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MONDAY

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In Hiriyur poll pitch, DKS dangles govt's big spend

HIRIYUR (CHITRADURGA). (Agency).

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday made a strong political pitch for the Congress ahead of the forthcoming Assembly by-election in Hiriyur, urging voters to support the party and assuring them that the government would prioritise the constituency's development.

Addressing a large gathering at the Praja Seva Abhiyan, Shivakumar said the government had earmarked more than Rs 2,000 crore for Hiriyur, including for 3,000 houses and 17,434 residential sites.He said 1,087 acre was identified for site allotment to eligible beneficiaries.Turning the grievance-redressal programme into a political stage, he said, "We have given you land guarantee, water guarantee and land to you. Now I have come before you to ask for your support."He asked the cameramen to capture the public response, saying the BJP and JDS should witness it.

Making an indirect appeal to voters, the CM said he was seeking their support for the Congress and that Hiriyur was as important to him as Kanakapura. He said the government was committed to carrying forward the development vision of late MLA D Sudhakar.The government was working to bring Upper Bhadra water to Hiriyur and address drought conditions, he said, adding that the five guarantee.

Cong opposes SEBI's proposed review of FPI disclosure norms, warns of opaque foreign fund ownership

New Delhi.(Agency).

The Congress on Sunday criticised SEBI's proposed review of the additional disclosure norms for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), saying the move runs counter to the principles of credibility, transparency and investor protection that are the bedrock of efficient financial markets and should be scrapped.India definitely needs foreign investors but not those with opaque and convoluted offshore ownership structures, the opposition party said, asserting that ease of doing business cannot come at the cost of capital market integrity.Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said very soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi berated the captains of Indian industry at FICCI on November 19, SEBI issued a consultation paper that proposes to scrap the very disclosure rules it had introduced in August 2023 to expose opaque offshore money flowing into Indian companies.

"It is clear that the Prime Minister has little hope of reviving domestic private investment, or even FDI, and has decided instead to roll out the red carpet for foreign portfolio investors to keep the stock markets buoyant, even at the cost of market integrity," Ramesh said on X.In January 2023, the nation was rocked by revelations of how the "Modani conglomerate" had allegedly used a complex and opaque network of overseas funds and shell companies to build up benami stakes worth billions of dollars in its own group companies, in violation of capital market regulations, Ramesh said, referring to the Adani Group.

"Times Are Changing": PM Modi Says AI Cannot Take Jobs Of Skilled Workers

Even after independence, the emphasis remained on clerical jobs while skill development and traditional craftsmanship continued to take a back seat, PM Modi said.

Lucknow (Agency).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that while there is a lot of discussion about artificial intelligence, no one can take away the livelihood of a person who possesses skills.Addressing the fifth National Skill Convocation Ceremony at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan here, the PM also said invaders damaged India's traditional skill infrastructure and targeted traditional craftsmanship, with the British later introducing an education system focused on producing clerks.But the times are changing and India is moving towards becoming the world's skill capital, he said.Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary and senior state BJP leaders attended the event.

"When invaders came to India, their first attack was on our skills. They knew that the craftsmanship of Indians was making the country great and prosperous, and sought to destroy it by cutting off the thumbs of artisans," Modi told the gathering.

"The British were more sophisticated. They changed their methods. (British politician Thomas Babington) Macaulay imposed an education system that reduced our skill-based system to producing clerks," he said.Even after independence, the emphasis remained on clerical jobs while skill development and traditional craftsmanship continued to take a back seat, he said."Over time, being a paper clerk came to be seen as a matter of prestige," he added.PM Modi said the British used the education system to weaken India's traditional skill-based system and promote manufacturing in their country using Indian resources."India has always been a country that respects skills. Look at the chikankari work here in Lucknow. For a long time, India's identity in the world was built around such skills.



"From fine muslin, Banarasi and Kanchipuram silk, Kashmiri pashmina and cotton textiles to kalamkari, and from steel used to make some of the world's finest swords to bronze and panchdhatu (five-metal alloy) sculptures, there were countless such crafts," he said.On growing concern that artificial intelligence could take over jobs, the prime minister said, "There is a lot of discussion about AI, but remember that no one can take away the livelihood of a person who possesses skills."

Who Is Protecting Karjan's Sand Mafia? BJP MLA Akshay Patel's Name Surfaces Amid ₹60,000 Monthly Extortion Allegations!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Vadodara / Karjan Bureau: A major controversy surrounding alleged illegal sand and soil mining has emerged in Karjan taluka of Vadodara district, Gujarat. Serious allegations suggest that illegal mining activities are continuing despite the reported cancellation of all legal sand and soil mining leases in the region. The alleged operations have raised concerns over the exploitation of the Narmada Riverbed, possible misuse of royalty permits and the effectiveness of the administrative machinery.The controversy has taken a political turn following allegations linking BJP MLA Akshay Patel's name to vehicles reportedly operating under the 'Bapji' identity. The alleged involvement of a mining network associated with Ghugho Bharwad and Gokul Bharwad has further intensified demands for an independent investigation.Prohibited Barge Machines Allegedly Operating Despite Cancellation of Mining LeasesSerious allegations have emerged regarding the use of barge machines and hydraulic equipment for extracting sand from the Narmada Riverbed.According to the claims, these machines are being used during both daytime and nighttime operations to extract thousands of tonnes of sand without proper authorities.



Akshay Patel
Karjan MLA



Ghugho Bharvard



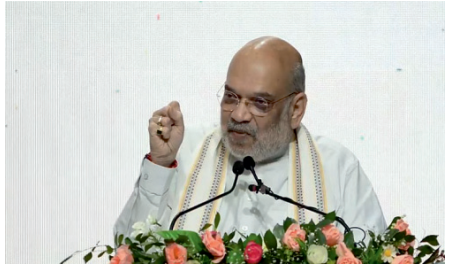
royalty permit limits of 23 tonnes. There are also claims that a single royalty pass is being used to transport sand through three separate trucks.If established, these violations would indicate serious failures in mining regulation and enforcement. Questions are therefore being raised over how such activities could allegedly continue without effective intervention from local authorities.'Bapji' Vehicle Network and Alleged Monthly Extortion Bharwad and Gokul Bharwad are allegedly associated with a mining syndicate operating in the Karjan region.The controversy has also brought attention to vehicles reportedly carrying the name 'Bapji'. Allegations have surfaced that these vehicles are connected to the sand transportation network and that the name is being used as a form of identification within the alleged operation.One of the most serious claims concerns an alleged monthly payment system. Sources claim that other vehicle operators wishing to transport sand under the 'Bapji' name are required to pay approximately ₹60,000 every month.It is further alleged that vehicles making these payments avoid police and administrative action. These claims raise serious questions about possible illegal collections, protection arrangements and the functioning of enforcement agencies.The allegations, however, require independent verification through financial records, transport documents and official investigations.Gandhinagar Administration Under Scrutiny: Why Has No Effective Action Been Taken?Despite the seriousness of the allegations, questions are being raised.

'Congress ignored Arunachal development, provided inadequate funds': HM Amit Shah

New Delhi(Agency).

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday accused the Congress of neglecting Arunachal Pradesh's development and failing to provide adequate financial assistance during its tenure.He said the Centre, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had significantly increased financial support to accelerate the development of the northeastern state.

Shah said the Centre provided Rs 33,530 crore to the state during the UPA rule between 2004 and 2014, while the financial assistance rose to over Rs 1.64 lakh crore during the 2014-2024 period under the NDA government.



Shah said tax devolution to the state had gone up four times, while grants had increased 18 times. He said the figures reflected the Narendra Modi government's commitment to the development of Arunachal Pradesh and the Northeast."The growth of Arunachal Pradesh's budget from Rs 12,000 crore to Rs 36,000 crore suggests how development has expanded in the last 12 years," he said.Highlighting the Vibrant Villages Programme, Shah said the PM has changed the perception of border villages by describing them as the "country's first villages rather than the last".He said development must begin at the borders and residents there should enjoy all basic facilities and livelihood opportunities.

UP Cops Mistake Asaduddin Owaisi For Supreme Court Judge, Give Him Guard Of Honour

Saharanpur(Agency).

Police personnel in Saharanpur on Saturday mistakenly gave a guard of honour to AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi at the circuit house, apparently mistaking him for a Supreme Court judge who was scheduled to visit the premises, prompting an inquiry into the incident.The police team had reached the circuit house in the morning to prepare for the judge's arrival. However, the judge had not reached the premises when Owaisi arrived there, following which the personnel reportedly got confused and accorded him the ceremonial salute.Owaisi's visit to the circuit house was apparently not part of his original programme, and he arrived there unexpectedly, according to local inputs.



Owaisi was in the district accompanied by Azad Samaj Party (Kanshiram) chief Chandrashekhar Aazad. The two leaders were in Saharanpur to hold a joint press conference ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.The two leaders had recently announced the formation of the Samajik Parivartan Morcha (SPM), a joint political front to contest the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

In a statement, Saharanpur Police said the senior superintendent of police has directed the superintendent of police (Rural) to investigate the incident.

"Action as per rules will be ensured on the basis of facts and evidence obtained after the inquiry," the police said.The incident has raised questions over the apparent lapse in identifying the person for whom the ceremonial honour was being arranged.Guard of honour is a ceremonial military or police salute in which personnel stand in formation to honour designated dignitaries on official or formal occasions.

Ex-club manager faces FIR for Rs 50L membership fee fraud

Gurgaon.(Agency)

An FIR was registered against a former manager of a private members-only club in the city for allegedly pocketing up to Rs 50 lakh collected in cash from prospective members, processing their memberships without authorisation and failing to deposit the money with the company. The alleged fraud surfaced after American Express flagged 10 memberships linked to Centurion cards that had not been issued to the individuals concerned.

The FIR was registered at Sushant Lok police station on Nov 17 against Sameer Johry, who handled community memberships and was responsible for onboarding members. The case was registered under sections 318(4) (cheating) and 316(4) (criminal breach of trust) of BNS, following a complaint by Vivek Narain, CEO of Quorum Club Private Limited.

According to the complaint, the matter came to light on May 14, when Amex informed the company that 10 individuals listed as members on the strength of Centurion cards were not eligible for such memberships. An internal check allegedly found that Johry had processed all 10 without any corresponding onboarding request from Amex.

FIR against X user for misleading post over attack on place of worship

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Police have registered an FIR against an X user for allegedly circulating a misleading video of an armed mob surrounding a place of worship and attacking members of a community.

Police said the footage, posted by the account @annu3030, showed a mob gathered at an unidentified location but had no established connection with Ghaziabad.Additional DCP (crime) Piyush Singh told TOI that efforts were underway to identify the person operating the account."The video circulating on social media has been shared with misleading claims linking it to Ghaziabad. Such posts have the potential to create confusion, provoke anger and disturb communal harmony," Singh said.An FIR was lodged at the cyber crime police station on Nov 19 under BNS sections 196(1) (promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc, and doing acts prejudicial.

GMC gets notice for running waste plant near polluted area of Loni without environmental clearance

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

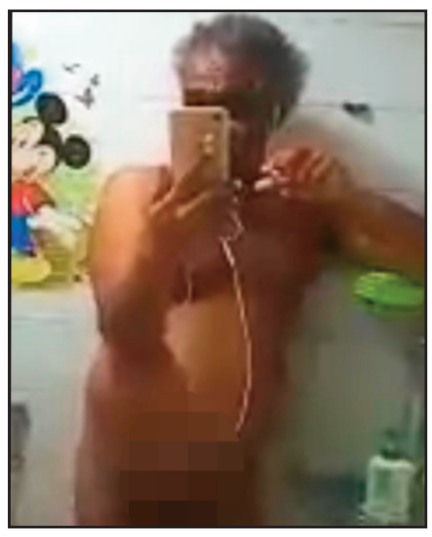
National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued a notice to Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation (GMC) and directed it to file an affidavit clarifying the status of a municipal solid waste management facility in Loni's Meerpur village, after a petition claimed it was running without an environmental clearance.In an order dated Nov 18, a two-member quorum, comprising NGT chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member Afroz Ahmad, gave the municipal corporation time till one week before Feb 17 — the next date of hearing — to file its response.Sushil Raghav had alleged in his petition, filed in the first week of Nov, that GMC is operating a solid waste management facility without obtaining environmental clearances under Environmental Impact Assessment Rules, 2006 (EIA)."As a defence, the corporation had told the court that standalone activities concerning door to door collection, segregation, composting, refuse derived fuel-making, waste to energy generation through waste to energy plants and disposal in scientific landfill are not covered under EIA rules," Raghav said.

Viral Audio, Financial Allegations and Institu tional Silence! Jain Community Seeks Answers!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Gandhinagar/Ahmedabad: The Jain ascetic tradition, founded on the principles of non-violence, non-possession, renunciation and self-discipline, is facing serious questions following allegations involving Sagar Chandrasagar. The controversy has sparked widespread concern among members of the Jain community in Gujarat and among Jain followers across India and abroad.For generations, the white and saffron robes of Jain monks have symbolised sacrifice, spiritual discipline and moral responsibility. However, allegations surrounding Sagar Chandrasagar have raised serious concerns about the conduct of individuals holding positions of religious influence and the account ability of institutions entrusted with





protecting the dignity of the Jain tra dition.The controversy has now extended beyond an individual conduct issue, bringing the functioning of religious organisations, donation management and institutional responsibility under public scrutiny.Viral Digital Evidence: What Do the Audio Recordings Reveal?Audio clips and digital documents allegedly connected to Sagar Chandrasagar have been circulating widely across social media platforms, triggering intense discussions within the Jain community.The circulating material has raised allegations of inappropriate conversations, possible exploitation and conduct that, if established, could seriously undermine the trust placed in religious leadership.However, the authenticity of viral recordings and digital documents must be established through independent forensic examination before any conclusions can be drawn.Members of the community are demanding answers.

Why Does Love Begin with a Shower of Promises and End with a Mountain of Silence?

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Rupesh Solanki: The beginning of love is always beautiful. Two strangers gradually become acquainted, familiarity gives birth to emotions, and before they even realize it, those emotions turn into love. In the early days, the eagerness to talk to each other, the habit of finding happiness in little things, and the feeling of caring for one another seem to give life an entirely new direction. At a certain point, it feels impossible to imagine life without that person.At the beginning of love, there is a shower of promises. Promises to live together, dream together, hold each other's hands through happiness and sorrow, and never walk away from one another. A small message appearing on a mobile screen brings a smile to the face. Hours pass during conversations without either person realizing how quickly time has gone by. The nights seem long, yet the conversations never seem to end.But the question is: Why does silence become so powerful one day in the very relationship where, in the beginning, there was never a shortage of words?With time, a person's priorities begin to change. Respon



sibilities increase, the rush of life takes over, and gradually, less time is devoted to relationships. The person who once wanted to know every little detail about your life may no longer even feel the need to ask. Earlier, a single day without talking would cause restlessness, but today, even several days may pass without communication, and it seems to make no difference.The greatest pain in a relationship is not the growing distance itself, but the fact that nobody seems concerned even as that distance continues to grow.Many times, love does not diminish, but the desire to express it slowly fades away. Sometimes, ego becomes a wall between two people, while at other times, small misunderstandings wound emotions that have been nurtured for years. One person keeps waiting for a phone call, hoping the other will reach out, while the other thinks that the first step should come from their partner. In this way, amid the silence of both individuals, the relationship gradually loses its warmth.The greatest need in love is not merely to stay together, but to understand one another. Expensive gifts and grand promises are not always proof of love. Sometimes, a simple question asked on a tiring day, "How are you?" can bring as much comfort to the heart as even the most precious gift cannot.In today's world, relationships have countless ways to exchange messages, yet people seem to have less and less time to express their emotions. On social media, people can see each other's presence, but understanding how much space they still hold in each other's hearts has become difficult. Being online and being truly present in someone's life are two very different things.Sometimes, no third person enters a relationship, and there is not even a major argument.

Gurgaon eatery forces diner to buy bottled water, fined Rs 31,000

Gurgaon.(Ajency)

The district consumer forum has ordered a restaurant to pay a customer Rs 31,098 for refusing to serve regular drinking water and forcing him to buy two bottled waters for Rs 98. Holding that an eatery cannot compel customers to pay for something they never wanted, the forum termed the restaurant's conduct a "severe deficiency in service" and an unfair trade practice.

The district consumer disputes redressal commission asked Kafila Court Parking, near Rajiv Chowk, to refund the Rs 98 charged for two 500 ml bottles, pay Rs 20,000 compensation for mental harassment and economic loss, and Rs 11,000 towards litigation expenses.Mohit Jain, a resident of Jawahar Nagar, had visited the restaurant with his family for dinner on March 8. He told the commission that he specifically asked for regular drinking water, but the staff refused, insisting that only bottled water was served. Left with no alternative, he bought two bottles for Rs 98. The dinner bill totalled Rs 916.Jain argued that restaurants were required to provide safe drinking water and could not force customers to purchase packaged water. He approached the commission, alleging deficiency in service and unfair trade practice.

Examining the bill and Central Consumer Protection Authority's guidelines issued on July 4, 2022, the commission observed that charging consumers beyond the prices displayed on menus, along with applicable taxes, could amount to an unfair trade practice. It held the restaurant guilty of violating the guidelines.The bench headed by president Sanjeev Jindal, with members Jyoti Siwach and Khushwinder Kaur, ordered 9% annual interest on the Rs 98 refund from March 13, when the complaint was filed, until payment.

The restaurant must pay the amount within 45 days. Any delay will attract 12% annual interest on the awarded amount. The commission warned that non-compliance could lead to execution proceedings and prosecution under Section 72 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, which provides for imprisonment, a fine or both.

Two gunfights, hours apart: Four men wanted for robberies across NCR nabbed in Noida

Noida.(Agency)

Four alleged members of an interstate robbery gang operating across NCR were arrested after two separate gunfights with police on Saturday. An officer said the four men were involved in motorcycle thefts, chain snatchings and armed robberies across Noida, Delhi and neighbouring areas. After their arrests, Rs 1.5 lakh in cash, five stolen motorcycles, four country-made pistols, ammunition and a piece of a stolen gold chain were recovered at their instance.The first encounter took place on the NSEZ drain embankment road, where a team from Phase 2 police station was checking vehicles following a tip-off. Two of the accused men, Aditya alias Sunny alias Aadi (21), a resident of Mathurapur village in Greater Noida, and Naseem Ali alias Riyaz (23), originally from Etah district, were seen approaching on a motorcycle and asked to stop. However, they attempted to flee and opened fire at the police personnel.In retaliatory firing, both the accused sustained gunshot wounds to their legs and were subsequently arrested. They were taken to a hospital where they are undergoing treatment.Around the same time, a Sector 63 police team intercepted the two other suspects on a motorcycle near a green belt service road. Both of them were overpowered and arrested without sustaining gunshot injuries.They were identified as Abhishek Kumar (23), originally from Nalanda in Bihar, and Manoj alias Mallah (22), a resident of Chotpur Colony.During questioning, the four allegedly admitted to jointly committing an armed robbery near Naya Gaon on Oct 30.

Police said the gang intercepted two scooter riders at night, threatened them with guns and robbed them of a bag containing approximately Rs 1.75 lakh and a gold chain.They then spent



Rs 25,000 from the stolen cash and divided the remaining amount among themselves. They also cut the stolen chain into four pieces to share it.Investigators said the gang had stolen several motorcycles from different locations across NCR and concealed them in Sector 63. The vehicles were allegedly used to commit robberies and snatchings, and they planned to sell them off later.

Police said all four accused have previous criminal cases registered against them, including offences related to robbery, theft, illegal firearms and narcotics.

Deadlock breaks, finally: First Sports City registries get Supreme Court green light

Noida.(Agency)

Supreme Court has ordered Noida Authority to start the registration process for 7,802 flats at Lotus Greens' Sports City in Sector 150, bringing relief to homebuyers caught for years in a deadlock between developers and govt.

This will be the first time a flat in any of the city's four Sports City projects will be registered. Though some flats have been completed and handed over, registries have been barred because of dues developers have with Noida Authority and non-compliance with the original approved layout plan.In the order dated Nov 19, a bench of justices M M Sundresh and Prasanna B Varale ruled that a condition requiring the creation of a lien on 20% of the units in every constructed tower would not apply to Plot No. SC-02/H&I in the Sector 150 project. The court noted that all payments for the plot had been cleared and compliance obligations on building sporting facilities had been met.

"Registration of conveyance deeds in respect of those units in SC-02/H&I plot, where conditional occupancy certificates have been received, shall commence at the earliest and Noida Authority shall facilitate the tripartite registration process with the applicant and homebuyers within a period of six weeks from today," the court ruled.The order marks a significant relaxation of conditions imposed by the court on Nov 24, 2025, when it allowed the revival of stalled Sports City projects subject to a series of financial and construction-related safeguards and charts a path out of the deadlock by delinking completed sections within Sports City from the rest of the project.Under a condition of the



Nov 2025 order, Noida Authority was to have first charge and lien over 20% of the units in each constructed tower as security against dues. The Authority could sell these units to recover its money in case of payment defaults. But with dues for SC-02/H&I cleared, Supreme Court exempted this plot from the lien requirement. The directions do not, however, automatically extend to other Sports City plots.

Odisha residents throw hat in AP panchayat polls

BERHAMPUR.(Agency)

The long-standing Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border dispute took a fresh turn on Saturday, with tension prevailing in Gangabada panchayat under Rayagada block of Gajapati district after several Odisha residents filed nominations to contest the neighbouring state's panchayat elections.The situation saw the intervention of police and administrative officials from both states, amid apprehensions of a confrontation.The controversy erupted after six residents of Gangabada panchayat reportedly filed nominations for ward member posts in Sabakota and Budharasingh panchayats under Manjusa mandal of Andhra Pradesh's Srikakulam district.The participation of residents of an Odisha gram panchayat in the neighbouring state's electoral process caused a furore in Gajapati, particularly over their electoral identity and the alleged role of Andhra Pradesh authorities in encouraging them.he candidates named were Gurunath Sabar of Manikapatana, Jitu Sabar of Sankuda, Laxmi Sabar and Suku Sabar of Madhiakhola, and Shankar Sabar of Gurukhudi village. Another person, Bipra Sabar, was also later named among those determined to contest the elections.Gangabada sarpanch Haribandhu Karji brought the matter to the notice of the Gajapati collector. Acting on the collector's instructions, the Rayagada BDO, tehsildar, IIC of Garabandha police station, and other officials held discussions with the candidates, urging them not to participate in the elections.

Ganjam floods push Odisha to flood-proof 8 river basins

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

With back-to-back cyclonic storms over the Bay of Bengal triggering successive floods in southern Odisha, particularly Ganjam district, and causing extensive damage to crops and property, the state government has decided to draw up a long-term strategy to tackle such recurring disasters.

Revenue and Disaster Management minister Suresh Pujari on Saturday told mediapersons here that the government would prepare a comprehensive roadmap for flood management with focus on disaster-resilience infrastructure development and prevention measures across eight river basins. Detailed project reports (DPRs) for the interventions will be prepared with the expert assistance of IIT-Roorkee, he said.The state has 11 major river basins spread over a geographical area of 1,51,976 sq km. These river systems are vital to the state's water resources, agriculture, irrigation and livelihoods. "However, comprehensive flood control measures are currently in place only in the Mahanadi and Brahmani basins, leaving several others vulnerable to recurring floods.

Kodagu man gets death sentence for beheading minor girl

MADIKERI.(Agency)

The Third Additional District and Sessions Court on Saturday sentenced a 32-year-old man to death and imposed a fine of Rs 80,000 for murdering a 16-year-old girl in 2024.Onkarappa MP alias Prakash alias Papu had beheaded the girl from Kumbaragadige village in Somwarpet taluk.Principal District and Sessions Judge G Surendra delivered the verdict, ruling that the prosecution had proved all charges, including murder and sexual assault.The victim, US Meena, was murdered on May 9, 2024, shortly after she and her family members celebrated her SSLC examination results.Onkarappa, a resident of Hammiyala village, had been pressuring Meena's parents to marry her off to him. An engagement ceremony was held on the evening of May 9.After social welfare officials learnt about the girl's engagement, they instructed the parents of Onkarappa and Meena to wait till she turned 18 for the wedding.

Enraged by the intervention of the officials, Onkarappa assaulted Meena and her family members. When Meena and her mother left home to file a police complaint, Onkarappa followed them and attacked them with a machete.He later fled with Meena's severed head. Her mother suffered serious injuries in the attack.

7 tourists from Uttarakhand, including Army personnel, killed in Gujarat road accident

Seven members of two vacationing families from Garhwal in Uttarakhand, including two Indian Army personnel and three children, died on the spot after their car collided with an oncoming truck on the Khavda highway while returning from the White Rann in Kutch.

Ahmedabad (Agency)

Seven people from Uttarakhand, including two Indian Army personnel and three children—one as young as three months old—were killed in a road accident in Gujarat's Kutch district late Saturday night. The victims were on a vacation and were returning to Bhuj after visiting the White Rann in Dhordo when their car collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction on the Khavda highway.According to Kutch district police, the accident took place around 9.30 pm within the jurisdiction of the Dhordo police station. The impact of the collision was so intense that all seven occupants died on the spot.

Kutch Superintendent of Police Vikas Sunda said that two families had travelled to Dhordo in two cars. On their return journey to Bhuj, one car had already reached the destination, while the second met with the accident on the way.The police identified the seven dead as Saurabh Singh Negi, 30; his wife Savita, 31; their three-month-old daughter Sivika; Rajesh Singh Rawat, 35; his seven-year-old daughter Rakshita; Rinkiben Gosai, 30; and her four-year-old daughter Vamika. All the victims hailed from Garhwal in Uttarakhand, and both Saurabh Singh Negi and Rajesh Singh Rawat were posted in the Indian Army and were visiting Kutch on vacation.The bodies were shifted to GK Hospital in Bhuj, after which arrangements were made to transport them to their native place in Uttarakhand.The Dhordo police have registered a case of accidental death, and further legal procedures are underway.



Is he a real cop? In Mumbai, you can soon scan a policeman's QR Code to find out

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)

With criminals increasingly posing as police officers, flashing forged identity cards and even claiming to be from the crime branch to extort money from unsuspecting citizens, Mumbai Police is turning to technology to help people distinguish genuine cops from impostors.The Mumbai Police will issue QR code-enabled smart identity cards to its entire force, allowing citizens to verify an officer's identity and official credentials by scanning the card with their smartphones. The initiative assumes particular significance amid cases in which fraudsters, often posing as policemen in plainclothes, target senior citizens during morning walks and businessmen, claiming to be conducting investigations or checks.Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday inaugurated the initiative as part of a series of technology-driven measures aimed at digitising the Mumbai Police force. A few smart cards were distributed to police personnel, including traffic policemen, at the event.Under the new system, every police personnel will be issued a metal-based identity card carrying an embossed photograph and a unique QR code. Citizens can scan the code through the Mumbai Police Citizen App, which will direct them to an official verification platform displaying the officer's photograph, name, date of joining and present posting. This will allow people to compare the details on the screen with the person presenting the card.The cards will also have Near Field Communication (NFC) technology, which can be used by authorised personnel for access to restricted police establishments and other purposes.

A senior police officer said the printing of the cards had been completed and all personnel were expected to receive them within a month. The project will cover 51,308 sanctioned posts in the Mumbai Police, for which the government had sanctioned around Rs 4 crore in February this year.Carrying the smart identity card will be mandatory for policemen while on official duty, whether in uniform or plainclothes. This means officers visiting residential premises, questioning citizens or approaching people during investigations will also have to carry the card, enabling those approached to verify their credentials.The move comes against the backdrop of a growing pattern of impersonation in which criminals use forged police identity cards and claim to be from the crime branch to intimidate people into handing over cash or valuables. Senior citizens have been among those targeted, with fraudsters stopping them during morning walks and claiming to be conducting checks.

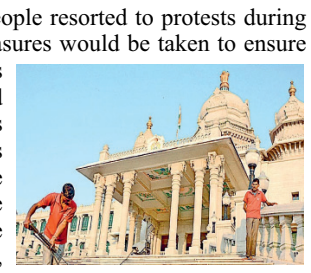


The system could also offer an additional means of verification in cases of so-called digital arrest scams, in which fraudsters pose as police, CBI or other law enforcement officials during video calls and circulate fake identity cards to establish credibility. Citizens will be able to check the credentials of anyone claiming to be a Mumbai Police officer rather than relying only on an identity card shown to them.Speaking at the inauguration, Fadnavis said criminals were increasingly exploiting technology and the police needed to stay ahead of them."We live in a world driven by technology, and criminals are also using it. Therefore, it is essential for the police to stay one step ahead. One of the biggest advantages of technology is that it works objectively, without individual bias, and its integration can significantly improve operational efficiency," he said.

Development issues of north Karnataka to take centre stage

BELAGAVI.(Agency)

Development issues, particularly those concerning North Karnataka, will be given priority during the 10-day winter session of the Karnataka Legislature beginning at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha on December 2, Legislative Assembly Speaker GS Patil and Legislative Council Cairman Saleem Ahmed said on Saturday.Assuring meaningful proceedings, the two presiding officers said in a press conference at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha on Saturday that discussions would focus on finding solutions to regional issues, with both the ruling party and the Opposition being encouraged to work together.Patil said he had directed officials to address issues that could be resolved at the district and taluk levels before people resorted to protests during the session.Strict measures would be taken to ensure that the proceedings were not disrupted and that adequate time was devoted to discussions on development.He said preparations were under way to provide accommodation, food, transport, security, uninterrupted power supply and internet facilities for legislators and others attending the session.As part of new initiatives, a book fair, yoga sessions and an interactive programme through artificial intelligence for schoolchildren would be organised alongside cultural programmes.Patil also said there was a proposal to construct a dedicated building on the lines of the Legislators' Home to provide better accommodation facilities for MLAs. The proposal would be discussed with the Chief Minister before a decision was taken.He added that the Assembly was planning to hold one meeting of a House committee every month at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha to ensure better utilisation of the facility beyond the legislature sessions.Saleem Ahmed said special attention would be given to issues concerning North Karnataka, apart from discussions on the overall development of the State.



Ahead of 2027 trial runs, India's first bullet train corridor energises overhead electrical system on 50-km Surat–Bilimora stretch

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

With trial runs of India's first bullet train targeted for 2027, the project has taken another step towards testing, energising the overhead electrical system along the 50-km Surat–Bilimora section on Friday.

The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) said on Saturday that the Overhead Equipment (OHE) system was energised on November 20 on both the Up and Down lines of the elevated section. The milestone marks an important step towards further testing activities on the Mumbai–Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor, the NHSRCL said in a statement.Energisation will be carried out progressively in smaller sections under the supervision of technical teams to ensure safety and compliance with prescribed procedures.The project is moving towards trial runs in 2027. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in September that testing of the indigenous bullet train was expected to begin in May or June next year. He also indicated that trials could continue for two to four months before passenger services are inaugurated. The Centre has separately stated that the first high-speed rail service is expected to commence in August 2027, initially on the Surat–Vapi section.The Surat–Bilimora stretch is the first section of the 508-km corridor to have its overhead traction system energised. The project uses a 2 × 25 kV overhead traction system, with 14 traction substations planned along the route to draw electricity from the national grid and supply it to the trains, NHSRCL said on Saturday.The first traction substation, at Bilimora in Navsari district, has completed installation work in its control panel, changeover switch, transformer and circuit-breaker buildings. The Gujarat substations will receive power from GETCO's 220 kV Ambetha Grid Substation. The entire electrical network will be monitored through a centralised control centre.The approximately 50-km elevated alignment between Surat and Bilimora includes bridges across four rivers and a steel bridge over National Highway 53. Around 94,000 noise barriers have been installed along the viaduct to minimise noise impact.



8 rescued after fire breaks out in Mumbai Central building; firefighter injured

Mumbai.(Agency)

Eight people, including an older woman and two children, were rescued after a fire broke out in a residential building at Gildar Lane in Mumbai Central shortly after midnight on Sunday. A senior fire brigade officer sustained a hand injury while dousing the blaze.

The fire was reported to the Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) at 12.07 am at Hira Manzil, a ground-plus-three-storey building located beside Navjivan Society near Reliance supermarket. The fire was confined to rooms on the second floor, where electrical wiring, furniture and other household articles were gutted. Several residents were stranded on the third floor and terrace when the fire brigade arrived.According to the fire brigade, three people, including a man and two women, were rescued from the third floor using a turntable ladder. An older woman was rescued from the first floor through the building's staircase. Four other occupants, including a man, a woman, a boy, and a girl, were also evacuated from the fourth floor via the staircase.The fire was initially classified as Level 1 at 12.23 am and escalated to Level 2 at 12.50 am. Firefighting operations continued for several hours, with the blaze brought under control at 5.05 am.The fire damaged electrical installations, wooden furniture, partitions, cupboards, beds, doors, windows, ceiling fans, a split air-conditioner, television sets, documents and other household articles.The woman rescued from the first floor was taken to HN Reliance Hospital in a police van. She was treated in the casualty ward and discharged.A senior station officer from Memonwada fire station sustained a cut to his right palm while participating in the firefighting operation. He was shifted to Nair Hospital in a 108 ambulance, where he received stitches and was subsequently discharged.Fire brigade personnel, including senior officers and multiple firefighting units, were deployed at the spot.



A tricky tripod that can't afford to trip over

The trilateral meeting of the US, Russia and China in Shenzhen, China's 'Silicon Delta', is vital for shaping the multipolar world. There is a high probability that Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping would discuss building a new security system with focus on 'de-nuclearisation' as well as regional issues—in particular, Ukraine and Iran. Beijing stated that the event is of "groundbreaking significance" and will promote world peace and stability. The Kremlin underscored that the meeting is taking place at the Chinese leader's official residence and its "significance and symbolism cannot be overstated".Putin's advisor Yuri Ushakov added, "It is the first such meeting of its kind. It has been agreed that it should be structured in the spirit of the mutual understanding and alliance between our three countries during World War II, with an emphasis on our countries' cooperation in the establishment of the United Nations."

Indeed, China had Russia's back all through as it began exploring the idea of such negotiations, while Beijing maintained diplomatic restraint. This is the first thing to be understood. Ushakov had disclosed as far back as September that the US, Russia and China had been discussing the idea of a trilateral summit.The Cold War archives reveal that such an interaction was originally formulated in the US back in the 1970s, the decade of détente, designed to establish a dialogue format between the three global powers to jointly address global challenges.

Ushakov said on Monday, "In other words, all three parties are prepared, building on these highly positive and constructive aspects, to hold a fruitful and substantive discussion which, we believe, should have a significant impact on the development of the international situation as a whole."

We may expect the Shenzhen meeting to be the commencement of the direct use of the trilateral format to coordinate positions on issues of regional and international security. If in such a system none of the three big powers can act in isolation, that by itself strengthens global stability, as a move by any two participants holds the potential to alter the balance of power, forcing the third to adapt to the new conditions.

Those who caricature the Shenzhen meeting as 'Yalta 2.0' are way off the mark. There is nothing conspiratorial here. With an eye on the Global South, an editorial Tuesday in the Chinese Communist Party newspaper Global Times explicitly stated, "Based on historical experience and current realities, China opposes 'great-power co-governance' but advocates for strengthening coordination and cooperation among major countries. Guided by the goals of reforming and improving global governance and building a community with a shared future for humanity, China advocates for an equal and orderly multipolar world. The underlying principle it upholds is the democratisation of international relations.A range of issues may come up for discussion at Shenzhen—regional conflicts, threats to energy security, deployment of weapons in space and so on. But no dramatic outcome needs to be expected given the welter of mutual differences between and among the three world powers over interests, objectives and national priorities.

Climate, Conflict, Covid, Chokepoints

Sitting astride the world's maritime arteries, India can offer a grammar of cooperation, not coercion



EVERY soldier learns that ground is never neutral. A bridge or a mountain pass can decide a battle. At sea, straits hold the same power. They can protect trade, pressure an adversary or alter the course of a conflict.History records the price. Indian soldiers fought at Gallipoli in 1915, the fight for the Dardanelles, serving in a campaign that ended in costly failure. Today, tensions grip the Strait of Hormuz and attacks continue near Bab el-Mandeb. Indian warships have a track record of escorting merchant ships through zones of distress. Disruption travels.

A chokepoint is no longer only a strait watched by warships. It may be a submarine cable, an energy corridor or a supply chain carrying food and medicines. Covid-19, climate change and conflict showed how disruption in one corner of the world reaches livelihoods in another. A fourth C now joins them: chokepoints turned into weapons. Those who bear the heaviest costs often have the least say. No one gains when networks fracture.

When a strait closes, the cost lands far from the fighting. A seafarer's ship cannot sail. A family in Kerala waits on a remittance from the Gulf. A farmer pays more for diesel and fertiliser. Insurance premiums climb, and countries with no part in the dispute carry the burden. Deterrence matters; so do clear rules, timely information-sharing and the capacity to restore services fast.

Geography gives India both a direct stake and a particular responsibility. The Indian Ocean links Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb in the west with Malacca in the east, and India's prosperity depends on routes that stay open and predictable. Its central position can be an anchor for cooperation, not a lever of denial. The Indian Ocean is no private preserve. Its routes sustain economies from East Africa to Southeast Asia, so India's interest in access is the interest of many.

Strategic Autonomy in a Fracturing World

Strategic autonomy must serve a purpose beyond India's own freedom of action. In a fracturing world, India's size and its record of avoiding overseas territorial domination offer a chance to calm turbulence. Neither confers moral superiority. Trust is earned through conduct, above all towards smaller neighbours and in disaster response.India has experience to build on. Its soldiers have served for decades in UN peacekeeping. It co-founded the International Solar Alliance and launched the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. Vaccine Maitri sent doses worldwide, small island states included. Anti-piracy patrols off the Horn of Africa have escorted ships of many flags. These are obligations to sustain, not credentials to advertise. They also show that capability and cooperation need not compete. A navy able to monitor, escort and rescue guards its own interests while keeping commerce moving for all.Stewardship is not passive; it demands credible capability. India must build maritime and digital resilience that deters disruption and keeps shared arteries from becoming instruments of coercion. Security is ultimately about people, and their livelihoods ride on goods moving by sea, energy arriving by tanker and data travelling through cables.

This is what it means to treat humanity as a global common. It is not a legal category or a claim of ownership. It is a practical principle. Protect access, reduce disruption and make recovery possible, above all for those least able to absorb the shock. The test is simple. Does an action keep shared arteries open for people who did not choose the crisis?From Principle to Practice

First, guard the arteries no one sees. Submarine cables, landing stations and repair capacity deserve the attention we give shipping lanes and ports. Cable faults near Jeddah in 2025 degraded connectivity across India, Pakistan and the Gulf. We need better monitoring, faster clearances and repair capacity of our own.

Second, bring littoral states into the room. Coastal nations pay first when competition reaches their waters, so regional frameworks must be built with them, not for them. The Colombo Security Conclave and the Indian Ocean Rim Association are starting points; a standing consultation with littoral partners, linked to India's information-sharing network, would give them substance.Third, build trust before the storm, because a crisis is the worst time to exchange phone numbers. The Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region in Gurugram already hosts partner liaison officers. Its network should extend to shipping companies, insurers and cable operators, with protocols agreed in advance.

Fourth, give maritime theatre commands an Indian Ocean horizon. The Navy already acts on one. Since late 2023, it has answered distress calls in the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden, rescuing crews and escorting merchant ships. As India shapes integrated commands, their mandate should unite surveillance, escort, search and rescue, and humanitarian response across the services, anchored in international law and national decision. Cooperation with partner navies must be rehearsed before crisis strikes.

Fifth, count what truly matters. Measure security by lives and livelihoods: fewer interruptions to essential supplies, faster restoration of cables and shipping, and lower costs for households and vulnerable economies. That would show whether security spending strengthens daily life or merely adds platforms and patrols.

Stewardship, not Supremacy

Geography places India at the fulcrum of East-West maritime linkage. In a fracturing world, keeping that link open and strengthening the wider network blunts the leverage of chokepoints and eases life for those who depend on these connections. The four Cs yield one abiding lesson. Connectivity must be strengthened and kept open, lawful and resilient.Great powers have shaped world orders through primacy, control of chokepoints and leverage over dependencies. India can help shape the emerging order through restraint and stewardship.

Congress must bargain keeping reality in mind, not nostalgia

It is imperative for the Congress to accept its strength state by state, and play a supporting role to the main regional challengers



The Congress is asking for 181 of the 403 Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh at its coalition talks with the Samajwadi Party. That's a bold opening for a party that managed to win only two seats at the 2022 Assembly poll. The national party's list reportedly includes 22 seats currently held by sitting MLAs of the regional party. That would make the ask tougher to defend. Seat-sharing negotiations are often a forum for exaggeration. But the grand old party's gambit indicates it is refusing to accept the changed electoral map in India's most populous state.

The SP is the principal opposition party in UP. Its organisation, base and record against the BJP is far superior to that of the Congress. In 2022, the SP won 32 percent of the seats it contested, with 32.6 percent of the votes. In contrast, the Congress won less than 1 percent of the seats it contested, with 2.3 percent of the votes. Surely, the national party cannot reasonably expect its allies to treat its historical standing as a proxy for recent showing in a territory.The Congress's UP record was below par in the previous decade as well. In 2017, it contested 114 Assembly seats in alliance with the SP and won seven, with 6.4 percent of the votes—about a fourth of the seats it had won in 2012, with about half the vote share. This, along with its showing in neighbouring Bihar, are expensive reminders that claiming a large number of tickets is not the same as helping an alliance win.

It is imperative for the Congress to accept its strength state by state, and play a supporting role to the main regional challengers. The party's bargaining power belongs in seat-sharing for the Lok Sabha, where its national presence gives it more heft. For most Assemblies, it needs to lend a helping hand to stronger allies. By doing this, it would also send a message that the INDIA bloc is together for the real battle in 2029. The main national opposition party must realise that the road to recovery does not lie in fighting a large number of seats in states where it has marginal presence, but by building credible electoral alliances and making it grassroots presence felt.

What can a 19th-century statesman teach a fractured 21st-century world? Lessons from Maharaja Ranjit Singh

Ranjit Singh patronised institutions across faiths, making offerings to the Harmandir Sahib, Kashi Vishwanath Temple and Muslim shrines

Born on November 13, 1780, Maharaja Ranjit Singh rose from the fractured political landscape of 18th-century Punjab to establish one of the most formidable indigenous states of the 19th century. Celebrated as Sher-e-Punjab and a brilliant commander, his greatest achievement lay beyond the battlefield: he built an inclusive state in a region scarred by invasions and political fragmentation.His legacy remains a study in statecraft, offering lessons in merit, religious pluralism, strategic restraint and institution-building. French traveller Victor Jacquemont, who met him in Lahore in 1831, wrote in Letters from India: "I had often seen Bonaparte and for some time I had desired to see the Bonaparte of the East." The comparison with Napoleon reflected the reputation Ranjit Singh enjoyed beyond his kingdom.

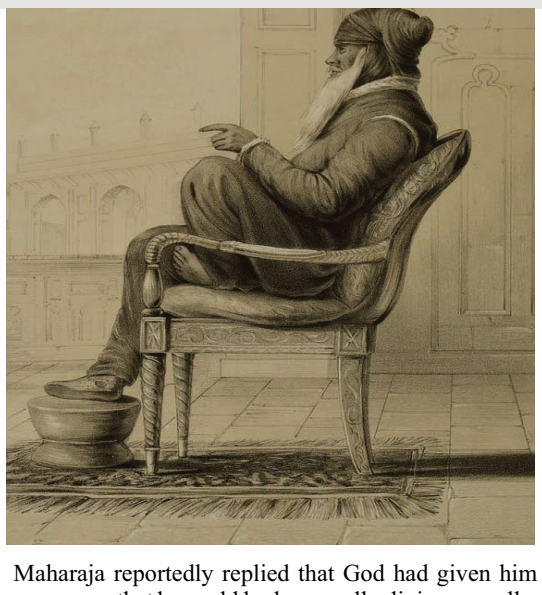
The rise of a statesman

After the death of his father, Maha Singh, 12-year-old Ranjit Singh inherited the leadership of the Sukerchakia Misl, centred on Gujranwala. Punjab was divided among 12 Sikh misls and surrounded by powerful adversaries. A great-grandson of Budh Singh, who, according to Sikh tradition, had received initiation from Guru Gobind Singh, Ranjit Singh had no formal schooling, though he later learned Punjabi, French and Persian. As a child, he contracted smallpox, which left him blind in one eye and scarred his face.

On July 7, 1799, at the age of 19, he entered Lahore with the support of his mother-in-law, Mai Sada Kaur, chief of the influential Kanhaiya Misl. Sohan Lal's Umdat-ut-Tawarikh and Khushwant Singh's A History of the Sikhs recount that Lahore's residents, exhausted by Bhangi Misl misrule and weakened Afghan control, invited him to take the city. The fort gates opened to a welcome of gun salutes.His rise came amid many challenges, including Nadir Shah's invasion of Delhi in 1739, Ahmad Shah Abdali's repeated attacks, the decline of the Mughal Empire, the growing power of the Marathas and the expanding influence of the East India Company. Starting with a small kingdom, Ranjit Singh united rival Sikh groups, built a strong state and extended its borders westwards, keeping invaders from entering through the Khyber Pass.

The making of an inclusive state

Crowned on Vaisakhi in 1801 by Sahib Singh Bedi, a descendant of Guru Nanak, Ranjit Singh drew legitimacy from Sikh traditions while accommodating other faiths. Writer Rajmohan Gandhi notes his simple dress and lack of royal ostentation, suggesting that his authority rested on military success, political relationships and institutions.As JS Grewal records in The Sikhs of the Punjab, Sikh, Hindu and Muslim officials, alongside Europeans, served in the Lahore Darbar's civil, military and diplomatic establishments. A famous anecdote, recorded by Khushwant Singh, tells of Ranjit Singh paying a considerable sum for a beautifully calligraphed Quran. When Faqir Azizuddin asked why he had bought a text from another faith, the



Maharaja reportedly replied that God had given him one eye so that he could look upon all religions equally. Whether apocryphal or not, the story reflects his enduring reputation for accommodation.Hungarian artist August Theodor Schoefft's famous painting of the Lahore Darbar shows the diversity of Ranjit Singh's court, with Sikh sardars, Muslim scholars, Hindu and Dogra nobles, and European officers. Among the Maharaja's closest advisers was Faqir Azizuddin, a Muslim physician and diplomat who handled important dialogues with the British and neighbouring powers. His brothers, Faqir Nuruddin and Faqir Imamuddin, also held senior administrative and military responsibilities.Raja Dina Nath, a Kashmiri Pandit, became a leading figure in finance and civil administration. British administrator Lepel Griffin later compared his political abilities to those of French diplomat Talleyrand. Muslim officers Mian Ghaus Khan and Sheikh Elahi Bakhsh commanded the artillery. Hari Singh Nalwa became one of the empire's best-known commanders, securing its north-western frontier. The Dogra brothers, Dhian Singh, Gulab Singh and Suchet Singh, also rose to prominence. European officers Jean-François Allard, Jean-Baptiste Ventura, Paolo Avitabile and Claude Auguste Court helped modernise the Khalsa Army.Portrait of Jean-Baptiste Ventura, European officer in Maharaja Ranjit Singhs Khalsa Army, alongside August Schoefft's celebrated painting of Lahore Darbar

Rooted in Sikh political traditions, the empire was not a theocracy in the modern sense. Ranjit Singh patronised institutions across faiths, making offerings to the Harmandir Sahib, Kashi Vishwanath Temple and Muslim shrines and mosques, including Sufi shrines in Lahore. The Nanakshahi coins issued under his authority invoked the names of Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh rather than celebrating the Maharaja himself.

10 tips on how to give a bright and playful look to your Home



Transforming your living space into a vibrant and cheerful haven is easier than you think. With a few thoughtful changes, you can create a home that radiates not only joy but equal parts playfulness. Here are ten tips to help you achieve a space that embraces your reflection in every corner.

Incorporate Bold Textiles

Introduce colourful cushions, throws, and rugs to add a burst of freshness to your living space. Choose handwoven, quilted, or printed fabrics in vivid hues and whimsical p

Add Playful Wall Art

Decorate your walls with an array of playful and bright artwork. Framed prints, tapestries, hand-painted, crochet, macrame or simply wrought Iron wall hangings can infuse a touch of creativity into your home.atterns to instantly uplift the ambience.

Opt for Radiant Curtains

Swap out your neutral curtains with clever mixes of solids and prints – from rustic slub to earthy jute to soft linens, curtains have the power to dramatically change the mood of a room.



Artisanal Tableware

Refining aesthetics that breathes new life into the dining space – from an "everyday" to a Pinterest-worthy setup – nothing freshens up a table setting like artisanal tableware. From classic bone China to vibrant ceramics – the choices are endless, weaving together functionality with a contemporary aesthetic.

Old Glory

Incorporate a sense of nostalgia and whimsy into your home decor by featuring a rustic and contemporary charm. From wicker baskets to rattan furniture and jute rugs – these pieces not only add character but also contribute to a lively and spirited atmosphere.

Introduce Statement Furniture & Decor

Incorporating a statement piece of furniture can instantly elevate any space – from a fuchsia rug to a mustard armchair to a teal coffee table; colours can uplift any ambience. But not effortlessly because these are statement pieces – if not chosen correctly they can also suffocate the space.

Use Fun Floor Cushion

Add a relaxed and playful touch to your home with floor cushions in bright hues and fun patterns. Floor seating options can make your living space more inviting and cozier.

Refresh with Cheerful Bedding

Mundane to magnificent -- bedroom is a space that has room for your optimum creativity – whether you are someone who likes minimalism or someone who enjoys vibrant prints; the versatile choices have the ability to evoke a sense of tranquillity and comfort. From comforting quilts and bedspreads to cloud like pillows, there are endless possibilities to express your unique style.

Brighten Your Kitchen Accessories

Dazzle your kitchen space with vibrant accessories – from colourful aprons to hand-painted jars to cute canisters and artisanal spoons, give your cooking space a touch of fun and personality!

Greenery with a Twist

Infuse a sense of freshness and vitality with indoor plants – be it tropical ferns or florals, they are perfect to add a touch of harmony into your home.

Bringing It All Together

Creating a bright and playful home is all about mixing and matching colours, patterns, and textures. With thoughtful choices, you can easily transform your living space into a vibrant and cheerful sanctuary.



Vastu

Tips for new born Baby rooms

When you want to see pure innocence, look into a newborn's eyes. When a newborn comes into life, many celebrations are held, sweets are distributed, and more. But do you know one more thing necessary for child growth? It is Vastu Shastra. Yes, Vastu Shastra, the ancient Shastra, involves the guidelines for designing a room for a newborn baby.

The room location and direction :

- For a newborn , the ideal location must be in the north or east direction of the house. These directions are considered auspicious as they allow natural light and also attract positive energy.
- Also, avoid baby rooms in the southwest direction, as it attracts high negative energy that can cause problems in the life of infants.

The crib's placement:

- Always place the crib with the baby's head towards the south or east direction. This direction is known for attracting positive energy and allowing it inside to allow proper sleep.
- Also, avoid having the crib under the beam as it can create a feeling of high pressure and disturbance.

The colours and decor Choose a soothing colour

- You can use soft, soothing colours such as light blue, pale yellow, green, or the pastel shades of the walls or decor. These colours attract calmness and tranquility.
- Try to avoid dark and vibrant colours as they can create a bad atmosphere for unborn children.

The furniture and layout:

- Keep only the furniture that is absolutely required, and do not make the room overcrowded, as it can block positive energy flow.
- Keep the furniture rounded to ensure safety of the child, and promote a soft, gentle environment.

The lighting:

- Ensure that the room receives plenty of light during the day. Sunlight acts as a natural purifier and energizer.
- Also, try to use soft and warm lights in the evening. Avoid harsh or bright lights that can trouble the baby.

The ventilation and air quality:

- One should make the room well-ventilated to allow fresh air to circulate.
- One can also try to place purifying plants like aloe vera or spider plants in the room. But be cautious and keep them out of the baby's reach.

Decorative elements

- Decorate the space with symbols and images that convey happiness and optimism, such as depictions of peaceful deities, happy animals, or scenes from nature.
- Steer clear of sharp things and violent imagery in the space.

Electronic devices

- Keep electronic devices to a minimum in the baby's room. A devices' electromagnetic fields (EMFs) can interfere with the baby's energy.
- Only keep electronic devices like baby monitors, and that too at a distance from the crib if necessary.

The cleanliness and organization

- Keep the room clean and clutter-free to ensure a smooth energy flow. Dust and vacuum the room regularly to maintain hygiene.
- Organize toys, clothes, and other items neatly after every playtime. A tidy room promotes a peaceful and organized mind.

Natural elements

- Wooden furniture is believed to bring warmth and natural energy into the space.
- Opt for natural fabrics like cotton for bedding and curtains to ensure comfort and breathability.

Implementing these Vastu guidelines can help you design a room for your newborn infant that is not only aesthetically beautiful but also beautifully in tune with the forces of nature. This well-balanced atmosphere will promote your baby's development, well-being, and happiness, giving them the ideal start in life.







Impact of surface

Colour and design

On physical, mental, and social

Well-being

The colours and designs that surround us are more than just aesthetic choices, they have a profound impact on how we feel, behave, and connect with others. With the growing emphasis on health and wellness, interior surfaces play a transformative role in shaping our mental, physical, and social well-being. Surfaces such as laminates, with their diverse palette and unique textures, demonstrate how thoughtful design can elevate everyday spaces into havens of healing, creativity, and connection.

The tactile qualities of materials play a significant role in our physical experiences. Smooth, easy-to-clean surfaces contribute to improved hygiene and boost safety in our living environments. By integrating anti-microbial properties and ensuring durability, modern surface designs seamlessly blend form and function. This balance not only makes spaces visually appealing but also supports physical health and well-being. Beyond their practical benefits, textures— whether they're soft and comforting or bold and stimulating -- can deeply influence our perception, turning ordinary spaces into places of comfort and vibrancy.



Colour psychology reveals how hues can subtly influence our emotions and state of mind. Where cool blue and green colours are recognised for their calming effect on the mind, facilitating focus and relaxation, vibrant yellow and orange tones sit in contrast to spark energyand foster a dynamic, uplifting environment. Additionally, surfaces featuring natural patterns and motifs, as a hallmark of biophilic design, blur the line between interiors and exteriors, easing stress and fostering a sense of mental well-being by reconnecting one with nature. These design choices craft environments that actively shape and enhance users' emotional experiences.

Surfaces play a pivotal role in shaping the sensory experience of a space, in addition to their aesthetic and functional benefits. The interaction of light and surface finishes, for instance, cansignificantly alter how a room feels—glossy surfaces reflect light, creating a sense of openness and energy, while matte finishes absorb light, fostering a more intimate, calming atmosphere. These subtle alterations in perception enable designers to manipulate spatial dynamics, creating settings that either invigorate or relax, depending on the intended effect.

By taking these sensory aspects into account, surface design becomes a potent tool for influencing how spaces appear and how they are experienced on an emotional level. The choice of colours and textures used in a space not only influences individual comfort but also defines social dynamics.

Warm, inviting colours and engaging textures, for instance, can create a welcoming atmosphere that encourages interaction and fosters a sense of community.However, harsh or uninviting surfaces might inhibit social involvement and contribute to a feeling of isolation.

By thoughtfully selecting and designing surfaces, spaces can be designed to enhance social connectivity, support positive interactions, and promote overall well-being among occupants.In essence, surfaces are not just backdrops but are active participants in how we live, work, and connect.

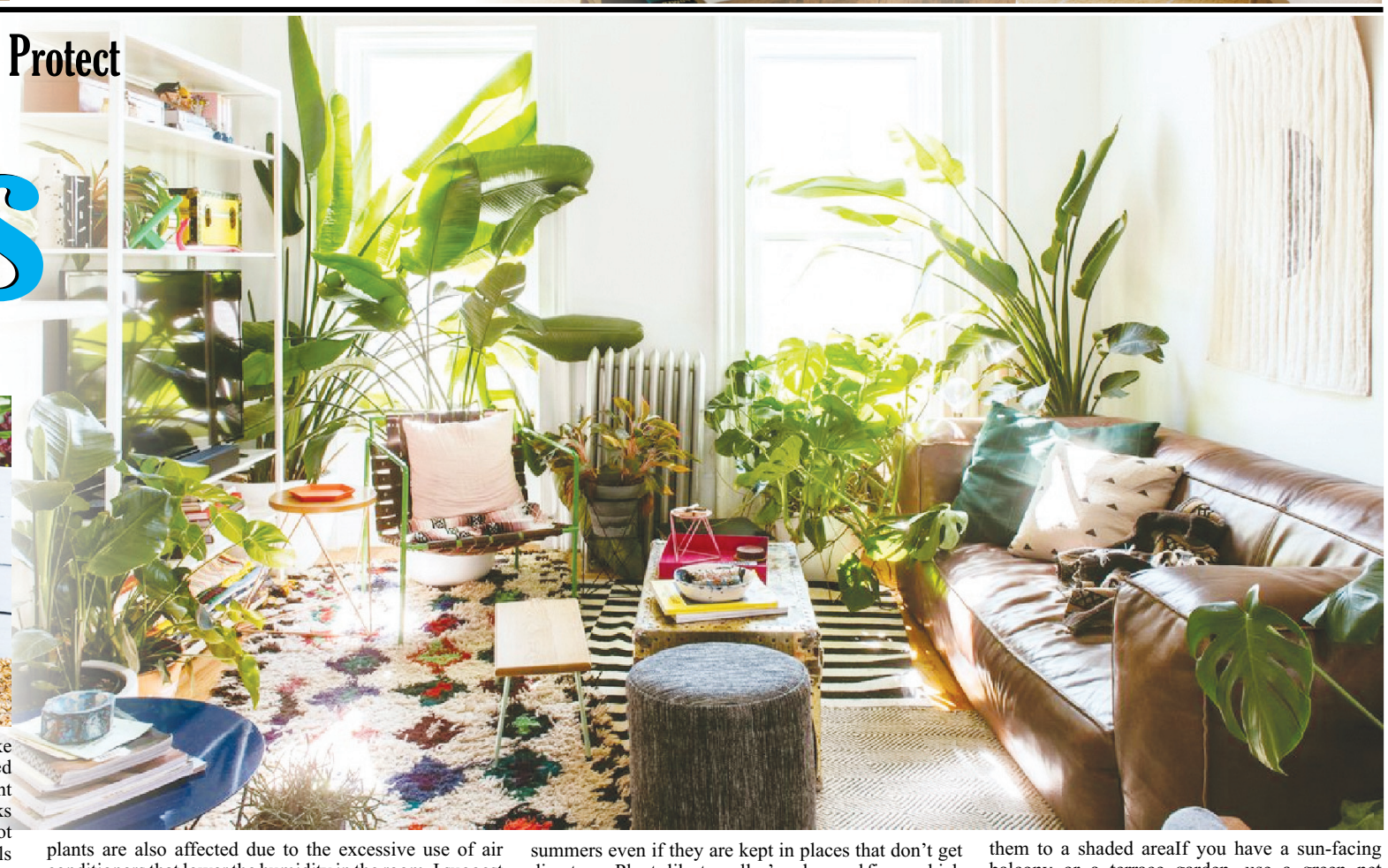
The interplay between material, colour, and texture has the power to transform spaces from mere functional zones into environments that nurture mental, physical, and social well-being. Through creative surface design, we can reshape interiors and influence the lives lived within them.



Add mulch, make pebble trays: Protect

Plants

Amid heatwaves



As the capital continues to battle the summer heat, like you and your pets, your plants and terrace gardens need extra care and attention too. We ask Delhi-based plant care experts for some tips.'Plants may experience heat shocks in this weather'"The heatwave is harsh on everyone. The hot air burn up the leaves, making them crisp. Low humidity levels add to the stress. Tropical houseplants suffer the most because they thrive best in humid areas. The current situation is causing browning of leaves, pre-mature shedding of flowers and stunted fruit growth. Plants may experience heat shock and fail to survive," says Aditi Khattar, an urban landscape designer and founder of The Greenish Affair.

Annu Sharma, a plant expert and content creator (@plantsjunkies), says, "This year, plants are either drying up or their leaves are getting burnt due to high temperatures and hot air. Just like humans, plants also experience garm-sard if water is given during the day, damaging their roots. Indoor plants are also affected due to the excessive use of air conditioners that lower the humidity in the room. I suggest plant parents make DIY pebble trays, fill them with water, and let their plants sit on them to enjoy much-required humidity.

""While paying extra attention is crucial, some plants like money plant, monstera, areca palm, ZZ plant are still doing well indoors. Snake plant, syngonium, cactus, dragon fruit, jade, aloe vera are faring well outdoors in this weather," adds plant expert Varun Sharma.

Sanchaita, plantscape designer and owner of Baagh Bagicha in Noida, says, "Leaves are getting scorched in Delhi summers even if they are kept in places that don't get direct sun. Plants like traveller's palms and ficus, which enjoy direct sun, are suffering too. I suggest moving plants to shaded places, to prevent them from drying out quickly. Adding cocopeat to your pots will help the soil retain moisture.

"Tending tipsCheck your watering schedule – water your plants in the early morning hours or late evening to ensure absorptionMulch the soil with organic materials like husk and coco peat to help the soil retain moisture. You can add organic kitchen scrap, wood chips or dried neem leavesIf your plants are getting sunburns, shift them to a shaded areaIf you have a sun-facing balcony or a terrace garden, use a green net providing 75% shadeKeep humidity-loving plants huddled together. Keep plants on top of pebble trays filled with water or use affordable, electric humidifiers to help plants stay healthySpray water on plants in the eveningsAvoid repotting plants, until necessary.

Plants take time to adjust after repotting and they may experience shock too, so it is not advised to repot plants during peak summersPrune dead branches and leaves regularly.

1 QR code, four entry bids reveal security gaps at trade fair

Delhi.(Agency)

A routine QR code scan at the India Trade Promotion Organisation premises at Bharat Mandapam on November 17 alerted an operator to the alleged misuse of an entry pass by four people, police said.The operator, assigned to scan entry passes at gate number 4 between 9 am and 6 pm, noticed around noon that four people were allegedly using a QR code issued in the name of Mohammad Akmal to gain entry into the premises.On checking, it was found that the four people had allegedly misused the QR code to gain entry into the premises. The complainant subsequently reported the matter to the police. Based on her complaint, a case was registered at IITF police station on November 17 under Sections 319(2), 318(4) and 3(5) of the BNS, a police officer said.

The ITPO police station has lodged two more cases related to theft and cheating. In the cheating case, a person was apprehended for allegedly duping a woman of `1,200 through a fake ticket arrangement. The accused, who works as a scrap dealer, is allegedl involved in the unauthorised sale of tickets for various major events in Delhi along with his associate.

When the woman attempted to purchase an online ticket through the official app near gate number 4 of the IITF, an unknown person approached her and offered to arrange the ticket for `400. The person provided her with a QR code, which she scanned to transfer `1,200. Immediately thereafter, her phone started syncing and became inaccessible.

DCP Manjeet Sheoran said an adequate number of security personnel had been deployed at various strategic locations across the India International Trade Fair premises.

Woman killed, son and daughter-in-law injured in house fire

Delhi.(Agency)

A 55-year-old woman was killed while her son and daughter-in-law sustained burn injuries after a fire broke out in a residential building in West Delhi's Raghubir Nagar on Saturday afternoon.The deceased was identified as Sunita. Her 21-year-old son Dhruv and daughter-in-law Neeti, also 21, suffered 20% and 60% burns, respectively, police said.The fire was reported to the police around 12.05 pm. Following this, two fire engines were pressed into service to bring the blaze under control.The fire allegedly broke out on the first floor of the building, police said. However, they added, the cause of the fire is yet to be established.Police said the house belonged to Dharmendra, a taxi driver. At the time of the incident, his wife Sunita, son Dhruv and daughter-in-law were home.Dhruv, who works as a delivery agent, and Neeti, a homemaker, were rescued



by local residents and family members and taken to Guru Gobind Singh Hospital. Sunita, however, remained trapped in a room, police said.

Police personnel, with the help of local residents, broke through an adjoining wall using a hammer to rescue Sunita. "She was rushed to the hospital, but doctors declared her dead," said an officer. While Dhruv was discharged after treatment, Neeti was referred to Safdarjung Hospital."During preliminary inquiry, Dhruv said he did not know how the fire started and that it spread rapidly. He said he rushed from the balcony to rescue Neeti after hearing her scream, but could not reach his mother due to the intense heat and flames," said an officer.

From village to top court: Justice Patil's story



Delhi.(Agency)

From travelling to a school in a bullock cart and studying under a lantern to occupying a seat in the Supreme Court, former judge Justice Shivaraj V Patil's journey is now reaching a wider readership with the release of his autobiography in Hindi. The Hindi edition, Samay, Sankalp Aur Safar, was unveiled in the national capital on Saturday. Former Chief Justice of India Justice U U Lalit released the book in the presence of former CJI Sanjiv Khanna, who presided over the event.Translated by former Supreme Court judge Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, the autobiography was originally published in English as Time Spent Distance Travelled. It was also published in Kannada and later translated into Tamil.The book recounts Patil's childhood in a humble farming family in Karnataka's drought-prone region, where opportunities were scarce and education demanded determination. He travelled long distances in a bullock cart to attend school, studied under lantern light and overcame financial hardships before rising to the country's highest court.The autobiography offers a personal account of perseverance, conviction, humility and the transformative power of education. It traces his formative years, legal education, early years at the Bar, experiences as a judge across different High Courts and the Supreme Court, and contributions to public lifeIt reflects on judicial responsibilities, ethical conduct, compassion towards poor litigants and the belief that a judge must first be a good human being. It recounts memorable encounters and people who shaped his life, while offering lessons for young lawyers and aspiring judges.

Justice Patil and Justice Maheshwari, former Supreme Court judge and chairman of the Law Commission of India, were among the dignitaries present. The event was attended by members of the Supreme Court and High Courts.Speaking to this newspaper after the release, 86-year-old Justice Patil said he was happy to have dedicated his post-retirement life to social service and helping the poor. Asked about offers to join politics after superannuation, he said he had received them many times but politely declined.

"That is not my cup of tea. I always love law, constitution and judgements," he said.Born in 1940 in Maladkai, Karnataka, Patil began practising law in Gulbarga in 1962. He was elevated to the Karnataka High Court in 1990, served in the Madras High Court, became Chief Justice of the Rajasthan HC in 1999 and was elevated to the Supreme Court in March 2000. He retired in January 2005..

Cash-strapped DJB plans to monetise land, buildings for revenue generation

Delhi.(Agency)

With mounting financial strain, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has planned to monetise its land parcels and buildings to private companies, starting with Varunalay, its headquarters at Jhandewalan. Delhi's only water utility is reeling under heavy losses caused by unpaid bills by commercial and government entities and heavy interest on loans.Apart from its headquarters, it plans to monetise Varun Niketan, a housing complex attached to the Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant in Pitam Pura, and Jal Vihar, which is situated in Lajpat Nagar. The DJB has residential accommodations in Wazirabad, Najafgarh, Kirlokari, Okhla, Model Town, Kondli and Kalkaji as



well.The DJB offers around 27 lakh water connections across the city. Despite this large number, the DJB has been reeling under financial losses for the past several years."In a recent board meeting, the proposal to monetise its properties, including land and buildings, has been approved. We plan to hire a Department of Economic Affairs-empanelled financial advisor to carry out an assessment and submit a report," an official said. Following this, the DJB will identify other assets that could also be commercialized, the official added.

Officials say that water tariffs have not been increased in the city since 2018, which is affecting the financial health of the DJB. They point out that the utility's loans and interest on them have surpassed Rs 73,000 crore.

Why 21-day delay in FIR? Congress raises fresh questions over Ram temple donation theft case

Congress questioned the Ram temple donation theft chargesheet and demanded a Supreme Court-monitored inquiry. The party said the probe must examine senior Trust officials and account for every offering.

Delhi.(Agency)

The Congress on Sunday raised fresh questions over the alleged theft of donations at the Ram temple, questioning why police took 21 days to register an FIR despite senior temple Trust officials receiving video evidence of the theft.The party also questioned whether the 74,000-page chargesheet, which names eight employees as accused, had adequately investigated the case or shielded influential figures.Demanding a Supreme Court-monitored independent probe, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh questioned the delay in police action and the accountability of senior officials of the Ram temple Trust, news agency PTI reported.

"Chanda Chori, Aastha Dhokha! A 74,000-page chargesheet has been filed in the case concerning the theft of offerings at the Ram Mandir. But the question remains: does this chargesheet provide a comprehensive account of the thefts, or has it merely named eight employees as the accused, effectively shielding prominent figures and sidestepping serious, critical questions?" Ramesh wrote on X.

WHY WAS FIR FILED AFTER 21 DAYS, ASKS CONGRESS

Citing the chargesheet, Ramesh claimed that a video showing bundles of currency notes worth Rs 2.25 lakh hidden in a bathroom was sent to Trust official Champat Rai on WhatsApp on June 4, 2026, along with a message alleging that such thefts had continued for several days.The footage was subsequently viewed by Anil Mishra, Gopal Ji and Narendra Ji on a laptop at Rai's residence on June 5, suggesting that senior Trust officials were aware of the alleged theft well before police registered a case.

However, the FIR was filed only on June 25, despite the state government constituting a Special Investigation Team (SIT) on June 13



and three separate police complaints being lodged between June 16 and 18.The SIT identified eight suspects in its preliminary report on June 23, following which arrests began on June 25.Questioning the delay, Ramesh said none of the accused had fled during those 21 days and asked whether they were confident that no action would be taken against them.He also questioned why no FIR was registered on a complaint filed by Santosh Dubey alleging misappropriation of more than Rs 200 crore.

CONGRESS QUESTIONS ROLE OF TRUST OFFICIALS

Ramesh further claimed that the accused surrendered stolen cash and jewellery after being apprehended, in the presence of Champat Rai, Govind Giri and several Trust employees.However, Champat Rai, Anil Mishra and Gopal Rao were named as witnesses rather than accused in the chargesheet, listed as witness numbers 18, 17 and 19, respectively."The question is not who was named as an accused and who was designated as a witness. The real question is: to what extent was the role.

Rs 20 cr duped from 22,000 people, 22 held: Delhi Police's crackdown on cybercrime

Delhi.(Agency)

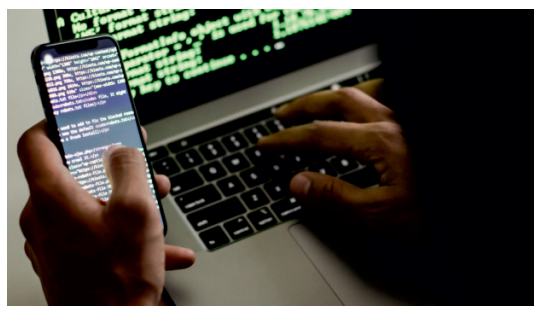
In a five-day crackdown on cybercrime spanning Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar, 22 people were arrested for alleged links to 11 syndicates that duped over 22,000 people, Delhi Police said on Saturday. The syndicates allegedly used malicious mobile applications to dupe victims and the proceeds of the crime exceed Rs 20 crore, officers added.Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Hareshwar Swami said that 2,080 complaints registered on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) are directly linked to the arrested accused.

Massive operation

The operation, officers said, was conducted between November 11 and 15. Seven special teams comprising 64 personnel conducted coordinated raids in Jamtara, Deoghar, Giridih, and other locations in Jharkhand, besides adjoining states.Police also uncovered an alleged network of developers, distributors, and sub-distributors involved in creating and circulating malicious Android Package Kit (APK) files used to facilitate fraud.The starting point for the probe was an analysis of over 1,000 complaints involving bank account takeovers and APK-based fraud, along with more than 20 e-FIRs. A total of 32 malicious APK files and 56 suspected Telegram profiles and associated WhatsApp numbers were scrutinised as part of the probe.

Modus operandi

Police said the accused allegedly targeted senior citizens by posing as bank officials and offering assistance with life certificate verification, KYC updates, credit cards, utility connections and credit limit enhancement. "Victims were persuaded to download APK files through WhatsApp, purportedly for verification or updating banking details," an officer said.The applications allegedly collected sensitive information, including banking credentials, OTPs, SMS messages,



call records and gallery contents, enabling the accused to take control of accounts and carry out fraudulent transactions.

Police seized 63 mobile phones, two laptops, two MacBooks and a tablet.The crackdown coincided with a decline of over 48% in APK-related cyber fraud complaints in Delhi, according to the data.NCRP data showed 1,406 complaints were filed between November 2 and 10, compared with 724 between November 11 and 17. The accused have been arrested in two cases registered at Cyber West police station under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Data gives clearer picture as government claims Delhi just saw cleanest air in 10 years

Delhi.(Agency)

Even as the Delhi government has claimed that the Capital recorded its cleanest air in a decade for the months of October and November, the official data presents a clearer picture. While October indeed registered the best air quality index (AQI) in 10 years, an analysis of daily AQI data shows that pollution levels in the run-up to and during Diwali were among the highest in the period before a sharp improvement around mid-November, aided by favourable weather.

The seven days preceding Diwali averaged an AQI of 347.4, the third-highest for the corresponding period in a decade, behind 2020 (399 AQI) and 2023 (375.7). Six of those seven days recorded AQI levels above 300.November 8, when Diwali was celebrated, and the next seven days averaged an AQI of 346, making it the sixth most polluted Diwali week in the 10-year period.Earlier years such as 2021 (410.7 AQI), 2019 (402.4) and 2018 (386.9) recorded higher averages, while 2020 (290.1) and 2025 (318.6) were cleaner, an analysis of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data shows.Six of the seven days during the Diwali week this year recorded AQI levels above 300. Air quality improved markedly in the following week, which averaged an AQI of 259.4, the lowest post-Diwali weekly average in the ten-year period.

Daily AQI values stayed between 204 and 290, making 2026 the only year in the dataset in which AQI on every day of the post-Diwali week remained below 300.This was in sharp contrast to previous years when post-Diwali pollution remained considerably higher.

Favourable weather

The sharp mid-November improvement coincided with favourable meteorological conditions, including



sustained strong winds of up to around 15 kmph.Data from the India Meteorological Department and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology showed an increased role of weather conditions in the improvement, including a higher ventilation index coupled with better wind speed in mid-November. Ventilation index refers to the potential of the atmosphere to disperse airborne pollutants, depending on average wind speed and mixing depth — vertical height of the lowest layer of the atmosphere where the pollutants can disperse freely.

Strict local sourcing rules hamper growth of PLI schemes: NITI Aayog

New Delhi.(Agency)

Strict domestic value addition (DVA) requirements under some of the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes have slowed the manufacturing expansion they were intended to accelerate, according to an impact assessment released by NITI Aayog.The report, prepared with IIM Ahmedabad as its knowledge partner, finds that localisation thresholds under the advanced chemistry cell (ACC) battery, IT hardware and automobile schemes were set higher than what India's domestic supplier base could support.Schemes that adopted a graded incentive structure linked to local content, or allowed localisation to evolve alongside production scale, have performed better. Battery scheme struggles Under the Rs 18,100-crore ACC battery PLI scheme, beneficiaries are required to achieve a minimum DVA of 25% by the end of the second year and 60% by the end of the fifth year.However, the report says these requirements appear misaligned with India's current industrial base, leading to delays in capacity creation. Against a target of 50 GWh, only 1.4 GWh of capacity has been created so far. There is no commercial production yet, and no incentive has been disbursed.The domestic ecosystem for key inputs such as cathodes, anodes and minerals, including lithium and cobalt, remains underdeveloped, making localisation difficult, the report notes. It identifies stringent DVA norms, tight timelines and a short gestation period as key reasons why the scheme has not performed as per expectation. "Yes, high local content requirement is a real challenge.That is why they had to reduce the local content percentage from its earlier requirement," says an official from an industry body. The ACC battery manufacturers are now asking for a dedicated PLI Scheme for ACC Components under the Ministry of Heavy Industries. IT hardware & auto PLIs The first PLI scheme for IT hardware did not achieve the intended



outcomes, partly because of insufficient incentives, which ranged from 1% to 4%, averaging around 2%, and stringent domestic value addition targets.The report argues that localisation rules were imposed when the domestic ecosystem for bare printed circuit boards (PCBs), memory modules and display panels was still at a nascent stage. In 2023, the government replaced it with IT Hardware 2.0, with an outlay of Rs 17,000 crore covering laptops, tablets, allin- one PCs, servers and ultrasmall form factor devices. The revised scheme offers an average incentive of around 5%, along with additional incentives linked to the localisation of selected components.

As of March 2026, IT Hardware 2.0 had attracted cumulative investments of Rs 908 crore, generated production worth Rs 21,853 crore and created 4,859 jobs. Meanwhile, the Rs 25,938-crore automobile and auto components scheme requires companies to achieve 50% DVA to qualify for incentives. Vehicle and component manufacturers must calculate domestic value addition across their supply chains and submit the details to testing agencies.

Govt alleges misuse of FTA by British Scotch importers

New Delhi.(Agency)

Some British Scotch importers have allegedly misused the benefits of the India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) by manipulating customs classifications to secure lower tariffs, according to officials at the Ministry of Commerce.The government, however, assured the industry it will look into the matter and try to resolve the dispute at the earliest. "The fact is they (UK importers) had classified the item under a particular HS code and even obtained a court order directing that it be classified under that code, where the applicable customs duty was lower.

They were essentially shopping for the lowest possible duty rate," said a government official on condition of anonymity. Tariff shopping or HS code misdeclaration refers to the practice of deliberately classifying an imported product under a different Harmonised System (HS) code to gain an unfair advantage, usually by paying lower customs .

IndusInd fires former CEO Kathpalia, seeks pay recovery

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The Hinduja group-promoted Indusind Bank has formally sacked its former chief executive Sumant Kathpalia and has also decided to recover salary and other benefits paid to him from the date of his appointment in March 2020, following the completion of an internal inquiry into accounting discrepancies in its derivatives portfolio that cost it Rs 2,329 crore.Taking responsibility for the accounting scam in the bank, Kathpalia had resigned on April 29, 2025, accepting moral responsibility for the acts of commission and omission brought to his attention. He was subsequently suspended from June 18, 2025, pending completion of the proceedings. But the bank while accepting his resignation had said he would continue to be an employee. Along with Kathpalia, deputy chief executive Arun Khurana had also resigned on the same day.The bank's chief financial officer Gobind Jain had resigned in January 2025. Both Kathpalia and Khuaran are also under Sebi probe for alleged insider trading. In an exchange filing late Friday, the bank said its board has decided to terminate Kathpalia's employment with immediate effect and also decided to invoke the malus and clawback provisions following an enquiry.

TVS SCS expects ALA joint venture to generate revenue in Q4

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Months after Chennai-based logistics company TVS Supply Chain Solutions (SCS) joined hands with global players ALA MENA and Sankyu, the company expects to generate revenue from the joint ventures in Fy28."The ALA joint venture is operational now. We have got the warehouse certification. We are in the process of doing tripartite agreements with ALA's existing customers," Vikas Chadha, managing director at TVS SCS, said during the analyst call. He expects the business to commence operations in the fourth quarter.

"At this moment, in these numbers, there is no revenue associated with the ALA JV. But I do expect some revenue to commence in the last quarter." The joint ventures with ALA and Sankyu will have a positive impact in FY28."Sankyu will also be a strategic investor in the company. These two will be big growth levers for us going forward. We are laying the fundamental foundations for businesses that in 3-5 years will be fairly large and fairly accretive to what we do today, which will also continue," Chadha added.

India's oil, gas import bill jumps 60% to $16 billion in October amid West Asia conflict; LPG use falls

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's net oil and gas import bill surged 60 per cent year-on-year to $16 billion in October as global crude prices nearly doubled amid the West Asia conflict and disruptions to energy shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, according to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC).The rising import bill highlights India's exposure to disruptions in global energy supplies, given its heavy dependence on overseas crude and natural gas. The country imports nearly 89 per cent of its crude oil requirements, making it particularly vulnerable to price fluctuations and supply disruptions.

The net import bill stood at $10 billion in October 2025. Brent crude averaged $124.77 per barrel during the month, compared with $64.75 a year earlier. The Indian crude basket also nearly doubled in value, averaging $119.91 per barrel against $65.08 in October last year.Crude oil imports alone cost $19.5 billion in October, up from $10.4 billion a year ago, although import volumes increased by a relatively modest 11 per cent to 23.3 million tonnes. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports accounted for $1.3 billion, while petroleum product exports fetched $6.3 billion.

The impact of the energy supply disruption was particularly visible in the LPG segment, with imports and domestic consumption registering sharp declines. Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) consumption fell 12.3 per cent in October and 15.1 per cent during April-October. The number of active domestic LPG consumers also declined to 32.6 crore as of November 1, from 33.4 crore on April 1, the PPAC data showed.Direct private LPG imports plunged 83.8 per cent in October and 97.3 per cent during the first seven months of the financial year. Packed domestic LPG sales by state-run oil companies fell 11.8 per cent in October, while bulk LPG sales dropped 49.1 per



cent. Auto LPG sales, however, rose 23.9 per cent.The decline comes amid disruptions to energy shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for global oil and gas supplies. The conflict in West Asia has heightened concerns over the movement of energy cargoes through the waterway, affecting supplies to import-dependent countries such as India.The International Energy Agency, in its World Energy Outlook 2026, said LPG imports had fallen by more than 50 per cent during the first two months of the shipping disruption.

Imports of petroleum products fell 41.2 per cent in October and 49.3 per cent during April-October. PPAC attributed the decline during the financial year so far mainly to lower imports of LPG, petroleum coke and fuel oil.

The higher global crude prices have also pushed up India's cumulative energy import expenditure. During April-October, the country's net oil and gas import bill climbed to $97.7 billion from $70.3 billion in the corresponding period last year. Crude imports during the seven-month period cost $111 billion, against $72.3 billion a year earlier, despite volumes rising only 2.7 per cent.

Consumption trends for other fuels remained relatively resilient. Diesel consumption rose 12 per cent year-on-year to 8.5 million tonnes in October, while petrol sales increased 3.5 per cent and bitumen consumption grew 16.5 per cent.Overall petroleum product consumption increased 2.7 per cent to 20.5 million tonnes in October.

However, consumption during April-October remained 3.2 per cent lower at 134.2 million tonnes.Natural gas consumption declined 7.27 per cent to 5,707 million standard cubic metres in October. LNG imports also fell 6.94 per cent to 3,014 million standard cubic metres.On the refining front, Indian refineries processed 24.1 million tonnes of crude oil in October, up 7.1 per cent year-on-year, equivalent to around 5.70 million barrels per day. Of this, 22 million tonnes were imported crude, while the remainder came from domestic production. Imported crude accounted for 88.7 per cent of the country's crude requirements during the month.

Adani Group says work at Tarali kept on hold after Maharashtra pollution body's notice

MUMBAI.(Ajency)

Adani Group has put construction activities at a site in Maharashtra's Satara district on hold after the state pollution control board issued a stop-work notice, directing the company to suspend excavation and construction work for its Tarali Pumped Storage Project.The company said the notice pertains to temporary facilities being developed at Sawarghar village, Satara, for its 1,500 MW Tarali Pumped Storage Project.The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) issued the notice on November 20, directing Adani Renewable Energy One Ltd to stop work at Gat Nos. 33 and 34.The land was earmarked for temporary construction-support facilities, including arrangements for workers and material storage. Adani Group said the sites are not part of the project's permanent components.

"The permanent project components have the requisite statutory clearances," an Adani Group spokesperson said.The spokesperson added that the temporary use of the private land had been considered in the layout approved by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The facilities will be dismantled after construction, and the land restored, as applicable.Adani Group said it was preparing a response to the MPCB."In the interim, activities relating to the temporary facilities at Gat Nos. 33 and 34 have been kept in abeyance. We remain committed to complying with all applicable statutory and environmental requirements," the spokesperson said.

POLLUTION BODY CITES LACK OF PERMISSIONS

The notice followed an inspection by MPCB officials on November 20. They found excavation and development work underway for a temporary labour camp and storage facilities.The board said the work had been undertaken without obtaining the required consent or permissions. It also said environmental clearance for the activities had not been obtained from the competent authority.The MPCB directed the company to immediately stop ongoing and proposed excavation and construction work. It warned that further legal action could follow if activities resumed without prior permission.

India to add 200 mn air conditioners by 2035 as cooling becomes new front in global energy demand

NEW DELHI.(Agency)

India is set to install an additional 200 million air conditioners in homes over the next decade, making it the biggest driver of global energy demand growth, the International Energy Agency said in its World Energy Outlook 2026.The agency said India and Southeast Asia's share of the global stock of air conditioners (ACs) will rise from "less than 10 per cent today to 20 per cent by 2035".In India and Indonesia, the IEA said, "fewer than one in five households own an AC, despite high cooling needs". By comparison, around 90 per cent of households in Australia, Japan and the United States own at least one AC.The IEA said "for the first time in energy history", demand for cooling in buildings is overtaking demand for heating.India's electricity demand is likely to grow 6 per cent a year, over the next decade, under the IEA's Stated Policies Scenario, the fastest of any major region.Total energy demand is expected to rise 2.5 per cent annually, "triple the global rate".Globally, space-cooling demand is likely to rise by 1,700 terawatt-hours by 2035, and in that scenario, an increase the agency said is "roughly equivalent to India's total electricity demand today".The IEA also modelled a heatwave case, in which hotter and longer heatwaves push up AC ownership and use.Cooling demand growth is 700 TWh, or 40 per cent, higher, "with particularly strong implications for peak demand".In its Current Policies Scenario, global peak cooling demand is expected to grow by 720 gigawatts by 2035, "more than the entire generation capacity of India today", the report said.The report said India's seasonal swings in power demand are lower in the Stated Policies Scenario than under current policies, "despite similar levels of electrification".The reason is faster adoption of more efficient appliances that "moderate variations in electricity demand".



Weather also moves the numbers.In 2025, an early and strong monsoon depressed India's electricity demand and boosted hydropower output, helping keep its coal demand in check, the IEA said.India is the world's second-biggest coal consumer.Beyond cooling, the IEA expects India to add over 12,000 cars a day to its roads and see a 33 per cent rise in built space. Steel and cement production is also likely to surge.Energy investment in India may rise 85 per cent by 2035 from 2025 levels, making it the fastest-growing major destination for such spending.

SpiceJet selling tickets to places it can't fly, creating chaos for flyers at airports

NEW DELHI.(Agency)

SpiceJet, which is facing an existential crisis, is continuing to accept bookings for domestic and international flights without adequately warning prospective passengers about potential cancellations. It is even booking flights on routes on which it can't simply operate. SpiceJet's mounting flight disruptions come amid high air turbine fuel (ATF) prices, a shrinking operational fleet, and regulatory scrutiny of the budget airliner.

India Today Digital tried to book flights on Saturday (November 21) and found that the airline's website displayed no specific disruption-related warning for either a Delhi-Dubai or a Delhi-Mumbai service, both scheduled to take off on November 24. Both booking attempts proceeded all the way to the payment stage.

The case of Delhi-Dubai is particularly interesting because Dubai International Airport (DXB) has recently suspended check-in services for SpiceJet flights over unpaid dues.The bookings on Delhi-Mumbai route also raises questions, given that SpiceJet cancelled multiple flights in both directions between November 19 and 21, with at least eight cancellations recorded on each leg over the three days.The disruptions and cancellations have been going on for weeks now.

A person told India Today Digital that his relatives faced an 11-hour delay on a SpiceJet flight from Bengaluru to Delhi. He said the airport was chaotic, with angry passengers confronting ground staff, who appeared helpless. The airline, he added, informed passengers of the delay only an hour before the scheduled departure, by which time the people had reached the airport.

This was at least three weeks before Diwali.On November 19, hours of delay and subsequent cancellation of a SpiceJet Delhi-Mumbai flight triggered chaos at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. Passengers chanted "chor, chor (thieves)", criticising SpiceJet.

Despite reduced flights and being unable to operate from certain destinations, SpiceJet was accepting bookings. Its Mumbai-Dubai flight, SG-5060, has not operated for the past week, yet tickets for the service were still listed for sale on November 21.Then, there are dozens of posts on social media on SpiceJet not refunding passengers for cancelled flights.

One person said it had been 20 days, and they were yet to receive the money.India Today Digital on November 20 reached out to SpiceJet, enquiring as to how it was seeking to assure passengers that upcoming flights will operate as scheduled and what arrangements it is making for passengers whose flights might get disrupted or cancelled.

Mysterious devotee offers 121 kg gold to Tirupati deity

TIRUMALA.(Agency)

An anonymous devotee is set to offer 121 kg of gold ornaments to Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala on Thursday. The offering comprises 43 gold ornaments arranged in nine sets, with an estimated value of Rs 150-160 crore.According to reliable sources, the devotee is an industrialist from Chennai.

The devotee has already consulted the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) to make the mega offering. According to TTD sources, this will be the largest offering ever made by an individual devotee to Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala. The gold ornaments include a crown, Padukalu, a multi-strand necklace and others.It is learnt that the devotee visited the TTD Bokkasam (treasury) five months ago, and sought details of gold ornaments required to adorn the Lord.

After receiving the details, the devotee placed an order to make 45 ornaments. Temple officials told TNIE are making arrangements to receive the gold ornaments at the Ranganayakula Mandapam on November 26.

Vizag techie turns solo traveller, covers 13 countries in 365 days

VISAKHAPATNAM.(Agency)

The greatest lessons from travelling are not always found in guidebooks or at popular tourist destinations. Sometimes, they emerge from sharing a meal with an indigenous community, learning an unfamiliar tradition or finding the courage to overcome a long-held fear. For Visakhapatnam's Annapurna Maddi, a year of travelling across 13 countries brought all these experiences together, changing not only how she viewed the world but also how she understood herself.A software professional who had spent most of her life in Visakhapatnam, Annapurna had rarely lived away from her family before embarking on solo travel. The decision was not easy. However, a remote job after completing her engineering degree gave her the freedom to explore.

Three years into independent travel, an opportunity through Scapia Leap Year enabled her to undertake a fully funded, 365-day journey, complete with a monthly stipend and mentorship. Her travels took her across India, Asia, Africa and Europe.Each destination offered a different lesson. In Nagaland, the Hornbill Festival introduced her to the cultural richness. In Bali, she spent nearly a month at a locally run homestay, where she understood the significance of daily religious offerings. In Papua New Guinea, she experienced indigenous ways of life.

Silver price dip revives Salem's anklet industry

SALEM.(Agency)

Salem's silver anklet industry, which has been reeling under a prolonged slowdown due to soaring silver prices, is showing signs of recovery, with a recent dip in rates bringing back customers and orders. Manufacturers are now receiving around one lakh anklet orders a month, nearly half the industry's normal volume of two lakh, raising hopes of a revival ahead of Pongal.

Salem has nearly 7,000 units involved in the silver anklet trade, employing around one lakh people. Production is spread across several localities. More than 15 varieties of anklets are made in the city, with Sivathapuram having the largest concentration of units, followed by Shevapet, Nethimedu, Gugai and Kondalampatti.Before silver prices began climbing, manufacturers produced over two lakh anklets a month, with output rising during peak seasons such as Deepavali, Onam, Akshaya Tritiya and Pongal. However, the sharp increase in raw material costs hit demand, forcing several small units to shut down or scale back operations. Silver, which had crossed Rs 1L/kg before rising to around Rs 2 lakh in 2025, touched nearly Rs 425/g (Rs 4.25L/kg) in January 2026.The industry struggled even during its peak business seasons. A shortage of raw silver affected production during Deepavali in 2025, while high prices dampened.

He chose cows over foreign shores, at 22, builds a Rs 40-lakh dairy business

Chandigarh.(Agency)

At a time when many young people in Punjab are looking abroad for better opportunities, 22-year-old Jashanpreet Singh Sidhu has chosen a different path. A graduate from Dhan Singh Khana village in Bathinda district, he has decided to build his future not on foreign shores but on his family's dairy farm.What began as a childhood routine of helping his father in the fields and tending to a small herd of cattle has, in five years, grown into a business worth around Rs 40 lakh, with monthly milk sales of approximately Rs 2.80 lakh.Jashanpreet was just 17, and still in school, when he decided to turn the family's modest dairy activity, then largely meant for household consumption, into a commercial venture. The family owned five to six cattle, but they were not of the quality required for commercial dairy farming. He gradually acquired knowledge of the trade, sold three of the existing animals and invested in better-quality Holstein Friesian (HF) cows.Today, he runs a 25-cow dairy farm, built around high-yielding animals, improved management practices and a regular milk-supply arrangement with Verka.His decision was driven as much by his father's influence as by the economics of conventional agriculture. Davinder Singh, who has been farming for years, encouraged him to explore an independent venture.

"From working alongside my father while studying to managing a dairy operation, his encouragement remains my biggest inspiration," Jashanpreet says.The family owns four acres and had earlier cultivated another 100 acres on lease. However, as input costs and rental expenses mounted, Jashanpreet began questioning the returns from conventional farming. The family has since reduced its leased landholding to 30 acres while gradually expanding the dairy business."We used to take a lot of land on rent. But when I started calculating the returns, I realised that a good-quality cow could generate more income than one acre under wheat and paddy. Why should we keep



taking land on rent when leased agricultural land costs around Rs 75,000 to Rs 92,000 per acre, and dairy farming could offer better returns?" he says.

Building the business, however, required more than investing in better cattle. Jashanpreet learnt the basics of animal care, including administering injections and providing primary treatment, through practical training and experience. Veterinary assistance is sought whenever necessary, while milking machinery has helped streamline daily operations.The farm follows an open-shed system, with the cows not tied up. Milk production varies from 10-20 litres a day in some animals to 30-40 litres in the higher-yielding ones, with the herd averaging around 21 litres per animal daily. Around half the cattle are in milk at any given time, helping ensure a regular supply.

The family currently sells more than 2.5 quintals of milk daily to Verka at Rs 37 per kg. The arrangement, Jashanpreet says, provides the assurance of regular procurement, with milk collected directly from the farm, besides access to the cooperative's wider marketing network and dairy infrastructure.

Promise of marriage, job: How woman from UP's Azamgarh landed in Bengal brothel

The police said the victim was sold off for Rs 1 lakh and was being forced into prostitution at the brothel against her will.

Lucknow(Agency)

When the 19-year-old from Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh district went missing from her village on March 17, police and her family had no clue about her whereabouts for months.

The woman's father, a labourer, ran from pillar to post for weeks after lodging a missing person's complaint in the local police station but the case seemed to have hit a dead end.While working on some leads, the Azamgarh police got their first major breakthrough in the case in September with the arrest of Shiva Mandal from West Bengal. Mandal, a resident of West Bengal's Murshidabad district, had been in touch with the woman over the phone for nearly two months before she disappeared, it was found.As the probe progressed, the investigators stumbled upon an elaborate inter-state human trafficking racket and traced the missing woman to a brothel in West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur district.To rescue the woman from the brothel where she was held captive, a team of Azamgarh police carried out a three-day undercover operation, senior officials said. The team approached some trafficking agents and gained their confidence, and were able to penetrate the network, they added.

The police said the victim was sold off for Rs 1 lakh and was being forced into prostitution at the brothel against her will.The 19-year-old survivor has studied up to Class 5, it is learnt.

"After three days of sustained efforts, our police team, including a woman constable, managed to trace the



victim. With the support of the local police, we successfully rescued her from the brothel on Thursday," said Azamgarh Superintendent of Police (City) Manush Pareek.

Three more persons, allegedly part of the trafficking network that preyed on vulnerable young women with promises of employment and marriage before pushing them into prostitution, were arrested on Thursday. They have been identified as Suresh Ram and Mahesh Kumar from Bihar and Mohammad Ali, a resident of West Bengal.With this, the total arrests in the case have reached seven. Apart from Shiva Mandal, Azamgarh police had earlier arrested Gaffar Mian, Abhishek Raj and his wife Sitara Khatoon, all from Bihar."Police are searching for five more accused whose involvement emerged during the investigation," said Azamgarh Senior Superintendent of Police Anil Kumar.The wanted accused are Binda, Geeta, Nazra Khatoon, and Chottu Ram and his wife Sarita. Binda, Geeta and Nazra Khatoon are wives of the arrested accused Gaffar Mian, Mahesh and Mohammad Ali, respectively.The gang targeted women at railway stations and bus stands and those who resisted were sexually assaulted, beaten and threatened with death, police said.

During his questioning, Shiva Mandal provided crucial leads that helped the police arrest Abhishek Raj and his wife Sitara from Bihar's East Champaran earlier this month, the officials said.The police subsequently arrested Gaffar Mian who they said initially tried to mislead them by claiming the Azamgarh woman had been sold in Bangladesh. But during his further questioning, he revealed that she had been handed over to Sarita, who subsequently sold her to Mohammad Ali, they said, adding Gaffar.

Madras HC allows lorry driver's wife to view CCTV footage in custodial death case

MADURAI.(Agency)

The Madurai Bench of Madras HC has permitted the wife of a lorry driver who allegedly died by suicide at Chekkanurani police station on November 14, to view the CCTV footage recorded at four police stations connected with her husband's death, at CBCID's office in Madurai on Monday. Her advocate and two of her family members were allowed to accompany her.

Justice R Vijayakumar granted this permission on condition that all the above persons should leave their electronic devices outside the viewing room and should refrain from recording the clippings.A technical staff from CBCID should be made available in the hall to assist them, he added. "The permission granted to the petitioner is solely for the purpose of satisfying themselves as to the line and direction of the investigation. What they view may be used only for approaching a statutory forum. No press meet or public debate shall follow the viewing of the CCTV footage," Justice Vijayakumar said.He further clarified that the above order is passed only in view of the fact that the case relates to alleged custodial torture or custodial death.The judge issued the directions on Friday, while disposing of a petition filed by B Sudha, wife of the deceased Balakrishnan, seeking direction to preserve and get a copy of the CCTV footage recorded at four police stations- Chekkanurani, Usilampatti town and taluk, Valandur- where the deceased was said to have gone or had been taken to by the police prior to his death.

Pursuant to earlier directions issued by the court, the police submitted two copies of the footage sought by the petitioner before the high court, along with relevant certificates.However, the additional public prosecutor representing the CBCID objected to furnishing a copy of the footage to the petitioner, saying the footage is required to be produced only before the jurisdictional magistrate. Handing over the footage to the petitioner while the investigation is pending, particularly in a sensitive case such as this, would clearly impede the investigation, he added. He further feared that the footage may also be tampered with and published on social media and press meets may be conducted, resulting in them being used as a political tool.

Andaman and Nicobar to get undersea cable network, 4G coverage in 87 villages

Srivijayapuram.(Agency)

The Centre is considering several measures to strengthen digital connectivity across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, including an undersea cable network linking eight islands and an expansion of 4G services to 87 villages without mobile coverage, news agency Press Trust of India reported.The proposed initiatives are intended to improve access to online services and emergency communication across remote and geographically dispersed parts of the islands.The proposals were discussed at a meeting between Union Telecommunications Secretary Amit Agrawal and Andaman and Nicobar Islands Lieutenant Governor Dinesh Sharma, along with senior officials of the Central government and the island administration.The details were shared in a release issued by Lok Niwas in Sri Vijaya Puram on Saturday, according to PTI.A key focus was the proposed Port Alternative Network for Islands, or PANI, project.Under the plan, Diglipur, Mayabunder, Shaheed Dweep, Chowra, Teressa, Katchal, Nancowry and Little Nicobar will be connected through an undersea optical fibre cable network.The project is expected to address mobile and internet connectivity problems on remote islands and provide more reliable communication during emergencies.The proposed network will originate in Puri, Odisha, and offer an alternative route to the existing Chennai-Andaman and Nicobar Islands undersea cable network.This is expected to help maintain internet services if the existing cable system is damaged or disrupted.During the meeting, Sharma suggested that Dugong Creek be included in the proposed network and that a cable landing



station be established there to expand its reach and reliability, the release said.Officials also reviewed the implementation of the 4G saturation scheme under the Digital Bharat Nidhi.A proposal to extend 4G mobile connectivity to 87 uncovered villages was discussed, with priority to be based on population. The initiative seeks to bring residents of remote and inaccessible areas within the mobile network.The meeting also discussed speeding up the revised BharatNet Programme, which aims to provide fibre-to-the-home connectivity.

500 Pakistani Hindu refugees leave UP with teary eyes and a plea for citizenship

Kunda.(Agency)

For three days, Kunda in Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh was a home away from home for more than 500 Hindu refugees from Pakistan. But as the time came to leave after attending Baba Bageshwar's Shri Ram Katha, emotions spilt over.

There were tearful goodbyes and heartfelt embraces as Kunda MLA Raghuraj Pratap Singh, popularly known as Raja Bhaiya, arrived to see the families off. He, too, was overcome with emotion as they prepared to leave.As they boarded their buses, the refugees made an appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking Indian citizenship and an extension of the cut-off date under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)."We are identified as Hindu Sanatanis from Pakistan. We don't want that. We want Indian citizenship. So, it is a request to the Narendra Modi government to extend the cut-off date of the CAA so that all the Hindu refugees should get citizenship status," one of the refugees said.He also urged the government to ensure hassle-free visa services for family members of the refugees.The families had travelled from Jodhpur in Rajasthan to Pratapgarh on a special invitation from Raja Bhaiya. The three-day religious gathering was held at Benti Raj Bhavan in Kunda, where Bageshwar Dham chief Dhirendra Krishna Shastri, popularly known as Baba Bageshwar, delivered the Shri Ram Katha.The refugees were seated in a designated area in front of the stage and listened to the religious discourse. Organisers had made special arrangements for their accommodation, food and other needs during their stay. Shastri also referred to the Pakistani Hindu refugees during his discourse.

Women among the refugees said the three days in Kunda had been an experience they would cherish. They recalled the arrangements made for their stay and the



affection shown to them by the locals, saying the warmth they received had made their visit especially memorable.

The visit was also part of a religious itinerary that included plans to travel to the Sangam in Prayagraj, Ayodhya and Kashi. Ten buses had been arranged for the journey to these destinations.The families are among the Hindu migrants who came to India from Pakistan after facing persecution there.

Anupama Ramachandran scripts history, becomes first Indian to defend world snooker title

New Delhi.(Agency)

Anupama Ramachandran made history on home soil, beating So Man Yan 3-1 to defend her IBSF World Snooker Championship title and become the first Indian to win back-to-back crowns.

After losing a scrappy opening frame, Anupama found her touch and took control of the contest. She made her opponent work for every point before sealing the win to defend the title she had won last year."Winning a title is special in itself, but defending it is even more special. Winning it on home soil in India makes it all the more special," Anupama told PTI after her victory.The Indian began to find her range in the second frame, putting together breaks of 31, 19 and 16 to level the match. She carried that momentum into the third, with further breaks of 16, 28 and 18 giving her a 2-1 lead.So Man Yan started the fourth frame with a break of 20, but Anupama responded with runs of 14 and 26. She missed the blue to the top-right pocket but returned to the table to pot a long blue into the bottom-right pocket before sinking the pink into the top-right to seal the title.The victory earned Anupama USD 4,000.In the men's final, Iran's Ali Gharahgozlou defeated Hong Kong China's Tam Yun Fung 5-1 to claim the title and the USD 10,000 winner's cheque.

Gharahgozlou had beaten India's Pankaj Advani 5-3 in the semifinals earlier in the day. He carried that form into the final, impressing the crowd with his potting and consistency.The Iranian said he kept reminding himself that winning the title was the goal."I told myself that I had to win the title. That is how I motivated myself to secure the victory.

Hazlewood doesn't speak to Khawaja: AUS pacer reveals team divide during Sandpapergate

New Delhi.(Agency)

Josh Hazlewood has admitted that he barely speaks to Usman Khawaja, revealing that their relationship has remained distant despite spending years together in the Australian dressing room. His comments come amid Khawaja's fresh revelations on Sandpapergate, which have plunged Cricket Australia into turmoil, with the fast bowler also offering an insight into the squad's dynamics during the 2018 scandal.The remarks came in the second part of a two-part exclusive interview with The Herald Sun, in which Hazlewood spoke about his relationship with Khawaja and the atmosphere within the Australian camp during the 2018 Cape Town tour. He stressed that there was no personal animosity between them, but admitted they had never been particularly close away from cricket."I think in any work environment, whether it be sport or in the office, and you have a team of 20, there's two or three who you just don't get along with in terms of hanging out," Hazlewood said.

"You get on with each other from a professional point of view and I always did with everyone I played with; I tried to and I didn't hate them or avoid them at all costs, but I didn't go out of my way to hang out with them," he added.

AUSTRALIA DRESSING ROOM WAS NOT CLOSE

Hazlewood also challenged the impression that the Australian team was a closely-knit group during the 2018 Cape Town tour. With the latest allegations bringing the reported divide between the batting and bowling groups back into focus, the pacer acknowledged that those divisions may have existed to some extent."One thing to mention about the team at the time is it wasn't the closest team. It's been thrown around now about bowlers versus batters, but at that point in time, it might have been true to a degree," he said.Hazlewood insisted that he held no grudge against Khawaja over the release or timing of Sabr.

India's batting blitz leaves New Zealand with an uphill fight for survival

Rishabh Pant's fearless strokeplay gave India's dominant batting display its defining moment, leaving New Zealand with a mountain to climb in Wellington. The hosts now face a desperate fight for survival on the final day, with India sensing a series-opening victory.

New Delhi.(Agency)

India have given New Zealand a mountain to climb in Wellington, and the hosts now face a long day of survival if they are to escape the opening Test with a draw. A breathtaking batting display, headlined by Rishabh Pant's typically fearless century, took the visitors to 720/9 declared on Day 4, leaving them with a commanding 352-run first-innings lead.

Pant was the showstopper, but this was far from a one-man effort. Anshul Kamboj made sure the nightwatchman tag did not define his morning, Dhruv Jurel took charge of the lower-order assault, and even Akash Deep joined the party with a lively cameo. India kept finding runs long after New Zealand would have hoped to have wrapped up the innings.There was also a little redemption in Pant's century. Shubman Gill had fallen for 98 on Day 3, missing out on a deserved hundred by the narrowest of margins. Pant, however, was not going to leave the milestone to chance.By the time India declared, they had not only secured a massive lead but also rewritten the record books. Their 720/9 was the highest Test total ever posted by a visiting or home side in New Zealand, making it a day the hosts will not forget in a hurry.Jasprit Bumrah carried that momentum into the second innings, needing just two deliveries to send New Zealand captain Tom Latham back for a duck. Henry Nicholls and Devon Conway



briefly steadied the innings before Prasidh Krishna struck. Conway and Rachin Ravindra then saw out the remaining overs, taking the hosts to 119/2 at stumps.The hosts still trail by 233 runs, with eight wickets in hand and one day left. India need those eight wickets for victory, while New Zealand must find a way to bat out the final day. With crucial World Test Championship points on offer, there is plenty riding on Monday's finish.

PANT'S SIX-HITTING MASTERCLASS

After Gill missed out on his century by just two runs on Day 3, there was always going to be a little anxiety as Pant moved closer to the landmark. And with Pant being Pant, the possibility of an unexpected shot bringing his innings to an end was never too far away. But while those thoughts might have been playing out in the minds of viewers, the wicketkeeper-batter seemed to have other plans. He danced down the track and launched Glenn Phillips over the ropes to bring up his ninth Test hundred. Of course, it had to be that way.

CSK will miss Dhoni the player, but gain from his mentorship: Noor Ahmad

New Delhi.(Agency)

Chennai Super Kings will miss MS Dhoni's presence behind the stumps, particularly his sharp stumpings and finishing abilities, but Afghanistan spinner Noor Ahmad believes the former captain's new role as mentor will continue to benefit the franchise.Dhoni ended his IPL playing career ahead of the retention deadline and took up a mentorship role with CSK. Noor, who shared the dressing room with the veteran during his time at the franchise,



feels his presence will help the team immensely."Everyone will miss him but his new role, that's going to help the team massively and I am happy that he is still with the team," Noor, who is currently representing Dubai Capitals in the DP World International League T20, told PTI.Asked what he would miss most about Dhoni as a player, the 21-year-old picked his wicketkeeping and finishing skills."There are many things, but I would say his stumping maybe, and his finishing abilities," he added.Noor also spoke about the importance of playing in different T20 leagues, saying the experience of sharing dressing rooms with senior players and adapting to different conditions helps young cricketers improve."It's very important to play around the world in the leagues and to share the dressing room with different kinds of players, with different senior players and you get a lot to learn there and that's how you improve as a youngster," he said.

The Afghanistan spinner expects teams that adapt quickly to the conditions to have an advantage in the ILT20, especially with several players arriving after competing in other tournaments.

"It will be a great competition and whoever adjusts to the conditions soon, they will have more advantage to succeed in this tournament," Noor said.He also defended the importance of flight in spin bowling, saying it remains an effective way to vary pace and challenge batters despite the growing emphasis on variations in T20 cricket.Noor, however, believes the IPL remains one of the toughest competitions for bowlers because of flat pitches and the additional batting depth teams get through the Impact Player rule.

"Every format of cricket is tough, no cricket is easy - but I would say IPL is tough, for some reason there is one impact substitute player, they have like more batsmen to bat, and flat pitches, that's the hardest one," he added.

Australia's Sandpapergate bigger than Cronje's match-fixing: Ex-England captain

New Delhi.(Agency)

Geoffrey Boycott believes Steve Smith and David Warner should have been banned for five years for their roles in Australia's 2018 ball-tampering scandal. The former England opener has also rated Sandpapergate as more serious than the match-fixing scandal involving former South Africa captain Hansie Cronje, citing the alleged involvement of a much larger group.The controversy has returned to the spotlight following fresh revelations about the Cape Town Test, with Cricket Australia and senior players Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc facing renewed scrutiny. Boycott, meanwhile, has stood by his view that the punishments handed to Australia's senior players were too lenient.Writing in his column for *The Telegraph*, the former England opener said the scale of involvement set Sandpapergate apart from the Cronje affair."The sandpaper scandal is even bigger than Hansie Cronje's match-fixing, which ripped apart South Africa cricket more than 25 years ago. This is bigger than anything I have read or seen in cricket: a whole team cheating," Boycott wrote.He argued that Cronje had involved only two younger players, Herschelle Gibbs and Henry Williams, in his plans, while the rest of the South African squad and coaching staff knew nothing about it."Cronje's crimes mainly involved him recruiting a couple of junior players, Herschelle Gibbs and Henry Williams, into his scheme. The rest of the squad and coaches had no idea," he added.



FIVE-YEAR BANS FOR SMITH AND WARNER?

Boycott has never been convinced that the punishments handed to Smith and Warner were enough. Both players received 12-month suspensions following the Cape Town Test, while Cameron Bancroft was banned for nine months."I said at the time and have always believed that David Warner and Steve Smith got off lightly and should have been banned for five years," Boycott wrote.The former opener also took issue with the suggestion that the ball-tampering incident was a spur-of-the-moment decision. He said it was carefully planned, with Bancroft, the junior member of the group, left to carry out the act.

I love him as a mentor: Dhruv Jurel reveals why he looks up to Rishabh Pant

Dhruv Jurel opens up on his admiration for Rishabh Pant, calling him a phenomenon and a mentor. The young wicketkeeper reveals how he studies Pant's fearless batting mindset after their crucial partnership against New Zealand.

Wellington.(Agency)

Dhruv Jurel has found a mentor in Rishabh Pant, and the young wicketkeeper is making sure he learns as much as he can from one of India's most attacking Test batters. For Jurel, Pant's greatest quality is perhaps his ability to read a situation, trust his instincts and produce something unexpected when the opposition least expects it.Sharing the dressing room with Pant has given Jurel an opportunity to observe that approach closely. The 24-year-old, who has also been making his mark with the bat, revealed that he regularly turns to the senior wicketkeeper to understand his mindset and the thinking behind his audacious strokeplay."Rishabh is phenomenal. I always ask him about his mindset. Whenever we all think that he will play normally, just then he steps out and hits. I love him as a mentor," Jurel said after the day's play on Sunday.



The admiration comes after the two wicketkeepers combined for a blistering partnership on Day 4 of the second Test against New Zealand at the Basin Reserve. Jurel and Pant added 75 runs in just 14 overs, putting the New Zealand bowlers under considerable pressure as India extended their advantage.Pant was the headline act, producing another memorable innings of 128 off 153 deliveries. His ninth Test century featured 10 boundaries and six sixes, and also completed a special milestone. He became the first Asian wicketkeeper to score Test hundreds in all four SENA countries – South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia.

India eventually declared at 720 for nine, securing a massive 352-run first-innings lead after New Zealand had posted 368 in their reply.

JUREL MAKES HIS CASE

While Pant's century attracted much of the attention, Jurel continued to strengthen his own credentials as a batter who can contribute significantly in the longest format.The young wicketkeeper scored an attacking 78 off just 79 deliveries, following up on his century in the previous Test in Colombo. The innings was another indication of his ability to adjust his approach according to the demands of the situation.Jurel believes adaptability is one of the most important aspects of batting in Test cricket. Rather than sticking to a predetermined method, he prefers to assess the circumstances and respond accordingly."I play as per situation demands. Adaptability gives you a sense of confidence. How you react to a given situation," he explained.

sHis willingness to contribute wherever required was also evident when he was asked about the possibility of bowling. Jurel responded with a light-hearted but telling remark, making it clear that he would not shy away from any responsibility while representing India.

Argentina's Leandro Paredes faints during live interview, collapses on camera

Barranquilla.(Agency)

Argentina midfielder Leandro Paredes suffered a worrying moment after fainting during a live television interview following Boca Juniors' Copa Sudamericana triumph over Atletico Mineiro in Barranquilla, Colombia, on Saturday.The 32-year-old was speaking to a journalist at the Estadio Metropolitano Roberto Melendez when he suddenly appeared to lose his balance before collapsing in front of the cameras.Paredes was discussing the significance of winning the continental trophy with Boca when the incident occurred. The interviewer immediately tried to prevent the midfielder from falling, but was unable to hold him. Members of the medical staff and other officials quickly rushed to his assistance.The broadcast was interrupted as Paredes received medical attention. However, there was some relief shortly afterwards when the Argentine had regained his composure and was able to walk towards the dressing room on his own.

HEAT TAKES ITS TOLL

The incident came after Paredes had already struggled with the demanding conditions during the final. High temperatures and humidity in Barranquilla appeared to take a toll on the midfielder, who had been experiencing discomfort during the match.Paredes was substituted in the 58th minute after struggling physically.

His teammates were also seen trying to cool him down while he sat on the bench.Boca manager Rodolfo Arruabarrena also spoke about the midfielder's condition, revealing that Paredes had experienced dizziness during the game."He felt dizzy towards the end of the first half. He improved a little during the break, but after 10 minutes in the second half, you could see he was struggling," the coach said.

BOCA CELEBRATE TITLE

The worrying episode came on an otherwise memorable night for Boca Juniors, who defeated Atletico Mineiro 2-0 to lift the Copa Sudamericana trophy.Santiago Ascacibar and Miguel Merentiel scored the goals that secured the title, ending Boca's long wait for another major continental triumph.



Avneet Kaur

And Raghav Sharma Getting Married? Music Producer Breaks Silence On Wedding Rumours

Actress Avneet Kaur's rumoured relationship with music producer Raghav Sharma has once again become a topic of discussion, this time over speculation that the two are preparing to get married. Social media has been flooded with conjecture about an alleged wedding in Jamnagar, with several recent Instagram posts being interpreted as hints about an impending ceremony. However, Raghav has now addressed the rumours and clarified whose wedding celebrations are actually underway.The clarification came through a video shared by actor Aly Goni, who appeared to be teasing Raghav about the reports. Rather than allowing the speculation to continue, the music producer explained that it was his brother who was getting married. His response comes after Avneet's recent visit to Jamnagar and a cryptic Instagram Story shared by one of her close friends added to the wedding buzz.

Raghav Sharma Reacts To Wedding Rumours With Avneet Kaur

In a video posted by Aly Goni, the actor can be seen congratulating Raghav, apparently making light of the rumours surrounding his supposed wedding with Avneet.Raghav, however, wasted little time clearing up the confusion."Mere bhai ki shaadi hai. Thik hai guys? Ho gaya," he said, explaining that the celebrations were for his brother's marriage.



His response prompted laughter from both men, with the exchange taking a humorous turn.While Raghav's clarification appears to have settled the speculation about an immediate wedding, neither he nor Avneet has publicly confirmed their alleged romantic relationship.

How Avneet Kaur And Raghav Sharma's Wedding Rumours Started

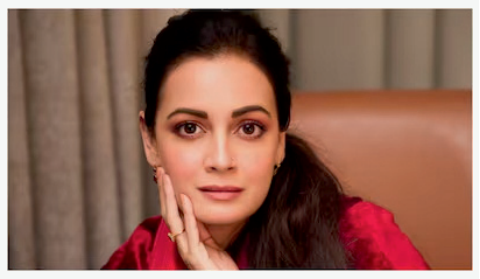
The speculation began gathering momentum after reports emerged that Avneet had travelled to Jamnagar. Her visit prompted social media users to wonder whether the actress was preparing for a private wedding ceremony with Raghav.The rumours intensified when Avneet's close friend, Krupa Lakhani, shared an Instagram Story featuring her hands decorated with mehendi.Krupa captioned the photograph, "Full prepsss", accompanying it with a hush-face emoji.Although the post did not mention Avneet or Raghav, several social media users interpreted it as a possible indication of wedding preparations.Avneet's subsequent Instagram activity further fuelled the chatter. The actress shared photographs from celebrations reported to be associated with Raghav's brother's wedding and congratulated the couple.



Dia Mirza's

Anti-Cracker Campaign Video Remains Down, BMC Faces Questions Over HC Order

Dia Mirza's video, which was part of the civic body's anti-pollution campaign, was taken down earlier this month. The matter came up again at Thursday's general body meeting, where Opposition leaders wanted to know why it was still missing despite a Bombay High Court order.MNS group leader Yashwant Killedar questioned the BMC's decision to remove the video in the first place. He pointed out that the civic body had approached Dia and several other celebrities to be part of the campaign, so why was her video singled out? He also wanted to know why it had not been put back online even after the High Court's November 3 directive.



Killedar said the public deserved an explanation.Shiv Sena UBT's Opposition Leader Kishori Pednekar also raised concerns about the issue. She said noise pollution was a problem for everyone, irrespective of their religion or community, and questioned why the discussion was centred only around firecrackers. She also felt that the larger message shared by other celebrities as part of the campaign had got lost in the controversy over Dia's video.The BJP leaders had a different take. Leader of the House Ganesh Khankar and BJP corporator Pravin Chheda argued that environmental restrictions should apply equally to all festivals. They pointed to the restrictions on DJs during Ganeshotsav and loud music during Navratri after 10 pm, saying that celebrations should be treated uniformly.The discussion went on for around one-and-a-half hours. Deputy Mayor Sanjay Ghadi, who was presiding over the meeting in the absence of Mayor Ritu Tawde, kept the point of order pending.

The issue goes back to a BMC awareness campaign featuring several celebrities. Launched following a High Court directive amid concerns over rising air pollution, the campaign encouraged Mumbaikars to skip firecrackers and celebrate an eco-friendly Diwali.Dia was among the celebrities who came on board. However, her video was removed on November 1, within hours of BJP Mumbai president and MLA Ameet Satam objecting to it in a post on X and tagging the civic body. On November 3, the Bombay High Court directed the BMC to upload the video again. However, it is yet to appear on the civic body's platforms.

Ramayana Box Office Day 15: Ranbir Kapoor's Film Continues Its Blockbuster Run, Crosses Rs 861 Crore in India



Ranbir Kapoor's big-screen outing as Lord Rama is turning out to be a huge hit with audiences. Even after two weeks in theatres, Ramayana is bringing in big numbers at the box office. The film has crossed the lifetime collections of Ranveer Singh's Dhurandhar and Vicky Kaushal's Chhaava. Now, some of the biggest blockbusters are in its sights, including Dhurandhar: The Revenge, Pushpa 2: The Rule, Baahubali 2: The Conclusion and Dangal.

Ramayana Box Office Collection Day 15

Ramayana added another Rs 16.72 crore to its collection on Thursday, according to trade website Sacnilk. This takes the film's total India collection to Rs 861.12 crore. The film has now crossed the lifetime collection of Yash's KGF: Chapter 2, which earned Rs 859.70 crore in India. That's another big achievement for the Ranbir Kapoor and Yash starrer!Ramayana had a fantastic first week, collecting Rs 564.50 crore. It then earned Rs 48.10 crore on its second Friday. The numbers went up over the weekend, with the film making Rs 72.90 crore on Saturday and Rs 75 crore on Sunday. During the weekdays, it collected Rs 32 crore on Monday, Rs 28.60 crore on Tuesday and Rs 23.20 crore on Wednesday before adding another Rs 16.72 crore on Thursday.

About Ramayana

Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, Ramayana is being made in two parts and is based on the ancient epic by Valmiki. Ranbir Kapoor plays Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi plays Sita and Yash is seen as Ravana. Ravi Dubey plays Lakshman, while Sunny Deol appears as Lord Hanuman.

The story follows Lord Rama's journey and his battle against Ravana after the latter abducts Sita. The film is produced by Namit Malhotra and Yash, with music by AR Rahman and Hans Zimmer. The first part was released worldwide on November 5, 2026. The second part is scheduled to release during Diwali 2028.

Mohitt Maalik Joins Tiger Shroff's Vajr As Antagonist, Film To Be Shot In Japan: Report



Actor Mohitt Maalik is set to explore an interesting new space with his upcoming film Vajr, starring Tiger Shroff.According to sources, Mohitt will be seen playing an antagonist in the action entertainer, which is produced by Mahaveer Jain. And directed by Ram Madhvani, details about his character are being kept under wraps, the role is said to be an important part of the film.Speaking about the project, a source close to the development shares, "Mohitt has an interesting character in Vajr. He will be playing an antagonist opposite Tiger Shroff, and it is a role that gives him an opportunity to explore a different space as an actor."

"After Birju Lohar, this is another distinct character for him. It will also be interesting to see Mohitt and Tiger share screen space for the first time, especially in a film that has action at its core."Mohitt recently caught attention for his role as Birju Lohar, which became one of his most talked-about characters. With Vajr, the actor is now set to take on another interesting character, this time in the antagonist space.

The action-driven world of the film offers him an opportunity to explore a different side of his acting and bring a new dimension to his on-screen presence."Mirzapur: The Movie" is made under the direction of Gurmmeet Singh, the film has been presented by Amazon MGM Studios, in collaboration with Excel Entertainment.Jointly backed by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar under the banner of Excel Entertainment, the project has been co-produced by Kassim Jagmagia and Vishal Ramchandani.The film version of the series brought back several familiar faces in their beloved avatar, including Pankaj Tripathi, Ali Fazal, Divyenndu, Rasika Dugal, Shweta Tripathi, Shriya Pilgaonkar, and Harshita Gaur.

The cast also saw new members like Jitendra Kumar and Ravi Kishan.Talking about Mohit, he is best known for his role of Samrat Singh Rathore in Doli Armaano Ki and Sikandar Singh Gill in Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala.

China slams 'malicious' US ban on telecom firms' phone number access

BEIJING.(Agency).

Beijing's commerce ministry denounced on Sunday a recent move by Washington to cut direct access for Chinese telecom giants to US phone numbers, calling the decision "malicious".The order, approved in a vote on Thursday by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), aims to curb access to US phone numbers by "bad actors" it said were responsible for "illegal robocalling campaigns".Affected entities include China's three biggest telecom firms, the state-owned China Unicom, China Telecom and China Mobile."Without any factual basis, (the FCC) has violated the principles of non-discrimination and fair competition to wantonly smear and maliciously suppress Chinese telecommunications firms," Beijing's commerce ministry said in an online statement.Recent moves by the FCC aimed at "decoupling" ties in the telecoms sector "run counter to the important consensus reached by the two heads of state", it said.

They "undermine the stability of China-US economic and trade relations", it said, urging Washington to "revoke" the steps and warning China may take its own "necessary measures".

Bullets fly, vehicles burn as Mexico erupts in violence after drug lord's arrest

World.(Agency).

Gunfire ripped through the streets, military helicopters fired at suspected cartel members, trucks were torched and highways blocked as chaos engulfed Mexico's Sinaloa state following the arrest of one of the FBI's 10 most wanted fugitives.

At least 11 people have been killed in the wave of violence after the capture.

The operation to capture otorious drug lord Fausto Isidro Meza Flores, better known as "El Chapo Isidro", triggered violent clashes that sent residents scrambling for cover and brought parts of the state to a standstill.

The 44-year-old was arrested on Friday along with two senior members of his organisation in a joint operation involving Mexican Army personnel, National Guard Special Forces and US intelligence agencies.

However, the arrest was followed by violent clashes as suspected cartel gunmen attacked federal forces, triggering a shoot-out that spilled into populated areas, disrupted traffic on major highways and forced.

Eisenkot invites Netanyahu's party for Israeli coalition talks

JERUSALEM.(Agency)

Gadi Eisenkot, who is tasked with forming the next Israeli government, has invited the right-wing Likud party of caretaker prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu for coalition talks, his party said on Saturday.

Eisenkot's centrist Yashar party said the talks, scheduled to begin on Sunday, reflected a "genuine commitment to forming the broadest possible government".

Former military chief Eisenkot has until next month to form a government to replace Netanyahu, after the October election failed to deliver a clear majority for either bloc.Saturday's announcement comes as Eisenkot's wide-ranging camp faces divisions on whether to forge alliances with the ultra-Orthodox parties, or the Arab-majority lists, or whether to form a national unity government with Netanyahu's bloc.

"In an effort to pursue every option for forming a new government, Yashar Chair Gadi Eisenkot has instructed the party's negotiating team to invite its Likud counterparts to a marathon series of talks beginning with the meeting already scheduled for tomorrow," the party said in a statement.Former prime minister Naftali Bennett, an important figure in Eisenkot's camp, on Saturday.

We have work permit: Woman's desperate screams during ICE arrest at US airport

Masked ICE officers detained two passengers while travellers boarded an Alaska Airlines flight in Seattle. The confrontation delayed departure and prompted criticism from the airline, local leaders and Washington's governor.

World.(Agency).

Masked immigration officers detained two passengers on a crowded jet bridge at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport on Saturday in the US, triggering a confrontation that delayed a Los Angeles-bound flight and drew criticism from airline officials and local leaders.The incident occurred as passengers were boarding Alaska Airlines Flight 1306, which was scheduled to depart at 8:10 am.Videos circulating online showed officers struggling with at least one person on the ground as passengers stood nearby with their luggage.A woman was screaming that her daughter was being taken away and had a work permit.The airline described the incident as distressing for passengers and employees, saying Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers had not provided advance notice of the enforcement action.

ICE SAYS ARREST WAS PART OF TARGETED ENFORCEMENT OPERATION

In a statement posted on X, ICE said its officers conducted a targeted enforcement operation at around 8:05 am PST on November 21 to arrest Ricardo Larrondo Mendoza, a Mexican national who had overstayed his visa."On November 21, 2026, at approximately 8:05 a.m. PST, ICE officers conducted a targeted enforcement operation to arrest Ricardo Larrondo Mendoza, an illegal alien from Mexico who overstayed his visa in violation of our nation's laws," the agency said.ICE said another passenger, Sofia Hernandez Mejia, was also detained after she reportedly threw hot coffee at officers during the confrontation. The agency said she was identified as a Mexican national



who had also overstayed her visa and could face charges of assaulting a federal officer.According to ICE, other passengers attempted to obstruct officers during the operation, which the agency described as a federal crime.

ALASKA AIRLINES SAYS OFFICERS GAVE NO PRIOR NOTICE

Alaska Airlines expressed concern over the enforcement action, saying it had taken place during the boarding process without prior notification to the airline."We are concerned by this morning's law enforcement action during the boarding of Alaska Flight 1306," the airline said in a statement."We recognise how distressing this incident has been for affected employees and guests," it added, reiterating its commitment to treating passengers with dignity and respect.

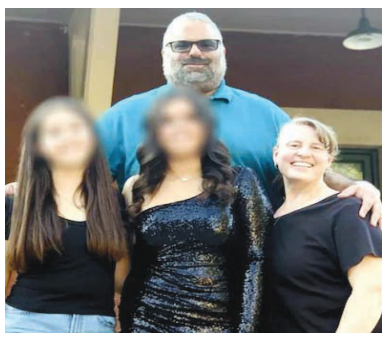
The airline said it was working with the Port of Seattle, which manages Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, to determine whether established protocols were followed. It also said it had raised its concerns directly with the relevant authorities.The flight was delayed following the incident, according to online flight data.

Dad has a gun: Family of 4 found dead in US after teen's chilling 911 call

World.(Agency)

Four members of a family, including a Purdue University professor, her husband and their two teenage daughters, were found dead inside their home in the US after one of the girls made a chilling 911 call, telling emergency dispatchers that her father had a gun and was threatening to shoot the family.The teenager's emergency call was received on the night of November 18, following which police rushed to the family's residence in Indiana and discovered the bodies.

The victims were identified as Julie Tkach, a clinical assistant professor at Purdue University, her 51-year-old husband Thomas Tkach, and their two daughters, aged 17 and 16.The Tippecanoe County Coroner's Office ruled Thomas Tkach's death a suicide, while the deaths of his wife and two daughters were classified as homicides. Indiana State Police are investigating



the case as an apparent murder-suicide.

According to Indiana-based Star City TV, emergency dispatch audio captured the chilling moments before the call, which was received around 8.30 pm, went silent, with a dispatcher reporting that multiple gunshots had been heard."She advised that her father had a gun and was threatening to shoot the family. I heard multiple gunshots go off and the line is now silent," a dispatcher was heard saying.

Authorities have not confirmed which of the two daughters made the emergency call or disclosed a possible motive behind the killings.

Police rushed to the house following the call but found all four family members dead inside. Authorities have not confirmed which of the two daughters made the emergency call.

FATHER WORKED WITH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Thomas Tkach was an employee of the Tippecanoe County Sheriff's Office, having joined the department in 2024 as a jail deputy before being selected for a courthouse security position, as per a Fox13 news report.

Bahrain industrial facility catches fire after Iranian attack as tensions intensify

World.(Agency)

A civilian industrial facility in Bahrain caught fire after being targeted in an Iranian attack on Saturday, as Tehran's widening confrontation with the US and Israel continued to spill across the Gulf. Bahrain's Ministry of Interior said the blaze broke out at the facility after what it described as "heinous Iranian aggression". Civil Defence teams were working to contain the fire, while initial reports indicated material damage but no injuries."As a result of the heinous Iranian aggression, a civilian industrial facility was targeted, causing a fire at the site. Civil Defence is working to bring the fire under control. Preliminary reports indicate material damage, with



no injuries reported," the ministry said in a statement.The ministry had earlier issued a public alert, urging residents and citizens to remain calm, move to the nearest safe location and follow official channels for further instructions. It did not initially disclose the nature of the potential threat.

BAHRAIN UNDER REPEATED ATTACKS

The latest incident adds to a series of Iranian attacks reported across the Gulf in recent days. Bahrain, which hosts the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, has said it intercepted several Iranian aerial attacks during the past week. The attacks come as the conflict continues to put pressure on Gulf states that have sought to avoid being drawn directly into the confrontation while hosting key US military facilities.

Cancer changes you: Kate Middleton opens up about her journey in new documentary

World.(Agency).

Kate Middleton, Princess of Wales, has spoken candidly about the changes that came with her cancer diagnosis, revealing that the experience affected far more than her physical health. In a new BBC documentary, she reflects on treatment, recovery and the different perspective on life she has gained since her illness."Cancer does change you," Catherine says in the first glimpses of the BBC documentary Heal. "It changes your body, it changes you physically - but there is a much, much deeper part to what a cancer diagnosis shifts in you."The 30-minute film, due to air on BBC One on November 29, brings together Catherine's reflections on illness and recovery with footage from one of her most demanding personal challenges since treatment. The documentary is being presented by broadcaster Kirsty Young and promises an unusually intimate look at a period Catherine has largely discussed through carefully chosen public appearances and statements.

'HEALING IS A JOURNEY'

Catherine's message in the film is not framed around a simple recovery milestone. Instead, she speaks about the lasting changes that can follow a cancer diagnosis and the need to look beyond physical treatment."Healing is a journey," she says. The documentary also explores her belief that people facing serious illness should not have to navigate it alone."It's clear we're not meant to carry life's challenges alone," Catherine says in a voice-over, as images show cancer patients and the princess with members of her own family, including Prince William.Often it is through pain that we realise there is a greater beauty that lies beyond that," she says.She has previously spoken about the contrast between good and bad days after treatment and the misconception that patients immediately return to their old routines once chemotherapy ends.According to BBC, some of the documentary's most revealing moments come from Catherine's participation in the National Three Peaks Challenge, which saw her climb the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales within 24 hours.

Not interested in regime change in Iran, Trump says, stresses permanent deal

World.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump has said he is not seeking a change of power in Iran and wants a permanent deal with Tehran to end the conflict and prevent the country from acquiring nuclear weapons.Speaking to Fox News on Saturday, Trump said he had "never cared too much" about regime change in Iran."Well, I never cared too much about the regime. Some people call it regime change. I have already taken out the first and the second group, and we are currently dealing with the third group. So, you can call it the ultimate regime change," Trump told the Fox News anchor.He was referring to the killing of Iran's late Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. On February 28, the US and Israel launched a joint military operation against Iran, targeting military installations, leaders' residences and offices. Khamenei and several other Iranian officials were killed in the operation.



TRUMP STRIKES MIXED NOTE ON IRAN'S CURRENT LEADERSHIP

The 80-year-old Republican struck a mixed note on Iran's current leadership. He described the present regime as "reasonable" but also said its members were "difficult to deal with"."The attitude is much different. Probably, these people are more reasonable. And they are very difficult. We make a deal, and then they break a deal on the next day," Trump said.The US President stressed the need for a permanent agreement that would end the conflict, bring peace to the region and prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons."I'm going to make a deal that is going to be permanent. I'm not going to let somebody allow them to have a nuclear weapon," Trump said.He added that he wanted an agreement that would remain in force even if the US had an "incompetent President" in the future.His remarks came days after he told an Israeli television network on Thursday that he was "not rushing" and could wait until 2027 before deciding on his next move in the war with Iran.However, sources familiar with the matter told CBS News that the US and Israel were considering launching a fresh assault on Iran in the short term. The Netanyahu administration is concerned about how quickly Iran is rebuilding its weapons production capacity, the report said.Meanwhile, Iran on Thursday rejected Trump's allegation that it could be seeking to develop chemical or biological weapons.Iran's Foreign Ministry said US allegations against Tehran "keep changing" and follow "the same fraudulent script" used to justify the 2003 US invasion of Iraq.

Eisenkot invites Netanyahu's Likud for talks in fresh bid to form Israel government

World.(Agency)

Gadi Eisenkot, the leader tasked with forming Israel's next government, has invited Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party for intensive coalition negotiations in a fresh attempt to break the political deadlock following last month's inconclusive election.Eisenkot's centrist Yashar party said on Saturday that its negotiating team had been instructed to hold intensive discussions with Likud representatives, beginning with a meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 22. The move is part of an effort to explore every possible avenue towards forming a broad-based unity government.In a statement, Yashar said the invitation reflected a "genuine and sincere effort to establish the broadest possible government". It added that its negotiating team would "leave no stone unturned" and pursue "bold initiatives" to find a breakthrough in the coalition negotiations.The October 27 election failed to give either political bloc the 61 seats required for a majority in the 120-member Knesset, leaving Eisenkot with the difficult task of stitching together a governing alliance. He has until December 6, with the possibility of an extension, to form a government that would replace Netanyahu.

According to The Times of Israel, Bennett on Saturday reiterated his backing for a national unity government led by Eisenkot, in his first public statement since holding a lengthy meeting with Netanyahu on Wednesday. The meeting, officially described by both sides as a security briefing, had triggered speculation that Bennett could be considering a political realignment.Bennett sought to put those concerns to rest, declaring his commitment to a government led by Eisenkot and ruling out any arrangement that would allow Netanyahu to remain



prime minister."I am committed to establishing, together with our partners, a government of national repair led by Gadi Eisenkot," Bennett said."I am also committed to ensuring that Netanyahu will not be the next prime minister," he added, insisting that his party "will not join him or his bloc under any circumstances".Bennett has expressed support for a unity arrangement involving Likud, provided it is headed by Eisenkot. Liberman, however, has pushed for an alternative arrangement involving ultra-Orthodox parties, while Golan has advocated a minority government that could receive.