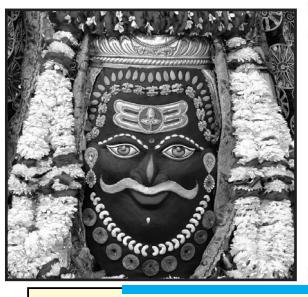
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Vikram Misri in Nepal for Balen Shah's India trip groundwork

NEW DELHI . (Agency).

Foreign Secretary's two-day Nepal visit aims to prepare for Prime Minister Balendra Shah's proposed India visit late next month, as New Delhi seeks to strengthen ties with Kathmandu following unease over the boundary dispute and Nepal's remarks on third-party involvement.
Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will begin a two-day visit to Kathmandu on Wednesday, in a diplomatic move aimed at laying the groundwork for Nepalese Prime Minister Balendra Shah's likely visit to India in November .The visit assumes significance as New Delhi seeks to maintain momentum in bilateral engagement while navigating lingering sensitivities over the long-standing boundary dispute between the two neighbours.The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that Misri's visit would provide an opportunity to discuss bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. However, people familiar with the matter said a key objective of the visit is to prepare the ground for Shah's proposed trip to India, which could provide an opportunity for the two sides to reset political engagement and advance their cooperation agenda.

Congress slams Maharashtra government for loading another 'ecological devastation'

New Delhi(Agency).

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday slammed the reported felling of nearly 1,100 trees for a hydropower project in Maharashtra's Western Ghats, calling it as another example of "ecological devastation" being inflicted upon the people of the country.
Congress general secretary in-charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh shared on X a media report which claimed that nearly 1,100 trees were felled, with over 32,000 marked for removal for a pumped-storage hydropower project in Maharashtra's Western Ghats that has raised concerns over forest rights, tribal livelihoods and ecological impact.Tagging the report on X, Ramesh said, "Yet another example of ecological devastation that is being inflicted on the people of our country.Who enjoys the gains and who bears the pain", asked the former environment minister.Ramesh's remarks come days after Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut had alleged that the Maharashtra forest department has been ordered to fell more than 32,000 trees near the eco-sensitive Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit next month for the ground-breaking ceremony of a hydropower project.Raut, in a post on X, had shared an approval letter purportedly issued by a forest official, granted for the diversion of 233 hectares of land for the Rs 13,505-crore Saidongar-I Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project in Raigad district's Karjat.The Opposition and green activists have slammed the deforestation drive, accusing the Mahayuti government of destroying forests and wildlife.

Gujarat sailor killed as India-flagged cargo ship comes under attack near Oman

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said India-flagged MSV Al Jusufi was struck by an "unidentified aerial object" on Monday while navigating waters near the Omani coastline. The sailor who died was a resident of Gujarat.

New Delhi (Agency).

An Indian sailor was killed after an India-flagged cargo vessel came under attack off the coast of Oman. The ship, carrying 14 Indian seafarers, was struck by an "unidentified aerial object" while navigating near the Omani coast, Union Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said.The vessel, identified as MSV Al Jusufi, was struck on Monday, the minister said. Thirteen crew members safely evacuated and were rescued by the Omani Coast Guard. However, one sailor, identified as Gandhar Nahim Ajij from Gujarat, succumbed to his injuries.In a post on X, Sonowal said he was "deeply saddened" by the death and extended his condolences to the sailor's family."The Ministry and Indian Embassy in Oman are in contact with local authorities to ensure immediate assistance for the 13 survivors and facilitate the swift repatriation of both the surviving crew and mortal remains of our deceased seafarer," he said.The ship was heading to Gujarat's Porbandar from UAE's Al Hamriya port when it came under attack. Condemning the strike, India underlined the broader security threat to international maritime trade routes."The targeting of commercial shipping and civilian infrastructure in the region must end," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement, calling for immediate de-escalation, a diplomatic solution, and the swift restoration of unimpeded navigation under international law.Attacks on Indian-flagged vessels remain relatively rare despite the US-Iran war and Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia. However, hostilities across key shipping corridors surrounding the Gulf region have taken a heavy toll on Indian mariners.According to government figures released last week, at least 22 Indian nationals have been killed since the US and Israel attacked Iran in February this year. Of these, 14 were seafarers.Indian sailors on commercial vessels have been caught in missile and drone attacks by Iran and the US as the Strait of Hormuz became a major frontier in the Middle East conflict. In light of the high number of casualties, India banned the deployment of its citizens on any ship navigating Hormuz.Merchant vessels in the Persian Gulf have increasingly found themselves in the crosshairs of opposing militaries. Though targeting commercial shipping violates international law, strikes launched by both American and Iranian forces have precipitated one of the most severe maritime shipping crises in recent history.



Illegal Activities Allegedly Flourishing in Navapur: Questions Raised Over Police Vigilance

Mahanagar Metro Desk
Nandurbar / Mumbai: Navapur, a border town in Maharashtra's Nandurbar district, has come under scrutiny following allegations of large-scale illegal activities and suspected criminal networks operating in the area.According to local sources, a network of suspected illegal operations is allegedly functioning from sheds near the old RTO (new RTO), behind Shriram Park and the Indian Petrol Pump, in the Bidkhipada village area. Despite repeated assurances of police surveillance and administrative vigilance, concerns are mounting over the alleged continuation of these activities.Allegations Against Individuals and Suspected NetworkInformation received from local sources alleges that the network is being operated with the in



volvement of individuals identified as Pappu Goswami of Lakadkot, Rais Shaikh of Navapur and Suraj Jaiswal.Local discussions and media reports have also raised suspicions about possible links between the alleged network and individuals involved in interstate criminal activities. These allegations have not been independently verified.Sources further claim that large numbers of people from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Daman and Madhya Pradesh reportedly gather at the location during the night. Allegations suggest that substantial sums of money change hands during these activities.Alleged Gambling, Drug Trafficking and Other Illegal ActivitiesConcerns raised by local residents indicate that the suspected operations may extend beyond gambling.The allegations include:Drug trafficking: Suspected distribution of MD drugs and other prohibited narcotic substances, with concerns about their potential impact on local youth.Suspected immoral activities: Allegations of activities that have raised concerns about public safety and the social environment in the surrounding area.Illegal transportation: Complaints regarding the suspected movement of liquor, gutkha and other prohibited goods across the Maharashtra-Gujarat border.

Vijay's Bypoll Outreach: Numbers Game Behind Chief Minister's District Tours

Chennai(Agency).

Chief Minister Vijay's district visits are increasingly acquiring political significance, coming as they do ahead of a series of crucial Assembly by-elections that could determine how comfortably his minority government functions.After visiting Pudukkottai on Monday, where he inaugurated a new bus terminus and government projects worth over Rs 60 crore, Vijay is in Erode's Perundurai today for a government programme involving women's self-help groups.The two visits have something in common beyond their official agenda - both districts have Assembly constituencies awaiting by-elections. Pudukkottai has Viralimalai, while Erode has Perundurai.Perundurai fell vacant after its AIADMK MLA S Jayakumar resigned and subsequently joined the ruling TVK. Similarly, Viralimalai's AIADMK MLA and former minister C Vijayabaskar resigned and switched to TVK. Vijayabaskar faces corruption allegations in the gutka scam dating back to the previous AIADMK regime.The timing and choice of destinations have fuelled speculation about whether the Chief Minister is also using government engagements to establish a political presence ahead of the contests. The ruling TVK, however, has maintained that the programmes are centred on public welfare.In Pudukkottai, Vijay also laid the foundation stone for projects worth Rs 11.72 crore, held a roadshow and received petitions from the public. The new bus terminus was among the prominent inaugurations.The political calculation behind these visits becomes clearer when viewed against the numbers in the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly.
The TVK won 108 seats in the Assembly elections. Vijay subsequently vacated one of the two constituencies he had won, bringing the party's effective strength down to 107. With its victories in the recent Dharapuram and Madurantakam by-elections, the party's tally has risen to 109.

'Need a Navy that can fight, sustain and adapt without external dependencies': Admiral Krishna Swaminathan

New Delhi(Agency).

Navy chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on Tuesday called self-reliance a "strategic necessity", stressing the need to build a force capable of fighting, sustaining operations and adapting without being constrained by external dependencies.Addressing the Delhi Defence Dialogue, organised by a think tank, he said Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) did not mean isolation but enabled India to collaborate with friendly foreign countries "from a position of strength, and not from a position of weakness".Referring to growing geopolitical tensions, Swaminathan said historical fault lines were being reignited, with the use of force increasingly becoming an acceptable, and even preferred, instrument of national policy.
Highlighting how conflicts could disrupt supply chains and affect military capabilities, he stressed the need for a 21st-century Navy that could "fight, sustain and adapt by itself" without being dependent on external agencies or factors.
Citing the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, he underlined the importance of building indigenous capabilities to ensure operational readiness even amid



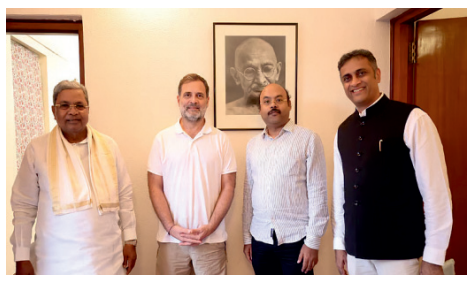
disruptions to global supply chains.The Navy chief also flagged the growing influence of non-state actors and said the democratisation of technology had made advanced capabilities accessible to both "good boys" and "bad boys".He called for addressing critical capability gaps, increasing investment in research and development, and focusing on niche.

DKS-HDK face-off tarnishing my image, Siddu tells Rahul, Venugopal

He reportedly linked the controversy to the Congress' defeat in the recent elections to four Legislative Council seats, arguing that the sting episode had affected the party's prospects.

New Delhi(Agency).

Amid the controversy over the alleged sting operation targeting him, former chief minister Siddaramaiah on Monday met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal in New Delhi and is learnt to have expressed serious concern over the damage to his public image and the direction of the police investigation.According to sources, Siddaramaiah told the party leadership that the political confrontation between Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy was damaging his reputation, although he had no role in the dispute. He reportedly complained that instead of identifying those who recorded the video and investigating their motives, the police were questioning others.During his interaction with Gandhi, Siddaramaiah is said to have expressed disappointment that his name was being dragged into a controversy even after he had made it clear that he was no longer in the race for the chief minister's post. He reportedly said he had conveyed his decision not to contest the next Assembly election and questioned who was behind the alleged political conspiracy.Sources said Siddaramaiah told Gandhi that the video had caused considerable damage to him personally as well as to the party. He is also learnt to have warned that if the campaign against his reputation continued, he might stay away from campaigning in the next Assembly election.He reportedly linked the controversy to the Congress' defeat in the recent elections to four Legislative Council seats, arguing that the sting episode had affected the party's prospects.



public toilets across Greater Noida

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority will develop 22 public toilets across the city under a public-private partnership model. The new toilets will accommodate facilities for people with disabilities.The proposed sites include Mandi Shyam Nagar, Cherry County, near Yatharth Hospital, Surajpur entry point, Jagat Farm market, GNIOT bus stand, Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Stadium, AVJ Heights, KCC College, district court, Kendriya Vidyalaya and Labour Chowk among others.The project will be executed on a build-operate-transfer basis. The selected concessionaire will be responsible for constructing, operating and maintaining the facilities, while the Authority will provide around 40-50 square metres of land for each toilet. The concession period will be 15 years."The concessionaire will be required to ensure regular cleaning, waste disposal and upkeep of water supply, electricity, drainage and other utilities.

GDA to fine schools that flout 25% RTE quota rules

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) has formed a five-member committee to identify schools that have consistently violated provisions of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, which mandates that 25% of seats be reserved for children from economically disadvantaged sections. According to a govt order passed in 2009, the Authority provided land parcels to the schools adhering to the RTE regulations at a subsidised rate, which was 40% to 50% less than the circle rate.

A minimum of 3,000 square metres in urban areas and 6,000 square metres in rural areas, inclusive of mandatory playground space, is required for a development authority to grant land at concessional rates for schools.

"The school management is required to reserve 25% of the seats for students from economically disadvantaged sections of the society and waive 50% of tuition fee. But across the state there have been violations of the agreement prompting UP govt to conduct a survey of such schools," GDA vice chairperson Nand Kishore Kalal said.

Gurgaon's air quality turns poor from moderate in a day, CAQM invokes Stage II GRAP

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The city's air quality deteriorated from the 'moderate' to the 'poor' category on Monday, with three of its four active monitoring stations recording Air Quality Index (AQI) readings above 200.

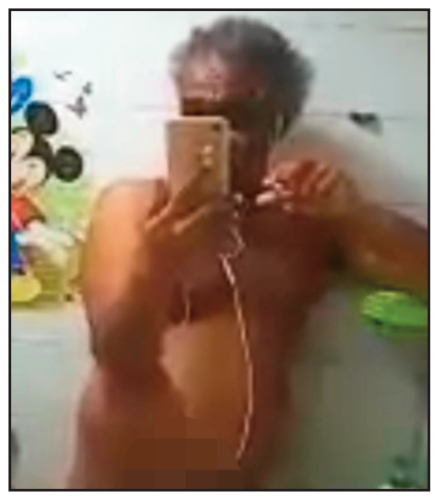
NISE Gwalpahari recorded the highest AQI at 291, followed by Sector 51 at 248 and TERI Gram at 247, according to data. Vikas Sadan was the only monitoring station where air quality remained in the moderate category, recording an AQI of 197. The dashboard showed all four monitoring stations as active.

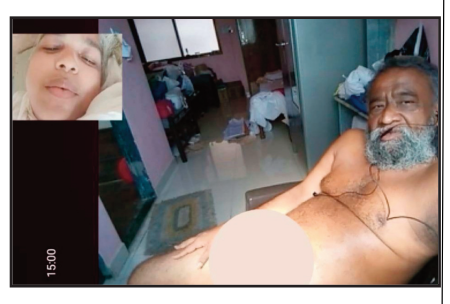
The deterioration was also reflected in the dashboard's daily pollution calendar. The PM2.5 reading for Gurgaon increased from 183 on Nov 1 to 246 on Nov 2, indicating a rise in the concentration of fine particulate matter in the city's air.The shift to the poor category means prolonged exposure to the prevailing air quality can cause breathing discomfort to most people, according to the health advisory displayed on the monitoring .dashboard.

Jain Community Demands Probe Into Allegations Against Sagar Chandra Sagar

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh: Serious allegations concerning alleged misconduct by Jain religious figure Sagar Chandra Sagar have triggered widespread concern and debate within sections of the Jain community. The controversy has raised questions about religious accountability, the protection of devotees and the transparency of institutions associated with religious activities.The allegations, which have circulated through social media and community discussions, include claims of inappropriate personal relationships, financial irregularities and the possible misuse of religious influence. The claims have not been independently verified, and no conclusion regarding the individual's guilt can be drawn without a fair investigation.Allegations of Personal Misconduct Under Religious GarbSagar Chandra Sagar has been accused by certain individuals of allegedly engaging in inappropriate relationships with women and female religious practitioners.The allegations have prompted serious concerns among members of the community, particularly regarding the responsibility associated with religious leadership and the trust placed in religious figures.However, the authenticity and circumstances of the allegations remain matters requiring independent verification. The individuals concerned must be given a fair opportunity to present their accounts.Viral Chats and Recordings Raise QuestionsThe







controversy intensified after purported call recordings, photographs and WhatsApp conversations allegedly involving Sagar Chandra Sagar and a woman began circulating on social media.

After balcony fires, Noida condos may say no to skyshots, rockets this Diwali

Noida.(Agency)

Highrise societies across Noida and Greater Noida are tightening fire safety measures ahead of Diwali, with several apartment owners' associations (AOAs) discouraging or prohibiting aerial fireworks such as skyshots and rockets after a series of fires in residential towers exposed the risks of bursting crackers near flats and balconies.

At Supertech Eco Village 1, the maintenance team has banned aerial fireworks within the society premises following two fire incidents in the past year. The latest occurred last Friday in Tower B16, when a firecracker landed on a second-floor balcony and ignited waste materials stored there. No injuries were reported.The society had a narrow escape last Diwali, on Oct 20, 2025, when a stray rocket struck an outdoor air-conditioning unit in Tower J, triggering a fire that gutted an entire flat. The family was away celebrating at the time, and no casualties were reported.

In a notice issued on Saturday (Oct 31), the maintenance team said the ban on skyshots, rockets and similar aerial fireworks was necessary to protect residents and prevent another fire. It warned that violations would invite action under society regulations.

The incidents have prompted other high-rise societies to issue festive safety advisories and discourage fireworks that could land on balconies or come in contact with buildings. Last Diwali, 17 fire incidents were reported in high-rise societies across Noida and Greater Noida, including Civiltech Samprati in Sector 77, Amrapali Zodiac in Sector 120 and Cleo County in Sector 121. Five condominium balconies in Greater Noida also caught fire, damaging flats.Nikhil Singhal, president of the



Noida Highrise Federation (NHRF) 100x Sectors, said apartment associations should consider restricting high-risk fireworks, particularly those burst close to residential towers.

"A little precaution can prevent a major tragedy. Let us celebrate Diwali with joy, responsibility, and utmost concern for the safety of every resident," he said.

The Noida Federation of Apartment Owners Associations (NOFAA) has also advised its member societies to discourage skyshots and make arrangements to minimise fire risks. Its president, Puneet Sharma, said societies were identifying designated areas for bursting crackers and ensuring firefighting equipment and emergency arrangements were available.

"We have seen incidents of fire breaking out in balconies due to sky rockets. Societies under NOFAA are taking utmost care to prevent accidents with dedicated areas for firecrackers and proper firefighting arrangements in such areas in case of exigencies," Sharma said.He added that residents planning to travel during the festive period had been advised to remove combustible material from balconies and common areas. Societies have also displayed emergency contact numbers and conducted fire drills. Sharma urged parents not to leave children unattended while they burst crackers.Beyond individual society-level restrictions, residents have sought clearer guidelines from the district fire department on celebrating Diwali in high-rise complexes.Rajiva Singh, former NOFAA president, said he had written to the district fire officer, with a copy to the GB Nagar police commissioner, seeking standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the use of firecrackers in residential complexes.The guidlines, he said, should specify designated fireworks zones, safe distances from buildings and parking areas, permissible types of crackers and firefighting arrangements required at celebration venues.Residents have also sought the deployment of basic firefighting equipment, including sand buckets, water hoses and fire extinguishers, at designated areas, along with clear emergency response protocols.

Told to remove bike, 4 beat up man, molest wrestlers in Ghaziabad; arrested

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Four people were arrested for allegedly beating up three people and molesting two of them — both wrestlers, including a minor — during a road-rage incident in Morta village under the jurisdiction of Nandgram police station on Monday. The victims were travelling to take part in a dangal. Police said the accused were identified as Deepak Tyagi, a resident of Morta, his brother Arun and two cousins, Nitish and Kapil.Nandgram SHO Santosh Kumar Tripathi said that on the basis of a complaint lodged by the victim — the father of the wrestler — an FIR was registered against the four accused under the sections of (voluntarily causing hurt), 351 (3) (punishment for criminal intimidation), 74 (molestation) of BNS and under relevant sections of POCSO. "We have arrested the accused," he said.The complainant said that he was travelling with his 12-year-old daughter and sister to Dagarpur village for a dangal. His daughter, who started wrestling some years ago, was supposed to participate in the dangal. The minor had won a silver medal in freestyle wrestling on foreign soil in Bahrain a few years back. She won a gold medal in the state-level competition held in Gorakhpur this year. She had proved her talent at many national and state-level events earlier."At 11.30am, we reached Morta village in our car. The road was very narrow and a motorcycle was parked on it. I honked, but no one came out. Then I called out from the window and asked whose bike it was, following which a man came up and started behaving rudely. I told him to remove the bike so that we would have space to pass, but he started hurling abuses. Somehow I managed to take my car out of there and moved ahead, but after going only about 100 metres, the same man, along with several others, stopped our vehicle and made me get out of the car and beat me up with the butt of a gun. When my daughter and sister — also a wrestler — came to save me, they were also beaten up and molested," he said.A video of the attack has surfaced on social media.

Sima Taparia Turns Matchmaker for ShemarooMe's 'Haju Vaat Chaale Che'

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Rupesh Solan Matchmaking is rarely just about finding two people who get along; in an Indian family, it is a full-fledged exercise involving preferences, expectations, family opinions and, often, a long list of criteria. Bringing this familiar yet entertaining reality into the world of its latest Gujarati original, ShemarooMe has joined hands with India's much-loved matchmaker Sima Taparia for Haju Vaat Chaale Che, creating a fun matchmaking-led initiative around the show. The Gujarati dramedy follows Shivani Dave as she navigates the unpredictable world of arranged marriage and meets a series of prospective grooms. Known for her distinctive approach to matchmaking and her ability to understand personalities, families and expectations, Sima Taparia steps into the world of Haju Vaat Chaale Che to bring her matchmaking expertise to Shivani's search for a suitable partner. The collaboration gives the show an entertaining real-world extension, as Sima takes a closer look at the kind of qualities, compatibility and expectations that come into play when families set out to find the right match. Her involvement also adds a playful



layer to the show's central premise of navigating multiple prospective grooms and the many opinions that come with the arranged-marriage process. Sima has been professionally involved in matchmaking since 2005 and became globally recognised through her show. Speaking about the association, Sima Taparia says, "Matchmaking is not just about making a biodata match; it is about understanding the person, their family, their values and what they really want from a life partner. What I enjoyed about this association with ShemarooMe and Haju Vaat Chaale Che is how naturally the show captures the fun, confusion and emotions that come with finding the right match. There may be many choices, but ultimately, compatibility and understanding are what makes a relationship work.

Illicit felling of sheesham trees: Gurgaon forest department seize timber after 100km chase

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The forest department allegedly pursued a tractor-trolley carrying illegally felled trees for nearly 100km from Pataudi before intercepting it in Hansi around 2am on Monday. Two people have been apprehended in connection with the case.

The operation began after the forest department received a tip-off about tree felling in the Pataudi area. Teams were sent to search for the site but initially failed to locate it. One team subsequently spotted felled sheesham trees (Dalbergia sissoo), also known as Indian rosewood or North Indian rosewood, and began tracking the movement of the timber.

Surender Dangi, Gurgaon's divisional forest officer (DFO), told TOI that officials followed a tractor-trolley suspected to be transporting the timber. "The pursuit continued for nearly 100km, with the vehicle eventually intercepted in Hansi with active assistance from Hisar forest officials," he said.Officials said the trolley was found carrying cut tree trunks and logs of varying sizes, secured with ropes. The department seized the vehicle and initiated the confiscation process. A forest offence report was being prepared, while further investigation was underway to establish the circumstances of the felling and transportation of the timber, officials added."Two people have been apprehended, and we are conducting the investigation. Upon completion of the inquiry, a memo will be submitted to the district court to facilitate further action," Dangi said.The seizure comes as Haryana is working on a proposed statewide law to regulate tree felling on non-forest land. The draft Haryana Preservation of Trees Act, 2026, proposes that 10 saplings be planted for every tree felled with permission. It also provides for a penalty of Rs 10,000 per tree for unauthorised felling, environmental compensation and a minimum three-month jail term for failure to deposit prescribed dues.

The revised draft was forwarded to the state govt on Sept 8 but is yet to complete the approval process, public consultation and legislative scrutiny. The move comes after National Green Tribunal flagged gaps in the regulation of tree felling on private land not covered under Section 4 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900.The proposed law assumes significance in Haryana, where forest cover remains limited and natural green spaces face pressure from development. Gurgaon has recorded the state's highest loss of forest cover since 2019, according to the State of Forest Report 2021, released by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) in Jan 2022.

Elderly Bengaluru man loses Rs 61,000 via UPI after phone pickpocketed on bus

Bengaluru.(Agency)

A 78-year-old man lost Rs 61,000 from his bank account after his mobile phone was allegedly stolen while he was travelling on a state-run bus in Electronic City on October 27, the police said.The mobile phone went missing when the resident of Parappana Agrahara was travelling with his granddaughter to Indira Gandhi Hospital in Siddapura.According to the complaint filed on October 28, the man boarded a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus from the Hosaroad bus stop around 9.30 am. Shortly after boarding, he noticed his mobile phone, which he had kept in his shirt pocket, was missing. Despite enquiring with fellow passengers, he could not trace it.He continued to the hospital, where he left his granddaughter with his daughter and informed her about the theft. His daughter then told him that she had transferred money to his bank account to pay her daughter's school fees. Since the stolen phone did not have a password, she asked him to check his bank account.He subsequently visited a bank branch in Naganathapura, where he discovered that money was allegedly transferred to two different accounts."On the same day, I found that Rs 50,000 had been deducted from my bank account once through UPI and again Rs 11,000," he stated in his complaint.The man's daughter contacted the cybercrime helpline 1930 and later lodged a police complaint.

Missing youth's skeletal remains found, kin cry murder by neighbour in Odisha

JAJPUR.(Agency)

Tension erupted in Alkund area after a human skeleton believed to be that of a 22-year-old missing youth was recovered from near the bank of Junei river in Matiakana village on Monday.The victim, Rakesh Malik, was missing for the past four months. Tempers flared in the village after family members identified the skeleton as that of Rakesh based on the clothes, belt and shoes found with the human remains. They alleged that the youth was murdered due to inaction of Alkund police.Irate villagers then detained the police personnel who had come to recover the skeletal remains and investigate the incident. The cops were subsequently released after sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) of Jajpur Town Prasant Kumar Majhi held discussion with the villagers and assured them of appropriate action as per law.Rakesh's father Sridhar Malik said after his son went missing, the family lodged a complaint at Alkund police station.

Odisha: Five months on, Adishakti Rural Industrial Park still a non-starter

CUTTACK.(Agency)

Around five months have passed, but the Adishakti Rural Industrial Park established at Khentala in Nischintakoili's Isani Brahmapur gram panchayat as an automated agarbatti (incense stick) production unit is yet to become operational. The reason: lack of electricity connection.Sources said around five community-based organisations (CBOs) are currently operational in Isani Brahmapur GP where over 500 women are engaged in making incense sticks.In 2009, state-run Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) joined hands with ITC Ltd to facilitate supply of hand-rolled incense sticks through community-based organisations. The ITC also set up a packaging and value-addition centre at Jagatpur in Cuttack for the purpose.However, with advancement of technology, the agarbatti production process evolved from hand-rolled to pedal machines and eventually to automated ones. Responding to ITC's growing procurement needs and recognising the strength of five CBOs engaged in incense sticks production in the region, the Cuttack administration decided to turn the defunct Balarampur UP School at Khentala into a rural industrial park by setting up automated incense stick production unit.

Karnataka High Court reconstitutes KPSC probe SIT, appoints R Hitendra as chief

The court also appointed IPS officer Soumendu Mukherjee to the team, stressing the need for an independent investigation into the alleged KPSC fraud cases.

Bengaluru.(Agency)

The Karnataka High Court Monday reconstituted the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing two alleged recruitment scams in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), appointing senior IPS officer R Hitendra as its head after the state government objected to the earlier appointment of DGP-rank officer Alok Kumar.The court also appointed Additional Director General of Police Soumendu Mukherjee as the SIT's second senior officer. The two officers replace IPS officers Alok Kumar and Dr Divya Gopinath, while the remaining team members — Anup Shetty, Kushal Chouksey and Kshama Mishra — will continue."The object of constitution of the SIT is not merely to change the hands that hold the investigation but to ensure that the investigation itself is undertaken with renewed independence," Justice M Nagaprasanna said."It is equally imperative that the investigation is insulated from the shadow of its predecessor; therefore, none of the officers associated with the earlier investigations conducted by the CID shall be inducted into the SIT as its assisting team in any manner whatsoever," Justice Nagaprasanna said while



allowing the SIT to select suitable officers.The bench said ED and SIT investigations into the alleged KPSC scams must proceed in parallel and independently in their statutory spheres but with cooperation."The two investigations must complement the pursuit of truth and not become a competing exercise in the assertion of jurisdiction. ED shall also place before the HC progress of investigations in consonance with the directions contained in the order of September 21," the bench said."The reconstitution of the SIT must mark the commencement of an investigation which commands confidence and credibility and remains impervious to influences whether institutional or extraneous or otherwise".

What happened earlier

The reconstitution follows the Supreme Court's October 13 ruling on the Karnataka Government's challenge to the high court's September 21 order for a fresh investigation into the alleged KPSC recruitment scams.The state government had questioned the high court's decision to appoint Alok Kumar, a DGP-rank officer, to head the SIT without consulting the state police chief and the government. It had also argued that the high court had found no fault with the ongoing CID investigation but had nevertheless ordered a fresh probe.The Supreme Court upheld the constitution of the SIT but set aside the direction for a de novo investigation, ruling that the team should instead continue the investigation from the stage at which the previous agency left off.

BJP corporator slaps man over UGC question at UP Deputy CM event, party MLA objects

The Haryana government has suspended the principal and two JBT teachers of a Panchkula government school following severe administrative lapses surrounding the brutal assault of a six-year-old girl by an eight-year-old boy in an empty classroom.

Lucknow.(Agency)

A man was allegedly slapped by a BJP corporator after he posed a question on the issue of the University Grants Commission's "equity regulations" to Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya at an event in Prayagraj on Sunday, triggering sharp reactions.Local BJP MLA Harsh Vardhan Bajpai condemned the assault on the man, writing, in a post on X, that "raising questions over the UGC (reservation) is a right of every Brahmin".By late Monday evening, Rohit Tiwari, the man who was allegedly assaulted, got an FIR registered against BJP corporator Vinay Mishra on charges of assault and criminal intimidation.The controversy erupted at 'Prabudhha Mahakumbh' organised by Rashtriya Parashuram Sena in the Daraganj area of Prayagraj on Sunday when two men questioned the Deputy CM over the now-stayed UGC regulations aimed at addressing caste-based discrimination on college campuses.While Maurya was addressing the event, the two men shouted, "Will you speak about us? Will you speak something on UGC?" Apparently upset by the interruption, Maurya replied, "Keep quiet. Go from here.

I will speak over everything."Soon, policemen deployed at the event caught hold of the two men and started to escort them out of the venue. In the meantime, local BJP corporator Vinay Mishra



walked towards them and slapped one of the two men. The policemen took the two men to Daraganj police station and released them later.

On Monday, BJP MLA from Allahabad North, Harsh Vardhan Bajpai, reacted on social media. In a post on X, he wrote, "Opposing UGC is a right of every Brahmin/upper caste. Those who resorted to violence against people of their own community only to curry favour should remember that no one names their child Vibhishan."

Meanwhile, Rohit Tiwari released a video in which he is heard saying that he had told Deputy CM Maurya, "We have not come here to hear SP (Samajwadi Party), BJP and Congress. We have come here to listen to you about your vision for us. Then a corporator of the Allapur area came and slapped me while over 40-50 people surrounded me."Meanwhile, SHO of Daraganj police station, Harikesh Rai, confirmed that an FIR has been registered against the corporator on Rohit Tiwari's complaint.Earlier this year, the UGC regulations had seen protests by groups claiming they could be used to "harass" general category students and create "caste divisions". It also saw several BJP office-bearers in UP resigning in protest, including Provincial Civil Service (PCS) officer Alankar Agnihotri.On January 29, the Supreme Court had stayed the 2026 UGC equity regulations, saying the framework was "prima facie vague", could have "very sweeping consequences" and may end up dividing society with a "dangerous impact". In August, the Centre had informed the SC that the regulations are under reconsideration.

Odisha's Ganjam district farmers fear Cyclone Murasu after Arnab-hit

BERHAMPUR.(Agency)

Even as Ganjam farmers struggle to salvage their crops washed away by floodwaters following cyclone Arnab, the threat of another spell of heavy rainfall under the influence of Murasu has deepened their anxiety, raising fears of further agricultural losses.Yet to recover from the massive damage caused by Arnab, farmers now face a double whammy as cyclone Murasu threatens the region. "Standing paddy crops on around 10 acre of my land have been submerged in floodwater, which is yet to recede. Another spell of heavy rain will cause the roots to rot, particularly as the crop is now at the milking stage," said Sameer Kumar Pradhan, a farmer from Takarada in Sheragada block.Similarly, Sunil Ratha of



Baiganabadi village under Kukudakhandi block has been struggling to drain stagnant water from his fields to save his standing paddy. But the fresh weather warning has left him worried about the prospects of recovery.Rabindra Mishra, a farmer from Samantiapalli under Patrapur block, fears that another spell of rain could leave paddy growers in dire straits. "If Ganjam receives fresh rainfall under the influence of cyclone Murasu, the entire paddy crop will be destroyed," he said.Weather experts have forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in southern Odisha, particularly Ganjam and Gajapati districts from Monday to Wednesday as Murasu is likely to make landfall along the Andhra Pradesh coast on Tuesday night.Chief district agriculture officer Manoranjan Roul said the administration was preparing to assess crop losses caused by cyclone Arnab when the India Meteorological Department issued another warning of heavy rainfall.

UP man accused of raping, killing toddler injured in encounter, aide's house razed partially



Lucknow.(Agency)

A 35-year-old labourer, who was arrested for allegedly abducting, sexually assaulting and murdering a three-year-old toddler, sustained a bullet injury to his leg on Monday after he allegedly opened fire at a police team while being taken to the scene of crime in Uttar Pradesh's Hamirpur district.Police said the main accused, Hiralal, had concealed a firearm near the spot and used it to attack the team when he was taken to the crime scene early in the morning for collecting evidence. The police retaliated in self-defence, leaving him with bullet injuries to both legs.He was taken to a community health centre (CHC) for first aid and later referred to the district hospital for further treatment. Doctors said his condition was stable.The police are also searching for Hiralal's brother-in-law, Govind (50) who is also accused of committing the crime."We are conducting raids to trace Govind," said Hamirpur Circle Officer Rajeev Pratap Singh.According to the police, the girl's family approached them on Sunday evening after their three-year-old daughter, who had been playing outside their house, went missing.Hiralal was reportedly seen with the child.After being informed, the police questioned Hiralal, who subsequently led them to the spot where the girl's body was found. The role of another man also came to light during his statement. The body was sent for a post-mortem examination which was conducted by a panel of doctors. The report confirmed that she died of strangulation.Given the anger among the family.

Killings of Rajasthan temple custodians cause anger

JAIPUR.(Agency)

A series of killings and suspicious deaths of sadhus, mahants and saints in Rajasthan has triggered outrage and political friction, raising safety concerns. Investigations point to motives, including disputes over temple property, theft of offerings and personal rivalries.Recent incidents in Churu and Sirohi have followed the deaths of Surajdas Maharaj at Lohargal in Jhunjhunu in September and Mahant Devanand Maharaj in Kota in June. Saints and opposition figures have accused authorities of failing to protect religious custodians and demanded investigations and arrests.Temple land, donations and assets have figured in some cases. Saints often manage properties without owning them, leaving control and succession subject to competing claims. However, investigations do not point to one common motive.In Churu, Saint Bannanath's body was exhumed after his family alleged murder. He died following an altercation in Sangasar village in Ratangarh tehsil in October. His family said he was assaulted and placed in a samadhi without informing them. Authorities exhumed the body about 50 hours later for a medical-board postmortem. This led to protests and a Salasar road blockade. Four accused were arrested.In Sirohi, police arrested fellow saint Tulsi Giri and Shravan Gameti over the alleged murder of Trivenigiri Maharaj in the Shivganj area in October. Investigators linked the killing to a poster-placement dispute.In Jhunjhunu, Surajdas Maharaj disappeared before his body was found in a ravine near Barkhandi Dham in Lohargal in September. Police arrested Suresh Kumar, 44, alleging that he killed the saint after being confronted while trying to steal temple offerings. Kumar allegedly later joined protesters.In Kota,



Mahant Devanand Maharaj of the 1,100-year-old Chandresal Math was attacked with knives on June 5 anddied in hospital. Police linked the killing to a conspiracy over control of the monastery, which reportedly held about 750 bighas of land and crores in assets.The cases expose threats to religious establishments and conflicts involving insiders. Rajasthan Police have formed Special Investigation Teams to speed investigations, with arrests in the Churu and Sirohi cases. Demands for greater protection for isolated temples and a CBI inquiry remain points of political debate in Rajasthan.

Mapping the sweet and the bitter in longing

Can there be an absence in presence? Or bitterness in the sweetness of love and longing? Anne Carson, this year's Nobel Prize winner for literature, has long complicated this idea of desire.In her first book of essays, 'Eros the Bittersweet', she explores the paradox at the heart of eros (in Greek, desire for that which is missing). Desire, she writes, is not simple: "In Greek, the act of love is a mingling and desire melts the limbs. Boundaries of body, category of thought, are confounded."

Carson observes that poets have represented eros as "an invasion, an illness, an insanity, a wild animal, a natural disaster". She finds a somewhat revealing expression of its contradictions in the poetry of Sappho, borrowing the Greek poet's word glukupikron. Literally meaning sweetbitter, the word becomes bittersweet in Carson's rendering. This paradox captures the duality at the heart of desire: pleasure is inseparable from pain, intimacy from distance and the longing for union from an awareness of separation. Eros, she argues, requires a triangle: the lover, the beloved and the interval between them. Eros inhabits that interval or gap, or as Carson terms it "the lack".

Can this gap, which is the crucible for desire, then sustain itself in the physical absence of the beloved? The account of the legendary love of Layla and Majnun may offer some answers to this. In Nizami Ganjavi's celebrated Persian retelling, Layla and Qays grow up together and fall in love. Qays expresses his passion through his poetry. But Layla's father opposes their union and she is married to another man. Devastated, Qays retreats into the wilderness, living among animals and earning the name Majnun, or "madman". His love persists despite the impossibility of their union.

After Layla's husband dies, she comes to meet Majnun, only to find that he can no longer respond to her or even endure her physical presence. He has enshrined an immaculate image of Layla in his mind that can no longer be consummated by her physical presence. He states, "I have found the true Layla within myself; this outer form is no longer necessary."

The episode invites us to wonder: is Majnun a narcissist of his own longing, or has his love moved beyond the desire for physical possession? Rumi elevates this account of the lovers to a mystical level, of a state where no duality persists. The Sufi concept of "fana", often translated as the annihilation of the self or ego, is central to this understanding. In one rendition attributed to Rumi, a caliph, who has heard about the lovers, summons Layla. Curious to see the woman who has driven a man to madness, he finds her appearance ordinary and loudly wonders what Majnun sees in her. Layla responds to him: "Be silent, for you are not Majnun! If you had Majnun's eyes, the two worlds would be within your view."

What Majnun's eyes see and the caliph's cannot, Mirabai's songs also insist upon: that the beloved is not elsewhere. She talks of the divine beloved as one who resides in her, who does not leave because "he does not need to arrive".A similar timbre of emotion can be seen in Kabir, when he says: "Prem gali ati saankri, taamein do na samaay (The lane of love is very narrow; two cannot fit in it)." Rumi echoes something close: "Once you become the beloved, you become existence..."

While the Bhakti and Sufi traditions talk of surrender and union with the beloved, Kahlil Gibran, in "On Love" from 'The Prophet', shifts the emphasis from perception to transformation. He writes:"...if you love and must needs have desires, let these be your desires:To melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody to the night;To know the pain of too much tenderness;

To be wounded by your own understanding of love;And to bleed willingly and joyfully."

Touchstones: All of us are to blame

We need the energy of the young as badly as the wise counsel of the older generation



There has to be an astrological explanation for the turmoil we see all around us currently. Individual lives, families and countries — it seems as if no one is safe from the roiling waves of uncertainty that are engulfing all of us. We have lost so many dear friends and relatives in these last few months that I am left shaken. True, many of them were old or suffering from incurable medical conditions, but at one point it seemed as if all we were doing was saying a silent goodbye to a comatose person, then attending a cremation followed by a prayer meeting. It wasn't just us, I discovered. I was really taken aback by how many others went through the same cycle. I sincerely hope we have crossed into a happier time.To come to happier topics, let's begin with the stunning result in Brazil where 80-year-old Lula defied age and psephologists to scrape past Flavio Bolsonaro. As I write this, there is a good chance that Israel's Netanyahu may not make it too. The only one we should all pray for now is Trump. He looks quite shaken and if he loses the mid-terms, I sincerely pray that the Republicans and Democrats unite to press for his impeachment. As the old song went: 'O wouldn't that be lovely?'I wrote a few weeks ago that there should be a law in all democracies that governments can only serve for two consecutive terms. There should then be a cooling-off period of 10 years before standing for re-election. The ugly exchanges between rival parties, the devious games played, the disintegration of the media and the planting of destructive lies — all these may become less vicious. Above all, the gradual transformation of political leaders into fascists and dictators may also abate.As a thought to share, imagine if Obama were to stand for the post of President in the US. Of course, there cannot be a complete reversal of the damage that has been done by one whimsical egomaniac, but even a partial return to a more equitable and saner political system is welcome.In India again, we have to do something to loosen the stranglehold of the fundamentalist forces and allow for a freer political atmosphere before it is too late. The capture of power by a few political dynasties is also stifling the rise of genuinely talented members each party has. Naturally, there will be a period of confusion and perhaps even violence, but tampering with the diversity of India will never be an easy task. The Samudra Manthan that our epics describe was a similar exercise: it released both poison and amrit — that is, some destructive forces and some peace and harmony.Our young people are restless and often led astray by vested parties and individuals but ignoring the message that state after state is repeating will be a big mistake. We need the energy of the young almost as badly as we need the wise counsel of the older generation. If the young alone will lead the movement for change, then prepare yourselves for what we have seen in Egypt, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh and to some extent, in Nepal.I am beginning to sound like my mother when she would warn us against allowing our children too much freedom, and not checking on them when they were not paying attention to the home. Those were different times but such concerns still remain at the back of every parent's mind, whether they have the courage to articulate these to their children or not. The time to be friends with your children comes later, not when they are staying in a family.Let us not forget that the CJP movement began because many young students needed to say out loud what they feared — jobs, exams and a shrinking employment space. To treat this as a passing phase or to deal with it as an outbreak among the educated urban elite is not completely understanding the difference between those who have no access to even a half-way decent education. And yet, they all want to clear complicated exams and resort to fair means or foul to get into the system.The next phase is falling behind in the courses they have somehow entered and discovering that even if they were toppers in their own class, the rest of their peers were toppers too. A lack of confidence, a fear of failure and the dread of having betrayed their parents' hopes may lead them to suicides, addiction or mental health issues. We have all seen this trajectory and thank god our children are not affected, but what of those parents who have lost their children because they never understood them in the first place?As I said when I began this column, these are trying times and there is a lack of certainty that may last for another year, until all the elections are done and the wheat separated from the chaff. Let us also pray that all of us learn some valuable lessons from this and treat our children, our relationships and ourselves in a mature and just manner.All of us are to blame; simply pointing to the next person is not an option.

No time for politics as Telangana faces drought

The government has held an all-party meeting and is planning on leading a delegation to the Centre with a long list of demands, including a relief package of 20,000 crore



There was a time before the formation of Telangana when droughts were a recurring phenomenon in the region. This year, half the state is again facing a drought after almost a decade because of the impact of the super El Niño. The situation is serious enough for Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to warn the people of a crisis of historical magnitude. A growing power shortage is making the situation far worse than anticipated.It's a pity that the government waited till a 17 percent rainfall deficit was noted before triggering the alarm. To get a measure of the current anguish, consider that half of the state's agricultural borewells have dried up, reservoirs are at about 31 percent total capacity and drinking water for Hyderabad is in jeopardy, with the Singur and Manjeera reservoirs expected to provide only till the first fortnight of December. The government hopes to salvage the situation by drawing from the Godavari and Krishna through fresh pipelines. It has mandated that only treated waste-water be used for non-drinking purposes including data centres. Things have come to such a pass that India's second-largest rice-producing state has appealed to farmers to hold back on sowing the water-guzzling crop as the situation is expected to be troublesome till next July.

Compounding such problems is an alarming power shortage. The state recorded an all-time peak demand of about 20,000 MW around mid-October due to increased domestic, agricultural and industrial consumption. At the same time, hydroelectric power generation has plummeted due to lower rainfall.The government has held an all-party meeting and is planning on leading a delegation to the Centre with a long list of demands, including a relief package of ₹20,000 crore, immediate release of resources from the National Disaster Response Fund, relaxation of the state's borrowing limit, and a 1,500-MW allocation of power.Given the acute distress, this is no time for politics. Yet, the BRS has dubbed it a 'Congress-made drought' for not using parts of the damaged Kaleshwaram irrigation project. It is a Catch-22 situation for the government as the National Dam Safety Authority has forbidden use of the damaged barrages. The need of the hour is cooperation from all stakeholders including the Centre. Both governments ought to take a long-term view and make sure that the water-related projects are running on course.

Gandhi on festivals, pilgrimages, temples

Gopalkrishna Gandhi's 'Gandhi's Hinduism' is a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi as a seeker whose Hinduism was open and humane

The year Gandhi returned to India (1915) was a year of the great Kumbha. He attended it as a Hindu ('though by no means, eager'). But experienced it as a sensitive human being. His description: 'The journey from Calcutta to Hardwar was particularly trying. Sometimes the compartments had no lights. From Saharanpur we were huddled into carriages for goods or cattle. These had no roofs. And what with the blazing mid-day sun overhead and the scorching iron floor beneath, we were all but roasted. The pangs of thirst, caused by even such a journey as this, could not persuade orthodox Hindus to take water, if it was "Mussulmani".'

He records: 'Here I saw a cow with five feet! I was astonished, but knowing men soon disillusioned me. The poor five-footed cow was a sacrifice to the greed of the wicked. I learnt that the fifth foot was nothing else but a foot cut off from a live calf and grafted upon the shoulder of the cow! The result of this double cruelty was exploited to fleece the ignorant of their money. There was no Hindu but would be attracted by a five-footed cow, and no Hindu but would lavish his charity on such a miraculous cow.'

The temples to Rama and Krishna on the two sides of Mohandas' ancestral home were at the very base of his soul-scape. And from there, without any doubt, arose his passionate adherence to Rama. But Gandhi would not be the Gandhi that he became if his thinking heart and feeling mind had not made him see the physics, chemistry, and archaeology of temple-going and idol worship.

He writes: 'I do not disbelieve in idol worship… I think that idol worship is part of human nature… Images are an aid to worship... I do not consider idol worship a sin.' But in the same statement, coming to himself, he also says, 'An idol does not excite any feeling of veneration in me.' And, 'I have ceased to visit temples for years.' Adding, with characteristic self-correction, 'but I do not regard myself on that account as a better person than before.'

His position is doubtless complex. He concedes the value and sway of temples and of image worship. He sees the naturalness and even the inevitability of those. And, in a foray into human psychology, he says, 'Nor do I see any harm in all this. On the contrary, endowed as man is with a finite and limited understanding, he can hardly do otherwise.' But he would argue that temples did not exercise such a hold on the masses. This makes him 'both a supporter and an opponent of image worship'. He seeks to emerge from this dichotomy with the following: 'When image worship degenerates into idolatry and becomes encrusted with false beliefs and



doctrines, it becomes a necessity to combat it as a gross social evil.' And then, widening the screen of his vision, says, 'Temples or mosques or churches… I make no distinction between these different abodes of God. They are what faith has made them. They are an answer to man's craving somehow to reach the Unseen.'

The critical reader might say here, 'Really? Is that what takes men and women with their children dragged in, to temples and churches and mosques? Or is to make heartfelt appeals for help in mundane distress, a fever to abate, a debt to deal with, a rogue to escape from, hoping that God's help will avail where human help has not come or has failed? Or to make vows?'

Gandhi was too aware of the human condition to not know this. He writes: 'The offering of vows and prayers for selfish ends, whether offered in churches, mosques, temples or before trees and shrines, is a thing not to be encouraged… A personal selfish prayer is bad whether made before an image or an unseen God.' His own form of worship or prayer was a combination of the personal and congregational, 'prayer meetings' being the standard vogue. 'Our bodies are the real temples rather than buildings of stone. The best place for congregational worship is in the open with the sky above as the canopy and mother earth below for the floor.'

On 22 February 1902, when he had taken a break from his work in South Africa and was visiting India, Gandhi was in Benares. He writes: 'I went near the jnana-vapi (well of knowledge).

Girlfriend

Recipe Competition



Spinach cheese Content -

2 cups spinach, 2 cups shredded cheese into square pieces, 1 cup tomato puree 1 tbsp ginger - garlic paste, 1/2 tea spoon cumin, ½ cup chopped onion, 2 tbsp ghee, salt to taste, 1 T spoon garam masala, green chili paste 1 T spoon, 1/2 cup milk, 1/2 cup fresh cream. The first method grind boiled spinach. Ghee in a pan, add the cumin Ctkaan now. Please add the onion is golden. Ginger - garlic paste and fry for pouring. Add the tomato puree and cook until the oil drop. Now add the milk and spinach puree. Salt, green chili paste and garam masala and cook for 10 minutes on low flame. When the sync is done, turn off the gas. Cover 2 minutes, add cheese. Garnish with fresh cream Serve hot.

Spinach With Corn Content -

50 grams spinach, 2 paste interest, 2-3 clove garlic paste, tomato puree, 1, 50 g cheese, red and yellow bell peppers, cut into square pieces, 50 grams of corn kernels, chopped green pepper, red pepper, salt to taste, garam masala, oil.

Method -

Wash the spinach thoroughly grind and keep aside. Oil in a pan, add the cheese and bell peppers (red, yellow) make fried mushrooms and bell pepper and keep aside. In another pan, add oil, onion, ginger and garlic paste Fry the tomato puree and cook it longer. Now add the chopped green pepper and red pepper, salt and cook for a while. Grounded spinach, cheese and pour boiled corn kernels and cook 5 minutes. Add some water if the gravy and cook cab driver. Garnish with paprika, add garam masala over and serve hot.

Royal Cheese Balls in Green Gravy

Balls content:

150 g grated cheese, 20 g Kornflor, 1/2 cup chopped spinach, 1 green pepper, 1 tablespoon chopped coriander leaves, chopped 1 teaspoon ginger, salt to taste, oil for frying, roll semolina, 20 g chopped cashews, almonds, 1 large tablespoon, 1 large tablespoon raisins.

For gravy - 200 g spinach puree, grated 2 onions, 1/2 cup tomato puree, 1-inch piece ginger, garlic bud lane was 8 1/2 tea spoon turmeric powder, 1/2 tsp red chilli and coriander powder, 1 tsp garam masala, 1 tbsp cashew nut paste, 1 tablespoon cream.

Method -

Kornflor in cheese, spinach and salt together to shake. Raisins, cashews, almonds, coriander, green chillies and ginger together, prepare the filling. Make small balls of cheese mixture filling the filling slightly. Fry the semolina golden wrapping. Wash spinach puree cooked without water make. Heat 4 tablespoons oil in pan, add.



Onion, ginger, garlic, turmeric, chilli and coriander powder fry. Tomato puree and salt on low flame fry oil to escape. Cashew nut paste, garam masala, add spinach puree and run 2 minutes. Cook covered on low flame, add 2 cups water 5-6 minutes. Mix the cream off the heat. Cover and put cheese balls.



Daal Fry



1/2 cup toor daal
1 teaspoon asafoetida
3 tablespoon finely chopped garlic
3 clove
1 finely chopped onion
2 teaspoon Red chilli powder
1 teaspoon garam masala powder
1 tablespoon cumin seeds
3 sliced & slit green chilli
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 tablespoon Refined oil
3 tablespoon ghee
2 tablespoon ginger paste
1 teaspoon pureed green chilli
1 finely chopped tomato
1/2 teaspoon powdered turmeric
2 tablespoon Refined oil
2 teaspoon Red chilli powder
2 tablespoon chopped coriander leaves

How to make Daal Fry

Step 1
Soak the dal for half an hour. Pressure cook with water, oil, asafoetida and salt.
Step 2
Let it cool. In a kadai, heat ghee and oil. Splutter cumin seeds and cloves. As it pops, add in and saute the garlic followed by ginger paste for 1 minute.
Step 3
Add in grated tomatoes. Saute for 2 minutes.
Step 4
Add red chili powder, turmeric powder, green chilies paste. Mix well.
Step 5
Now add boiled dal. Mix well. Add garam masala. If needed add water and mix well.
Step 6
For tempering: In a small vessel, heat oil. Splutter some cumin seeds. As soon as it pops fully, switch off the flame and add red chili powder and some slit chilies.
Step 7
Top the dal with this tempering. Garnish with chopped coriander.
Step 8
Serve hot with lemon and hot jeera rice. Enjoy!

Cream of Mushroom Soup

For 1-2 persons
Ingredients:
100 g sliced ??mushrooms, sliced ??1 onion, 2 glasses of water, 2 cloves coarsely-out, 2-inch piece cinnamon coarsely occurred, Kornflor 4 T spoon, 1 cup milk, 4 T spoon of butter, salt and pepper to taste
Method:
1. Put the butter in a pan and heat. Add onion fry.



2. Mushrooms, water and spices wrapped in a cloth insert. Cook until the mushrooms does not melt.
3. Put mixture in blender and blend to remove the bundle of spices. (Save some mushrooms for decorating.)
4. Donate now to flame Blend milk into the mixture. Then coming to the boil 3/4 Kornflor Mix dissolved in water. Add salt and pepper powder.
5. Stir and cook the kernels were becoming frequent. Garnish with sliced ??mushrooms, fresh cream and serve hot.

Chicken noodles soup

For 1-2 persons
Ingredients:
Vejtebl 2 tbsp oil 1 medium onion, chopped 1 medium carrot 1/4 inch pieces chopped 1 celery stick, sliced ??long pieces, 50 g chicken breast, 250 ml. Chicken stock or low-sodium stock, 150 ml. Cold water or as needed, 4 Dndian of parsley, fresh thyme twig 3 or 1/2 tea spoon of dried thyme, 1 cassia, salt and ground black pepper to taste 2 cups steamed egg noodles, chopped parsley to decorate



Method:
1. Put all the ingredients in a saucepan boil on high heat for about 6 minutes.
2. Garnish with parsley and serve hot, add egg noodles.
Executive Chef Bharat different



Creamy Vegetable Dip

A delicious dip recipe made with hung curd, eggless mayonnaise, cheddar cheese, red pepper and capsicum, Creamy Vegetable Dip is a must try side dish. Ideal to pair it with nachos, fish fingers or potato wedges, this easy recipe can go with any appetizer of your choice.

1/4 cup hung curd
1/2 cup finely chopped red peppers
1/2 cup grated cucumber
4 leaves mint leaves
1 pinch salt
1 tablespoon eggless mayonnaise
1/2 cup finely chopped capsicum (green pepper)
1/2 cup grated carrot
1/4 cup cheese-cheddar

How to make Creamy Vegetable Dip

Step 1
Tie homemade fresh curd in a soft, muslin cloth and squeeze all the water from it. Do this routine twice so that all the water is drained out.
Step 2



Pour it in a bowl and whisk it to make a smooth paste. Add mayonnaise, grated cheese and mix well. Add the finely chopped bell peppers.
Step 3
Squeeze out all the water from grated cucumber and carrot before adding them to the mixture. Mix all the ingredients.Chop the mint leaves and add to the mixture.
Step 4
Add some salt and garnish with coriander. Refrigerate for an hour at least.
Step 5
Serve the dip along with cheese straws, crackers or even potato or banana chips.

5 low-cal recipes to try this weekend



want to indulge in good food without adding on those extra inches? Try out these easy to make healthy recipes.

Sprouts and Corn chaat

Ingredients

1 c sprouted green moong
1/2 corn
1 medium cucumber finely chopped
1 large tomato, chopped
1/2 tsp organic ghee
1/2 tsp cumin seeds powder, roasted
1/2 tsp pepper powdertra
1 green chillies, chopped
1 tsp coriander leaves, chopped
1/4 c water
Salt to taste

Method

- In a pressure cooker, add organic ghee.
- To this, add sprouted moong and corn, pepper powder and stir for a minute.
- Add 1/4 cup of water and pressure cook for one whistle.
- Drain water and reserve it for soups. Toss into a serving bowl.
- Add cumin seeds, chopped chillies, coriander and salt.
- Mix well and serve.

Frothy Pineapple and Apple Smoothie

Ingredients

1 c pineapple pieces
2 c apple pieces
1 c yogurt
1/4 c skimmed milk
2 tsp honey
1/2 tsp almond slivers

Method

- Put all the chopped fruits in a blender.
- Add yoghurt, skimmed milk and honey and blend until smoothie and frothy.
- Pour smoothie into a glass and sprinkle it with almond slivers. - Serve garnished with pineapple and apple pieces.

Colourful Veggie Juice

Ingredients

1 Carrot, cubed
1/2 Beetroot, cubed
1 tomato, cubed
4-5 spinach leaves, chopped
1/2 tsp lime juice
1/2 tsp ginger juice
1/4 tsp pepper powder
1 indian goose berry, grated
A pinch of black salt and chat masala
2 c water

Method

- In a blender, add chopped carrot, beetroot, tomato and spinach leaves.
- Add lime juice, goose-berry, black salt, pepper powder and water and blend until smooth.
- Add a pinch of chat masala and mix well.
- You can spike it with some chilli powder.
- Serve chilled or at room temperature.

Baked Kidney Beans and Oats Kebab

Ingredients

1/2 c kidney beans, boiled and mashed
1 c roasted oats
3 tbsp olive oil
A pinch of asafoetida
1 tsp cumin seeds
1 tbsp garlic pste
1 tbsp ginger, finely chopped
1 onion, grated
1 c tomato puree
2 tbsp tomato ketchup
1 tsp garam masala
1 green chilli, finely chopped
2-3 tbsp coriander leaves, chopped
1 tbsp fat-free yoghurt, Chilli powder and salt to taste

Method

- In a non-stick pan, pour olive oil and add a pinch of asafoetida, cumin seeds, garlic and ginger.
- Then add onions and saute well.
- Add the tomato puree, ketchup, chilli powder, garam masala, green chillis and salt.
- Once the masala starts to leaves sides, add whipped yogurt, coriander and mashed kidney beans.
- Cook for 5 minutes.
- Let it cool for a while.
- Add roasted oats to it and mix well, let it cool.
- Now, make elongated kebabs from the mixture.
- Pierce skewers into them and bake for 10 minutes.
- Serve hot with green chutney.

Fruit Curd

Ingredients

1 c hung curd
2 tsp organic honey
1/4 c strawberries, chopped
1 kiwi, chopped
1/4 c blueberries
2-3 mint springs
1/4 c apples
1 tbsp walnut, raisins and almonds for garnishing

Method

- Whisk hung curd and organic honey.
- When fluffy, add chopped strawberries, kiwi, apples and blueberries. Mix well.



- Garnish with lots of walnuts, raisins and almonds and mint springs.
- Serve fresh and chilled.

How to keep food fresh naturally

ndering why your fruits and veggies lose the freshness in just one day? Well, the problem must be in the way you are storing them. TOI gets you the solution...

- Never store apples with any other vegetables or fruits. Apples emit certain gases which make the other good items rot. Similarly, never store tomatoes and cucumber in the same compartment as even tomatoes emit gases which can make the cucumber rot.
- Always store items like eggs with the pointed side downward to keep them fresh longer.
- Store cheese with a few cubes of sugar in an air tight container as the cubes absorb the moisture from the cheese and help it stay fresh for a longer period of time.
- Keep a potato in your refrigerator. The potato absorbs bad smells from cooked food or even otherwise and also absorbs gases in the fridge, thus helping other things stay fresher. But you must change the potato every few days.
- Always store radish in a vessel with water to keep it crisp.





Powder Your food

Extract your 'pound' of nutrition with spoons full of exotic food powders.

Dusting icing sugar on brownies or topping your espresso with some hot chocolate? Nah... not in an age when you can sprinkle so much more goodness! The powder that sits on top of your food isn't just a topping or garnish anymore. It's a superfood elixir - empowering your food in unimaginable ways. From a purple berry grown in the Amazonian rainforests to a tea highly-favoured by Buddhist monks, a host of rare food items are being powdered to add benefits to our diets.

With an increased interest in well-being and the nutritional inadequacy of modern-day diets, it is now imperative to top our food intake with extra nutrition. Food powders work wonders in this area since they can be consumed without any major alteration to the taste, look or smell of the food. They slip in conveniently into our food regime without much hullabaloo. Just grind it, dust it and consume it. Most 'superfoods' like flaxseeds, chia seeds, matcha tea and goji berries are foods with acquired tastes - so it's far easier to consume them in their powdered state. "These powders typically consist of a bulk, powdered version of a superfood(s) in a raw, natural state. You can mix the powder in water, smoothies, juices or any other beverage for consumption. Most are carefully processed, freeze-dried or cold temperature-processed to ensure that all the whole food nutrients are kept intact and not denatured," says Manjari Chandra, consultant therapeutic nutritionist.



HEAPFUL OF HEALTH

Who would imagine that a dash of powder in food could go reduce the risk of chronic age-related diseases such as cancer, heart disease and Type-II diabetes? Or that it could actually help you overcome clinical depression... Of course, it won't happen overnight, but research proves that consistent intake of nutritionally-advanced food items can make you a healthier, saner version of yourself. "Chia seeds, for instance, help control blood sugar levels, prevent blood clots, reduce high blood pressure, reduce inflammation and improve digestion. Now, there are many ways to consume chia seeds - they are eaten raw with foods, made into a pudding or better still powdered and added to cereals, soups, and desserts. Grinding chia seeds is a convenient and wholesome way of eating them as the nutritional contents of the seeds are retained when they are ground into a powder," maintains Chandra. Similarly, whole flaxseeds can be rather hard to chew, so ground flax is a better option. Just sprinkle it on your crunchy salad, dust it on a slice of tiramisu or add it to a homemade granola bar.



MUST-TRY FOOD POWDERS

Maca: This native Peruvian plant from the radish family is now readily available in powder form. It is widely used and is believed to boost libido, increase endurance and balance hormones by experts. The best way to get maca into your daily diet is by adding the powder directly into juices and smoothies. The taste will barely be detectable, and yet you'll reap the goodness of this superfood. Matcha: It is a supercharged green tea with an antioxidant potential almost 100 times the amount of regular green tea. It is nutrient-dense. Buddhist monks have been drinking matcha for centuries when meditating since it is known to increase alertness and concentration. Add a heaped teaspoon of matcha green tea powder into your breakfast daily and see the difference it makes.



Toxic foam resurfaces in Yamuna at Kalindi Kunj, cleaning ops underway

Delhi.(Agency)

After a thick layer of toxic foam accumulated on the Yamuna river near Kalindi Kunj on Monday, cleaning operations were started. Fresh visuals with the white froth highlighted the persistent pollution concerns surrounding the river.Cleaning operations are being carried out in the affected stretch to remove the foam, officials said.Formation of toxic foam along the Yamuna near the Kalindi Kunj barrage in southeast Delhi, particularly during winter months, has been attributed to high levels of pollutants, including detergents and untreated sewage entering the river.As the Chhath festival is approaching, BJP leader and northeast Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari last week took a dip in the Yamuna to prove that the river is completely clean and with no toxic foam in the river. He said, "How can we not appreciate the work that has been done here?… There might be crocodiles in water here, but crocodiles come only in clean water… I am just giving a message today. I am not a person who is doing this to shame Arvind Kejriwal.Our goal is to give a clean Yamuna to the people of Delhi.

I am overjoyed that in 1.5 years, with the blessings of PM Narendra Modi and under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, we made this possible."Later the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had challenged the BJP's claims of having cleaned the Yamuna, with Kondli MLA Kuldeep Kumar finding the river covered in foam and filth during his visit.

Rs 11K crore losses due to INDIA bloc protest: Traders

Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi's trading sector suffered an estimated loss of Rs 10,000 to 11,000 crore due to disruptions caused by the INDIA bloc rally at Ramlila Maidan on Sunday, Chamber of Trade & Industry (CTI) Chairman Brijesh Goyal claimed hours after the event."Around 20 to 25 major markets in the vicinity of the rally venue were affected, with approximately 250,000 shops remaining closed out of the nearly 300,000 shops," Goyal said.Dwelling on the impact on traders, Goyal rued, "The closures were largely due to panic over the expected arrival of a large number of people and vehicles. Due to the rally held at Ramlila Maidan, about 20 to 25 major markets in



the vicinity were affected.These historic markets house approximately 3,00,000 shops." He added. "Based on data we received from various WhatsApp groups of traders from different markets under the Confederation of All India Traders, about 80% of these shops—roughly 2,50,000 out of 3,00,000—remained closed," he said.

He added that the movement of customers, suppliers and dealers from towns surrounding Delhi was also affected. Goyal said, "Around 3,00,000 to 4,00,000 people who usually travel to the national capital for business did not arrive."He further claimed that approximately 5,000 vehicles, including small tempos and trucks, could not operate, disrupting the transportation of goods from industrial areas and transport hubs to markets in Old Delhi and Central Delhi.

Only 10 per cent of 2,457 PGs submit structural safety certificates to MCD

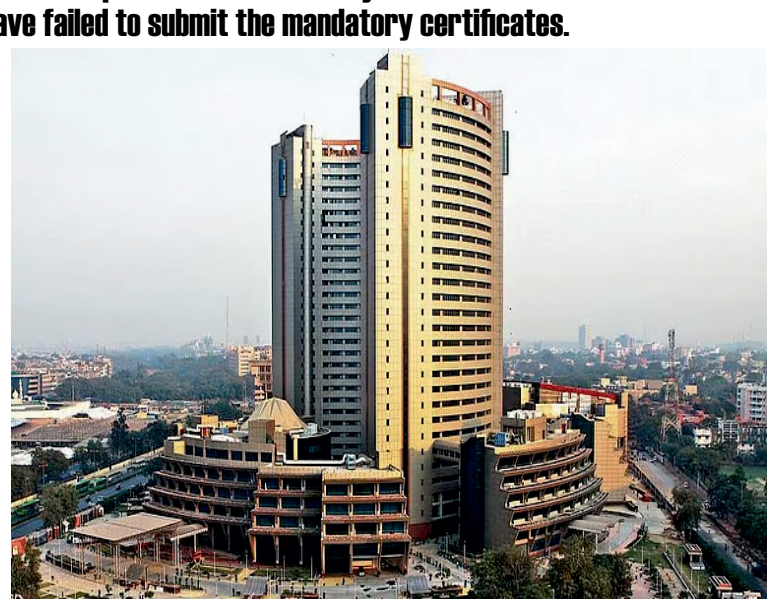
Officials said on Monday that the corporation would initially issue verbal reminders to PG owners who have failed to submit the mandatory certificates.

Delhi.(Agency)

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has received structural safety certificates from only around 250 of the 2,457 paying guest (PG) accommodations surveyed across its 12 zones, even as the civic body steps up efforts to ensure compliance with building safety norms.Officials said on Monday that the corporation would initially issue verbal reminders to PG owners who have failed to submit the mandatory certificates. Those who continue to remain non-compliant will be served formal notices, with sealing of their premises among the possible actions.

The exercise was launched following the September 6 collapse of a PG accommodation in Satya Niketan, which claimed seven lives and left six others critically injured.

Taking note of the incident, the High Court had directed the MCD to inspect PG establishments falling under its jurisdiction and assess their structural safety and adherence to building regulations.Subsequently, the civic body surveyed 2,457 PG establishments across its 12 zones and asked their owners to get fresh structural safety audits conducted through engineers empanelled with



the MCD. The owners were also directed to submit the audit certificates to the corporation."Initially, the response was slow, but the process has started picking up pace. We have received certificates from around 250 establishments so far," an MCD official said.The official added that the corporation would first contact establishments that have not submitted the documents and give them an opportunity to complete the process. However, failure to comply even after reminders would invite formal notices and further action, including sealing, in accordance with the rules.

CIC calls for tighter disability access norms

The Central Information Commission (CIC) has recommended that UGC and CBSE put in place monitoring mechanisms to ensure that universities and affiliated schools provide facilities such as ramps, wheelchairs and accessible toilets for students with disabilities.

Delhi HC sets aside CIC order on disclosure of ex-judge information

Delhi.(Agency)

The High Court has set aside a Central Information Commission (CIC) order directing disclosure of information on cases in which judgements were reserved but not pronounced within two months by former judge, Justice A K Sikri.Justice Sikri was appointed as the HC judge in July 1999. He was elevated as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in September 2012.Justice Amit Mahajan, in a judgement passed on October 29, said that although timely delivery of judgements is undoubtedly a matter of public concern, the Right to Information (RTI) Act provides access only to information that is available to the public authority.

Holding that the public authority is not obliged to collect and collate information, the judge said that concerns of public interest cannot compel the creation of information which is not maintained.In 2009, an ex-judicial officer, P D Gupta, had sought complete details of all cases heard by Justice Sikri, singly or in a division bench in the high court, in which judgement was delivered more than two months after conclusion of arguments.

The Public Information Officer (PIO) assailed the CIC's May 2011 order which directed disclosure of the information sought by Gupta "for a period of two years only preceding the date of the RTI application", contending that such data was not maintained by the functionaries of the HC.The court observed that pursuant to the Supreme Court laying down guidelines with respect to the time frame during which the courts should pass judgements, the HC's registrar general, in 2003, directed all the court masters to prepare, a monthly list of cases where the judgements are reserved by the respective benches.

Delhi court seeks police's reply on Congress MP Akoijam's anticipatory bail plea

The court directed the investigating officer (IO) to appear with the case file on the next date of hearing. The judge said the anticipatory bail plea of the Inner Manipur MP would be considered on that day.

Delhi.(Agency)

A Delhi court on Tuesday sought a response from the city police on the anticipatory bail plea of Congress MP and dismissed Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) professor Angomcha Bimol Akoijam in a sexual harassment case, while directing that no coercive action be taken against him until the next hearing on Thursday.Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh also directed the investigating officer (IO) to appear with the case file on Thursday, when the court will consider the Inner Manipur MP's anticipatory bail plea.JNU dismissed Akoijam in October over allegations of sexual harassment. He, however, termed his dismissal a "witch hunt" and questioned whether due process had been followed.On October 12, the Delhi Police registered an FIR against Akoijam, days after he was dismissed from service.On Monday, the Delhi High Court stayed JNU's order to terminate the services of Akoijam, and listed the matter for the next hearing in January 2027.According to reports, at least 11 female students filed sexual harassment complaints against the professor in May. The complainants alleged that Akoijam invited students to his campus residence under the pretext of meetings or gatherings and attempted to sexually harass them.Some students have also alleged that he made obscene and inappropriate remarks during classes.An FIR has been lodged in this connection at



Vasant Kunj North police station based on a complaint and documents submitted by JNU's chief security officer (CSO).According to the FIR, the assessment and observations recorded by the members of the university's Internal Committee (IC) were forwarded to police following an internal investigation.In the complaint, the CSO said the IC conducted an inquiry into the allegations raised by various complainants and recorded its findings, assessment, and observations in the matter."The allegations against Professor Angomcha Bimol Akoijam, Centre for Studies of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, JNU, have been examined by the Internal Committee, and after assessment of witnesses, defence witnesses, and other material came on record," the FIR states.

Jails told to shift officials posted for more than three years

Delhi.(Agency)

In a bid to boost accountability and check corruption in prisons, the Delhi government has directed the jail administration to immediately identify and transfer prison officials posted at the same location for more than three years.According to a statement, the government has also sought a list of officials overstaying their postings in sensitive departments, including the chief public relations officer, factory and procurement wings, as well as jails housing first-time offenders, economic offenders and civil prisoners.The administration has also been asked to submit details of the posting history of the past 10 years of specific officials facing allegations of corruption and misconduct. The directions were issued following a high-level review meeting, the statement said.Officials have also been asked to verify the quality and market rates of food & medicines supplied to inmates to prevent irregularities.The government is also exploring the use of advanced scanning technology to detect smuggled tobacco and narcotics inside prisons without causing harm, it said.Prison authorities have been asked to submit action taken reports (ATRs) within strict deadlines on pending complaints related to security lapses and staff misconduct.Delhi Home Minister Ashish Sood said, "The government follows a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption, extortion and inefficiency in correctional institutions. Rotating officials who have remained in the same postings for years is essential to prevent vested interests, ensure transparency and maintain integrity across Delhi's prisons." He added that the government was committed to modernising prison security, ensuring inmate welfare and addressing complaints."Our administration maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption, extortion, and systemic inefficiency within our correctional institutions. Rotating officers who have



remained in the same postings for years is a vital step to prevent vested interests and ensure transparency across all Delhi prisons," Sood said.

Admn told to submit details of 10 yrs' posting history

The administration has also been asked to submit details of the posting history of the past 10 years of specific officials facing allegations of corruption and misconduct. The directions were issued following a review meeting. Officials have also been asked to verify the quality and market rates.

L-G reviews DDA projects, security & sewerage in Narela

The L-G also reviewed security arrangements by the police, sanitation services by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), water & sewerage by the Delhi Jal Board, and bus connectivity by the transport department.

Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Monday visited Narela to review various initiatives being undertaken by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) pertaining to development and infrastructure augmentation of the sub-city.He also reviewed security arrangements by the police, sanitation services by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), water & sewerage by the Delhi Jal Board, and bus connectivity by the transport department.Underlining that the people of Delhi had exhibited robust appetite for the ready-to-move-in flats—reflected in their unprecedented brisk sales—the L-G emphasised, "It is the duty of all agencies and stakeholders to ensure that the people who buy these houses are provided with all required civic amenities and security."

He also commended the DDA for bringing in innovative schemes, including discounts on flats in Narela with an aim of providing affordable housing. Two of the schemes—Shramjeevi and Karmajeevi Awas Yojana—have witnessed huge demand from the people, with flats being sold within hours of opening of registration.Inspecting the DDA's ready-to-move-in flats in Pocket 11 of Sectors A1-A4, Sandhu directed senior officials of the DDA to take the necessary steps to provide built-up spaces to the police so that police stations, chowkis and beats could be made operational as soon as possible.He also underlined that strengthening police presence in the area will help effectively curb criminal activities. "Stronger local police presence would help enhance public safety,



improve surveillance and instil a greater sense of security among residents," he said, also noting that housing development must go hand in hand with essential public facilities, well-maintained public spaces and adequate security measures."No laxity in providing all necessary services to the residents will be tolerated. I would continuously monitor the roll-out of infrastructure and services," the L-G warned the officials.

Walt Disney eyes thousands of job cuts, asks managers to target 20% savings

New Delhi. (Agency)

Walt Disney is moving towards thousands of job cuts as the entertainment giant looks to reduce costs, with some managers asked to target 20% in annual savings, according to a Bloomberg report.

The proposed savings could come from eliminating jobs as well as reducing other expenses, Bloomberg reported, citing people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity because the discussions are private. The cuts are expected to affect some of Disney's operations more than others, including its theme parks, television channels and movie studio, the report said.

Chief Executive Officer Josh D'Amaro plans to reinvest a portion of the savings in film and television programming, technology, theme parks and the company's cruise ship businesses, according to the report.

The development comes as Disney has promised double-digit growth in adjusted earnings per share in the current financial year. A company representative declined to comment on the proposed job cuts, Bloomberg reported.

DISNEY HAS ALREADY CUT THOUSANDS OF JOBS

Disney has undertaken significant cost-cutting measures in recent years, eliminating thousands of positions and reducing costs worth billions of dollars across its businesses.The reductions have affected several divisions, including ABC, Pixar, ESPN, the film studio and the experiences unit. Disney had 231,000 employees worldwide at the end of its previous financial year, according to Bloomberg. The Wall Street Journal had reported on October 1 that Disney was planning a restructuring of its television division, along with job cuts in its legal and global affairs unit.

Airlines must show detailed fare breakup, cancellation charges under new rules

New Delhi. (Agency)

The government has notified the new aircraft rules wherein airlines, at the time of booking tickets, are required to provide a detailed break-up of various charges, including cancellation fee, to the passengers. Under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026, notified on October 31, the civil aviation ministry can also intervene with respect to airfares in case of an "extraordinary situation".

However, specifics about what could amount to an 'extraordinary situation' were not mentioned. The rules have been framed under The Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024, which replaced the 90-year-old Aircraft Act, 1934. According to the latest set of rules, an airline should show a detailed break-up of airfare and related charges on the booking website and on the booked ticket. The details should include "total amount, indicating the fare, tax, fees, cancellation charges, refund conditions or other charge, if any, separately". The tariff fixed by airlines will be monitored by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

"Where the central government is of the opinion that an extraordinary situation has arisen, it may, by order in writing, issue such directions as it considers necessary and expedient to do so in the public interest," the rules said. The rules – effective from January 1, 2027 – will replace Aircraft Rules, 1937.

Specific changes in the rules compared to the existing ones could not be immediately ascertained.

From 280 kmph speed, Wi-Fi to luxury seats: Inside India's first bullet train

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's first indigenously designed bullet train is taking shape, marking a new step in the country's high-speed rail journey. Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently visited the BEML manufacturing facility in Bengaluru, where the train is being built and is undergoing structural tests to check its strength and ability to operate at high speeds. Sharing a glimpse of the train on X, Vaishnaw wrote, "The Making of Bharat's First Bullet Train!" The train is being developed for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail corridor. It brings together Indian engineering and modern technology, with features designed to meet the country's travel needs while keeping passenger comfort and safety in mind.

INDIA'S FIRST BULLET TRAIN: SPEED, SIZE AND PASSENGER CAPACITY

The train has been designed to achieve a maximum test speed of 280 kmph, while its planned operational speed is 249 kmph. It will be around 202 metres long and have eight coaches, including four motor cars and four trailer cars.

It will be able to carry around 557 passengers, including two dedicated spaces for persons with reduced mobility (PRM). The train will have seven standard-class coaches with a 3x2 seating arrangement and one executive-class coach with 2x2 seating.

There will be a driver's cab at both ends of the train. An intelligent on-board control system will help the driver make timely decisions and coordinate with the operations control centre. The eight-coach configuration also offers room for future expansion. Two such trains can be joined to form a 16-coach train, allowing more passengers to travel at a time.

Silver crashes Rs 5,000 ahead of Dhanteras: Is the rally over, should you buy now?

MCX silver futures fell nearly 3% days before Dhanteras. At around 11.50 am, MCX silver futures were trading at Rs 1,78,624 per kg, down Rs 5,155, or 2.80%.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Silver prices fell nearly 3% on Tuesday, November 3, shedding more than Rs 5,000 per kg on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), just days before Dhanteras. The sharp decline has raised questions about whether the metal's spectacular rally is losing steam and whether the latest correction offers an opportunity for buyers. At around 11.50 am, MCX silver futures were trading at Rs 1,78,624 per kg, down Rs 5,155, or 2.80%. Dhanteras, when many households traditionally buy gold and silver, falls on November 6 this year. The latest fall comes after a sharp correction in silver prices, making the festive buying decision more complicated for consumers and investors. But does the fall mean silver's rally is over? And should buyers use the dip to add the metal to their portfolios?



WHY IS SILVER FALLING?

Kaynat Chainwala, AVP – Commodity Research, said the recent weakness in silver is largely due to macroeconomic pressures and broad market deleveraging, rather than a deterioration in its long-term fundamentals.Elevated oil prices, firm US economic data and persistent inflation concerns have strengthened expectations that interest rates could remain higher for longer. This has supported real yields and reduced the appeal of non-yielding assets such as precious metals.Silver has also faced pressure from weakness in technology stocks.

The metal has significant industrial exposure to sectors such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence infrastructure, consumer electronics and solar manufacturing. Chainwala said silver has underperformed gold in recent weeks, with the gold-to-silver ratio rising above 79, its highest level in nearly a year. This reflects investors' preference for gold amid heightened uncertainty.

The international market has also seen pressure on precious metals. Spot silver fell 1.8% to $49.71 an ounce on Tuesday, while spot gold declined 0.5%, according to Reuters.

LTCG tax cut coming? Nirmala Sitharaman's response leaves investors guessing

New Delhi. (Agency)

"The stakeholders are voicing their concerns louder. I will consider all this," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said at a Financial Express event in Mumbai on November 2.

Speaking at a fireside chat, the Finance Minister acknowledged the anxiety among retail investors and equity market participants over taxation and the performance of Indian equities. "I realise the sensitivity and anxiety prevailing among retail investors, especially equity participants, while not being biased either way," she said.

Her remarks come amid renewed demands for a review of LTCG tax on equities, particularly from foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), who have been pulling money out of Indian markets.Sitharaman was asked whether the government would roll out the red carpet for foreign investors to encourage dollar inflows into Indian markets.

She cautioned against a policy approach that could create the impression that foreign investors



were being given preferential treatment over domestic investors.

"If you pitch for dollar (investors), what about rupee (domestic) investors?" she asked. She also stopped short of making any immediate commitment on a tax reduction. "So I wouldn't want to say more at this stage, but I recognise the voice," she said, acknowledging the demand for greater support to the equity market.

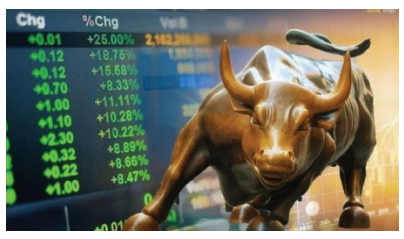
WHY INVESTORS WANT LTCG RELIEF?

The debate over capital gains taxation has intensified amid sustained foreign portfolio investor outflows. According to news agency Reuters, foreign investors have sold a record $31 billion worth of Indian stocks in 2026. Sitharaman pointed out that the capital gains tax structure was broadly unchanged in 2023-24, when India had witnessed strong foreign investment inflows. However, she acknowledged that the circumstances had since changed, with investor concerns becoming louder. "Equity market also needs support, I recognise that voice," she said.

Sensex up 800 points: Why the stock market is rising for the second straight day

New Delhi. (Agency)

Dalal Street rallied in early trade as the stock market extended its rally for a second consecutive session on Tuesday, with the Sensex rising nearly 700 points in early trade and the Nifty moving above 23,600. The gains came a day after the benchmark indices recorded a strong rally, with the Sensex surging over 1,200 points and the Nifty gaining nearly 400 points on Monday.



At 9.28 am, the BSE Sensex was trading at 76,400.68, up 707.90 points or 0.94%. The NSE Nifty 50 gained 180.80 points, or 0.77%, to trade at 23,621.60.

The continuation of the rally reflects improving investor sentiment, supported by a combination of domestic and global factors. These include expectations of stronger corporate earnings, foreign investors turning buyers, lower crude oil prices and a shift in global investor interest away from AI-linked stocks.Here are the key reasons behind the market's gains.

STRONG MOMENTUM FROM MONDAY'S RALLY

The market's positive start on Tuesday follows a powerful rally in the previous session. On November 2, the Sensex jumped 1,233.25 points, or 1.66%, to close at 75,692.78. The Nifty gained 387.70 points, or 1.68%, to settle at 23,440.80. The Nifty ended Monday's session at its day's high after a strong gap-up opening and sustained buying interest. It also formed a strong bullish, Marubozu-like candle, indicating the strength of buying during the session.

Reliance Industries was a major contributor to Monday's gains. Its shares surged around 11.6%, providing significant support to the benchmark indices.

Diwali firecracker accidents: Will your insurance cover the damage?

New Delhi. (Agency)

A Diwali celebration can go from festive to frightening in a matter of seconds. A firecracker that goes off in the wrong direction, a spark that catches on clothing or a stray rocket that sets something alight can leave families dealing with more than just a scare. There could be hospital bills, surgery, weeks of follow-up treatment or even damage to the house. But will your insurance policy come to the rescue? While many people assume their health insurance will cover firecracker-related injuries, the answer is not always straightforward. The type of policy you hold, the expenses involved and the circumstances of the accident can all determine how much protection you actually get. There are short-term firecracker insurance plans, regular health insurance and personal accident policies to consider. Home insurance can also help if a firecracker causes damage to your property. However, each offers a different kind of protection, and simply having an insurance



policy may not mean every expense is covered.

Consumers have three broad options for protection against firecracker-related accidents: short-term firecracker plans, regular health insurance and personal accident insurance. Trupti Balasubramaniam, CEO and Principal Officer at Probus, says some insurers offer low-cost, short-term firecracker plans around Diwali. These cover medical bills arising from firecracker accidents up to a specified limit."Your regular health insurance can also pay for treatment, and a personal accident policy can pay out for accidental death or permanent disability. Each covers something different, so check what yours includes," she says. Shivendra Pancholi, Executive Director at Coverfox, says that there is no single, standardised policy that automatically covers every Diwali-related risk. Health insurance may take care of eligible hospitalisation and treatment costs, personal accident insurance offers defined benefits for accidental death or specified disabilities, while home insurance may cover fire-related damage to insured property.

What Darius Khambata's letter reveals about ongoing Tata power tussle

Darius Khambata, who served as a trustee of both the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and the Sir Ratan Tata Trust, has declined reappointment and sharply criticised the events surrounding the September 17 Tata Sons board meeting.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The differences between Tata Sons and Tata Trusts are increasingly becoming a test of the Tata Group's leadership and corporate governance, with senior advocate Darius Khambata questioning the conduct of the holding company's board and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman urging the two sides to resolve their differences amicably.

The developments come amid a growing disagreement over the future of Tata Sons, including its proposed stock market listing and the reappointment of N Chandrasekaran as chairman.

Khambata, who served as a trustee of both the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and the Sir Ratan Tata Trust, has declined reappointment and sharply criticised the events surrounding the September 17 Tata Sons board meeting.



In a letter addressed to Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata and CEO Siddharth Sharma, Khambata questioned whether the board would have acted in the same manner had former Tata Group chairman Ratan Tata been alive.

"Would the board of Tata Sons have acted as it did on 17 September, had Ratan Tata still been alive? Of course not," he wrote, according to a Moneycontrol report. He described the events of September 17 as "a day that will live in infamy", saying they had sullied Tata Sons' reputation and imperilled the image of corporate India.

"The sad events of 17 September 2026, a day that will live in infamy, have sullied Tata Sons' reputation and have imperilled the image of corporate India. No spin doctoring can mask what happened," Khambata wrote, according to the report.

His remarks are significant because they bring into open, the concerns over the way decisions are being taken at Tata Sons and the relationship between the holding company's board and its largest shareholder, Tata Trusts.

DECODING DARIUS KHAMBATA'S LETTER

Khambata's criticism goes beyond his decision not to seek another term as a trustee. By invoking Ratan Tata's leadership and questioning whether the board would have acted similarly under him, he has placed the current dispute in the context of the group's institutional legacy and governance.

The September 17 meeting saw the Tata Sons board reappoint Chandrasekaran as chairman and decide to proceed with a stock market listing. Noel Tata was the only director to vote against the decisions, as per reports. Another Tata Trusts nominee on the board, Venu Srinivasan, voted with the majority. The disagreement over the listing is particularly important because Tata Sons is the holding company of the wider Tata Group.

Amravati contractors stage symbolic 'Tervi' protest, allege delay in bill payments

Amravati.(Agency)

Alleging that the Maharashtra government had failed to clear their pending bills despite completion of various public works, and expressing concern over the suicides of fellow contractors, members of the contracting community held a symbolic "Tervi" (13th-day death ritual) ceremony outside the Public Works Department (PWD) office in Amravati on Monday.

Describing the state as financially "dead", the protesters staged the ceremony by placing an image bearing the words "Maharashtra Shashan" on a chair and adorning it with a garland made of toy currency notes. A lunch plate was placed beside the image. Instead of flowers, the protesters threw toy notes at it while shouting slogans demanding the release of pending dues. They also held placards carrying messages such as "Jo Contractors Cha Paisa Khail, Toh Sattetun Baher Jail" (Those who eat contractors' money will be voted out of power).Invitations to the symbolic "Tervi" ceremony, titled "Shok Sandesh" (condolence message), were put up across government offices and at junctions in Amravati.

Khajod again: Another fire breaks out at SMC's solid waste dumping site

Surat.(Agency)

An environmental activist has moved the National Green Tribunal (NGT) over multiple fire incidents, "environmental pollution" at the solid waste dumping site of the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) in Khajod and alleged non-compliance with norms at the municipal waste disposal site. This comes even as a major fire – the third this year – broke out on Monday at the site, which is situated near the Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB), touted as the world's largest single-complex office space.Prakash Contractor, president of Kantha Vibhag Koli Samaj Parivartan Trust, Surat, filed an application with the registrar of the NGT, Pune West, raising questions over the management and disposal of municipal solid waste at the Khajod site.Earlier this year, fires broke out at the site in February as well as in March, and plastic material and mixed waste led to thick smoke emanating in the area. Local residents of Dipli and nearby villages raised concerns about "deficiencies" in waste management by the SMC. The Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) then issued a showcause notice to the SMC.In the complaint, Prakash Contractor has requested the NGT to take suo motu cognisance of the matter in the interest of environmental protection and public health. The NGT, says the complaint, should seek an urgent report from SMC, GPCB, and other authorities on the fire incidents and the site's current condition.

Nets, tranq guns ready in Assam to capture tigress from Bengal's first relocation project

Amaravati.(Agency)

Forest teams from Bengal and Assam are set to begin an operation on Tuesday to capture 'Doars Rani', the tigress that travelled nearly 100 km from Buxa Tiger Reserve into Assam. Teams equipped with nets and tranquiliser guns, along with three earthmovers, have been deployed in the area after the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) cleared the operation.The tigress was brought from Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve to Buxa as a part of Bengal's first tiger relocation project. It entered Assam 10 days ago and moved close to human settlements."Pride of Bengal, Dooars Rani went to Assam 10 days ago. She went close to human habitation, following which we decided to bring her back. We wrote to Assam, and Assam wrote to the NTCA. Today, the NTCA gave its approval. We will bring Dooars Rani home," Forest Minister Manoj Kumar Oraon told The .He said the area where the tigress was located had been cordoned off with nets, leaving one section open for people to pass."Earthmovers and teams from both Assam and Bengal are ready. We will begin the capture operation tomorrow morning.

INS Sudarshini returns to Kochi Naval Base after a 287-day transoceanic voyage

The Indian Naval marching contingent also participated in the Heritage City Parade, commemorating the 400th anniversary of the French Navy.

KOCHI.(Agency)

As the three-masted sail vessel docked at the North Jetty of Kochi Naval base kids giggled and waved their hands in excitement, their eyes sparkling with joy. Parents struggled to hold their tears as the sailors stepped out of the vessel. As INS Sudarshini, the tall sailing vessel of Indian Navy returned to Kochi Naval Base after 287 days, emotions ran high.For the 40 sailors of INS Surdarshini, the completion of Lokayan 2026, the ten-month-long transoceanic sailing expedition was a memorable moment. The ship was received with water cannon salute as it entered the port after a 22,000 nautical miles voyage touching 17 ports in 11 countries.Felicitating the crew, Southern Naval Command Flag Officer Commanding in Chief Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena said the rare feat reflected the Indian Navy's high standards of sail training, seamanship and operational preparedness, while showcasing India's maritime heritage and commitment to strengthening international maritime cooperation. He congratulated the crew for their exemplary perseverance, professionalism, resilience and devotion to



duty."The expedition was a once in a lifetime experience for us. We crossed four water bodies – the Arabian Sea, Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean – braving swell waves that sometimes rose to a height of 45 m, rough weather that kept the ship awash and encountering winds that sometimes reached a speed of 60 miles per hour. We crossed the Atlantic Ocean twice sailing continuously for 19 days in adverse weather," said commanding officer of INS Sudarshini N Ravikanth.In April, Sudarshini participated in the renowned Escale a Sete at the Port City of Sete in France. The Indian Naval marching contingent also participated in the Heritage City Parade, commemorating 400th anniversary of the French Navy.She represented India at the United States International Naval Review 250 and the Sail 250 celebrations marking the 250th year of Independence of the USA. In Boston she participated in Sail Boston 2026, joining an international fleet of over 60 tall ships."The voyage was indeed challenging. We had to brave heavy winds and dangerous swell waves. We could contact our families only while visiting ports," said Ananthu A V, one of the sailors, from Vattiyoorkavu in Thiruvananthapuram. His wife Sree Lakshmi and daughter Rithubhadra had come to receive Ananthu."The transatlantic crossings and passages through Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea were most challenging. During the 287-day expedition, we were at sea for around 214 days continuously," said Commander Rahul P, executive officer and second-in-command of the ship.

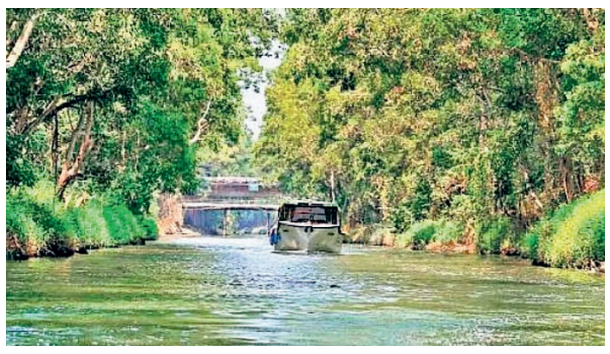
Amid KIIFB crisis, West Coast Canal development project comes to a standstill

If KIIFB freezes its financial support, the primary funding source vanishes entirely, leaving the future of the waterway in limbo.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)

Even as the UDF government has unveiled Mission Samudra, an ambitious maritime development programme with a Rs 400-crore allocation to transform Keralam into a port led economy, the state's mega inland water transport initiative — the West Coast Canal Development Project — is facing an uncertain future with land acquisition and rehabilitation activities coming to a standstill amid fund crunch.

Uncertainty looms large over the project with KIIFB, the principal financing agency, virtually halting financial support and thereby putting on hold land acquisition and rehabilitation for the project proposed as a major passenger and cargo transport corridor connecting Kovalam in Thiruvananthapuram district with Bekal in Kasaragod.According to officials, Mission Samudra seeks to strengthen coastal shipping and improve connectivity between ports during the initial two phases and offers little to the inland waterway project. Land acquisition and rehabilitation have been suspended along the Parvathy Puthanar canal in Thiruvananthapuram and along the northern stretches of the Mahe-Valapattanam and Nileshwar-Bekal canals."The project has not officially been wound up, but progress is impossible without funds," said an official associated with the project.KIIFB was our primary



financing agency for the inland waterway project.

However, with its operations virtually paralysed amid ongoing inquiries and a sharp drop in budget allocation, we were directed to temporarily halt land acquisition activities. If KIIFB freezes its financial support, the primary funding source vanishes entirely, leaving the future of the waterway in limbo."The official said that creating new canal cuts along the Mahe-Valapattanam and Nileshwar-Bekal sectors is essential to ensure uninterrupted, end-to-end connectivity along the West Coast Canal.

"The entire process has been hit due to the current financial freeze. The Akkulam-Chettuva stretch is yet to achieve continuous connectivity owing to various bottlenecks. The second stretch, from Kottappuram to Kozhikode, is also awaiting financial support from the Centre," the official said.So far, the government has spent around Rs 116.07 crore for rehabilitation and around 874 families and around 226 more families need to be rehabilitated in the Varkala, Kadinamkulam and Thiruvananthapuram areas."The project had started making progress but the government changed as things were moving forward. The budgetary allocation is also low and if KIIFB is not functioning as a funding source, we don't know how the project can move forward," a source said.

She protected Gujarat's precious bustard chick. She is now protesting for better pay

Gandhinagar.(Agency)

For the past six days, around 3,000 frontline staff deployed in Gujarat's forests have been protesting in the state capital Gandhinagar demanding, among other things, better pay and a risk allowance.The absence of these men and women from their posts in the field could have serious implications for conservation, wildlife experts fear.Among the Van Rakshaks (beat guards) and Van Pals (foresters) at the protest site is a guard who was deployed to watch over a newborn chick of a critically endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB) in Kutch district.Parents of some of the forest personnel have also joined the protest, and are sitting at the Satyagraha Chhavni, the designated ground for organised demonstrations in Gandhinagar, with their children who have been on protest mass casual leave from October 28 onward.Beat guard Durgaben Vasava is deployed in the Naliya region of Kutch district as part of the project to restore the GIB population that has now dwindled to just three females in Gujarat.In a first for India, a chick was born using the jumpstart approach in March using a partially incubated fertile egg from Rajasthan, the other bustard habitat in the country, but it died within a month. A second chick born by the same method is now growing up in a 100-acre protected enclosure in Kutch.

Vasava who is part of the protection squad for this project has been on protest leave along with her colleagues. Asked if her absence would impact the project, she told The Indian Express, "That is for the government to decide. Our demands have been pending for so long."Rajesh Patel, a forester posted in Adesar range, and his wife Nutan Hirani, a beat guard posted in Anjar, both in Kutch district, have joined the protest with their five-month-old daughter. They have left their five-year-old son with his grandparents in Gandhidham.The couple has set up a cradle under a banyan tree for the infant. "We cannot keep her away from us as she is still on breast milk. But, in a way, it is also good that she is with us in this protest. Both of us are forest personnel, and she will also have to live in the forest with us. So this will make her stronger," Nutan said.

Patanjali faces Tukaram Mundhe action, ghee worth Rs 20.20 lakh seized in Mumbai

Mumbai.(Agency)

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has seized around 3.53 lakh kg of food articles worth Rs 9.01 crore from 114 establishments across the state as part of a special drive against substandard and adulterated food during the festive season. The department suspended the licences and registrations of 19 food business operators for serious violations of food safety and hygiene regulations.The FDA also seized 2,279.7 litres of Patanjali cow ghee, valued at Rs 20.20 lakh, from a distributor in Sundarwadi, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, on suspicion of misbranding and adulteration.The drive was conducted across all seven divisions of the state during October, with intensive inspections between October 28 and 31, officials said.

What exactly did FDA seize

The seized stock included edible oils, spices, rice, pulses, jaggery, wheat and gram flour, ghee, milk products, sweets, namkeen, dry fruits, bakery products and noodles.According to officials, the largest single seizure was of 1,44,218 kg of edible oil of various brands from Avenue Supermarts Ltd in Bhiwandi, under the Konkan division.The Konkan division accounted for the highest value of seizures, with 1.67 lakh kg of food articles worth Rs 5.27 crore confiscated from 22 establishments.

Farmers watch years of work dry up as drought hits Maharashtra's fruit belts

Mumbai.(Agency)

In Jalna's Ambad taluka, sweet lime trees bear wrinkled green fruit barely the size of lemons. Some have turned brown, sun-scorched skeletons, while ripe fruit are scattered on the ground. In Vidarbha's Linga village in Amravati district, orange growers are plucking immature fruit in the hope of saving their trees.

Maharashtra's worsening drought situation is beginning to take a visible toll on its fruit-growing belts.

After the state recorded an 18% rainfall deficit between June 1 and September 26, drought or drought-like conditions were declared in 304 of its 358 talukas. In Marathwada and Vidarbha, where rain has been deficient and unevenly distributed, the impact is showing up in shrinking fruit, premature crop loss and trees drying up.

In Linga, orange grower Shivhari Hadke is removing oranges barely the size of an Indian Gooseberry (amla) from his nearly 2-acre orchard of 18-year-old trees. With fruit-bearing trees requiring frequent irrigation, he hopes that removing the immature crop will reduce their water needs and help the remaining trees survive.Of the nearly 250 trees in his orchard, 10 have already dried up. His younger brother has lost 70 trees. Some of Hadke's trees had withered last year, too. The family has also been dealing with damage caused by animals scratching the bark, further weakening the trees.

Andhra polls: 8 ULBs in Krishna, NTR districts gear up for counting of votes on Nov 3

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

Elaborate arrangements have been made for counting votes polled in eight urban local bodies (ULBs) in Krishna and NTR districts, with the process scheduled to begin at 8 am on Tuesday. Officials will count postal ballots first, followed by votes polled through regular ballot papers.A total of 7,07,242 voters exercised their franchise in the municipal elections held on Monday across the eight ULBs in the two districts.A few hundred postal ballots are also expected to be counted at the beginning of the exercise. The counting is a crucial stage in the elections, with the results expected to indicate voting patterns across the municipal corporations and municipalities.In Krishna district, officials will count votes polled in three ULBs, Machilipatnam Municipal Corporation, Pedana Municipality and Vuyyuru Municipality. They have arranged 290 counting tables across the three centres and deployed 1,160 personnel. Another 236 personnel are on reserve to meet any additional requirements.Of the total arrangements, Machilipatnam Municipal Corporation will have 168 counting tables and 811 personnel, while Pedana will have 57 tables and 275 personnel. Vuyyuru Municipality will have 65 tables and 310 counting personnel. Authorities said they had arranged the manpower and infrastructure to ensure smooth counting.

In NTR, officials will count votes polled in five ULBs, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) and the municipalities of Jaggayyapet, Kondapalli, Tiruvuru and Nandigama.Counting in Vijayawada will be held at Andhra Loyola College, with three halls arranged for East, West and Central constituencies. Personnel must



report by 6 am. Separate blocks will accommodate each constituency's ward-wise counting. The VMC has arranged 450 counting tables, with 10 tables for each ward. Of these, five tables will be dedicated to counting votes polled for ward councillor candidates and the remaining five to votes polled for mayoral candidates.Officials will require two rounds of counting to complete the exercise for each ward. Officials expect to declare results for 44 wards in the first two rounds, followed by those for the remaining wards in the next two rounds.

Yashasvi Jaiswal returns to form with mega hundred as India A draw New Zealand A

New Delhi.(Agency)

Yashasvi Jaiswal finally had a reason to celebrate after a difficult start to India's A tour of New Zealand. The left-handed opener smashed an aggressive hundred on the final day of the second unofficial Test in Christchurch, helping India A secure a draw on Tuesday, November 3.Jaiswal brought up his century in just 119 balls, celebrating the milestone with a loud roar after stepping down the track to Dean Foxcroft and lofting the spinner over the midwicket boundary. It was a timely return to form for the opener, who had struggled for runs on the tour, failing in each of his first three innings.India A had



begun the final day in a relatively comfortable position but lost Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal in quick succession after a delayed start. With the visitors under pressure in overcast conditions, Jaiswal and Yash Rathod took charge and ensured there were no further setbacks.The pair batted through the remainder of the morning session, with Jaiswal taking the attack to the New Zealand A bowlers. The hosts were also without the services of Sheat and Lennox, who were unable to bowl on the final day, making it difficult for them to build sustained pressure.

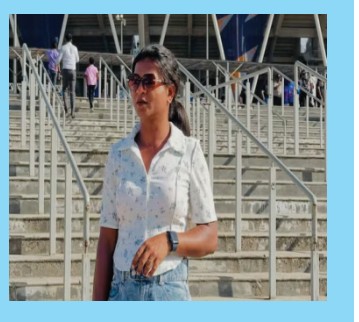
How an Asian Games gold medal winner was scammed off Rs 69 lakh

New Delhi.(Agency)

Asian Games gold medal-winning sprinter Sarita Gayakwad was allegedly cheated of Rs 69.10 lakh after investing in a sand business in Gujarat on the promise of high returns. The accused, Nitin Bharti, had reportedly offered her a monthly return of 4 per cent on her investment and promised to repay the principal after a year. However, he allegedly failed to honour his commitments and is now absconding, police said.An FIR was registered against Bharti, a resident of Vyara town in Tapi district, at the Ahwa police station in Dang district on October 29, following a complaint filed by the 32-year-old athlete.Gayakwad, who lives with her parents in Karadiamba village in Ahwa taluka of Dang district, alleged that she was introduced to Bharti in 2024 through a mutual acquaintance, Jitubhai, the sarpanch of Gadhvi gram panchayat.

SAND BUSINESS SCAM

During their meeting, Bharti allegedly told her that he ran a large-scale sand business in Vyara, with vehicles transporting construction material to Mumbai. He claimed to have invested Rs 3 crore to Rs 4 crore of his own money in the business



and offered Gayakwad a monthly return of 4 per cent on any amount she invested. He also promised to return the principal amount after one year, according to the FIR.Trusting these assurances, the athlete began investing in the business. However, Bharti allegedly failed to pay the promised monthly returns or return her principal amount after the agreed one-year period.

India vs Pakistan match for ODI World Cup 2027 gets 84 lakh requests for 34,000 seats

The India-Pakistan clash at the 2027 ODI World Cup has attracted more than 84 lakh ticket requests. The Wanderers Stadium, where the match is going to be played, has room for only 34,000 spectators.



Jalandhar.(Agency)

The India vs Pakistan clash at the 2027 ODI World Cup has received a staggering 84 lakh ticket requests, despite the match being scheduled at a stadium with a capacity of just 34,000. The highly anticipated contest, which will be played at The Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on October 10, has emerged as one of the most sought-after fixtures of the tournament.According to the International Cricket Council (ICC), the India-Pakistan match has received 8,397,294 ticket requests as part of the ongoing ticket ballot. The demand is significantly higher than the number of spectators the Johannesburg venue can accommodate, underlining the massive interest surrounding cricket's biggest rivalry.In comparison, the final of the 2027 ODI World Cup, which will also be held at The Wanderers Stadium on November 21, has attracted nearly 79 lakh requests (7,900,944), making it the second-most sought-after fixture so far.The enormous demand for the India-Pakistan clash comes amid an unprecedented response to the tournament's ticket ballot. The ICC has received more than 120 million ticket requests from fans across 193 countries, with 2.8 million unique fans registering their interest in attending the competition.The 2027 edition of the ODI World Cup will return to African soil for the first time in 24 years. South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia will jointly host the tournament, which will feature 14 teams competing across 57 matches at 12 venues.South Africa has generated more than 105 million ticket requests across 41 matches at eight venues, with fixtures involving the hosts accounting for nearly 26 million requests.The ticket ballot will remain open until November 21, 2026. Fans can register their interest through the ICC's official ticketing website, with successful applicants selected through a randomised ballot process for fixtures where demand exceeds the available allocation.

Injury crisis: New Zealand suffer 5th blow ahead of 1st ODI vs India

New Delhi.(Agency)

New Zealand's preparations for the five-match ODI series against India have taken another hit, with opener Devon Conway ruled out of Wednesday's series opener after suffering a concussion during a training session in Auckland. Conway is the fifth New Zealand player to be sidelined by an injury ahead of the series, adding to an already lengthy list of absentees.Conway suffered the injury following a collision with fast bowler Matt Henry during a fielding session at Eden Park on Tuesday. Both players underwent head injury assessments, but while Henry appeared to be fine, Conway was taken to hospital for further examination. New Zealand Cricket later confirmed that the opener had suffered a concussion and would miss the first ODI.New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner described the incident as an unfortunate accident, with the team now likely to turn to Tim Seifert as Conway's replacement at the top of the order.

"Not yet. I think Matt went through his concussion thing. He seems okay, but Dev's been raced off-premises. So, yeah, it didn't look too good, actually, that collision," Santner told reporters.Conway's absence is the latest setback for New Zealand, who will also be without Mark Chapman and Rachin Ravindra for the entire ODI series. The pair were ruled out on Monday, with Chapman continuing his rehabilitation from a hamstring injury and Ravindra requiring more time to recover from a shoulder problem.The Black Caps had already been without fast bowlers Zak Foulkes and Will O'Rourke, who were not considered for selection as they continued their respective rehabilitation programmes.NEW ZEALAND'S INJURY LIST

Devon Conway: Suffered a concussion after colliding with Matt Henry during a fielding session at Eden Park. He will miss the first ODI.Rachin Ravindra: Is recovering from a



right shoulder dislocation sustained during a promotional shoot. His shoulder needs more time before he can field at full capacity.

Mark Chapman: Is rehabilitating a left hamstring injury sustained during his stint at the European T20 Premier League. A recent MRI showed he needs another two weeks of recovery.Zak Foulkes: Is recovering from a hip-flexor injury suffered during a Canterbury training session.Will O'Rourke: Is managing left hamstring and calf injuries. He tore his hamstring during the third Test against England in June before straining his calf in training in August.

No money for travel, food, stay: SAI leaves Indian badminton stars hanging in Europe

New Delhi.(Agency)

PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen ended India's European badminton campaign on a high, winning singles titles at the Hylo Open in Germany on Sunday. But behind the success was a funding setback that left several Indian shuttlers paying their own way through a four-tournament European swing.As reported by The Indian Express, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) did not release funding for the Indian contingent's campaign across Finland, Denmark, France and Germany. Players were informed of the decision just days before the Arctic Open began in Vantaa on October 6, leaving them with little time to make alternative arrangements..Sindhu, who also reached the final of the French Open earlier in the campaign, said she was surprised when she learnt that the funding had not come through. The Olympic medallist managed some of the expenses herself.

"When I got to know, I was a bit shocked and wondered how the funding hadn't gone through. I hadn't faced something like that before," Sindhu told The Indian Express."But at that point, I couldn't really decide that if there was no funding, I wouldn't play. For me, the priority was to participate and focus on what I needed to do, how I needed to play my matches and keep on improving. Obviously, it was surprising that we couldn't get the funding, whatever the reason may have been. I managed the funding on my own a bit and OGQ (Olympic Gold Quest, her backers) also helped me in this.

PLAYERS FUND THEIR OWN CAMPAIGN

The funding issue reportedly forced players to take care of travel, food and accommodation expenses for much of the tour. While the Badminton Association of India (BAI) told players it would arrange accommodation for the opening tournament in Finland, they were



expected to bear the costs for the remaining events."The impact was also felt on the court. Some players could not afford to travel with their coaches, leaving them without their usual support during matches. Ashmita Chaliha, who beat world No. 3 Akane Yamaguchi at the French Open, had teammate Isharani Baruah in her corner during the tournament. Tanvi Sharma also competed without a coach at the Denmark Open.

Lower and middle order would be sorted once Hardik Pandya returns: Shubham Gill

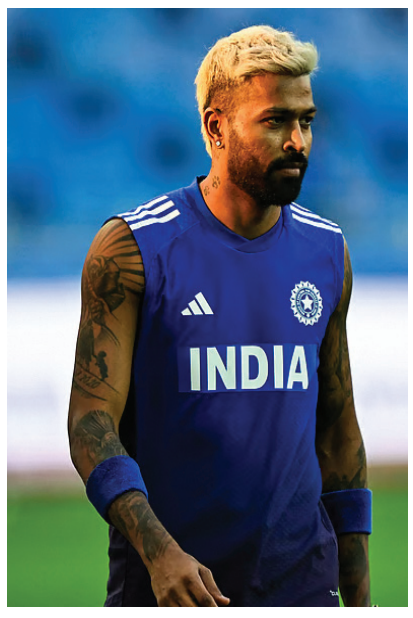
Gill said Pandya's skills are unmatched as he is a seam bowling all-rounder, who can operate and be effective during any phase of the game.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Hardik Pandya's prolonged injury-forced absence has affected the balance of India's ODI side and skipper Shubman Gill believes his lower middle-order will be "sorted" once the flamboyant all-rounder returns to international cricket.Gill said Pandya's skills are unmatched as he is a seam bowling all-rounder, who can operate and be effective during any phase of the game.

"If Hardik Pandya comes into the team, then our number seven and number eight positions will also be sorted. We will look like a much more balanced team in terms of batting," Gill told mediapersons on the eve of the first ODI against New Zealand here.

Pandya, who normally bats at No. 6 or 7, has been sidelined since the IPL because of multiple injury issues, the latest being



stress on his shin just before an anticipated return to competitive cricket for India A.Firstly, I think he (Pandya) is a great player. The qualities he brings to the team are possessed by very few players in the world. Having a fast-bowling all-rounder who can bowl in every phase of the game, with the new ball, in the middle overs and at the death, along with the kind of batting he offers, is extremely valuable.

""It has been very unfortunate that he hasn't been able to play since the IPL," Gill's answer to a query on the frustration of missing his key all-rounder displayed the team's reliance on Pandya.Gill said that he is in touch with the 32-year-old and expects him to play a few domestic games before donning the India blues again.Yes, we have had multiple conversations. He was supposed to play the India A matches, but just before that, he had some niggles again."Hopefully, he will be fit soon, play some domestic cricket, and then we will see him back in the side," Gill said.

Santner wary of Rohit-Kohli threat, says Indian duo 'still playing very well'

New Delhi.(Agency)

Wary of the threat posed by Indian batting stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner says his bowlers will have to be very disciplined when they attempt to execute surface-specific strategies against the two veterans in the five-match ODI series beginning here on Wednesday.Rohit and Kohli are now only playing the ODI format and Santner said the two are good for the game."They're getting on, but they're still playing very well. We saw it in the last series against the West Indies. I've seen it for a long time. I've seen Rohit in the IPL as well.

I want to be swimming's Saina Nehwal or Abhinav Bindra: Dhinidhi Desinghu

New Delhi.(Agency)

When Dhinidhi Desinghu packed for Dakar, her father had to talk her out of taking too many books.

She had already put a couple of textbooks in her luggage. There may have been a third. Her father, Desinghu, looked at the pile and suggested a compromise. She would not have time for all of them, he told her, so she should take the easier ones and leave the rest behind.She wants to excel, and she wants to do well in her studies as well," Dhinidhi's father, Desinghu, told IndiaToday.in on Monday.

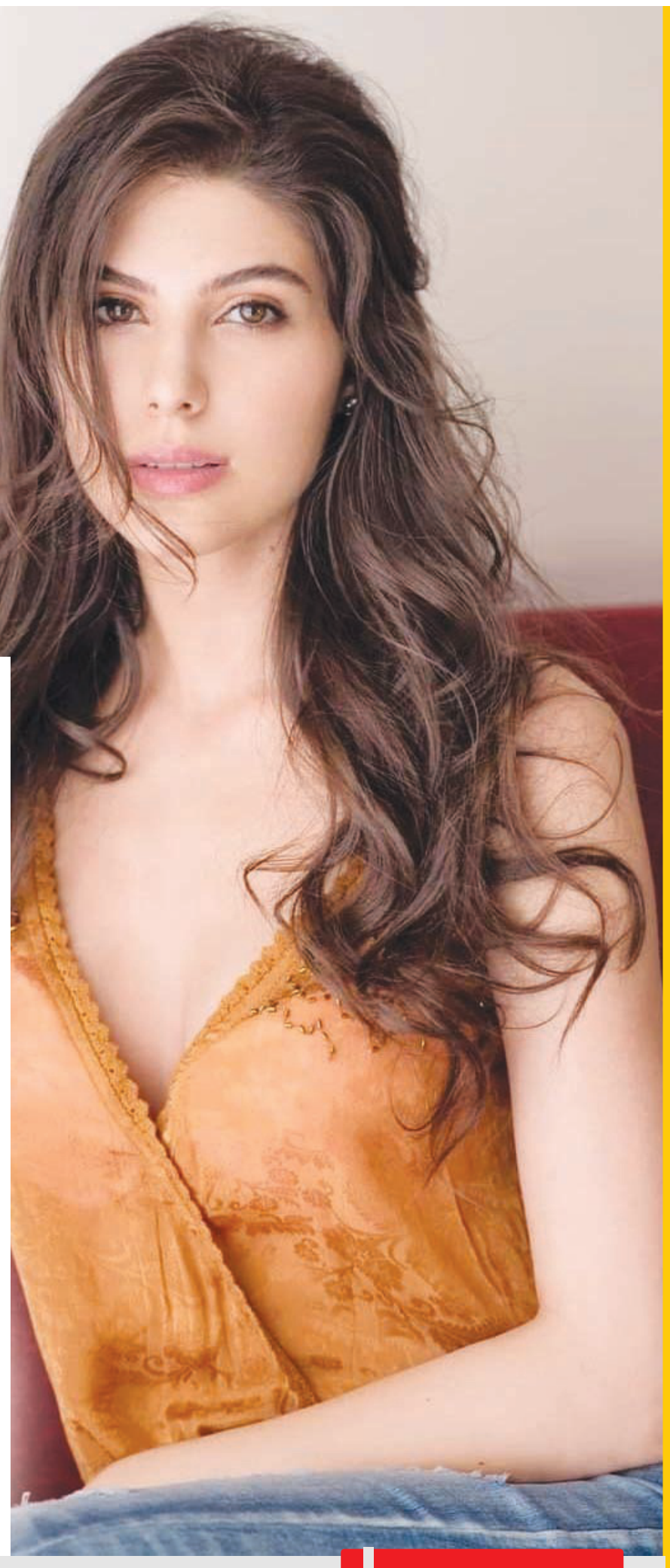
It was a small disagreement, the sort that could take place in any family preparing for a holiday or a school trip. Except this was neither. Dhinidhi was travelling to



the Youth Olympic Games, carrying the expectations of a country that has long waited for a breakthrough in swimming. She was 16, had been an Olympian at 14, and was about to become the first Indian swimmer to win a medal at the Youth Olympics.The textbooks were not a statement about education. They were part of the life she was trying to hold together: races to win, schoolwork to finish and, somewhere in between, the ordinary business of being a teenager.In Dakar, she won bronze in the 100m freestyle, becoming the first Indian swimmer to win a medal at an Olympic event, across both the senior and youth editions. It was also India's first swimming medal at the Youth Olympics, and the first global medal for the country in the sport.

Elnaaz Norouzi

Says Hollywood Stars Pay Entourage 'On Their Own': 'Actors Ask Crazy Things Here'



The Fix, which is now running in cinemas, marks Elnaaz Norouzi's second Hollywood feature outing after Kandahar. The actioner co-starring Liam Neeson and Zachary Levi sees her playing an Iranian-born, American-raised college student, who enters into a dangerous arrangement posing as a honeypot during a high-stakes mission in Tehran.Earlier, Elnaaz had distinguished Hollywood and Bollywood, arguing that the former casts actors on merit, while opportunities in Hindi cinema often depend on connections. Now, speaking exclusively to News18, she says that working in the West has helped her understand how payment structures are also more streamlined there.The Tehran and Sacred Games actor tells us, "I do understand that a lot of actors aren't paid well in India, particularly female actors. That's just the industry we're in right now. After Covid-19 and the influx of streaming, people don't go to the cinemas anymore and that's why a lot of producers don't have the same monies that they once did. We need change here."



Stressing on how Bollywood stars should cooperate with producers, Elnaaz says, "We got to change the way we make films and that depends on both actors and producers. It's a whole thing that people don't see. Everyone has to see the reality of filmmaking and try and chip in a little bit and help each other to make projects happen. It's teamwork."What further works as a deterrent, according to her, is the meteoric entourage costs in Bollywood, which further pushes up the cost of production, making it difficult for producers to recover budgets. "I also see actors in India ask for crazy things on set that we don't have in Hollywood. I haven't seen Zachary Levi or Liam Neeson ask for those things," she remarks.

"And that's why, producers in Hollywood end up with a little bit more money that they can put towards the film. I would want to reiterate that the basics are met and there's no question about that. The basics have to be met for the actor to perform well. But in India, I've seen that most of the money that comes after selling a film goes into that [entourage] and it's a lot!" Elnaaz adds.Talking about how Hollywood actors pay their own staff members from their own pocket, a phenomenon that's becoming increasingly rare on Bollywood film sets, she shares, "I believe that all an actor needs.

Priyanka Chopra

Dresses As Kylie Jenner For Halloween, Nick Jonas Joins As A Cowboy: 'Unlikely Alliance'

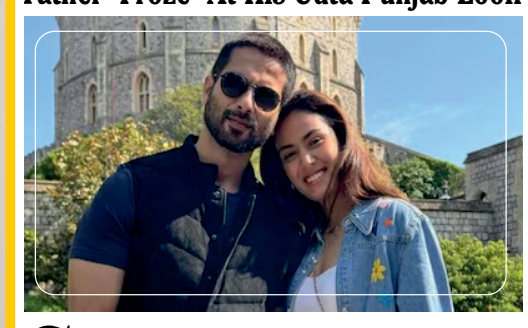


Global star Priyanka Chopra Jonas celebrated Halloween with her husband Nick Jonas and daughter Malti Marie. Taking to social media, the desi girl gave a glimpse of their family outing dressed in quirky avatars.Priyanka shared pictures from their Halloween celebrations, revealing their respective looks for the occasion. While Nick dressed up as a cowboy, their daughter Malti appeared as a ghost princess, with Priyanka embracing the look of 'King Kylie'.Sharing the picture, Priyanka called their costumes an "unlikely alliance" and wished everyone celebrating the festive occasion. "Quite an unlikely alliance.. A Cowboy, a Ghost princess and King Kylie went trick or treating.. Happy Halloween to everyone celebrating #diwaloween season is here," she wrote.The family was seen striking various poses together. Little Malti looked adorable in her ghost princess avatar. Priyanka's post also brought together the Halloween celebrations and the festive spirit of Diwali, which she referred to as the 'Diwaloween' season.The actress frequently shares glimpses of her personal life and special moments with Nick and Malti on social media, giving a peek into their family celebrations.Priyanka Chopra had earlier given a glimpse of her Los Angeles home's balcony, beautifully decorated for the festive season. Calling it the 'Diwaloween' season, the actress brought together the celebrations of Diwali and Halloween through her décor.The balcony was lit up with warm string lights and fairy lights, creating a cozy atmosphere. A giant black spider and spooky hanging decorations added a Halloween touch to the space, while the soft lighting reflected the festive warmth of Diwali.



Halloween 2026 was celebrated on October 31.Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas recently celebrated Dussehra with their daughter, Malti Marie, at their Los Angeles home. The family observed traditional rituals, including Shivling abhishek and a hawan. One of the most heartwarming moments from the celebration was Nick washing Malti's feet as part of the Kanya Pujan ritual.

Shahid Kapoor Recalls 7-Hour First Meeting With Mira Rajput, Says Her Father 'Froze' At His Udta Punjab Look



Shahid Kapoor and Mira Rajput revisited the early days of their relationship on the latest episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show, sharing everything from their unexpectedly long first conversation to the actor's rather unusual attempt at impressing Mira with a pair of glow-in-the-dark shoes.The couple appeared on the show alongside Ishaan Khatter, with Shahid also recalling the moment his future father-in-law first saw him sporting green hair for Udta Punjab. According to the actor, the look left him visibly stunned.

Mira Rajput Recalls Their Seven-Hour First Conversation

Mira said Shahid turned out to be good company when they met for the first time, although one of his requests left her thoroughly confused."He is very good company. After 2-3 hours, he asked me to take out my phone and take a picture of his shoes. I thought how weird. We were meeting for the first time, and he wanted me to take a photo of his shoes," she recalled.Mira said Shahid then asked her to switch on the flash before proudly explaining what made the footwear special."I showed him the picture, asking what was so great about it. He said his shoes glowed in the dark. I kept wondering what was so great about it," she added.Shahid then explained the context behind the shoes."When we met for the first time, Mira was 20, and I was 34. When we sat down together, I kept thinking if our wavelengths would ever match. After that, seven hours passed by, and we didn't realise," he said.He added that the shoes were useful during the early days of paparazzi culture because they absorbed flash."Those shoes absorbed all the light if they used flash, so the entire picture was dark. Only the shoes were seen. I forgot she had no connection to films and wouldn't get it, and I kept flaunting those shoes."

Shahid Says Mira's Father 'Froze' Seeing His Green Hair

Shahid also recalled visiting Mira's Delhi home while he was filming Udta Punjab and still had Tommy Singh's green-haired look."The first time I went to Delhi to see her house, her father opened the door. I had green hair. When my father-in-law opened the door, he froze for a while, looking at me," Shahid said.Calling Mira's father a "very disciplined man, an engineer, an IITian, and an absolutely amazing human being," Shahid added, "When he saw me in Tommy Singh's look, he froze and wondered.

Richard Gere's Reaction To Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pretty Woman' Song From Kal Ho Naa Ho Is Unmissable



Filmmaker Nikkhil Advani enjoyed a fun fanboy moment as he met Hollywood actor Richard Gere during the 15th edition of Dharamshala International Film Festival 2026.The director showed the lead of the Hollywood drama 'Pretty Woman', a sequence from the 'Pretty Woman' track from his 2003 film 'Kal Ho Naa Ho', featuring Shah Rukh Khan and Preity Zinta.Sharing the memorable experience with his Instagram family, Nikkhil wrote the caption, "Huge huge fan boy moment. Showed @richardgere #PrettyWoman from #KalHoNaaHo (Raising Hands emojis) (wait for his reaction) (sic)" and added "Icing on the cake (Cake emoji)" at the end.Nikkhil even went ahead and tagged Shah Rukh Khan, Preity Zinta, Karan Johar, Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, lyricist Javed Akhtar and choreographer Farah Khan in the post.Reacting to the post, director Kabir Khan commented, "HaHaHa... that's fab @nikkhiladvani".Actress Nikita Dutta shared, "Tooo coool", along with a red heart emoji.For those who do not know, Richard Gere played the role of Edward Lewis, a wealthy businessman who meets Vivian Ward (Played by Julia Roberts), a Hollywood sex worker in the 1990 Hollywood romantic comedy 'Pretty Woman'.Along with the movie becoming one of the most iconic dramas in Hollywood, Roy Orbison's song 'Oh, Pretty Woman', also received a lot of appreciation from music lovers.

The popular number was eventually incorporated in 'Kal Ho Naa Ho'. Refreshing your memory, Aman (Played by Shah Rukh) breaks into a Hindi version of 'Pretty Woman', dancing on top of a taxi in an attempt to woo his new neighbour Naina (Played by Preity Zinta).The writer of the movie, filmmaker Karan Johar had acquired the rights to recreate Roy Orbison's original track. The Hindi version of the song has been scored by composer trio Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, with singer Ravi "Rags" Khote lending his voice.

When will we know who controls the U.S. Congress It could be a while

WASHINGTON.(Agency).

The stakes in Tuesday's election — which party will control Congress — are crystal clear. But when that will be known is impossible to say.The Associated Press will be calling races in all 435 House districts and the 35 Senate contests that are up for election this year. Control of the House depends on which party reaches 218 seats. Currently, 219 members caucus with Republicans, just one more than the minimum needed for a majority when all seats are filled. There are two vacancies now.The bar for the Senate is 51 seats for Democrats or 50 for Republicans, since Vice President JD Vance can cast a tiebreaking vote for his party. Republicans have a 53-47 edge in the Senate right now.
During the last midterm elections in 2022, the AP called control of the Senate four days after Election Day, while the House call was eiht days after.During the presidential cycle of 2024, there was a bigger gap between the two. Senate control was called the day after Election Day, with the House call coming eight days later.

US signals progress in Iran talks to avert flare-up

WASHINGTON.(Agency).

US President Donald Trump signaled progress on Monday in talks with Iran to avoid a return to war, as Tehran reported "intensive" exchanges while offering to reopen the Strait of Hormuz under strict conditions.
The fresh diplomatic signals came ahead of US midterm elections on Tuesday, in which Trump's Republican Party is pushing to retain control of Congress, faced with voter dissatisfaction over the conflict and the soaring fuel prices it has triggered.A deal with Tehran "could happen," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.
"Iran wants a settlement, as soon as possible."But hours later, Washington's diplomatic overtures were dashed by a report that the United States had attacked Iran, in what the Wall Street Journal said was the latest in a string of limited strikes it secretly carried out against the Islamic republic in recent weeks.
Iranian state media reported five explosions in rapid succession on Qeshm island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Americans vote in midterms set to upend Trump presidency

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Americans deliver their verdict on Donald Trump's tumultuous second presidency Tuesday in midterm elections that threaten to shatter his grip on Washington, with Democrats poised to seize the House and challenge for control of the Senate.
Republicans losing the House would give Democrats the power to stall Trump's legislative agenda and launch sweeping investigations of his administration. A Senate defeat would also threaten his ability to appoint Supreme Court justices and senior officials.
The election amounts to a nationwide judgment on Trump, with the mood turning sharply against Republicans amid anger over soaring living costs and the war against Iran.All 435 House seats and 35 of the 100 Senate seats are at stake, along with governorships in 36 states.
Democrats need only three House gains and a net four seats in the Senate to wrest both chambers from Republican hands.Trump returned to office last year promising to bring down prices, but inflation, tariffs and fuel costs inflated by the Middle East conflict have squeezed Americans.

FBI probe 'a trite provocation': North Korea denies involvement in Binance hack

The Binance heist came as North Korea has ramped up its weapons tests in a likely bid to increase its leverage in potential diplomacy with the U.S. after U.S. President Donald Trump expressed his desire to restore diplomacy with Kim Jong Un.

SEOUL.(Agency).

North Korea on Tuesday denied its involvement in the recent cryptocurrency heist at Binance, dismissing as "a trite provocation" a U.S. announcement that North Korean hackers were behind the incident.Binance, the world's biggest cryptocurrency exchange, said Friday that hackers stole more than $6 billion in what appears to be the largest cryptocurrency heist on record.The FBI later said the theft was orchestrated by North Korean hackers, attributing the attack to a hacking group known as TraderTraitor, which was also behind a $1.5 billion hack of the Bybit exchange last year.



On Tuesday, Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, called the FBI announcement "a trite provocation" and "an absurd rhetoric."
"This is not the first time that the U.S. has attempted to spread misunderstanding of the DPRK in the international community, blindly linking the DPRK with the 'cyber crime' incidents whenever they occur on an international scale," she said in a statement, using the abbreviation of North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
"On this occasion, we confirmed Washington's hostile attitude toward the DPRK once again and are closely monitoring a variety of persistent provocations of the U.S. against our state," Kim Yo Jong said.
Outside experts say North Korea has increasingly turned to cryptocurrency theft and other illicit cyber activities as a source of badly needed foreign currency, helping sustain its struggling economy and fund its nuclear program in the face of stringent U.S.-led international sanctions and other challenges.In December 2022, South Korea's spy agency estimated that North Korean hackers had stolen 1.5 trillion won ($1.1 billion) in cryptocurrency and other virtual assets over the previous five years.
Although the country has mostly denied involvement, North Korea has been linked to numerous major cyberattacks in past years, including a 2013 campaign that paralyzed the servers of South Korean financial institutions, the 2014 hacking of Sony Pictures, and the WannaCry malware attack of 2017.South Korea's Foreign Ministry said Monday that North Korea's illicit cyber activities pose an increasing threat to the global digital economy and that Seoul was closely cooperating with the United States and the broader international community to address the threat.

Dozens of Commonwealth leaders descend on Antigua at time of global political turbulence



SAN JUAN.(Agency)

Leaders representing nearly a third of the world's population are meeting on the tiny Caribbean island of Antigua this week to strengthen ties during a time of global political upheaval.New deals and pledges are expected to emerge from the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which is held every two years.
The Commonwealth is made up of 56 nations spanning Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific, most of which were once part of the British Empire. Their leaders are scheduled to attend, along with officials from Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Brazil and the United Arab Emirates."To deal with what to expect in Antigua, I think we need … to look at the world in which we find ourselves today," Commonwealth Secretary-General Shirley Botchwey told The Associated Press ahead of the meeting."We're looking at issues like conflict, economic shocks, rising costs, climate change, trade, weaponization of tariffs; and all of this hitting directly the pockets of our people."Botchwey said Commonwealth leaders representing 2.7 billion people will look at how to attract investment and reduce barriers to intra-Commonwealth trade."For us, this is extremely important," she said. "All the countries woke up one day and were slapped with tariffs. If we are trading more among ourselves, whatever happens outside the Commonwealth will not affect countries too much."U.S. President Donald Trump has imposed the highest import duties on U.S. trading partners since the Great Depression, although rates have fluctuated amid legal challenges.Botchwey said that creating stronger economies is essential given the trade wars: "It's an opportunity we cannot miss.The multiday summit began with cultural events on the weekend, while the formal opening ceremony is slated for Tuesday morning.It comes days after British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said he is open to making a formal apology for Britain's role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Burnham, among leaders attending the meeting, has rejected calls for the U.K. to pay reparations, but has proposed leading a program of debt restructuring to help the Commonwealth's poorest countries.
Some Caribbean leaders have called for slavery reparations to be discussed at the meeting, which King Charles III is also attending after visiting the Bahamas and Guyana last week. Queen Camilla has joined him.Dorbrene O'Marde, head o the Antigua and Barbuda reparations support commission, told
The Associated Press on Sunday that he welcomed Burnham's comments but seeks more than an apology."An apology for us is essentially the agreement to repair the damage that you have. It's simply not saying I am sorry and waving your hand and walking away," O'Marde said.The Commonwealth of Nations also seeks to create a fund to provide digital skills to about 10 million young adults, Botchwey said, adding that she hopes the private sector, foundations and philanthropies will contribute.

Indian national killed after two small helicopters collide in Nepal's Solukhumbu

KATHMANDU.(Agency).

A 47-year-old Indian national, Vasanth Kumar Balaramaramadu, lost his life when two helicopters collided while landing at Pheriche in Ward 4 of Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality in Nepal's Solukhumbu district.One other passenger is severely injured in the accident. The helicopters operated by Fishtail Air and Air Dynasty, collided at around 8.11am (local time), according to the District Police Office, Solukhumbu.Police Inspector Mausam Tamang said the deceased was identified as Vasanth Kumar Balaramaramadu, an Indian national travelling aboard the Fishtail Air helicopter.Shailesh Krishna Patel, a 49-year-old Indian origin resident of New Zealand who was also aboard the same helicopter, was injured in the collision.He was airlifted to Mediciti Hospital in Kathmandu by a Prabhu Helicopter, Tamang said.
Nepalese pilots, Rabindra Prajapati of Fishtail Air and Prajwal KC of Dynasty Air, were also injured in the incident and have been taken to Kathmandu for further treatment.Pheriche lies on the way to the Mt Everest Base Camp, 150 km northeast of Kathmandu.



Police said the body of Balaramaramadu has been taken to a hospital in Lukla.The number of passengers aboard the two helicopters at the time of the collision has yet to be confirmed. Police said they were gathering further details of the incident.Small helicopters are widely used in the Himalayan nation to transport tourists, climbers and supplies, as well as to carry out emergency evacuations.The country's challenging terrain and rapidly changing weather conditions make aviation operations particularly hazardous.Nepal is home to eight of the world's 14 highest mountains, including Mount Everest, and attracts thousands of foreign climbers and trekkers every year.

Hong Kong to sentence pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong on November 5

HONG KONG.(Agency)

A Hong Kong court will sentence pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong on Thursday, according to the judiciary's website, in a second national security trial that could see him jailed for life.Wong, who is already serving a nearly five-year jail term for subversion and was due for release in early 2027, pleaded guilty to the collusion charges in September.
Wong sprang to prominence during widespread protests more than a decade ago, and was later involved in the huge pro-democracy rallies in 2019 that triggered the imposition of the national security law.Prosecutors said Wong, self-exiled activist Nathan Law, and others asked foreign entities to seriously disrupt the formulation and implementation of laws or policies in Hong Kong and China.Wong's friends told AFP earlier this year that the



The 30-year-old former student leader is one of the most recognisable faces of the Chinese city's now-quashed democracy movement.
He was charged last year under a national security law imposed on Hong Kong by Beijing, in a move condemned by rights groups.The Hong Kong judiciary website showed on Tuesday that a sentencing hearing was scheduled for November 5.
activist remained "energetic" while in detention by working out, playing the guitar and studying university courses.The offence of foreign collusion may be punishable by life imprisonment if found to be of a "serious nature".Wong's lawyer has argued for a shorter sentence of three to 10 years, noting that Wong has already spent around six years in prison for various offences.

Supermarket freezers in several European countries hit by apparent cyberattacks

STOCKHOLM.(Agency)

Supermarkets in Sweden, Belgium, Luxembourg, Ireland and Estonia were hit Monday by problems with freezers and fridges that apparently were caused by cyberattacks, forcing some to dispose of ruined food.The problems follow a case last month in which attackers remotely took control of refrigeration systems in hundreds of supermarkets and independent stores across France, sending temperatures soaring.
Gustaf Nilsson, a spokesperson for Sweden's ICA Group supermarket chain, told the TT news agency that "a limited number" of stores were affected overnight by an incident that affected refrigeration and freezing systems. He declined to give a specific number.
An ICA Kvantum store in Sjöbo, southern Sweden, said its fridges and freezers had been hacked and set to 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit). In a Facebook post, it said staff were discarding affected products.The Coop chain said that six of its stores in central Sweden had problems with their fridges and freezers, TT reported, though it didn't immediately have details.The Delhaize chain said that an "IT incident" had affected refrigeration systems in several dozen of its stores, mostly in Belgium but also a few in neighboring Luxembourg.In the affected stores, the range of fresh and frozen products is temporarily somewhat limited. Our distribution centers are operating normally, and there has been no disruption to deliveries to our stores," spokesperson Sarah De Meester said.
Carrefour said a cyberattack targeting refrigeration systems had affected 15 of its more than 700 stores in Belgium, describing the impact as "extremely limited."In Estonia, a refrigeration technology company said attackers had accessed a computer controlling a client's refrigeration system and raised the temperature to 50 degrees Celsius, public broadcaster ERR reported.Jann Mutso, chief executive of Kitman Coldtech, declined to identify the store but said the attack was addressed within minutes and caused no significant damage. The Selver supermarket chain said one of its outlets was affected.In Ireland, refrigeration systems in 13 SuperValu stores were affected by the "cyber incident," parent company Musgrave Group said. A spokesperson said chilled and frozen products were removed from sale as a precaution.On Monday afternoon, the company said the incident had been "fully resolved" and "replenishment of chilled and frozen ranges in the affected stores is well under way."