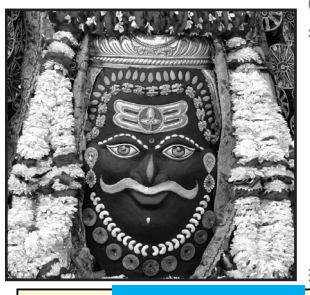
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Chandigarh could be first city to become drug-free, says Amit Shah

New Delhi . (Agency).

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday expressed confidence that Chandigarh would be among the first cities in the country to become drug-free, saying it could set an example in India's fight against narcotics.

Addressing the 60th Raising Day celebrations of Chandigarh Police, Shah said he was confident that the force would lead the country's efforts to combat drug abuse as India works towards becoming a drug-free nation.Shah also presented the President's Colour to Chandigarh Police in recognition of its six decades of service, dedication and commitment since its establishment in 1966.Lauding the force, he said it had performed its duties exceptionally well and set benchmarks for police forces across the country. He said Chandigarh Police had made a significant contribution to the security of the city and the country.Paying tribute to police personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty, Shah said their supreme sacrifice was a matter of immense pride for the force and the nation.Referring to the induction of 141 new vehicles into the police fleet, he said the move would strengthen response time, patrolling.

Jaishankar meets Russian, Polish, South Korean counterparts; discusses Ukraine, West Asia

New Delhi (Agency).

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held separate meetings with his Russian, Polish and South Korean counterparts in the US, discussing the Ukraine conflict, the situation in West Asia, bilateral ties and multilateral issues.The meetings took place on Saturday on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta.

In a social media post, Jaishankar said he "discussed the Ukraine conflict, Gulf situation and multilateral issues" with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.The External Affairs Minister also met Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski, with discussions focusing on the Ukraine conflict, India-EU ties and the G20.Poland is attending this year's G20 meetings as a full participant following an invitation from the US.

It has also expressed interest in securing permanent membership of the grouping."My meeting with DPM & FM RadosÅaw Sikorski @sikorskiradek of Poland focused on the Ukraine conflict, India-EU ties and the G20," Jaishankar said.Jaishankar also met South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun and discussed bilateral cooperation and other multilateral issues."Appreciated the stocktaking with @FMChoHyun of the Republic of Korea of our bilateral cooperation, as also the discussion on G20 and multilateral issues," he said.

After two days of brainstorming on global affairs, Jaishankar and fellow G20 foreign ministers attended the college football game between the Florida Gators and the Georgia Bulldogs at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

Varanasi-New Delhi Vande Bharat Sleeper ticket booking begins: check station-wise fare

Ticket booking for the Varanasi-New Delhi Vande Bharat Sleeper train has begun. Passengers can check the class-wise fares, with Third AC tickets priced at Rs 1,915, Second AC at Rs 2,470 and First AC at Rs 3,030.

New Delhi (Agency).

Varanasi-New Delhi Vande Bharat Sleeper ticket booking: As ticket booking begins for India's second Vande Bharat Sleeper train, passengers are eager to check the fare for the semi-high-speed service between Varanasi and New Delhi. Designed for high-speed performance, this premium train is capable of attaining a maximum speed of 180 kmph; however, on the Varanasi-New Delhi route, it will operate at a speed of up to 130 kmph to 160 kmph. The Northern Railway (NR) zone will operate and maintain the train.

Varanasi-New Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharat Sleeper regular run

According to the Ministry of Railways, train number 27421/27422 Varanasi-New Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharat Sleeper Express will commence its commercial journey from Monday (November 2, 2026).

The Varanasi-New Delhi Vande Bharat Sleeper Express (27421) will operate on all days of the week except Friday, whereas the New Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharat Sleeper Express (27422) will run on all days except Saturday.

Varanasi-New Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharat Sleeper Express: Stoppages

During its journey between Varanasi and New Delhi, this new Vande Bharat Sleeper train will halt at four railway stations. These are: Prayagraj, Kanpur Central, Aligarh, and Ghaziabad.



Varanasi-New Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharat Sleeper Express: Ticket price

The Varanasi-New Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharat Sleeper ticket can be booked through two modes: online and offline. For online booking, passengers can reserve tickets via the IRCTC website or through the Rail Connect and RailOne apps. For offline booking, travellers need to visit the Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters at railway stations.The train will have 16 coaches, offering three classes of accommodation: Third AC, Second AC and First AC. The ticket fare for the Varanasi-New Delhi Vande Bharat Sleeper train is Rs 1,915 for Third AC (3A), Rs 2,470 for Second AC (2A) and Rs 3,030 for First AC (1A).

▸Varanasi-New Delhi Vande Bharat Sleeper train: Features

- ▸Total coaches: 16 (11 coaches 3 Tier; 4 coaches 2 Tier; 1 coach 1AC)
- ▸Passenger capacity: 823 (3T: 611 + 2T:188 + 1st AC:24)
- ▸Semi-high-speed train with design speed up to 180 kmph
- ▸Ergonomically designed berths with improved cushioning
- ▸Automatic doors with vestibules for smooth movement
- ▸Enhanced ride comfort with superior suspension and noise reduction
- ▸Kavach and Emergency talk-back system.

Karnataka to bring law for Kannada flag in govt, private offices: DK Shivakumar

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said the Kannada flag recognition issue would be raised during the Belagavi Assembly session. The planned legal framework follows the Centre's earlier refusal to approve the state's request.

Karnataka (Agency)

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has said his government is committed to granting official state flag status to the Kannada flag and ensuring that it is hoisted alongside the National Flag on government buildings across the state.Shivakumar said the matter would be taken up during the upcoming Belagavi Assembly session and discussed in the state Cabinet. He added that the government plans to introduce a legal framework and pass an official resolution to formalise the practice.

The Chief Minister made the remarks after hoisting the Kannada flag alongside the National Flag. He said the government had already held discussions on granting the flag official recognition."Just now, I hoisted the Kannada flag next to the National Flag. The government has already deliberated on granting official state flag status to the Kannada flag," Shivakumar said.He recalled that the state Cabinet had earlier taken a decision on the matter and submitted a request to the Central Government seeking recognition. However, the state did not receive approval from the Centre."Earlier, a Cabinet decision was taken and a request was submitted to the Central Government seeking recognition, but we did not receive approval," he said.Shivakumar said the issue would now be brought up during the Belagavi Assembly session, where the government would discuss the next steps towards securing official status for the Kannada flag."During the Belagavi Assembly session, I will raise this issue for discussion and take it up in the Cabinet. My government is committed to bringing in the necessary legal framework and passing an official resolution to ensure that the Kannada flag is hoisted alongside the National Flag on all government buildings," he said.He also said the proposed measure was a government initiative and called for public participation in the process."Everyone must remember that this is not just my government; it is your government too," the Chief Minister added.



PM Modi Greets People Of 6 States On Foundation Day

New Delhi (Agency).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday greeted the people of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Keralam on their states' foundation day, and prayed for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of all residents.

PM Modi also hoped that the coming years would bring new opportunities, greater prosperity and continued progress to the people of the six states."Heartiest greetings to all my brothers and sisters of Madhya Pradesh on the state's Foundation Day. The state is a land of glorious heritage, rich culture, and extraordinary natural beauty. Its world-renowned heritage sites further enhance its grand historical identity," he said in a post on X in Hindi.The prime minister said the people of Madhya Pradesh have made remarkable contributions in every field through their talent and entrepreneurial spirit.He said from agriculture, industry, tourism, education, and infrastructure to innovation, the state is continually achieving new milestones."Along with its overall development, it is also playing a crucial role in the building of a self-reliant India. I pray that this special occasion brings happiness, peace, and prosperity to the lives of my family members in the state," he said.In his message to the people of Chhattisgarh, PM Modi said it brings great joy to see that the state is accelerating along the path of development while uprooting Naxalism.Heartiest greetings to all the residents of Chhattisgarh on the state's Foundation Day!" he said.The prime minister said the state is renowned for its tribal culture, natural wealth, and unique folk traditions, and its archaeological heritage has always been its distinctive identity.He said the atmosphere, rich in local folk culture, possesses a wonderful warmth that draws everyone in.

Protest, then do some shopping: Rahul Gandhi's appeal after traders oppose rally

New Delhi (Agency).

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday urged people attending the INDIA bloc's mega rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on November 1 to support local traders by shopping at their stores during the festive season.

He said the rally would not hurt businesses and accused the BJP of spreading rumours about possible disruptions.In a post on X, Gandhi said lakhs of people were expected to travel to Delhi for the rally and appealed to them to combine their participation in the protest with shopping at local markets.



"Protest, march, hold rallies, and along with that, do a little shopping too – it will benefit the traders," Gandhi said, extending his Diwali greetings.He added that the rally would take place as planned and that participants would purchase goods from small shops across the city."The BJP is scared, that's why it's spreading rumours. But let's do both. Tomorrow there will be a march, there will be a rally, and lakhs of people will buy goods from the small shops of our traders," he said.

Gandhi's remarks came amid concerns raised by traders' associations over the timing of the rally, which is scheduled during the peak festive shopping period.

Devendra Fadnavis slams opposition over 'vote chori', raises infiltrators issue

Mumbai (Agency).

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday rejected the Opposition's allegations of "vote chori", accusing the Congress of committing "Samvidhan chori", or theft of the Constitution, during the Emergency, news agency Press Trust of India reported.Fadnavis alleged that the Congress had tried to undermine democratic institutions and claimed that international forces and social media algorithms were being used to spread misinformation and destabilise the country.Speaking at the BJP's "Save Democracy" march in Thane, organised against what he described as attempts to create anarchy, Fadnavis said, "Those who shout 'vote chori' have themselves committed 'Samvidhan chori'. They are the real Constitution thieves."Referring to the 1975 Allahabad High Court verdict that set aside then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's election, Fadnavis said the Supreme Court subsequently granted her only conditional relief. He alleged that the Congress government then introduced constitutional amendments with retrospective effect to prevent the judiciary from examining her election, PTI reported."The Congress, under Indira



Gandhi's leadership, was the first to subvert the Constitution, the judiciary, and democracy in the country," he claimed.Referring to the 42nd Constitutional Amendment introduced during the Emergency, Fadnavis alleged that the Congress government systematically weakened safeguards protecting fundamental rights. He said these protections were restored through further amendments.

6 Indians on trek to Nepal's deepest lake go missing amid heavy snowfall

Six Indian tourists lost contact while crossing snowbound passes near Shey Phoksundo Lake. An army team has been deployed as officials seek helicopter support amid poor connectivity.

Nepal(Agency).

Six Indian tourists have gone missing in Nepal's Dolpa district amid heavy snowfall while travelling towards Shey Phoksundo Lake. A search and rescue operation is being planned, with authorities seeking a helicopter to locate them and a team of the Nepalese Army deployed to assist in the search.The tourists, comprising four men and two women, were travelling from Dolpa towards Shey Phoksundo Lake when contact with them was lost in the Numa La and Baga La pass areas. The two mountain passes are located between wards 4 and 8 of Shey Phoksundo Rural Municipality.

Local guides suspect that the tourists may have been stranded along the route due to heavy snowfall in the Himalayan region. The snowfall is believed to have been triggered by the impact of Cyclone Arnab, which developed over the Bay of Bengal.According to local residents, the tourists had been warned that snowfall would make it difficult to cross the mountain passes. Despite the warnings, they continued their journey and reportedly got trapped in the snow while returning.Dolpa Chief District Officer (CDO) Junu Hamal said the tourists were returning from Dho towards Phoksundo Lake when they got stranded in the snow. She confirmed that local residents had cautioned them about the difficulties of crossing the mountain terrain, but they proceeded with their journey. Contact with the group has since been lost.



HELICOPTER SOUGHT FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

Dolpa Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Anil Raj Giri said the six Indian tourists had not been traced so far. Authorities have requested the concerned agencies to arrange a helicopter to support the search and rescue operation.

Ghaziabad and Noida air worsens but stays 'satisfactory'

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The overall air quality of Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater Noida deteriorated to the 'moderate' category on Saturday. On Friday, the air quality was on the upper side of the 'satisfactory' category in all three areas.Ghaziabad on Saturday recorded an overall AI of 110 ('moderate'). At 140 ('poor'), the station at Loni tehsil logged the worst AQI, while the Sanjay Nagar station came second, at 116 ('poor'). Govindpuram recorded an AQI of 39 ('good'), Indirapuram 70 ('satisfactory') and Wave City 99 ('satisfactory').

Greater Noida's overall AQI was 120 ('moderate'). The Knowledge Park-3 station recorded an AQI of 61 ('satisfactory') while the Knowledge Park-5 station logged 133 ('moderate') and the Shiv Nadar University station 206 ('poor').In Noida, the overall AQI was 106 ('moderate'). Out of seven stations, Sector 1 recorded an AQI of 93 ('satisfactory'), Sector 125 83 ('satisfactory'), and Sector 150 79 ('moderate'). The Sector 62 station recorded an AQI of 138 ('moderate'), while the Sector 39 station.

Vehicle curbs from today, cops say check emission norms

Noida.(Agency)

Traffic police have issued an advisory urging commuters to check emission norms of vehicles before heading to Delhi as restrictions on the entry of non-BS VI-compliant vehicles into Delhi come into effect from Sunday.Delhi govt will bar vehicles registered outside the national capital and not compliant with BS-VI emission standards from entering the city till Jan 31, 2027, in a move that is likely to affect commuters, transporters, and businesses across Noida and Ghaziabad. There will be no restrictions on BS VI-compliant compressed natural gas (CNG) and electric vehicles. The restrictions are aimed at curbing vehicular emissions, a major contributor to deteriorating air quality in the region.Over 4 lakh vehicles in Noida and Greater Noida, more than half of them BS-IV, fall below BS-VI standards, while Ghaziabad has around 4 lakh such vehicles.

Motorists travelling to destinations beyond Delhi have been advised to avoid entering the capital and instead use alternative routes via Noida Expressway or Yamuna Expressway.

Ghaziabad to close 10 illegal cuts, add U-turns

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

PWD and Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation will close illegal median cuts and add U-turns on at least 10 busy stretches to ease traffic, including Meerut Road, Hapur Road, Indirapuram, Vaishali, trans-Hindon areas, Loni, Vasundhara and Muradnagar. Zebra crossings are also planned near the Vivekanand Nagar flyover and on Ambedkar Road. Of the two proposed U-turns, one will come up near the Jaipuria trisection opposite Sahibabad police station.

The initiative follows directions issued by district magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandar during a recent road safety committee meeting. He instructed the departments to strengthen road safety arrangements, particularly on busy stretches.The need for these measures has increased with the rapid growth in the number of vehicles in the district. Around 10 lakh vehicles are currently registered, besides thousands of vehicles entering from neighbouring districts and other states. Unauthorised openings in road dividers often encourage risky crossings, increasing the possibility of accidents and traffic congestion.

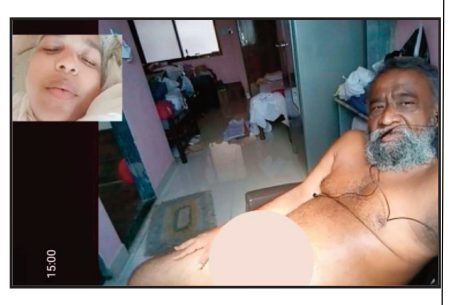
AIN COMMUNITY DEMANDS ANSWERS: SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SAGAR CHANDRA SAGAR!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Ahmedabad/Ujjain: Serious allegations of misconduct and financial irregularities involving Jain monk Sagar Chandra Sagar have triggered widespread concern within sections of the Jain community. Allegations concerning inappropriate relationships, the alleged misuse of religious influence and questions surrounding financial transparency have raised demands for an independent investigation.The controversy has also brought renewed attention to the responsibility of religious institutions and their trustees to maintain transparency, uphold ethical standards and protect the trust of devotees.Allegations of Misconduct Under the Cover of Religious AuthorityJainism teaches the principles of non-vio



lence, self-restraint, renunciation and purity. Against this background, allegations of inappropriate relationships involving Sagar Chandra Sagar have raised serious questions about the conduct expected of religious leaders.According to claims circulating within the community, several women and female ascetics may have been affected by the alleged conduct. The allegations have prompted demands for a transparent inquiry and an opportunity for all concerned parties to present their accounts.Questions have also been raised about why Sagar Chandra Sagar has not publicly addressed the controversy in detail. However, the absence of a public clarification does not, by itself, establish the truth of the allegations.Viral Call Recordings and Photographs Raise Questions-The controversy intensified following the circulation of alleged call recordings, photographs and What



sApp conversations involving a woman reportedly associated with Sagar Chandra Sagar.The authenticity and context of these materials remain to be independently established.The circulation of such material has raised questions about the nature of the alleged interactions and whether the recordings and photographs have been accurately represented.

The Entry of a Third Person into Married Life and the Crisis of Trust: How One Mistake Can Tear an Entire Family Apart!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Gujarat: Marriage is not merely a union of two individuals; it is a sacred relationship built on trust, emotions, commitment, and responsibility. When two individuals decide to spend their lives together, mutual trust becomes just as important as love. However, in today's world, an increasing number of families are facing a serious concern: the growing involvement of a third person in married life.Sometimes, what begins as an ordinary friendship, a conversation over the phone, or an acquaintance through social media gradually develops into a personal relationship. When people start hiding things from their life partners, suspicion and emotional distance begin to grow.The most painful aspect is that the consequences of such relationships are not limited to husbands and wives. Children's childhood, parents' mental peace, and the overall atmosphere of the family are also affected.When Trust Breaks, Love Begins to Weaken-Differences of opinion are natural in married life. Every individual has different thoughts, personalities, and expectations. However,



when people seek emotional support from a third person instead of resolving their differences through communication, the situation can become more complicated.The Impact on ChildrenChildren are often the ones who suffer the most when conflicts arise between parents and relationships begin to fall apart. They may not always be able to express their feelings, but they can sense the changing atmosphere at home. Tension between parents can create feelings of insecurity, loneliness, and emotional distress in their minds.Communication Is Essential to Saving RelationshipsEvery successful marriage requires love, transparency, giving time to each other, understanding emotions, and the willingness to accept one's mistakes. Communication should be given more importance than suspicion, understanding more importance than ego, and patience more importance than anger.Every relationship goes through difficult phases. However, instead of abandoning each other during challenging times, finding solutions together is the true sign of maturity and understanding.A Thought Worth Reflecting Upon...The involvement of a third person is not always the sole reason behind the breakdown of a relationship. However, when trust, respect, and transparency begin to disappear, even a seemingly strong relationship can become fragile.

Just 3 hours apart, 1 die, 1 injured in accidents on Gurgaon roads

Gurgaon.(Agency)

One person died and another was seriously injured in two separate road accidents in the city. A 56-year-old scrap dealer died after his car collided with another car, hit a divider and overturned on Dwarka Expressway's service lane in Sector 110 around 11pm on Friday. Three hours later, a taxi driver was seriously injured in a four-vehicle collision on Golf Course Extension Road in DLF Phase 2.Scrap dealer Matafer Singh, a resident of Nangloi in Delhi, had come to the city for some personal work. He was on his way home when his WagonR lost control and collided with another car. His car hit a divider and overturned on the Dwarka Expressway service lane in Sector 110 around 11 pm on Friday.Police said Singh tried to manoeuvre his car



at high speed following the collision but lost control. The vehicle rammed into the divider and overturned, leaving him seriously injured and trapped inside. Police said the body was sent for a post-mortem examination and Singh's family was informed.Passersby pulled him out of the overturned car and rushed him to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The cops are examining CCTV footage from the area to establish the exact circumstances leading to the accident.Over three hours later, four vehicles collided near the Rapid Metro corridor around 1.15am on Saturday, leaving a cab overturned and its driver injured.The impact was so severe that the airbags of one of the cars deployed. The cab driver was trapped inside the vehicle and was rescued by passersby, who also alerted the police.Police reached the spot and took the injured driver to a nearby hospital.

Banned food colours in focus as UP food safety dept steps up safety checks before Diwali, officers from 18 districts raid shops

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

More than 50 food safety officers from 18 districts carried out surprise inspections across 40 sweet shops, restaurants, hotels, dhabas and manufacturing units in the city on Friday as part of a coordinated pre-Diwali crackdown on food adulteration. The food safety and drug administration (FSDA) has intensified checks to detect prohibited synthetic dyes and other adulterants, particularly in festive food items whose appearance may have been enhanced using banned colouring agents.

Officials said this was the first time teams from one district had been sent to another as part of such a coordinated inspection campaign. The inspection teams collected samples, checked manufacturing and expiry records, and examined hygiene and food preparation practices at these 40 places. Notices were also issued to several establishments."Special attention is being given to food colours this Diwali. Sweets, spices and packaged mixtures often look brighter because banned food colour dyes may have been added to them. Our focus this time is on identifying such colours and ensuring that food products being sold to consumers meet safety standards," food safety officer (Ghaziabad) Suresh Mishra said.

Ahead of the festive season, the department found several food samples to be substandard, unsafe or misbranded in its latest testing report. The samples, collected before Sept 26, included sweets, non-milk products, spices and namkeen. UP has also issued guidelines warning food businesses against prohibited industrial dyes such as Rhodamine B, Metanil Yellow and Sudan dyes that can affect liver and kidney functions and can be carcinogenic



too.Three teams from the FSDA headquarters in Lucknow also began inspections in Ghaziabad on Friday. Teams came down from Meerut, Muzaffarnagar and other districts also.

All teams have been directed to submit detailed reports to the Lucknow headquarters. Further action against establishments will depend on sample results and violations detected during the inspections.

School murder trial stays in Gurgaon, HC rejects CBI bid to move it to Panchkula

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The Punjab and Haryana high court has ordered the 2017 Gurgaon school murder trial to remain in the city, rejecting CBI's plea to shift it to its special court in Panchkula. It ruled that the investigating agency's administrative convenience cannot override the Juvenile Justice Act's safeguards or give its special court jurisdiction to try a murder case.

Justice Manisha Batra observed that the accused student must be tried by a children's court under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act. The court also rejected the alternative request to shift the proceedings to a children's court in Panchkula, saying no grounds had been established to justify moving the trial out of Gurgaon.

It directed the additional sessions judge heading the Gurgaon children's court to "make every endeavour to conclude the trial", preferably within six months of receiving a certified copy of the order, subject to cooperation from the parties.

On Sept 8, 2017, a Class 2 student – referred to in court records by the fictitious name 'Prince' – was found murdered in a ground-floor washroom of an English-medium school in the city. Police initially arrested the school's bus conductor, Ashok Kumar. But after taking over the probe, CBI said it found no evidence against him and sought his discharge. The trial court allowed the plea in Feb 2018.

CBI had, meanwhile, apprehended another student from the same school, identified as 'Bholu' in court records. He was in Class XI and below 18 at the time of the murder. After CBI alleged that he killed the younger boy, Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) conducted a preliminary assessment and ordered that he be tried as an adult. The decision, however, went through successive legal challenges, including before the Supreme Court.

After the high court ordered a fresh assessment, JJB again directed an adult trial in Oct 2022. The high court upheld that decision in May 2023, paving the way for the case to proceed before the children's court in the city.CBI later sought to transfer the trial to its special judge in Panchkula, arguing that the court exercised jurisdiction over CBI cases across Haryana. It also pointed out that proceedings against adult accused arising from the same FIR were pending there. Moving records and prosecution witnesses to Gurgaon, it said, was causing inconvenience. The boy's father supported the plea, arguing that evidence in the connected cases should be considered together. Haryana govt also raised no objection.But Sushil Tekriwal, counsel for the victim's family, opposed the transfer, arguing that sections 1(4) and 18(3) of the JJ Act made a children's court the mandatory forum. CBI's notifications.

Allahabad HC suspends Bijnor DM's order on management of traditional fair

LUCKNOW.(Agency)

The Allahabad High Court has suspended an order passed by the Bijnor District Magistrate (DM) on the management of the traditional annual 'Jaahar Diwan' (Goga Navami) fair, observing that district magistrates cannot act as 'plenipotentiaries' and exercise powers that fall within the jurisdiction of other authorities or courts.The court said the DM's order was prima facie without jurisdiction and amounted to an apparent usurpation of jurisdiction. It noted that the order, though framed as an interim arrangement, involved a sweeping exercise of powers similar to those of a civil court framing a scheme for the management of a trust.A division bench of Justices JJ Munir and Vivek Saran also permitted the petitioners to organise the fair in Pheona village, Bijnor, subject to obtaining the necessary permissions from the authorities."We have, time and again, cautioned DMs not to exercise powers as if they are plenipotentiaries in the district, who can pass any kind of order, the jurisdiction whereof may lie with another district-level officer or a judge," the bench said.The DM's order, dated August 29, 2025, handed over the management of the fair to the gram sabha and assigned its revenue to it through a three-member committee of revenue officials. The order was passed when IAS officer Jasjeet Kaur was the Bijnor DM. She was transferred the following month and replaced by IAS officer Umesh Pratap Singh, the current DM.

Tamil Nadu sets $72 billion merchandise export target for this fiscal

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Tamil Nadu has set a target to increase its merchandise exports from $59 billion to $72 billion in 2026-27, with district-wise targets for all 38 districts, as it seeks to leverage India's free trade agreements (FTAs) to expand market access for businesses, farmers and entrepreneurs."India's FTAs are opening doors to global markets. Our responsibility is to ensure Tamil Nadu's businesses, MSMEs, farmers and entrepreneurs make the most of these opportunities," Industries Minister S Keerthana said.She was speaking at a one-day workshop organised in Chennai by the state Industries Department in collaboration with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), on Friday. More than 400 exporters, industry associations, MSMEs and government officials participated in the event.The state's export roadmap also aims to make Kancheepuram India's leading export district, set a target for services exports.

Odisha: Aska town stuck in the sludge of a devastating flood

ASKA.(Agency)

Sumitra Lenka's house is a picture of mess as she rummages through the accumulated sludge on the floor, desperately trying to retrieve her bank passbook, Aadhaar card and other documents.Simanchal Behera, a resident of Kumbhar Street, is equally distressed. All his belongings remained submerged for more than 24 hours. He does not know what to salvage first. His biggest worry, however, is arranging books and notebooks for his child, all of which were destroyed in the floods.Aska presents a picture of devastation. The small town in Ganjam district is covered in slush, with household belongings strewn across the streets. The floodwaters have receded, but the town remains stuck in mud, debris and collective loss.Three days after the deluge inundated the town, residents are counting their losses and salvaging whatever is left behind. The waters rose so rapidly that many had little time to react. Families in low-lying areas rushed to the upper floors of relatives' houses, while others struggled to find safe shelter."It has been three days without drinking water and mobile network connectivity is patchy. On October 28, floodwater gushed into our streets.

From hit songs to hot 'saag': Punjabi singer's fresh farm venture earns him Rs 6k profit daily

Sells around 125 freshly cooked saag packets daily, each weighing 500 grams and priced at Rs 100, generating additional income for his family

Jalandhar.(Agency)

At around 4 pm, Punjabi singer-cum-marginal farmer Gurmukh Singh, popularly known as Garry Benipal, leaves his Ghasiwala village in Sangrur district for Sunam in his car, with containers of freshly cooked "saag" (leafy vegetables) grown on his family farm, and sells it directly to customers at Mata Modi Chowk by evening.Gurmukh sells around 125 packets daily, each weighing 500 grams and priced at Rs 100, generating daily income of Rs 10,000 to Rs 12,500. Several customers are regulars, while others are passers-by who come after coming across his videos on social media. Gurmukh says people from as far as Ludhiana have also contacted him, asking if he can supply them.

A singer, a blogger and a farmer — 33-year-old Gurmukh describes the combination as a "Kisan Kalakaar" or a farmer-artist. Despite releasing hit Punjabi songs, he has ventured into selling farm produce and cooked food directly to consumers. Through his videos, he also shares the process and encourages young people to explore small businesses of their own.The idea took shape when he began selling vegetables grown on his family's around three acres.Along with wheat and paddy, the family cultivates seasonal vegetables such as ghiya, kaddu, kheera and tori on their around three acres. In winter, leafy vegetables, including sarson, palak and methi, are also grown.Initially, Gurmukh



used to sell vegetables by the roadside. When the saag season began recently, he first tried selling leafy vegetables in their raw form, but the response was not encouraging. He then decided to sell them cooked. And thus, he began preparing, packing, and selling saag."At first, I prepared only around 15 packs, and they were sold in just 10 minutes. That encouraged me, and I increased the quantity the very next day," he said.Benipal's father had advised him to sell directly to consumers to fetch the right value for their produce. "Initially, I was hesitant about how I would sell vegetables on the roadside. People know me as an artist. But an artist should not feel shy about honest work. I started selling vegetables from our fields, and once I started earning daily, the hesitation dissipated," he said.Benipal also began blogging the entire process — harvesting, cooking and selling. "It does not require a big investment. Now youngsters call me and ask how they can start small ventures like this. That gives me immense satisfaction," he said.The saag is prepared fresh using mustard greens, spinach and other ingredients. Benipal grows leafy vegetables on around half an acre and also buys from friends and fellow farmers if required. Around 35 kg of mustard leaves, 15 kg of spinach and 5 kg of other greens, including methi, are used in the preparation.

Lucknow's KGMU launches inquiry into police report claiming harassment and conversion pressure on campus

The Special Task Force submitted a report after it looked into claims of alleged religious conversion and "love jihad" that emerged last year

Lucknow.(Agency)

King George's Medical University (KGMU) in Lucknow has decided to initiate an inquiry into a report by the Uttar Pradesh Police's Special Task Force (STF) that raised allegations of staff members being harassed and, in some cases, being coerced to convert by their colleagues and seniors from the minority community.The STF had launched an inquiry following claims about alleged religious conversion and "love jihad" that emerged last year. The Lucknow police had in January arrested Rameezuddin alias Rameez Malik, a junior resident in the university's Department of Pathology, and a medical intern in two separate cases.Rameezuddin, who was arrested in Lucknow on January 9, faces allegations of sexually exploiting and trying to convert two women. The intern faces allegations of sexually exploiting a nursing student on the false promise of marriage.



In its inquiry report recently submitted to the state government in August, the STF is learnt to have alleged misconduct, including physical and mental harassment of female junior residents, nursing staff and a contractual employee by male nursing staff, doctors and a head of department from the minority community.The report claims to have found instances of harassment in four different departments of KGMU.KGMU spokesperson Dr K K Singh told The Indian Express that the STF had not recommended criminal proceedings against those named in its report but had referred the matter for disciplinary action. The university received the report from the government on Thursday."We will place the report before the university's executive council, after which a committee will be constituted to examine the allegations. The disciplinary committee will assess whether the allegations have merit. All the issues raised in the report will be examined," Singh told .'The government, in its letter, has directed KGMU authorities to initiate action against employees mentioned in the report in accordance with provisions of the KGMU Act, 2002, and the University's statutes and submit an action-taken report. The executive council meeting is likely to be held next month.According to the report, the STF inquiry was initiated following a complaint by a man who identified himself as president of the "UP Youth Association" and sought a probe into alleged religious conversions and what he described as "love jihad" cases on the university campus.

The report alleges that both cases in which a resident doctor and an intern were arrested were linked to a department where certain faculty members shielded other faculty members, resident doctors, students, nursing staff and employees from the minority community who were accused of misconduct. The report alleges that this allowed the physical and mental harassment of some women resident doctors, students, nursing staff and other employees to continue.

The report further alleges that when women employees objected to or spoke out against such conduct, some faculty members tried to silence them by threatening to damage their careers, label them mentally unstable or terminate their employment.

Andhra forest department calls for action plan to ensure safety of jumbos

TIRUPATI.(Agency)

The Forest Department has stepped up efforts to prevent elephant deaths due to electrocution in Chittoor district by coordinating with the Electricity, Agriculture and Horticulture departments to identify and rectify vulnerable locations.Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden Rahul Pandey chaired a review meeting at the Collectorate on Friday to discuss the issue. He called for a plan to rectify vulnerable locations, near forests and agricultural fields.Chittoor Collector S Sumit Kumar, Conservator of Forests C Selvam, Chittoor Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) G Subburaj and the Electricity Department's Superintending Engineer, all



FROs and Electricity, Agriculture and Horticulture officials were present.Speaking to on Saturday, "Low-hanging electricity lines, exposed wires and transformers installed in open locations are posing a serious threat to elephants. Around 1,166 vulnerable points have been identified in Chittoor district. We are now strengthening coordination at senior officer levels to ensure that all identified defects are rectified within the stipulated deadline," he said.Officials are giving attention to the Chittoor division, where low-hanging power lines have emerged as a major cause of elephant deaths. The authorities have set March 31, 2027, as the deadline to eliminate sagging poles at vulnerable locations.

In Punjab poll first list, AAP renominates four woman MLAs, seven others await nod

Lucknow.(Agency)

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has renominated four of its 11 women MLAs in its first list of 40 candidates for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections, leaving seven others, including Cabinet minister Dr Baljit Kaur, waiting for the party's next round of announcements.The four renominated women legislators are Inderjit Kaur Mann from Nakodar, Baljinder Kaur from Talwandi Sabo, Santosh Kumari Kataria from Balachaur and Dr Amandeep Kaur Arora from Moga.Inderjit Kaur Mann has emerged as one of the party's most vocal faces in the Vidhan Sabha, frequently taking on Opposition members during debates and defending the government's positions.Baljinder Kaur, considered close to the party's Delhi leadership, is the AAP's chief whip in the Assembly. Her renomination was largely expected given her organisational position and role in managing the party's legislative business.Santosh Kataria's inclusion signals the party's decision to retain its sitting MLA from Balachaur, while Dr Amandeep Kaur Arora, who heads the party's Punjab women's wing, has also been given another chance from Moga. Her nomination also ensures representation for the party's women's organisation in the first batch of candidates.

The seven women MLAs left out of the first list are Dr Baljit Kaur (Malout), Anmol Gagan Maan (Kharar), Jeevan Jyot Kaur (Amritsar East), Narinder Kaur Bharaj (Sangrur), Neena Mittal (Rajpura), Rajinder Pal Kaur (Ludhiana South) and Sarvjit Kaur Manuke (Jagraon).The omission of Dr Baljit Kaur, who holds the Social Security portfolio, is particularly noteworthy. She was among the women legislators expected to figure in the first announcement. However, her name, like those of several other Cabinet ministers, could feature in subsequent lists.

Anmol Gagan Maan, a former minister, is



another prominent name missing from the list. In her Kharar constituency, the party has appointed Parminder Singh Goldy as halqa in-charge, triggering speculation over whether she will be renominated. The appointment is being seen as an indication that the leadership could be considering an alternative candidate.The party will also have to decide on the candidature of legislators such as Jeevan Jyot Kaur, who defeated Navjot Singh Sidhu and Bikram Singh Majithia in Amritsar East in 2022, and Narinder Kaur Bharaj, who won the Sangrur seat at the age of 27.

Andhra girl attacked with chainsaw moved to Bengaluru hospital, police escort ambulance

The Class 10 girl is said to be in stable condition, and minister N Lokesh Naidu is set to visit her on Sunday.

Hyderabad.(Agency)

The Class 10 girl who was allegedly attacked with a chainsaw at a zilla parishad school in the Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday morning was shifted to Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru, late at night and is now in stable condition.Doctors at Manipal Hospital performed orthopaedic and plastic surgeries successfully and shifted the girl to the paediatric intensive care unit, HRD and IT Minister N Lokesh Naidu said Sunday morning.Lokesh, who was set to visit the hospital Sunday, had earlier said that after preliminary treatment in Andhra, the girl was promptly taken to the Bengaluru hospital by ambulance. The police cleared the route, establishing a 'green channel' and escorting the ambulance to the hospital in the neighbouring state."I have been in constant touch with the medical team at Manipal Hospital. I am relieved to hear that the doctors have managed to control the bleeding and that her condition is currently stable," he said in a statement.

He stated that the Manipal Hospital team stabilised her condition with blood transfusions and supportive treatment, which brought her high blood pressure to manageable levels.On Saturday, a 21-year-old man stated to be a relative was arrested in connection with the alleged attack at the school. The girl suffered deep cuts to her neck, face and abdomen, while her right hand was nearly severed.Another student was injured while attempting to intervene. The other student is recovering at the Anantapur Government Hospital.

Counsellors to provide support

Lokesh said Sunday morning that a team



of 20 counsellors had been sent to Raptadu to provide support to the students and teachers who were left terrified by the attack."We are taking special measures to alleviate the fear and anxiety among students and restore their mental fortitude. A dedicated team of 20 mental health counsellors has been assembled to support the students who have been left emotionally distressed by the event. Counsellors are personally visiting the homes of the 32 students from the Class 10 'A' section—where the incident occurred—to speak with both the students and their parents," the statement said.

The tricky tango of competing aspirations in Uttar Pradesh

Left to Mulayam Singh Yadav, the late founder and patriarch of the Samajwadi Party, he would never have dreamed of embracing the Congress as an electoral ally. He was, however, not averse to transacting business with the Grand Old Party for self-preservation.

He accepted the Congress's support for his minority government in Uttar Pradesh in 1991, after the downfall of the V P Singh government and a split in the Janata Dal leading to the emergence of the JD (Socialist) headed by former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar. Yadav went along with Chandra Shekhar. But unlike the stalwart from Ballia, who did not last after the Congress withdrew support in March 1991, the pugilist from Etawah outsmarted Rajiv Gandhi, then the Congress president. Yadav dissolved his Assembly at midnight and offered resignation as Chief Minister to the Governor at the crack of dawn. All because he had learnt through a Congress mole that Gandhi was planning to topple his government and facilitate the imposition of President's rule in UP before the Lok Sabha polls. The Congress had readied its communiqué for withdrawing support, but was clueless about Yadav's manoeuvre. In 2008, Yadav ended his relationship with the Left Front and helped the Congress survive a trust vote in Parliament on the Indo-US civil nuclear pact which the communists opposed tooth and nail. Yadav filled in the numbers on the House floor after the Left pulled its support for the UPA government. Subsequently, the Congress did not give Yadav and Amar Singh, his factotum, the agency they badly sought in Delhi. Yadav paid the Congress back by spurning an alliance it asked for in the 2009 Lok Sabha election. But by putting up a blockbuster showing in UP—its best ever since the 1989 downfall—the Congress was better off by not going with the SP.Yadav's son and political heir Akhilesh Yadav, who now heads the SP, jettisoned the Socialists' deep-seated antipathy towards the Congress and twice sealed electoral pacts with the GOP that yielded mixed outcomes in the 2017 Assembly elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Akhilesh, the CM in 2017, was caught in a bitter family feud to establish his leadership over the SP.The punchline signifying the Rahul-Akhilesh 'camaraderie' said, "UP ko yeh saath pasand hai" (UP likes this duo). But the seat-sharing negotiations were bedevilled by contestations over each party's ground strength. Mulayam rejected the alliance in 2017 and refused to campaign for his own party. Eventually, of the 403 Assembly seats, the Congress got to contest 105 and the SP 298. Peeved over their shares, the allies put up 'friendly' fights against each other that were anything but congenial. By then, the BJP juggernaut was on the road, crushing its opponents. It walked away with 312 seats. The SP and the Congress were estranged thereafter.is the tacit constitution—the unstateBy the time the Lok Sabha elections descended in 2024, better sense apparently prevailed on both the Congress and the SP. The Congress had stagnated in UP for a decade, posting a tally of one or two seats. Another such disaster would have spelt near-oblivion in a state that was once its ticket to power at the Centre. For Akhilesh, another reversal might have accentuated the SP's internal rivalry and thrown up fresh challenges to his leadership.Both sides initially played hardball before clinching an electoral arrangement. It entailed allocating 17 of the state's 80 Lok Sabha seats to the Congress, including Rae Bareli and Amethi, and 63 to the SP. The BJP was shell-shocked when the alliance—treated as non-starter by political observers—won 43 seats and reduced the saffron party's tally to 33. An analysis by Assembly constituencies showed the SP-Congress led in 220 boroughs.

The decimation of J&K cadre

An instrument of integration and a mediating institution on the ground has been considerably weakened

THE merger of the Jammu and Kashmir cadre into AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories) in 2021 and the recent appointment of the first AGMUT-cadre officer as Chief Secretary denote more than a change of personnel or the supersession of many senior officers. An institution that had long mediated access to State authority and resources in the Valley stands replaced.The overhaul of the bureaucracy forms part of a wider effort to change the local configurations of power and influence. The J&K cadre functioned not only as an administrative tier but also as a network of personal ties, political affiliations and institutional memory.

This network was shaped by decades of interaction with the region's political class. It facilitated and even enabled the reproduction of local power structures at the interface between society and the State. The bureaucracy wielded an embedded influence through which regional elites reinforced prevailing power hierarchies.

By superseding almost all seniormost officers of that cadre, decisive authority has been shifted to those drawn from outside its ranks. By doing so, the Centre has effectively mutated the administrative DNA of J&K. In a way, it completes the institutional eclipse of the J&K cadre.This cadre was a consequence of the Presidential Order issued in 1958 under Article 370 of the Constitution. It specifically modified the application of Article 312 to bring J&K within the All-India Services framework and enabled recruitment and service conditions for the IAS (and IPS). The J&K Reorganisation Act of 2019 initially allowed the J&K cadre, but the 2021 ordinance merged it into AGMUT.The J&K cadre structure of the local bureaucratic framework was rooted in domain knowledge, a certain continuity of administrative practice and personal networks. These have been now displaced by a more externally directed apparatus. It is a reconfiguration of the institutions through which power is exercised and legitimacy is mediated in the region.

The IAS officers, mostly outsiders, were a crucial link between the Centre and the state. While these officers were the eyes, ears and hands of New Delhi, they also played the role of intermediaries. With their feet on the ground in Kashmir, many of them conveyed the local sentiment in their communication to Delhi. Over time, representing the Kashmir sentiment got identified with the constitutional status of the state and the autonomist ideology of political parties. Warts and all, the cadre was as much an instrument of control as it was a channel of influence.Gradually, it was felt that the cadre had been co-opted by the local political class, especially by the National Conference (NC) under Farooq Abdullah. During his tenure as CM, some officers who had powers beyond ordinary bureaucratic limits acted like the card-carrying members of the NC. Their proximity to a regional political dynasty largely influenced the bureaucracy's approach to Kashmir.Around 1989-90, when protests and public uprisings were at their peak, at least four of the seniormost officers were signatories to a representation addressed to the United Nations, protesting against human rights violations by security forces in the Valley. At least six IAS officers of the local cadre also submitted a report to the Governor, condemning excesses by the men in uniform against civilians. A memorandum by senior officers reached the Governor after the assassination of Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq and the subsequent firing on mourners.

While Kashmiris later remembered the gesture fondly, critics within the establishment saw it as an instance in which serving officers of the All-India Services publicly



aligned with the local sentiment against the actions of the Indian security apparatus. Delhi saw such instances as serious chinks in the Steel Frame. The national purpose of the Services as an administrative backbone that could rise above regional political alignments was steadily eroded.

The post-2021 structure has systematically reduced the space for officers who had both long local tenures and career incentives tied to the region. Once the last cohort with significant Valley socialisation exits around 2029, the channel that carried local sentiment upward (however imperfectly) will narrow further. This is less a question of individual officers' attitudes and more a structural outcome of shorter average tenures and joint-cadre career paths.The J&K-cadre officers, though outsiders, frequently shared the outlook of the dominant political class on questions of autonomy, land, employment and security. Of course, there were exceptions; some were viewed with suspicion.This proximity eventually led to a certain bureaucratisation of politics. The pattern of co-option resulted in at least three former Chief Secretaries joining politics after (or even before completing) their tenures. While two became legislators, one became the finance minister. These transitions illustrate how the top of the service had become a revolving door into regional politics rather than a permanent national Steel Frame.These structural features explain why the cadre merger of 2021 and the recent appointments and consequential change are read by many as more than administrative rationalisation. They are understood as a dismantling of an institution whose interests had become aligned with local political power.The decimation of the J&K adre is therefore double-edged. On the one hand, it removes officers who had deep local domain knowledge, be it of the revenue system, forest settlements, irrigation, power and the historical sediment of special status. On the other hand, it removes a cadre that had, in critical periods, become a channel to communicate the local sentiment.Whether this produces better governance is an open question. An administration less entangled with local political regimes may prove more responsive to national priorities. It may also prove less capable of reading the social and historical texture of the territory it administers.

Once the last substantial cohort of the old IAS cadre departs around 2029, the Union Territory will be governed by a bureaucracy whose professional formation took place largely elsewhere and whose political allegiances will no longer be those of a co-opted state cadre.That is the structural choice now being made. It resolves one long-standing problem of politicisation only by creating a new problem of administrative distance. In a region where history is an active force, the distance is not costless.

Such a reconfiguration of the bureaucracy as the principal instrument of governance signals that the restoration of full statehood — requiring the return of cadre autonomy and political control over the civil service — remains deferred well beyond 2029. The institutional architecture now in place treats the administrative apparatus itself as the durable mechanism of authority, rendering the revival of state-cadre independence a distant prospect.

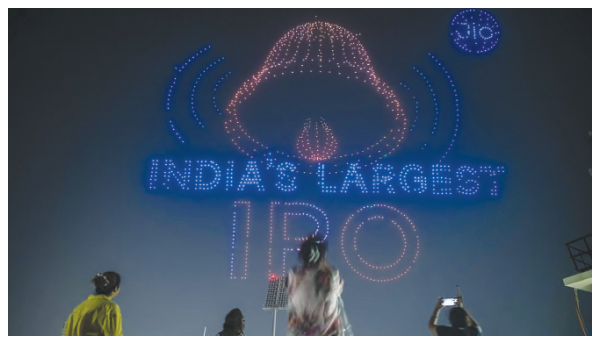
The return of cadre autonomy and political control over the civil service is not merely one among several requirements of statehood — it is the necessary starting point for any genuine process of restoration. Without the capacity to direct the permanent executive, an elected government cannot exercise effective authority over the institutions that implement policies and allocate resources.

New Israel government must face post-war reality in transformed region

As the euphoria surrounding Jio's IPO continues, global investors are looking past it to the much bigger offering of Anthropic, expected later this year or early next.

On a day when the broader market was in retreat, Jio Platforms delivered the kind of debut not many investors would have expected. The stock listed at ₹1,358, 21 percent above its issue price and closed its first day 27 percent higher. That valued the company at more than ₹13 lakh crore ($131 billion), making it India's second-most valuable listed firm, behind its parent Reliance Industries. The ₹30,213-crore issue, India's largest, was oversubscribed 22 times.The IPO's success under broader downward pressure partly shows the market's faith in telecom operators being an essential part in India's next investment phase spanning AI services, cloud computing and data centres. Jio is positioning itself as a technology platform that happens to own a telecom network, and investors appear to have bought into that narrative.

But even as the euphoria surrounding Jio'IPO continues, global investors are looking past it to the much bigger offering of Anthropic, expected later this year or early next. The comparison is sobering. The San Francisco-headquartered maker of Claude AI models filed on



October 26 to list on Nasdaq. Its prospectus shows revenue of $16.3 billion in the first half of 2026, nearly 13 times the year-earlier level. Analysts expect the company to command a valuation of $1.2-2 trillion, several times Jio's. OpenAI, valued at a similar level to Anthropic's, is also expected to list by 2027.

The contrast highlights where global capital is flowing. Investors are backing companies building AI software and hardware, particularly in the US, Taiwan and South Korea. India has few listed companies operating at the core of this ecosystem, leaving its equity market vulnerable to foreign investors selling local holdings to fund bets elsewhere. Despite the growing concern over an AI financing bubble, foreign portfolio investors withdrew a record ₹3.08 lakh crore from Indian equities in the first nine months of 2026, nearly twice the outflow recorded in all of 2025.Jio's listing proves the depth of domestic investor appetite for a credible growth story. But India needs to offer global investors more than connectivity and affordable data. Until Indian companies secure a meaningful share of the AI value chain, from computing infrastructure and models to chips, investors may only get to celebrate successes at home that are dwarfed by listings abroad.

Into the next phase of globalisation

Value is shifting faster towards high-tech frontiers that require collaboration. Trust to sustain partnerships is central to this effort—a plank on which India can contribute in a hyper-connected global economy. After recent jolts, resilience must be built into future trading systems

The world is at an inflection point. Driven by geopolitical friction, trade fragmentation, rapid technological shifts and climate urgency, global economic engagement is undergoing a structural reset. As supply chains reconfigure around strategic priorities and artificial intelligence redefines competitiveness, the paramount challenge lies in architecting a resilient, inclusive and sustainable economic order that can preserve global openness and cooperation.

India's scale, digital capabilities, entrepreneurial energy and international partnerships position it to contribute ideas and solutions to shared global challenges. The next frontier is to project these strengths onto the global stage through innovation and constructive leadership.Genuine global leadership demands the capacity to generate ideas, build consensus and deliver tangible solutions. India's evolving international footprint reflects these priorities. The India AI Impact Summit, hosted earlier this year in New Delhi, served as a crucial global stage for defining inclusive and responsible AI. Meanwhile, initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure showcase India's ability to anchor international cooperation on clean energy and climate resilience. The next step is to convert dialogue into collaboration, innovation and measurable outcomes. Trade, technology and trust are central to this effort, providing the foundations on which India can contribute to a more connected and resilient global economy.Global trade remains essential to prosperity, even as its geography and priorities evolve. According to the World Trade Organization's October 2026 projections, world goods and services trade volume is expected to grow by 3.7 percent in 2026 and 4.7 percent in 2027, supported partly by AI-related infrastructure investment. For India, this evolving trade environment presents an opportunity to build on its export momentum: India's exports reached a record $863.1 billion in 2025-26, reflecting its expanding manufacturing and services capabilities.Yet growth alone is insufficient without resilience. Disruptions to maritime routes, energy markets and critical supply chains underscore the need for diversification. India must strengthen its participation in global value chains through



competitive manufacturing, better logistics, quality standards and deeper integration of smaller enterprises. Trade agreements can open markets, but sustained competitiveness depends on productivity, innovation and reliable delivery. Stronger commercial engagement across Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia can further diversify India's economic partnerships.Economic value is shifting toward high-tech frontiers, driven by breakthroughs in AI, semiconductors, biotechnology, quantum technologies and advanced manufacturing. India's digital public infrastructure, startup ecosystem and engineering talent provide a strong foundation. Its ambition must now extend from technology adoption to research, commercialisation and indigenous innovation.This requires greater research and development investment, stronger industry-academia collaboration and international partnerships that deliver knowledge transfer, skills and joint innovation. No country can develop every critical technology independently. India can strengthen its global position by combining domestic capabilities with international expertise, while ensuring that technological progress expands opportunity and productivity across industries.

Simple ways to purify your Indoor air



Nine out of 10 people globally are breathing poor quality air. Yet, oblivious to the dangers of indoor pollution, when we speak of pollution we only refer to outdoor pollution. Jayati Singh, Business Head, Air, Philips India adds, "Indoor air is 3-5 times more polluted than the outdoor air because it is a mix of outdoor pollution that comes in through windows and doors as well as indoor pollutants like dust, cooking fumes, allergens, incense, cigarette smoke and pet dander."

According to a recent survey conducted by Artemis Hospital under the Clean Air India Movement, due to unhealthy indoor air quality, about 31 per cent of the survey respondents had some kind of airway disease and 46 per cent people were found to have symptoms suggesting a respiratory disease.

Dr Amol Kumar, Pulmonologist, from iCliniq says, "Indoor air pollution is wreaking havoc on the sleeping patterns of people, thus leading to multiple ailments. The right home air purifier can help us sleep better and prevent sinus and breathing problems as it will remove dust and allergens from the air and leave us breathing easier and even reduce snoring."

Here are some easy ways to prevent your indoor air from getting worse:

Monitor indoor pollution

You can download a pollution mapping mobile application to monitor air inside your house. Also, keep your windows and doors closed in the wee hours and early morning, as that is the time when pollution is at its worst.

Use chimney to filter cooking fumes

Researchers have established that cooking fumes are cancerous and contribute greatly to contaminating indoor air. While cooking, always keep the exhaust fan on (and use chimney). Also, it is important to clean grease traps on regular intervals.

Avoid smoking indoors

Smoking is a big health hazard and it can permeate into your environment. So it's best to avoid smoking indoors and you are also advised to wash your hands and face after smoking.

Keep air-purifying plants

Houseplants can help you purify indoor air. They absorb particulates in the air and then process it into oxygen via photosynthesis. Plants like chrysanthemum (Garden mum), spider plant, weeping fig and peace lily are some of the indoor plants you can consider keeping at your home.

Change bed linen regularly

Change your bed sheet and pillow covers at least twice a week and always use clean blankets. Regularly washing curtains is also a healthy practice to prevent indoor air pollution.

Avoid moisture from getting trapped

Clean your house well and prevent moisture since dust and mites strive on moisture. High moisture inside the house leads to mold growth and is also associated with respiratory issues. Use exhaust fan while cooking and even in the bathroom after shower; put the clothes' dryer outside, don't put too much water in houseplants and make sure there are no leaky plumbing to prevent mold. Get your electronic devices, especially air conditioners serviced regularly and use dehumidifier.







Extraordinary health benefits of Black Pepper

From an omelette, pasta to a vegetable stir fry, black pepper can enhance the taste factor.

Black pepper has more healthy properties than most people know about. Black pepper is a spice that has the potential to make food more beneficial when used in various recipes and as a table spice. In Kerala, many start their day with a cup of black coffee with a pinch of black pepper powder. The aroma of freshly ground black pepper is difficult to ignore.

We get our black pepper from the pepper vine that can grow in tropical climate. The pepper vines actually bear fruit-small white flowers that turn into berries called peppercorns. And the peppercorns are collected as whole berries or as ground black pepper.

Research studies have shown that black pepper has quite a handful of healthy properties.

It has the ability to enhance the function of the digestive tract. Black pepper is a great way to combat this. More than just a spice, it has been shown to improve digestion and stimulate the secretion from the taste buds. This taste bud stimulation tells the stomach that it's supposed to increase its own digestive juices, namely hydrochloric acid. This, in turn breaks down protein in the stomach, improving the process of digestion.

Black pepper is known to have a great amount of antioxidant properties. It also has benefits against bacterial growth, particularly in the intestinal tract.



So, just add freshly ground black pepper powder to your dish and see the difference.

What's your walking Personality?



It's time to change the adage from 'what you wear says a lot about you' to 'how you walk says a lot about you'. That's right. Researchers from the UK have found that people make judgments about an individual's personality based on his walk. Remember James Bond's suave stride or John Wayne's iconic swagger? Theories say that Wayne's walk may not have been so much about confidence and being macho, but his need to control his lanky body better. If you use the Monday slouch on most days, watch out! It may reveal that you are insecure and heading for a burnout. Of course, you can't judge a book by its cover, but body language experts say that walking styles definitely give away secrets about an individual. Here are a few key gaits and their interpretations...

KEY GAIT TYPES

Saunterer

Here's a non-pretentious soul, someone who loves to grab the day on his terms. A man or woman-about-town, this is a great communicator, someone who likes so reach out and have conversations while ambling. It's said to be one of the most ideal ways of walking.

The Power Strider

Have a strong lunging step? You're someone who loves to hit ground running. You are able to multitask and can focus on what is at hand. The study says this gait is mostly seen at the workplace. Unfortunately, power striders also expect others to keep up with them.

The Stomper

These folks press their feet down hard on the ground while walking, not so much due to body weight, but because of a persistent nature. They like to hit the concrete hard and can be childish or even easily prone to anger.

Egg-shell walker

A cautious, tight-lipped personality, this person takes calculated steps. This pattern of walking as if on eggshells, could arise out of a worried mind. The walking style is light, but deliberate. He or she gives of signals of being shy and aloof, too.

The foot dragger

How many of us have adopted this style? Studies say if this gait is repetitive it denotes a person who is listless, devoid of energy, sad and unable to detach from stress and worries.

Daytime sleep-walker

thinker. This is someone who's lost in thoughts and noise and other distractions become white noise to him or her. If you call out to such a person and get no reply, don't take offence.

The skulker

Watch out for this type! Here's someone with a predatory nature who likes to prowl about looking for another's weakness. At the workplace, you'll find this character skulking in the background, trying to eavesdrop on others' conversation.

30 minutes = zero stress

Scientists say a stroll can be one of the most effective ways to bust anxiety and stress. Brisk walking boosts endorphins and activates neurons in the brain that can soothe the mind and body. Walking meditation is also catching on as a daily wellness practice.

A British study that rated walkers' gaits found that a slower longer stride meant more internal dialogue, a looser gait denoted extroversion and a tighter one was about a more closed personality.

Here's how to walk right

First, adjust your posture, keep your head and spine straight.

Do not lean forwards or backwards.Make sure the shoulders do not hunch.

Don't let the arms tighten; swing them naturally.

Breathe steadily and pick up a calm pace.

Nordic walking, the new body toner?

Imagine you are going skiing minus the snowy slopes. That's Nordic Walking (also called ski walking), a fast-catching trend. It involves applying pressure on the ground with poles, which tones the arm muscles, chest and back. Nordic walkers are fitter and torch more calories (40% more than regular walking).

9 reasons why you're

Constantly Worn out







Do you struggle to get out of bed, feel constantly drained and rely on pick-me-ups like coffee and sugary treats to get you through the day?

If so, you're far from alone. Research reveal that one in three of us admit we're permanently worn out because of the pace of modern life. A survey by a vitamin company revealed that a whopping 97% of us claim we feel tired most of the time and doctors' records reveal that 10% of people who visit them complain of unexplained tiredness. So much so that doctors have even created a handy acronym — TATT (Tired All The Time). Here, experts point to some of the causes and how to deal with them.

No Exercise

Avoiding exercise because you're tired actually makes you feel worse. Regular exercise makes your heart and lungs work more efficiently, delivering oxygen and vital nutrients around the body. Remedy: Next time you're tempted to flop on the sofa, force yourself up for a brisk 10-minute walk — you'll feel more alert.

Lack of sleep

Recent research shows many of us survive on so-called 'junk sleep' — the kind when we wake up frequently throughout the night. It doesn't replenish our energy levels as well as long stretches of continuous sleep do. Remedy: Develop good sleep hygiene. Go to bed on time, avoid staring at screens an hour before bed time. If sleep evades you, have a relaxing bath and a cup of warm milk. Throw in some easy reading, as that helps.



Caffeine addiction

Although we think of caffeine as a pick-me-up, it actually makes us feel more tired once the initial surge wears off. This is because our brain chemistry doesn't like being interfered by stimulants, so it releases chemicals to dampen down the alert response. Drinking coffee even six hours prior to bedtime meant poorer quality kip. Remedy: Avoiding caffeine will increase energy levels in the long run. But cut down gradually to avoid headaches and irritability.

Iron deficiency

Figures show that around one third of women are low on iron often due to heavy periods. Some have low enough iron levels to be anaemic. If you pull down your bottom eyelids and the inner rim looks pale rather than pink, it's an indicator. Remedy: Include plenty of iron-rich foods in your diet, such as lean meats, dark green vegetables, pulses and dried fruits, and pair them with foods like citrus fruit high in vitamin C.

Dehydration

Losing even as little as 2 per cent of your body's normal water content can take its toll on your energy levels. As we get older we lose our thirst reflex. Also, working in an air-conditioned office, going for a long walk can lead to depleted fluid levels. This causes blood pressure to drop and not enough blood gets to the brain or muscles. It results in headaches, fatigue and loss of concentration. Remedy: Try to drink water every two hours. If you need encouragement, add mint, basil, lemon or cucumber to liven its flavour.

Sugar Overdose

Sugary energy drinks and snacks like biscuits, chocolate and crisps cause sharp spikes in blood sugar levels that can leave you tired. Remedy: Swap to low-sugar foods. Avoid white carbs such as bread and pasta which quickly convert to sugar in the body. Choose wholegrain carbs such as granary bread, wholemeal pasta and brown rice.

Missing out on protein

Surviving on fruit and salad might feel worthy, but avoiding protein will leave you exhausted, as it's a vital energy giver. Remedy: Eating a minimum of a palm-sized amount of protein with meals and eating seeds and nuts or nut butters can prevent tiredness. Meat, fish, cheese, tofu, beans, lentils, yogurt, nuts and seeds are good sources of proteins.

Storing on stress

While a little stress helps to keep us on our toes, long-term stress exhausts the body leaving us emotionally drained. Remedy: When stress strikes, instead of going frantic to fix things, try to slow down and take a break. Call a friend, walk the dog or do some yoga.

Sluggish Thyroid Having an underactive thyroid —which means it's not making enough of the hormone thyroxine — is a surprisingly common cause of unexplained fatigue, especially in middle-aged women. Other symptoms of a thyroid condition include excessive thirst, weight gain and feeling cold. Remedy: See your doctor and take a a blood test. For an underactive thyroid, a simple once-a-day tablet can correct the problem — and most people get their normal energy levels back soon after starting the treatment.

Top 5 healthiest alcohol Drinks



Plan to go drinking but afraid you may gain weight? Fret not! There are alcoholic drinks that have less calories and that do not make you gain weight as much as their counterparts. We give you top five healthiest alcoholic drinks to try this weekend.

Healthiest Alcohol Drinks
Vodka Soda

Hip hop artists endorse it as the 'cool quotient drink', but the Russians believe it is a cure to all their problems and they might just be on to some thing. In several cultures, Vodka is used as an alternative medicine. Consume no more than 1-2 units (30ml each) of Vodka at one go.

Healthiest Alcohol Drinks
Bellini

Bellini is prepared with champagne orange or peach juice. Champagne is rich in antioxidants which is beneficial for your skin. When you add orange or peach to champagne you are adding vitamin A, B and C to your drink. The juices are good sources for calcium, riboflavin, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, niacin and thiamine.

Healthiest Alcohol Drinks
Red wine

Indians have opened up to drinking wine. It is no longer associated with just the Italians and the French. From rosy cheeks to a happy heart, wine was and is a popular beverage. Red wine is considered the fountain of youth by many thanks to the high level of antioxidants. A great accompaniment for romantic dinners, wine will boost your body's defenses, build bones and balance blood sugar levels. Red wine can also increase women's libido too.

White wine

Red wine may be popular, but white wine has health benefits too. While red wine has antioxidant resveratrol, white wine has hydroxytyrosol which is an important antioxidant and effective for clearing blockages.

Guinness

Though beer gives you a beer belly, Guinness has less calories than regular beer. There are 128 calories in 35ml of Guinness beer. This beer also has the same number of antioxidants as red wine. This beer can help reduce and flush out blood clots and improve heart problems.

4K cops to be deployed as Opposition set for Ramlila show

Delhi.(Agency)

Ramlila Ground is all set to host the INDIA bloc's rally on Sunday, with banners, hoardings, tents, a stage, a score of security forces, and the opposition party members working hard to undo the damages by the rains that fell on Friday.More than 4,000 police personnel, along with Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) companies, are likely to be deployed in view of the rally, whereas the venue has been divided into 14 zones.According to police, over 200 CCTV cameras were installed for surveillance. Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar, accompanied by senior officers including the special commissioner, joint commissioner and deputy commissioners of central and New Delhi districts, inspected security arrangements at Minto Road and Ramlila Ground on Saturday.Workers from opposition parties, including Congress and the Samajwadi Party, took mugs and buckets to scoop water from the ground, put and rearranged chairs on the ground, erected tents, and spread ground clothes.

K C Venugopal, who visited the ground on Saturday evening, met Congress Sevadal members and commended them for their "hardwork" for "making the rally a success".While the main stage was ready, the ground was lit in the night as the works related to electricity, sound, and decoration kept on going. Several leaders from the INDIA bloc, including Congress' Priyanka Gandhi and Pawan Khera, CPI (M)'s General Secretary M A Baby, party MP John Brittas, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant, and student leader Aishe Ghosh, also paid visits in the last few days to inspect the arrangements at the Ramlila ground.

No fire clearance, exits at Delhi shoe factory where blaze killed 4 blocked; 2 held

Delhi.(Agency)

No fire clearance certificate, inadequate ventilation measures, and blocked escape routes, including the staircase to terrace, were among the alleged violations observed after a fire broke out at a factory in Northwest Delhi's Mangolpuri Industrial Area Phase-1 on Friday, leading to four deaths, said officials.Around 9:30 pm, Vikas, 22, a worker, was having dinner with his colleagues on the first floor of the shoe factory. When the blaze broke out around 9:32 pm in the basement, they allegedly realised that the main exit of the four-storey building was locked and ran in panic towards the terrace, trying to escape the blinding smoke. Even as the building, which had been allegedly operational for nearly 30 years, has four gates, all of them were allegedly locked — with iron sheets placed on top — at the time of the incident.

"The gate was right there, but we couldn't get out. The guard must have locked the door and left," Vikas, who was admitted to the emergency ward at Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital on Saturday, told The Indian Express, adding, "We tried everything to escape. I stuffed cloth in my mouth and poured water on it to protect myself from choking."After rescue operations, Vikas and another factory worker, Harinder, now admitted to the ICU of Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, survived. But four of their co-workers died. The four deceased have been identified as Ashok (25), Harihar (40), Lal Babu (38) and Prem Chand (50).Expressing grief, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta stated, "The loss of lives in the unfortunate fire incident is extremely painful. My deepest condolences are with the bereaved families."On Saturday, the Delhi Police registered a case of culpable homicide and arrested two men in connection with the incident.One of them has been identified as Ashok, 47, the building supervisor. Suresh Chand, 76, a resident of Pitampura, the other accused, is the father of factory owners who have been summoned by police but are yet to be traced.Head Constable Upesh was among the first responders on Friday night who observed fumes emanating from the factory during the night patrol.

Gurugram, Noida step up border checks ahead of BS-VI vehicle curbs in Delhi

The police will also issue challans through cameras, as it would not be possible to deploy personnel at every entry point into the city, said officials.

Delhi.(Agency)

With restrictions on non-BS-VI petrol and diesel vehicles entering Delhi coming into force on Sunday, Gurugram and Noida have deployed special teams at key border points to screen vehicles and regulate their movement.In Delhi, enforcement will be carried out by joint teams of the Traffic Police and Transport department, with support from the local police. Border checks will also use automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) and radio frequency identification (RFID) technology.Identifying vehicles that do not meet the prescribed emission standards could, however, pose a challenge for traffic personnel. While some newer SUVs have distinct designs that help differentiate BS-VI models from their BS-IV counterparts, the same may not be true of sedans, said officials.



To address this, the challan application used by the Delhi Traffic Police is linked to the Vahan database, which provides details of vehicle makes and models. Officials said this would help personnel identify vehicles and determine whether they comply with the required emission standards.The police will also issue challans through cameras, as it would not be possible to deploy personnel at every entry point into the city, said officials.In Gurugram, the Traffic Police has deployed special inspection teams at five Haryana-Delhi border routes – Sirhaul toll, Kapashera, Bajghera, Aya Nagar and Gwal Pahari – to screen vehicles headed towards the Capital.

"Officers stationed at these checkpoints will verify BS-VI emission compliance, registration credentials and valid Pollution Under Control Certificates (PUCC). The roadside inspections will focus primarily on commercial vehicles, interstate buses and heavy goods carriers registered outside Delhi," Traffic Police spokesperson Vikas Soni said.The restrictions will remain in force until January 31, 2027. Only BS-VI-compliant vehicles, CNG vehicles and electric vehicles will be permitted entry into Delhi. Commercial freight carriers whose destination is elsewhere have been advised to use peripheral expressways.Officials said traffic authorities have asked motorists and transport operators to verify paperwork of their vehicles before approaching the borders.In Noida, the Gautam Buddha Nagar Traffic Police said vehicles registered outside Delhi, including passenger buses and trucks, would not be allowed to enter the Capital unless they met the prescribed emission standards."Vehicles travelling through Delhi to other destinations have been advised to take the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway or Yamuna Expressway to Zero Point, proceed via Pari Chowk, Kasna and Sirsa, and use the Eastern Peripheral Expressway to reach their destinations," it added.A senior police officer said petrol vehicles more than 15 years old and diesel vehicles more than 10 years old were already prohibited from operating on public roads in Gautam Buddha Nagar under the existing Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) protocol."Drivers and vehicle owners will be held responsible," the officer said.An officer from the Regional Transport Office said BS-IV vehicles registered in Noida could continue to operate within the district, while those registered in Delhi could.

17 years on, Delhi's first Jan Aushadhi Kendra faces closure as Shastri Bhawan to be razed

Delhi.(Agency)

In a corner of Shastri Bhawan in the heart of the Capital, a blue board announces Jan Aushadhi Kendra, the government's generic drug store. The one-room store has shelves stacked with the most commonly used medicines: cough syrups, paracetamol and medicines for diabetes, cholesterol, hypertension and allergies.

Every day, employees of various ministries and labour hands from nearby construction sites walk in to buy medicines at affordable rates.This is no ordinary store. Among the country's earliest Jan Aushadhi Kendras and the first in Delhi, it opened its doors in 2009 when Ram Vilas Paswan, the then Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers, came for its inauguration.Under the Central Vista redevelopment plan, all ministries and departments in Shastri Bhawan had been asked to vacate the building by September."While the ministries and departments have already moved out from the building, we are yet to be allocated space for the store," the Jan Aushadhi Kendra in-charge said."Unlike most Jan Aushadhi Stores now, which are run by private players, this one is entirely government-operated. The space and other costs such as electricity are borne by the Department of Pharmaceuticals (which runs the scheme and is under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers) and the employees are from Kendriya Bhandar," the in-charge said.

As the ministries and departments began leaving the premises, the store's request for space elsewhere did not elicit a response.The first request for allotment of alternative accommodation was made in January this year when store employees wrote to the Department of Pharmaceuticals. A reminder was sent in March and then again in July."It has been three months since the last letter but we have not received any communication yet. No alternative space has been allocated for the store," the store in-charge said.

Delhi Behind the scenes : Jamia students turn order into viral celebration

When Registrar Mahtab Rizvi signed the order paving the way for the constitution of the JMI Students' Union, students found a rather musical way to announce it.

Delhi.(Agency)

After weeks of protests, hunger strikes and prolonged standoff, Jamia students finally had a letter worth celebrating. When Registrar Mahtab Rizvi signed the order paving the way for the constitution of the JMI Students' Union, students found a rather musical way to announce it. They shared the order on social media, pairing it with Satinder Sartaaj's song, "Humein Chitthiyan Mili Hain,Mahtab Se…" The wordplay turned an official order into a viral celebration.



October ends with December feelings

Delhi briefly lost track of its calendar this week. Two days of unusually heavy rain later, October began feeling suspiciously like December, with the mercury plunging to 20.7 degrees, the coldest October day in 75 years. The AQI, too, offered a rare gift, settling at 60. Blankets came out of hiding and schools sent 'wint uniform' notifications.

Once protest site, Jantar Mantar moves to art

Jantar Mantar, Delhi's most recognisable address for protest, is preparing for a career change, apparently. After decades of hearing slogans, speeches and demands for justice, the historic stretch will now host art exhibitions and performances as part of the upcoming India Biennale. The announcement came soon after it lost its status as a designated protest site. Perhaps the monuments are getting a change of audience, like from agitators raising placards to artists raising questions about the human condition.

Amit Shah hailed as 'next PM' at birthday hawan

A right-wing outfit celebrated Union Home Minister Amit Shah's birthday, projecting him as "The Next Prime Minister".On Shah's 62nd birthday on October 22, the group organised a special prayer ceremony and hawan at the Hanuman Mandir in Connaught Place, central Delhi,praying for his long life and good health. As part of the celebration,62 kg of laddus were distributed as prasad among devotees, symbolising the minister's 62nd birthday.

'Stayed for another shift to earn more': Kin of Delhi shoe factory fire victims

Delhi.(Agency)

The henna on Gayatri's hands, which she applied for Karva Chauth, has hardly faded. Just two days after celebrating the festival with her husband, Harihar, 40, she sat outside the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital's mortuary on Saturday, crying. Her son, Ansh, 10, held her hand tightly every time she would burst in tears while talking to relatives and reporters. Her daughter, Anjali, 13, also sat next to her while her son, Himanshu, 15, stood next to his father's body lying on a stretcher.Harihar, the family's sole breadwinner, had been working at a shoe factory in Northwest Delhi's Mangolpuri for more than two decades, recalled Gayatri. His monthly salary had increased to Rs 35,000 gradually. He often took double shifts, particularly during the festive season, to earn extra for the family.



On Friday, too, Harihar was working late. It was not unusual for his family. While others at the factory went out for dinner, he dialled up home. Himanshu set out with the food, like he did on most days. By the time he reached the factory, it was 8.55 pm. "He got angry that the food had not come earlier.

He wanted his meal on time. He told his son, 'Agli baar se time pe aao thoda… (come a little earlier next time)'," Gayathri recollected, adding that she could not imagine this was the last conversation the father had with his son.In her late thirties, Gayatri now has the responsibility to look after three children. She wants those responsible to be punished. "There should have been escape routes at the factory and adequate fire fighting material to fight the blaze," she said in response to a survivor's claims that all gates were locked when the incident happened.

Last video call

For another victim's family, the last moments of a loved one were captured in a video call. Ashok, 25, who hailed from Phulparas in Bihar, had worked in the factory for around 14 to 15 years. He earned approximately Rs 16,000 a month. He is survived by a pregnant wife, and two daughters.

According to his uncle, Umesh, Ashok was speaking to his wife and playing virtually with his younger daughter over a video call around 9.20 pm minutes before the fire broke out. Soon after, he informed his family that there was a fire and began looking for a way out. The call was abruptly cut.

Farm fires, weather, Diwali behind pre-emptive air pollution curbs in NCR

The CAQM order was issued two days before Delhi's 10-point winter pollution plan kicks off on Sunday, which enforces curbs on entry of vehicles, dust control, fuel dispensing, staggered office timings, higher parking fees, and construction curbs.

Delhi.(Agency)

The order by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas for a 15-day ban on dust-generating demolition and outdoor construction activities and a 50% work-from-home mandate in Delhi and five NCR districts is perhaps the first time that such a measure has been adopted outside the scope of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). While emergency measures under GRAP are enforced based on deterioration of air and forecast for poor air quality, usually following the onset of winter, the fresh curbs have been cited explicitly as "precautionary" and "anticipatory" measures.The CAQM order was issued two days before Delhi's 10-point winter pollution plan kicks off on Sunday, which enforces curbs on entry of vehicles, dust control, fuel dispensing, staggered office timings, higher parking fees, and construction curbs.The latest curbs have been issued under Section 12 of the CAQM Act, 2021, which empowers the watchdog to take such measures and issue directions as it considers necessary or expedient for protecting and improving the quality of air in NCR and adjoining areas.Officials aware of developments explained that following assessment of multiple factors, ranging from meteorological factors, paddy harvest progress in Punjab and Haryana, and historical peak data, pre-emptive curbs were announced for sectors where pollution sources could be controlled easily.It is expected that air quality across the region will gradually worsen through the coming week.After the respite of a rare 'Satisfactory' air quality index (AQI) late October, driven chiefly by rain, the AQI worsened on Saturday to 'Moderate'. By November 2, it is expected to turn 'Poor'.Among the factors considered before Friday's order were a gradual turn towards unfavourable meteorological conditions, the upcoming Diwali festival and pollution from firecrackers, and paddy stubble burning during the remainder .



Bosch targets double-digit share in India's AC market within two years

New Delhi. (Agency)

European heating and cooling solutions provider Bosch Home Comfort Group, which plans to launch Bosch-branded air conditioners next year, is eyeing a double-digit market share over the next two years, said its Managing Director Sanjay Sudhakaran. The company is targeting to secure a place among the top five brands in the medium term, he added.

Bosch Home Comfort Group, part of German engineering major Bosch GmbH, is accelerating its



India expansion strategy through a dual-brand approach. It acquired the global residential and light-commercial air-conditioning business of Johnson Controls and Hitachi in August 2025

According to the strategy, it is positioning Hitachi in the mainstream and mass-premium segments and Bosch in the performance-premium and super-premium categories to tap different cohorts of the consumer groups, Sudhakaran told PTI in an interview. Besides, Bosch Home Comfort is strengthening its long-term commitment to India with plans to invest 80 million euros (around Rs 900 crore) over the next few years to expand manufacturing capacity, increase localisation and strengthen its engineering and testing capabilities.

Following the acquisition, Bosch Home Comfort Group took over Hitachi's air-conditioning business in India, where it plans to revamp its portfolio to strengthen its presence in the fast-growing mainstream and mass-premium segments.

Meanwhile, its Bosch-branded ACs will target the niche performance- premium segment, competing with brands such as O General and Mitsubishi Electric, priced at around Rs 45,000 to Rs 50,000 and above.

"We will position Bosch as a super-premium category and Hitachi as a mainstream category," he said, adding that both brands would have differentiated product portfolios, features and value propositions. Bosch would draw on its German engineering heritage and premium brand positioning, and Hitachi would continue to leverage its legacy as a specialist in air conditioning and Japanese engineering excellence.

Windfall gains tax on diesel, ATF exports up; petrol cut to nil

New Delhi. (Agency)

Govt Saturday increased the windfall gains tax on exports of diesel and jet fuel (ATF), while slashing the levy to zero on petrol for the fortnight beginning Oct 31.

There is no change in excise duty on petrol and diesel for domestic consumption.According to a notification issued by the finance ministry, the rate of special additional excise duty (SAED) on diesel exports has been increased to Rs 11.5 a litre from Rs 8.5 a litre, while it has been marginally raised to Rs 11 per litre from Rs 10.5 a litre on ATF exports. The duty on petrol exports has been slashed to nil from Rs 2.5 per litre for the next fortnight.

The windfall tax - comprising SAED and road and infrastructure cess - on exports of petrol, diesel and ATF was introduced on March 27 to ensure domestic availability of petroleum products by discouraging overseas sales amid the West Asia crisis. The rates are determined by the average international prices of crude oil, petrol, diesel and ATF prevailing since the last review.

Binance to resume withdrawals after recovering 95% of $6.3 billion crypto theft

New Delhi. (Agency)

Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, has said it will resume withdrawals in phases after securing 95% of the $6.3 billion in digital assets stolen from its platform in what is being described as the world's largest cryptocurrency heist. The first phase of withdrawals will begin between 0600 and 0900 GMT on Sunday and cover bitcoin, ether, BNB, Solana, XRP, dogecoin and several other tokens, Reuters reported.The exchange said the remaining 5% of the stolen assets comprised less liquid tokens that could take longer to source in the required quantities. Binance announced the update in a post on X late on Saturday. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has attributed the cyberattack to TraderTraitor, a North Korean state-sponsored hacking unit.The bureau said on Saturday that members of the group had been observed converting the stolen assets into Ethereum.

FBI links crypto heist to North Korean hacking unit

In a statement, the FBI identified TraderTraitor as responsible for the attack and said it expected further attempts to launder the stolen funds using related technology. The bureau also urged cryptocurrency exchanges, blockchain analytics companies and other industry participants to block transactions associated with identified addresses to prevent the stolen money from being moved to conceal its origins.

750 credit score, Rs 24 lakh salary, yet no home loan: What went wrong?

A healthy credit score can open doors to credit, but it does not guarantee a home loan. An IT professional earning Rs 24 lakh a year, with a score of 750, found this out when the bank rejected an Rs 80 lakh loan application.

New Delhi. (Agency)

For a 36-year-old IT professional in Bhubaneswar, buying a house seemed well within reach. Earning Rs 24 lakh a year and carrying a credit score of 750, the borrower approached a lender for an Rs 80 lakh home loan, confident that the numbers would work in their favour.

But the bank did not think so.

The problem was not the salary or the credit score. It was the pile of existing EMIs. With nearly Rs 1 lakh already going towards loan repayments every month, the borrower simply did not have enough money left to take on another big-ticket commitment. And this is where the home loan dream hit a wall.

WHEN EXISTING EMIs EAT INTO YOUR TAKE-HOME SALARY

The numbers tell an interesting story.

The IT professional earned a gross monthly salary of Rs 2 lakh, taking home around Rs 1.55 lakh. However, existing loan repayments were already consuming Rs 1 lakh every month, leaving just Rs 55,000 for household expenses and everything else. Now consider the proposed home loan of Rs 80 lakh. At an assumed interest rate of 8.5% for 20 years, the monthly EMI would work out to approximately Rs 69,400.

Add that to the existing EMIs, and the total monthly repayment obligation would jump to Rs 1.69 lakh. That's nearly Rs 14,400 more than the borrower's entire take-home salary, even before accounting for groceries, utility bills, transport and other everyday expenses. On paper, the borrower looked like a strong candidate for a home loan. In reality, there was barely enough money left each month to accommodate another EMI. "Having an excellent credit score, steady income, and a strong repayment history are often considered indicators of a borrower's creditworthiness. But there's a lot more to it than just that," says Kundan Shahi, Founder of ZAVO, a loan settlement and repayment platform.Shahi explains that lenders look beyond repayment history to assess existing financial commitments, disposable income, property valuation and whether another EMI can comfortably fit into the borrower's budget.



YOUR CREDIT SCORE IS NOT YOUR HOME LOAN TICKET

Many prospective homebuyers spend months building their credit scores before approaching a bank. Paying credit card bills on time, avoiding defaults and maintaining a healthy credit history are all important. But a good score does not automatically translate into home loan approval.

IOC, BPCL, HPCL clock ₹30,106 cr Q2 profit, nearly 39% of FY26 earnings

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's three state-run fuel retailers earned a combined standalone net profit of Rs 30,106 crore in the July-September quarter, nearly 39 per cent of their annual earnings, after a refining margin boost and inventory gains helped more than offset losses on fuel sales and a mounting unpaid LPG subsidy bill.

The combined profit of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) is 68.3 per cent more than their earnings in the same period last year and a swing from a combined loss of about Rs 18,150 crore in the previous April-June quarter, according to company filings. The July-September quarter alone equals about 39 per cent of the three companies' combined FY26 (April 2025 to March 2026 financial year) profit of Rs 77,281 crore. The boost in earnings came despite petrol and diesel prices remaining on freeze since May and unchanged domestic LPG rates since March, despite a surge in



benchmark prices and input crude oil rates.

The three companies were till last month losing Rs 4-5 a litre on petrol and Rs 18-20 on diesel, industry sources said. IOC Director (Finance) Anuj Jain at an investor call on Saturday said under-recoveries or losses on LPG were Rs 184 per cylinder in September, which rose to Rs 229 in October and are expected to further go up to Rs 309 in November and Rs 370 per cylinder in December.

While petrol and diesel prices are deregulated and any loss has to be borne by the companies, LPG continues to be a regulated commodity with the government expected to make good on the difference between retail price and actual cost. With government subsidies not coming in time, the three companies accumulated under-recoveries on fuel totalling Rs 67,900 crore at the end of September, according to the filings.

IOC reported Rs 32,505.69 crore of under-recovery, BPCL Rs 17,334.40 crore and HPCL Rs 18,048.82 crore. The earnings boost was primarily because of high refining margins and inventory gains.

FPIs pull out ₹34,843 cr from equities in Oct, turn net buyers last week

New Delhi. (Agency)

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) withdrew ₹34,843 crore from Indian equities in October, marking the second consecutive month of heavy outflows, amid concerns over elevated crude oil prices, global interest rates and the corporate earnings outlook.



However, foreign investors turned net buyers towards the end of the month, infusing around ₹6,300 crore during October 26-30 compared to net outflows of nearly ₹2,700 crore in the week ended October 23.

According to data from the Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL), FPIs withdrew ₹35,861 crore in September. Before that, they had invested ₹20,200 crore in July and ₹29,631 crore in August. With the latest withdrawals, cumulative FPI outflows from Indian equities in 2026 have reached ₹2.95 trillion. The recent improvement in flows signals a shift in near-term sentiment, but one week of buying does not necessarily indicate a sustained reversal, market experts said.

"For October as a whole, foreign selling remained significant, reflecting concerns around elevated crude oil prices, global interest rates and the outlook for corporate earnings," Anand K Rathi, co-founder of MIRA Money, said. Higher crude prices pose risks to India's inflation and corporate margins, and attractive yields in the US continue to influence global capital allocation, he added.

Rathi said the sustainability of the recent improvement in foreign flows would depend on greater clarity on global macroeconomic conditions, crude prices and the earnings outlook. Domestic institutional investors have also played an important role in absorbing foreign selling and supporting market stability.

Sona Comstar expects annual investments to rise as business grows: MD

New Delhi. (Agency)

Auto component maker Sona BLW Precision Forgings Ltd (Sona Comstar) expects its annual investments, currently at ₹500-600 crore, to rise as it scales up operations, with a focus on R&D, capacity expansion and new capabilities, its Managing Director and Group CEO Vivek Vikram Singh said.

In an interview to PTI, Singh shared that the company will continue investing across all its three business lines, adding that it had introduced three new products during the September quarter. "Annual investment is currently around ₹500-600 crore. This should increase as we grow over the decade," he said.

Singh said investments would cover multiple areas, including R&D, capacity additions, capability additions and new processes, with the company focusing on developing entirely new products. According to the company's Q2 results release, the three products commercialised during the quarter were a helical limited slip differential for EVs, air springs for railway coaches and rear radar sensors for two-wheelers.

Sona BLW Precision Forgings Ltd reported a 31 per cent rise in consolidated profit for the September quarter at ₹223 crore, from ₹170 crore a year ago.

Its revenue from operations grew to ₹1,535.84 crore, from ₹1,138.29 crore, during the July-September period of the last fiscal year. On the company's geographical growth outlook, he said India contributes around 50 per cent of its business and the share is expected to remain in the 50-55 per cent range as it expands in other markets.

"Orders already won will begin to convert, and North America should see good growth next year, with India keeping pace. India's contribution should remain in the 50-55 per cent range," Singh said. The company secured new orders worth ₹3,600 crore during the quarter, marking its third-best quarter in terms of order bookings. Singh said these orders would translate into revenue over different timelines, depending on the stage of vehicle development and model cycles. On opportunities arising from global companies diversifying supply chains away from China, Singh said India could gain significantly, provided domestic suppliers develop the necessary design and manufacturing capabilities. "India could gain significantly, as companies are looking to diversify supply chains away from China. However, Indian suppliers must be capable of taking on that business. The ecosystem needs to demonstrate design capability and manufacturing quality," he said.

India's semiconductor sector needs a robust ancillary ecosystem

India continues to depend on imports for semiconductor-grade materials, specialty chemicals and gases, substrates, equipment and spares, and critical minerals such as gallium and germanium

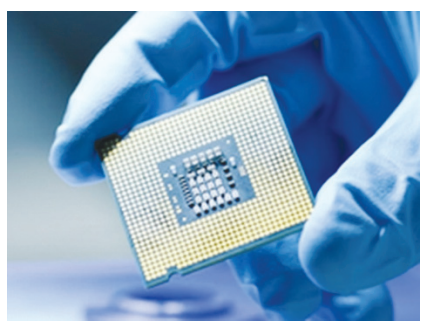
New Delhi. (Agency)

Though India has made noticeable progress in setting up outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) facilities over the past few years, industry executives and experts say the country needs to develop a robust ancillary ecosystem to support the sector.

Under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 1.0, 12 projects worth approximately Rs 1.64 lakh crore have been approved, comprising one silicon fab, two compound semiconductor fabs and nine packaging units. Experts say ISM 2.0 is a step towards building the ancillary ecosystem, but caution that it will take time for such an ecosystem to mature in India. Pushan Sharma, Director, Crisil Intelligence, said the gaps remain in the supporting ecosystem. "India continues to depend on imports for semiconductor-grade materials, specialty chemicals and gases, substrates, equipment and spares, and critical minerals such as gallium and germanium." According to Crisil estimates, imports meet 90-95% of India's domestic chip demand.

The challenge is not just sourcing these materials but also ensuring consistent quality and supply at scale. "India also needs strong R&D, reliable infrastructure and specialised talent. An AI-first engineering approach can help accelerate chip design, simulation, verification and manufacturing optimisation," said Richard Bergman, president and global business head – Semiconductors, Quest Global.

Harshavardhan S, Head, Electronics & Semiconductors Automation Business, Titan Engineering & Automation Ltd (TEAL), said the equipment and materials segment represents the most critical gap. "Every fab and OSAT needs 50 to 100 supporting companies around it, and that domestic ecosystem barely exists yet." Syrma SGS Technology Ltd said India needs to be patient, as it is a compelling alternative in the sector, though not the only one. Jasbir Singh Gujral, MD of Syrma, said: "It takes 5, 10 or 15 years to develop a semiconductor ecosystem, unlike the electronics manufacturing services (EMS) sector. The OSATs in India need to provide



volumes in billions. Only then will other support, tax benefits and investments, including FDI, flow into the sector."

Policy changes

TEAL has sought three major policy changes to strengthen the ecosystem. First, it wants a dedicated production-linked incentive scheme for semiconductor capital equipment manufacturing. "ISM 2.0's Pillar 2 offers a five-year PLI (10/8/6/4/2% of locally sourced BoM), which is welcome, but it should be extended to cover a broader range of automation and precision engineering companies that supply to fabs and OSATs. Second, demand aggregation — if the government can give domestic equipment and materials suppliers visibility into the combined procurement pipeline of India's 12-plus semiconductor projects, it would unlock private investment in the supply chain," Harshavardhan said. He also called for rationalising customs duties on components and raw materials used by domestic equipment manufacturers, saying they should receive the same exemptions as imported finished equipment.

Tax holidays over incentives

Another concern raised by the industry is the need for tax incentives to support R&D activities.Shashwath T R, co-founder and CEO of Mindgrove Technologies, said: "Chip R&D has long timelines and requires expensive tools, which are difficult for startups to bear alone. R&D tax credits and co-funded programmes would encourage deeper investment in core technology.

12 go missing after landslide sweeps away Ganjam hamlet in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

At least 12 people have gone missing after a landslide swept away a hamlet on the Ganjam-Kandhamal border following heavy rainfall triggered by Cyclone Arnab on the night of October 28.The Odisha government launched a massive search operation, but no missing person has been traced so far. Persistent rainfall and poor access to the site have posed major challenges to rescue efforts.The incident occurred at Gidipabali hamlet, a remote hilltop settlement under Baipali gram panchayat in Ganjam district's Bhanjanagar block. The hamlet is home to around 25 people.The landslide reportedly swept across the hilly terrain, carrying away villagers and causing widespread destruction. With boulders strewn across the area, rescuers have found it difficult to locate any signs of life.Special relief commissioner (SRC) Rajesh Prabhakar Patil told mediapersons on Saturday that 12 residents had managed to move to safety as rainfall intensified on Wednesday night, triggering the landslide. However, 13 others were initially untraceable. An elderly woman, Tarabati Pradhan, was subsequently located.

Odisha: Khallikote, Aska MLAs face public ire over delay in relief distribution

BERHAMPUR.(Agency)

Khallikote MLA Purna Chandra Sethy and Aska MLA Saroj Padhi were confronted by angry villagers during their visit to flood-affected areas in the district on Saturday.Sethy faced the ire of flood-affected residents at Kumari village under Purushottampur NAC over alleged delays in relief distribution and failure to address waterlogging. The situation turned tense at Kumari around noon when Sethy arrived at the flood-affected locality to assess the damage and review relief arrangements. According to preliminary reports, villagers were manually draining excess water from a pond after their repeated appeals to the authorities to undertake the work allegedly went unheeded.A group of angry villagers surrounded Sethy's vehicle and raised slogans against him, claiming they had not received flattened rice and jaggery. The situation escalated into pushing and jostling, prompting security personnel and local officials to intervene and escort the MLA to safety. Sethy reportedly left the spot immediately amid the protests. However, he did not sustain any injury.In Aska, MLA Padhi encountered public resentment over relief distribution. People intercepted Padhi's vehicle as he attempted to enter Sunambasahi. The MLA was forced to turn back his vehicle and leave the area.

Gutka scam: Madras HC asks court how it will complete trial within three months

CHENNAI.(Agency)

The Madras High Court has sought a report from the special court for MP/MLA cases as to how it was going to complete the trial in the sensational multi-crore gutka scam case, in which former ministers and retired IPS officers have been accused, within three months.

Justice V Lakshminarayanan recently directed the special judge for MP/MLA cases court to "send a report as to how he proposes to complete the trial in the case which has so many accused and documents in a matter of three months." He instructed that the report shall be filed by November 6 and posted the matter for hearing to the same date.The direction was issued on a petition filed by former commissioner of Greater Chennai Police S George, one of the accused in the case, seeking the special court to remove the persons cited as prosecution witnesses whose statements under Section 161 CrPC were not furnished to him, or provide the Section 161 CrPC statements of all the prosecution witnesses whom the prosecution proposes to examine, in compliance with Sections 173(5) and 207 of CrPC.

Mumbai wants to drink the sea. The villages that fish it are pushing back

For two decades, Mumbai has chased the idea of turning seawater into drinking water. But now that the city's first desalination plant is coming up on a hillock in Manori, fishing villages around it are opposing it.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Manori had slowed down for its afternoon siesta after a morning of fishing and farming when word spread, in January this year, that government officials were inspecting the beach. Locals hurried to its rocky shore. There, the officials confirmed it. The site was earmarked for Mumbai's first desalination plant.Until then, residents had only heard murmurs of the project. The survey raised more questions. Their own research, and a conversation with their local corporator, led them to a desalination plant in Chennai. Worried villagers from the Manori-Gorai-Uttan belt pooled money to fly in two fishermen from the southern coast to hear what had happened there. The meeting confirmed their fears.

"The fisherfolk who were based around Chennai's Nemmeli desalination plant told us how they had faced sea erosion and pollution. We mapped our boats, sought information from authorities and realised that our fish catchment and livelihoods could be similarly affected by the new



desalination plant in our backyard," said Switsy Henriques, a local resident and president of the Gorai Villagers Welfare Association.Posters against the plant now line the roads of these once-quiet fishing villages. The anger that had been building for months came to a head on October 19, when over 800 villagers and fishermen thronged the collector's office seeking cancellation of the project until discussion.The plant will sprawl across 29 hectares of suburban collector's land handed over to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). Its first phase, with a capacity of 200 million litres a day (MLD), is slated to start operating by December 2029 and is expected to meet the daily needs of up to 15 lakh people.With a strong El Nino pattern bringing drought across Maharashtra this year and raising concerns over Mumbai's own water shortfall, the BMC has begun geotechnical work in Manori, including a soil survey. For a community that has always lived off the sea, that has been cause for alarm.

TWO DECADES IN THE MAKING

A desalination plant removes salt and debris from seawater to make it fit to drink. Such plants are used widely in West Asia and in coastal countries like Singapore, where desalination has earned the name "fourth national tap".India's first large-scale desalination plant was commissioned in Chennai in 2010. Manori will be BMC's and Maharashtra's, first. But the idea of desalinating Mumbai's seawater goes back to the 2000s.

Why Pune weather changed record books in Oct 2026

October 2026 rewrote weather record books in Pune, with the IMD's primary Shivajinagar station recording a mere 1.7 mm of rainfall—the lowest for the month since 2014.

Pune .(Agency)

On October 31, a number of weather stations in Pune district reported rainfall of different intensities over a 24-hour period. This included 67 mm in Bhor and 45.5 mm in Shirur to 18 mm in Magarpatta, 17 mm in Nimgiri and 7 mm in Pashan. In Shivajinagar, the main weather station of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) in Pune, the rain guages remained dry – marking a fitting end to a month with below-normal rain at the weather station."In October 2026, only 1.7 mm was recorded in Shivajinagar. This is the lowest October rainfall since 2014," said an expert from Vagaries of the Weather, a weather monitoring organisation. He added that the near absence of rain, added to unusually high temperatures, had turned October particularly uncomfortable.According to IMD data, the rainfall received in Shivajinagar in previous October months, ranged from 18.6 mm in 2023 to 61.2 mm in 2024 and 67.3 mm in 2025. There was 313 mm of rain in 2020 and 235 mm the year before."The first reason for this year's lack of rain was the early withdrawal of the southwest monsoon. While Pune's normal withdrawal date is around October 10, this year the monsoon withdrew on October 3. This occured along with the absence of thunderstorms that typically bring rain to Pune during the post-monsoon period," he said.From mid-September, Pune receives rainfall in the form of localised thunderstorms, often triggered by weather systems developing over the Bay of Bengal or discontinuities in wind patterns along



the west coast and over Marathwada and Madhya Maharashtra.

"This year, no strong weather system developed to trigger such activity. Another important factor was the early formation of an anticyclone, a high-pressure system that generally develops around Gujarat after mid-October. Its influence kept Maharashtra under predominantly dry conditions, with little cloud cover," said the expert.This year, the expected movement of moisture from the Bay of Bengal towards Maharashtra was also largely absent. "Although the Northeast Monsoon established itself over Tamil Nadu, the easterly trough that normally transports moisture inland did not extend sufficiently northwards to benefit Maharashtra. Nor did any significant low-pressure system develop over the Arabian Sea to bring moisture towards Madhya Maharashtra and Marathwada," he said.The expert cautioned against attributing the lack of rain to the El Nino, pointing out that, in 2015, another El Nino year, there was Pune had received 76.7 mm of rainfall in October. "In September 2015, Shivajinagar recorded 173 mm of rainfall, compared to 64.1 mm this September," he said.October 2026 has been among the highest as well, averaging 34.66 degrees Celsius. In comparison, the average maximum temperature in 2025 was 31.3 degrees Celsius. Since 2014, the highest average maximum temperature for October has been 33.2 degrees Celsius in 2018. On October 31, in a forecast issued for November 2026, IMD said that it is likely that above-normal maximum and minimum temperatures will prevail.

IIT-Bombay student's suicide: Parents move HC, seek CBI probe or SIT

Mumbai.(Agency)

Seeking a fair and independent investigation into the death of their 20-year-old son, Sahil Wakode, the parents of the deceased IIT-Bombay student have approached the Bombay High Court. Their petition seeks a transfer of the probe to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or, alternatively, another Special Investigation Team (SIT), and monitoring of the investigation by a retired High Court judge.A separate plea has also been filed before a special court designated under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. It seeks a status



report on the action taken on six representations Sahil's father has made to the police so far, along with directions for the preservation of evidence and action over the alleged unauthorised circulation of CCTV footage, private phone conversations, his apology letter and other information.

Sahil, a second-year BTech student, allegedly died by suicide on September 18. The institute has said the incident followed his being caught using his mobile phone during an examination.

However, the petition by Sahil's parents, Ravindra and Sonali Wakode seeks a probe into allegations of abetment of suicide linked to "acts and illegal omissions of persons in authority at IIT Bombay".

Andhra government: Complete e-KYC for crop insurance claims

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

Farmers affected by Cyclone Arnab must complete e-KYC verification of their e-Crop Booking details to become eligible for crop insurance claims, with the Agriculture Department directing field officials to expedite the process. Agriculture Director Dr Manazir Jeelani Samoon stressed the need to ensure that no eligible farmer misses out on insurance benefits due to incomplete verification.He said e-Crop Booking had been completed for 98 per cent of the cultivated area across the five erstwhile Godavari districts, but e-KYC verification had reached only 74 per cent. Officials have been asked to create awareness among farmers and complete the remaining verification on priority, particularly in the five Godavari-region districts and other cyclone-affected areas.The Director also instructed officials to expedite crop damage enumeration and registration and take up immediate restoration measures. These include draining stagnant rainwater by opening breaches in field bunds and spraying 5 per cent salt solution on lodged crops.The Rythanna Meekosam campaign, commencing November 2, should focus on educating farmers about crop insurance, input subsidy assistance, Farmer IDs and crop restoration measures.

Class 10 girl was attacked at school with a chainsaw. Her family can't understand why

Hyderabad.(Agency)

The family of the Class 10 girl who was attacked with a chainsaw at a Zilla Parishad school in Raptadu, Anantapur district, is still struggling to come to terms with the incident. They have said they are unable to understand why she was targeted.On Friday, a 21-year-old man stated to be a relative was arrested in connection with the alleged attack at the school. The girl suffered deep cuts to her neck and abdomen, while her right hand was nearly severed.Another student was injured while attempting to intervene. Both students are stated to be critical.The family said it was unable to fathom the reason for the attack. "She hardly spoke with anyone. She is shy and only interested in her studies, and is close only to the friend who tried to protect her. We do not know if he spoke with her or pursued her. Every morning, she went by autorickshaw to school with other students and returned in the same vehicle," one relative said. Her brother added: "She is a brilliant student."Anantapuram Circle Inspector C Srikanth said the school's main gate was closed and all students were in their classrooms when the incident occurred. At about 10.30 am, while a Class 10 Mathematics lesson was underway, the watchman, who was manning the gate, went inside to fetch a bucket of water for the plants on the school premises. The suspect allegedly.



Unlike 2024 General Elections, Andhra voters show little interest in local body polls

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

The strong voter mobilisation witnessed during the 2024 General Elections is missing in the urban local body polls, with a section of Andhra Pradesh voters working outside the State showing little interest in travelling to their native places to exercise their franchise. Unlike the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, the local body polls are apparently being viewed as less consequential, while travel expenses are also discouraging many from making the journey home. Urban local body elections are scheduled for November 1, followed by MPTC and ZPTC elections on November 5.During the 2024 General Elections, a large number of people working in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi and other cities travelled to their native places to cast their votes. Some even came from abroad, considering the elections crucial for the State's future. The enthusiasm surrounding the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls had prompted many to make special travel arrangements, despite the expense and time involved.Nearly two-and-a-half years later, the enthusiasm among a section of these out-of-State voters appears to have considerably diminished as the State goes to local body polls.

The urban local body elections were originally scheduled in 100 urban local bodies, comprising 13 municipal corporations, 73 municipalities and six Nagar Panchayats. Polling is being held in 92 urban local bodies, while elections in the remaining eight have been unanimous.Unlike the 2024 elections, when voting was widely perceived as a major political event, several voters working outside the State say they are not keen on spending anywhere between Rs 2,000 and Rs 10,000 or more to travel home solely to vote in municipal elections. The fact that the urban local body polls are being held on a Sunday, which is a holiday for many employees, has also not automatically translated into



a rush to return to their native places.The change in mood is particularly noticeable among young employees and professionals who had travelled home during the 2024 elections. For many, the municipal polls are being viewed as less consequential than the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The perception among some voters that the ruling NDA is favourably placed in these elections has also reduced the urgency to make the journey home.

Pat Cummins hints at Australia Test shake-up, is Labuschagne finally in trouble?

New Delhi.(Agency)

Pat Cummins has admitted that changes to Australia's Test side will have to be considered after their 2-1 series defeat against South Africa. With Marnus Labuschagne enduring another difficult series and Steven Smith waiting in the wings, could the Australian No. 3 finally be facing the axe?

Australia surrendered their 1-0 lead after losing the final two Tests, going down by 176 runs in Cape Town to hand South Africa the series. Speaking after the



defeat, Cummins acknowledged that the team needed to improve and hinted that both their approach and personnel could be reviewed. "I think it's always the case after losing a series [that changes are talked about], and it's probably fair, we lost two games in a row," Cummins said. "It's fair to be asking those questions, we'll be asking them internally as well." "We are a very good side, but I think we need to get a little bit better if we want to get back to No. 1 ... so maybe that's a change of style, maybe it's a change of personnel in some instances. Give us a couple of weeks and work it out." The defeat in Cape Town was Australia's third in their last five Tests and their fourth in seven matches dating back to the Boxing Day Test against England last season. They have also lost their No. 1 position in the ICC Test rankings for the first time since May 2024 and slipped to third in the World Test Championship standings.

Dreaming big at 8, winning big at 18: Kajal Dhochak's rise at Wrestling Worlds

New Delhi.(Agency)

Kajal Dhochak was around seven or eight when she first started training in wrestling. Even then, she had a picture of what success would look like. She wanted to stand on a podium, see the Indian flag rise and hear the national anthem play.

That dream has stayed with her. At 18, Kajal is already a two-time U20 world champion and a senior World Championships silver medallist. She came within seconds of becoming India's first woman senior world champion before losing 6-8 to three-time European champion Anastasiya Alpyeyeva in the women's 76kg



final. For Kajal, though, one defeat won't change the target. She has already started looking ahead. "The coaches and I were just thinking about the belt, but it didn't happen this time. No problem, I am still young, and when I reach the age of those who are much more senior to me, I will collect many belts," Kajal said in a virtual press conference facilitated by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

It's a confidence built over years of training, with ambitions that have been clear since childhood.

A CHILDHOOD DREAM

Wrestling was familiar territory in Kajal's family. Her uncle competed in the sport, as did her brother. Watching them train and compete gave her an early connection with wrestling. She wanted to follow in their footsteps.

AC Milan end Inter's unbeaten run with emphatic Derby della Madonnina win

AC Milan claimed derby bragging rights with a 3-1 win over Inter at San Siro, ending their rivals' unbeaten Serie A start. Diego Moreira starred with a goal and two assists, while Christian Pulisic struck early.

Jalandhar.(Agency)

AC Milan delivered a statement win in the Derby della Madonnina, beating Inter Milan 3-1 at San Siro to end their arch-rivals' unbeaten start to the Serie A season. Christian Pulisic and Diego Moreira led the charge as Milan claimed bragging rights and dealt a major blow to Inter's title push.

It took Milan less than five minutes to make their mark, with Pulisic opening the scoring after being picked out by Moreira's excellent delivery from the right. The Belgian then turned provider again, this time from a cleverly worked corner, setting up Adrien Rabiot for a superb finish in the 10th minute.



Inter needed a response and found one through Alessandro Bastoni, who headed home from a corner in the 22nd minute after Manuel Akanji's flick-on. The goal sparked a spell of sustained pressure from the visitors, but Mike Maignan stood firm with a series of important saves to keep Milan in front.

Just when Inter appeared to be building momentum, Moreira struck again. The former Chelsea wing-back capped an impressive first-half display by curling a direct free-kick into the net in the 43rd minute, restoring Milan's two-goal cushion and giving the hosts a commanding position at the break.

MOREIRA RUNS THE SHOW

Moreira was at the heart of Milan's attacking display, providing the assists for both opening goals before getting on the scoresheet himself. His contribution proved decisive in a derby where Inter had plenty of chances but struggled to get past Maignan.

The Milan goalkeeper was particularly busy before the break, denying Djed Spence from close range and keeping out attempts from Hakan Calhanoglu and other Inter attackers. He continued to frustrate the visitors after the restart, while Strahinja Pavlovic also produced an important defensive intervention to protect the lead. Inter kept pushing for a way back into the contest, with Marcus Thuram and Andy Diouf among those trying their luck. They also thought they had a late penalty after a handball appeal, but the decision was overturned following a VAR review, which confirmed the ball had struck Mario Gila's midsection.

Michael Carrick expects to stay at Manchester United despite worrying winless run

Manchester United's winless run has reached nine matches after a 2-0 defeat at Chelsea, piling pressure on Michael Carrick. However, the under-fire boss expects to remain in charge for Tuesday's Champions League clash against Roma.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Michael Carrick believes he will continue as Manchester United manager despite another damaging result, with their 2-0 defeat to Chelsea stretching their winless run to nine matches. The result has deepened the uncertainty around his position, with United now facing the possibility of slipping into the Premier League relegation zone.

United started brightly at Stamford Bridge but lost control after the break, with Lisandro Martinez's dismissal making an already difficult afternoon worse. Speaking after the game, Carrick indicated that he expected to remain in the dugout for the upcoming Champions League meeting with Roma, insisting that his attention had already shifted to preparing the squad. Asked by TNT Sports whether he expected to be in charge for Tuesday's match, Carrick gave a straightforward response. "Yeah," he said.

The United boss was also asked about the speculation surrounding his future during the post-match press conference. Rather than entertain questions about his job security, he made it clear that he wanted to focus on the team's next assignment. "I'm just looking forward to getting the boys ready for midweek now," he said.

The defeat extended a worrying sequence for United, who have now gone nine games without a victory in all competitions. They have not endured a run this poor since September 1984. Their away form is another concern, having failed to win any of their first seven away matches this season, a record not seen since the 1973-74 campaign, when they were relegated.

CARRICK PRAISES UNITED SUPPORTERS

Despite another disappointing result, Carrick received vocal backing from the travelling supporters at Stamford Bridge. His chant could



be heard as he walked towards the away end after the final whistle, even as sections of the crowd expressed their frustration with the team's performance. The United manager recognised that supporters had every reason to be unhappy but was grateful for the way they had continued to stand by the side. "There is a lot of emotion. We are a great football club but we want to win football matches. The supporters make a lot of effort and pay a lot of money to watch us play," he told TNT Sports.

Lewis Hamilton takes first Ferrari pole at Mexico GP, extends F1 record



Lewis Hamilton delivered a stunning qualifying lap in Mexico City to claim his first pole for Ferrari and the 105th of his career. The 41-year-old also became the oldest driver to secure pole in over four decades.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Lewis Hamilton rolled back the years and produced a stunning qualifying performance in Mexico City to claim his first pole position for Ferrari and extend his Formula 1 record to 105. The seven-time world champion bounced back from a troubled start to the weekend, edging Mercedes' George Russell by just 0.009 seconds, with Ferrari teammate Charles Leclerc completing the top three.

It was a remarkable turnaround for Hamilton, who had endured a frustrating Friday after an engine issue forced him to stop during second practice. The problem also cost him valuable long-run running, leaving him with plenty of work to do before qualifying.

Hamilton, however, saved his best for last. After sitting fourth on the opening runs in Q3, he delivered a superb final lap to snatch pole from Russell. It was his first pole position since the 2023 Hungarian Grand Prix, ending a wait of more than three years, and his first since joining Ferrari. "I feel great, that feels good, I am at a loss for words," Hamilton said. "We did a pretty good job with the setup in the weekend. It feels special for me in Mexico, my first pole for Ferrari here."

The Briton also reflected on what the achievement meant after a challenging start to life with the Italian outfit, drawing inspiration from watching Michael Schumacher dominate during his Ferrari years. "To have your first Ferrari pole, it takes me back to watching Michael [Schumacher] get all those poles when he was at Ferrari and all those wins," he said.

HAMILTON ADDS TO HIS F1 RECORD

Hamilton's latest achievement took his career pole tally to 105, extending his advantage at the top of the all-time list. He also became the oldest driver to take an F1 pole since Mario Andretti did so for Ferrari in 1982, aged 42. At 41, Hamilton is the fifth-oldest driver to secure pole position in Formula 1 history. Nino Farina remains the oldest, having achieved the feat at 47 years and two months.

More than Plan B: Bangladesh hockey want to stop being the fallback option

Bangladesh hockey have long been seen as a replacement team at major tournaments. But coach Gerhard Rach and captain Ashraful Islam have bigger ambitions, targeting Asia's top six and dreaming of World Cup and Olympic qualification.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Who doesn't love a good underdog story in sport? A team doesn't have to slay giants or win every match to capture hearts. Sometimes, it's the fight, the resilience and the desire to punch above its weight that make a team special. In Jalandhar, Bangladesh may just be that team. In hockey, Bangladesh are hardly considered among Asia's elite. Ranked 27th in the FIH rankings, they have never featured in an Olympic Games or a World Cup as an independent nation. Their only World Cup appearance came in 1971, when they were still part of Pakistan.

ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY: FULL COVERAGE

In a country where cricket and football dominate the sporting landscape, hockey has largely remained in the shadows. And with Bangladesh enduring political turmoil over the past few years, the sport has had to navigate its own challenges. More often than not, Bangladesh find themselves playing the role of last-minute replacements. When a team pulls out of a tournament, they are among the first names on the speed dial of Hockey India and the Asian Hockey Federation. It happened at the Asia Cup. And now, when Pakistan declined India's invitation to compete in the Asian Champions Trophy (ACT), Bangladesh stepped in once again.

For a team that rarely gets the opportunity to compete against the continent's best, such tournaments offer invaluable exposure. But this time,



Bangladesh arrived in India with a familiar face in their dugout.

Gerhard Rach, who briefly served as India's first foreign coach in 2004, is now tasked with steering Bangladesh's hockey ambitions. His previous stint with India was a turbulent one, with his tenure playing a role in the ousting of Dhanraj Pillay and several other key names. Alongside him is captain Ashraful Islam, a veteran who has earned 106 caps and scored 82 goals for his country.

Together, the coach and captain have a straightforward mission: to shed Bangladesh's tag as a replacement team and establish themselves as a force to be reckoned with in Asian hockey.

MORE THAN JUST THE SCORELINE

Bangladesh's numbers at the ACT make for grim reading. After three matches, they are yet to register a win or earn a point. They have scored just one goal and conceded 20. On paper, it is a campaign that tells a story of struggle. But the numbers don't quite capture the fight Bangladesh have shown on the pitch.

They were hammered 0-13 by India in their opening match, and another heavy defeat was widely expected when they faced Japan. Instead, Bangladesh produced a display of grit and resilience that offered a glimpse of their potential.

Defending deep and in numbers, they refused to give Japan the space to string together passes or create clear-cut chances.

Their resistance was finally broken in the 40th minute, but they held their own for much of the contest, eventually going down 0-1. Against Japan, Bangladesh showed they could make life difficult for a stronger opponent. Against Malaysia, they offered a glimpse of what they could do going forward.

PT Usha, Saina Nehwal, Gagan Narang among sporting greats in IOA election fray

New Delhi.(Agency)

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha and five Olympic medallists are among 27 former athletes in the running for eight Sportspersons of Merit (SOM) positions in the national Olympic body's General Assembly. The November 9 election is expected to play an important role in shaping the IOA's next Executive Council, with several prominent sporting figures in contention.

A total of 80 existing SOMs, comprising 40 men and 40 women, will vote virtually to elect four representatives from each category. The eight successful candidates will become members of the IOA General Assembly and gain voting rights in the



December 5 elections for the body's new Executive Council. The list features some of India's most recognisable sporting names, including Olympic medallists Gagan Narang, Yogeshwar Dutt, Vijender Singh, Surinder Singh Shokar and Saina Nehwal. World Athletics vice-president Adille Sumariwalla, hockey great Sardar Singh and former table tennis star Achanta Sharath Kamal are also among the candidates.

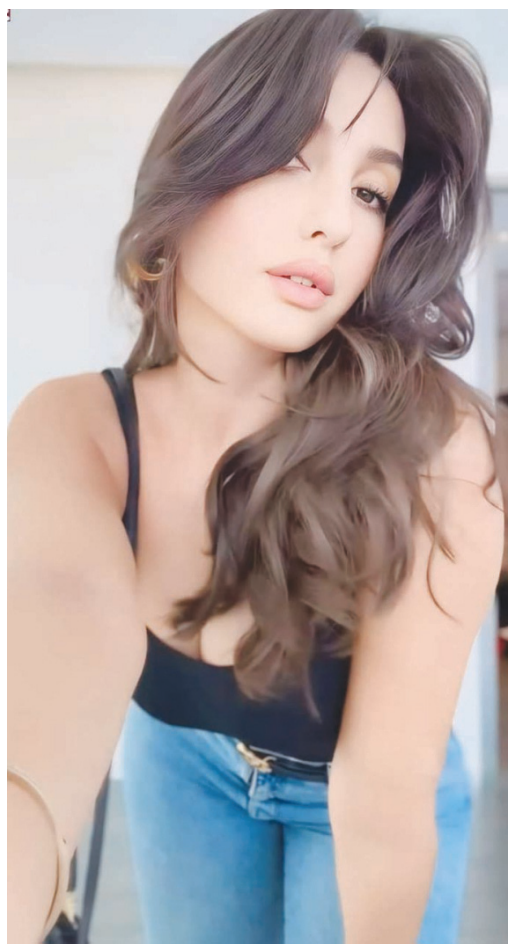
The SOM election carries added significance as the successful candidates will have a say in the upcoming IOA leadership polls. Two of the eight elected members, one man and one woman, will eventually secure places in the Executive Council and could also contest for other positions, including the president's post.



Nora Fatehi

Summoned By Delhi Court As Witness In Rs 200 Crore Sukesh Chandrashekhar Extortion Case

Bollywood actor Nora Fatehi has been summoned to appear before Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court as a prosecution witness in the Rs 200 crore extortion case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar.The court has directed her to appear on November 2. Fatehi is listed as witness LW-3 in the third supplementary chargesheet filed in the case.The case relates to allegations that Chandrashekhar, while lodged in Delhi's Rohini Jail, impersonated senior government officials and allegedly extorted around Rs 200 crore from Aditi Singh, wife of former Ranbaxy promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh, during 2020-21.He allegedly promised to secure her husband's release from jail in exchange for money. The Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) investigated the alleged extortion and filed a chargesheet under the Features Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).



Fatehi was earlier questioned by the EOW in connection with her alleged association with Chandrashekhar and his wife Leena Maria Paulose. Police had recorded her statement under Section 164 of the CrPC and subsequently named her as a prosecution witness in the supplementary chargesheet.The actor had told investigators that her interaction with Chandrashekhar was through his wife. She had also been questioned about an event she attended in Chennai in December 2020.

Sai Pallavi

Says She Relied On Prayer And Meditation To Play Sita Maa In Ramayana: 'I Was Simply Praying'

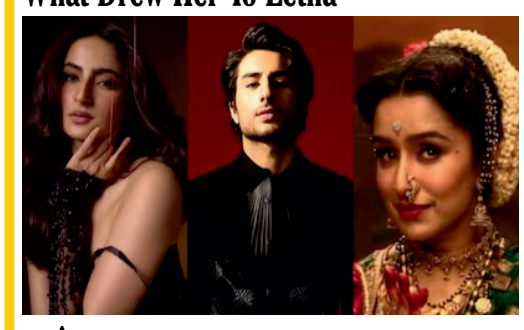
Actress Sai Pallavi, who is set to portray Sita Maa in the upcoming film 'Ramayana', opened up about her preparation for the revered character.Appearing on the popular quiz reality show, Kaun Banega Crorepati, Sai said that she relied on prayer and meditation to approach the role with the dignity it deserves.During a conversation with megastar Amitabh Bachchan, Sai Pallavi spoke about the immense responsibility of portraying a figure as revered as Sita Maa.She emphasised that the film would go beyond being a cinematic experience and become a part of history for generations to come.Emphasizing the reverence attached to the role, Sai Pallavi shared by saying, "Maine iss patra ke liye sirf prayer kiya aur prarthana kiya ki main jitne bhi obstacles ho mujhe voh patra karne mein, voh saare obstacles nikal jaaye. Kyuki hum jo film bana rahe hain, voh sirf film nahi hain voh itihaas bhi banega aur aage ka generations bhi dekhega, aage ka future dekhega tab hum sab yaha nahi honge. Uss samay voh dignity honi chahiye, toh main sirf prarthana hi kar rahi thi for this role."

(For this role, I only prayed and asked that whatever obstacles I might face in portraying this character would be removed. Because the film we are making is not just a film; it will also become a part of history, and future generations will watch it. People in the future will look back at it when none of us will be here. At that time, the portrayal should have dignity. So, I was simply praying for this role)Speaking on how mindfulness helped her navigate high-pressure filming, Sai Pallavi added by saying, "Aisa nahi hain, actually agar main meditate nahi karungi toh mujhe aur saare thoughts aate hain. Toh most of the times, even when I was playing this character of Sita Maa, I believed in doing meditation.

During playing this character, I learnt ki main jabhi bhi koi stressful situation mein hoon, I realised you should just witness it rather than just acting towards it. Whenever I used to come across a stressful situation, I started thinking how Sita Maa would have reacted so this is what I feel I learnt from Sita Maa's character."



Palak Tiwari And Ibrahim Ali Khan Break Up?; Shraddha Kapoor Reveals What Drew Her To Eetha



Actors Palak Tiwari and Ibrahim Ali Khan have reportedly called it quits after dating for over three years. According to a report by Hindustan Times, the couple has parted ways amicably, with Ibrahim reportedly taking the decision to end the relationship. However, neither Palak nor Ibrahim has publicly confirmed the breakup as of now.Shraddha Kapoor has opened up about working on Eetha, Laxman Utekar's upcoming biographical musical inspired by the life of legendary Tamasha and Lavani performer Vithabai Bhau Mang Narayangaonkar. Speaking at the film's trailer launch in Mumbai, the actress discussed the opportunity to be part of the project, the preparation required for the role and the film's focus on artists and their struggles.Veteran English actor Patrick Stewart passed away at the age of 86 at his Los Angeles home. The "Star Trek" and "X-Men" star was surrounded by family and friends in his final moments. His estate took to X, formerly Twitter, and shared the news.Jiya Shankar has addressed the growing speculation around her engagement to Kaaran Dhanak, aka KD, after fans noticed changes in her social-media activity and began questioning whether the couple had parted ways.



Maddock Films and Kathputli Creations have unveiled the grand trailer of EETHA, starring Shraddha Kapoor as Eetha Bai. An epic musical drama inspired by the life of a Lavani legend, the film brings to life the extraordinary journey of a woman who defied conventions, challenged the odds and rose above every obstacle to carve an unforgettable place in history.

Diljit Dosanjh Says He Could See His Mother In A Delhi Police Officer At His Concert: 'If You Were Not Here...'



Singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh shared an emotional moment with a woman police officer during his live concert in Delhi on Friday. He saluted the personnel for their service and said that seeing the officer reminded him of his mother.The singer, who was performing in the national capital, paused his performance to acknowledge the security personnel present at the venue and urged the audience to give them a big round of applause.As the crowd cheered, Diljit saluted the personnel and expressed his gratitude towards them, saying, "If you were not here, we wouldn't feel safe." He then shared a heartfelt moment with a woman officer in uniform, whom he called on stage. The singer affectionately placed his hand on her head and revealed that he could see his mother in her."I get to meet my mother once or twice a year. But when you were standing there, I thought my mother was standing," he said. "Today my mother called me. She said, 'Take care of yourself.' I said, 'Good things will happen, don't worry.' Looking at you today, I thought it was my mother who was standing with me," he added.

The singer also appeared to acknowledge the efforts of the entire police team in ensuring the smooth conduct of his concert. Taking to his social media account after the concert, Diljit gave a special shoutout to his Delhi fans. He wrote, "Shoutout to Delhi FANS. Delhi Police, the CRPF, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and BookMyShow Live. LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE LOVE."Talking about his gesture towards the police personnel, it comes at a time when the Delhi Police has recently been in the spotlight following a series of confrontations during protests at Jantar Mantar. During the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-led march towards Parliament in July, many videos of clashes between protesters and security personnel went viral on social media.The confrontations saw police personnel facing allegations of excessive use of force, while videos also showed heated exchanges and physical altercations between the two sides.

NEWS BOX

Quad expands cooperation on AI, critical minerals and maritime security

World.(Agency)

The foreign ministers of the Quad countries have agreed to expand cooperation in artificial intelligence, critical minerals and maritime security, news agency Press Trust of India reported. They also announced a business leaders' forum to promote commercial agreements in key sectors.At their third meeting this year, the ministers from India, the US, Japan and Australia said they intended to provide US$85 million in technical assistance to expand access to trusted artificial intelligence across the Indo-Pacific. They also announced the first Sea Dragon 2027 maritime surveillance collaboration initiative for the region.

The meeting was hosted by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta on Saturday. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi attended the talks.Responding to a question about the meeting, Rubio told reporters: "The best way to make a forum useful and important is to make sure that it does something, not just talks about it but does it."

According to PTI, a joint statement issued after the meeting said the ministers were looking forward to the Quad Leaders' Summit on the sidelines of the ASEAN-East Asia meetings in the Philippines in mid-November. "I think hopefully when our leaders meet, in November, they will be able to announce some more concrete steps," Rubio said.The ministers announced the first Quad Business Leaders' Forum to strengthen links between the public and private sectors.

G20 foreign ministers fail to reach consensus as Ukraine divisions deepen

Atlanta.(Agency)

Foreign ministers from the Group of 20 major economies ended two days of talks without reaching a consensus on several global security issues, with divisions over Russia's war in Ukraine affecting the meeting's outcome, news agency Press Trust of India reported.The group did not issue a joint communique after the talks in Atlanta. Instead, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio released a chairman's statement listing priorities such as energy and food security and freedom of navigation, but it did not mention any agreements."I wouldn't pretend to you today that we are close to finding universally accepted solutions to these problems," Rubio told reporters after the meetings. "But I do think that among the G20 represented here are countries that are working together to solve some of them, particularly in the realm of supply chains and critical minerals."Rubio had described the first day of talks as "very productive". On Saturday, he held separate meetings with his counterparts from Australia, India and Japan before leading the final G20 session, which focused on freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and the Red, Black and South China seas."I made clear to our partners that secure supply chains are essential for growth," Rubio said in a post on X. "Critical trade routes including the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandeb Strait must remain secure and open to commerce. And we must continue to strengthen and expand critical mineral supply chains to protect our future."At a reception for G20 participants on Friday night, Rubio had sounded optimistic. "Together, I think that we are mapping a vibrant, dynamic, and bold economic future, one that will pioneer new horizons for the entire world," he said.

Avengers Assemble! How fictional rebels are giving street protests a new face

From superhero masks in India to anime flags at demonstrations abroad, fictional characters are becoming part of the visual language of dissent, carrying meanings far beyond entertainment.

World.(Agency)

A protest rally is usually a sea of placards, banners and slogans. But look a little closer, and the crowd may hold some rather unexpected figures: Batman standing among demonstrators, Spider-Man making his way through a march, or Iron Man and the Hulk appearing where one would expect to find political banners and party flags.These are not scenes from a comic-book convention or a film promotion. They are increasingly becoming part of the imagery of street protests.Across Indian cities, students and other protesters have been turning up in superhero costumes and masks, bringing characters usually associated with cinema screens, comic-book pages and gaming consoles into real-world demonstrations.



Images and videos of these appearances have spread widely on social media, drawing attention to a phenomenon that is not only India-specific but is becoming a worldwide phenomenon.In France, costumed figures from superhero films and anime have appeared alongside demonstrators. At the same time, the Straw Hat flag associated with the Japanese series One Piece has travelled to protests in countries including Nepal and Madagascar.What does Batman have to do with a political protest? Or a pirate flag from a Japanese anime with demonstrations thousands of kilometres away from where its story began? And why do characters such as Spider-Man, who have grown up alongside generations of young fans, continue to resonate beyond the screen and comic-book pages?In July, photographs from student-led demonstrations in cities including Delhi, Nagpur, Mumbai and Indore showed protesters dressed as Batman, Superman, Hulk and Iron Man, among other pop-culture figures. Spider-Man was particularly visible, with multiple sightings across demonstration sites. In France, too, a protest rally saw young demonstrators use masks of characters including Captain America, Spider-Man, Batman and Iron Man.The imagery returned to the spotlight in October, when Batman masks appeared at an INDIA bloc march in New Delhi demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation. Youth Congress workers distributed the masks, while Congress social media messaging drew a comparison between Rahul Gandhi and the caped crusader.

Midterms in final stretch, El-Sayed tells ex-rival to stay away from campaign

World.(Agency)

US Senate nominee Abdul El-Sayed wants to keep his distance from US Representative Haley Stevens, who he defeated in the Michigan Democratic primary in early August, amid criticism over a political ad.Stevens may not attend an event in Detroit with El-Sayed on Sunday after his campaign asked her to stay away from future appearances, the latest escalation in a public dispute over an advertisement she has condemned as antisemitic.

El-Sayed requested that Stevens forgo his campaign events through the November 3 election so "as not to distract from the central issues of the campaign," according to a person familiar with the matter.Stevens' office did not immediately return a request for comment.The request, first reported by Politico on Friday, was made more than two months after El-Sayed defeated Stevens in a bitterly contested Democratic primary and threatens to prolong party divisions days before the midterm elections. Democrats are hoping to defeat Republican candidate Mike Rogers to capture the seat currently held by Democratic Senator Gary Peters, who is not running for reelection.Republicans have narrow majorities in both chambers of Congress. The closely contested race between El-Sayed and Rogers, one of the highest-profile races in next week's elections, could play a central role in determining control of the Senate.Jason Turkish, the fiance of Stevens, on Saturday told Fox News' "Fox & Friends Weekend" that he is uncertain whether the Michigan congresswoman would still attend a Detroit church service on Sunday with El-Sayed and US Representative Jim Clyburn of South Carolina.The event, scheduled for 1 p.m. EST, had been expected to showcase party unity. Stevens issued a statement on Friday affirming her support for El-Sayed while demanding that he condemn an outside group's advertisement blaming Israel for high grocery prices and apologize for his past rhetoric about Israel."Haley has made it clear to anyone who will listen that she remains on Team Dem. Her only ask, a very small ask, was to say that we not blame all of society's high costs on one group of people," Turkish told Fox News.



Gen Z protests rock Germany now, looting in Frankfurt, firebombs thrown at cops

World.(Agency)

Hooded demonstrators looted shops in Frankfurt on Saturday night as protests over education funding, rising living costs and compulsory military service drew tens of thousands of people onto the streets of Germany's major cities.The demonstrations, organised by the campaign group "Gen Z regelt" — meaning "Gen Z takes charge" — were held in 34 cities, including Berlin, Frankfurt and Munich. The protests were part of a wider wave of youth-led demonstrations across Europe this year, with young people demanding greater economic security and better public services.

Saturday's demonstrations came amid a broader wave of Gen Z-led protests across Europe this year. In Serbia, student activism played a key role in unseating the country's longtime leader through elections, while demonstrations in France have escalated into incidents of rioting and looting.In Frankfurt, at least two stores were looted and several others damaged as the demonstrations turned violent, a Reuters witness reported. Police struggled to contain the unrest in the city centre.



"Violent disturbances are continuing," Frankfurt police said in a post on X. "In the city centre, windows have been smashed at several shops. Molotov cocktails are also being thrown at the emergency services. We urge all bystanders to avoid the city centre or to leave the area."

France sees fresh protest clashes, braces for Halloween night violence

World.(Agency)

Scuffles broke out in Paris and several other French cities on Saturday as demonstrations against rising living costs and strained public services entered their third consecutive weekend, prompting authorities to prepare for possible further violence during Halloween celebrations.The protests remained largely peaceful through the afternoon before clashes erupted towards the end of marches. Riot police moved to disperse groups of demonstrators in Paris, while tear gas was fired in Lyon and Toulouse. Tensions were also reported at the end of unauthorised gatherings in Marseille, although the situation had calmed by nightfall.The latest demonstrations followed a wave of rioting and looting on October 17 that left shops, businesses and public buildings damaged and caught security forces off guard. Authorities were particularly concerned about the possibility of renewed violence overnight, with officials warning that some protesters could use Halloween festivities to conceal their identities."Security forces held their ground and protected city centres. Public order was maintained," Interior Minister Laurent Nunez told reporters, while acknowledging that police had faced "a great deal of violence".He warned that the threat had not passed, citing calls for insurrection on Halloween night."The day is not over. We are ready for those looking for a fight tonight, and we will respond firmly," Nunez said.

TURNOUT FALLS AS PROTESTS SPREAD ACROSS FRANCE

Around 320,000 people took part in Saturday's demonstrations nationwide, including 70,000 in Paris, according to the Interior Ministry. The turnout was lower than the previous two weekends, when 410,000 people protested on October 24 and 550,000 on October 17.The ministry said "radical elements" had tried to break away from marches in cities including Bordeaux, Toulouse, Lyon and Marseille, with the intention of causing damage and looting. Security forces prevented them from doing so, it added.Police checks at railway stations and on roads also uncovered people carrying objects that could potentially be used as weapons, the ministry said.The marches brought together students, trade unions and a smaller group of anti-establishment Yellow Vest protesters. Their demands include action on the cost of living, high fuel prices and inflation, as well as better public services and changes to President Emmanuel Macron's government.

UK PM Andy Burnham open to slavery apology, rules out financial reparations

World.(Agency)

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham has said he is willing to consider calls for a formal apology for Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade, ahead of a Commonwealth summit where Caribbean leaders are expected to renew demands for reparations.In an article published in The Guardian on Saturday, Burnham said his government was prepared to begin a "structured dialogue with those affected by the transatlantic slave trade", during which calls for an official apology would be considered."Listening to calls for a formal apology on behalf of the British state will form an important part of this process, and I am open to them," he wrote.However, Burnham ruled out financial compensation, arguing that people living in Britain today should not be held responsible for historical actions in which they had no personal involvement."I do not think that British people today can be held liable for historical wrongs, however heinous, that happened in a different age under different laws and in which they played no personal part," he said.

COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT SET TO REVIVE REPARATIONS DEBATE

The issue is expected to feature prominently at next week's Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Antigua and Barbuda, where Caribbean leaders are likely to press Britain for reparations.The transatlantic slave trade saw at least 12.5 million Africans abducted and sold into slavery between the 15th and 19th centuries. Britain transported an estimated 3.2 million people across the Atlantic, according to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database.Caribbean governments have frequently called for reparatory justice in the form of debt relief, development funding, better access to education and healthcare, and support for climate resilience.Ahead of the summit, a spokesperson for King Charles said the monarch would not avoid confronting Britain's colonial past during his visit.He "will not shy away from confronting the most shameful aspects of the past", the spokesperson said.



One or two targets to take care of: Trump's Iran threat after Mojtaba's warning

Speaking to reporters at his Florida residence on Saturday, Trump said the US had significantly weakened Iran's military capabilities and nuclear programme but still had a few targets to address.

World.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump has said that the United States still has one or two targets to "take care of" in Iran, including a suspected underground nuclear complex, signalling that Washington's military objectives in the country may not yet be complete. The remarks came after Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei issued a fresh warning to the United States and Israel, ordering the country's armed forces to prepare an immediate and impactful response to any enemy threat.Speaking to reporters at his Florida residence on Saturday, Trump said the US had significantly weakened Iran's military capabilities and nuclear programme but still had a few targets to address."We've knocked out their nuclear system. We still have to take care of, I would say, one or two sites, but we can do that in 10 minutes," Trump said as per a report by the news agency AFP.He specifically referred to Pickaxe Mountain, a suspected underground nuclear complex near Iran's Natanz nuclear facility, saying the US would have to "take care of that".



A few days ago, Khamenei, in a written message, said that Iran would determine the timing and terms for ending any new conflict if its adversaries resumed military or terrorist attacks.He called for an immediate, impactful and "geographically unrestricted response" to any enemy threat. He also directed the armed forces to update their target lists to bring all US and Israeli assets, both tangible and intangible, within striking range.Khamenei further instructed the armed forces to increase the production of ammunition and weapons required for reconnaissance, support and combat operations. He also called for strengthening military intelligence capabilities and developing indigenous defence capabilities.The exchange of warnings comes amid growing uncertainty over whether Washington could launch another round of military strikes against Iran.

US MAY RESUME STRIKES AFTER MIDTERM ELECTIONS

According to a report by MS NOW, the Trump administration is planning to resume strikes on Iran a day after the November 3 US midterm elections, potentially opening another phase of military.