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TUESDAY

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Rajnath Singh to participate in padayatra at Kalaburagi

KALABURAGI. (Agency).

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will participate in BJP's 'Save Democracy, Eliminate Chaos' Padayatra in Kalaburagi on Wednesday, said former MLC Arun Shahapur on Sunday.Addressing a press conference in Kalaburagi, Shahapur said the BJP is organising the Padayatra to counter the allegations of opposition parties (Congress and its allies) against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voters list.Shahapur said the BJP will organise a campaign titled 'Save Democracy, Eliminate Chaos'. As part of it, Padayatras (foot marches) will be held at 25 locations across the nation, Shahapur said.One Padayatra and a public meeting is scheduled to be held in Kalaburagi on Wednesday. It will commence at 3 pm from Nagarareshwara School in the Ganj area and proceed to Jagat Circle. Around 15,000 party workers are expected to participate in the march. After the conclusion of the Padayatra, a massive public meeting will be organised at Jagat Circle, Shahapur said. He said the event will be attended by state-level leaders, including BJP State President BY Vijayendra, as well as divisional and district-level leaders.Shahapur further said that the BJP will organise Padayatras in every district headquarters across the state.

Attacks on constitutional institutions erode public trust in democracy: Sonowal

New Delhi.(Agency).

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Sunday said questioning the credibility of the Election Commission and other constitutional institutions undermines public confidence in the country's democratic framework.Addressing a citizens' meet organised by civil society groups in Dibrugarh, Sonowal said political differences were natural in a democracy, but parties must not allow narrow political interests to take precedence over the dignity and credibility of constitutional institutions."Every political party has a responsibility to uphold respect and confidence in the country's constitutional and democratic institutions, including the Election Commission (EC)," the Dibrugarh MP said, adding that safeguarding the democratic system was a collective duty.Interacting with prominent citizens from various walks of life, he stressed the importance of an informed and responsible citizenry in strengthening democracy, promoting social development and contributing to nation-building.Sonowal said India's emergence as one of the world's fastest-growing economies reflected its development journey under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas'.He said politics should primarily be about serving society and ensuring people's welfare rather than pursuing power. He also called for cooperation from all sections of society to accelerate the country's progress.

India-China power gap narrows, PM Modi second only to Xi in Asian leadership: Lowy Institute

India has narrowed its power gap with China to an eight-year low, while PM Narendra Modi has been rated second only to Chinese President Xi Jinping in regional leadership, according to the Lowy Institute's latest Asia Power Index. The Australian think tank said PM Modi had climbed three places since 2025.

New Delhi (Agency).

The power gap between India and China has narrowed to its lowest level in eight years, said Australian think tank Lowy Institute, even as it assessed Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the second-most "effective" leader in Asia. In its 'India Gains Influence' report, Lowy said the country had consolidated its position as a major Asian power despite a challenging year. The Asia Power Index 2026, which has placed PM Modi only behind Chinese President Xi Jinping, said India had "consolidated its position as a major power" in 2026, although China's overall power remained 80% higher. The report also noted that expert assessments of PM Modi's regional leadership had "improved markedly".The findings are part of the 2026 Asia Power Index, released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute on Sunday (November 22). India retained its position as Asia's third-most powerful country, behind the United States and China, with its overall score rising to 40.5 points. The US is included in the rankings because the index measures power and influence in the Indo-Pacific region, not just Asia.The Lowy



Institute is an independent Australian think tank specialising in international affairs and foreign policy. Its annual Asia Power Index, first published in 2018, assesses countries' resources and influence across eight measures, including economic capability, military strength, diplomatic influence and defence networks.

INDIA NARROWS POWER GAP WITH CHINA: LOWY

The Lowy Institute's report, titled "India gains influence", said India's comprehensive power score rose by 0.5 points to 40.5 in 2026, consolidating its position as a major Asian power.The difference between India and China's overall power scores narrowed to its smallest since the index began in 2018. However, the report added that China remained substantially more powerful.India's improved standing came despite a difficult economic year and domestic challenges. Its economic capability score declined to 26.4 points, although the country retained third place in the category.The institute attributed the decline partly to a weakening rupee, changes in the International Monetary Fund's methodology for measuring economies, and a nearly $20-billion reduction in India's outbound investment, said that report.

Narmada Riverbed Witnesses Alleged Illegal Sand Mining, Barge Machines, Overloaded Trucks and Questions Over Administrative Inaction!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Vadodara / Karjan Bureau: The controversy surrounding alleged illegal sand and clay mining along the Narmada riverbank in Karjan taluka of Vadodara district is gaining momentum. Local residents and social activists allege that mining activities continue without interruption despite the state government's cancellation of all sand and clay mining leases in the area. The matter has raised serious questions about the possible involvement of local political influences and the functioning of administrative authorities responsible for regulating mining activities.Allegations of Prohibited Machinery and Overloadin-gAccording to local sources, prohibited barge machines and heavy hydraulic equipment are allegedly being used for mining operations in the Narmada riverbed. It is claimed that these operations continue throughout the day and night, resulting in the extraction of thousands of tonnes of sand.Serious allegations have also emerged regarding violations of transportation regulations. Sources claim that trucks carrying more than 54 tonnes of sand are operating against royalty permits issued for a permitted quantity of just 23 tonnes.It is further alleged that multiple trucks are being operated using a



Akshay Patel

Karjan MLA



Ghugho Bharvard

in the region.'Bapji'-Branded Vehicles and Alleged SyndicateSeveral allegations have surfaced regarding a suspected mining and transportation network operating in the Karjan region. According to local sources, individuals identified as Ghugho Bharwad and Gokul Bharwad are allegedly involved in operating this network.Local residents and transporters claim that vehicles carrying the word 'Bapji' receive preferential legations that the name of Karjan MLA Akshay Patel is invoked in connection with this arrangement. Sources further claim that vehicle owners are allegedly asked to pay up to Rs. 60,000 per month for using this special identification and receiving the purported protection.These claims remain unverified and require an independent investigation to establish their authenticity.Questions Over the Mines and Minerals Department's RoleThe functioning of the Vadodara Mines and Minerals Department has come under particular scrutiny. Local



complainants allege that repeated written and verbal complaints regarding illegal mining and overloading have been submitted to a department official identified as Mr. Gamit.However, they claim that no substantial action has been taken despite these complaints.Residents further allege that financial arrangements and possible influence across different levels of the administrative system may be allowing the activities to continue.Questions are also being raised about the response of the District Collector's Office, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), local police, Commissioner.

Stalin Jr calls Vijay a fake CM, says his govt run by astrologer; TVK hits back

Chennai(Agency).

Tamil Nadu Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin on Monday launched a fresh attack on Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, accusing him of selectively following the principles of social reformer Periyar and claiming that the state administration was increasingly relying on astrology, horoscopes and religious rituals.Udhayanidhi, son of former Chief Minister MK Stalin, also criticised the police department for conducting a yagna at a police station while a missing girl was being searched for in the Senji incident.

"What is the police department, whose job is to solve crimes, ending up doing? They are performing yagams inside the police station. And this is a 'principled Periyarist'!" Udhayanidhi said, referring to Vijay's political ideology.He further claimed that the administration was being run on the basis of astrology and religious rituals, rather than governance."To be frank, today this administration is being run solely on astrology, horoscopes, and yagams," he said.Udhayanidhi also questioned Vijay's commitment to Periyar's ideology, accusing him of adopting certain principles while ignoring others."He claims himself as a Periyar



ideology successor, using Periyar's photo. But he leaves some principles in option and says he accepts a few principles. If we question, he doesn't know anything about it," Udhayanidhi told reporters.The DMK leader also took a swipe at Vijay, calling him a "fake Periyarist" and a "fake CM".

Supreme Court Grants Bail in Godhra Case!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Gandhinagar / Ahmedabad : The horrific Godhra train burning incident of February 27, 2002, remains one of the darkest chapters in India's history. Even after more than two decades, the tragedy continues to evoke painful memories among the victims' families and the wider public. The Supreme Court's decision to suspend the life sentence and grant bail on medical grounds to Irfan Siraj Pada, a convict in the case, has triggered fresh debate and strong reactions.The incident took place at Godhra railway station, where coach S-6 of the Sabarmati Express was set on fire, resulting in the deaths of 59 passengers, including women and children. The Supreme Court's latest order has brought renewed attention to the legal proceedings, the rights of convicts and the concerns of those who lost their loved ones.Relief on Medical Grounds: Questions Over the DecisionWhile hearing Irfan Siraj Pada's plea, the Supreme Court granted him relief by suspending his life sentence and allowing bail on medical grounds. Under the law, prisoners are entitled to necessary medical treatment, irrespective of the nature of their offences.However, the decision has sparked questions among sections of the public regarding how medical grounds should be balanced against the seriousness of a crime and the interests of victims.Critics are questioning whether adequate medical treatment could have been provided under judicial supervision, within prison facilities or at a government hospital under security arrangements, instead of granting bail.The broader debate centres on whether <medical relief in serious criminal cases should be ac



companied by additional safeguards to address public safety concerns.Godhra Train Burning: A Tragic Chapter in India's History-The Godhra train burning incident remains a deeply painful event in Gujarat's history. On February 27, 2002, the Sabarmati Express

Condo residents protest months-long delay in AOA polls in Greater Noida's Panchsheel Hynish housing society

Noida.(Agency)

Residents of Panchsheel Hynish housing society in Greater Noida West staged a protest on Sunday against the alleged failure of the current apartment owners' association (AOA) to hold elections for the past several months. The protesters also accused the group of lack of accountability, misusing society funds and misbehaving towards residents during the demonstration, particularly against women.

"The residents assembled to voice their growing frustration over the current AOA's failure to conduct elections, which have been overdue for months. The current lobby is hindering the electoral process, raising concerns about the management and accountability of society funds. We believe they are also withholding critical information from the community," said Anuj Saini, a resident.

Several women reported instances of mistreatment. According to Saini, these women have filed formal complaints calling for a thorough and impartial investigation into the behaviour of the AOA members during the protest. Residents also expressed outrage at the alleged use of abusive language directed towards protesting women, deeming such behaviour unacceptable and intolerable.

Fire breaks out in plastic factory, doused after 8 hours

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A fire broke out at a plastic and waste material warehouse in Muradnagar, which engulfed a large quantity of combustible material stored in an open plot on Sunday. A goods carrier parked at the premises was completely gutted. Its registration number could not be ascertained. Sending towering flames into the night sky, the blaze triggered an eight-hour firefighting operation involving six fire tenders and water bowsers from multiple stations. There were no injuries. The cause of the fire was not specified in the preliminary fire department report.

According to fire department officials, Modinagar fire station received the emergency alert through the mobile data terminal (MDT) at 12.33am. The information indicated that plastic and other waste materials had caught fire at the storage facility located along Rawli Road near Jeevan Hospital. The officer in charge immediately rushed to the spot with two fire tankers and a firefighting team.

Pak-linked accounts using AI videos to stoke tension, say Gzb cops

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Social media accounts suspected to be operating from Pakistan have been circulated AI-generated videos falsely depicting attacks on places of worship in Ghaziabad, raising concerns about attempts to disturb communal harmony. A cyber probe has traced the digital footprints of some of the suspicious accounts to Rawalpindi and Islamabad, prompting police to caution residents against believing or sharing unverified content.

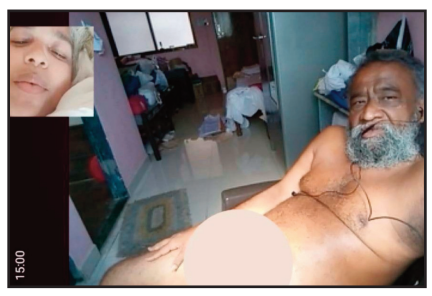
The findings come close on the heels of an FIR registered after a "misleading" video posted on Nov 19 falsely claimed that a mosque in the city had been surrounded by armed men who attacked those offering prayers. Police said no such incident had taken place.

A joint probe by Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and Ghaziabad's cybercrime cell began after a series of provocative videos surfaced on Nov 10 and 11. These falsely claimed that five mosques had been demolished in the city and worshippers fired upon. Police found the claims fabricated and registered an FIR under relevant sections against unidentified operators of the X accounts.

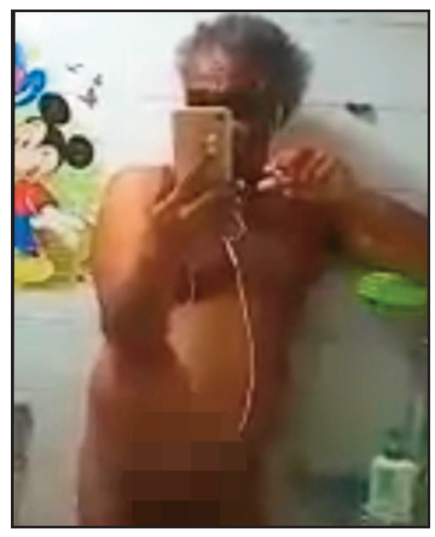
Sagarchandrasagar Controversy: Viral Audio and Financial Allegations Trigger Uproar!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Gandhinagar/Ahmedabad: The Jain community is witnessing growing unrest following serious allegations involving alleged audio recordings and financial irregularities linked to Sagarchandrasagar. Digital material circulating on social media has triggered widespread concern among devotees in Gujarat and Jain communities across the country and abroad.Community members have demanded transparency, an independent investigation and accountability, stressing that allegations of misconduct or financial irregularities must be examined fairly rather than allowed to damage the reputation of the entire Jain monastic tradition.Viral Audio Clips Raise Serious QuestionsAlleged audio recordings and digital documents circulating on social media have triggered questions about conduct and religious discipline. Community members are demanding clarity from the individuals concerned and the organisations associated with the matter.They have raised two key questions: If the allegations are baseless, why has a clear legal response not been issued? If there is substance to the allegations, why has an independent inquiry and appropriate disciplinary action not been initiated?Questions Over Crores in Religious DonationsThe controversy has also expanded to include allegations of financial irregularities. Devotees who contributed their hard-earned money towards animal welfare, temple construction and humanitarian activities are demanding a transparent account of the funds.They insist that all donations should be properly accounted for and independently audited. Community members have also called for those facing seriou.







No new monitors, just 5% factory checks: Haryana lags in clean air fight

Gurgaon.(Ajency)

As NCR residents continue to breathe polluted air, Haryana has fallen way behind other states on measures to tackle it.By Oct 31, it installed none of 23 planned air quality monitors, created no construction waste processing capacity and completed just 5% of targeted factory inspections, the State Action Plan 2026 report card showed.Without these additional monitors, the state now lacks the planned network to continuously measure air quality and identify pollution hotspots. Delhi, on the other hand, installed all 19 planned stations, UP 22 of 25 and Rajasthan three of five. "There was a delay, but the process is underway. We aim to install them by the end of Nov," a Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) official told .Haryana, chasing a target of 115 tonnes a day, created no capacity to process construction and demolition (C&D) waste. Such facilities are meant to stop construction and road debris from lying exposed and adding to dust. Delhi and Rajasthan met their respective targets of 1,000 and 50 tonnes a day, while UP created capacity for 300 of 400 tonnes.The state completed just 177 of 3,865 planned factory inspections (5%) to check compliance with pollution norms. Delhi conducted 1,609 checks against 979 planned, exceeding its target by 64%; UP completed 730 of 3,789 (19%) and Rajasthan 68 of 2,974 (2%).

The shortfall of public transport like buses also limited alternatives to private vehicles. Haryana added 70 of 875 city buses (8%), compared with Delhi's 1,703 of 2,395 (71%) and UP's 120 of 275 (44%). Rajasthan added none of 100.Haryana also installed 26 of 144 planned electric vehicle charging stations (18%), while Delhi had 6,000 against 5,000 planned, UP 366 against 267 and Rajasthan none of 16. Haryana completed nine of 79 parking lots (11%); UP completed 21 of 24 (88%), Rajasthan.

Pothole-ridden roads put Gurgaon Sector 41 residents at risk

Noida.(Ajency)

- Broken internal roads and uneven surfaces have turned daily commutes into a safety hazard for residents of Sector 41. Several stretches, they said, have not been resurfaced for nearly a decade, while poor restoration after underground pipeline work has further worsened the situation.The damaged roads are particularly dangerous at turning points, where two-wheeler riders often lose balance dodging potholes and uneven surfaces.Dinesh Chalia, president of the Sector 41 RWA, said the roads were last constructed around seven years ago and residents had been following up with MCG for their reconstruction. He said the condition deteriorated further after water pipelines were laid, as the roads were not properly restored."Once a road starts breaking, the damaged patches keep spreading. Several turning points are now in particularly bad condition, making it difficult for two-wheeler riders to negotiate them. Elderly residents have also fallen. We have repeatedly approached MCG officials, including the commissioner, but there has been no concrete progress," Chalia said.e added that residents were informed last year that a tender had been awarded and a contractor appointed. However, the work did not begin after the contractor raised concerns over increased construction costs. Even though a fresh estimate was subsequently prepared, residents said there had been no change on the ground.RWA vice president JM Singh said, "The roads have developed potholes across several stretches, and there is no proper stormwater drainage system either. We were told that a proposal covering road reconstruction, sewerage improvement and stormwater drainage had been moved, but the proposal remains on papers. Internal roads of our adjoining sectors had been reconstructed twice, while we continued to wait for basic repairs. Are we not paying taxes or should.



Just 5 Gurgaon students benefit from Cheerag scheme, lowest in Haryana

Gurgaon.(Ajency)

Only five students from three private schools in the city have been approved for fee reimbursement under the CHEERAG (Chief Minister Haryana Equal Education Relief, Assistance and Grant) scheme, despite the city having one of the state's highest concentrations of private schools.The govt has sanctioned Rs 27,000 for these students for six months (April to Sept) of the 2026-27 academic session. The figure is striking when compared with neighbouring districts such as Nuh and Faridabad, where the list includes 112 and 56 students as beneficiaries, respectively. Hisar has topped the list with 321 students.The scheme is intended to ease the financial burden on economically weaker families and help children continue their education in private schools. The reimbursement is calculated based on whichever is lower — the rate fixed by the govt or the fee mentioned by the school in its Form 6. This is intended to ensure that schools do not receive reimbursement beyond the prescribed limits.The state has approved Rs 1.08 crore for reimbursement of fees for 2,048 students studying in 356 recognised private schools across 22 districts.

The 112 students from 10 schools in Nuh have received Rs 4.95 lakh, while 56 students from two schools in Faridabad have got Rs 3.02 lakh. Jhajjar has 23 beneficiaries across eight schools, with Rs 1.24 lakh approved, while Rewari has 18 students across seven schools, receiving Rs 97,200.Hisar leads the state with 321 students across 42 schools, for whom Rs 17.23 lakh has been sanctioned. Bhiwani follows with 267 beneficiaries across 39 schools and Rs 14.39 lakh approved, while Kaithal has 225 students across 32 schools, receiving Rs 12.01 lakh. Sirsa has 191 beneficiaries across 31 schools, with Rs 10.16 lakh sanctioned, and Jind has 128 students across 30 schools, receiving Rs 6.91 lakh.Under the CHEERAG scheme, students from families with an annual income of up to Rs 1.8 lakh, who have studied in govt schools, are eligible for admission to recognised private schools from classes VI to XII.

Roads left in disrepair for a decade, pipeline leaks flood them too in Indirapuram's Ward 81

Noida.(Agency)

Residents of Ward 81 in Indirapuram have complained of years of civic neglect, including roads left unrepaired for 8-10 years, frequent Ganga water pipeline bursts, sewer overflows, encroached footpaths and inadequate horticulture work.

Indirapuram Welfare Association has submitted a formal memorandum to the Ghaziabad municipal commissioner, demanding urgent intervention on these issues. The association president Prayam Saxena said that several streets have seen no road construction or repair work for almost a decade. As a result, residents have to navigate deep potholes that have developed on the road.

The association noted that attempts to reach the civil department head over the past year have yielded no response.In addition, the association's general secretary Sudershan Awasthi said, Ganga water pipeline in the area bursts regularly. Repairing the leaks takes 24 to 72 hours, during which thousands of litres of clean drinking water are wasted, he said. "Despite repeated pleas to officials and junior engineers, there was no response," he said. The association has demanded the public release of the contractor's contact details to ensure accountability.Residents also said footpaths have been taken over by street vendors, pushcarts and rickshaws, forcing senior citizens, women and children to walk on busy roads amid heavy traffic.They said almost no horticulture work has been taking place in the neighbourhood as there is only one machine for tree pruning in all of Indirapuram. That machine, too, is deployed only once a week. Apart from that, the machine frequently halts operations due to overheating or fuel shortages, said Awasthi, who further added that sanitation standards are at risk of collapsing as the ward is currently operating with only two sanitation workers.



Air quality already poor, dust & debris raise a concern in Sector 78

Noida.(Agency)

Residents of Sector 78 raised concerns over worsening pollution around Ved Van Park, Sector 101 metro station and nearby roads. They complained about piles of construction debris, dust and deteriorating roadside greenery, which they said are making the area unhealthy for residents, morning walkers and daily commuters.Residents wrote to the Noida Authority CEO urging immediate intervention to curb pollution and restore damaged green spaces. The lack of effective road cleaning has compounded the situation, prompting citizens to seek urgent remedial measures, they added.

Key demands include immediate removal of debris, regular road maintenance, restoration of green belts, operation of Ved Van Park fountains and accountability and monitoring of the works undertaken."We urge swift removal of construction debris and malba from all affected areas, alongside regular cleaning to minimise dust pollution, a daily cleaning regimen for roads and adjoining areas, with scheduled water sprinkling to help combat airborne dust and enhance air quality and restoration of green belts," said Ranjan Samantaray, a resident of Antriksh Golf View 2, Sector 78.Samantaray went on to add, "With civil construction activities severely damaging existing greenery, we urge the authority to restore all affected green belts and lawns to their original state, including the reinstatement of protective barricades."He noted that infrastructure development should not come at the expense of public health and environmental integrity. Consistent and proactive measures are essential to restore the quality of life for those living in and around the 7x sectors, he added.Residents also raised demands for regular cleaning of the roads and dust suppression measures."Both sides of the roads, including adjoining service roads and roadside areas, require regular cleaning. We request daily sweeping and scheduled water sprinkling, particularly during morning and evening hours, to control airborne dust.



Eateries in Bhubaneswar have to display calorie value of junk food

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

Restaurants, cafes and eateries serving high-fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) food in the capital city will now have to mention their calorie count on the menus.The office of the Commissioner of Food Safety under the Health and Family Welfare department has started an enforcement drive to ensure compliance.Sources said the exercise is part of an initiative to make consumers aware of their calorie intake and sensitise eateries about the norms on providing all information on their food to the customers.As part of the drive, officials on Sunday conducted inspections at food outlets in several malls across the city. The inspection covered local outlets as well as franchises of multinational brands like Pizza Hut, Burger King, Wow Momo, Domino's, Amritsari Express and Baskin Robbins, among others that largely cater to the young crowd. Such food outlets across key malls, including DN Regalia, Esplanade, Utkal Galleria, Symphony, Forum Mart and BMC Bhawani Mall were inspected.Use of food colour, proper labelling, storage of raw materials and cooking oil in right conditions were also examined and food outlets asked to follow them strictly as per standard norms.FSSAI designated food safety officer Pratikshya Das Mohapatra said though no major violation of safety standards were found, some outlets not properly adhering to FSSAI standards were warned and issued notices, and the suspected samples collected for lab test.

Eight brick kiln workers die in car crash in Tiruchy, two hurt

TIRUCHY.(Agency)

Eight brick kiln workers were killed and two others injured after their car rammed into a tree on the Thuraiyur-Musiri state highway on Sunday evening.Police identified the deceased as A Manickam (55), G Murugan (36), G Subramani (43), A Rajesh (42), A Sakthivel (42) from Maharajapuram; S Sangili (43) from Thanjavur; S Paavadai (50), and P Sitharaman (20) from Villupuram. The injured were identified as C Ramalingam (38) and R Ramar (42) from Sathanur.

According to police, the 10 victims — all workers of a brick kiln at Thirukattupalli in Thanjavur — were returning from Namakkal after attending the ear-piercing ceremony of children of Suresh, an earthmover operator at the brick kiln, who hails from Erumapatti in Thanjavur. Rajesh was driving the car.At the Kothurpatty four-road junction on Thuraiyur-Musiri state highway, the vehicle veered off the road and rammed into a neem tree on the right side. Five occupants died on the spot, while the remaining five sustained injuries.Upon receiving information, Jambunathapuram police rushed to the spot and admitted the injured to Musiri Government Hospital.

Lights out after defeat: 50 streetlights disappear from village after BJP candidate loses in Tonk

JAIPUR.(Agency)

Hours after a BJP candidate lost the Panchayat Samiti elections, around 50 streetlights installed in a village in Rajasthan's Tonk district were removed by electricity department workers, according to villagers.However, Govardhan Choudhary, assistant engineer with the electricity department in Peeplu, said the streetlights had been installed without authorisation and were removed in accordance with departmental policy.

The incident took place in Ward 2 of Peeplu Panchayat Samiti, where BJP candidate Priyanka Sharma lost to her Congress rival Dhanna Lal by 751 votes.Priyanka is the wife of Alok Sharma, personal assistant to BJP MLA Ram Sahay Verma of Niwai constituency.According to villagers, the streetlights were installed on October 24 during the election campaign to illuminate streets and residential areas that had remained dark after sunset.A few hours after the results were declared on Friday, electricity department workers arrived in a vehicle and removed the lights."The lights were installed in an unauthorised manner," Choudhary said, adding that similar action would be taken against unauthorised streetlights in other wards.

'We were told capitalism is best... But Jantar Mantar showed socialism is the alternative': Left student leaders speak out

Dhar said she was not part of the movement but had landed in Delhi in June and saw "a Delhi of our dreams."

Kolkata (Agency)

Left-Affiliated Students' Federation of India (SFI) activists Aishe Ghosh and Dipsita Dhar on Sunday spoke at the inaugural event of the Sitaram Yechury Foundation in Kolkata on the future of electoral democracy and the role of Gen-Z in shaping and fighting for the country's future.Alongside SFI activist Sakhi and moderator Seema Chishti, they spoke about the recent Jantar Mantar protest, the language of ridicule, and what they described as the capture of universities and democratic space.Sakhi said the 40-day protest at Jantar Mantar changed her life. "For me, it was a full 180-degree spin. I was nobody — a small Delhi SFI activist, studying in my university and going with my day. When we had to go to Jantar Mantar and stay there for 40 days and fight this immense fight, it got us a victory and gave us hope…"She said protesters had turned their phones into mainstream media, used humour and new forms of outreach. "I hear it from older people all the time, that you Gen Zs have given us a way, like an idea, how to fight, how to dismantle the big ego of this government."Aishe Ghosh said they were representing crores of student youth."We have seen many movements like the CAA-NRC. We have seen the farmers' movement and their undying spirit. We have grown up seeing those movements and they gave us inspiration," she said. "Jantar Mantar has shown us that socialism is the alternative," she added. "We were born in a time when it was sold to us that capitalism is the best and not socialism. If inequality and caste-based discrimination have to go, then all have to come together."Dhar said she was not part of the movement but had landed in Delhi in June and saw "a Delhi of our dreams." "In Delhi, people were seen in Spider-Man costumes. That is the new language, the language of ridicule," she said.



On why politics had become "cool" again, Sakhi said her generation had been taught that private schools and private hospitals were better, and that each person had to pave their own way. "There is nothing like community. There is nothing like socialism. We have been taught this way since we came into this life," she said. "The education system has degraded… The quality of life itself has degraded so badly that all those dreams & big ideas that were sold to us, look fake," she said.Ghosh and Dhar said that younger people started feeling that issues like education and employment needed to be raised in their own language before those in power. "When they read textbooks, they are told that democracy means that everyone is equal, everyone has a voice to speak. When they see that the government failing, those who were earlier not part of politics, understand that politics is going to decide your future. So you better decide what kind of politics you are going to practice. And that's what made so many people come down to the streets," they said.

Mumbai air worse than Delhi's: Bombay HC's brutal crackdown on pollution for 2 months

Bombay High Court has warned that Mumbai's air quality has surpassed Delhi's, orders year-round street firecracker and laser bans, and caps construction noise at 55 dB

Mumbai.(Agency)

Over the past two months, various benches of the Bombay High Court passed stringent remarks and directions against the state government authorities, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), and other civic bodies over worsening environmental pollution.The High Court raised concerns over deteriorating and 'poor' category air quality ahead of the winter season and amid festivals, while repeatedly flagging rising noise pollution from high-decibel sound systems and construction sites, along with the 'excessive disturbance' caused by high-intensity laser lights and beams during processions.



Mumbai AQI surpassing Delhi

On October 21, a bench of Justices Girish S Kulkarni and Neela K Gokhale called it 'shocking' that Mumbai was surpassing Delhi in pollution levels despite its sea breeze and open spaces.

In a separate suo motu PIL initiated in November 2023 following The Indian Express's 'Death by Breath' series, a bench led by then Chief Justice (CJ) Shree Chandrashekhar (now a Supreme Court judge) had remarked on March 5 that air pollution originating from adjoining areas near Mumbai was similar to how activities in the neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana impact Delhi's air quality.It had sought measures to curb the menace. The same bench in December, 2025 had summoned the BMC Commissioner to explain 'inaction' in mitigating air pollution and outline a further roadmap.In its September 29 report, made available earlier this month, a High-Powered Committee (HPC) formed by the HC in January and headed by two former judges called dust kicked up by vehicles on unpaved highway shoulders a "critical emergency" across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). The panel pushed for "proactive pre-winter preparedness." It directed agencies to map and pave or stabilise shoulders, conduct weekly road washing, and bar heavy vehicle parking where paving is infeasible.The HPC also directed that demolition and redevelopment permissions should be withheld until developers submit a "comprehensive, end-to-end Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste disposal plan."

Year-round ban on bursting firecrackers

During Ganeshotsav on September 22 and ahead of Diwali on October 15, the bench of Justices Kulkarni ordered a "total ban" on bursting firecrackers on public streets across Maharashtra during festivals throughout the year, warning that unregulated bursting risked turning the city into a "gas chamber."

The bench rejected the state's "all is well" stance and directed festival organisers to install publicly visible decibel measurement meters and internal sound limiters, submit security deposits of at least Rs 1 lakh, and publicly display permissions.On November 3, the bench also suggested that the BMC restore a Diwali anti-pollution awareness video featuring actor Dia Mirza that had been deleted after political objections, noting that "everyone in the country is breathing the same air."

10 years on, coastal observatory plan in Odisha remains on paper

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

Even as south Odisha districts are becoming increasingly prone to cyclones and coastal disasters, a state-of-the-art ocean observatory for strengthening the state's storm forecasting and disaster preparedness remains stuck on paper, held back by official apathy.The proposed coastal ocean observatory at Laudigaon near Gopalpur in Ganjam, planned by IIT-Bhubaneswar over a decade ago is still hanging in fire due to the state government's failure to provide financial and infrastructure support.Envisaged as the Bay of Bengal Coastal Observatory (BOBCO), the project is yet to move beyond the preparatory stage despite allotment of 40 acre land at Laudigaon in 2019-20. While the institute has procured several scientific instruments with central government funding, construction of the observatory building and installation of equipment at the designated coastal site are yet to begin.The undue delay has come to light in a response sent by IIT-Bhubaneswar to the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) on November 18. The OSDMA had sought the status of the project on a question by Digapahandi MLA Sidhant Mohapatra.As per the institute, it received Rs 7.24 crore from the Ministry of Earth Sciences in 2015 for initiating the project and procuring scientific equipment. However, around Rs 3.20 crore was spent.

Instruments such as multi-parameter CTD (conductivity, temperature and depth), acoustic doppler current profiler (ADCP), automatic weather station, microwave rain radar and seismometer were procured from the central grant. They remain stored on the IIT campus at Jatni as a temporary arrangement with some requiring augmentation and recalibration before deployment.Although research, numerical modelling, satellite remote sensing studies and periodic coastal observations are being carried out by the institute, the permanent observatory is yet to take shape.The institute has now estimated a requirement of Rs 18.26 crore to initiate coastal observatory operations, including deployment of manpower, installation and augmentation of instruments, vessel support and maintenance.

Days after Akvan, Rs 212 cr imminent relief to 5.73 lakh Bengal farmers hit by cyclone

Kolkata.(Agency)

Even as the West Bengal government has prepared a list of the farmers affected due to the rain triggered by Cyclone Akvan, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Sunday announced a Rs 212.3-crore preliminary compensation package for over 5.73 lakh farmers whose crops and horticultural produce were damaged.Cyclone Akvan made landfall near the Gopalpur coast in neighbouring Odisha on Friday morning, bringing rain across southern West Bengal."Our government is a farmer-friendly government," the CM reassured the farmers, while sharing that secretaries have been instructed to investigate the matter further.Adhikari said around Rs 205 crore was released from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for immediate relief, taking the total allocation, including assistance for seeds and other components, to Rs 212.3 crore, PTI reported.The state government has compiled a list of affected farmers with the help of block development officers.Due to the heavy rain right before the paddy harvesting, the crop is at the risk of rotting within the next three days if water remains stagnant, said Adhikari. The CM said paddy, bananas, papayas, mustard, lentils, potato seeds, vegetables, betel leaf plantations, and flowers were damaged due to the rain.According to preliminary estimates, the combined losses for bananas and papayas account for 160,000 hectares, while Aman paddy suffered the highest damage across 131,384 hectares. Farmers in Hooghly, Howrah, North and South 24 Parganas, Jhargram, Purba and Paschim Medinipur, and Purulia districts have been affected.A total of 5,73,000 farmers will receive compensation, and the funds will be distributed through the district administration."Compensation will be provided at the rate of Rs 17,000 per hectare, and Rs 2,000 per decimal for orchards/gardens. In rain-affected areas, Rs 8,500 per hectare and ₹1,000 per decimal have been allocated. For perennial crops, Rs 22,500 per hectare and Rs 2,500 per decimal will be given. Rs 8.12 crore will be disbursed among 19,000 farmers affected by the November 11 hailstorm in Gazole, Habibpur, and Bamongola of Malda," the CM said.A total of Rs 2.31 crore will be distributed among 9,240 farmers across Howrah, Purba Medinipur, and South 24 Parganas at the rate of Rs 2,500 per unit for betel leaf plantations.



Left out of the voter list? Special registration camps to be held on Nov 29, Dec 6 and Dec 13 for new and missed voters

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

The State Election Commission has announced a special drive on three Sundays in November and December to register new voters and add those people who were left out of the electoral rolls.As a part of the 'Continuous Updation' process, special camps will be organised at polling stations on November 29, December 6 and 13 for eligible 18–19-year-old first-time voters and citizens who have not yet registered to get their names included in the electoral roll.Earlier, a similar drive was held on four Sundays – October 11, 18, 25 and November 1.The special drive has been announced by the Election Commission in states where the 'Special Intensive Revision' (SIR) process has concluded."This drive, falling under the 'continuous updation' process, aims to register citizens who were previously left out of the electoral roll, as well as eligible new voters aged 18–19," Chief Electoral Officer Sandeep Sagale stated.



Sagale has instructed all District Election Officers and Collectors across the state to make necessary arrangements in line with detailed guidelines.On these three Sundays, between 10 am and 5 pm, designated officers and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will be present at the centres to accept claims, objections, and relevant applications (forms).Under the 'Registration of Electors Rules, 1960', any eligible individual can have their name included in the electoral roll by simply filling out Form-6.Furthermore, advance applications will be accepted from young voters who will attain the age of 18 by January 1,2027, as well as from prospective voters who will become eligible based on the three subsequent qualifying dates for the year 2027-April 1,2027, July 1,/2027, and October 1,2027.The Chief Election Office has stated that supervisors will make regular visits to the polling stations to ensure the smooth conduct of operations during this special campaign. Additionally, District Election Officers, EROs (Electoral Registration Officers), and AEROs (Assistant Electoral Registration Officers) will conduct random field inspections.

Social media users also need a safe harbour

Time and again, the question whether the government should control social media keeps coming up in one form or another. Recently, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in India ruled that an online platform cannot hide behind its intermediary status and evade responsibility when it comes to consumer protection law.

In the UK, a recent case of an Indian-origin student being awarded 30 years in prison for grooming 70 girls online underscores the abuse of social media. In a significant warning issued by the US's Federal Bureau of Investigation, it was mentioned that cybercriminals are increasingly using an artificial-intelligence-assisted security testing tool to accelerate attacks on organisations around the world, endangering data security. All these point to the global community increasingly becoming more vulnerable to Big Tech. The emerging issues need wider discussion and settlement once and for all. During 2017-18, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Telecommunications had discussed this elaborately. The issues that dominated the discussion were mainly about whether social media platforms can qualify to the definition of a 'platform'. Platforms typically have no control over the material displayed on them. However, whether algorithmically or otherwise, if Facebook, Instagram, X or LinkedIn are playing a role in deciding as to what should get published and what should not, they can't claim to be just a platform. Here, the 'safe harbour' principle comes into question. For over two decades, the architecture of the internet rested on this foundational legal shield. Codified in India under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, this doctrine grants conditional immunity to online intermediaries against legal liability for third-party content hosted on their networks. However, the foundational premise of the principle was crafted for an era of passive digital bulletin boards. As social media platforms have evolved into active, algorithm-driven ecosystems that curate, monetise and amplify information, modern platforms can no longer hide behind the veil of passive intermediary immunity.

It is worthwhile looking nto the legal angle of the issue. Under Section 79(1) of the IT Act, an intermediary is exempt from liability for any third-party information, data or communication link made available or hosted by it. However, this immunity is strictly circumscribed by Section 79(2) and Section 79(3). Legally speaking, 'safe harbour' applies only if the intermediary's function is limited to providing access to a communication system, and the platform does not initiate the transmission, select the receiver of the transmission or select or modify the information contained in the transmission. The relevant Section 79(2)(c) also mentions that intermediaries must observe strict due diligence guidelines prescribed by the central government, specifically the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 and subsequent amendments up to 2026. Furthermore, under Section 79(3)(b), safe harbour lapses if, upon receiving "actual knowledge" via a court order or government notification.

The Night My 35-Day-Old Daughter Fought For Every Breath In ICU

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

At 35 days old, my daughter wasn't supposed to be fighting for her life. She was supposed to be sleeping in her mother's arms, waking up for feeds, and filling our home with the cute sounds that make parenthood beautiful. Instead, she lay on an oxygen cylinder in an ambulance racing from Bandipora to Srinagar, struggling for every breath.The doctors, on November 10, had diagnosed her with acute bronchiolitis. Her breathing was dangerously fast. At times, she appeared to choke while gasping for air. Inside the ambulance, my wife held on to hope. Behind it, I followed in my car with our 4-year-old son, watching the flashing lights cut through the highway and wondering if we would make it in time.

With every kilometre crossed, anxiety tightened its grip.

What followed were four days that would alter our understanding of fear, faith, loss and humanity forever. After reaching Srinagar, she was admitted to the casualty ward where doctors rushed into action. Oxygen support continued. Nurses moved swiftly between beds. Doctors monitored her every hour.We waited. And waited. But her condition showed little improvement. As night deepened and the hospital corridors grew quieter, the atmosphere around us became heavier. Around midnight, doctors delivered the news every parent dreadsShe would have to be shifted to the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). She needed high-flow oxygen support and more advanced treatment. I looked at my wife. She looked back at me. Neither of us needed words to understand what the other was feeling.One of the PICU sections housed six beds. Six tiny patients. Six families praying for miracles. We were assigned one of those beds, and suddenly we found ourselves surrounded by battles much bigger than ours. Every monitor beep carried urgency. Every anxious parent wore the same expression of fear. Every doctor moved with quiet purpose.The child in the bed next to ours was just three months old. He suffered from a severe heart condition. Doctors told his family that vital veins in his heart had not properly developed at birth.

His parents watched him the same way we watched our daughter. With hope. With fear. With prayers. And then, on the morning of November 12, at around 8 am, he died. Silently. The monitors stopped arguing with fate. The prayers ended. And the battle was over. I still remember holding that little child in my arms after he breathed his last. I carried him out of the PICU and handed him over to his grieving family.It was one of the hardest moments I have ever witnessed. Yet hospitals have a strange way of teaching perspective. When you see pain greater than your own, your worries momentarily step back. You realise suffering is shared. You realise courage wears many faces.For two nights, I barely slept. I held my daughter in my lap while lying on the narrow hospital bed beside her. The oxygen tubes, the machines, the constant monitoring, the hourly medical checks became part of our world.High-flow oxygen, intravenous fluids, antibiotics. Every treatment available was working to help her tiny lungs fight back. But medicine alone was not carrying us



through. Prayer was. Every whispered prayer. Every phone call from relatives back home. Every message asking about her condition. Every folded hand raised in hope. All of it mattered. Inside, I was terrified.

But fathers are often expected to be pillars when they themselves are trembling. I could not allow my fear to show. My wife needed someone to lean on. And in those moments, I understood that strength is not the absence of fear. It is carrying fear silently while still choosing to stand.On November 12, doctors finally brought us the news we had been desperately waiting to hear. Her condition had improved. Not dramatically. Not completely, but enough. Enough for her to be shifted back to the casualty ward. It felt like a mountain had been lifted from our shoulders. During her stay in the PICU, doctors had taken a swab sample. The test result arrived the same day and confirmed what they had already suspected and treated her for.She was RSV (A/B) positive. The diagnosis explained the severity of her condition but also reassured us that the treatment path had been correct from the beginning..Back in the casualty ward, oxygen support and medications continued. Recovery had begun.

Later, during one of the senior doctors' rounds, a consultant asked us about her date of birth. We told him. He paused and then smiled. "Keep two birthdays for her now."

It was a simple sentence. Yet it revealed the gravity of what she had survived. For doctors who witness life and death every day, such words are not spoken lightly.

That comment stayed with us. Perhaps because it captured the truth better than anything else. She had been given another chance.By November 13, our daughter was shifted to the general observation ward on the third floor, the place where recovering patients await discharge.

For the first time in days, hope felt real. The oxygen requirement reduced. Her breathing became steadier. Her feeding improved. The fear that had haunted us since home slowly began to loosen its grip. And then came the words every parent longs to hear: "You can take her home."We returned home with our daughter in our arms. But we also brought back something else.

A lesson. Throughout our stay, we encountered extraordinary kindness. The nurses who checked on patients through the night. The ward boys who comforted anxious families. The doctors who fought relentlessly for children they had never met before. The canteen staff who made sure exhausted attendants had a meal.Even the families of other patients who offered words of encouragement despite carrying burdens of their own.

One evening, my wife said something that perfectly captured what the hospital had taught us."Here you learn the true worth of humans and humanity."

She was right. In a world obsessed with possessions, status and achievements, a hospital strips life down to its essentials.A breath, a heartbeat, a helping hand, a kind word. You realise that nothing in this world is more precious than a human life. And no quality, no success, no virtue, no achievement is greater than being a good human being.That, perhaps, was the most important lesson our daughter gave us at just 35 days old. She fought for her breath. And in doing so, she reminded us what truly matters.

Shenzhen Declaration carves clear tasks for middle powers like India

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

The much-anticipated first trilateral summit between China, Russia and the US ended neither with a bang nor with a whimper. Instead, the four-point 'Declaration toward Peace' agreed in Shenzhen by the three leaders revealed the substantial ground that middle powers like India need to plough on the global stage.The first pledge—to reform the United Nations and conform to its fundamental role of ensuring international security—is something India has championed for long. It would not be possible without meaningful expansion of the Security Council with equal veto rights for the new permanent members. But the first declaration is weakened by the third, which reinforces the immunity of State officials from prosecution and warns the International Criminal Court not to "abuse" its power. It's not lost on anyone that the Hague-based court has issued arrest warrants against the Russian President and the Israeli Prime Minister, a close US ally.

The second pledge—to increase the supply of refined petroleum products and ensure energy flows—would be welcomed in all global capitals worried by the recent supply disruptions in which two of the three summiteers have played consequential roles. This is especially crucial for New Delhi, which is estimated by the International



Energy Association to lead global energy demand growth in the near future. The fourth pledge—to reduce 'nuclear risks' and prevent proliferation of N-weapons—is far softer than what the US was aiming for. China, which has the smallest nuclear arsenal of the three, would not gain from an outright reduction.The three leaders also came away with some glitter on their personas. Xi Jinping burnished his aspired global image of being a stabilising force in choppy geopolitical waters. Vladimir Putin scoffed at the international arrest warrant on him. And Trump, happy in the company of strongmen he sees as his peers, posed as a generational peacemaker.

As attention shifts to the next G3 meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Florida next month, India must speak up more effectively for the Global South, especially on climate justice and technology commons. It must work with others to ensure that the new UN leadership that takes charge in January is focused on substantive reforms with clear timelines. When the old order is being replaced, India must have a say in the rules of the new one.

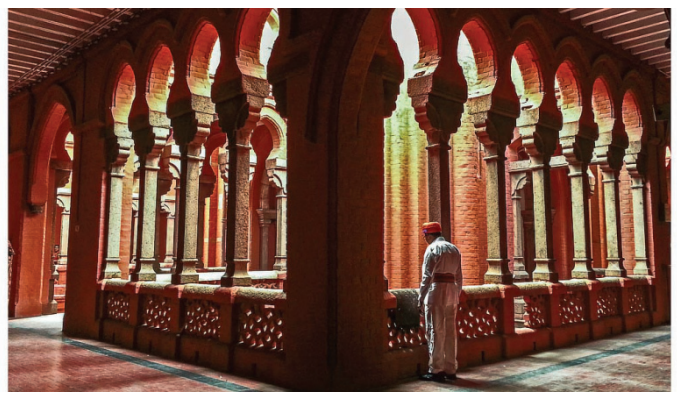
Equal courts, unequal dockets

The Supreme Court recently slammed the not-so-new practice of 'forum shopping'—advocates directing clients to courts seen as favourable to their claim. India has tried to regulate the practice's abuse. A recent intellectual property case shifted to Madras High Court from Delhi revealed why it persists

In 1776, the year in which Britain's American colonies declared independence, Adam Smith paused in 'Book V' of The Wealth of Nations to admire the way English judges touted custom. Smith had noticed something about the three great courts that sat in Westminster Hall, each of which had begun for a different purpose. The King's Bench existed to try matters relating to the Crown, the Court of Common Pleas heard ordinary suits, and the Exchequer collected revenue. But the judges of all three, Smith explained, had long been supported by the fees of those who came before them, and each court tried to draw to itself as much business as it could.They found ways around the limits to their jurisdictions. The King's Bench took up civil claims on the fiction that the defendant had committed a trespass. The Exchequer's device was more elaborate. A person seeking to recover a private debt could plead that the defendant's failure to pay had left him unable to pay the king. What began as a dispute between two private persons could thus be brought before a court concerned with royal revenue. So litigants acquired a choice of where to sue.Smith did not disapprove. Each court, he wrote, endeavoured "by superior dispatch and impartiality" to attract as many causes as it could.

The arrangement would later change. Legislations in 1799 and 1825 restricted judges to fixed salaries. The legal historian Daniel Klerman has stated that the common law's reputation for favouring defendants belongs to a period when judges had lost their financial incentive to attract claims.

It has always been the practice of advocates to approach for their clients the courts that may have otherwise possessed the necessary jurisdiction and that were seen as most favourable for a claim. Without it being any assessment on objectivity or impartiality, on a scale of functional efficiency, some courts were perceived as being favourable to the plight of workmen and others as establishment-oriented. Some were more open to technology and capital while others were seen as not.The choice of court was—as it still is—also predicated on speed, specialisation and inventiveness. This practice, the more contentious version of which is 'forum shopping', is a natural consequence of the desire of parties to achieve results, even as the law constantly evolves to deal with the widespread use of technologies in our daily lives. But the phrase 'forum shopping' came much later than the practice. One scholar dates its first appearance in a judgement to 1952 and another suggests that 'forum shopping' was discussed in detail in 1937 by the US Supreme Court in Erie Railroad Co.While rightly looked down upon, it is prevalent across common law nations. In 'forum selling', Klerman points to the example of a federal district court in east Texas. In 2003, it was not among the 10 busiest courts in the US for patent cases. In the first half of 2015, it was receiving nearly half of all patent cases in the country.To prevent misuse, countries have sought to establish practices to regulate the choice of forums. In India, the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 does not treat the choice of a court as a vice. It starts from the opposite premise and allows a suit to be filed where the defendant resides or does business, or where the cause of action arises "wholly or in part". A cause of action can arise in many places, so the code often gives the plaintiff a choice of several



courts. What the code polices is not the choice, but its abuse.

It is against this background that the Supreme Court's recent order in Sai Maghalakshmi Traders should be read. A food business from near Bengaluru had sued a trader from Chennai in the Delhi High Court. Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan transferred the suit to Madras while observing that though several high courts may have jurisdiction, it cannot become a justification for forum shopping, nor perpetuate "notions of a hierarchy among the high courts". Any perception that one high court is better suited than another to a type of dispute was "entirely misguided and erroneous". A few days later, the Delhi High Court, in the landmark ABD Maestro batch matter, returned the plaints in 17 intellectual property suits. In more than half of them, neither side was in Delhi at all. India's intellectual property law, the court noted, has largely grown under the banyan tree that is the Delhi High Court, and a banyan "also stunts the growth of other trees below it". All high courts are equal in rank under the Constitution, as the Supreme Court has reminded us. What differs from one court to another is a court's functional efficiency, which is usually reflected in the working of its registry and in the experience it has built up in a particular subject.

Until other high courts develop comparable speed and specialised capacity in a subject, the pressure to file in a particular high court would persist. Hopefully, the nudge from the Supreme Court in Sai Maghalakshmi Traders would encourage high courts in the country to achieve higher standards of functional efficiency, thereby reducing the need for a litigant to look for a better forum to sue at.



How to master Self-discipline

and be successful, as per psychology

Effective ways to master discipline

Ever find yourself saying, "I'll start that tomorrow"? We've all been there, stuck in procrastination. But here's the good news: Discipline isn't just something you're born with; it's a skill you can develop. If you want to get more done, eat better, or achieve your goals, building discipline can help you get there. Here are five easy tips from psychology to help you strengthen your discipline and reach your potential.

Set clear goals

Clear goals offer purpose and direction. They give you something actual and solid to aim for, which is a great way to boost motivation. Write down the particular goals you want to achieve. Break them down into smaller and doable steps. For instance, say 'I will exercise for 30 minutes, three times a week', instead of saying 'I want to be fit.'

Develop routines

By developing routines, you get a sense of pattern, and a sense of habit formation, making it easier to follow your routines and stick to your plans without having to think about them constantly. Simply figure out the major activities you want to add to your day; it can be anything from exercising and reading to work tasks, and then, set specific times for them.

Practice self-evaluation

Practicing self-evaluation means tracking your progress. It increases responsibility and transparency while also helping you identify and get an understanding of the patterns in your behaviour. To keep track of your progress, you can keep a simple journal where you note your daily activities related to your goals.

Use positive reinforcement

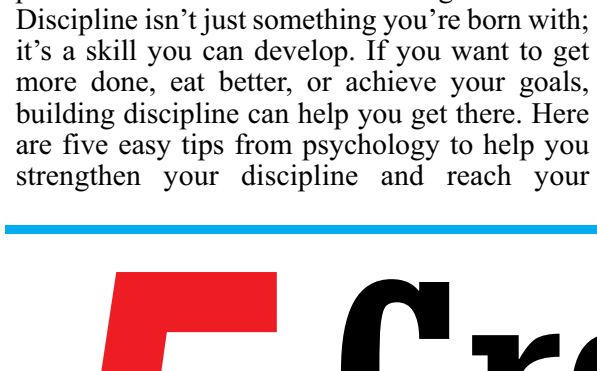
Positive reinforcement is another great method to master discipline. Rewards create a positive correlation with disciplined and consistent behaviour, making it more likely you'll repeat those behaviours. After reaching a small achievement, treat yourself to something you like. Not necessarily something expensive, it can be as simple as your favourite snack, a day off, or enjoying your favourite movie.

Foster mindfulness

Mindfulness helps you pay attention to your thoughts and feelings so you can make better choices instead of acting on impulse. Start by taking just a few minutes each day to focus on your breath or notice your thoughts without judging them. Over time, this can help you notice what tempts you and give you the strength to say no.

5 Creative activities

to spark joy and reduce Stress



In this busy day-to-day lifestyle, we are all stressed out because of our future, workload, responsibilities, and duties. It becomes difficult to take a breath. As students, adults, or parents, we are constantly worried about what is ahead of us rather than facing what's in front of us. Stress is a part of our lives, and it will never go away. So rather than fixating on what's going to happen next, let's focus on the present. Here we list some creative activities to spark joy and reduce stress.

1. Photography: Every hobby and passion has love and true intentions behind it. Photography is a great skill; it makes you look different from others; it gives you light and stories to cover. It can help reduce stress and draw your attention to joy and happiness.

2. Journaling: Journaling works for many people. Once you start journaling, you start understanding your thoughts, emotions, and views better which helps you accepting life.

3. Watch a movie: Entertainment can help you relax and give you a break from this harsh reality. Watching a movie can help you forget stress for sometime, and enjoy the moment. It can make you feel completely lost in the story, plot, and characters. 4. Gardening: Gardening can be a therapeutic experience for some people. if a person surrounds themselves with plants and flowers, it can give them happiness and satisfaction. It helps them become distracted and stop worrying about the stressful situation. Such creative activities can help heal a person.

5. DIY something: Creating new and exciting art can be a thrilling and therapeutic experience for many people. Decorating your phone case or your room can be calming and rewarding. It's a great way to enhance mindfulness and patience.

7 ways to make your Resume stand out from others



Practical ways to make your resume stand out

A resume is not the ultimate key to getting a job; several factors play significant roles in the hiring process. However, in the selection process, your resume certainly matters. Have you ever wondered how, among thousands of submissions, only a handful make the cut? What sets those standout resumes apart? Whether you're a recent graduate or an experienced professional, these seven resume tips can be game-changers in your job search. Delve in and explore how to make your resume truly shine!

Customize for each job

You can customize your resume for every application. It is of immense importance to carefully read the job description and identify key skills or experiences they're looking for. For example, if the job focuses on digital content writing, copywriting, or storytelling, the experience for each job would be different, even when the writing part is the same for each position. This personal touch shows that you've put thought into your application and understand the role.



Keep it clean and simple

Choose a design that is professional and easy to look for. Use a clear font, consistent formatting, and keep equal white space in between. This not only makes your resume visually appealing but also helps recruiters quickly find the information they need. Look for a template design that consists of a balance, making it look good without being overly flashy.

Use relevant keywords

Big companies often use software called applicant tracking systems (ATS) to sort out resumes. To get past these filters, it is important to use words from the job description in your resume. For example, if the job mentions "data analysis," add that term if it matches your experience. This makes it more possible for human recruiters to see your resume.

Focus of achievements

Talk about what you achieved, not just what you did. For example, instead of saying, "I managed a team," you could say, "I led a team of five, and we finished a project two weeks early, saving 15% in costs." Adding numbers and clear results make your accomplishments stand out more.

Show your people skills

Talking about your soft skills is really important, particularly for jobs that need good teamwork or communication. Share a short example, like how you solved a problem within a team or how your communication made a process better. This emphasizes how you interact with others and adds a personal touch to your resume that recruiters find useful.

Start with a powerful summary

Start your resume with a short summary that describes who you are as a professional. For example, you could say, "Experienced marketing expert with 5+ years in digital marketing" This helps employers easily understand your experience and what you can offer to the company.

Include certifications or side projects

Include any certifications or projects you've done outside your main job to show you're ambitious and work hard towards growth. For example, if you took an online course or volunteered at a nonprofit, share how these experiences improved your skills and knowledge.

How a mom turned her side hustle into a Rs 45 lakh business



What started as a simple side hustle for Emily Odio-Sutton has transformed into a lucrative business, generating an impressive Rs 45 lakh (approximately $54,900) monthly. This journey began in December 2022 while she was multitasking between her remote job and family responsibilities. Seeking a flexible work-life balance, Emily discovered the potential of print-on-demand services, which allowed her to create personalized products without holding inventory.

Early on, Emily's designs were fairly generic and failed to garner much attention. But all of that changed once she focused on customised candles and journals. The approach resulted in a dramatic sale that allowed her to rake in profits, making $5,000 (approximately Rs 4.22 lakh) in profit by October 2023, nearly equal to her full-time salary as an operations manager for a children's book publishing company.

Emily explained to CNBC that, "I couldn't leave my 9-to-5 in the middle of the day for school pickups or gymnastics practices. I needed something that worked around my schedule." This flexibility and necessity encouraged her to research print-on-demand, which is a model where products are only printed once an order has been received from a customer. To really optimise her success, Emily canvassed particular niches using online platforms like Etsy. She focused on certain professions and passions in which she tailored designs. She researched ideas using tools like Google and brainstormed those using ChatGPT. "It was about finding those hyper-specific jobs or hobbies that people could relate to," she said.With her store growing in popularity, she was earning a pretty penny. She reported in some of the peak months up to $54,900 (Rs 46.32 lakh), and profits comprised about one-third of that amount.

In addition to running a main Etsy store, Emily opened a secondary store peddling downloadable event templates and managed Pinterest accounts on behalf of other businesses. "I wanted to make sure I wasn't putting all my eggs in one basket," she said. It also stabilized her income and helped manage expenses like student loans and family vacations while keeping savings in reserve for the daughters' future.

Despite the financial success, Emily remains grounded in her approach to spending. She intertwines enjoyment with responsibility, so fun activities, such as vacations, will not control most of the expenses, like loan repayment.Emily's side hustle has provided her with much-needed flexibility. With young two daughters, she values time with family above everything else. "My goal has always been to live on my schedule," she explained. Picking up her daughter from the bus stop or attending their practices is a huge benefit to her entrepreneurial journey.Even though Emily has toned down her publishing work to only part-time, she is still not ready to throw everything into her business. "I would probably go full-time with my business if I could still be there for my daughters as much as possible," she added.Emily Odio-Sutton's story shows how a relatively simple side hustle could morph into a high-growing business with the power of innovation and strong commitment. In terms of money, Emily has accomplished a work-life balance besides living a life that is very rewarding and value-bound.



Who are Zillennials and why do they find it hard to fit in Workplaces?

While every generation is referred with a name like Boomers, Millennials, Gen Z, Gen X, there are multiple micro generations that fall in between and they lose their special identity as they fall both ways. Zillennials are people born between 1997 and 2002 and they fall in between Millennials (1981 to 1996) and Gen Z (2000 to 2012).

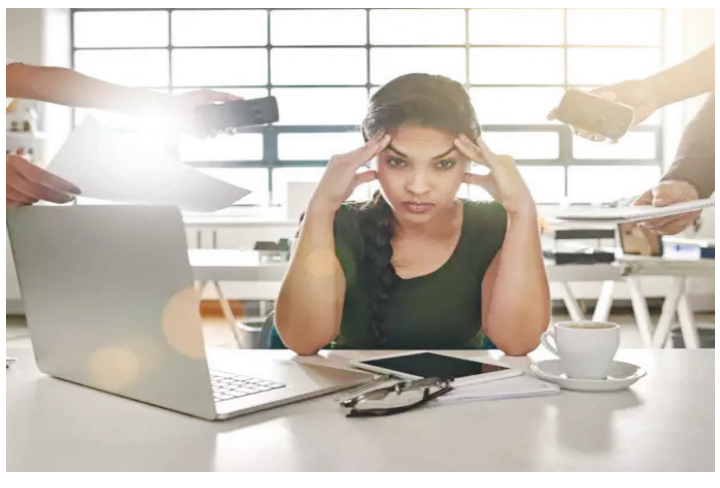
Key characteristics

This group of people was born and raised alongside the development of the internet and holds values that differ from the current world scenario. Zillennials try hard to fit into both groups, as they can relate to both Millennials and Gen Z.

Zillennials were the first to experience rapid advancing technology and they lived in a society before the pre social-media and have now adapted to the social media market of Instagram and Twitter and more. They are natives of the digital world with analog roots.

Why is it hard for Zillenials to fit in workplaces?

Zillennials have a unique quality, as they fall under both radars, which is why they have a tough time fitting in with workplace groups. Referred to as cuspers, Zillennials fall in the age group where perfection meets procrastination. They often face identity crises, and Lauren Farina, the CEO of Invited Psychotherapy and Coaching, explained to Business Insider that Zillennials are high performer archetypes who seek perfectionism and exhibit pleasing qualities. She added that they face multiple pitfalls of burnout and anxiety, as they cannot completely fit into a group and often feel guilty.



The influence

Zillenials are influenced by both Millennials and Gen Z at the workplace. While many companies are shaped by Millenials, they managed to be flexible, work-life balance and had a collaborative work culture and now with Gen Z's progressive mindset of profession driven work with flexible work timings and preference, Zillennials fall in between and get impacted as they are anxious about their mental health and their work-life balance.

Economic stability

While Zillenials started the workforce in 2016, it was around recession and soon came the pandemic after 3 years which gave them a perception of insecurity over jobs as competition was high and the stability at work place was very wobbly. With multiple companies going bankrupt after the COVID pandemic, the job industry became very unspecific in 2022 and the frequent inflation has disturbed the working mindset of Zillennials.

Delhi cop cancels wedding as Brezza car demand not met

Delhi.(Agency)

A bride's family was left embarrassed on Friday when a Delhi Police constable allegedly refused to marry her over their inability to give him a Maruti Brezza car as a wedding gift. The groom's side and his guests returned from the wedding venue in Sonipat after their expectation was not met.

The bride's family then lodged a police complaint, seeking action against the groom and his family and sought reimbursement of the money they spent on the arrangements.The bride's father, Subhash Kumar, claimed that he had spent Rs 30 lakh on wedding preparations. Kumar alleged that the groom, Kuldeep, demanded Brezza worth about Rs 13 lakh, but he had booked Hyundai Aura worth nearly Rs 9.5 lakh for him.According to Kumar's complaint, the groom's family started demanding the car and jewellery after the alliance was fixed six months ago. Kumar said that he learnt from the intermediaries just a day ahead of the wedding that that Kuldeep wanted a Brezza. Kumar said that he cancelled the booking of Aura and were looking to book a Brezza. However, as the wedding was close, they could not arrange the car in time.

It is alleged that the bride's side had also agreed to arrange a two-tola gold chain for the groom, four-tola gold earrings for his mother and silver anklets. Besides that, the groom's side demanded jewellery for other members of the family, Kumar claimed.Kuldeep, however, allegedly reached the venue with his mother in ordinary clothes. An argument broke out between the two families when the groom did not find Brezza. Kumar said that Kuldeep got into a dispute with the bride's brother Sahil. And all this while, the bride remained seated at the mandap in her wedding attire.

Delhi minister Sirsa claims 60% of Yamuna cleaned, says entire river will be clean by 2030

Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Monday claimed that 60 per cent of the Yamuna has been cleaned and its water is now fit for drinking, adding that the entire river would be cleaned by 2029-30.Speaking at the launch of Uber's 'One Less Car' report in Delhi, Sirsa credited Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and the Centre's support for the progress made over the past two years. He said the cleaning work was being carried out in phases, starting from one end of the river and gradually extending to the remaining stretches."60 per cent of Yamuna ji is totally clean… Clean means so clean that you can (even) drink that water," he said, urging people to visit the river and assess its condition.Sirsa said untreated sewage flowing through drains into the Yamuna remained a major challenge, adding that the government was using sewage treatment plants (STPs) to address the problem.His remarks come against the backdrop of the Supreme Court's recent observations that pollution in the Yamuna had increased despite substantial expenditure on its cleaning.

In an order dated November 4, a bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Manmohan directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to monitor water quality at points where the river and its major drains enter and exit states, Union Territories and districts.The court said industrial pollutants and untreated sewage must be intercepted at source, observing that merely constructing more STPs would not be enough to clean the river.It also noted that the poor state of civic administration in settlements along the river was reflected in its deteriorating health, with 520 drains discharging wastewater into the Yamuna.On Delhi's waste management, Sirsa claimed that 60 per cent of the legacy waste accumulated over 25 years had been cleared in less than two years with the Centre's support. He said future generations would see the city's garbage mountains only in photographs.

Govt must specify 'anti-India activities' in fresh notice to Amrit Wilson: Delhi court

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to issue a fresh notice detailing the grounds for cancelling the Overseas Citizen of India card of UK-based journalist Amrit Wilson, Press Trust of India reported.The court said the earlier show-cause notice and cancellation order did not specify Wilson's alleged anti-India activities, denying her a proper opportunity to respond to the allegations.Justice Amit Mahajan passed the order on Wilson's petition challenging the Centre's 2023 decision to cancel her OCI card.In its November 19 order, the court directed the authorities to issue a fresh show-cause notice containing specific details within a week. Wilson was given another week to respond, after which the authorities must pass an order within two weeks.The court clarified that the existing cancellation order would remain in force for four weeks or until a fresh order was passed, whichever was earlier.According to PTI, the court observed that the absence of specific details had denied Wilson an opportunity to explain her position. It also noted that the Centre's response to her petition did not contain specific reasons."A perusal of the SCN and the impugned order indicates that the same is bereft of any specific details of anti-India activities in which the petitioner was involved, thus providing no opportunity to the petitioner to provide an explanation in respect of the same. In the given facts, this Court is of the view that principles of natural justice have not been followed," the court said.



It added: "The rights of the petitioner under Section 7B of the (Citizenship) Act cannot be taken without providing an appropriate opportunity to the petitioner to respond to the allegations against her." Section 7B of the Citizenship Act deals with the rights of OCI cardholders.The court said that if the authorities could not specify the reasons in the fresh notice, they should give Wilson a summary of the material after removing sensitive information or allow her to inspect the relevant material.The Centre cancelled Wilson's OCI card in 2023, alleging that she had engaged in "detrimental propaganda against the Indian government".Wilson argued in her petition that the March 17, 2023 cancellation order was illegal and arbitrary. She alleged that the Indian High Commission in London had passed it mechanically, without properly considering the matter and in violation of the principles of natural justice.The High Commission had issued a show-cause notice to Wilson in November 2022, accusing her of being involved in "detrimental propaganda against the Indian government" and "multiple anti-India activities" that threatened India's sovereignty and integrity and the interests of the general public.Wilson contended that the notice was arbitrary because it did not provide material details or a summary of specific reasons supporting the allegations against her.

SC protects Tamil Nadu university from coercive action over 31.37 acres of land

Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court on Monday confirmed its January 15 order restraining the Tamil Nadu government from taking coercive action against SASTRA University over the institution's alleged encroachment on 31.37 acres of government land in Thanjavur, news agency Press Trust of India reported.A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana listed the university's petition for a final hearing and directed the state government to file its response.

Senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, appearing for the Tamil Nadu government, told the court that the state did not want an amicable settlement and wanted its land back. He also sought an early final hearing after the state files its reply, according to PTI.Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Abhishek Singhvi, representing SASTRA University, said the institution was willing to offer an alternative parcel of land, but the state government did not want to resolve the dispute.On September 21, the Supreme Court had asked the Tamil Nadu government to consider whether it could accept suitable alternative land in exchange for the 31.37 acres allegedly encroached upon by the university.Noting that the disputed land was being used by an educational institution serving a public purpose, the bench had questioned the state's insistence on evicting the university and demolishing the institution.The bench had earlier said the state could identify another site for its proposed open-air jail and ask the university to bear the cost of acquiring comparable land.The observations were made while the court was hearing SASTRA University's challenge to the Madras High Court's January 9 order. The High Court had upheld the state government's rejection of the university's request for the government land to be assigned or exchanged and directed its eviction.The university submitted that it had offered three alternative parcels of land to the state government but had not received an effective response. It said the state had initially shown interest in a continuous parcel measuring 86.8 acres but later changed its position.

FSSAI expands probe beyond Bisleri, tests samples from all packaged water brands

With Bisleri facing prosecution over unsafe water findings, FSSAI is stepping up quality checks across the packaged drinking water market. The regulator has collected random samples from multiple brands and is also examining misleading labels and names resembling established companies.

Delhi.(Agency)

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has widened its crackdown on packaged drinking water, bringing all brands under its scanner. The regulator has collected random samples from different packaged water brands as part of its expanded inspection drive, with reports of the tests expected soon.Samples of several packaged water brands had also been collected earlier, including those of Bisleri. The latest move puts the entire bottled water market under scrutiny as FSSAI steps up action against substandard drinking water.

The expanded checks come amid the row over Bisleri after FSSAI sanctioned prosecution against the company over a sample of its packaged drinking water being declared unsafe in laboratory tests.According to the regulator, a sample of packaged drinking water collected from Bisleri International's premises failed to comply with the prescribed bromate limits and was declared unsafe under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. After the company appealed, the sample was sent to a referral food laboratory, which also declared it unsafe after detecting polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).Bisleri has disputed the findings and maintained that its packaged drinking water is safe for consumption. In a statement on November 23, the company said the matter related to a batch manufactured at its Goa facility in September 2025.According to Bisleri, FSSAI collected six samples from the facility on September 30, 2025. Initial testing found that five met the applicable standards, while one recorded bromate levels of 12 micrograms per litre against the prescribed limit of 10 micrograms per litre.The company said it appealed against the finding, following which the sample was sent to a referral laboratory. Bisleri maintained that the referral laboratory found bromate levels within the prescribed limit but separately flagged the presence of PAHs."To date, Bisleri has received no notice by email or in hard copy and has been unable to locate the reported notice on FSSAI's website," the company said. It added that it conducts more than 90 quality tests across its 10-step manufacturing process and would continue to cooperate with the regulator.



The company subsequently got the same sample tested at an FSSAI-approved laboratory, which also found bromate levels within permissible limits. Bisleri said it submitted the independent test results to FSSAI's Western Regional Office on February 2, 2026, but received no further communication and understood the matter to have been closed.Apart from testing water quality, FSSAI is also keeping a watch on brands using names and labels that closely resemble those of established packaged water companies. The regulator is expected to take action against companies found using misleading or lookalike names and labelling.

With Ashok Leyland truck unit in Singur, BJP-led West Bengal says it's ready for business

Delhi.(Agency)

Nearly 20 years after the CPI(M)-led Left Front government's ambitious attempt to turn Singur into an automobile manufacturing hub collapsed amid prolonged farmer's agitation backed by the Trinamool Congress, West Bengal is once again looking to woo the automotive industry to the site in Hooghly district. While it was Tata Motors that was working to set up a passenger vehicle unit for Nano cars in 2006, it is Ashok Leyland that is said to be planning to set up a truck-manufacturing plant in Singur.Union Minister of State for Education, Sukanta Majumdar, on Saturday (November 21) announced that commercial vehicle manufacturer Ashok Leyland would set up a truck manufacturing plant in Singur, with work expected to begin soon, reported PTI.



A day later, on Sunday (November 22), West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari announced that his government was negotiating with farmers to purchase 997 acres of land in Singur — the exact same area that the erstwhile Left Front government had acquired in 2006 for the Tata Motors factory.Singur had become the symbol of West Bengal driving away industry and manufacturing aspirations. If the BJP-led government succeeds in getting an Ashok Leyland manufacturing unit in Singur, it will be a strong message that the state, once marred by hartals, was ready to welcome industry and do business.Suvendu Adhikari himself, as a member of the Trinamool Congress, was earlier associated with protests against industries in West Bengal. He rose to the forefront leading protests against the Left Front government's plan to set up a chemical hub in Nandigram in 2007.The communist-ruled state became associated with stifling of big industries, and the twin protests at Singur and Nandigram cemented the anti-business image. Even the 15 years of Trinamool Congress rule with Mamata Banerjee as the chief minister didn't do anything much to shake off that image.

Now, nearly 20 years after the Tata Motors' project collapsed, the proposed Ashok Leyland facility presents the BJP government with an opportunity to revisit Singur's industrial ambitions.

SC grants bail to Godhra train burning convict citing health, long incarceration

Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to Irfan Siraj Pado Ghanchi, who is serving a life sentence for his role in the 2002 Godhra train burning case, citing his serious heart condition and the more than 17 years he has already spent in prison.A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and PB Varale passed the order after taking note of the convict's heart ailment, reports LiveLaw.Ghanchi was among the 31 people convicted by a trial court in 2011 in the Godhra train burning case.The incident took place on February 27, 2002, when a fire inside a coach of the Sabarmati Express at Godhra, killing 58 people, including kar sevaks returning from Ayodhya. The incident was followed by communal riots across Gujarat, in which over 1,000 people were killed and hundreds more were injured or reported missing.Of the 31 convicts, 11 were sentenced to death, while the remaining 20, including Ghanchi, were awarded life imprisonment.



In 2017, the Gujarat High Court commuted the death sentences of all 11 convicts to life imprisonment, while upholding the life terms awarded to the other 20. Appeals challenging their convictions have been pending before the Supreme Court since 2018.The Supreme Court has previously granted relief to several convicts in the case. In May 2022, two of them were allowed to walk out of prison on temporary bail for six months.A third convict was granted bail in December that year, with the court citing his incarceration of over 17 years.In April 2023, eight more convicts were granted bail.

Ghanchi was granted interim parole in 2025 to allow the Gujarat government to consider his plea for premature release.

Govt tweaks ESIC rules; sickness, maternity benefits made automatic

New Delhi. (Agency)

Workers covered by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) will no longer have to file claims for sickness and maternity benefits, with payments to be transferred directly to their bank accounts under new regulations notified on Saturday. Employers who pay contributions late will face a flat penalty of 1% a month. These can be reduced or waived only under a resolution plan approved under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Sickness and maternity benefits will be paid through direct benefit transfer (DBT) without an application from the worker, provided three conditions are met: the medical certificate is issued through ESIC's own IT system; the employer has filed the new monthly Form 8B return on the employers' portal; and the worker has an Aadhaar-enabled bank account linked to their insurance number. The same approach applies to workplace injuries. Once ESIC recognises an injury as employment-related, the employer's accident report will serve as the claim for temporary disablement, permanent disablement, and dependants' benefits. Families will not need to file separate claims. ESIC is a social security scheme that provides medical care and financial support to eligible employees and their families in cases of sickness, maternity, and disability due to employment injuries. It covers individuals working in factories and establishments employing 10 or more persons. The new regulations also protect workers against lapses or delays by employers. Payments will not be withheld if an employer fails to file the return, the regulations state. In such cases, ESIC must seek verification from the employer directly. Workers can still file manual claims, and payment through other means is permitted if a bank transfer fails.

A new chapter in business journalism

BENGALURU. (Agency)

India is at a defining moment in its economic journey. Today, as we bring **The Financial Standard** and financialstandard.com, our national business daily and website, to readers, we introduce an important new chapter for The New Indian Express Group and reaffirm our commitment to journalism that seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the forces shaping business, markets, and the world around us.The launch of a national business daily is both an exciting milestone for our Group and a responsibility we embrace with a clear sense of purpose. We believe there is a need for a publication that captures the full breadth and complexity of India's economic transformation.

Importantly, the strength of India's economy also lies in the hundreds of entrepreneurial and industrial clusters across the country that power local economies, generate employment, and contribute significantly to national growth, but often remain outside the larger business narrative. The Financial Standard will seek to connect these enterprises and communities with the wider national andglobal economic ecosystem that increasingly shapes their prospects. From the impact of US Federal Reserve rate decisions on exporters in Tiruppur to shifts in global trade that affect manufacturing clusters across India, we believe theseconnections deserve closer examination and greater attention.

Stock markets decline in early trade amid global sell-off, profit taking after two-day rally

New Delhi. (Agency)

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty drifted lower in early trade on Monday amid a sharp sell-off in global markets and profit taking after a two day rally. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 243.95 points to 83,675.76 in early trade despite a positive beginning. Similarly, the 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 110.10 points to 25,672. From the Sensex pack, Tata Steel, Axis Bank, UltraTech Cement, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India and InterGlobe Aviation were among the major laggards.

Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys and HCL Tech were among the winners. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi tumbled 3.5 per cent. Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index were also quoting lower.

The US equity markets ended significantly lower on Friday. The Nasdaq Composite tanked 5.28 per cent, S&P 500 was down 3.70 per cent and Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 1.93 per cent.

"Indian equity markets are likely to see a volatile session, with weak global cues weighing on sentiment after a sharp technology-led sell-off in US markets reignited concerns over AI valuations, global risk appetite and the sustainability of the recent rally. Indian equities have displayed relative resilience in recent sessions, absorbing weak global cues amid improving foreign flows, lower crude prices and a stabilising rupee," Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth-tech firm, However, following the sharp, largely uninterrupted rally in recent sessions, the market's ability to withstand deteriorating global risk appetite and defend key support levels will be critical in determining whether the uptrend retains momentum or gives way to profit-booking, he added. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.25 per cent lower at USD 92.34 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 10,308.42 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Insurance Commission rules may come full circle

Insurance Commission rules may come full circle

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

India's insurance industry is at a critical juncture in its regulatory landscape and is set to unwind one of the most far-reaching market liberalisation experiments in its history with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). Insurers, banks, brokers, and agent associations had given more than 650 submissions to the regulator following the public consultation on its discussion paper, Recalibrating Economics of Insurance Distribution. The regulator is reviewing these prior to issuing any formal draft regulations.

How liberalisation triggered a cost spiral

IRDAI had abolished product-specific commission limits, replacing them with a principle-based approach that left intermediary boards to set payment ceilings within a broader Expenses of Management (EoM) framework.

The move was intended to promote commercial independence, product innovation, and insurance penetration in under-penetrated segments. Instead, eliminating product-wise caps intensified competition for distribution shelf space among bancassurance partners, corporate agents, and retail brokers. According to IRDAI's consultation paper, life insurance commissions paid to corporate agents rose 125%, against a 28% increase in new-business premiums, taking commissions to 27% of first-year premiums.General insurance brokers' commissions, excluding rewards, rose 173% to `17,348 crore, while the average commission rate increased from 8.5% to 17%. CareEdge Ratings flagged the pressure on balance sheets, with commission earnings growing two to eight times faster than premiums.

Inside IRDAI's proposed structural reset

The regulator has proposed a multi-faceted reset of the distribution value chain to align intermediary incentives with long-term policyholder value and curb spiralling acquisition costs.

Channel-differentiated commission caps

Hard ceilings return, with all-inclusive commission caps differentiated by product complexity, premium-paying term, and distribution effort. First-year



limits are 20% for corporate distribution entities and 25% for tied individual agents on individual life policies with premium-paying terms of 10 years or more. For individual health policies, the limits are 15% and 20%, respectively. Commissions on new-vehicle motor third-party cover will be reduced to zero.

A 5-year glide path for management expenses In addition to product caps, IRDAI has proposed a five-year glide path for management expenses, with gradual annual reductions. Life insurers will have to reduce their company-level EoM ratio to 15% of Gross Direct Premium Income (GDPI) in two years and 12.5% in five years. The gross domestic of general insurers will rise from 30% to 25% in two years and 20% in five years.

Commission clawbacks

Banks and NBFCs will be barred from making insurance compulsory for credit approval or linking branch sales incentives to the volume of insurance sold. All policies will require documented suitability and traceability of the individual seller. Commission clawbacks will be mandatory where mis-selling is identified.

Simplified three-tier intermediary licensing

Under the 'like-for-like' norms, intermediaries will be classified into three categories: Insurance Distribution Entities (IDEs), Insurance Distribution Persons (IDPs), and Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs).

Rupee declines 23 paise to 92.85 against US dollar in early trade

Easing crude oil prices helped the local currency initially, but it soon came under pressure due to a firm American currency, forex traders said.

MUMBAI: (Agency)

The rupee saw heightened volatility and tumbled 23 paise to 92.85 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday, tracking a selling trend in domestic equity markets.

Easing crude oil prices helped the local currency initially, but it soon came under pressure due to a firm American currency, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 93.47 and climbed up to 92.43 before trading at 92.85 against the greenback, down 23 paise from its previous close. On Friday, the rupee sustained its ascending order for the fifth consecutive session to settle 70 paise higher at 92.62 against the US dollar. The unit reclaimed above the 93 level for the first time since April 10. The local unit has logged a sharp



a preciation of over 1.6 per cent in th past five back-to-back sessions since the closing level of 94.19 against the greenback recorded on November 13.Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was at 103.71, lower by 0.03 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.28 per cent lower at USD 92.38 per barrel in futures trade.On the domestic equity market front, Sensex declined 408.30 points or 0.49 per cent to 83,511.41 in early trade, while Nifty fell 118.90 points or 0.46 per cent to 25,684.30.Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 10,308.42 crore on a net basis on Friday, according to exchange data.

How much return can you expect?

New Delhi. (Agency)

In the case of fixed deposits, PPF, etc, nobody asks, "How much returns will I get?" That question is restricted to mutual funds — equity, BAF, equity savings, gold, etc. We know that it is IMPOSSIBLE to predict two-year returns, forget predicting 20-year returns!

Whenever I do an article on returns and say 18%, or discuss what returns an investor can get, somebody will remark, "This is too high." Of course, a few will say 18% is not possible, only 12% is possible, or something to that effect. We put a number because EXCEL cannot work with "I do not know" as an input. We assume that a Rs 5,000 per month SIP over 20 years at 12% will mean there will be Rs 55L in that fund. That is all. It is just proof that COMPOUNDING WORKS. Math needs an assumption, so we use that as an indicative number.It does not mean that you will get 12% or 18% in that fund. You may get 12% or 23% return. It is just an assumption. In real life, you will be watching it on a day-to-day basis. The important thing to learn is that you need to create funds that will remain untouched over really long periods of time. In real life, you can and perhaps will measure the returns regularly, so you do not need to play a guessing game today, at the beginning of your long journey.

When a client asks an adviser, "What return will I get?", the best thing is to ask the client to read this article. If you are an investor, save this article and read it again and again. Whenever you feel like asking this question, "kitna milega" — India's favourite question! None of us know how much return we will get over four weeks, four years, or four decades. We just have no idea.However, you start a journey assuming that you need Rs 55 lakh in 20 years' time. So you have to do a Rs 5,000 SIP for 20 years. If the return falls over two-three years, THE ONLY THING YOU CAN DO is increase the SIP amount that you are investing. If your adviser talks as though he controls everything, remember that HE CONTROLS NOTHING. Your eye should be on the target amount, that is all. So if you think that the 'r' (return) you are getting is not enough, try increasing the amount by a small amount. For you, reaching the figure of Rs 55L is more important than a theoretical discussion of 'r'. Nobody knows what the "return" or "r" in the compounding formula will be — Donald Trump, Narendra Modi, Nirmala Sitharaman, or even Warren Buffett does not know how much return you will get over the next few weeks, months, years, or decades.

We are all guessing. Every year, we will get a number. Say we get 8% return in the first year instead of 12%; we may not do anything. However, if we get 8% return for the first five years.

Maintain 10-15% global exposure with disciplined investing: Edelweiss Mutual Fund CEO Radhika Gupta

New Delhi. (Agency)

At a time of geopolitical turmoil, when the investors are often facing severe uncertainties and losing confidence in certain markets, Radhika Gupta, MD & CEO, Edelweiss Mutual Fund, suggests that it is important to have an exposure of 10-15% in international portfolios. In an exclusive interview with Pushpita Dey, Gupta talks about changing investors' sentiments globally, and the edge of having exposure to international markets. Edited excerpts :

DIIs sold Rs 55,000 crore of shares in November amid record FII inflows. Is investor behaviour in India reversing? Some profit booking by DIIs is natural. Domestic investors have consistently bought equities for many years. During Covid, after a sharp correction and an initial market rally, some investors did redeem. They were either uncomfortable with the risk in their portfolios, looking to rebalance, or simply wanted to recover their investments. That is normal behaviour. I don't see it as a structural reversal of investorconfidence in equities.

Has the West Asia conflict slowed GIFT City mutual fund growth or exposed deeper challenges in attracting global investors? Have you revised your AUM growth targets?

No, we haven't changed our targets, and I don't think there has been any slowdown. GIFT City is a very different business. We see it as an investment ahead of the curve, much like the mutual fund business was 10-20 years ago. Our focus is on building the right inbound and outbound products — taking India to the world and bringing the world to India. We also want to offer a strong digital platform and build distributor outreach. We don't have a six-month or one-year horizon; we want to build this business over 10 years.

Advertisement

Equity-oriented SIF strategies saw wide variations in returns in October. What should investors keep in mind before investing?You cannot compare all SIF strategies. Even within the same category, strategies can differ widely. For instance, one fund may have 10% net equity exposure, while another has 90%. In a month of sharp market movements, their risk-

'EPFO's systematic withdrawal plan offers regular income to retirees

Eligible subscribers can withdraw up to 75% of their PF corpus in instalments, though tax treatment needs clarity.

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The EPFO's new systematic withdrawal plan (SWP) allows retiring provident fund subscribers to withdraw up to 75% of their corpus in monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly instalments instead of taking the entire amount as a lump sum. The remaining balance stays invested in the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and continues to earn interest, offering retirees regular cash flow while keeping part of their savings intact.

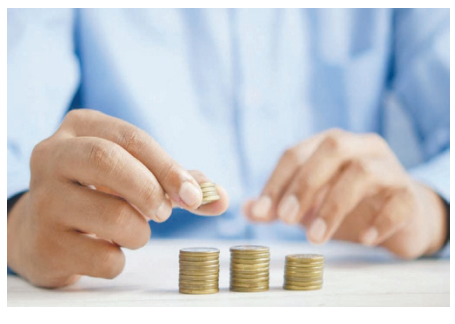
However, whether SWP withdrawals will enjoy the same tax benefits as regular EPF withdrawals remains unclear. Under existing rules, EPF withdrawals are tax-free for employees who have completed five years of continuous service. The biggest benefit of SWP, according to analysts, is the prospect of a predictable post-retirement income while the retained corpus continues to earn interest. The EPF interest rate for the current financial year is 8.25%.

How does SWP work?

Under the plan, retiring members can choose to withdraw their PF savings at regular monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly intervals. Unlike the existing system, which requires a lump-sum withdrawal, SWP allows members to retain part of their corpus in EPF and earn interest on it.

The plan also protects family interests. If a subscriber dies during the payout period, nominees or eligible dependents can withdraw the remaining balance or continue receiving periodic payments.

SWP does not replace the monthly pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS). Eligible subscribers receive an EPS pension after completing at least 10 years of eligible service. SWP, in contrast, allows periodic withdrawals from accumulated EPF savings to



supplement retirement income.

Who can benefit?

Of the more than 36.2 crore registered PF subscribers as of March 2026, around eight crore were contributing members. Only about 6.32 lakh subscribers aged above 55 with PF balances exceeding `5 lakh can avail of SWP.Other changes include reducing the minimum waiting period for final withdrawal after unemployment from 12 months to two months, lowering the minimum balance requirement to 10% from 25%, and raising partial withdrawal eligibility to 90%. These changes could help members without a substantial pension or another dependable source of post-retirement income.

Tax treatment unclear

The government is yet to clarify whether SWP withdrawals will be taxed. Experts argue that the existing tax exemption should extend to the plan. Puneet Gupta, partner at EY India, said the timing or amount of withdrawal should ideally not change the tax treatment of the accumulated corpus.

Two Army soldiers accidentally run over by tank during military exercise in Hisar

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Two Army soldiers died after they were accidentally run over by a tank during a routine military training exercise near Bhojraj village in Haryana's Hisar district on Saturday, police said on Sunday.According to preliminary information, dust kicked up by the movement of tanks during the training obscured the tank driver's vision and led to the accident, police said.The deceased were identified as Naik Manish Kumar, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Shamli, and Naik Ankush Kumar of Uttar Pradesh's Budaun, both of whom were positioned at the front of the tank, police said. '

A Hisar police spokesperson said, "Both soldiers sustained critical injuries and were immediately rushed to the Military Hospital in Hisar, where doctors declared them dead. Post-mortem examinations of both personnel have been conducted, and senior Army officials were informed about the incident."'As many as 32 tanks were participating in the routine military exercise on Saturday. Army personnel were deployed at designated positions on the ground as part of the exercise.

Odisha residents in AP rural polls; dual benefit talk under scrutiny

BERHAMPUR.(Agency)

Nearly 20 years after a woman from a village in Odisha won a panchayat election in Andhra Pradesh, three Ganjam district residents are contesting for ward member posts in the neighbouring state.Shankar Sabar of Gudikhala village under Buratal gram panchayat in Patrapur block is contesting from a ward in Budarasingi gram panchayat in Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, Ramchandra Behera and Lalita Sabar of Kuladi village under Tumba gram panchayat are also contesting the polls.The participation of residents of Odisha's border villages of Gajapati and Ganjam districts in Andhra Pradesh's panchayat elections has brought the long-standing issue of overlapping electoral and administrative identities into focus.Lalita's supporters campaigned in Kuladi and Satapuri villages on Sunday. Along with Gudikhala of Buratal panchayat, Kuladi, Satapuri and Babana Sahi villages under Tumba panchayat maintain close ties with Talaguranti panchayat in Andhra Pradesh. Similar cross-border connections exist in Dabuthali and other neighbouring villages.

Owing to geographical proximity and social ties, residents of these villages reportedly maintain connections with administrative institutions and welfare systems in both states. Several families allegedly possess ration cards and voter identity cards.

JSP gives cadre free hand to contest AP panchayat elections independently

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

The Jana Sena Party (JSP) has given its leaders, Jana Sainiks and Veera Mahilas a free hand to contest the gram panchayat elections independently, even as it continues its alliance with the TDP and BJP. The decision could pave the way for friendly contests between alliance partners at the village level, against the backdrop of discontent among a section of Jana Sena cadre over what they perceive as inadequate representation in seat allocation during the recently concluded municipal, MPTC and ZPTC elections.JSP chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalayan has made it clear that anyone from the party willing to contest the panchayat elections can file nominations without restrictions. Unlike municipal, MPTC and ZPTC elections, there will be no seat-sharing arrangements for gram panchayat polls.

The freedom to contest independently is expected to provide an opportunity for grassroots workers to establish the party's identity in rural areas.Gram panchayat elections are conducted on a non-party basis.At the village level, electoral equations are largely shaped by local leadership, personal relationships, community support and the standing of individual candidates.

Gorakhpur varsity V-C booked for Bareilly farmer's suicide: 'Tried to grab land'

Lucknow.(Agency)

Two days after a 55-year-old farmer allegedly died by suicide in Bareilly, the police have registered an FIR against four people, including Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University vice-chancellor Krishna Pal Singh, on charges of abetment of suicide and cheating. Police said the deceased, Bhagwan Singh, and his family had been embroiled in a land dispute with KP Singh, the prime accused in the case.KP Singh was earlier serving as the vice-chancellor of Bareilly-based Rohilkhand University.The victim's family alleged that the accused misused their position and influence and, in connivance with revenue officials, hatched a criminal conspiracy to fraudulently execute a sale deed in their favour for agricultural land purchased by Bhagwan Singh in Bareilly's Pachpera village in 1995. The family said they had built a house on the land and had been living there for years.The family alleged that Bhagwan Singh was repeatedly threatened and pressured to vacate the land and their house. He was allegedly given life threats and warned of implication in false cases if he refused to comply. The family claimed that the sustained intimidation and harassment left him deeply distressed and pushed him to die by suicide, police added.Based on a complaint filed by the victim's son Bhag Singh, an FIR has been lodged in the matter at Baherhi police station. Besides KP Singh, other accused in the case are his wife Sanjesh, Sanjeev Kumar Rathi, Anuj Kumar, and an unidentified associate, said police.

The case has been filed under BNS Sections 108 (abetment of suicide), 318 (cheating), 336 (forgery), 340 (Forged document or electronic record and using it as genuine) and 61 (criminal conspiracy). No arrests have been made so far.Baherhi police Station House Officer Dinesh Kumar Sharma said there was a dispute over a 12-acre land located at Pachpera village — while the complainant has possession of the land, the accused claims to have purchased it. The matter is pending in court, he said.When



contacted, KP Singh said all the land documents were legally valid and that courts had passed orders in their favour. He added that the opposite party had approached the Allahabad High Court in 2019. He said the 12-bigha land has three co-owners, including him. "Everyone is aware of the land dispute. The opposite party is trying to create a nuisance. We have no association of any kind with them," he said. Singh also sought a police investigation into the farmer's death.

According to police, complainant Bhag Singh stated his father's name has been duly recorded in all relevant government and revenue records, including the Khatauni (record of land ownership and cultivation).

He alleged that the accused, in collusion with revenue and consolidation officials, misused their influence to obtain an unlawful order without notifying his father or giving him an opportunity to present his case. They allegedly arranged an impersonator and used forgery and deception to fraudulently execute a sale deed for the land. After discovering the alleged fraud and forged sale deed, the victim and his son repeatedly approached administrative and revenue officials with valid documents establishing their ownership of the land. However, they alleged that no action was taken on their complaints due to the accused's political and administrative influence and their alleged links with officials.

Keralam teen gets kidney damage from fairness cream, case against manufacturer

Kerala Police registered a case after a teenager developed kidney complications following prolonged use of a social media-promoted fairness cream. The complaint highlights alleged mercury contamination, undisclosed ingredients and serious health risks from such products.

Malappuram, Kerala.(Agency)

A case has been registered in Keralam after a 17-year-old girl developed kidney complications following the use of a fairness cream marketed on social media, with police accusing the manufacturer and seller of producing and selling a product containing adulterated substances and excessive mercury.

The FIR has been registered under Sections 316(2) and 318(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Section 27 A(I) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, and Section 118(e) of the Kerala Police Act.According to the complaint, the accused manufactured and sold the cream despite being aware that its contents could endanger human life.The product was promoted through Instagram, with claims that it could reduce facial blemishes, dark spots and pigmentation.The teenager developed serious health complications after using the cream and had to undergo treatment for several months.Her family said they spent nearly Rs 1 lakh on medical expenses.

'CREAM HAD NO DETAILS OF INGREDIENTS'

In a video statement, the teenager said the product's packaging carried only a location in Dubai and listed turmeric and other natural ingredients, without mentioning mercury."The cream had only location details as Dubai. There was no other details. On ingredients, it read turmeric and only other natural ingredients. If we knew they were using mercury, then we would have never used it. It doesn't say about mercury," she said.The teenager said she contacted the seller through the



number provided with the product, but the person initially asked her about her preferred language.The cream was promoted by several social media influencers, she said, but declined to name any of them, adding that she did not want her complaint to be seen as targeting specific individuals.

KIDNEY COMPLICATIONS DETECTED AFTER SWELLING

The teenager said she initially underwent medical tests that did not identify the problem. However, after she developed swelling in her leg, doctors conducted a urine test, which revealed that albumin was being released through her urine.

She said some of her classmates had also used the cream but had not reported health complications so far. They had subsequently asked her about the tests conducted during her treatment.Doctors treating the teenager had earlier said she developed a serious kidney condition after using the cream for nearly a year. Tests conducted on the product reportedly found mercury levels of 12,500 parts per million, significantly higher than the permissible limitThe teenager has said doctors told her that her condition was in its initial stage and could be treated over the next one to two years. However, she was also warned that delayed diagnosis could result in permanent kidney damage.

TEENAGER URGES USERS TO STOP USING CREAM

The teenager urged people using similar fairness products to discontinue them and seek medical attention if they experience health complications. of less than one part per million.

Odisha to set up beach cams, INCOIS centre to strengthen cyclone readiness

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

The state government has decided to introduce a video camera-based autonomous beach monitoring system along its coastline and establish a regional centre of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) to strengthen coastal surveillance and early disaster warning capabilities.Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi took the decision on Sunday as part of the efforts to strengthen Odisha's disaster management infrastructure, particularly its preparedness to deal with cyclones and other marine hazards.The proposed system will provide weather-related oceanographic data to facilitate forecasting and early warning of marine disasters. It will also support scientific research on coastal and oceanic processes, said the CMO.The state Science and Technology department will soon sign an MoU with INCOIS, which functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, for implementation of the initiative.

Science and Technology minister Krushna Chandra Patra during his meeting with Union minister of state for Earth Sciences and Science and Technology Jitendra Singh in New Delhi in August had sought collaboration among central and state scientific institutions and increasing participation of Odisha's coastal districts in national marine and environmental initiatives. The INCOIS was also part of the discussion.The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services with its headquarters in Hyderabad, had already signed an MoU with Andhra Pradesh in October for setting up a regional centre in Kakinada at an estimated cost of Rs 100 crore to support Bay of Bengal research, ocean-state forecasts, tsunami warnings and fishing advisories. The Andhra Pradesh government has provided 45 acre land for the project.Odisha already has an established disaster warning dissemination network. Its Early Warning Dissemination System, introduced in 2018, covers vulnerable coastal villages through alert towers, sirens and mass messaging. INCOIS also provides ocean information services to six coastal districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri and Ganjam.

Green spaces keep campuses cooler, shows field study conducted in Visakhapatnam

VISAKHAPATNAM.(Agency)

Green spaces in educational campuses can make outdoor areas cooler and more suitable for student activities, with a vegetated courtyard recording up to 1.2 degrees Celsius lower air temperature than a non-vegetated one in a field study conducted in Visakhapatnam.

The study, titled 'Microclimate and User Perception in Vegetated and Non-Vegetated Educational Courtyards: A Paired Field Study in Visakhapatnam, India', was conducted by K Sai Sri Laasya, an M.Arch student, and Sai Gautham Kumar Gujjula, Assistant Professor, at the School of Architecture, GITAM, Visakhapatnam.It was published in the International Journal of Latest Technology in Engineering, Management & Applied Science.

Researchers monitored a vegetated courtyard, identified as GSB, and a non-vegetated courtyard, identified as SACB, on 10 dates between July 23 and August 8, 2026.

'Relative humidity high in vegetated courtyards'

Air temperature and relative humidity were recorded at four points in each courtyard at 9 am and 12 pm.The vegetated courtyard was cooler on all 10 monitoring dates at both times. Its average air temperature was 29.27 degrees Celsius at 9 am, compared with 29.98 degrees Celsius in the non-vegetated courtyard. At 12 pm, the average temperatures were 29.43 degrees Celsius and 30.63 degrees Celsius, respectively.The air temperature difference between the two courtyards widened from 0.72 degrees Celsius in the morning to 1.20 degrees Celsius at noon. Paired statistical tests showed that the differences were significant at both times. Between 9 am and 12 pm, air temperature in the vegetated courtyard rose by 0.16 degree Celsius, while the non-vegetated courtyard recorded a rise of 0.65 degrees Celsius.Relative humidity was higher in the vegetated courtyard, averaging 79.58% at 9 am and 79.20% at 12 pm, compared with 76.06%



and 75.81% in the non-vegetated courtyard. That was a difference of 3.52 percentage points in the morning, and 3.39 percentage points at noon.Researchers also carried out a survey of 21 courtyard users, including 11 at the vegetated courtyard, and 10 at the non-vegetated one.

About 90% of the respondents were students.At the vegetated courtyard, 54.5% of respondents rated thermal conditions as comfortable, and 45.5% rated them neutral, with none selecting uncomfortable. At the non-vegetated courtyard, 20% rated conditions as comfortable, 60% as neutral, and 20% as uncomfortable.

Teacher 'assaulted with sticks' as his scooter runs over businessman's leg in Barabanki

Chandigarh(Agency)

A 45-year-old private teacher was allegedly assaulted on a road in Barabanki's Kotwali area on Saturday after his scooter allegedly ran over the leg of a 30-year-old businessman.A purported video of the incident has since gone viral.Based on a complaint filed by victim Mohammad Afzal, police have lodged a case against one Babloo Thakur under BNS Sections 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 351 (criminal intimidation) and 324 (mischief)."The police have also booked Babloo Thakur for breach of peace," said Barabanki Additional Superintendent of Police Mohammad Aftab Alam.He added that during the investigation, it emerged that one of the scooter's tyres had run over Thakur's foot, triggering the altercation.According to police, Mohammad Afzal, a resident of Krishna Nagar locality, stated in his complaint that he was travelling on his scooter at around 1.30 pm on Friday when Thakur, who owns a shop, suddenly came in front of his vehicle near Kamariya Bagh crossing. Afzal managed to apply the brakes and stop the scooter to avoid hitting him.

However, Afzal alleged that Thakur began abusing him and assaulted him, first with his hands and then with a stick, repeatedly striking him on the head. When he tried to shield himself



and fend off the blows with his hand, he sustained a fracture.Afzal further alleged that after assaulting him and leaving him seriously injured, Thakur pelted his scooter with bricks, causing extensive damage. He also repeatedly threatened to kill him during the assault, Afzal alleged.The matter was resolved when the police reached the spot.

Carlos Alcaraz ends ATP Finals wait, dethrones Roger Federer with historic sweep

New Delhi.(Agency)

Carlos Alcaraz has another trophy to tick off his bucket list, and this one comes with a rather special place in tennis history. The Spaniard beat world number one Alexander Zverev 6-2, 7-6 (9-7) to win his maiden ATP Finals title, becoming the youngest man to complete the career sweep of all four Grand Slams and the season-ending championship.At 23 years and six months, Alcaraz has joined Andre Agassi, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic as the only four men to achieve the feat. He is also comfortably the youngest among them, beating Federer's previous mark by more than four years.The final, however, was anything but a stroll. Alcaraz bossed the opening set before Zverev found his feet and dragged the contest into a tense tie-break. The German even had three set points to force a decider, but Alcaraz saved every one of them before producing a backhand winner to seal the title.Still sporting heavy strapping around his upper-left leg after an injury scare earlier in the week, Alcaraz collapsed to the court in celebration. It was his 14th consecutive victory and his third straight title, following triumphs in Vienna and Paris.

Zverev arrived in Turin in terrific form, having reached the final without dropping a set and finishing the season with an ATP Tour-leading 69 match wins. But Alcaraz had other ideas, becoming the first player to break the German's serve during the tournament and keeping his nerve when the title was on the line.

'THIS TROPHY MEANS THE WORLD TO ME'

For Alcaraz, this was a long time coming. Having finished runner-up to Jannik Sinner in last year's final, the Spaniard finally got his hands on the trophy and admitted just how much.

Every Australian knew about it: De Villiers backs explosive Sandpapergate claim

New Delhi.(Agency)

AB de Villiers has made an explosive claim about Australia's 2018 ball-tampering scandal, insisting that every player in the team knew about the plan to alter the condition of the ball. The former South African batter said he had "zero per cent doubt" that the Australians had deliberately decided to break the rules, even before the infamous Cape Town Test.The Sandpapergate controversy has resurfaced following fresh revelations by Usman Khawaja and Cameron Bancroft. De Villiers, who played in the Cape Town Test and scored 64 and 63 in the two innings, believes the ball-tampering was not restricted to that match or the subsequent Port Elizabeth Test. He also pointed to the opening Test in Durban, insisting that the same thing had happened there.

"I'm not here to burn any individuals or say one is right and the other is wrong. I have my strong feelings about a couple of things that I might share on here," de Villiers said on his YouTube channel, as quoted by nine.com.au.The South African great also spoke about Khawaja's decision to revisit the scandal in his autobiography, *Sabr*. While he had no issue with the Australian opener writing about the episode, he questioned the timing."Usman, nothing wrong with him releasing the book. The timing is obviously a bit weird given it's 2026 now," he said.

De Villiers admitted that the scandal had taken a personal toll on those involved and said he felt for them, although not for what had happened on the field."It's become really personal for all the people involved, and I do have sympathy for them. Obviously not sympathy for what took place on that day and who knows how many games before then," he said.

DE VILLIERS SAYS DURBAN WAS NO DIFFERENT

De Villiers was particularly firm when asked about the possibility of ball-tampering before the Cape Town Test. He said the Durban Test should also come under scrutiny and urged people to look at the footage.

Not good enough for Test cricket: Styris slams Wellington pitch after IND-NZ draw

Scott Styris has criticised the Wellington pitch after India and New Zealand played out a draw in the first Test, saying it failed to offer a fair contest between bat and ball. Sunil Gavaskar also shared his assessment of the surface.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The drawn first Test between India and New Zealand at the Basin Reserve has prompted criticism of the playing surface from former New Zealand all-rounder Scott Styris, who felt the pitch did not offer a fair contest between bat and ball. Sunil Gavaskar, meanwhile, had a different assessment, suggesting the surface initially looked challenging enough to produce a result inside four days, particularly with Jasprit Bumrah leading India's attack.Styris was particularly critical of how the conditions changed after the opening morning. While there was some assistance for the fast bowlers early on, the movement and bounce did not last, allowing the batters to take control of the contest."I'm with you — the pitch wasn't good enough for Test cricket. I think we can stick our hand up and say that. We want a good even contest between bat and ball. We didn't get that," Styris said on Sony Sports.The former New Zealand all-rounder pointed out that scoring runs had become relatively easy, making the toss a significant factor in determining the course of the match. According to Styris, winning the toss provided a considerable advantage, particularly on a surface that offered little assistance to the bowlers as the game progressed.He also reflected on the changing nature of New Zealand pitches, observing that grounds have increasingly opted for greener surfaces over the last decade. However, he felt the presence of grass did not necessarily translate into sustained assistance for the fast bowlers."I thought that first morning did plenty, however, it didn't last very long, and that was the problem," he added.



Gavaskar, on the other hand, explained why he initially expected the match to finish inside four days. The former India captain felt the surface looked challenging for batters on the first morning and believed Bumrah, with some support from the other Indian bowlers, could make life difficult for New Zealand."When I saw the pitch on the first morning, I in fact thought it could be a four-day game at best. I didn't think the game would get into the fifth day because it would have been difficult for both teams' batters," Gavaskar said.He added that Bumrah could have been too much for the New Zealand batters to handle, provided the Indian pacer received adequate support from the other bowlers.

Ganguly questions India's selection in Wellington Test: Where is Kuldeep, Manav?

Wellington.(Agency)

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has raised questions over India's spin-bowling options after the opening Test against New Zealand in Wellington ended in a draw, stressing the importance of having a genuine spinner who can make an impact when pitches become flatter.While praising India's batting display and their performances across formats, Ganguly felt the team needed to think carefully about its spin combination, particularly in overseas conditions where surfaces tend to lose their assistance as a Test progresses.In a post on X, Ganguly said India's batting application had been impressive in both white-ball and red-ball cricket. However, he felt that winning Test matches away from home required a frontline spinner capable of making things happen even when the pitch offered little help."India has been brilliant this series .. white ball and now red ball .. the batting application looked super .. but they must understand to win test matches away a genuine spinner is a must on pitches which get flat with time," Ganguly wrote.The former BCCI president also made a point about Washington Sundar's role in the side, suggesting that the all-rounder should not necessarily be viewed as India's primary spin option. He then questioned the absence of wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav and left-arm spinner Manav Suthar from the discussion.

SPIN UNDER SCRUTINY

Ganguly's comments come after India were unable to force a result despite enjoying a commanding position in Wellington. The visitors had taken a first-innings lead of 352 runs after piling up 720 for 9 declared, but New Zealand held firm in their second innings to finish on 239 for 5.ndia's bowlers found it increasingly difficult to make inroads as the surface flattened out. New Zealand's batters showed patience, with Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips frustrating the visitors through a determined partnership on the final day.

The conditions brought the effectiveness of India's bowling combination into focus. While



Washington offers control and valuable batting depth, Ganguly's argument is that India also need a specialist spinner who can provide a wicket-taking threat when conditions are not particularly helpful.

LOOKING AHEAD

India will now shift their focus to the second Test in Christchurch, starting November 27. The team management will have to assess whether to stick with the same bowling combination or consider a change, particularly after struggling to make breakthroughs on a surface that offered little assistance in Wellington.

Hurt Shreyanka Patil had a point to prove. She let her bat do the screaming

New Delhi.(Agency)

Shreyanka Patil is usually all smiles, even when things aren't going her way. But on Friday, there was a different look in her eyes. The smile was gone, replaced by an ice-cold, defiant stare during the post-match presentation after Karnataka's win over Railways in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy final. It was a side of Shreyanka rarely seen, one that reflected frustration, hurt and a determination to prove a point.

If you have been watching Roadies XXI, you would know that the theme this season is Rebirth—stories of people overcoming setbacks, fighting their way back and emerging stronger.Shreyanka's journey has had its share of those moments. Injuries have plagued her over the last two years, while the last few months brought another setback as she was left out of India's squads for the Zimbabwe series and the upcoming South Africa tour. But rather than let disappointment define her, she chose to respond with performances.

Shreyanka helped Karnataka clinch their maiden Senior Women's T20 Trophy title, finishing as the Player of the Series. She claimed 22 wickets, the most by any bowler in a single edition of the tournament. But it was her batting that made an equally emphatic statement.She scored 154 runs at a strike rate of 197.43, including a blistering 71 against Delhi. She was showing that she was no longer just a bowler who could chip in with the bat, but an all-rounder capable of taking games away from the opposition.The numbers were impressive, but they were also the result of years of work that had not always translated into big scores. Shreyanka believes this season marked the rebirth of her as an all-rounder."Absolutely. It has been a



journey for me. Over the last five years, I have worked really hard on my batting, be it through drills, match simulations, or facing quality bowlers. I think it has been a fruitful journey, but my numbers haven't really reflected the effort I've put in, whether in the WPL or domestic cricket. I haven't scored big runs, but my strike rate has always stood out," Shreyanka told India Today in an exclusive interview.

This season, however, gave her the opportunity to show just how far she had come. More time at the crease meant more deliveries to face, and she made the most of them.

Shubman Gill breaks silence on dropping good friend Siraj in Wellington Test

NZ vs IND, 1st Test: Shubman Gill defended the decision to leave Mohammed Siraj out of the Wellington Test, admitting it was difficult to tell his good friend he would miss out, as the selection call drew criticism from former cricketers.

New Delhi.(Agency)

India captain Shubman Gill on Monday defended the team management's decision to leave Mohammed Siraj out of the playing XI for the first Test against New Zealand in Wellington, insisting that the fast bowler's inclusion would not have changed the result. Gill admitted that informing Siraj, his good friend, about the decision was particularly difficult.

India missed a golden opportunity to win the Test after posting 720/9 declared, their highest Test total in New Zealand, and securing a first-innings lead of 352 runs. The Indian bowlers had made early inroads in New Zealand's first innings, with Jasprit Bumrah leading the attack with four wickets as the hosts were bowled out for 368. SCORECARDIndia then piled on the runs, with KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant scoring centuries, while Yashasvi Jaiswal, Devdutt Padikkal and Gill made valuable contributions. Gill's side declared with four sessions remaining, leaving themselves enough time to push for a victory.

However, New Zealand showed considerable resolve in their second innings. Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips led the resistance on the final day, helping the hosts survive India's bowling attack. New Zealand eventually reached 239 for 5 after batting for 120 overs, with the two



teams settling for a draw.Asked whether the inclusion of Siraj and Ravindra Jadeja could have made a difference to the result, Gill was unequivocal.

"I don't think so," he said.Siraj and Jadeja's omission from the playing XI for the series opener had raised several eyebrows. India opted for Washington Sundar, with the off-spinner preferred to counter New Zealand's left-handed batter-heavy line-up. However, Siraj's exclusion was particularly surprising given his record in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia) conditions.The Hyderabad pacer had been India's leading wicket-taker during their 2-2 draw in the five-Test series in England last year, claiming 23 wickets. His ability to bowl long spells and maintain pressure, particularly in overseas conditions, has made him an important member of India's Test attack.

SIRAJ GREAT PLAYER, A GOOD FRIEND: GILL

Gill acknowledged Siraj's quality but insisted that the selection was based on the form and combination the team management wanted to go with."Siraj is a great player and a great bowler who has done very well for India. Before all of that, he is a good friend of mine. Leaving him out was a very tough decision for me as well. But you have to see which bowlers are in form," Gill said.Gill said the decision was communicated to the player before the match, adding that he understood the reasoning behind his omission and remained determined to fight his way back into the team."I had this conversation. I told him before the match that he's going to miss this match.

Tilak Varma's slow start under scrutiny: Did it put pressure on India's batters?

Barranquilla.(Agency)

Tilak Varma's struggle to get going during India's chase against Pakistan A has raised questions about its impact on the rest of the batting line-up. Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar believes the India A captain's slow start could have forced the batter at the other end to take unnecessary risks, creating opportunities for Pakistan to strike.India A eventually suffered a 48-run defeat in the Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament, falling short of Pakistan A's 314-run target.

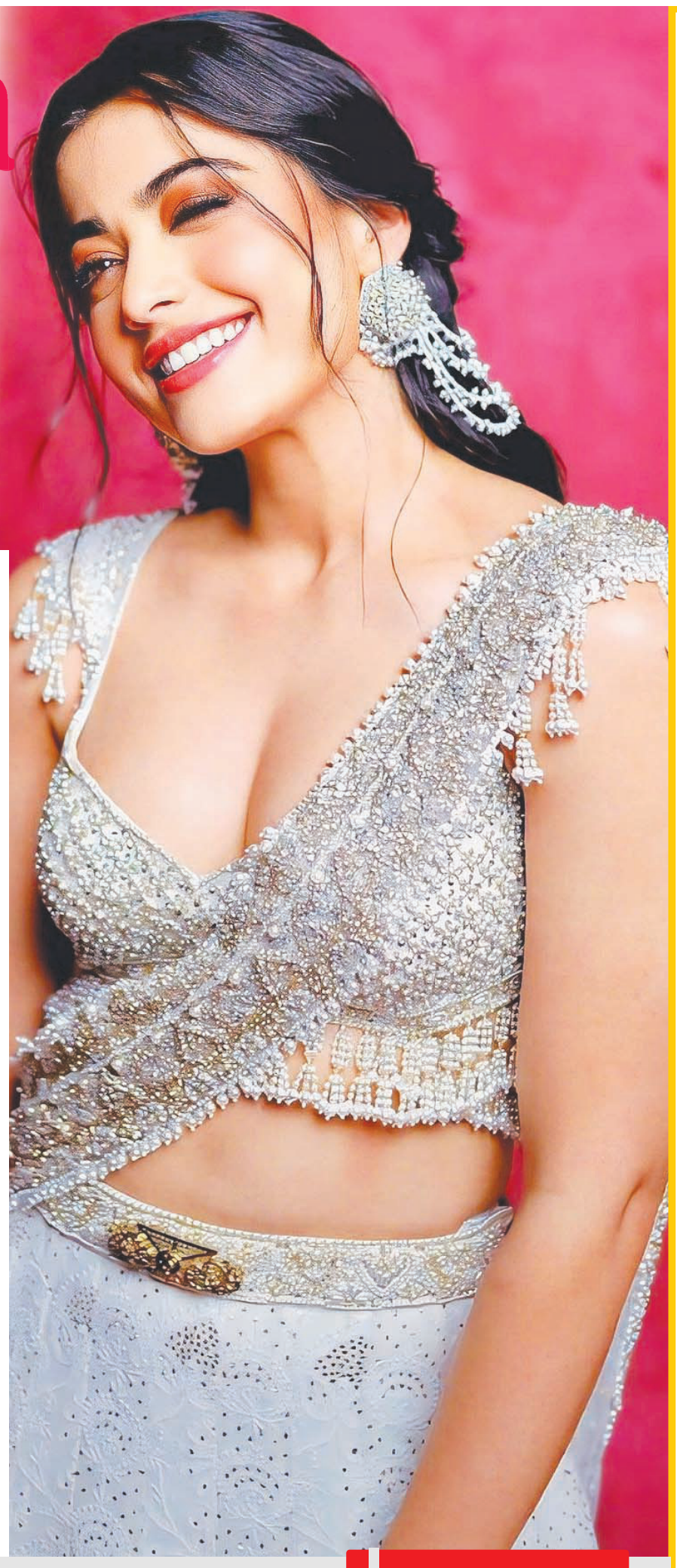
While Abhishek Sharma's explosive 70 gave India hope early in the innings, the chase lost momentum after his dismissal, with Tilak struggling to accelerate despite spending considerable time at the crease.Speaking on Sony Sports, Bangar highlighted Tilak's scoring pattern during his first 50 deliveries and questioned the pressure it could have created at the other end."He scored three runs off his first 25 balls, and then maybe 12 or 13 runs over the next 25 deliveries. When you play 50 balls and reach 18 or 21, what effect does that have on the batter at the other end?" Bangar said.The former India coach suggested that while Tilak might have backed himself to make up for the slow start later, his partner could have felt compelled to take greater risks to keep the scoreboard moving."Because Tilak himself is confident that he'll make up for it, what effect does it have on the other batter? Will they take extra risks, or feel forced to take extra risks, which can create a wicket-taking opportunity?" he added.

ABHISHEK'S EXPLOSIVE START

India's chase had begun with considerable promise, largely thanks to Abhishek's aggressive approach. The left-hander smashed 70 off just 42 deliveries, including six fours and six sixes, to keep India in contention.He took a particular liking to Mohammad Imran, hitting the pacer for two fours and two sixes before continuing his assault against the spinners. Abhishek also dispatched Hasan Nawaz for two sixes and a four, bringing up his half-century in just 31 balls.

Rashmika Mandanna

Reveals Why She And Vijay Deverakonda Filed Police Complaint After KWK 9: 'My Family...'



Rashmika Mandanna has opened up about the online backlash she and her husband, Vijay Deverakonda, faced following their appearance on Koffee with Karan Season 9. The couple's candid conversation on Karan Johar's chat show attracted considerable attention, but several remarks also became the subject of trolling and criticism. The situation eventually prompted them to approach the police over alleged online harassment and manipulated content.In a recent interview with Prema – The Journalist, Rashmika explained why she generally avoids engaging with social media trolls but decided to take a stand when the criticism extended to her family. The actress maintained that public scrutiny comes with being an entertainer, although she believes there must be a clear distinction between questioning a celebrity's work and attacking people who have never chosen to be in the public eye.



Rashmika Mandanna On Ignoring Social Media Trolls

During the conversation, Rashmika reflected on how her approach to online criticism has changed over the years.The actress revealed that she would initially respond to people who posted negative comments about her. However, she eventually realised that engaging in such exchanges served little purpose.

Describing the exercise as "a waste of time," Rashmika said she now prefers to ignore the negativity rather than participate in arguments on social media.She admitted that certain remarks still tempt her to respond, but experience has taught her that it is often "better to remain silent."Rashmika also clarified that she does not object to people having opinions about her acting, personality or professional choices. She considers criticism an "occupational hazard" and recognises that audiences are entitled to express their views about public figures.

Rashmika Mandanna Reacts To Koffee With Karan 9 Controversy

The discussion subsequently turned to Rashmika and Vijay's appearance on the second episode of Koffee with Karan Season 9.

While several viewers appreciated their candid exchanges, the couple also faced considerable trolling. One revelation that attracted particular attention was Rashmika's admission that she had asked Vijay to marry her every day for an entire year.

Yeh Prem Mol Liya OTT Release: Where To Watch Ayushmann Khurrana-Sharvari's Romantic Drama Online



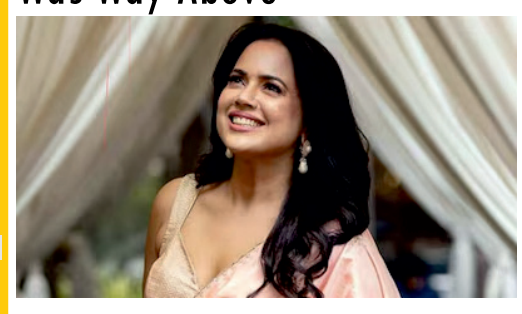
Ayushmann Khurrana and Sharvari's Yeh Prem Mol Liya is set to release in theatres on November 27. Directed by Sooraj Barjatya, the film will mark the filmmaker's return to the big screen with a romantic family drama. Ahead of its release, details about the film's OTT platform have also been revealed.The film will stream on Amazon Prime Video after completing its theatrical run. The platform's name has been mentioned on the film's official posters. However, the makers are yet to announce the OTT release date. Hindi films usually arrive on streaming platforms 45 to 60 days after their theatrical release. The same timeline could apply to Yeh Prem Mol Liya, but viewers will have to wait for an official announcement.

Ayushmann plays Prem Mishra in the film, while Sharvari plays Purva Solanki. The cast also includes Anupam Kher, Shaad Randhawa, Supriya Pathak, Seema Pahwa, Swanand Kirkire and Saumya Tandon, among others. The film is reportedly being made on a budget of Rs 70 crore, although the makers have not confirmed the amount.In an interview with t2online, Ayushmann spoke about playing Prem in Sooraj Barjatya's film. He also spoke about the qualities that make the character special.

"Prem is a green flag to me, and to everyone, in fact. He is a beautiful man who loves his partner and his family. That has been the continuous thread in most of Sooraj sir's films," he said.The actor also described Yeh Prem Mol Liya as the most progressive Rajshri film. He said playing Prem comes with a lot of responsibility and called Salman Khan the 'ideal' Prem. Ayushmann also explained why the role suits him.

Meanwhile, Ayushmann was last seen in Udta Teer, which also featured Sara Ali Khan. The film was written and directed by Aakash Kaushik and produced by Dharma Productions and Sikhya Entertainment.

Sameera Reddy Reveals She Earned More In South Cinema Than Bollywood: 'For Me, It Was Way Above'



Sameera Reddy has opened up about the stark difference between her experiences in Bollywood and the South Indian film industries, revealing that she received considerably more respect, better remuneration and greater recognition while working in the latter. The actress, who recently returned to acting after an extended hiatus, admitted that she identifies more strongly with her career in South Indian cinema despite having appeared in several Hindi films.

In a conversation with Hindustan Times, Sameera reflected on working alongside some of the biggest names in Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam cinema. She also spoke about the affection she continues to receive from audiences, particularly for her performance in Vaaranam Aayiram. According to the actress, the appreciation she experienced in the South was markedly different from what she encountered in Bollywood.

Sameera Reddy Says South Cinema Was 'Way Above Bollywood'

Looking back at her career, Sameera recalled her collaborations with actors including Chiranjeevi, Jr NTR, Suriya, Ajith and Mohanlal. She described her professional experiences in the South as overwhelmingly positive."I had a superb time working in the South. I worked with the top stars, and my personal experiences were wonderful. Everyone has a different journey, but for me, the South was way above Bollywood," she said.

The actress explained that her preference was not merely about the opportunities she received. She felt that South Indian cinema valued her contributions more generously, both financially and professionally.From the remuneration she commanded to the recognition she enjoyed as a leading actress, Sameera maintained that her experiences in the South surpassed those in Hindi cinema.She added that she considers herself a South Indian actress first and continues to cherish her films from the region.

Shamita Shetty

Wishes Shilpa Shetty-Raj Kundra On Anniversary, Actress Replies 'Love Youuuuu'



As Shilpa Shetty and Raj Kundra completed another year of marital bliss on Sunday, Shilpa's younger sister and actress, Shamita Shetty, penned a sweet wish for her sister and brother-in-law on social media.The 'Mohabbatein' actress dropped a few romantic pictures of Shilpa and Raj on her official handle and wrote, "Happy Anniversary, love birds (Red heart and hug emoji) wishing you a lifetime of togetherness always (Red heart emoji) (sic)".Shilpa also celebrated another year of marital bliss with her businessman husband with a sweet post on social media. In a photo uploaded by the 'Dhadkan' actress, both Shilpa and Raj were seen walking holding hands with their backs facing the camera. The lovebirds also flaunted the matching red soles of their respective footwear.



Wishing her husband on their special day, Shilpa penned on her handle, "Matching Soles with my matching SOUL (Red heart and evil eye emoji) Happy Anniversary (Red heart emojis) (sic)."For those who do not know, Shilpa and Raj tied the knot in November 2009 in a grand traditional South Indian ceremony in Lonavala.The couple is parents to two children – son Viaan Raj Kundra and daughter Samisha Shetty Kundra. Shifting our focus to their professional commitments, Raj will be venturing into production with 'Nihang'.The businessman expressed gratitude to Shilpa for being by his side as he starts his new professional journey.Raj shared on his official handle, "Still overwhelmed with gratitude after last night at the historic Fateh Burj. What began as a dream is now the beginning of a beautiful journey."'A special thank you to Amarpreet Chhabra bhaji, my support system who always has my back my wife @theshilpashetty, the entire team at Akaal Films and everyone working tirelessly behind the scenes to bring this vision to life," the businessman added.

Russia trying to kill Ukrainian American rapper? 1st bid in Poland, then Denmark

World.(Agency).

A Russian diplomat has been expelled by Denmark after Copenhagen said it had foiled an alleged assassination plot targeting a Ukrainian-American citizen on Danish soil.

The case took a fresh turn on Sunday after Polish authorities claimed that the same man had allegedly been targeted by Russian intelligence operatives in Poland earlier this year.According to Danish media, the rapper has been identified as Albert Vasiliev, whose stage name is Kyivstoner. He holds dual Ukrainian and US citizenship.

The Danish Security and Intelligence Service, known by its acronym “PET," said the attempt on Vasiliev's life was planned for September 25 during a concert north of Copenhagen.The agency said the plot was "planned and initiated by Russian intelligence services."Danish authorities thwarted the plot, the office of the country's Prime Minister said on Friday. PET said two men were charged with attempted murder and aiding a foreign intelligence service inside Denmark.The accused were found to be associated with Loyal to Familia, a banned gang notorious for its "extensive, serious and violent criminal activity."

Entirely appropriate: US intel chief on Trump's 'friend' praise for Putin

World.(Agency).

Russian President Vladimir Putin is not a friend when it comes to Ukraine, US Director of National Intelligence Jay Clayton said on Sunday, days after President Donald Trump spoke warmly of Russia's leader."He is not America's friend in Ukraine," Clayton told ABC News' "This Week" program. "Not at all."

Asked about Trump's recent description of Putin as a friend, Clayton also said the term was "entirely appropriate" in the context of discussions among leaders of the world's three leading nuclear powers — the United States, Russia and China — during last week's high-profile summit in China.

Trump defended calling Putin a friend on Thursday, saying that “it's nice to have people that have 4,000 nuclear weapons as a friend as opposed to an enemy." But when asked about the subject again on Friday, Trump declined to say whether Putin is a friend to the United States as a whole: "I can't speak to America."

US Army to detonate toxic lead azide in Iowa despite court block

World.(Agency)

The US Army will detonate 68 barrels of toxic lead azide in Iowa by Tuesday under emergency legal powers that allow it to bypass a court order blocking the controversial plan, the Trump administration told a court this weekend.The US Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit temporarily halted the detonation by freezing the Army's environmental permit on Thursday after environmental groups sued to halt the operation. The government said in Saturday night's filing that the Army plans to move forward without a permit by invoking an emergency munitions and explosives exception to federal environmental protection laws. Federal officials say the detonation must go forward within the next several days because a drop in temperature could destabilise the material and cause an uncontrolled explosion. "The Army must perform a controlled detonation to protect the public from the more significant threat from an uncontrolled explosion, and the Army intends to act by November 24, 2026," the Justice Department said in a court filing late on Saturday.

Ex-Bangladesh student leader arrested amid crackdown before Hasina's possible return

More than 500 Awami League leaders and workers have reportedly been arrested so far as the political situation in Bangladesh remains tense, with the party stepping up its activities on the streets.

World.(Agency).

Former Chhatra League leader Tania Akhtar Taposhi was reportedly arrested in the Tongi area of Bangladesh's Gazipur district on Sunday, November 22, amid a widening crackdown on Awami League leaders and activists ahead of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's proposed return to the country in December.More than 500 Awami League leaders and workers have reportedly been arrested so far as the political situation in Bangladesh remains tense, with the party stepping up its activities on the streets.Taposhi, a former deputy secretary for training affairs in the central committee of the Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of the Awami League, used to be among the prominent leaders of the organisation's Dhaka University unit. She had earlier been arrested in August 2023 in connection with a case in Dhaka.Her purported arrest comes amid heightened political tensions following Hasina's announcement that she intends to return to Bangladesh in December and surrender before a court. The Awami League has become increasingly vocal on the streets following the development, organising protests and demanding the former prime minister's return.

With the agitation gaining momentum, Bangladeshi authorities have made a series of arrests in cases involving alleged terrorist activities.

The latest developments come against the backdrop of escalating violence targeting Awami League leaders and their properties in several parts of Bangladesh.In one such recent incident, nearly 30 houses were reportedly set on fire in Bendarchar village in Narail district's Kalia upazila after properties belonging to Awami League leaders and activists were attacked, vandalised and looted.The violence reportedly continued from Friday afternoon until midnight. Several houses and shops were also vandalised and looted, newspaper Prothom Alo reported.



Among the properties targeted were the residences of former Awami League lawmaker BM Kabirul Haque Mukti, former Kalia municipality mayor Mushfiqur Rahman Liton and local party general secretary Krishnapada Ghosh.While local residents alleged that supporters of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) were behind the attacks, the ruling party's local leadership denied the allegations.Kalia Upazila Executive Officer Md Jinnatul Islam said several houses, including the residence of a former lawmaker, were vandalised, while five to six others were set on fire.He confirmed that the homes of Mukti and Ghosh were among those attacked but said the administration had not yet identified the perpetrators.

Prothom Alo reported that an investigation was underway.According to a statement by Narail district police quoted in local media, relatives and supporters of two BNP leaders killed in last week's violence assembled in Bendarchar on Friday afternoon and attacked the homes of Awami League leaders and workers allegedly linked to the killings.

US panel seeks India channel for Dalai Lama succession planning

Washington.(Agency)

A US congressional panel has recommended setting up a senior-level channel with India to prepare for the succession of the 14th Dalai Lama, news agency Press Trust of India reported.The US-China Economic and Security Review Commission said China could turn the succession process into an international contest over legitimacy and was likely to use coercive measures to influence its outcome.In its report to the US Congress, the bipartisan commission called for the Gaden Phodrang Trust to be recognised as the sole legitimate authority to identify and recognise the successor to the 14th Dalai Lama.The commission said the US Congress should adopt a policy of not recognising any successor to the Dalai Lama selected or installed by China.“To carry out this policy and ensure US government readiness for the Dalai Lama's succession, Congress should direct the Secretary of State to...establish a senior-level channel with



the Government of India for succession contingency planning, including intelligence sharing on Chinese influence operations,” the report said, according to PTI.It also recommended that the US Secretary of State lead an internal exercise to assess possible succession scenarios. The National Security Advisor, the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defence should participate in the exercise, it said.The commission asked the Secretary of State to hold Track 1.5 and Track 2 dialogues, along with scenario-planning exercises, with Indian counterparts on the political and security implications of different succession outcomes.

It also called on the US to coordinate with allies and partners on a diplomatic response aimed at denying international legitimacy to any successor selected by China.The report recommended strengthening the Central Tibetan Administration's cybersecurity and its ability to counter China's cyber operations and artificial intelligence-enabled disinformation campaigns related to the succession.The Gaden Phodrang Trust, set up by the Dalai Lama.

Will he, won't he? As talks drag, Trump teases Iran strikes after New Year

World.(Agency)

A diplomatic deal or renewed military strikes - US President Donald Trump has increasingly signalled that Washington may be running out of patience with Iran.Trump said he was inclined to launch fresh attacks after the New Year if negotiations failed, while warning that Iranian vessels attempting to breach the US naval blockade would be sunk.Trump's latest remarks have raised the prospect of renewed military escalation as Washington and Tehran continue indirect negotiations amid heightened tensions across the Middle East.Speaking to Fox News on Sunday, Trump expressed frustration with Iran's negotiating tactics, accusing Tehran of prolonging discussions without making meaningful concessions."They talk all



the time. All they do is talk, but it's all BS," Trump said, describing Iranian negotiators as "professional tap dancers".The US president indicated that he was increasingly inclined to resume major military operations if diplomatic efforts failed to produce an agreement by the beginning of 2027.Trump has repeatedly insisted that any deal with Iran must permanently prevent the Islamic Republic from acquiring nuclear weapons. He has also said that Washington wants an agreement that would remain effective beyond his presidency.

TRUMP THREATENS TO SINK IRANIAN TANKERS

Trump's sharpest warning concerned Iran's naval vessels and its efforts to challenge the American blockade of Iranian ports.

Muslim share in Europe to double by 2070. Why Christianity's biggest challenge isn't Islam

World.(Agency).

Europe's Muslim population is projected to more than double its share of the continent's population by 2070, rising from 6% in 2020 to 13%. For Christianity, which is the predominant religion, the rise of Islam is not the main threat. It is the growing number of Europeans leaving Christianity and identifying with no religion, alongside an ageing Christian population and falling birth rates on the continent.These findings come from the Pew Research Center's The Future of Religion in Europe, 2020-2070, published on November 18. The report is part of a larger study projecting how the world's religious populations could change over the next 50 years if current demographic trends continue.

According to Pew, Christians, who accounted for 67% of Europe's population in 2020, could make up just 52% by 2070. Meanwhile, the share of religiously unaffiliated people, including atheists, agnostics and those who simply identify with no religion, is expected to rise from 25% to 33%. This means that even as Muslims grow in number, people with no religious affiliation will remain Europe's second-largest population category. Islam would be at the third spot.

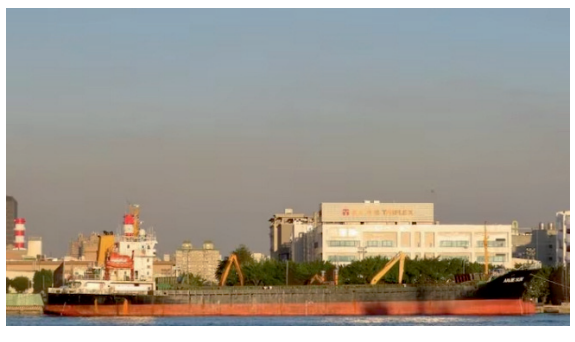
The findings have raised alarm among Christian organisations and leaders over the faith's future in Europe.Christian rights watchdog OIDAC Europe has called for stronger protection against anti-Christian attacks, while Dutch MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen has raised concerns about religious discrimination. The European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ) has also pushed for an EU coordinator to combat anti-Christian hatred. Separately, former White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt urged Christians to marry, have more children and raise them in the church. The European Union's delegation in Rome joined several European embassies in illuminating buildings red on November 18 in solidarity with persecuted Christians.This comes even as the OIDAC said that it documented 2,465 anti-Christian hate crimes and incidents across Europe in 2025, including nearly 400 attacks on individuals involving physical violence and threats.

China shipped missile material to Bangladesh? Indonesia intercepts secret cargo

World.(Agency)

Indonesian naval authorities have seized a cargo vessel travelling from China to Bangladesh carrying 405 tonnes of sodium perchlorate, a powerful oxidising chemical used in rocket and missile propellants, along with millions of unregistered SIM cards. An Indonesian Navy commander said the seized quantity could potentially be used to manufacture up to 100 missiles, raising questions about the consignment's intended use and who was supposed to receive it in Bangladesh.According to a report in the Dhaka-based daily, The Business Standard (TBS), published on Monday (November 23), the Comoros-flagged vessel, MV Star Lines was travelling from China's Lianyungang Port to Bangladesh's Mongla Port, when it was intercepted in Indonesian waters off Belwan, North Sumatra on November 7.The Indonesian navy disclosed the seizure on November 20 at a press briefing at the Navy Regional Command I in Belawan, according to videos put out by media outlets in Indonesia. The vessel was reportedly scheduled to arrive at Mongla Port on November 8.According to Dhaka Tribune, Indonesian naval personnel became suspicious after noticing unusual movements by the vessel, which had made an unscheduled stop in Belawan waters, reportedly to refuel.The naval patrol vessel KRI Sigalu-857 intercepted the ship after detecting irregular navigation patterns. The vessel allegedly failed to respond to radio communications, prompting an inspection.According to a report by the Indonesia-based outlet, SIB News Network, the vessel's suspicious movements were detected by the patrol ship's radar. Its commander subsequently ordered an inspection after the crew failed to respond to radio calls.The report stated that the Indonesian Navy as having said that the vessel may have switched off its Automatic Identification System (AIS) during the voyage, an allegation that is being examined as part of the investigation.

WHAT WAS FOUND ON THE BANGLADESH-BOUND SHIP FROM CHINA?



An inspection of the vessel's 36 containers revealed that 15 of them were used to transport 405 tonnes of sodium perchlorate. Authorities also discovered 54 pallets containing millions of unregistered blank 4G LTE SIM cards, TBS reported.Sodium perchlorate is a powerful oxidising agent used in industrial applications and in the manufacture of rocket and missile propellants. It is not itself an explosive or fuel but can support combustion.

Alice Huang was in touch with Chinese spy agency while romancing Jensen: Report

World.(Agency)

Alice Huang, the woman at the centre of the scandal that cost Nvidia chief Jensen Huang his job, was in contact with China's top intelligence agency for more than a year, including during the period she was allegedly having a secret affair with the billionaire tech executive, according to a new report by The New York Times.US intelligence reports indicate that Alice Huang, who has not been seen in public ever since the scandal broke on November 8, maintained contact with an officer of China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) from early 2025 to mid 2026, the same time that she was allegedly in a relationship with the former CEO of the world's leading maker of advanced artificial intelligence chips.The latest revelations offer a deeper look into why American intelligence officials suspected that the former Nvidia chief could have been caught up in a Chinese intelligence operation.They also point to a potentially wider network involving the acquisition of advanced semiconductor technology and its suspected movement into China in violation of US export restrictions.US intelligence agencies have also reportedly found evidence linking Kang Wei, Alice Huang's business partner, who was frequently introduced as her husband, to the MSS. Although the full extent and timeline of their alleged intelligence activities remain unclear.

Kang, who had known Jensen Huang for nearly a decade, was also aware of the former Nvidia chief's affair with Alice, according to reports.

ALICE HUANG AND THE CHINA CONNECTION

The intelligence reports detail more than just Alice Huang's contact with the MSS. US agencies are also examining whether she met officials of China's Ministry of



Public Security, the country's principal law enforcement agency.Investigators are trying to establish the full extent of her links with Chinese intelligence and the role played by Kang in the alleged operation.The contacts reportedly coincided with a period when Alice Huang's company, Megaspeed, was acquiring substantial quantities of advanced Nvidia chips through a network of businesses operating across Southeast Asia.