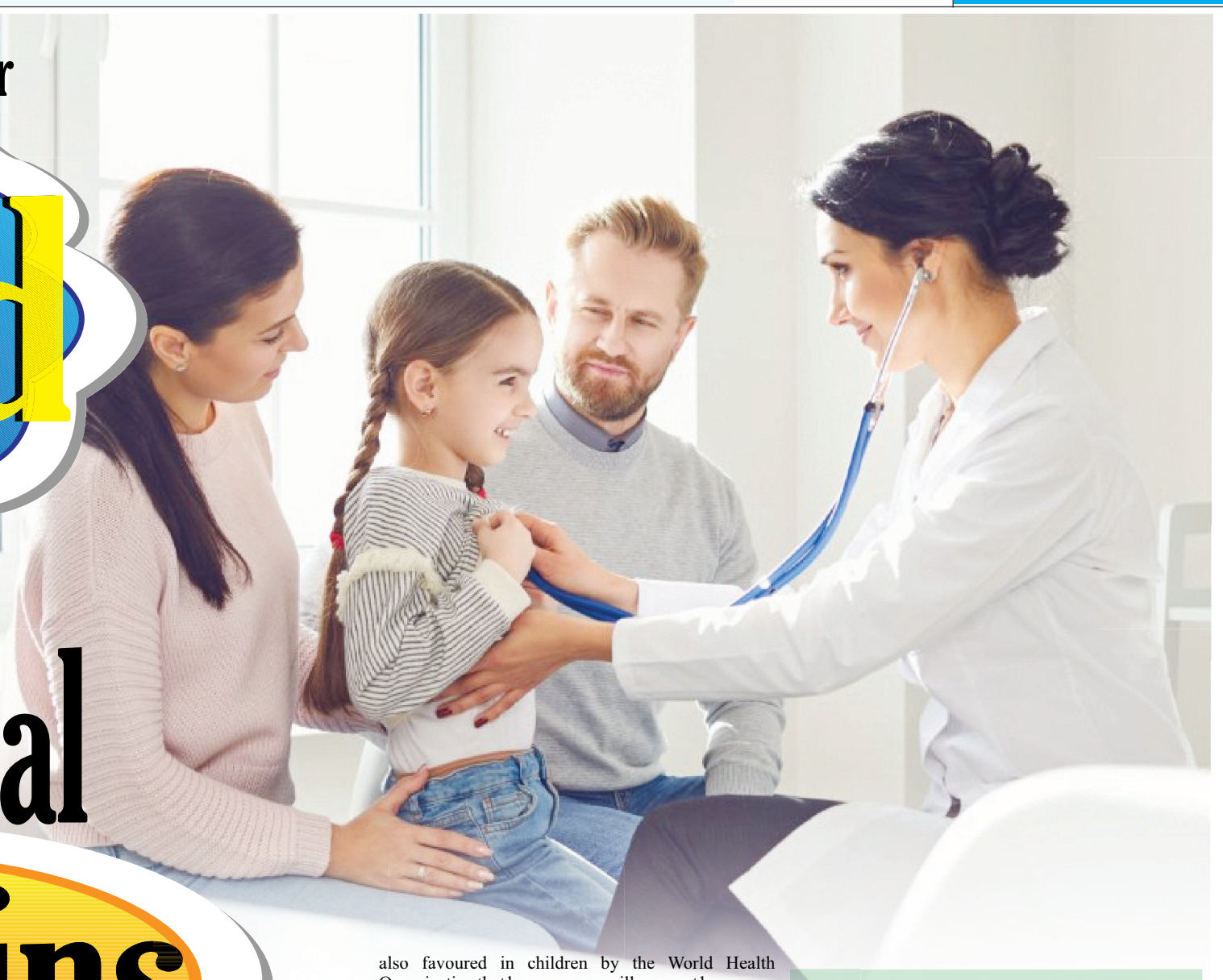
Walking posture plays a huge role in avoiding strain and injuries. Ideally, your head should be up, shoulders relaxed, and your gaze should be about 10 to 20 feet ahead. Avoid slouching or leaning too far forward, as this can create tension in the neck, shoulders, and lower back. Instead, keep a slight forward lean from your ankles—not from your waist—to help move you forward naturally.

Stay aware of the surroundings

Safety during walking isn't just about physical form; it's also about being alert to your surroundings. Whether you're in a busy urban area or a quiet park, pay attention to obstacles like uneven sidewalks, puddles, or cyclists. Avoid distractions like checking your phone or wearing both earbuds if you're on a busy street. Staying mindful of what's around you helps you react quickly to any unexpected situations, making your walk both safe and enjoyable.

CMYK

How to know if your child is deficient in these 5 essential vitamins



Ensuring that your child gets the right proportion of nutrients will ensure proper growth, development, and well-being. While most parents are eager to see to it that their children eat enough food at each given chance, vitamin deficiencies slip through cracks leading to long-term health issues. Such vitamins include vitamin D, which play important roles in immune function, bone health, and cognitive development. Therefore, it is absolutely essential to know early signs of deficiency. The following are the five most essential vitamins and how to identify when your child may be deficient in them.

1. Vitamin D: Essential for bone health

Vitamin D is one of the notable requirements for the growth and immune system of your child. It also facilitates an easy intake of calcium for your body, which serves as an enhancement for the growth of firm bones. You may observe that your child is low in vitamin D by traits that include bone pain and weakness in the muscles, or even poor growth and development. If your child often falls ill or is prone to infections, this might be a signal that she/he might not be getting enough vitamin D. Sources that provide good amounts of vitamin D include exposure to sunlight and foods such as fortified milk and eggs, though in some children, supplements may be the best way of ensuring they get adequate amounts. According to the National Institutes of Health, deficiency in vitamin D is common in children who spend most of their time indoors.

2. Vitamin A: For healthy vision and skin Vitamin A acts similarly and plays a critical role in healthy vision, skin, and immune function. A deficiency can cause night blindness, dry skin, and even recurring infections. If your child usually complains of difficulty seeing in dim light or has dry, rough skin, it could be a sign of vitamin A deficiency. This vitamin is found in food staples such as carrots, sweet potatoes, and spinach. These nutrients will be sufficiently supplemented through continued consumption of these food items, but a severe deficiency may need supplementation. As per the study published in Frontiers, The clinical manifestations of vitamin A deficiency (VAD) involve night blindness, bitot's spots, corneal xerosis, and corneal scars. It is the most important cause of preventable childhood blindness among



children and causes morbidity and mortality

3. Vitamin C: Boosting immunity Vitamin C is an antioxidant in the body that fights infections and helps heal wounds. Deficiency in vitamin C may manifest as bleeding gums, dry skin, or slow healing of wounds. In extreme cases, it leads to scurvy, which will be accompanied by aching joints and lack of energy, perhaps drowsiness. Good sources include orange, strawberry, and bell peppers. These foodstuffs will make sure that your child gets the nutrients to keep them in a healthy condition about their immunity. Such diets are also favoured in children by the World Health Organization that keeps common illnesses at bay.

4. Vitamin B12: For cognitive function

Vitamin B12 is vital for brain development and the production of red blood cells. Lack of B12 leads to frequent bouts of weakness, lassitude, poor concentration, pale skin, or even neurological issues. Vegetarians and children who have a limited diet may be at higher risk for B12 deficiency. Foods rich in vitamin B12 are generally sources of meat, dairy, and fortified breakfast cereals. If your child shows signs of tiredness or cannot concentrate, you may need to check your child's B12 level.

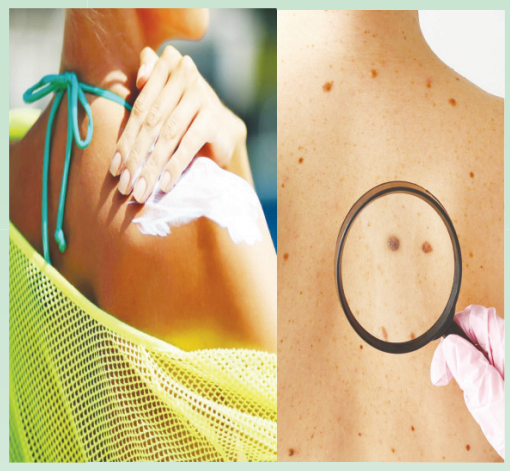
5. Folate: For healthy cell growth

Folate, or vitamin B9, is essential for healthy cell growth and development. A lack of folate can cause poor growth, fatigue, and irritability. It's particularly important during times of rapid growth, such as in infancy and adolescence. Foods like leafy greens, beans, and fortified cereals are good sources of folate. Research from the National Institutes of Health links folate deficiency with developmental delays and increased risk of anemia in children. If your child shows signs of low energy or growth delays, it could be a sign of a folate deficiency.

When to see a doctorIn case you notice symptoms similar to those of vitamin deficiency, see a pediatrician. A pediatrician can easily determine whether your child is deficient in any of the essential vitamins by simply conducting a blood test. Then again, your child's diet may also be adjusted for a proper round-up of nutrients. They can help monitor your child regularly to detect any forms of deficiencies early before they cause long-term health issues.Your child requires the right mix of vitamins for growth and development. If any deficiency is suspected, then keep an eye out on symptoms such as fatigue, skin issues, or slow growth. Provide a nutrient-rich diet to your child and supplement them as required to help support your child's health to grow robustly and healthily.



Applying sunscreen to prevent skin cancer? 6 habits you should strictly follow



Every day, people cover huge portions of their bodies with sunscreen. As a basic rule, sunscreen should be applied 20 minutes before venturing outside in order to maximize its advantages. Sunscreen use lowers the incidence of melanoma and squamous cell skin cancers, according to a number of well-conducted, long-term follow-up randomized controlled trials by the National Library of Medicine.

Commercial sunscreens use chemical or physical components to guard against UV radiation's detrimental effects on the skin. As part of a comprehensive photoprotection strategy, the Canadian Dermatology Association advises most adults and children to use a sufficient amount of a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a UV protection factor of at least 30.Besides using sunscreen, here are 6 simple yet effective habits that help us prevent skin cancer:

Avoid sun in peak hours

According to Dr. Akshay Tiwari, Senior Director, Musculoskeletal Oncology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, "There are many other ways to avoid exposure to sunlight, such as avoiding exposure to sun in peak hours from 10 am to 4 pm, especially during summers. Use of long-sleeved shirts, pants instead of shorts, use of wide hats, and sunglasses are some of these."

Prevent direct heat to body

Avoid habits that expose the skin of a particular area to repeated injury; for example, prolonged exposure to heat by using heating devices (like Kangri) continuously over one particular area for months or years is known to cause skin cancer. Keep the source of heat indirect, give intermittent periods of relief, and keep changing the area exposed.

Get regular checkups of scars

Persons having old scars (like old burns or extensive scars from old injuries) may develop skin cancer in the scarred area. Regular self-/medical examination should be done for these scars; any new ulcer that doesn't heal in 2-3 weeks should be examined by a specialist, who will biopsy it if needed.

Always keep your weight in check

Keeping a check on weight is essential, as the increased belly fat can be a gateway to many serious health complications. Maintaining a healthy weight and a healthy diet rich in vegetables, fruits, nuts, and antioxidants is also recommended, as with other cancers.

Get a biopsy

Take a look at your body and skin for any significant changes. Any ulcer or new skin lesion that doesn't heal in 2-3 weeks should be subjected to a biopsy to rule out skin cancer.

Delhi air hurts more than lungs: Studies link pollution to heart disease, depression, ADHD and premature deaths

Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi's toxic air may be doing far more damage than leaving residents coughing and struggling to breathe. Studies conducted over several decades have linked Delhi's air pollution to high blood pressure, heart disease, depression, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and premature deaths, suggesting that its health impact extends well beyond the lungs.A review by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) of 184 peer-reviewed studies – published between 1975 and 2025 – found that 169, or 91.8%, reported at least one association between air pollution and an adverse health outcome.Twenty-six of these studies were conducted in Delhi – the most studied area – followed by Punjab, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. Across India, respiratory diseases were examined in 86 of the 184 studies, followed by mortality in 16 and cardiovascular diseases in 11.While respiratory illnesses remained the most widely consequence, the studies highlighted evidence of pollution's impact on the heart and mental health, particularly among children and the elderly.

Impact on the heart

In Delhi, studies examining daily deaths found that higher exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) was associated with an increase in "non-accidental deaths", including deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory causes.Further, the studies linked prolonged exposure to particulate pollution to higher blood pressure, increased risk of hypertension and more hospital admissions for cardiovascular conditions.Of the 11 studies examining cardiovascular diseases across India, 10 reported at least one association with air pollution.

PPP model for Rani Bagh parking soon

Delhi.(Agency)

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is set to develop a multi-level parking facility at Rani Bagh's Sant Nagar amid the growing number of vehicles and the parking problems in the area. Standing committee chairperson Satya Sharma said on Friday that the civic body is moving ahead with a plan to develop this project under the public-private partnership (PPP) model and the facility will provide better parking options to local residents and visitors to the market. It will also help the MCD avoid the financial burden of approximately Rs 96.87 crore in construction costs.The proposal for a multi-level parking facility at Sant Nagar had been pending for a long time and the project is now being taken forward under a new model to ensure the development of parking infrastructure while making better use of the corporation's resources.

According to the civic body, an experienced public sector undertaking (PSU) will be appointed as the project management consultant and transaction adviser for the project. It will be assisting the civic body in the tendering process and selection of a private partner.The multi-level parking facility is proposed to be developed over an area of approximately 3,950 square metres and it envisages a parking capacity for around 600 equivalent car spaces (ECS).The facility will be designed to provide adequate parking space to visitors to the area and help prevent traffic disruption caused by unauthorised parking on roads.The standing committee chairperson said that while there is a need to expand parking facilities across the city, it is equally important to keep the corporation's available financial resources in mind. In March 2024, the corporation had approved the construction of this project departmentally at an estimated cost of approximately Rs 96.87 crore.

"Now, the project is proposed to be developed under the PPP model, under which the private partner will bear the construction cost. This will help the Corporation develop the parking facility without incurring the construction expenditure itself," she said.

Now, a Rs 10,000 fine for open waste burning in Delhi. Here's what new rules change

Delhi.(Agency)

From a fine of Rs 500 on residents for not segregating household waste to Rs 1.5 lakh on factory owners and manufactures for violation of packaging waste management requirements, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has come up with a graded penalty structure under its new Solid Waste Management Bye-Laws 2026. The new rules, cleared by the civic body's Standing Committee at a key meeting on Thursday, prescribe penalties depending on the nature of the violation and the category of the offender.The civic body has also fixed monthly user charges for households, commercial establishments, hotels, restaurants, institutions, and other waste generators to fund garbage collection, transportation, processing, and disposal.



Waste management in focus

Under the bye-laws, open burning of solid waste will attract a penalty of Rs 10,000, while littering will lead to a fine of Rs 1,000. Drivers or owners of goods vehicles found littering will face a penalty of Rs 5,000.Residential premises failing to segregate, store and hand over waste in the prescribed manner will attract a penalty of Rs 500. The same violation will invite higher fines for commercial establishments, with marriage halls, party lawns and exhibition venues facing penalties of up to Rs 15,000. Clubs, cinema halls, pubs and multiplexes will attract a fine of Rs 7,500.Street vendors failing to manage waste generated through their activities will be fined Rs 500.

Improper handling of construction and demolition waste will also attract penalties, ranging from Rs 2,000 for residential premises to Rs 10,000 for non-residential properties.

Stricter penalties for commercial units

The bye-laws also prescribe substantial penalties for commercial establishments and institutions. Hotels will face a fine of Rs 75,000 and restaurants Rs 30,000 for failure to manage waste in accordance with the rules.On the other hand, resident welfare associations (RWAs) and gated communities will attract penalties of Rs 15,000, while market associations and institutions will face fines of Rs 30,000 for such violations. These penalties will be levied only once per month.Manufacturers and brand owners selling disposable products without a system to collect packaging waste will face the highest penalty of Rs 1.5 lakh. Failure to take other prescribed measures will attract a fine of Rs 75,000.Industrial units failing to replace conventional fuel with refuse-derived fuel will also be fined Rs 1.5 lakh, while bulk waste generators failing to register or comply with their obligations will face a penalty of Rs 50,000.

User charges

The bye-laws also provide for monthly user charges across categories of waste generators, including residential households, shops, offices, educational institutions, healthcare establishments, hotels and restaurants. The charges — collected by the MCD for solid waste and garbage collection services — will vary according to the size and category of the premises, as well as the type of establishment.Both user charges and penalties will increase by 5% annually from January 1. A late payment surcharge of 10% will apply if dues are not cleared within 30 days of the demand being raised. To encourage advance payments, the MCD has also provided concessions, with annual payments equivalent to 10 months' charges and six-month.

Delhi sees coldest morning of season at 10.5 °C, AQI remains in 'poor' category

Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi saw its coldest morning of the season so far, with the minimum temperature settling at 10.5 degrees Celsius, on Friday. However, there seems to be no respite from pollution. The air quality remained in the 'poor' category at 267.Several monitoring stations across the city reported elevated pollution levels, with some locations recording air quality in the 'very poor' category. Sirifort recorded an AQI of 348, followed by Pusa at 335, JNU at 336, Burari Crossing at 333, Ghoga at 321, ITO at 321, NSUT Jaffarpur at 329, DTU at 319, Talkatora Garden at 316, Punjabi Bagh at 310 and Jahangirpuri at 307. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast dry weather, chilly mornings and persistent fog for Delhi over the next several days.According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 16 monitoring stations had recorded air quality in the 'very poor' category on Thursday. The recent development came just two days after the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) revoked curbs under Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) following an improvement in air quality.Station-wise data showed that Safdarjung and Ayanagar recorded the lowest minimum temperature at 10.5 degrees Celsius each, 1.8 degrees and 2.2 notches below normal, respectively. Palam recorded a minimum temperature of 10.9 degrees Celsius, while Lodhi Road recorded 11.1 degrees Celsius. The Ridge recorded a minimum temperature of 13.1 degrees Celsius, 0.4 degrees below normal.



'Dreams shattered': 27 recruits yet to join Delhi Fire Service despite court win

On July 1, 2025, the Delhi High Court had called the change arbitrary, ordered the merit list redrawn as per the original advertisement and gave the authorities eight weeks to complete the exercise

Delhi.(Agency)

"It has been 1.5 years… Give us our joining letters," read a banner tied to the gate of the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) headquarters as a group of men sat on a pavement outside on a day-long hunger strike on Tuesday.The men were among 27 candidates who applied for the post of fire operators in the DFS in 2014. Most of them were in their 20s then. At that time, they didn't make the cut as the selection criteria was changed midway after the written test and the physical test had already been conducted.On July 1, 2025, the Delhi High Court had called the change arbitrary, ordered the merit list redrawn as per the original advertisement and gave the authorities eight weeks to complete the exercise.The 27 candidates have since been selected and also cleared their medical tests. But over a year later, they are yet to receive the training/joining letters that would pave the way for them to join DFS.The training letter is important, because as per rules, after recruitment, a fire operator must first undergo six months of pre-service training on a fixed stipend. Without it, the 27 candidates cannot begin their service.

"My dreams have been shattered by this system," said a candidate. "The department played a foul game by changing the selection criteria in the middle of the selection process and that too without informing us."In a letter dated November 17 to the Principal Director of DFS, the 27 candidates wrote that they had been waiting for their letters for five months after the medical process, and every time they are given "some new timeline".When asked, a DFS official said, "The matter pertains to the Administration wing, and is being looked into."

The change

The Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) advertised 803 fire operator vacancies in January 2014, and later revised it to 841. Selection, the advertisement said,



would be through a "One Tier Examination", a 200-mark written test. The physical endurance test (PET) and the driving skill test (DST) would only be treated as qualifying in nature, the advertisement noted.Subsequently, the written test was held on August 31, 2014, and the PET was conducted between June 17 and 29, 2016, at Chhatrasal Stadium of the Capital.Then, on June 6, 2017, the DSSSB told candidates for the first time that written test marks had been scaled down from 200 to 100 and PET marks scaled up from 30 to 100, both counting towards merit. The driving test in September 2017 carried 100 marks, 20 for theory and 80 for practical. The result was released on November 16, 2017.

Legal battle

When the 27 candidates didn't make the cut, they approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). After the CAT didn't rule in their favor, they filed multiple writ petitions in the Delhi High Court, which granted them relief in July last year.

New plan to decongest Red Fort on the table

Delhi.(Agency)

In an attempt to decongest the narrow and heavily congested roads of Old Delhi, a proposed traffic circulation plan has suggested dedicated routes for private cars, auto-rickshaws, taxis and cycle-rickshaws, along with designated corridors for DTC and cluster buses.The proposal was discussed at a meeting convened by the SDM, Chandni Chowk, on Thursday to review the improvement project for Netaji Subhash Marg and adjoining roads. Chaired by General Manager of the Indraprastha Virasat Punarvikar Nigam, the meeting also proposed restricting rickshaws and commercial vehicles in the Red Fort precinct, identifying key corridors and creating separate entry and exit points for traffic entering and leaving the walled city.

According to the proposed plan, traffic movement has been divided into four categories, each marked in a different colour on the circulation map. Green routes have been designated for private cars, auto-rickshaws and taxis, while blue routes have been earmarked for non-motorised transport (NMT), including cycle-rickshaws. Red routes indicate movement of DTC and cluster buses, while yellow stretches have been identified as major vehicular flow corridors. One of the significant features of the plan is the proposed restriction on rickshaws and commercial vehicles within the Red Fort precinct. The area has been explicitly marked as a no-rickshaw and no-commercial-vehicle zone, with traffic movement channelled around its perimeter.

The yellow-marked major vehicular corridors cover important stretches connecting Netaji Subhash Marg, the Red Fort, Chandni Chowk, Fatehpuri, Khari Baoli, Lal Kuan, Hauz Qazi and Choori Walan. These routes are intended to facilitate the smooth movement of traffic through the area, while the designated internal roads would cater to non-motorised transport. The map has also identified separate entry and exit points to regulate the movement of vehicles into and out of the walled city. Four entry points have been marked, including



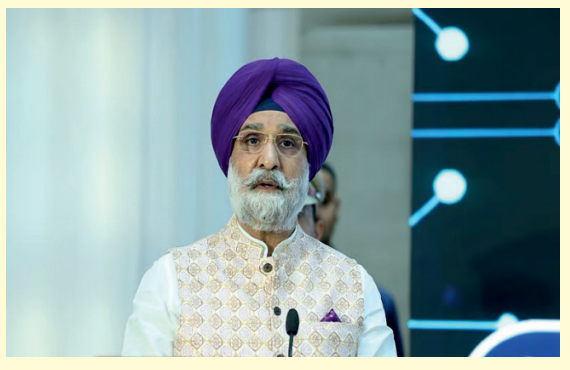
approaches from Netaji Subhash Marg, Yamuna Bazaar, Singh Road and Mori Gate. Four corresponding exit points have also been indicated. One-way movement has been proposed on select stretches, including roads around the railway line and the Mori Gate area, with directional arrows indicating the intended flow of traffic. Several internal roads around Chandni Chowk, Town Hall, Nai Sarak, Fatehpuri and adjoining market areas have been marked for cycle-rickshaw movement, suggesting an attempt to segregate non-motorised transport from major vehicular corridors.

DDA seeking framework for Yamuna restoration

The proposal for the report came out of the Yamuna Dialogues, a multi-stakeholder conference on the sustainable development of the Yamuna and its floodplains, conducted on Thursday.

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is planning to move the plans for Yamuna restoration away from fragmented agency-led interventions towards a coordinated framework, with a proposed 'Yamuna Report', which is expected to identify priority interventions and institutional responsibilities for the river corridor.The proposal for the report came out of the Yamuna Dialogues, a multi-stakeholder conference on the sustainable development of the Yamuna and its floodplains, conducted on Thursday.The conference, inaugurated by Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu at Baansera, brought together over 300 panellists, speakers, delegates and students from India and abroad, including representatives of government agencies, international organisations, research institutions and academia.



The L-G said, "The objective must be to move from fragmented approaches towards a coordinated framework for the long-term management and development of the Yamuna." The Yamuna Report is envisaged as a set of agreed priorities for the Yamuna corridor, translating discussions into a structured framework identifying priority interventions and institutional responsibilities that agencies and partners can voluntarily build upon.

The deliberations were organised around six themes, including governance mechanisms, floodplain planning and ecological measures, urban water and drainage management, river-people connect and ghat development, emerging technology and research, and sustainable financing.DDA vice-chairman N Saravana Kumar said the authority had undertaken an extensive floodplain restoration programme.

Core sector growth hits 10.9% in October

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's core industrial output, measured by the Index of Core Industries (ICI), grew 10.9% year-on-year in October 2026, the highest in recent months, driven primarily by coal, electricity, iron ore, and cement production, according to provisional data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Friday.

Iron ore production recorded the highest growth at 26.4% in October, followed by coal at 23.1% and electricity at 21.6%. Cement production grew 15.4%, while steel output expanded 7.3%.Refinery products, which have the second-highest weight in the index, recorded more modest growth of 3.4%, slowing from 8.7% in September. "While both coal and electricity benefited from a favourable base, electricity also saw elevated demand.The robust growth in cement and steel output in October 2026 indicates that construction activity has remained healthy," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA.

Govt seeks review of Yes Bank AT-1 ruling

KOCHI.(Agency)

The Union government has joined the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Yes Bank in seeking a reconsideration of the Supreme Court's October 15 judgment that struck down the Rs 8,415-crore writeoff of the lender's additional tier-1 (AT-1) bonds.AT-1 bonds are a type of perpetual bond that carry higher risk but offer relatively higher returns to investors.

he government's move follows separate review petitions filed by the RBI and Yes Bank, both of which have challenged the October 15 ruling. In its judgment, the Supreme Court dismissed appeals by Yes Bank, the RBI, and the Union government, upholding a January 2023 order of the Bombay High Court that had set aside the bond write-off.

The Supreme Court ruled that the administrator appointed to oversee Yes Bank's reconstruction in March 2020 lacked the authority to write down the AT-1 bonds once the final reconstruction scheme came into effect.

The provision permitting such a write-off had been omitted from the final scheme approved by the government. Yes Bank had written off the entire AT-1 bonds in March 2020.

Bullion's safe-haven shield cracks as gold, silver slide

MUMBAI.(Ajency)

Gold and silver fell further on Friday, sliding more than 4% and 6%, respectively, in early trade before recovering some losses. Gold ended 2.8% lower and silver 4% down, with both metals at their lowest levels since August 2025.Gold futures for December 4 delivery opened 3.94% lower at Rs 1,22,430 per 10 grams on the MCX, while silver fell 5.73% to Rs 1,48,466 per kg. According to India Bullion & Jewellers Association (IBJA), gold 24K gold tumbled for the ninth day to Rs 1.29 lakh/ 10 gm, down by Rs 5,200, and silver sank Rs 4,000/kg to Rs 1.58 lakh/ kg.

Gold has fallen more than 35% from its record high in late January, while silver has corrected nearly 66%. The sell-off has been driven by a stronger dollar, higher bond yields, rising inflation, and fears of tighter US monetary policy. The backlash against AI stocks has also triggered margin calls, forcing investors to sell even safe-haven assets to raise liquidity.Analysts said market direction will depend on the Federal Reserve's December meeting, particularly its assessment of inflation and the outlook for interest rates.

IRDAI fines Star Health Rs 2 crore over claim violations. What policyholders should know

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has imposed a Rs 2 crore penalty on Star Health and Allied Insurance for violations in the way it handled health insurance claims. The regulator found instances of claims being rejected on untenable grounds, deductions being made without adequate backing in policy terms and customers not being properly informed about why their claims were rejected or reduced.

In some cases, the insurer paid the disputed amounts only after IRDAI flagged discrepancies during an inspection.The order raises important questions for policyholders. Can an insurer reject your claim without a valid reason? Can it deduct money from your hospital bill without explaining why? And what can you do if you believe your insurer has not paid what it should have?Here's what happened and what it means for consumers.

WHAT LED TO THE PENALTY?

The penalty followed an inspection conducted by IRDAI between January 31 and February 11, 2022. After issuing a show-cause notice in December 2024 and holding a personal hearing in June 2025, the regulator passed its order on November 20, 2026.IRDAI found that Star Health had rejected certain claims, including COVID-19-related claims, on grounds it considered untenable. It also found instances of deductions that were not supported by the applicable policy terms.The Rs 2 crore penalty comprises Rs 1 crore for violations relating to claim repudiations and another Rs 1 crore for unsupported deductions and inadequate communication of claim settlement decisions.



BEYOND THE RS 2 CROORE PENALTY

Three key takeaways from the regulator's findings for policyholders, beyond the Rs 2 crore penalty, are worth noting.Your claim cannot be rejected arbitrarily. Insurers can reject claims on legitimate grounds, such as policy exclusions or waiting periods that have not been served. However, every rejection must be backed by the terms and conditions of the policy.In Star Health's case, IRDAI found instances where claims were rejected on grounds it considered untenable.

The regulator has directed the insurer to make its claim settlement letters more transparent, clearly listing approved and rejected amounts, non-payable expenses, hospital discounts and reductions in the sum insured.

It also flagged issues involving discounts negotiated with network hospitals, early collection of renewal premiums and failure to provide complainants with Insurance Ombudsman details. The regulator took note of corrective measures on the latter issues.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOUR CLAIM IS REJECTED OR PARTIALLY SETTLED?

The Star Health order is a reminder to examine your claim settlement statement rather than simply accepting the amount approved by your insurer.And this is where some important questions arise. How many customers were affected? What was the total value of the disputed claims and deductions? Will Star Health review claims that were rejected or partially settled during the period examined by IRDAI?In its stock exchange disclosure dated November 20, Star Health said the financial impact would be restricted to the penalty and that no impact was expected on its operations. It also said it was evaluating its available options.

EPFO's new SWP for retirees. How will it work and what happens to your PF money?

New Delhi.(Agency)

You retire with Rs 20 lakh in your provident fund account. What do you do with it? Take out the entire amount? Put it in a bank deposit? Or leave it invested and use it over the years?EPFO may soon give you another option. Instead of withdrawing all your PF money at once, you could take it out in smaller amounts every month, every three months or every six months.The money you leave behind in your PF account will continue to earn interest.The proposal for a Systematic Withdrawal Plan (SWP) was approved at the 240th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) on November 19. The meeting was chaired by Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.The facility will be voluntary. That means you can choose whether you want to use it or withdraw your PF money in one go.There are still some big questions, though. EPFO has not said how much you can withdraw each time or for how many years you can keep taking the money.Here's how the proposed plan is expected to work.



WHAT IS EPFO'S NEW WITHDRAWAL PLAN?

Simply put, it lets you take your PF money out in instalments instead of withdrawing the entire amount at retirement.Let's say you have Rs 20 lakh in your EPF account when you retire. Under the proposed plan, you could leave the money in the PF system and withdraw a part of it at regular intervals.

The rest of your money would stay in the account and continue earning interest. So, instead of having to take out Rs 20 lakh at once and figure out where to put it, you could access it gradually.

HOW WILL THE MONTHLY WITHDRAWALS WORK?

The Labour Ministry has said members will be able to choose from three options.Monthly: You receive money every month.Quarterly: You receive money once every three months.Half-yearly: You receive money once every six months.

You will also be free to withdraw your eligible PF balance in one go if you don't want to use the new facility.But how much money could you actually receive? Here's a simple example.Say you retire with Rs 20 lakh in your PF account. Assume you choose to withdraw Rs 10,000 every month. Over a year, that adds up to Rs 1.2 lakh.Now, let's assume your remaining PF balance earns 8% interest over the year. On an average balance of roughly Rs 19.4 lakh, that would mean interest of around Rs 1.55 lakh.Your account could therefore have around Rs 20.35 lakh left at the end of the year, even after you have withdrawn Rs 1.2 lakh.This is only an illustration. The 8% interest rate and Rs 10,000 monthly withdrawal are assumptions, not figures announced by EPFO. The actual amount will depend on the interest rate, when withdrawals are made and the final rules.

The basic idea is pretty simple. You take out some money, while the rest stays in your PF account and earns interest. If you withdraw more than the interest your balance earns, your savings will come down.EPFO is yet to say whether members will be allowed to choose their own withdrawal amount or whether it will set a formula. The minimum and maximum withdrawal limits are also not known.

WHO CAN USE THE NEW FACILITY?

The Labour Ministry expects around 6.32 lakh EPF members to be the primary beneficiaries in the initial phase. These are members aged above 55 years who have more than Rs 5 lakh in their PF accounts.

NSE stock joins top five global exchanges by m-cap, overtakes Nasdaq

MUMBAI.(Ajency)

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), the country's premier bourse, has seen its market capitalisation overtake that of Nasdaq and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing (HKEX) in dollar terms, making it the fifth-largest listed stock exchange in the world.NSE's market capitalisation stood at $59.4 bn on Friday, higher than HKEX's $57.4 bn and Nasdaq's $57.7 bn. It is now just behind the London Stock Exchange, valued at $60 bn. The top three listed exchanges are CME Group ($109 bn), Intercontinental Exchange ($95 bn), and Deutsche Börse ($63.7 bn).NSE, however, lags behind in the market value of shares listed on its platform, which stood at $5.49 tn. The comparable figure for Nasdaq is around $43.6 tn, followed by the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) at $33 tn and the Shanghai Stock Exchange at $9.97 tn.

NSE shares debuted on the BSE at Rs 1,800, against an issue price of Rs 1,785, a premium of around 0.8%. The shares ended at Rs 2,220 on Friday, up 1.5% from the previous close and 24% over the issue price. At Friday's close, NSE was the 10thlargest Indian company by market value, behind TCS, Bajaj Finance, and L&T.NSE's consolidated profit rose to Rs 2,578 crore in the three months ended September 30, from Rs 2,098 crore a year earlier. Revenue from operations increased to Rs 4,066 crore from Rs 3,677 crore. However, revenue and profit declined nearly 11% and 17%, respectively, from the June quarter.Top global exchanges combine deep liquidity pools with diversified revenue streams. Derivatives-led exchanges such as CME and CBOE benefit from network effects around benchmark contracts, while ICE, LSEG, Nasdaq, and Deutsche Börse have expanded beyond trading into clearing, indices, data, analytics, connectivity, and technology, creating broader and more recurring revenue streams.

"India compares favourably on underlying market growth and scalability; however, superior margins and return ratios versus most global peers partly reflect limited total addressable value beyond transactional revenues," said a note by Kotak Institutional Equities.

The brokerage expects the share of index options, a significant source of NSE's transaction revenue, to decline to about 50% over the next three to four years from 60% in Fy24.

Adani Energy Solutions bag project for 2,500 MW renewable energy supply to West Bengal discom

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) on Saturday said its wholly-owned subsidiary Powerpulse Trading Solutions Ltd (PTSL) has bagged a project to supply up to 2,500 MW of renewable energy to West Bengal discom WBSEDCL for 25 years.The Letter of Award (LoA) from West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Co Ltd (WBSEDCL) is for the supply of 1,750 MW of renewable energy round-the-clock for a period of 25 years.The LoA provides a 750 MW green shoe option, which, upon exercise, would take the aggregate contracted capacity to 2,500 MW, AESL said in a statement.

The award follows a competitive bidding process.Power supply is scheduled to begin from July 1, 2028, for 1,750 MW capacity and from April 1, 2029, for 750 MW, once the green shoe option is exercised, it said "Round-the-clock renewable power will be critical to India's energy transition, combining the sustainability of renewables and optimising transmission systems usage.

This significant order win strengthens our commitment to deliver scalable energy solutions, and allows us to partner with WBSEDCL in supporting West Bengal's long-term sustinable power needs."PTSL is rapidly emerging as a partner of choice for bulk power consumers, with the ability to structure bespoke and scalable solutions around their specific energy requirements," said Kandarp Patel, CEO, AESL.

The order represents a significant addition to PTSL's expanding portfolio of energy solutions.While it has tied-up ~ 4.6 GW of solar & wind, and 3.5 GWh of battery energy storage system capacity on the sourcing side, it is steadily stitching the supply side by augmenting long-term supply contracts with bulk consumers like industries, data centres, commercial entities, and discoms.Part of Adani Group, AESL has a presence in power transmission, distribution, smart metering, and cooling solutions.AESL is the country's largest private transmission company with a cumulative transmission network of 30,683 ckm and 1,46,585 MVA transformation capacity.AESL serves approximately 13 million retail consumers in metropolitan Mumbai and the industrial hub of Mundra SEZ.AESL is also ramping up its smart metering business and is on course to become India's leading smart metering integrator.

S&P 500 sinks 3.7% and Nasdaq composite goes negative for the year as tech sell-off worsens

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

A bruising sell-off in artificial intelligence stocks on Friday pulled the S&P 500 down 3.7%, dragging the index to its worst weekly loss in more than 18 months, and knocking the Nasdaq composite into the red for the year.The benchmark S&P 500 index is now in what professional investors call a "correction," having fallen more than 10% from its Oct. 6 all-time high.The last time the S&P 500 had a correction was March 2025, as the Trump administration's trade war rattled the market. Its weekly loss, marking its worst such decline since April 2025, as the trade war escalated, capped a seven-day losing streak, the longest such string of losses since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.The Nasdaq composite, which is more greatly influenced by tech stocks, slumped 5.3%, pulling it into negative territory for the year. Its weekly loss was also just shy of its worst week since March 2020, when the pandemic ground the global economy to a halt.The Dow Jones Industrial Average, with less exposure to technology stocks, fell 1.9%.Chip stocks like Nvidia, Micron Technology, Broadcom and Advanced Micro Devices bore the brunt of the selling, but other companies connected to the AI buildout tanked as well, including the optical products company Corning and the energy provider Bloom Energy. The AI lab Anthropic, coming off a successful IPO Thursday, tumbled 8.5%.The sell-off in technology stocks spread around the globe: Japan's Nikkei and South Korea's Kospi each fell more than 5% overnight. European indexes fell sharply as well.AI stocks have hefty market values and have a much bigger impact on the market's direction. They were responsible for Wall Street's big gains this year and are now behind the big slide for the market.The AI trade has been losing steam partly over worries that AI stocks' big market values and heavy spending are unjustified. Fears of a bubble within the sector have also been exacerbated by the results of the recent midterm elections, with candidates advocating for a slowdown in data center construction winning at both the federal and state level.



Small onion, big price: Rain raises shallot rates in Karnataka

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Sambhar onions or shallots, widely sold in Karnataka as 'small onions', have been selling above Rs 200/kg for the past two weeks, touching Rs 250/kg for a few days around Deepavali. The retail price of regular onions, by comparison, is in the Rs 65-70 range, with wholesale rates at Rs 40-60 a kg.

Ravi Balakrishna, an onion trader at Agricultural Produce Market Committee, said sambhar onions have been selling at consistently high rates because of short supply from production areas.He attributed the shortage to heavy rain in neighbouring Tamil Nadu, where the crop was washed away. Traders say this is the highest price recorded for shallots in about 18 years.Bengaluru handles about 1,000 tonnes of regular onions a day, against only a few tonnes of sambhar onions, and most of it is sold from City Market. Supply reaches the city from growers in Namakkal and Perambalur in Tamil Nadu, via Hosur.Traders expect prices to stay high until the next crop arrives in about four weeks from now, around the end of December and early January. Once fresh stocks arrive, if outputs are normal post January, prices are projected to fall by at least Rs 100-130 per kilogram.

Orissa High Court upholds MCL's CLIP mandate for existing contracts

CUTTACK.(Agency)

The Orissa High Court has dismissed a petition filed by an Angul-based contractors' association challenging Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd's (MCL) decision to make uploading of contractors' and workers' details on its contract labour information portal (CLIP) mandatory for all.A division bench headed by Chief Justice Bibhu Prasad Routray and Justice Gourishankar Satapathy, in its November 18 judgment, refused to restrict the portal's implementation to contracts awarded on or after November 1, as sought by the IB Field Suppliers and Contractor Association.

The association had challenged an MCL notification issued on September 3, 2026, making CLIP implementation mandatory from November 1. It argued that the requirement should apply only to new contracts and not existing agreements executed before the cut-off date.The petitioner also stated that MCL's failure to clear running bills for contracts was making it difficult for contractors to pay wages to their workers.Rejecting the arguments, the high court said the portal was introduced as a measure to protect workers' interests and ensure timely payment of wages. "The workers who were receiving their wages on daily basis should not wait for payment of their wages depending on the contract between the contractor and the management," the bench observed.

Despite festive season, AP vehicle registrations decline in October

VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)

Vehicle registrations in Andhra Pradesh have declined by 6.32% in October 2026 compared to the corresponding month last year. It indicates a slowdown in vehicle purchases during the Dasara festive season, traditionally considered an auspicious period for buying automobiles.In contrast, the number of vehicles registered from January to September was high compared to the corresponding months last year. Though there was a decline in registrations, the Transport Department revenue had marginally increased from Rs 616.39 crore to Rs 616.89 crore for the month.During April-October of the current financial year, the revenue increased by 17.3% to Rs 3,306.85 crore, supported by 29.75% growth in commercial vehicle registrations and life tax collections.According to the statistics obtained from the Road Transport Authority, a total of 1,45,226 vehicles were registered in October 2026 against 1,55,017 vehicles in October 2025.The decline was particularly pronounced in the personal vehicle segment, which recorded an 8.94% fall.Two-wheeler registrations declined by 9.75%, while car registrations recorded a marginal growth of 1.28%.

A murder, 11-yr wait for justice: Why Haryana's Panchi Jatan wants Chand Kaur to contest again

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Eleven years after her son was gunned down while campaigning for her in a village sarpanch election, 71-year-old Chand Kaur is being urged by residents of Panchi Jatan village in Haryana's Sonipat district to contest the panchayat polls once again.The appeal comes days after a Sonipat court sentenced former village sarpanch Surender Singh, his two sons and another accused to life imprisonment for the 2015 murder of Kaur's elder son, Sajjan Pal, an international wrestler and former CRPF Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP).On Tuesday, a group of villagers gathered at Kaur's residence and urged her to enter the electoral fray again. For Kaur, the verdict marks the end of an 11-year legal battle during which she pursued the case through police stations and courts while remaining concerned about the safety of her surviving family members.

"I cannot deny their wishes. They have stood by me for the past 11 years during my legal battle to ensure that the killers of my elder son Sajjan Pal were sentenced," Kaur told .But the verdict has also revived memories of the circumstances surrounding her son's killing."I cannot explain how difficult it was for me to protect my remaining family members after the incident. I was constantly worried about the safety of my younger son, Joginder too," she said.Sajjan Pal, 32, was shot dead on October 3, 2015, while returning home with his younger brother Joginder and other villagers after campaigning for his mother in the sarpanch election.He had taken voluntary retirement from the CRPF just 22 days before the election process began, following repeated requests from villagers. Since the sarpanch seat was reserved for a woman, Kaur was fielded against Saroj, the wife of then former sarpanch Surender Singh.

The two families, both from the Jat community, had been rivals for years. Before the 2015 election, the sarpanch post had alternated between them. Surender Singh and his mother Laddo had each served once, while Sajjan Pal's uncle Rameshwar had been sarpanch twice.According to the prosecution, around 10.30 pm on October 3,



Sajjan Pal and the others reached near Ramphal's house, where Sushil alias Sheela, Sunil alias Ullu and Naresh alias Bandri were allegedly sitting, while Surender Singh and his two sons were standing nearby.The prosecution said Surender exhorted his accomplices to kill Sajjan Pal, following which the accused opened fire. Sajjan Pal suffered six bullet injuries and died, while Ram Kumar, who was with him, was shot in the neck.Chand Kaur's lawyer Rajender Singh Dahiya said 43 witnesses were examined during the trial, with Ram Kumar's testimony proving crucial to the conviction.The Sonipat Sessions Judge, Jagjit Singh, also referred to disclosures allegedly made by the accused during polygraph tests. The judgment recorded that the accused had disclosed that a conspiracy to eliminate Sajjan Pal was hatched at Surender Singh's residence, involving his sons Deepak and Parveen.According to the judgment, Sushil had asked the group to kill Sajjan Pal and provided Rs 1 lakh each to purchase weapons, followed by another payment of Rs 50,000. The accused allegedly procured weapons from Uttar Pradesh with Naresh. The judgment further recorded that after the murder, Sunil informed Deepak that the "job" had been done, while Suresh.

He allegedly took a Rs 10 lakh bribe. Then CBI found items worth crores at his home

The CBI arrested Luvkush Kumar, a CGST superintendent, in a bribery case on November 19. He was allegedly caught red-handed while accepting Rs 10 lakh from the complainant.





Chandigarh(Agency)

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has allegedly recovered cash, foreign currency, gold and silver, collectively worth approximately Rs 1.86 crore, during searches at the residential premises of a Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) employee posted in Haryana.The items were allegedly recovered from the Panchkula residence of Luvkush Kumar, a CGST superintendent arrested in a bribery case on November 19.The CBI had registered a case against Kumar following a complaint alleging that he had demanded a bribe from a private firm partner in exchange for extending undue favours in GST proceedings against the firm, including not imposing heavy penalties and issuing further demand notices.

Reduced bribe amount: CBI

According to the CBI, Kumar had initially demanded a bribe of Rs 50 lakh, which was subsequently reduced to Rs 20 lakh, with Rs 10 lakh to be paid as the first instalment. During verification, the bribe demand was prima facie substantiated, investigators said.The CBI laid a trap at Panchkula on November 19, during which Kumar was allegedly caught red-handed while accepting Rs 10 lakh from the complainant.During subsequent searches conducted at his residential premises, the CBI said it recovered Indian currency worth Rs 24.29 lakh and foreign currency equivalent to approximately Rs 15.65 lakh. Gold jewellery, gold bullion and silver collectively valued at approximately Rs 1.46 crore were also seized, taking the total value of the recoveries to around Rs 1.86 crore.

Property, investment documents under scanner

The searches also led to the recovery of documents relating to six bank accounts, investment portfolios, a life insurance policy and multiple immovable properties. Documents concerning a vehicle and financial transactions of the accused and his family members were also found, the CBI said.The central agency is examining the documents to ascertain the assets, investments and financial transactions of the accused and his family members. Further investigation is underway, the CBI said on Saturday.

Nandan Nilekani-led panel to submit report on exam reforms in December

BENGALURU.(Agency)

The final report of the High-Powered Task Force (HPTF) on reforms in national-level examinations will be submitted in December, its chairman Nandan Nilekani said on Friday.He was speaking after taking part in a meeting with Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and others. Nilekani said the report is in its final stages and the opinions raised in the meetings will be considered and recommended in the report.

Nilekani lauded the recent reform measures implemented within the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) and Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC). "While most states in the country have agreed to the computerisation of recruitment examinations, care must be taken to ensure that this system does not pose difficulties for candidates from rural areas or those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds," he stressed.Nilekani also said the report will also include recommendations regarding a potential return to a decentralised system in holding recruitment exams.CM Shivakumar said that the state government is committed to conducting entrance examinations for various professional courses and recruitment examinations for government posts through a secure and transparent system."In addition to the marks obtained in recruitment examinations, the academic performance of candidates in their schools and colleges should also be taken into account. The recently conducted KAS (Karnataka Administrative Service) preliminary examinations were managed efficiently, with no scope for any irregularities or malpractice," Shivakumar said.

The CM also called for candidates from within the state to be given greater opportunities for admission into the state's medical colleges. "Given that it is difficult for rural students to compete with their urban counterparts in national-level examinations like NEET, grace marks should be awarded to rural students," he said."A 'fact-check' mechanism is also being implemented to dispel rumours regarding the leakage of question papers. It has been advised not to pay heed to any rumours until official information is released by the government.

20-year-old Pakistani man arrested near Jammu border, probe on

Jammu and Kashmir.(Agency)

A 20-year-old Pakistani national was apprehended by the BSF and the local police near the International Border in Jammu's R S Pura sector. He was caught in the Sai Kala area and is being questioned. Preliminary information suggests he is from Pakistan's Layyah district in Punjab.His apprehension comes days after security forces killed Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Lateef Bhat in an encounter in Kulgam. Bhat was suspected of being behind the November 11 attack on a CRPF checkpost that left three security personnel injured.Security forces had been tracking Bhat after the November 11 attack, in which three security personnel were injured.

KULGAM ATTACK AND HUNT FOR LeT COMMANDER

CCTV footage that emerged on November 17 showed Bhat and another terrorist, Umar Nisar Dar, scouting several locations in Kulgam a day before the attack.The two were seen moving through Mir Bazaar, Akhran, Hablish and Kilam. Security agencies said they were identifying potential targets and planning attacks on security forces.Investigators also found that Dar had been providing shelter and assistance to Bhat for five to six months. Dar was later killed in an encounter with security forces in Kulgam's Laroo area on November 16. Bhat escaped despite sustaining bullet injuries.Bhat was eventually tracked down on November 18. He was cornered inside a mosque, where security forces repeatedly urged him to surrender. Kulgam Senior Superintendent of Police Anayat Ali also spoke to him over a video call and assured him that his life would be spared if he laid down his arms.However, Bhat refused to surrender. He reportedly opened fire at around 2.45 am. Security forces later fired tear gas shells inside the mosque. Bhat was shot



dead after emerging from the premises.According to police, Bhat joined the LeT on November 18, 2025. He was heavily self-radicalised and had received instructions from across the border to disrupt peace, tourism and the economy in the Valley.

Now, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board issues stop-work directions to Adani project

Pune.(Agency)

The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has issued a letter to Adani Green Energy Limited's Tarali Pump Storage Project (PSP), with directions to stop work in Sawarghar village in Patan, Satara district.Kiran Hasabnis, regional officer, MPCB, Pune, issued the letter on Friday, November 20.

As per this letter, the company carried out "excavation/development work" in village Sawarghar for a temporary labour camp and other storage activities "without intimation and without obtaining consent/necessary permissions" from the MPCB.It is stated that MPCB granted "Consent to Operate" for the Tarali PSP under section 26 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and section 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and authorisation under Rule 6 of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Trans-boundary Movement) Rules, 2016, for Standalone Pumped Storage Project -1500 MW, subject to certain terms and conditions.

But it further told the company that "it was also obligatory on your part to provide adequate and efficient pollution control devices and take adequate measures to control air and water pollution, so as to achieve the consented standards."

The letter says MPCB officials in Satara visited the site on Friday. The letter stated that the "excavation/development work" at village Sawarghar was done without essential permissions from the MPCB and without obtaining environmental clearance."In view of the above non-compliances, you are hereby directed to stop your ongoing, proposed excavation/construction activities forthwith and not to resume any activity without prior permission from the Board, failing which, the Board will have no option than to initiate appropriate legal action under the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981," the letter stated.The 1,500-megawatt Tarali PSP is proposed on the Tarali dam reservoir and spans 150.74 hectares of non-forest land in Nivade, Tondoshi, Kalambe and Jalu villages in Patan taluka of Satara district.

A spokesperson of Adani Green Energy said, "The communication from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) pertains specifically to Gat Nos. 33 and 34 at Sawarghar, which are earmarked for temporary construction-support facilities and do not form part of the permanent project components of the 1,500 MW Tarali Pumped Storage Project. The permanent project components have the requisite statutory clearances. The temporary use of the said private land has already been considered in the approved layout by Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Upon completion of construction activities, all temporary facilities shall be dismantled and the land restored as applicable.

Erigaisi finishes 10th as Firouzja beats Giri in Armageddon to win Total Chess Pilot

New Delhi.(Agency)

Arjun Erigaisi finished as the best-placed Indian at the Total Chess World Championship Tour Pilot in Budapest, settling for 10th place after losing his final placement match to Armenia's Haik Martirosyan. French Grandmaster Alireza Firouzja, meanwhile, emerged champion after edging Anish Giri in an Armageddon tiebreak.Erigaisi had started strongly in his battle for ninth place, taking a 3-1 lead against Martirosyan after winning three of the four blitz games and one rapid encounter. However, Martirosyan fought back in the Fast Classic game, beating the Indian with White to secure an 11-9 victory on the day. Having also won Thursday's encounter, the Armenian sealed ninth place.

R Praggnanandhaa finished 21st after signing off with a convincing 15-5 win over Abhimanyu Mishra. Praggnanandhaa won the Fast Classic game with Black to complete the victory and settle the match without a tiebreak, having also won 12-8 on Thursday.Reflecting on his performance, Praggnanandhaa admitted that his group-stage results had left him with a difficult path in the tournament."It was not an easy match but I managed to win some crucial games. My blitz wasn't necessarily good but my rapid and classic games started to improve towards the end of the tournament," he said."If I had done a little better in the group games, I could have been in a better bracket than the one I was in."The Indian won the blitz section 3-1 and drew both rapid games before taking the final game in 38 moves.

French minister slams IOC's mandatory gene tests, calls them extreme violence

New Delhi.(Agency)

France Sports Minister Marina Ferrari has strongly opposed the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) mandatory gene-testing policy for female athletes, describing the move as "extreme violence toward women" and a step backwards for women's rights.Ferrari said the tests raise serious ethical concerns and amount to discrimination against women, adding that she hoped the IOC would reconsider its eligibility rules ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The IOC introduced its new eligibility policy in March, ruling that participation in female-category events at the Olympic Games and other IOC competitions would be restricted to biological females. The policy requires athletes to undergo a mandatory gene test once in their careers to establish eligibility.The rules will come into effect at the Los Angeles Games in July 2028."I can't say for now if the IOC will backtrack on this, I hope so," Ferrari told reporters during a phone call on Friday. "Several international federations have already started putting them into place."

WTA DECISION DRAWS FLAK

Ferrari also criticised the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) for introducing mandatory one-time gene testing for players seeking to compete at the 2028 Olympics.The WTA announced the change in July, updating its eligibility policy to include gender screening based on biological sex. The governing body said the move was aimed at preserving the integrity of women's professional tennis and maintaining fair competition.Ferrari described the decision as "depressing" and said around 60 per cent of French female athletes were opposed to gene testing."We consider it to be a form of extreme violence toward women, a clear discrimination," she said. "For me it's a clear regression in terms of women's rights, and I ask myself what will happen in 2030 when we will host the Winter Olympics."

Kudo champion Sohail Khan wins three golds, extends India's streak to 25

New Zealand's compact grounds leave fielders with little time to react, but Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have experience on their side. India's fielding coach Subhadeep Ghosh explains how anticipation sets the veterans apart.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Sohail Khan has won three gold medals across three major Kudo tournaments, extending his record to 25 consecutive national gold medals and strengthening his preparations for the 2027 World Championship selection trials.Representing Madhya Pradesh in the Senior Men's Above 21 Years, -250 PI category, Sohail Khan secured titles at the 17th Official National Kudo Tournament, 7th Kudo Federation Cup and 18th Akshay Kumar Kudo International Tournament 2026–27.

At the 17th Official National Kudo Tournament, held at Veer Savarkar Stadium in Ahmedabad, Sohail defeated Upendra Pradhan of Chhattisgarh by knockout in the quarter-final, submitted Devansh Jaiswal of Himachal Pradesh in under 30 seconds in the semi-final, and defeated Deepak Kumar of Haryana by knockout in the final.At the 7th Kudo Federation Cup, he registered a triangle lock submission victory over Sudarshan Ashok Dhak of Maharashtra, defeated Vishnu Kumar Gododiya of Rajasthan 2–0 in the quarter-final and overcame Devansh Jaiswal by unanimous referee decision in the semi-final. He secured his second gold medal with another knockout victory over Deepak Kumar in the final.Khan completed his three-tournament sweep at the 18th Akshay Kumar Kudo International Tournament 2026–27, recording an armbar submission in the second round, a knockout in the quarter-final and a 4–0 referee decision in the semi-final before securing gold with a knockout victory in the final.



"Winning gold at all three tournaments is a proud moment for me. Every fight brings a different challenge, and I am grateful for the hard work, discipline and support that have helped me achieve these results. Winning my 25th consecutive national gold medal motivates me even more to push harder and prepare for the World Championship selection trials in 2027, Khan said.He also expressed gratitude to Hanshi Mehul Vora, Head Coach, Kudo India, for his guidance and support, and Dr. Mohammad Aijaz Khan, Head Coach, Kudo Madhya Pradesh, for his constant encouragement throughout his journey.Looking ahead, Sohail highlighted an international training camp planned for next month in India, featuring Miko Hytonen, a world ADC champion. The camp will focus on developing ground-fighting skills among Indian Kudo athletes and bringing their technical preparation closer to international standards.With three gold medals and 25 consecutive national golds, Sohaul Khan is now focused on the next phase of his career, with the 2027 World Championship selection trials as his immediate objective.

Shubman Gill dejected after falling for 98, Rishabh Pant offers comfort: Video

Wellington.(Agency)

India captain Shubman Gill was left heartbroken after missing out on a well-deserved century by just two runs on Day 3 of the opening Test against New Zealand in Wellington on Saturday. Gill, who looked in sublime touch during his innings, was dismissed for 98 at the stroke of stumps, with Rishabh Pant offering a reassuring pat on the back as the skipper walked back disappointed.A video of the moment captured Gill's dejected reaction following his dismissal, with Pant walking up to his captain and offering a comforting gesture. Having shared a century partnership with Gill, Pant appeared to acknowledge the disappointment of missing out on a landmark knock as he tried to lift the India skipper's spirits.Gill's dismissal came at an unfortunate time for India, right at the end of the day's play. Jacob Duffy rattled his stumps to bring an end to an otherwise impressive innings from the right-hander. Gill faced 137 deliveries and struck nine boundaries and two sixes, playing a crucial role in extending India's advantage over the hosts.

The India captain had come into bat after Devdutt Padikkal's dismissal and combined with KL Rahul to put together a valuable 91-run partnership for the third wicket. After Rahul departed for a magnificent 136, Gill joined forces with Pant, and the pair added another 100 runs to India's total.Gill had looked well set to register his first Test century in New Zealand, but Duffy's delivery ended his stay just two runs short of the landmark. It was a frustrating end to an otherwise impressive knock from the India skipper.

INDIA TAKE CONTROL

While Gill's dismissal was a personal disappointment, India enjoyed a hugely productive day with the bat. The visitors reached 486/4 at stumps, taking a first-innings lead of 118 runs over New Zealand.Rahul led the charge with his 13th Test century, scoring 136 with the help of nine boundaries and two sixes. The opener first shared a 165-run stand with Padikkal, who contributed 80 off 175 balls, before adding 91 runs with Gill.Pant continued India's charge after Gill's dismissal and remained unbeaten on 55 at the close of play. Nightwatchman Anshul Kamboj was at the other end.India will resume Day 4 with six wickets in hand and a commanding position in the opening Test. New Zealand, who posted 368 in their first innings, will need early breakthroughs to prevent the visitors from building an even bigger lead.



Praful Patel sounds alarm on Indian football as AIFF election race heats up

New Delhi.(Agency)

Former All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Praful Patel has sounded a warning about the state of Indian football, saying the sport is heading towards "very challenging times". He has called for serious introspection among stakeholders, with the federation elections just weeks away and speculation growing over a possible return to the president's post.Indian football has plenty to worry about at the moment. The domestic game is facing uncertainty, financial concerns continue to grow and the AIFF leadership is under scrutiny. In a post on X on Saturday, Patel said the passion for football in the country had grown considerably, but the pace of development needed to catch up."Indian football is in for very challenging times. While the love and passion for the game have multiplied manifold, the pace of change needs to catch up," he wrote.

Patel also flagged the challenges of the past four years, including the exit of corporate partners and what he sees as a decline in India's importance to FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). He recalled how the two governing bodies had supported grassroots and infrastructure projects, including the proposed National Centre of Excellence in Kolkata, but suggested that India no longer enjoys the same level of attention."The general mood in Indian football calls for serious introspection by all stakeholders. Otherwise, we risk playing with the future of young footballers, the fans, and all the stakeholders of India's most popular mass sport," he wrote.Patel urged all stakeholders to work together, warning against hasty conclusions at a time when Indian football needs a clear direction.

CAN PRAFUL PATEL RETURN AS AIFF PRESIDENT?

Praful Patel's name is back in the conversation ahead of the December 20 AIFF elections. He led the federation for over 12 years, from 2009 to 2022, and oversaw Indian football's transition towards a professional league structure. During his tenure, India hosted the men's and women's FIFA U-17 World Cups, while Patel also served as AFC senior vice-president and became the first Indian member of the FIFA Council.Patel stepped down in 2022 and has completed the four-year cooling-off period, making him eligible to contest again. He is yet to formally announce a bid, but his name has gained traction amid growing opposition to current president Kalyan Chaubey's reported proposal.



Usman Khawaja, David Warner dropped from commentary duties after Sandpapergate storm

Usman Khawaja and David Warner have been stood down from Fox Cricket commentary duties amid the fresh Sandpapergate controversy. The decision comes after renewed allegations about Australia's 2018 ball-tampering scandal.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The sandpapergate storm has hit the Australian shores hard over the past few weeks and it has come at a price for Usman Khawaja and David Warner. The former Aussie opening duo have been removed from their Fox Cricket commentary duties until the storm dies down.With the Sandpapergate controversy showing no signs of dying down, Fox Sports has opted to remove the two commentators from the spotlight, believing it is the best course of action for both amid the ongoing fallout."In light of recent events, both Usman and Davey will be rested from our broadcasts over the next few weeks," Fox Sports managing director Steve Crawley told CODE Sports.

"While we always support all members of our commentary team and welcome a diversity of views which is a feature of our summer of cricket we also understand the pressure they are under to respond to each and every new comment.""We think it is increasingly difficult to focus on the game while the situation continues to unfold and think it is unfair on both commentators to put them in that position."Our focus remains on providing our viewers with the best broadcast of Australia's summer of cricket. We will continue to monitor the situation."A return date for Khawaja and Warner to commentary hasn't been set at this point in time.



SANDPAPERGATE GETS REIGNITED

The Sandpapergate debate returned to the spotlight after Usman Khawaja's autobiography, Sabr, claimed that knowledge of the ball-tampering plan went beyond Cameron Bancroft, Steve Smith and David Warner. Pat Cummins rejected the suggestion, describing claims that the entire team knew about the sandpaper plot as "complete and utter nonsense".

Bancroft subsequently added fuel to the controversy, alleging that the wider squad was aware of the practice and that bowlers, including Cummins, had discussed the ball's condition. He said Cummins' press conference was the "final straw" that pushed him to break his silence.Despite fans and critics feeling that Pat Cummins' captaincy reign won't survive the storm, Cricket Australia has backed the pacer to remain in charge of the side.

Cummins has received support from Josh Hazlewood, who said that there would be a mutiny if the current Australian skipper is forced to quit from his role.

India were cheated: Durga Rao slams Pakistan over Blind Asia Cup final row

Dhaka.(Agency)

India's blind cricket team captain Durga Rao has expressed his disappointment over Pakistan being declared winners of the Men's Asia Cup for the Blind despite the final in Dhaka being abandoned without a ball being bowled. Calling the decision an injustice, Rao questioned the use of net run rate to determine the winner and said the Indian contingent was left shocked by the announcement.In an exclusive interview with India Today, Rao said the Indian team had been at the ground since 10 am on Friday, waiting for the rain to ease and the final to get underway. However, after hours of uncertainty, the Indian contingent was informed that Pakistan would be awarded the title on the basis of a superior run rate."We felt that we are in the ground from morning 10 onwards. The rain was continuously falling down. The umpires kept informing us that the match was delayed. They told us that the cut-off would be till 4.15 pm," Rao said."At 4 o'clock, they had called me, my manager and people from their team. They told us that due to the run rate, we are declaring Pakistan as winners."The decision left the Indian players and officials stunned, with Rao insisting that the tournament regulations did not provide for a team to be declared the winner on the basis of run rate when no play had taken place.

"If the rule had been there, we could have accepted it. But in the laws and whatever WBC rules were there, they had never mentioned that due to the run rate, the winners would be announced," he said."From my point of view, we never expected this because the rules were not there. We personally felt it was an injustice for us."

NO CLEAR ANSWERS

The controversy intensified after the Indian contingent challenged the decision during discussions with the match officials. According to Rao, the team's manager raised several questions, particularly because not a single delivery had been bowled in the final.He said the Indian team wanted clarity on how the organisers had arrived at their decision but did not receive satisfactory explanations.



Priyanka Chopra's

Daughter Malti Marie Recites Gayatri Mantra In Adorable Video, Actress Helps Her Chant

Priyanka Chopra has shared an adorable video of her daughter Malti Marie reciting the Gayatri Mantra, offering a glimpse of how she is introducing the little one to Indian traditions. The actress, who frequently shares moments from her life with husband Nick Jonas and their daughter, posted a collection of photographs and videos on Instagram. Among them was a particularly endearing clip featuring Priyanka helping Malti chant the sacred Hindu prayer.The post also included photographs from a beach vacation and glimpses of Priyanka's time on film sets. While the actress has been juggling several professional commitments, the video with Malti offered a look at her life away from work. Priyanka has previously spoken about raising her daughter with an appreciation for both Indian and American traditions, something Nick has also emphasised in his interviews.

Priyanka Chopra Helps Daughter Malti Marie Recite Gayatri Mantra

Taking to Instagram, Priyanka shared a series of photographs and videos documenting her recent activities. She particularly encouraged followers to listen to the audio accompanying her post."Lately.. In the thick of it.. but in a dream location ❤ #Bluefly Sound on ," she wrote.One of the clips features Priyanka holding Malti close as the little girl attempts to recite the Gayatri Mantra. The actress can be seen helping her daughter with the prayer, turning the interaction into a tender mother-daughter moment.The video also offers a glimpse of the religious and cultural practices Priyanka is passing on to Malti despite the family dividing its time between different professional commitments.Other photographs in the carousel feature picturesque beach surroundings and behind-the-scenes moments from Priyanka's ongoing film work.



Priyanka Chopra Says Her Life Revolves Around Malti Marie

Priyanka has frequently spoken about the changes motherhood has brought to her life. During a conversation with Vogue Arabia in May, the actress explained that her daughter's routine now takes precedence when she plans her day."My whole existence revolves around her, what time she has to go to school," Priyanka said.Describing what becoming a mother means to her, she added, "She is the best thing I've accomplished in my life and represents the best of Nick and me.

Yami Gautam

Praises Aditya Dhar's Integrity, Says 'You'll Never Hear Anything Bad Coming From Him'

Filmmaker Aditya Dhar and actor Yami Gautam were honoured with the Champion of Bharat Story award at the CNN-News18 Indian of the Year 2026. The recognition celebrates their contribution to telling stories rooted in India's identity and spirit. The couple received the honour at the 16th edition of the awards, held in New Delhi on Thursday, November 19.

Yami Gautam is all praise for Aditya Dhar

Aditya Dhar and Yami Gautam made a stylish appearance at the CNN-News18 Indian of the Year 2026 ceremony. The couple looked all things elegant and beautiful as they accepted the honour. While accepting the award, Yami was asked what makes Aditya stand out and why he sees stories the way he does. She replied, "I think we really ran short of one event of the year for me to be able to express why Aditya stands out. And if I really have to put it in the most shortest way possible, the smallest way possible, Aditya is a very rare combination of integrity, character, honesty, passion, hard work, everything put together in one. And at the same time, being one of the nicest human beings. Hamari industry mein aisa ho jaata hai ki experiences is tarah se ho jaate hain, aapke saath hote hain, ki aapko kahin na kahin ek hota na andar ek koi kadwahat ya phir gile shikhwe ya kuch negativity ya is tarah se cheezein haavi karne lagti hain? Ye jagah hi kuch is tarah ki… Aapke experiences insaan ko kabhi-kabhi badal dete hain."She further added, "But no matter what happened with Aditya, you'll never hear anything bad coming from him about anybody, no matter what he's endured, what he's experienced. And still being the nicest person and literally being exactly like this on set. And without sleeping for 70 hours straight and just working with a very clear goal ki mujhe agar ye film banane ka mauka mila hai toh main poori jaan lagaunga, poori shiddat ke saath aur poori honesty ke saath. And have the guts. I think I've missed out one very important word. Guts. You have to have the courage to do what he set out to do."



After hearing the praise, Aditya Dhar went on to quip, "I just want to say that jis tareeke se inhone meri tareef kari hai, aaj lagta hai ghar pe jaake bartan nahi dhone padenge." He further added, "She's one of the best human beings. She's a woman with a golden heart and an extraordinary talent. Like, I truly feel that abhi tak hamare desh ne aur desh ke bahar bhi logon ne inka 50% bhi potential nahi dekha." Further, when the host asked, "So which is the best performance of hers for you?"He replied, "I think both Article 370 and Haq, I thought both of them were extraordinary.



Kareena Kapoor, Hrithik Roshan Reprise Poo And Rohan, Reveal How You Can Stay At K3G's Raichand Residence



Kareena Kapoor Khan and Hrithik Roshan have returned to their iconic characters from Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham (K3G) as Poo and Rohan Raichand for an advertisement. The on-screen couple revealed that they are opening the Raichand residence for guests and fans to stay in. Wondering how? Read on to find out.

How Can You Stay In Raichand Residence?

The ad opens with Hrithik Roshan tying his shoelace and whistling like Rohan Raichand. Exactly then, the iconic You Are My Soniya plays in the background, and Kareena enters the frame as Poo. Same beauty, same charm, absolutely gorgeous. The ad then features fun banter between the two characters, sending every '90s baby on a nostalgic trip.The ad has Hrithik's Rohan saying, "25 saal ho gaye aur aaj bhi…" To this, Kareena's Poo says, "Aaj bhi…" Rohan adds, "Aaj bhi hum dono…" Poo says, "Hum dono…" Rohan continues, "Sirf hum dono, itne bade ghar mein, shaadi ke 25 saal baad celebrating all alone, nahi yaar. Raichand house ghar tab banta hai jab sab saath mein ho. Which is why, guest list (gives a big list) because I just love reunions." To this, Poo adds, "Kaun hai ye log jo Poo ke ghar aayenge, who are they?" Replying to the question, Rohan delivers his iconic Chandu ke chacha line and says, "Ab Chandu ke chacha ho ya Chandu ki chachi, our doors should be open for everyone, because it's all about loving your guests."

The ad further shows another fun banter where Rohan gives himself points, and that's when the doorbell rings and Karan Johar enters. The ad ends with the K3G title track, revealing that the Raichand house is now available on Airbnb.Yes, you read that right. Now you can live in the iconic Raichand house by booking it through Airbnb.

Fans React To Kareena And Hrithik's Reunion

This ad has left everyone nostalgic. One user wrote, "Nothing can beat this pair fire together ". "damnn best collab of the year ," another one said. A third user wrote, "Ohh my heart !! My two absolute favourites !! Kareena and Hritik!! I'mma cryy ". "Beautiful super gorgeous lovely awesome Bebo kareena kapoor ," one comment read.

Alia Bhatt Breaks Silence On Unequal Marriage Claims With Ranbir Kapoor, Says 'It's Offensive'



Bollywood's favourite couple, Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor, got married in an intimate ceremony in April 2022. However, their relationship has often attracted attention on social media, where users closely analyse their interviews, comments and public appearances. Over time, this has led to speculation about the dynamics of their marriage, with some portraying Alia as being in an unequal relationship. Now, the actress has addressed these narratives, calling such assumptions offensive and making it clear that strangers cannot define the reality of her marriage.

Alia Bhatt talks about unequal marriage rumours

Speaking to TIME magazine as part of its TIME100 Next India feature, Alia Bhatt opened up about the ongoing scrutiny of her marriage to Ranbir Kapoor and how strangers on social media often form opinions about their relationship. She said, "I am someone who's always advocating for women to know their mind, to know their heart, so to reduce me to someone who'd suffer through this imagined scenario is offensive."

Alia further suggested that the scrutiny stems from the fact that her relationship challenges conventional ideas and expectations surrounding marriage. She added, "The bedrock of any relationship is when you feel seen without putting any effort, and feel heard without saying anything—that's Ranbir for me, and that's our reality."The conversation around their relationship gained momentum in August 2023, after Alia spoke about Ranbir's preference for her natural lip colour during an interview with Vogue India. She revealed that he would sometimes ask her to wipe off her lipstick, a seemingly casual anecdote that quickly triggered criticism online. Several social media users interpreted his preference as controlling behaviour and labelled him a red flag. The online backlash continued for months, prompting Alia to address the controversy when she appeared on Koffee With Karan 8 in November 2023. She defended her husband, arguing that his comment had been taken out of context and that the version of Ranbir being discussed on social media did not reflect the person she knew.

Air Niugini makes emergency landing in Philippines; all 146 passengers and crew safe

MANILA.(Agency).

An Air Niugini plane carrying 146 passengers and crew from Hong Kong to Papua New Guinea safely made an emergency landing Saturday in a southern Philippine city due to an indication of a possible engine fire, Philippine aviation officials said.There were no reports of injuries among the 137 passengers and nine crew members, who disembarked through emergency slides of the Boeing 767-383ER after it diverted from its route and landed at the Davao International Airport, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines said.The pilots reported that they detected, through an indicator, possible sparks or fire in the right engine. They undertook safety procedures and requested to make an unscheduled landing in Davao shortly after midnight, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines spokesperson Eric Apolonio said without elaborating, adding that an investigation will include the accounts of the pilots.The passengers and crew were taken to the airport terminal and provided assistance and hotel accommodation. There were no immediate reports of damage to the plane.The Davao airport was closed to other flights to allow emergency response, causing two incoming domestic flights to be canceled.

Myanmar dismisses the UN court's ruling on its responsibility for Rohingya genocide as 'unfair'

BANGKOK.(Agency).

Myanmar's government on Friday dismissed a landmark judgment by the United Nations' top court finding the country guilty of genocide against its Rohingya minority as "unfair," while opponents called upon the international community to follow through to ensure justice is done.Khine Khine Soe, spokesperson for President Min Aung Hlaing, noted that judges had only voted nine-to-six on Thursday to find Myanmar committed genocide against the Muslim minority Rohingya in a brutal 2017 military operation. "Not all 15 judges agreed with the decision," she told reporters in the capital Naypyitaw. "So it was not a decision made unanimously. I would say that it was unfair."The ruling by The Hague-based International Court of Justice, or ICJ, was the first time the court has ruled that a state committed genocide. Myanmar's government has denied the allegation, claiming it acted against insurgents.

Indian National Nikhil Gupta sentenced to over 19 years in US jail for plot to kill Khalistani separatist Pannun

World.(Agency)

An Indian national, Nikhil Gupta, has been sentenced to 235 months, or more than 19 years, in prison by a US federal court for his role in a foiled assassination plot targeting Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in New York.Gupta was convicted in connection with a murder-for-hire conspiracy targeting Pannun, who has been designated a terrorist by India.The sentencing follows Gupta's guilty plea to all three charges against him: murder-for-hire, conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire and conspiracy to commit money laundering.
The alleged assassination attempt was thwarted following an undercover operation by the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which investigated Gupta's efforts to arrange Pannun's killing.The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in New York had earlier said the case demonstrated its commitment to protecting American citizens from threats involving foreign nationals.
In a post on X, the FBI said, "Following an investigation by FBI New York, and US Attorney SDNY, Nikhil Gupta pled guilty to plotting to assassinate.

Araghchi says Iran open to fair US deal, rules out moving enriched uranium

Iran is exchanging messages with the United States through mediators while seeking a diplomatic settlement. Tehran says progress depends on credible American assurances and respect for its nuclear red lines.

World.(Agency).

Iran remains open to a diplomatic settlement with the United States to end the war but will not compromise on key nuclear demands, including keeping its enriched uranium within the country, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said.In an interview with the Iran newspaper, Araghchi said Tehran continued to exchange messages with Washington through mediators and believed a fair agreement could be reached despite differences between the two sides.
He said Iran wanted an agreement that would ensure there was no further war with the United States, adding that Tehran was seeking assurances that Washington was genuinely committed to negotiations before taking the process forward.Iran's red lines included ensuring that its enriched uranium did not leave the country, Araghchi said, while expressing confidence that a mutually acceptable arrangement could still be worked out.He also said Tehran had discussed with mediators the form and nature of confidence-building measures that could help advance negotiations.

IRAN SEEKS CLEAR SIGNAL FROM TRUMP

Araghchi said Iran's first demand was for US President Donald Trump to explicitly state that he wanted to reach an agreement.He questioned Washington's consistency in its approach to negotiations, saying it was not surprising for Trump to adopt a new position every day or even reverse statements made the previous day.Despite the uncertainty, the Iranian foreign minister said Tehran saw no need to change the intermediaries involved in the peace efforts.He reiterated that exchanges of messages between Iran and the US through mediators were continuing, indicating that diplomatic channels remained open even as the conflict persisted.



TEHRAN SAYS NUCLEAR POLICY REMAINS UNCHANGED

Araghchi also maintained that Iran's official position on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) remained unchanged and that the country's nuclear doctrine had not been altered.His remarks came as Tehran sought to establish conditions for renewed negotiations with Washington, with the future of its enriched uranium stockpile remaining a key point of contention.
While insisting on its nuclear red lines, Araghchi's comments indicated that Iran was still willing to explore a diplomatic arrangement if the United States provided credible assurances about its commitment to a lasting agreement.

FBI probes suspected cyberattack on National Criminal Information Database: Report

World.(Agency)

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is probing a suspected cyberattack on its National Crime Information Centre (NCIC), a nationwide criminal information database linking federal, state and local law enforcement agencies across the United States.According to a CNN report, the suspected intrusion was discovered in recent days, making it the second reported breach involving FBI systems in recent months, people familiar with the investigation said.
The NCIC database serves as a critical information-sharing platform for law enforcement agencies, providing access to records related to criminal warrants, background checks and other sensitive information.The development comes amid growing concerns over the security of US government institutions and critical infrastructure, following a series of high-profile technological disruptions affecting financial institutions, the National Security Agency and the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic control systems.

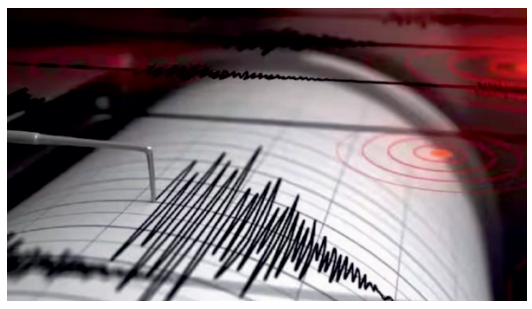


Meanwhile, FBI Director Kash Patel on Friday (local time) warned cyber criminals targeting American citizens that they would face justice, saying the agency was taking an offensive approach against cyber threats under US President Donald Trump's leadership through 'Operation Winter Shield'.In a post on X, Patel said the operation was aimed at strengthening America's cyber defences and protecting businesses, government systems and critical infrastructure through cooperation with international partners."Under President Trump's leadership, this FBI is taking the fight to cyber criminals around the world," Patel wrote."Through Operation Winter Shield, we're going on offence against cyber threats, strengthening our nation's defences, and working with our partners to protect American businesses, government.

6.8-magnitude quake hits Andes in Peru, tremors drive people out of homes in Lima

World.(Agency).

A powerful earthquake of magnitude 6.8 hit central Peru on Friday, the German Research Centre for Geosciences said. The tremors rattled the city of capital Lima and prompted residents to evacuate their homes.
The quake struck the Andean region of Junin at a depth of 129 km, according to Peru's Geophysical Institute. Television footage also showed lawmakers evacuating the Congress in Lima.Vicente Quispe, a local council member in Junin province, about 320 km east of the national capital, told local broadcaster RPP that authorities had received no reports of damage following the tremor."So far, no damage has been



reported. This is the first time an earthquake of this magnitude has been felt in this area," he said.Junin is home to several mid-size mining operations, including the Toromocho mine, one of Peru's largest copper mines. Mining is a key driver of the country's economy, with Peru ranking as the world's third-largest copper producer.The US Tsunami Warning System said there was no tsunami threat following the earthquake.
Peru lies along the Pacific Ring of Fire, a seismically active belt where tectonic plate movements frequently trigger earthquakes.Earlier this year, in August, a 6.7-magnitude earthquake in the Peruvian Andes injured two people and damaged several homes, health centres and schools. Nearly a month before that, a magnitude 5.5 quake in the Junin region killed six people and injured 30 others.

Young protesters hit the streets across Europe over high living costs, climate crises

FRANKFURT.(Agency)

Protesters rallied across Europe on Friday to vent anger over issues from high living costs to military spending and the climate crisis, ramping up pressure on political leaders they accuse of ignoring the concerns of young people.Demonstrators hit the streets in cities from Italy to Germany, Switzerland and Britain, many waving signs emblazoned with "fight for our future", setting off flares and burning cardboard models of tanks.
The rallies, coordinated by a youth-led coalition of over 50 groups, are fuelled by grievances that vary from place to place, including Israel's war in Gaza, high rents and deteriorating learning conditions at schools and universities.
But a common theme runs through them



-- a sense that governments across the continent are too busy with geopolitical crises and helping big business, and not investing enough in the well-being of younger generations.Olivia Ferrario, an 18-year-old high school student at a protest in the Italian city of Milan, told AFP that young people were displaying their "dynamism and determination" by taking to the streets."If the government does not listen to us, we cannot remain silent," she said at the demonstration that attracted tens of thousands of protesters.Police deployed in large numbers due to fears of a repeat of the street violence that has marred recent major protests in France and other countries.

- 'Lost so much hope' -

In Switzerland, organisers claimed that more than 40,000 protesters had taken to the streets nationwide."

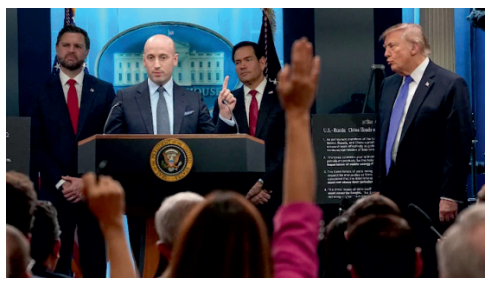
Trump jokes Chief of Staff Stephen Miller should run for president over Vance, Rubio

World.(Agency)

The race to succeed US President Donald Trump in 2028 got an unexpected twist on Friday when the president jokingly floated his newly appointed chief of staff Stephen Miller as a presidential candidate, comparing him favourably with Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.During a White House press briefing, Trump invited Miller to speak at the podium, where the longtime loyalist delivered a lengthy defence of the president's achievements.Trump appeared impressed by Miller's remarks and turned the moment into a lighthearted comparison with Vance and Rubio, who were standing alongside him."We have breaking news -- he was better than these two guys," Trump said, gesturing towards Vance and Rubio.
The remarks came amid growing speculation over who could emerge as Trump's successor and the Republican Party's candidate for the 2028 presidential election.

TRUMP CALLS MILLER 'MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE WORLD'

Trump praised Miller, who recently took over as White House chief of staff following Susie Wiles' departure, describing him as "the most powerful man in the world".Miller, an immigration hardliner and longtime Trump loyalist who helped shape the administration's deportation crackdown, used his time at the podium to laud the president's record during the first two years of his second term."What President Trump has achieved over the last two years is more than any president has achieved by far in American history," Miller said, adding that he could spend hours listing the administration's accomplishments.He cited the administration's immigration policies, deregulation, actions against drug cartels, energy production, military reforms and changes to America's trade relationships."Under his leadership, the next two years are going to be the greatest two years



in American history," Miller said, adding that he was proud to serve as Trump's chief of staff.Trump's appointment of Miller to replace Wiles on November 6 marked the first major personnel reshuffle following the Republican Party's losses in the US midterm elections.

VANCE, RUBIO SEEN AS POTENTIAL 2028 CONTENDERS

Trump's remarks also brought attention to the potential Republican race to succeed him in 2028, with Vance and Rubio widely considered among the leading contenders.Neither has publicly confirmed whether they intend to run for president in two years. However, Vance has long been viewed as a frontrunner, while Rubio's prospects have reportedly improved in recent months.

FBI's criminal database hacked in another cyberattack targeting the agency: Report

World.(Agency)

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is probing a suspected cyber breach of its nationwide criminal information database, which serves as a critical link between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, CNN reported, citing two people familiar with the matter. The apparent intrusion marks the second such breach of the agency in recent months.The discovery of the purported breach comes amid growing scrutiny of the cyber defences of the United States, with President Donald Trump's administration facing mounting concerns over a string of high-profile outages that have disrupted banks, the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA'S) air traffic control system.Another such cyber disruption was the global outage that affected hundreds of millions of Microsoft users last week.



FBI TARGETED AGAIN BY HACKERS?

The National Crime Information Center (NCIC), managed by the FBI, serves as a nationwide network for law enforcement agencies to store and share information on warrants, criminal histories and background checks.On Thursday, November 19, FBI Director Kash Patel highlighted the agency's cybersecurity efforts during an appearance on Fox News, pointing to an operation carried out months ago that sought to get companies to update their systems and safeguard sensitive data from hackers.The media appearance came after FBI officials learnt of the latest cybersecurity incident, CNN noted.Earlier this year, a break-in at the FBI jobs site exposed a wide swathe of sensitive data on both current and former employees. The news of that breach broke in late September.