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PAWAN MAKAN
+91-9638877700
mahanagarmetro7@gmail.com



Odisha rolls out Dakshyata Vikas Yojana, issues guidelines for scheme

BHUBANESWAR. (Agency).

Weeks after the state cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, approved the Dakshyata Vikas Yojana, a flagship skill development scheme with an outlay of Rs 450 crore, the government has notified the new scheme and issued a set of guidelines for its smooth rollout in Odisha."The scheme will remain operational for three years from 2026-27 FY to 2028-29 FY, unless otherwise extended or modified by the government," the Skill Development and Technical Education (SDTE) department has stated in the notification.The scheme aims to create a skilled, employable, industry-ready and future-ready workforce by strengthening the skilling ecosystem through quality training, enhanced industry engagement, institutional capacity building and improved livelihood opportunities for youth across the state.Placement-linked short-term training and digital skilling in emerging fields such as AI, cloud computing, data analytics and cyber security will be provided to the youth. Special focus will be placed on women, SCs, STs, PVTGs and other marginalised communities, youth from aspirational and underserved regions, school and college.

AP seeks immediate central aid as Cyclone Murasu causes Rs 1,919 crore damage

VIJAYAWADA(Agency).

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu urged immediate assistance from the Centre as it would provide relief to affected people in Cyclone affected area and enable the state to take necessary measures to restore normalcy.In a letter written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday, the Chief Minister stated that Andhra Pradesh had been severely affected by two successive cyclones within a week. Heavy rains and strong winds caused extensive damage to infrastructure, including electricity networks and roads.He explained that while the state was recovering from the damage caused by Cyclone Arnab on October 27, Cyclone Murasu struck, leaving farmers and fishermen suffer losses twice in the same season.He informed the Union Minister that the State has suffered extensive damage due to successive cyclones, with preliminary estimates putting the losses caused by Cyclone Murusu at Rs 1,919.59 crore and requested immediate interim financial assistance to provide relief and support recovery efforts.The Chief Minister stated that a comprehensive assessment of the damage would be undertaken after floodwaters recede and that a detailed report would be submitted to the Centre within the next 15 days.In his letter, the Chief Minister stated that Cyclone Murasu damaged crops across 1,43,122 hectares affecting 1,86,063 farmers. The preliminary loss in the agricultural sector was estimated at Rs 874.96 crore.

E20 has become 420: Rahul Gandhi claims excess ethanol in petrol, targets govt

Rahul Gandhi cited laboratory tests alleging excessive ethanol in petrol samples collected across Karnataka. The findings prompted him to question fuel companies and the transparency of their testing processes.

New Delhi (Agency).

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has accused major oil marketing companies of supplying petrol with ethanol content exceeding the prescribed 20 per cent limit, citing laboratory tests of fuel samples collected from seven districts in Karnataka.In a post on X on Saturday, Gandhi claimed that 11 of the 14 samples tested at an accredited laboratory contained more than 20 per cent ethanol.Taking a swipe at the Centre's ethanol-blending programme, Gandhi said, "E20 turned into 420 - stealing petrol from the public's cars!" He accused both public sector and private fuel companies of exceeding the prescribed blending limit and questioned the transparency of their testing processes.According to the findings cited by Gandhi, samples from Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) recorded ethanol concentrations of 31.2 per cent and 30.5 per cent, respectively.

The samples were collected from seven districts in Karnataka — Bengaluru, Kolar, Chikkaballapura, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Mangaluru and



Tumakuru.Gandhi also named Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Nayara Energy and Shell among the companies whose fuel samples were part of the testing exercise.He claimed that the companies' in-house laboratories had failed to disclose the ethanol content in the samples."Modi ji, tell us, what's being put in the country's tank? How much ethanol is actually in petrol? When will action be taken against companies mixing more than 20% ethanol? And the debate challenge still stands. We'll add this issue too – who is actually benefiting from your policies?" he said.

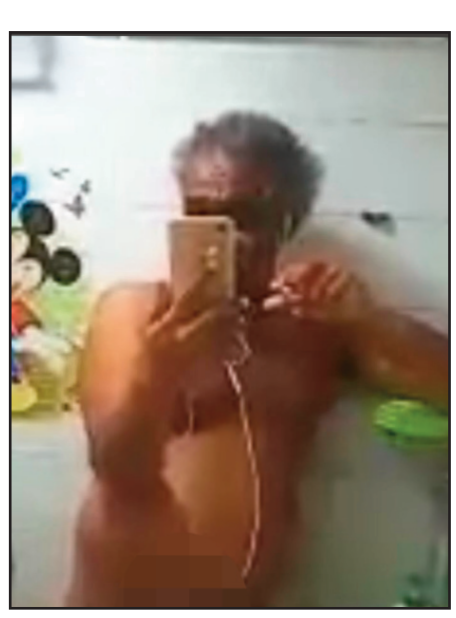
OIL COMPANIES DISPUTE KARNATAKA'S TEST FINDINGS

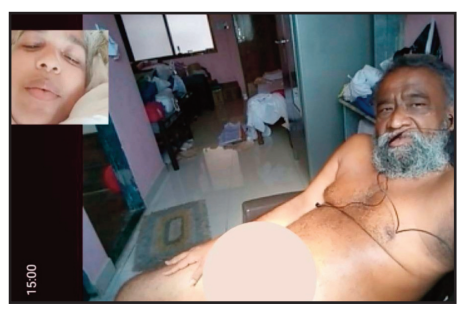
The claims come amid a dispute between the Karnataka government and oil marketing companies over the ethanol content in petrol sold at retail outlets in the state.Karnataka Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Rizwan Arshad had earlier said that tests conducted by the NABL-accredited and ISO-certified Shriram Research Institute in Bengaluru found ethanol levels exceeding the prescribed 20 per cent limit in several samples. The state government said the samples were initially sent to the in-house laboratories of IOCL and BPCL, but the reports.

Sagar Chandra Sagar controversy sparks outrage in Jain community as viral chats and questions over religious donations fuel demands for an impartial investigation

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Mandsaur/Palitana: A controversy involving Sagar Chandra Sagar has triggered widespread discussion and concern within the Jain community, raising serious questions about the principles of non-violence, non-possession, self-restraint and moral conduct that form the foundation of Jainism.Alleged WhatsApp chats, audio recordings and photographs circulating on social media have sparked widespread resentment among sections of the Jain community. Questions have been raised over alleged inappropriate relationships involving certain women and female Jain ascetics, as well as the financial dealings of religious institutions. From Mandsaur in Madhya Pradesh to Palitana in Gujarat, demands for an impartial investigation and transparency are growing.The most sensitive aspect of the controversy concerns the dignity of religious life and the trust devotees place in religious institutions. However, the authenticity of the material circulating on social media has not yet been independently established. Therefore, allegations should not be treated as proven facts without proper verification. An independent investigation is necessary to establish whether the material is genuine, manipulated or fabricated.Forensic Examination of Viral Chats and Photographs DemandedAlleged conversations, photographs and audio recordings circulating on social media have raised several questions. Members of the Jain community are demanding that digital forensic experts examine the material to establish its authenticity. Investigators should determine whether the content is genuine or has been edited, digitally manipulated or generated using artificial intelligence. The privacy, dignity and safety of the women concerned must also be protected throughout the investigation.Questions Over Crores in Donations and Trust AccountsThe controversy has expanded beyond personal allegations, with questions being raised about donations received by religious institutions and pilgrimage centres. Devotees are demanding transparency in the utilisation of funds collected in the name of religious activities.The roles of trustees, administrators and other office-bearers have also come under scrutiny. Demands have emerged for an independent financial audit to determine whether donations have been utilised for their designated purposes. Questions have also been raised regarding the role of media coordinator Abhay Chopra and other individuals associated with the matter, prompting calls for an impar







tial examination.Appeal to Boycott Religious DiscoursesReports of Sagar Chandra Sagar continuing public religious discourses in Mandsaur have prompted some devotees and concerned members of the community to appeal for a boycott of such programmes. They believe that the sentiments of devotees and the dignity of religious platforms must be respected until the questions surrounding the controversy are satisfactorily addressed.Key Demands of the Jain CommunityVarious sections of the Jain community are demanding a time-bound and impartial investigation, forensic examination of viral digital material, protection of the privacy and safety of the women concerned, and an independent audit of the financial transactions of religious trusts. They have also called for strict legal action against anyone found guilty following the investigation.Who Will Restore the Faith of Devotees?The controversy is no longer limited to an individual or an institution.

Caught on CCTV: 2 people flung into air as speeding bike collides with car in J&K

New Delhi(Agency).

Three people were injured after a speeding motorcycle rammed into a car at an intersection in Jammu and Kashmir's Budgam district early morning. The horrific collision, which took place in the



Magraypora area, was captured on CCTV, showing the biker and pillion rider being flung into the air on impact.The motorcycle, carrying two people, was speeding when its rider attempted to cross an intersection. However, a car approaching from a side road came in its path, resulting in a violent collision.The impact sent both the motorcycle rider and the pillion rider flying into the air. The car's gate was damaged in the crash, while the vehicle swerved from side to side on the road following the impact. Several people rushed to the spot to help those injured.Three people sustained injuries in the accident. Further details about their condition are awaited.

SIMILAR ACCIDENTS REPORTED EARLIER

The Budgam crash comes amid other incidents of road accidents involving speeding vehicles that were captured on CCTV.On October 23, a speeding car rammed into a parked cab and hit a newspaper delivery worker in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal early Friday. The impact damaged the cab and left the worker injured. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he is undergoing treatment.

Death Count In Assam Oil India Fire Rises To 2, 5 Injured Remain Critical

Assam(Agency).

The death count in the massive fire that broke out at an Oil India Limited (OIL) installation in Assam's Dibrugarh district has risen to two, with five injured persons continuing to remain in critical condition.Tapas Jyoti Gogoi, who had sustained severe burn injuries in the incident, died during treatment at a private nursing home in Dibrugarh on Wednesday. His death comes a day after Raju Dutta died following the fire and explosion at the facility.Five other injured persons are currently undergoing treatment at the same private nursing home. Sources said the condition of four of them remains very critical and they have been placed on ventilator support.Meanwhile, Oil India Limited has constituted an internal inquiry committee to investigate the incident. The inquiry committee has been tasked with examining the immediate and underlying causes of the incident, assessing the damage, and recommending measures to prevent similar incidents in the future, the company said.According to a statement issued by the PSU, a fire was reported on Friday at the Indirect Bath Heater (IDBH) of the Intermediate Tank Farm (ITF) at Tengakhat. The incident occurred in an indirect bath heater area that had been taken up for maintenance and had remained isolated since November 4.



The fire broke out around 9:05 am during maintenance work at the Intermediate Tank Farm following an explosion. An Intermediate Tank Farm is a facility where petroleum products are temporarily stored in tanks before being transferred for further processing or transportation.Preliminary information suggested that an accidental mishap occurred while workers were engaged in maintenance operations, triggering the explosion and the subsequent fire, the statement said.Oil India added that its fire service personnel were immediately mobilised and the fire was brought under control.

Blinkit store manager in Gurgaon flees with gold, silver coins and cash worth nearly Rs 26 lakh

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A manager of a Blinkit store in the Shivpuri area of Sector 7 allegedly fled with gold and silver coins and cash worth nearly Rs 25.9 lakh in the early hours of Friday.

The theft came to light when the company conducted a check, following which the area manager lodged a complaint at New Colony police station. A theft case has been registered against the accused, identified as Ajay Kumar.According to the complaint filed by Shri Bhagwan, a resident of Jal Vihar Colony in Sector 46 and an area manager with Blinkit, Kumar was employed as the manager of the company's Shivpuri store. He allegedly left the premises around 1.35am on Friday with the valuables and cash kept there.The missing items included several gold and silver coins and Rs 1.27 lakh in cash. The total value of the missing valuables and cash was estimated at around Rs 25.9 lakh.A senior police officer said a theft case had been registered and the accused was being traced. "Police are examining the evidence and details provided by the company to establish the sequence of events and recover the stolen valuables," the officer said.

American Express employee assaulted, iPhone 17 snatched outside liquor shop in Sector 29

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Two motorcycle-borne men snatched an iPhone 17 from an American Express employee waiting for his friends outside a liquor shop in Sector 29 on Thursday night, injuring him in the face with a sharp object when he resisted.

The victim, Vaibhav Verma, a senior customer care professional with American Express and a resident of Civil Lines, told police that he had visited Ireo The Grand Arch in Sector 58 with his parents and brother on Nov 5. While returning, his father dropped him near Huda Gymkhana Club, outside Jaguar Wines in Sector 29, around 10.25pm.

Verma was waiting for his friends and speaking to one of them on his phone around 10.32pm when two men wearing helmets arrived on a motorcycle. The pillion rider snatched his phone before the two attempted to flee.

Verma tried to resist, but one of the men struck him in the face with a sharp object, leaving an injury mark.

Men fire skyshots from moving car on Dwarka Expressway

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A group of youths performed a dangerous stunt on Dwarka Expressway late at night, with the act posing a serious risk to other motorists. The incident involving fireworks was caught on a camera.

The video shows a Hyundai car speeding along the expressway, with the driver lowering the window and firing a sky shot with one hand while steering it with the other. Police are probing when and where it was shot. The car appears to have heavily tinted windows. Another car can be seen following it, with a person standing through its sunroof and recording the stunt.Investigators are also checking whether the incident took place within the city and if any traffic violations or other offences can be established. The video has raised concerns over road safety issues.

World Diabetes Day 2026: Early Action on Diabetes – The Role of Physiotherapy in Prevention and Comprehensive Care

Mahanagar Metro Desk

New Delhi: World Diabetes Day, serves as a global platform to create awareness about diabetes, its prevention, early diagnosis and effective management. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2026, "Early Action on Diabetes," highlights the importance of identifying the condition at an early stage, reducing risk factors and ensuring timely access to comprehensive healthcare. Led by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), with the World Health Organization (WHO) playing a significant role in global diabetes advocacy, the campaign encourages healthcare professionals, researchers, governments, educational institutions and communities to work collectively towards reducing the growing burden of diabetes. Diabetes mellitus is a chronic



metabolic disorder characterized by elevated blood glucose levels resulting from inadequate insulin production or ineffective utilization of insulin. Its increasing prevalence is associated with sedentary lifestyles, unhealthy dietary habits, obesity, physical inactivity and genetic predisposition. One of the major challenges is that Type 2 diabetes may develop gradually without noticeable symptoms. Increased thirst, frequent urination, unexplained weight loss, persistent fatigue and blurred vision are important warning signs that should not be ignored. Early screening, appropriate investigations and timely medical intervention can significantly reduce the risk of complications involving the cardiovascular system, kidneys, eyes and peripheral nerves. In this context, physiotherapy has an important role extending beyond conventional rehabilitation. Regular physical activity and structured exercise are essential components of diabetes prevention and management. Physiotherapists contribute by designing individualized exercise protocols incorporating aerobic activities, resistance training, flexibility exercises and balance training. Brisk walking, cycling, swimming and appropriately supervised strengthening exercises improve insulin sensitivity, glucose utilization, cardiovascular fitness and muscular endurance. These interventions also help in weight management and reducing the risk of associated musculoskeletal complications. For individuals already living with diabetes, physiotherapy becomes particularly relevant in preventing disability and maintaining functional independence.

Stations near Aravalis cross 300 mark on AQI scale

Noida.(Agency)

Air quality near Aravalis remained worse than at other monitored locations in Gurgaon on Friday, with Gwalpahari recording an air quality index (AQI) of 402, in the 'severe' category. TERI Gram, another station near Aravalis, recorded an AQI of 397, while Sector 51 logged 387 and Vikas Sadan 289.The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) sub-committee on Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) on Friday decided to invoke Stage III of GRAP across Delhi-NCR as a precautionary measure amid deteriorating air quality.The city's overall AQI stood at 368 on Friday, in the 'very poor' category. The city's AQI calendar showed readings rising from 183 on Nov 1 to 246 on Nov 2, 305 on Nov 3, 322 on Nov 4 and 331 on Nov 5.Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) remained the dominant pollutant, signalling a persistent winter build-up driven by local emissions and unfavourable weather conditions.

As per guidelines issued by the Central Pollution Control Board, 'moderate' AQI can cause breathing discomfort to people with asthma and lung or heart disease, while 'poor' air quality can lead to breathing discomfort for most people on prolonged exposure.CPCB categorises AQI levels between 0 and 50 as 'good', 51 to 100 as 'satisfactory', 101 to 200 as 'moderate', 201 to 300 as 'poor', 301 to 400 as 'very poor', and 401 to 500 as 'severe.

Air pollution can cause irritation and inflammation in the airways, leading to coughing, throat irritation, wheezing and breathing difficulties. Prolonged exposure can affect even otherwise healthy people, while those with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and other existing conditions are more vulnerable.Randeep Guleria, chairman, internal medicine, respiratory and sleep medicine, Medanta, Gurgaon, said people should modify their daily routines according to air quality and avoid outdoor exercise when pollution levels are high. "One of the most important things people can do is



modify their daily routines according to the air quality," he said, advising people to avoid early morning and late evening walks, jogging and outdoor workouts on days when pollution levels are high. Such activities should preferably be shifted indoors.He also advised checking the daily AQI before stepping out and avoiding unnecessary outdoor exposure when air quality is poor. People should stay away from busy traffic junctions, construction sites and other areas with high dust and pollution levels.Guleria said precautions were equally important indoors. During periods of poor air quality, people should keep doors and windows closed, particularly during morning and late evening hours when advised by local health authorities.If possible, households should use appropriately sized HEPA air purifiers and ensure their filters are cleaned or replaced regularly. Smoking indoors, burning incense sticks and mosquito coils should be avoided as these can further deteriorate indoor air quality. Wet mopping instead of dry sweeping can also help prevent dust from becoming airborne.For those who need to step outdoors, a well-fitted N95 or N99 mask can help reduce exposure to fine particulate matter. Ordinary cloth masks, scarves and handkerchiefs do not offer equivalent protection, he said.

While travelling by car, people should keep windows rolled up and use the air-conditioning system's recirculation mode during periods of high pollution. Children, elderly individuals, pregnant women and people with existing respiratory or cardiovascular conditions need to be particularly careful. Children should avoid outdoor sports and strenuous physical activities when pollution levels are high.People with asthma or COPD should continue their prescribed medication, keep their inhalers accessible and avoid stopping treatment without medical advice.

Guleria alo advised people not to ignore persistent coughing, wheezing, chest tightness or breathlessness. If these symptoms develop or worsen, they should seek medical attention rather than rely on home remedies or self-medication. While outdoor pollution cannot be eliminated entirely, he said, making informed choices about when to step out, where to spend time and how to maintain indoor air quality can help reduce its impact on health.

Last Aqua Line train to depart at 10 pm on Diwali

Noida.(Agency)

Last trains on Aqua Line will depart from Sector 51 and Depot stations at 10pm on Diwali, 1 hour 25 minutes earlier than the usual 11.25pm departure."On Sunday, Diwali day, metro services will operate from 8am to 10pm from both terminal stations. Passengers are advised to plan their journeys accordingly," an NMRC official said.On regular days, services begin at 6am from Monday to Saturday and at 8am on Sundays.The announcement comes after a surge in passenger footfall on Aqua Line during Dhanteras on Friday, with Sector 51 station witnessing particularly heavy crowds. The station connects with Delhi Metro's Blue Line at Sector 52 through a skywalk.

Aqua Line typically records 80,000-90,000 passengers



daily. Its highest-ever single-day ridership was recorded on Oct 23, when 1,05,358 passengers used the service. Friday's ridership figures were unavailable at the time of reporting as NMRC compiles the data late at night.

Noida markets see Dhanteras rush, gold coins and festive decor in demand

Noida.(Agency)

Diyas, marigold strings and festive lights transformed Noida's markets into a sea of colour on Friday, as shoppers turned out in large numbers for Dhanteras, picking up everything from puja essentials and sweets to gold and silver coins. The rush, which began in the morning, gathered pace through the day, with major shopping hubs reporting heavy footfall and traffic congestion.Atta Market in Sector 18, Indira Market in Sector 27 and Brahmaputra Market in Sector 29 were among the busiest spots, with shops and temporary stalls displaying decorative torans, flowers, diyas, idols of Ganesh and Lakshmi, utensils and festive lights.In Indira Market, shoppers browsed an array of decorative torans made from materials ranging from paper and cardboard to pearls and seashells. Flower strings of marigold, jasmine and roses were also in demand.The torans this year are very beautiful and ornate. They are made of varied materials, from paper and pearls to cardboard and seashells. Even the flower strings are beautifully decorated. The whole atmosphere is very festive," said Priyanka Singh, a resident of Sector 35.In Sector 18, gold and silver coins emerged as a preferred purchase, with buyers cautious about investing in heavier jewellery amid fluctuating prices."Some buyers purchase gold or silver on Dhanteras irrespective of the price, but most are opting for lightweight jewellery or coins," said SK Jain, president of the Sector 18 Market Association.Some shoppers, meanwhile, chose to defer bigger purchases in the hope that prices would stabilise. "We have a wedding in January, but want to wait for prices to stabilise a little before buying jewellery," said Seema Singh, a resident of Sector 55.Brooms, considered auspicious on Dhanteras, were another popular purchase. "Dry-fruit gift hampers, chocolates and sweets are all being picked up at a rapid pace," said Ajay Aggarwal, a shopkeeper in Sector 120. Several shopkeepers deployed additional staff to manage the rush, with festive merchandise spilling out of shops into decorated temporary stalls.The shopping rush also spilled onto the roads, with slow-moving traffic and snarls reported around Sector 18, DND Flyway and routes connecting Noida with Delhi. The Noida traffic police had issued a special four-day traffic advisory, from Nov 5 to 8, anticipating heavy festive footfall.Under the diversions around Atta Market and Sector 18, vehicles travelling from Atta Peer Chowk towards Atta Chowk were routed via Rai Residency Chowk, a U-turn under the elevated road near Cambridge School and Sector 28 Car Market. Those travelling from Atta Chowk towards Atta Peer were diverted via GIP Mall, a U-turn under the Filmcity Flyover and the DLF/Centre Stage Mall stretch.Traffic heading towards Sector 18 metro station from Filmcity Flyover and Sector 18 gurdwara was routed through the Sector 18 underpass.The police also reiterated restrictions on heavy, medium and light commercial cargo vehicles along the Luharli Toll–NTPC Tiraha stretch in Dadri and Noida-Greater Noida Expressway. However, light commercial cargo vehicles were seen on the Sector 18–elevated road stretch towards Sector 62.

4.5 lakh names off draft roll, Gurgaon electorate shrunk by 30%

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Nearly 4.5 lakh names are missing from the city's draft electoral roll, shrinking the electorate by 29% — from 15.6 lakh before special intensive revision (SIR) to 11 lakh in the list published on July 31.

The city received just 40,563 Form 6 applications seeking inclusion between June 1 and Sept 30. Now, Haryana's chief electoral officer, A Sreenivas, has reiterated Election Commission of India's assurance in Supreme Court that voters whose names figured in earlier rolls can apply afresh without fear of legal action merely because they were registered before.In simple terms, the figures suggest that fewer than one for every 11 names missing from the draft roll have applied for inclusion. However, the two figures are not directly comparable. Form 6 applications also include first-time voters, while the reduction in the draft roll covers entries categorised as absent, shifted, dead or duplicate as well as cases where enumeration forms could not be collected. The gap, nevertheless, highlights the scale of the challenge in ensuring that eligible voters are not left out.SIR involved matching details of voters with the electoral roll of the previous intensive revision, which was conducted in 2002. Those whose details could not be mapped were asked to attend hearings and furnish documents to establish their eligibility. Some voters who could not attend these hearings or complete the verification process risked remaining off the rolls despite having voted in earlier elections.This is where Form 6 became a source of anxiety. The form carries a declaration that the applicant is seeking inclusion in the electoral roll for the first time. Previously registered voters feared that submitting it despite their earlier enrolment could



amount to a false declaration and expose them to prosecution under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.In a clarification issued on Nov 3 to chief electoral officers of all states and Union Territories, the ECI said an elector whose name is missing from the draft roll can apply through Form 6, irrespective of previous enrolment. It clarified that such a submission is "not, by itself, false merely because the elector was previously enrolled". No electoral registration officer (ERO) can initiate action under Section 31 solely on this ground, provided the applicant is not already enrolled in another parliamentary or assembly constituency and the declaration otherwise complies .

TN trans woman breaks barriers to make UPSC cut

CHENNAI.(Agency)

A total of 168 candidates from the state have cleared the 2026 UPSC civil services (main) examination (CSE), the results of which were announced on Thursday. This is an increase of 13 from the 155 who qualified last year. Among the 168 candidates who have qualified for the Personality Test is a trans woman—likely a first for Tamil Nadu.The 28-year-old trans person from Salem, who does not wish to reveal her name yet, said she had put off her gender transition for as long as possible, worried that the social stigma could affect her two elder sisters.

"I wanted to be known first as an IAS officer. I was applying for the TNPSC Group I and Group II examinations as well. As I was continuously appearing for one examination or another, I continued applying as a male. My sisters are now settled, and with the examination process dragging on, I decided last December that I could no longer postpone my transition," she said.While she had applied as a male in her first two attempts, she applied under the third-gender category for the first time this year, using her transgender identity certificate. She, however, had to use her former name in the UPSC application as her Class 10 certificate still carries it.Undergoing coaching at the state-run All India Civil Services Coaching Centre (AICSCC) at Anna Nagar in Chennai.

Airlifted to Vantara, elephant calf Maya gets another chance at life

KOCHI.(Agency)

For 18-month-old Maya, the struggle for survival began with a herd that never returned. Found abandoned when she was barely a day old, the elephant calf was raised by veterinarians and mahouts at Abhayaranyam, a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation facility in Kodanad, Ernakulam. Now, facing the possibility of euthanasia after a series of injuries left her incapable of standing, Maya has been granted another chance.On Friday, she was airlifted to Vantara in Gujarat for specialised treatment. The journey began at 9.30 am when Maya was moved out of Abhayaranyam in an animal ambulance.Unable to stand on her own, Maya had to be lifted by a group of people and placed inside a specially prepared cage. Accompanied by veterinary doctor Binoy Babu and her mahout Nikhil Babu, the calf was transported to the Kochi airport, where she boarded a chartered aircraft to Ahmedabad at 1.30 pm.For those who cared for her since infancy, it was a chance to see an animal they helped raise get another shot at life.

Rail Neer availability slows to a trickle at stations and in trains

KOLLAM.(Agency)

Rail Neer is increasingly becoming a rare commodity at railway stations in the region, with other market brands gradually replacing the Indian Railways' packaged drinking water. Passengers have also raised concerns about sellers overcharging for bottled water at stations and on trains.During a visit to several railway stations, including Kollam, Edamon and Tenkasi, found Rail Neer bottles difficult to find. Vendors were offering private brands instead, citing the unavailability of new stocks.A highly placed official attached to IRCTC in Keralam said, "We had a Rail Neer plant in Parassala which has now ceased functioning. This has impacted supply. In emergency situations, we do get bottles from the Chennai plant. We have identified a piece of land in Eraniel for setting up a plant, which on coming online should normalise supply."Moreover, according to Railway guidelines issued in 2025, the maximum selling price of a one-litre bottle of Rail Neer and other packaged drinking water brands sold on trains and railway premises is Rs 14.At Kollam station a while back, TNIE found mineral water bottle being sold for Rs 15. A passenger travelling to Chennai the same day said that an IRCTC catering vendor had demanded Rs 15 for a bottle.

'7th attempt on my life in 6 months': Abhishek Banerjee alleges 2 AM-attack by 'BJP hooligans'

Abhishek Banerjee alleged a late-night attack on his Kolkata home by 'BJP hooligans'. He said that it was the seventh attempt on his life in six months.

Kolkata.(Agency)

Trinamool Congress leader and Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee has alleged that his house in Kolkata was attacked on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. He accused "BJP hooligans" of carrying out the attack at 2 AM on Saturday.Sharing a video of the alleged incident, he posted on X: "After two days of continuous recce, this is how BJP hooligans attacked my house at 2 AM today. Watch the footage and see for yourself. If this is what can happen to an elected Member of Parliament, imagine the plight of the common man in WB [West Bengal]."He further said that this was the seventh attempt on his life in the last six months. "Yet, there has been no police action and no judicial intervention. Hooligans are running riot across the state because the judiciary continues to turn a blind eye… Thank you, Milords, for remaining mute spectators," he posted.Earlier on Friday, Banerjee posted another video of two persons allegedly following him. He said: "For the past two days few unidentified individuals have been



conducting reconnaissance of my office and residence. The registration number of their motorcycle is mentioned below. When confronted, they claimed to be police personnel."He further accused the West Bengal Police of "snooping around" his office and residence. "Who authorised this surveillance and for what purpose," he asked. He further sought the intervention of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Home Minister Amit Shah."I demand an immediate and thorough inquiry to establish the identity of these individuals, who sent them and to uncover the nefarious motive behind this suspected conspiracy," he posted.

BJP says: 'Who has time to kill Abhishek'

The Bengal BJP has dismissed the allegation as "backlash" over the birthday celebrations of Abhishek Banerjee. Bengal Minister and former Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said: "This is the first time we've seen a politician's birthday being celebrated on the footpath. If someone creates a disturbance, there is bound to be a backlash. Besides, who has the time to kill Abhishek Banerjee? There is nothing left for them to say or do, so they are attempting to mislead people by bringing up this issue…"

Around Town: Inside Mumbai's latest 14-seater tasting-menu-only restaurant, Fitour

A new 14-seater tasting-menu restaurant in Bandra, Fitour, is helmed by young chef Ashwin Singh. Its debut menu, comprising 18 courses or 'verses', draws on nostalgia and familiar Indian flavours, with a few surprises along the way.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Chef Ashwin Singh calls his first menu a poem, and would rather you didn't count its verses. At Fitour, the 14-seater tasting-menu-only restaurant that has recently opened in Bandra, the debut menu, Nostalgia, comprises 18 courses. Like most tasting-menu-only restaurants, there is no menu card to pore over. The courses arrive one by one, with the chef and his team guiding guests through.All 14 guests begin together, so everyone has the same experience. "You will not know what is coming to your table. Food will come, we will tell you how to eat it, and once you are done eating, we will tell you what you ate," Singh tells them before the first course. His reasoning is simple: food should be enjoyed at the right temperature. "Chefs are artists. My favourite artists are poets. This is my first poem," he says, explaining why he calls the courses verses.

An evening in five acts

The experience unfolds in the basement of House of Akina, designed almost like a speakeasy, with music and lighting changing across five acts. Guests arrive at 7.15 pm, and service begins around 7.30 pm. Early courses come with brighter lights and playful music, including The Ketchup Song during the chaat course. By the barbecue course, the lights dim and the music turns intense. In the final courses, the room is bathed in softer light, with romantic tunes like Wildflower, Yellow and 1000 years.There is a thought behind the theatrics. "Food is sensorial," Singh told us later, and the changing lights are also a gentle nudge for diners to put their phones away.The menu travels across India, with dishes rooted in memories rather than strict recreations of regional classics. It opens with a pani puri whose sphere is coated in white chocolate and mint chutney, while the water is made with bitter gourd and amla. The karela is cured in alum for nearly two weeks to remove its bitterness. The inspiration is childhood morning walks with his grandfather, who insisted he drink karela juice. "I still hate it from the bottom of my heart," he laughed.Food memories run deep for Singh, now in his mid-20s, who grew up in Meerut and has cooked since he was six, making sandwiches for school 'cooking without fire' contests. At 11, he paid Rs 100 a lesson to learn recipes from his mother's friend, and by the eighth and ninth standards he was posting cooking videos on YouTube.A Jim Jam-like cookie is a reimagining of Bihari litti chokha, a savoury whole-wheat and sattu cookie filled with aubergine chokha. In the sol kadhi, kokum is replaced with fermented tomato water and served with cured barramundi. Another course features buransh-glazed pork in three layers, with a papad made from leftover rice.The mains take inspiration from the Great Indian Thali: dry-aged duck (king oyster and morel mushrooms for vegetarians) with beetroot and green ketchups, a chaas-inspired foam and a butter-garlic naan reworked as laminated dough with kalonji in place of garlic. The Mathania chilli sauce becomes a lighter beurre blanc.One of the most personal courses is 'Shirvalya and Mango Mahua Rasam', which traces Singh's journey through the cities he has lived in: his mother's raw-mango aamras from Bihar, a rasam masala from Bengaluru, a mahua and raw-mango ferment from Kolkata and sunchoke from Bangkok. It ends with shirvalya, a Maharashtrian dessert noodle, reimagined as a savoury course. Everybody who tasted it found the flavours familiar.



Subsidies & freebies: Finance dept cautions govt over rising burden

BENGALURU(Agency)

The finance department has again cautioned the State Government over rising financial burden on various departments, particularly energy and transport.It has urged the government to take a relook at the financial management of the departments, failing which the burden on the people will only increase in the coming days.This has come at a time when the government has hiked bus fares and prices of milk, curd, ghee and butter.Government sources said the financial burden on the energy department has increased due to the electricity subsidy provided to farmers using irrigation pumpsets (IP sets). The subsidy cost has increased from Rs 19,000 crore to Rs 36,000 crore."Due to severe drought, farmers depend on IP sets to pump water to irrigate their crops. Thus, the electricity subsidy increased by Rs 17,000 crore in just one season. If this situation continues, the burden on the exchequer will increase further," the sources said.

The finance department has asked the energy department to hold meetings with farmers and agricultural institutions to find solutions to manage the drought situation. Suggestions such as reduction in power supply to IP sets from the existing 7 hours and increasing power tariff have been given to help manage the financial burden on electricity supply corporations.According to data, there are around 35 lakh IP sets in the state. Around 56,000 IP sets have been accorded sanction for solarisation under the PM Kusum-B scheme. Around 1.37 lakh IP sets have been brought under the PM Kusum-C scheme.The sources said, "A sum of Rs 1,110 crore has to be paid to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited for diesel provided to state transport corporations to run buses. Of the amount, BMTC owes Rs 500 crore and KSRTC Rs 300 crore. Now diesel is being procured on a goodwill basis. A warning has also been issued to the government to clear the dues at the earliest, failing which fuel supplies will be affected."According to data, the finance department has spent Rs 52,000 crore on the five guarantee schemes.

Two Indian soldiers tied to the cannon mouths, blown apart: Diwali execution of 1857

Mumbai.(Agency)

As Mumbai lights up for Diwali, a little-known chapter in its history takes us back to a very different October 15.On that day in the year 1857, the first day of the five-day festival, two Indian soldiers were tied to the mouths of cannons on the Esplanade, the open ground that would later become part of what is now Azad Maidan, and blown into pieces by the British.The executions came amid fears that the uprising against British rule, which had started in Meerut and later spread across northern and central India, would reach Bombay. The soldiers, Drill Havildar Syed Hoossein of the Marine Battalion and Private Mungal Guddrea of the 10th Regiment Native Infantry, had been convicted by a court-martial for their alleged role in a conspiracy to overthrow British authority.The plot was uncovered by Charles Forjett, then Superintendent of Police in Bombay, who went about the city in disguise to gather intelligence on suspected rebels. His account, published in Our Real Danger in India in 1877, describes the climate of suspicion and surveillance that gripped Bombay during the uprising of 1857.The revolt had erupted on May 10, when Indian soldiers in Meerut rebelled against the East India Company and marched to Delhi, declaring Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar their leader.As the resistance spread to Kanpur, Lucknow and other parts of northern India, the Bombay administration feared that its own military garrison could join the uprising.Suspicion extended beyond the cantonments. Even Jagannath Shankarshet, the prominent businessman and philanthropist, was suspected by some Europeans of having links with those challenging British rule.According to SM Edwardes' The Bombay City Police: A Historical Sketch, 1672-1916 (1923), Governor Lord Elphinstone asked Forjett to investigate the allegations. The police chief found them to be baseless and vouched for Shankarshet.Forjett adopted intimidating methods to keep the city under surveillance.



He erected a gibbet in the compound of the police office and summoned men he believed could potentially lead an uprising, warning them that anyone found conspiring against the government would be hanged.He also moved around Bombay in disguise, mingling with residents and listening to conversations at public gathering places. In his account, he says he would reveal his identity and arrest anyone whose remarks he considered seditious.It was during this surveillance that Forjett learnt of a conspiracy being discussed at the house of Gunga Prasad in Sonapur, in the Dhobi Talao area.

Presidency University expels student, bars ex-student from campus for 'defacing' ABVP poster on campus

Kolkata.(Agency)

Presidency University in Kolkata, Bengal, has expelled a student and taken academic action against another former student over the alleged defacement of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) posters on campus, a day after senior RSS functionary Jishnu Basu delivered a lecture at an event hosted by the ABVP.According to university sources, a final-year post-graduate student and a former student, both from the sociology department, had allegedly defaced the ABVP poster.While the student has been expelled from the university, both the student and the former student have been banned from enrolling in any future programmes at Presidency University. The university has also barred both of them from entering the campus and participating in any academic work.

The incident dates back to October 14, when the ABVP complained that obscene words had been written on one of its posters, carrying an image of Swami Vivekananda, pasted on a campus wall. The ABVP had then staged a protest outside the campus the same day. A five-member committee was subsequently formed to investigate the incident. Higher Education Minister Jagannath Chattopadhyay had also assured strict action.

On Friday, the university said the committee had examined testimonies and CCTV footage and confirmed the involvement of the two students. The academic action taken against them followed the inquiry.In a statement issued Friday, Registrar Debjyoti Konar said, "Presidency has always supported dignified academic discussion and debate on scientific and socio-political issues. However, the university will not tolerate in any way the insulting of any thinker, ideology or organisation."Speaking to The Indian Express, ABVP's Presidency University unit president Mridul Banik alleged that Left-wing student organisations had instigated the two students to deface the poster. Calling the incident "the most despicable act and something truly vile", Banik appealed to students to reject Left and ultra-Left organisations on campus.Alleging a larger conspiracy, Banik said there was a "seasoned mind" behind the incident and that the person responsible must be identified.



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Three events from last fortnight provide the latest evidence of the complexity of Manipur's ongoing ethnic crisis. The most recent of these is the discovery of the bodies of two young Kuki men belonging to Taphou village in Senapati district in the early hours of Sunday by a joint search team that included Manipur Police and the Central Reserve Police Force's special CoBRA commandos. What made this a bigger tragedy is the day that followed was the Kuki community's harvest festAccording to a report, the two men had been abducted on October 28 by suspected armed Naga men. No conclusive evidence yet, but amid the social media noise, there are also allegations and photographs that the two were armed and were ambushed while returning to attack a neighbouring Naga village, Tazeikaiphun, where another attack had been repelled the previous day.Before Nagas got dragged into the conflict, the familiar portrayal of the Manipur conflict was of aggression by majority Hindu Meiteis against minority Christian Kukis. This convenient framing has now fallen apart.The Naga-Kuki conflict, in many ways, is an example of Johan Galtung's "frozen conflict", periodically exploding into dynamic clashes. This dimension of the conflict is more primordial and probably will be harder to resolve.

Kukis and Nagas share the same traditional living spaces in Manipur's hills. Unlike the Imphal valley, where modern land laws are in vogue since 1960, hill lands are still left to customary laws. Expectedly, when there are several communities involved, each with their own customary land laws, there would be trouble.The Nagas believe they are the original owners of these hills and the Kukis came later, and were allowed to settle as their tenants. Kukis reject this formulation.

The second event was a massive rally by the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity or Cocomi, a conglomerate of several Meitei civil society organisations, on October 31, calling for an end to an alleged proxy war by India using Assam Rifles, among other things. The rally was endorsed and supported by the apex Naga civil society organisation, United Naga Council or UNC.

This is a widely-shared impression among the Meitei and Naga public. The state government is entering into a suspension of operation (SoO) agreement with 25 Kukis militant groups, although it's often cited that the latter never fought Indian forces. They see this as a counterbalance strategy against Naga and Meitei separatist insurgencies.ival, Chavang Kut.Fracturing hostile adversaries, or bheda, is indeed the third of four statecraft strategies recommended in Kautilya's Arthashastra,. The first two being persuasion, or sama, and bribe, dama. Only when these do not work, coercive force, or danda, is to be resorted to.

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THERE are tsunamis that come without warning and there are others which can be seen coming — but you can do little to avoid them. And so it was with US President Donald Trump and his Republican Party, who have been hit by a tidal wave of epic proportions.The Democratic sweep in the House of Representatives and the Senate will shape American politics in the years to come. A chastened Trump says now that he is willing to work with the Democrats, but they can hardly take this famously self-centred President at his word.



He is more likely to lash out not just as a lame duck, but a particularly angry one who could hit out in all directions, with little care for the institutions of his country or his party.Financial issues, inflation and mortgage rates have played a major role in the elections, in addition to the war in Iran, which has driven up petrol and diesel prices. Everything became unaffordable for many — healthcare, groceries, housing and higher education. There were also understated issues like corruption within the Trump administration; the President has made over $1 billion in crypto transactions in the past year.This has been the most expensive midterms, with mega donors like Elon Musk putting in nearly half a billion dollars into the elections. There were donations from crypto millionaires and non-profit organisations, and more than $2 billion had been pumped into the House and Senate races alone.The Democrats flipped seven Republican-held Senate seats — Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maine and Texas — to secure a majority in the Senate. The victories in Texas, where the Democrats won the Senate and the governorship, mark a massive political realignment. Jon Ossoff, who retained his Georgia seat, is already being talked about as the Democratic candidate for the 2028 elections.The victory in Ohio suggests that organised labour and the working class are once again getting behind the Democrats. They have won Kansas for the first time since 1932, suggesting a deep rural backlash against the Republicans. Likewise, the defeat in Iowa indicates that agricultural pressures and tariffs were deeply unpopular issues in this pro-Trump state. Abdul El-Sayed's victory in Michigan makes him the first Muslim to be elected to the US Senate; it is a validation of the unapologetically progressive policies in this crucial swing state.This is a wave election, which comes with repercussions for governorships, state legislative seats and mayoralties, and power beyond committee rooms. The President will face scrutiny of his administration, family and allies. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth could face impeachment or pressure from the White House, which is looking for scapegoats.Tariffs, the Iran war, Pentagon activities, health coverage and the US-Israel relationship will come under the Democratic microscope. But procedural delays and legal tactics can slow things down to a crawl for the Democrats. Trump has threatened to use the veto as a primary weapon. And the Democrats lack the numbers to remove him from office. But his capacity to govern will be severely affected.The Republicans will in all likelihood remove Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate leader John Thune. But the biggest question mark will be over Vice President JD Vance, the all-but-declared presidential candidate for 2028. Will the electorate support Trump's understudy after having rejected the President in 2026?With the midterms over, the clock has now begun ticking for the presidential elections. The Democrats had been waiting for this moment ever since they lost the presidency to Trump. Now, they can build on their current victory to shape their 2028 campaign. Potential contenders have used the midterms to position themselves.Besides Ossoff, who is a moderate, there are many potential Democratic candidates in the reckoning, including Kamala Harris. Take Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who feels that the victory of progressive Abdul El-Sayed is something that will "break open the entire political calculus in America" by bringing Left-leaning politics to the centre stage. She contributed $1 million for El-Sayed's campaign.Another contender, Josh Shapiro, has won the governorship of Pennsylvania. He is less known nationally, but he has a "get things done" reputation. By defeating Republican Stacy Garrity by double digits and carrying three Democratic House candidates across the finishing line,he has positioned himself to make a bid for the top job.

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JD Vance is engaging with senior Iranian figures, including Mohsen Rezaei, in an effort to revive negotiations.

For India, the elections carry significant stakes across immigration, trade and geopolitics. Despite the turbulence of the past year, the underlying strategic logic of the US-India partnership will continue to enjoy bipartisan support in Washington. A Democratic-controlled House — with a friend of India, Sherrod Brown, flipping the Senate seat in Ohio — could give New Delhi additional political avenues to challenge some of the Trump administration's contentious measures. A Democratic Congress may not necessarily be more sympathetic to Indian trade interests, but it could complicate Trump's ability to use tariffs indiscriminately.

The midterm lection results mark the beginning of the end of Trump's presidency. But the process will be drawn out over the next two years. With his room for manoeuvre significantly reduced domestically, he is likely to lash out abroad. India must be prepared to deal with a more difficult and erratic Trump. It remains to be seen whether American institutions can impose meaningful constraints on his excesses.

US voters repudiate Trump, but presidency holds several strings

Democrats must now show that control of Congress can deliver effective governance rather than legislative deadlock.

American voters have overwhelmingly reprimanded President Donald Trump. By wresting back control of both chambers of US Congress, Democrats have shifted the balance of power in Washington, gaining the authority to challenge Trump's agenda, scrutinise his administration and intensify oversight during the final two years of his presidency.The scale of the Republican setback is striking. Democratic victories in traditionally Republican states like Texas, Kansas, Ohio and South Carolina reflect massive erosion of Trump's electoral coalition. Losses for several Trump-backed candidates raise questions about the reach of the President's influence beyond his core base. Historic milestones, including Abdul El-Sayed becoming the first Muslim elected to the Senate, Keisha Lance Bottoms in Georgia becoming the first Black woman to be elected governor, and Gina Hinojosa becoming Texas's first Latina governor reflect shifts in representation.Control of Congress gives Democrats command over federal spending and committees. Trump administration will face tougher scrutiny, particularly over deportations, trade and military engagements. Yet, electoral defeat should not be confused with Executive disempowerment. American presidents retain considerable autonomy over foreign policy and military operations. A 'lame-duck' president in the second half of his second term could become even



more unpredictable.The ongoing wars will provide the first major tests. Trump's suggestion of a possible major strike against Iran raises concerns about escalation, regional instability and energy security. Democrats are likely to challenge the administration's war powers and demand accountability. On Ukraine, congressional resistance could complicate funding and constrain any attempt to push Kyiv towards a settlement favourable to Moscow. Europe may have to shoulder more responsibility, although it cannot replace critical American military and intelligence capabilities.

For India, the implications can be immediate. A political tussle can affect New Delhi's core interests—defence cooperation, Indo-Pacific security, technology partnerships and trade. An Iran escalation threatens energy supplies, maritime routes and India's substantial interests in West Asia. Meanwhile, any shift in US support for Ukraine could alter Russia's strategic calculations, adding to the diplomatic challenges India faces in maintaining its relationships with both Moscow and Washington.The election marks a significant shift, but does not necessarily alter the presidency's hold on foreign policy. That said, Democrats must now show that control of Congress can deliver effective governance rather than legislative deadlock, while Republicans face the task of reassessing their political future beyond Trump.

When the precision of naming adds to the novelty of seeing

For a Carnatic musician to carry Tiruvarur in his name can only be likened to an archaeologist bearing Rome in hers.

My reflections on place names a fortnight ago occasioned some delightful responses, mainly pertaining to musicians' names. My wife reminded me of one such name connected to Carnatic music. I should have remembered it for its sheer novelty: 'Cleveland' Sundaram (born 1945), though hailing from what Google describes as 'a selection-grade panchayat town' in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district, lives in that city in Ohio, US. Cleveland cleaves to Sundaram even as he goes about organising Carnatic concerts by visiting musicians, something he has been doing for years now.I also realised that when I mentioned M S Subbulakshmi and M L Vasanthakumari for their place-names—Madurai and Madras, respectively—I should not have left out Damal Krishnaswamy Pattammal (1919-2009). Having heard her in person and from records for decades, and having been quite captivated by the gravitas of her repertory and purity of her renderings, I had no business forgetting to mention Damal, the village in Kancheepuram that is part of her name. I have had the great good fortune of being shown her ancestral dwelling in Damal by none other than two musicians of stature—the spiritually inspired and inspiring vocalist Vidvan N Vijay Siva (born 1967) and the violinist of most delicate fluency, Sangita Kalanidhi R K Shriramkumar (born 1966).

Even as I write this, her singing of 'Shanti nilavu vendum', the great composition of Namakkal V Ramalingam Pillai (1888-1972), comes alive in my memory's auditorium. And I realise that Namakkal, the Salem town famed for its temple to Hanuman, keeps up the place-name tradition in Ramalingam Pillai, who could also be called 'Vedaranyam' V Ramalingam Pillai for his celebrated part in the great satyagrahic march—singing along the way—to that seaside salt marsh to break the salt law in 1930.Another chance felicity, the 'R' in R K Shriramkumar, whom I just mentioned, is from musically-renowned Rudrapatna in



the Hassan district of Karnataka. Of the same generation is Sangita Kalanidhi 'Bombay' Jayshree who, though born in Calcutta, spent her self-defining time in the city that is now inalienably part of her name. Sangita Kalanidhi Thodur Madabusi Krishna (born 1976) owes the first part of his three-part name to the village Thodur, also in Kancheepuram district.

Other conferees of the Sangita Kalanidhi in recent times whose names are drawn from places include the mridangam maestro Tiruvarur Bakthavathsalam (born 1956), whose place of birth Tiruvarur is altogether unique in Carnatic lore as the birthplace of the 18th century 'trinity'—Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri. For a Carnatic musician to carry Tiruvarur in his name can only be likened to an archaeologist bearing Rome in hers.

If there is a place name that a great writer is known by it is Thakazhi. Awash by the backwaters in Kerala's Alappuzha district, Thakazhi is inseparable from Sivasankara Pillai (1912-1999), the great Malayalam novelist from there.If Neyveli in Tamil Nadu is known for something other than lignite, it is for the celebrated vocalist who bears its name—Neyveli Santhanagopalan (born 1963). The legendary violinist A Kanyakumari arrived in this world in Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh in the year that state was formed—1953. So her name has to have come from either the goddess of that name or from the southernmost tip of mainland India. But there is no denying that her given name immediately brings to mind the place once known as Cape Comorin.

Vizianagaram gives me cause now to move from Carnatic music to cricket. If there is one person whose long name—Pusapati Vijaya Ananda Gajapathi Raju (1906-1965)—would mean little if anything to most, but whose popular name has 'household' status, at least in cricketing circles, it is that of 'Vizzy'. Derived, needless to say, from the princely state he was Maharajkumar of, Vizzy was more than a name. However, not all of the associated legend and lore did the owner of the name credit.Vizzy had cricket written all over him, but cricket did not have Vizzy all over it. Wealthy and motivated enough to be a great sponsor of the game, he could not get those assets to help him as a cricketer on the turf. Even less as a cricket commentator. A lack that reportedly led Rohan Kanhai to say—when told of Vizzy's other 'skill' of hunting tigers, with a stated score of 300—to say he must have left the transistor on for the tigers to die of boredom. But we are concerned here with the place name that made him the Vizzy the world knows.

Curiously, while his peer and in many ways his rival, Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala (reign: 1900-1938), was also better known simply as Patiala, the greatest of all princes in cricket, Maharaja Ranjitsinhji of Nawanagar (1872-1933), was known in his lifetime and has been ever since, as Ranji, not Nawanagar. But assuming Patiala and Nawanagar were to be abbreviated, Vizzy-like, into a two-syllabled name, would the great Sikh have been Patty? No, no! And Nawanagar Navvy? Most certainly not. If no one else, their subjects would have protested.I conclude with a historic place name of Buddhist salience that the Marxist historiographer, mathematician, Sanskritist and philosopher D D Kosambi's (1907-1966) father incorporated into his surname. The place is situated in what was part of the Mauryan empire; Emperor Ashoka had a famous edict installed there known for its frown on schismatics. Ram Ramaswamy, in his just-out gripping biography of DDK, brings vividly to life the career of the great owner of that great place name.

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Gavin Newsom, the California Governor, was not running for office, but he helped the Democrats gain five seats and take the House of Representatives. The defeat of the billionaire wealth tax bill, a measure opposed by Newsom, has enhanced his standing with the billionaires and the electorate.The immediate international concern is the possibility of renewed US attacks on Iran. There are contradictory signals. Washington has told Arab Gulf states to prepare for a short, intense campaign, whereas

JD Vance is engaging with senior Iranian figures, including Mohsen Rezaei, in an effort to revive negotiations.

For India, the elections carry significant stakes across immigration, trade and geopolitics. Despite the turbulence of the past year, the underlying strategic logic of the US-India partnership will continue to enjoy bipartisan support in Washington. A Democratic-controlled House — with a friend of India, Sherrod Brown, flipping the Senate seat in Ohio — could give New Delhi additional political avenues to challenge some of the Trump administration's contentious measures. A Democratic Congress may not necessarily be more sympathetic to Indian trade interests, but it could complicate Trump's ability to use tariffs indiscriminately.

The midterm lection results mark the beginning of the end of Trump's presidency. But the process will be drawn out over the next two years. With his room for manoeuvre significantly reduced domestically, he is likely to lash out abroad. India must be prepared to deal with a more difficult and erratic Trump. It remains to be seen whether American institutions can impose meaningful constraints on his excesses.

US voters repudiate Trump, but presidency holds several strings

Democrats must now show that control of Congress can deliver effective governance rather than legislative deadlock.

American voters have overwhelmingly reprimanded President Donald Trump. By wresting back control of both chambers of US Congress, Democrats have shifted the balance of power in Washington, gaining the authority to challenge Trump's agenda, scrutinise his administration and intensify oversight during the final two years of his presidency.The scale of the Republican setback is striking. Democratic victories in traditionally Republican states like Texas, Kansas, Ohio and South Carolina reflect massive erosion of Trump's electoral coalition. Losses for several Trump-backed candidates raise questions about the reach of the President's influence beyond his core base. Historic milestones, including Abdul El-Sayed becoming the first Muslim elected to the Senate, Keisha Lance Bottoms in Georgia becoming the first Black woman to be elected governor, and Gina Hinojosa becoming Texas's first Latina governor reflect shifts in representation.Control of Congress gives Democrats command over federal spending and committees. Trump administration will face tougher scrutiny, particularly over deportations, trade and military engagements. Yet, electoral defeat should not be confused with Executive disempowerment. American presidents retain considerable autonomy over foreign policy and military operations. A 'lame-duck' president in the second half of his second term could become even



more unpredictable.The ongoing wars will provide the first major tests. Trump's suggestion of a possible major strike against Iran raises concerns about escalation, regional instability and energy security. Democrats are likely to challenge the administration's war powers and demand accountability. On Ukraine, congressional resistance could complicate funding and constrain any attempt to push Kyiv towards a settlement favourable to Moscow. Europe may have to shoulder more responsibility, although it cannot replace critical American military and intelligence capabilities.

For India, the implications can be immediate. A political tussle can affect New Delhi's core interests—defence cooperation, Indo-Pacific security, technology partnerships and trade. An Iran escalation threatens energy supplies, maritime routes and India's substantial interests in West Asia. Meanwhile, any shift in US support for Ukraine could alter Russia's strategic calculations, adding to the diplomatic challenges India faces in maintaining its relationships with both Moscow and Washington.The election marks a significant shift, but does not necessarily alter the presidency's hold on foreign policy. That said, Democrats must now show that control of Congress can deliver effective governance rather than legislative deadlock, while Republicans face the task of reassessing their political future beyond Trump.

When the precision of naming adds to the novelty of seeing

For a Carnatic musician to carry Tiruvarur in his name can only be likened to an archaeologist bearing Rome in hers.

My reflections on place names a fortnight ago occasioned some delightful responses, mainly pertaining to musicians' names. My wife reminded me of one such name connected to Carnatic music. I should have remembered it for its sheer novelty: 'Cleveland' Sundaram (born 1945), though hailing from what Google describes as 'a selection-grade panchayat town' in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district, lives in that city in Ohio, US. Cleveland cleaves to Sundaram even as he goes about organising Carnatic concerts by visiting musicians, something he has been doing for years now.I also realised that when I mentioned M S Subbulakshmi and M L Vasanthakumari for their place-names—Madurai and Madras, respectively—I should not have left out Damal Krishnaswamy Pattammal (1919-2009). Having heard her in person and from records for decades, and having been quite captivated by the gravitas of her repertory and purity of her renderings, I had no business forgetting to mention Damal, the village in Kancheepuram that is part of her name. I have had the great good fortune of being shown her ancestral dwelling in Damal by none other than two musicians of stature—the spiritually inspired and inspiring vocalist Vidvan N Vijay Siva (born 1967) and the violinist of most delicate fluency, Sangita Kalanidhi R K Shriramkumar (born 1966).

Even as I write this, her singing of 'Shanti nilavu vendum', the great composition of Namakkal V Ramalingam Pillai (1888-1972), comes alive in my memory's auditorium. And I realise that Namakkal, the Salem town famed for its temple to Hanuman, keeps up the place-name tradition in Ramalingam Pillai, who could also be called 'Vedaranyam' V Ramalingam Pillai for his celebrated part in the great satyagrahic march—singing along the way—to that seaside salt marsh to break the salt law in 1930.Another chance felicity, the 'R' in R K Shriramkumar, whom I just mentioned, is from musically-renowned Rudrapatna in



the Hassan district of Karnataka. Of the same generation is Sangita Kalanidhi 'Bombay' Jayshree who, though born in Calcutta, spent her self-defining time in the city that is now inalienably part of her name. Sangita Kalanidhi Thodur Madabusi Krishna (born 1976) owes the first part of his three-part name to the village Thodur, also in Kancheepuram district.

Other conferees of the Sangita Kalanidhi in recent times whose names are drawn from places include the mridangam maestro Tiruvarur Bakthavathsalam (born 1956), whose place of birth Tiruvarur is altogether unique in Carnatic lore as the birthplace of the 18th century 'trinity'—Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri. For a Carnatic musician to carry Tiruvarur in his name can only be likened to an archaeologist bearing Rome in hers.

If there is a place name that a great writer is known by it is Thakazhi. Awash by the backwaters in Kerala's Alappuzha district, Thakazhi is inseparable from Sivasankara Pillai (1912-1999), the great Malayalam novelist from there.If Neyveli in Tamil Nadu is known for something other than lignite, it is for the celebrated vocalist who bears its name—Neyveli Santhanagopalan (born 1963). The legendary violinist A Kanyakumari arrived in this world in Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh in the year that state was formed—1953. So her name has to have come from either the goddess of that name or from the southernmost tip of mainland India. But there is no denying that her given name immediately brings to mind the place once known as Cape Comorin.

Vizianagaram gives me cause now to move from Carnatic music to cricket. If there is one person whose long name—Pusapati Vijaya Ananda Gajapathi Raju (1906-1965)—would mean little if anything to most, but whose popular name has 'household' status, at least in cricketing circles, it is that of 'Vizzy'. Derived, needless to say, from the princely state he was Maharajkumar of, Vizzy was more than a name. However, not all of the associated legend and lore did the owner of the name credit.Vizzy had cricket written all over him, but cricket did not have Vizzy all over it. Wealthy and motivated enough to be a great sponsor of the game, he could not get those assets to help him as a cricketer on the turf. Even less as a cricket commentator. A lack that reportedly led Rohan Kanhai to say—when told of Vizzy's other 'skill' of hunting tigers, with a stated score of 300—to say he must have left the transistor on for the tigers to die of boredom. But we are concerned here with the place name that made him the Vizzy the world knows.

Curiously, while his peer and in many ways his rival, Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of Patiala (reign: 1900-1938), was also better known simply as Patiala, the greatest of all princes in cricket, Maharaja Ranjitsinhji of Nawanagar (1872-1933), was known in his lifetime and has been ever since, as Ranji, not Nawanagar. But assuming Patiala and Nawanagar were to be abbreviated, Vizzy-like, into a two-syllabled name, would the great Sikh have been Patty? No, no! And Nawanagar Navvy? Most certainly not. If no one else, their subjects would have protested.I conclude with a historic place name of Buddhist salience that the Marxist historiographer, mathematician, Sanskritist and philosopher D D Kosambi's (1907-1966) father incorporated into his surname. The place is situated in what was part of the Mauryan empire; Emperor Ashoka had a famous edict installed there known for its frown on schismatics. Ram Ramaswamy, in his just-out gripping biography of DDK, brings vividly to life the career of the great owner of that great place name.



Diwali Festival In India



Diwali is by far the most glamorous and important. Enthusiastically enjoyed by people of every religion, its magical and radiant touch creates an atmosphere of joy and festivity.

The ancient story of how Diwali evolved into such a widely celebrated festival is different in various regions and states of India. In the north, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar and the surrounding areas, Diwali is the day when King Rama's coronation was celebrated in Ayodhya after his epic war with Ravana, the demon king of Lanka. By order of the royal families of Ayodhya and Mithila, the kingdom of which Sita was princess, the cities and far-flung boundaries of these kingdoms were lit up with rows of lamps, glittering on dark nights to welcome home the divine king Rama and his queen Sita after 14 years of exile, ending with an across-the-seas war in which the whole of the kingdom of Lanka was destroyed.

On the day of Diwali festival, doorways are hung with torans of mango leaves and marigolds. Rangolis are drawn with different colored powders to welcome guests. The traditional motifs are often linked with auspicious symbols of good luck. Oil diyas are arranged in and around the house. Because of these flickering lamps, the festival has acquired its name : Dipawali or Diwali meaning 'a rows of lamps'. On this day, people buy something for the house or some jewelry for the women of the house. It is auspicious to be buy something metallic, such as silver.

Whatever may be the fables and legends behind the celebrations of Diwali, all people exchange sweets, wear new clothes and buy jewelry at this festive time. Card parties are held in many homes. Diwali has become commercialized as the biggest annual consumer spree because every family shops for sweets, gifts and fireworks. However, in all this frenzy of shopping and eating, the steady, burning lamp is a constant symbol of an illuminated mind.

"Diwali", the festival of lights, illuminates the darkness of the New Year's moon, and strengthens our close friendships and knowledge, with a self-realization!

Diwali is celebrated on a nation-wide scale on Amavasya - the 15th day of the dark fortnight of the Hindu month of Ashwin, (October/November) every year. It symbolizes that age-old culture of India which teaches to vanquish ignorance that subdues humanity and to drive away darkness that engulfs the light of knowledge. Diwali, the festival of lights even to-day in this modern world projects the rich and glorious past of India.



Every year on the dark nights of Diwali the sound of firecrackers announces the celebration of the favorite festival of Indians. Homes are decorated, sweets are distributed by everyone and thousands of lamps are lit to create a world of fantasy. Of all the festivals celebrated in India,

Diwali Pooja

Thali Decorations



Innovative and attractive craft items, beautifully decorated pooja thalis are meant both for the home and for gift giving. Pretty pooja thalis are specially decorated for the festive season of Diwali. Available in lovely shapes, these Diwali Pooja `Thalis' make for pretty festive gifts. The range is wide, the price varies with the commodity and the quality is to be vouched for. Creativity, innovation and decoration is the key for such business ventures.

Embellished with beautiful designs these pooja thalis helps one perform Dipawali Pooja with great style and grandeur. The Diwali Pooja Thali contains all the essential accessories for a pooja, a bell, small katauri, a matka, a om coin and a leaf shaped tiny box to hold roli chawal. Idols of ganesh and laxmi, the great deities associated with wealth and prosperity, are also included in the set.

Pooja thali come in different shapes and sizes with varied decorated motifs such as floral and animals like elephant, and can be crafted in a wide range of metals from brass to silver and gold.

Diwali Recipes

Besan ki Barfi

Ingredients

Besan 1 kg
Sugar 1 kg
Water 1/2 liter
Ghee 1 kg
For garnishing: Pistas, Almonds



Preparation :
1. Fry besan in ghee on low flame for about 30 mins till it becomes pink and ghee separates.
2. Mix sugar and water into a syrup. 3. Add this syrup to the besan and mix well. 4. Pour this mixture into a greased tray. 5. When it cools cut into cubes and garnish with pistas and almonds .

Mushrooms in Onion Gravy

Ingredients : 200 gm Mushrooms 3 Onions 2 Tomatoes, finely chopped or pureed 3 Green chillies, finely chopped Coriander leaves Salt as per taste Red chili powder as per taste A pinch of garam masala powder A pinch of cardamom powder Oil

Preparation : 1. Slice mushrooms, boil them and keep aside. 2. Make a paste of the onions. 3. Heat oil in a wok and add the onion paste; cook till the paste turns golden brown. 4. Add the tomatoes, green chilies, salt and red chilli powder. 5. Cook the tomatoes till the gravy leaves the sides of the wok. 6. Add water if required. 7. Add the mushrooms and cook for a while. 8. Season with garam masala powder, cardamom powder and coriander leaves.



Malpua

Ingredients:
1/2 kg maida.
750 gm sugar.
1/2 ltr.milk.
1 cup grated coconut.
6 bananas.
25gm dry fruits.
5-6 ilaichi.
1 ltr. Refined oil.
Process

1 Boil the milk and stir it till it becomes thick. Then cool it.
2 In the milk add maida, sugar, dryfruits , coconut and ilaichi powder .Stir it till it becomes a paste.
3 Make banana paste and add it into the maida paste.
4 Hot oil in a pan. Make round shaped balls of the paste.
5 F ry these till they turn red.

GUJIA

Ingredients : Flour 250 grams Khoya 500 grams Raisins a few Almonds 100 grams (finely chopped) Cooking oil 3 tablespoon Water 100 ml Sugar 250 grams

Preparation : Mix the oil and flour properly to form a binding consistency of breadcrumbs. Add some water and knead lightly the entire mixture. Make it soft dough and set it aside with a damp cloth covering it. Fry the khoya in cooking oil till it becomes light brown and then mix the sugar in it properly. Add the almonds and raisins, and fry for a few more minutes. Remove from fire and let it cool. Make small thick chapattis out of that kneaded dough. Fill half of the chapatti with the khoya mixture and, rolling it, seal the sides of the chapatti keeping the khoya inside it. Make the sealing look decorated by giving a look of hemming. Deep-fry these gujias until it becomes light golden brown, keeping the flame at low. Take out the gujias on a newspaper and let the oil get soaked. Serve hot or store it in an airtight container for using it on that special day.

Diwali

Puja Process



Diwali is the festival of Laxmi, the Goddess of prosperity and wealth. It is believed that Goddess Laxmi visit everyone during Diwali and brings peace and prosperity to all. On the night of Diwali "Lakshmi-Pujan" is performed in the evenings. A traditional Pujan is performed after sunset in all the homes.

Five pieces of ghee diyas (lamps) are lit in front of the deities, naivedya of traditional sweets is offered to the Goddess and devotional songs are sung in praise of Goddess Laxmi. After Deepawali Puja people light diyas (lamps) in their homes to usher in light and clear the darkness from the world.

In villages cattle are adorned and worshipped by farmers as they form the main source of their income. In south, cows are offered special veneration as they are supposed to be the incarnation of Goddess Lakshmi and therefore they are adorned and worshipped on this day.



Step By Step Diwali Pujan:

First clean the Puja room and then Bathe each Deity (Lakshmi & Ganesh) first with water, then with panchamitra/or rose water, followed by water once more

Now put Deepak (Lamp) in front of the Deities - As the tiny diyas of clay are lighted to drive away the shadows of evil spirits

Make a Panchamitra with 5 ingredients of milk, curd, ghee (clarified butter), sugar & Honey.

Place Few mithais, snacks & fruits as a prashad.

Make offerings of flowers, Abir (red colour), Sindoor (vermillion) and Haldi (turmeric). Light the Agarbatti (incense sticks) and lamps filled with Ghee.

Now make offerings of Fruit, Sweet dishes (mithai), Salty snacks (Mathis, Ghathia, Namakpare) and offer Dakshina (token money), which could be given to the poor. In the end offer paan (betel leaves), cloves. Now pray to the deities to seek their blessings.

Ganesh Pooja : Ganesh Puja is a must for deepavali Puja. (Lord Ganesha is to be worshipped in all pujas before any other God or Goddess.) (Ganesh Aarti is sung)

Laxmi Pooja : Place Lotus and other flowers at her feet as an offering. A silver coin is placed in front of the Goddess during the puja. Now perform Aarti with flowers in hand (Lakshmi Aarti is sung). After Deepawali Pujan have the Prasad and go out to burst Diwali Crackers.

CMYK

Less fried food, more protein: What's on the menu at Delhi's Diwali parties

Delhi.(Agency)

On October 18, Sugandha Wadhwa, 35, hosted her annual Diwali party for school friends — a tradition she has kept up for the past six years.But over the years, she had begun noticing a change. No matter how elaborate the spread, her guests would arrive with full stomachs, leaving little room for the food she had lovingly put together.

Wadhwa, a resident of Delhi's Paschim Vihar, says, "I used to wonder where I was going wrong. But later I understood that everyone is now very mindful of their diet."The change was reflected in this year's menu. Last year, the table had been laden with an elaborate platter of garlic bread, pizza, Italian dishes and deep-fried Indian snacks. This time, her menu read, "Carry your healthy spree."With friends flying in from Australia and the US, Wadhwa laid out a spread of oatmeal bowls, smoothies and salads, including grilled chicken, chickpea and Mexican varieties.Wadhwa is not alone. Across Delhi, people in the 25-40 age group are increasingly opting for healthier, protein-rich spreads at their parties this festive season, unwilling to set aside their dietary preferences even for a celebration.

According to Akshat, founder of COOX, a home-based chef service platform, customers asking for clean, healthy food prompted the company to introduce a 'healthy mode' feature on its app."People are very experimental with food and have become cautious about sugary and high-calorie options. Earlier, they would miss out on dishes such as watermelon feta salad and watercress salad," he said.While only around 10% of customers currently opt for healthier food, he said, the proportion is gradually growing.

MCD proposes 14 multilevel parking projects

Delhi.(Agency)

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has proposed 14 multilevel parking projects across six districts, with a combined capacity of 6,052 vehicles, as part of its plan to expand organised parking infrastructure in the national capital, officials said on Friday.The proposed projects are spread across Central, Central North, West, North East, East and Old Delhi districts, with three facilities each planned in the first four districts and one each in East and Old Delhi. The largest, with a capacity of 2,142 vehicles, is proposed at Nabi Karim on Idgah Road. At the same time, the other projects include facilities in busy commercial and residential areas such as Karol Bagh, Pitampura, Shalimar Bagh, Janakpuri and Preet Vihar.The proposals come at a time when parking availability and roadside space management remain persistent challenges in several parts of the city, particularly in densely populated neighbourhoods and commercial hubs where vehicles compete for limited space.According to data, of the 14 projects, Central North has the highest number of proposed parking spaces after Old Delhi, with three facilities having a combined capacity of 1,277 equivalent car spaces (ECS). These include a 400-ECS puzzle parking facility in Pitampura, a 187-ECS multilevel shuttle/puzzle facility in Shalimar Bagh and a 690-ECS multilevel car parking at Rani Bagh.

Three projects in North East district, at Nand Nagri, Babarpur and Shastri Park, will together accommodate 1,057 vehicles. The proposed facility at Shastri Park will have a capacity of 577 ECS and is planned with a basement, stilt floor and four additional floors, officials further said.

3 projects

In West district, three projects with a combined capacity of 576 ECS have been proposed, including puzzle parking facilities at DDU Hospital Community Centre in Hari Nagar and District Centre in Janakpuri

Festive rush causes snarl-ups in capital

Delhi.(Agency)

The rush to buy gold, jewellery, utensils and celebrate with relatives on Dhanteras came at a price for commuters in the national capital on Friday, with, traffic barely moving and roads leading to markets across the city choked with vehicles.Motorists were left stranded



on roads at several locations due to heavy, bumper-to-bumper traffic, resulting in long delays and inconvenience.Amit Singh, a resident of Pitampura, said that the whole central Delhi was choked. "I left my office around 6.30 pm and initially got stuck in a massive traffic jam on Shankar Road, a stretch that usually witnesses relatively smooth traffic.The situation worsened as I moved towards Patel Nagar and Shadipur, where roads were choked with vehicles," he further rued. Commuters were seen incessantly honking and trying to squeeze through whatever little space was available, adding to the chaos. The traffic situation was similar in Peeragarhi and Old Rohtak Road, where vehicular movement was severely affected, Singh added.Heavy traffic was also witnessed in the Sardar Patel Marg area near ITO. Similarly, there was dense traffic near the Ghazipur border on the Delhi–Meerut Expressway. The congestion brought vehicular movement to a near standstill, with vehicles crawling at a snail's pace and long queues stretching across major roads.From major flyovers and arterial roads to busy intersections and bustling commercial hubs, traffic congestion was reported at prominent locations.In south Delhi, the Ghitorni market witnessed heavy traffic as shoppers flocked to the area for festive purchases. Similar congestion was reported on the stretch from the IIT flyover to SDA Market, as well as on the road near Saket Metro Station towards Maidan Garhi. Further, a blaze that erupted in a car showroom in the MB Road area of Saidulajab near the Saket metro station, which affected traffic flow there.Snarl-ups were also reported at Anuvrat Marg, Lala Lajpat Rai Marg, and adjoining arterial roads. The stretch opposite Bharat Mandapam also experienced traffic snarls, with commuters facing difficulties navigating through the rush.

Traffic police personnel were deployed to regulate vehicular movement. They also requested motorists to remain patient, and follow diversion signs and traffic directions.

78 lakh metro passenger journeys recorded in a day

According to the DMRC, metro ridership has remained high over the past few days. On Thursday, a total of 78.2 lakh passenger journeys were recorded across the network. The ridership figures for the preceding days were also high, with 80.54 lakh passengers recorded on Monday, 78.47 lakh on Tuesday and 79.22 lakh logged on Wednesday.

Rescue workers retrieve third body from Delhi building collapse site

Delhi.(Agency)

Rescue workers retrieve third body from the debris of Delhi's Chawri Bazar building collapse site on Saturday taking the total death toll to 3, said police.The deceased, identified as Pankaj Sharma (40), was a resident of Khagaria district of Bihar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Rohit Rajbir Singh said.As of today, five persons have been rescued and recovered from the debris, including three deceased persons and two injured persons.The injured have been identified as Sahdev Chaudhary (25) and Firoz (37), also residents of Mandawali underwent medical treatment, are stable and out of danger. The other two deceased victims are identified as Kishori (40) and Sanjeet (45) are also residents of Mandawali.In connection to the incident the



police have arrested three contractors Siraj, Tajuddin, and Furkan all residents of Delhi's Ajmeri Gate, from Sirohi village in Haryana's Faridabad district. They were booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), a senior officer said.The under-construction building collapsed at around 9.48 A.M on November 5, Thursday in Gali Sheesh Mahal, near Chawri Bazar Metro station.A joint team of the Delhi Police, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Delhi Fire Services (DFS) and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was launched the rescue operation.

Supreme Court says compulsory retirement does not imply employee misconduct

The Supreme Court upheld Chhattisgarh's compulsory retirement of five government employees. The ruling clarifies that such action is non-punitive when supported by objective service records.

Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court has ruled that compulsory retirement is neither a punishment nor a stigma and does not amount to a finding of misconduct against an employee, news agency Press Trust of India reported.A bench of Justices Manmohan and Shree Chandrashekhar made the observation while upholding the Chhattisgarh government's decision to compulsorily retire five of 14 employees. It said such a decision is based on the competent authority's assessment that retaining an employee is no longer in the public interest."An order of compulsory retirement is neither punitive nor stigmatic in character. Such an order does not cast any aspersion upon the conduct of the employee nor does it imply any finding of misconduct," the bench said.The court said the executive has the authority to assess whether an officer is no longer useful to the administration or whether the officer's continuation would harm administrative efficiency. However, the assessment cannot be based on conjecture or whim and must rely on objective and relevant material on record.On Friday, the Supreme Court upheld the Chhattisgarh High Court's April 12, 2023, order affirming a single-judge bench's decision on the state government's 2017 circular under which the employees were compulsorily retired, PTI reported. It rejected their argument that other similarly placed employees had not been retired."An employee cannot successfully assail an order of compulsory retirement merely by contending that another officer possessing a comparable service record was not subjected to similar action," the court said. It added that an employee's usefulness, integrity, efficiency and overall service record must be assessed individually by the competent



authority.The bench said action against one employee cannot be held unconstitutional or discriminatory merely because another similarly placed employee was not subjected to the same action.

Referring to the right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution, the court said an illegality or omission that benefited one person cannot be used as grounds for extending the same benefit to another. "If a wrong has been committed in an earlier case, it cannot be relied upon to perpetuate a similar wrong in subsequent cases," it said.The court said that when the government prescribes norms or criteria for exercising such powers, judicial review is limited to examining whether those standards were followed. A compulsory retirement order must be supported by relevant material, including annual confidential reports, integrity assessments, performance evaluations and other service records concerning.

'Labour toh sab chali gayi': Inside Delhi's drive to stop construction amid pollution

Delhi.(Agency)

Around 2 pm on Thursday, a white Swift Dzire stopped outside a construction site in East Delhi's Laxmi Nagar. Three officials wearing masks stepped out.They were greeted by a blue hoarding with a handwritten message "Kaam band hai (Work has stopped)" hanging at the entrance. The team entered the premises and found construction material covered with green netting, and a few plastic cement sacks that had been left open.Noticing them, the MCD official asked a security guard, who lived there with his family, "Yeh khula kyun hai? (Why has this been left open?)". The guard immediately covered the sacks with the net.He said no construction work had been taking place here since November 1. "Koi labour ab nahi hai, sab chali gayi. Pata nahi kab aayenge aur malik kab bulayega (There are no workers now; they have all left. I don't know when they will return or when the owner will call them back)," he said.



The officials were part of a joint enforcement team tasked with inspecting construction sites in Gandhi Nagar and adjoining areas. "Today, we have to cover parts of Laxmi Nagar and Geeta Colony," said a Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) official, who was an assistant sub-inspector-rank officer.Citing historically observed peak pollution levels in November, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in Delhi and adjoining areas ordered a 15-day ban on dust-generating demolition and outdoor construction activities across the region from November 5.

Meanwhile, as part of the Delhi government's winter action plan, which came into effect on November 1, outdoor construction activities and dust-generating demolition work have been prohibited, except for essential public infrastructure projects, till January 31.To track on-ground compliance, joint enforcement teams have been constituted by the government to inspect construction and demolition (C&D) sites, issue on-the-spot fines and track illegal dumping of construction waste.Across Delhi, fines exceeding Rs 1.5 crore were imposed over five days for violations including driving without a valid Pollution Under Control Certificate and flouting the construction ban.

Kalkaji gangrape: Police to file chargesheet with 60 witness statements

The chargesheet will include statements of about 60 witnesses, including the victim and her friend, and 50 important documents. The chargesheet has operative part of 70 pages.

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi Police is likely to submit a chargesheet of more than 500 pages in connection with of the September 21 gangrape of a 17-year-old girl at Aastha Kunj Park in southeast Delhi's Kalkaji within a week against three accused persons.According to the police sources, they have strong chain of evidence, including footage from over 300 CCTV cameras, forensic investigation reports, witness statements and documents related to the identification parade as crucial evidence. The chargesheet will include statements of about 60 witnesses, including the victim and her friend, and 50 important documents. The chargesheet has operative part of 70 pages.As part of the investigation, footage from more than 300 CCTV cameras in and around the park has been examined. The investigators have also collected scientific and forensic evidence, including samples lifted from the crime scene by the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL). The clothes worn by the accused and the judicial test identification parade (TIP) proceedings have also been included as part of the evidence.Further, the mobile phones of the accused have been sent for forensic examination. Investigators found that the accused had deleted their chat histories, and efforts are underway to retrieve the relevant digital evidence, they said.

Footage from 300 cameras scrutinised



As part of the investigation, footage from more than 300 CCTV cameras in and around the park has been examined. The investigators have also collected scientific and forensic evidence, including samples lifted from the crime scene by the Central Forensic Science Laboratory

Canada to grant permanent residency to 200,000 temporary residents by 2027

New Delhi. (Agency)

Prime Minister Mark Carney's government plans to transition up to 200,000 temporary residents to permanent residency by the end of 2027, in addition to its annual immigration target.

The Canadian government's immigration levels plan maintained its annual targets for temporary and permanent residents at 370,000 and 380,000 respectively through 2029. But a one-time measure will also grant permanent residency to some individuals who are already living in the country on a temporary basis. Canada's non-permanent resident population ballooned after the Covid-19 pandemic as the government relaxed rules for international student and temporary worker visas, reaching nearly 3 million people in October 2024. The surge of newcomers strained housing and services and prompted a public backlash.

Canada also welcomed large numbers of Ukrainian refugees after Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022.The federal government has since tightened rules and pledged to reduce the share of non-permanent residents to 5% of the population by the end of next year.

As of July 1, the number of non-permanent residents in Canada had dropped to less than 2.8 million, representing 6.7% of the population.

The effort to move temporary residents to PR status will be divided equally into two streams, one focused on workers and the other on people who are in Canada for humanitarian reasons.

Carney said the individuals who will qualify have effectively already been permanent residents of their communities, whether they're temporary workers or Ukrainians who have been here for years.

Noel Tata to step down as Voltas chairman, appointed Chairman Emeritus

New Delhi. (Agency)

Noel N Tata, Chairman of Tata Trusts, has been appointed as Chairman Emeritus of Voltas, a day after he retired as Chairman and Director of the leading cooling products maker.Noel Tata will retire as Chairman and Director of Voltas Ltd on November 11, 2026, upon attaining the age of superannuation under Tata Group governance guidelines.Following his retirement, "the Board has appointed him as Chairman Emeritus of the Company with effect from November 12, 2026," said Voltas, a Tata Group firm, in its regulatory filing.The Companies Act 2013 mandates that any managing director or whole-time director cannot be appointed or continue employment if they are 70 years of age or older..Noel Tata, who was born on November 12, 1956, will turn 70 on November 12, 2026. He has been associated with Voltas since 2003.Additionally, the board has appointed Sunil D'Souza as the new Chairman of Voltas.

D'Souza currently leads the Tata Group's FMCG arm, Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL), as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. The company sells a wide range of consumer products, including salt, tea, coffee, packaged foods and beverages under brands such as Tata Salt, Tata Tea, Tetley and Tata Sampann."The Board has appointed Sunil Alaric D'Souza as Chairman of the Company with effect from November 12, 2026," Voltas said.

India's forex reserves dip by $2.69 billion: What's behind the decline

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's foreign exchange reserves took a hit in the week ended October 30, falling by $2.691 billion to $717.056 billion, according to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.The decline was largely driven by a drop in two key components of the country's reserves, foreign currency assets and gold holdings, which together make up the bulk of the forex kitty.While foreign currency assets and gold reserves fell, India's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recorded a marginal increase.Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), meanwhile, also saw a decline during the week.

Foreign currency assets, the biggest part of India's foreign exchange reserves, declined by $2.088 billion to $591.118 billion during the reporting week.Gold reserves also fell by $559 million, taking their value to $102.591 billion.The decline was not limited to these two components. India's SDR holdings, which are reserve assets allocated by the IMF, dropped by $47 million to $18.558 billion.However, the country's reserve position with the IMF increased by $3 million to $4.790 billion.The fall in reserves was also visible in their rupee value. India's total foreign exchange reserves stood at Rs 68.09 lakh crore as of October 30, marking a decline of Rs 24,777 crore from the previous week.Despite the latest weekly decline, India's foreign exchange reserves remain higher than their levels at the end of March 2026.

Since the end of March, the country's reserves have increased by $25.949 billion. In rupee terms, the increase during this period stood at Rs 2.55 lakh crore.A year-on-year comparison shows that India's foreign exchange reserves have increased by $27.324 billion, or Rs 6.86 lakh crore.

Rupee sees biggest single-day gain since Oct 12, up 56 paise at 93.88

Rupee turned into the best performing currency Asia for the week

New Delhi. (Agency)

Rupee gained 56 paise on Friday to close below 94, its biggest single-day gain since October 12. The local currency rallied 1.2%, buoyed by return of foreign investors to domestic equities and a near 20% fall in crude prices. RBI's dollar purchases around 93.88 limited further gains on Friday.Rupee turned into the best performing currency Asia for the week.

The currency also touched a six-month high during the session, taking its weekly gains to nearly 1.2% and making it the best Asian currencies. A softer dollar and easing concerns over import cost also supported investor sentiments, said traders who also attributed the seven days of equity markets surge as another contributing factor.At the interbank foreign exchange market, rupee opened at 94.50 and touched an intraday high of 93.82 and a low of 94.50 and closed the session at 93.88 registering a gain of 56 paise.Dilip Parmar, research analyst at HDFC Securities, told TNIE that rupee outpaced all Asian peers, scoring its biggest single-day surge since October 12 to hit a six-month peak.

"Fueled by heavy foreign inflows and sliding crude prices, market sentiment went into overdrive amid a parabolic rally in domestic equities sparked by the buzz around the 'anti-AI' trade and ease of geopolitical uncertainties. In the near term, spot rupee-dollar pair is expected to head south with support at 93.50 and resistance ticking in at 94.30."Meanwhile, the RBI rupee defence has the foreign reserves dropping for the eighth week in a row. For the week to October 30, the reserves declined by $2.69 billion to a low $717 billion. In the previous week, the forex kitty had come down by $1.269 billion.The reserves had touched an all-time high of $785.706 billion in the week to September 4, driven by a heavy flow of currency as part of a



special concessional swap for deposits from the diaspora through which banks raised a record $133 billion, but have been on a decline ever since and have lost as much as $68.7 billi0n since then.

The rupee has now recovered to levels last seen around October 12, when RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra said markets are overly pessimistic about the rupee and reiterated his optimism about the medium- and long-term balance of payments position of the country.

Dealers said foreign banks were seen selling dollars on behalf of foreign portfolio investors, adding to the upward momentum. However, the Reserve Bank was also seen buying dollars around the 93.88 level, checking further appreciationThe rupee emerged as the best-performing Asian currency on the day, appreciating 0.6% against the dollar and outperforming all its regional peers. On a year-to-date basis, however, it is still down 4.3%, while its one-year performance reflects a decline of 5.6%. The currency has gained 0.96% far in the current financial year..

US market suffers biggest weekly decline since April 2025 amid AI concerns

New Delhi. (Agency)

US stocks suffered their biggest weekly decline since April 2025 as investor concerns over artificial intelligence-related investments heightened after the Democratic sweep in the US midterm elections due to possible policy shifts.

The election result triggered sharp losses for technology shares, and the S&P 500 fell 2.7 per cent for the week despite a 0.3 per cent gain on Friday.Though the Nasda 100 rose 1.35 per cent in the final session of the week, it remained 4.91 per cent down for the week due to the steep selloff a day earlier marking the biggest one-day rout since the Covid pandemic. Markets initially rallied after the election results, with technology megacaps leading gains, but sentiment reversed sharply on Thursday.Technology stocks plunged as worries mounted that opposition to data centres and possible regulatory changes could



slow growth prospects for chipmakers and suppliers linked to the AI ecosystem, according to multiple reports.Market volatility surged, with the CBOE Volatility Index posting its largest increase since April 2025 as investors sought protection against further declines.The rout intensified after hedge funds and long-only managers started selling, along with quantitative firms trying to profit from market volatility.

The Thursday selloff erased roughly $3 trillion in market value from S&P 500 companies and the weakness spread quickly to Asia where technology-heavy markets recorded some of the region's steepest losses in recent years.South Kore's KOSPI index fell more than 8 per cent which triggered a trading halt before recovering slightly after the market reopened. Similarly, another major index, Japan's Nikkei, dropped around 6 per cent while Taiwan's benchmark index also declined by over 8 per cent.In terms of particular stocks, major semiconductor and AI-linked companies led the losses as Samsung Electronics declined nearly 10 per cent and SK Hynix slid almost 12 per cent.

Why new LNG projects may not prevent a global gas crunch this winter

New Delhi. (Agency)

Global natural gas supplies could tighten further during the 2026–27 winter heating season as disruptions to shipments through the Strait of Hormuz continue to affect the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) market, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has warned.

In its report, the IEA described the disruption as an unprecedented supply shock, noting that LNG loadings from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates declined by 60 billion cubic metres (bcm) year-on-year between March and October 2026.This contributed to a 5 per cent, or 20 bcm, fall in global LNG output, as additional supplies from new projects only partly offset reduced deliveries from the Persian Gulf, according to news agency ANI.

With transit through the Strait of Hormuz remaining severely restricted in late October, the agency warned that the disruption could continue to weigh on global gas supplies during the winter months."The disruption of LNG flows through the Strait of Hormuz creates unprecedented uncertainty for the global LNG market ahead of the 2026/27 winter," the report said.It added that "the supply shock looks set to keep imposing tighter market conditions during the northern hemisphere winter, even as supply from new liquefaction plants around the globe continues to grow."Depending on how quickly LNG shipments through the Strait of Hormuz recover, global LNG supply could decline by 10–25 bcm year-on-year between November and March, the IEA said.

New LNG projects unlikely to offset Persian Gulf losses

The scope for increasing pipeline gas supplies remains limited, as long-distance pipelines generally operate close to their designed capacity. This restricts their ability to compensate for shortages in LNG deliveries.

North American exporters are expected to drive LNG supply growth during the winter, supported by expanding projects in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

CBI FIR against Future Retail, Biyani brothers over alleged Rs 2,236 crore loan fraud

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Bank Securities and Fraud Branch, Mumbai, registered an FIR (RC0772026E0011) on November 4, 2026, against M/s Future Retail Limited (FRL), its promoter-directors Kishore Laxminarayan Biyani and Rakesh Gopikishan Biyani, and unknown public servants and others. The FIR follows an October 9, 2026 complaint by Jyoti Kumar, Deputy General Manager at State Bank of India (SBI) Stressed Assets Management Branch-III.

The CBI has invoked IPC Section 120-B read with 420 (criminal conspiracy and cheating) and Sections 13(2) read with 13(1)(d) and 13(1)(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The case, assigned to Inspector Gaurav C. Kamble under SP Sandeep Chaudhary, pertains to an alleged wrongful principal loss of Rs 904.32 crore to SBI. The amount rises to Rs 2,236.23 crore when Rs 1,331.91 crore in notional interest is added, as of the March 23, 2026 fraud declaration date.

From Retail Titan to Insolvency

Founded by Kishore Biyani, the Future Group operated flagship chains under Future Retail Limited including Big Bazaar, Fashion @ Big Bazaar, Foodhall, Hypercity, Easy day, Heritage, WH Smith, and e-zone, alongside wider group formats Food Bazaar, Central, and Brand Factory. Banking with SBI since February 2007 (including a Rs 261.00 crore exposure merged from erstwhile State Bank of Travancore / e-SBT), FRL availed working capital via a nine-bank consortium led by Bank of India and term loans under a Multiple Banking Arrangement.

When COVID-19 hit and talks with Amazon stalled, Future Group inked a Rs 24,713 crore scheme of arrangement with the Reliance Group in August 2020. However, Amazon secured interim arbitration relief at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre in October 2020, tying up the deal across judicial forums until lenders rejected it on April 21, 2022. After a One Time Restructuring failed and Reliance entities (RPPMSL) took over 835 of FRL's 1,209 stores on February 25, 2022 following sublease terminations, FRL was retrospectively classified as an NPA effective April 26, 2021. Admitted into CIRP at the NCLT on July 20, 2022 on a plea by Bank of India, FRL was joined in NPA and CIRP status by four sister firms banking with SBI: Future Enterprises Limited (also FRL's corporate guarantor with a Rs 1,828.27 crore net worth in 2020-21), Future Lifestyle Fashions Limited (separately declared a fraud by SBI on December 5, 2025), Future Consumer Limited, and Future Supply Chain Solutions Limited.

Fall in prices fuels double-digit growth in Dhanteras gold sales

The double-digit growth in sales comes despite gold prices being higher this year than last year

New Delhi. (Agency)

With gold prices correcting by around 13% over the past six months and 5% in the past month, gold sales this Dhanteras are expected to register a 15-20% growth in volume, according to industry players and jewellers."We are witnessing encouraging consumer sentiment this year, with demand improving compared to last year. The recent correction in gold prices has encouraged buyers to return to the market. We expect sales volumes to grow by approximately 20% over last year's Dhanteras, supported by festive



demand and the upcoming wedding season," said Joy Alukkas, Chairman and Managing Director, Joyalukkas Group.

The double-digit growth in sales comes despite gold prices being higher this year than last year. According to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association, 99.9-purity gold was priced at around Rs 1.30 lakh per 10 grams during last Dhanteras, compared with around Rs 1.41 lakh this year. However, the current price is lower than the record high of Rs 1.83 lakh that the metal touched in January this year.

"We are witnessing strong consumer enthusiasm across markets this Dhanteras, with showroom footfalls picking up significantly. The correction in gold prices has certainly provided an added impetus to festive purchases," said Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director, Kalyan Jewellers.According to industry players, purchasing patterns have also changed this year, with consumers from tier-2 and tier-3 cities driving sales. There has also been a shift in jewellery preferences, with consumers increasingly opting for lightweight jewellery and, in some cases, lower-carat gold instead of sticking to 22K gold."We are seeing a clear shift towards lower caratages, particularly 14K and 18K gold, as well as fine silver for festive gifting. Moving to 14K or 18K allows a consumer to get the look and craftsmanship of a festive piece without stretching their household budget. Second, consumers are moving away from buying heavy, locker-bound sets. They are evaluating pieces on cost-per-wear," said Ankur Daga, Co-Founder and CEO, Angara.According to some experts, the government's recent move to halt investments in gold ETFs has also pushed consumers towards physical gold investments, particularly coins and bars. With the wedding season around the corner, the industry expects the momentum to continue beyond Dhanteras. Consumers are making token purchases ahead of weddings.

Telangana to introduce BA in climate change, sustainability from 2027-28

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

The Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) will introduce a specialised undergraduate BA programme in Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Governance from the 2027-28 academic year.Announcing this during the inaugural session of the sixth edition of the Conference of People for Climate Action on Thursday, TGCHE Chairman Prof V Balakista Reddy said the programme would be a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country. It aims to equip students with interdisciplinary knowledge and professional skills to address emerging environmental challenges.The conference was jointly organised by the TGCHE and the Council of Green Revolution in Hyderabad as a curtain-raiser to the 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP31).Addressing the gathering, Balakista Reddy said climate change, global warming, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, pollution and the depletion of natural resources had emerged as major developmental, economic and social challenges.

Telangana to crack down on illegal IVF centres

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

The Telangana government has decided to take stringent action against private in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) centres involved in illegal activities, including unauthorised egg collection and exploitation of couples seeking fertility treatment. Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha on Friday directed officials to permanently cancel the registrations of centres found violating regulations and initiate steps to revoke the medical licences of doctors responsible.During a review meeting with Health Department officials at the TGMSIDC office in Koti, the minister directed officials to shut down private IVF centres linked to the illegal egg collection racket. He also asked them to explore the possibility of permanently cancelling the medical licences of doctors found guilty.The minister said the government had earlier taken action against irregularities at Srushti Fertility Centre and had now identified and apprehended a gang involved in illegal egg collection. He said Health Department officials were coordinating with the police and conducting regular inspections and surveillance to prevent such practices.Emphasising the need to strengthen the implementation of the Surrogacy and Assisted Reproductive Technology.

Farms to tables abroad! Cochin International Airport Ltd 'cooks up' plan

KOCHI.(Agency)

Cochin International Airport Ltd is preparing to house the country's first integrated packhouse for agricultural produce that could give farmers across the state a common facility to access domestic and international markets. The facility is proposed to come up at the airport to collect, sort, grade, process and pack farm produce from different parts of the state before dispatching it to various destinations.A feasibility study for the integrated packhouse-cum-logistics park has been completed. Cold-chain facilities will help preserve perishable goods during storage and transit. The plan is part of CIAL's move to expand its cargo operations beyond freight handling.

The proposed packhouse is among the major projects under CIAL's Cargo Vision 2030 that aims to turn Kochi into a logistics hub connecting air cargo with seaports, railways, roads and inland waterways.The idea is to make it easier for farmers to bring their produce to one location where it can be prepared for markets. Instead of depending on fragmented collection and packing arrangements, exporters will have access to a common facility before sending consignments.

'I'll eat and sleep early': Last call of Telangana student missing in Boston

Sreeja Reddy Koya, a student at the University of Massachusetts Boston in the US, has been missing since November 2.

Hyderabad.(Agency)

Journalist Ravi Nair, accused of allegedly "uploading fabricated documents" on social media after publishing a report on a proposed USD 3.9-billion LIC investment in Adani Group companies, has approached the Gujarat High Court seeking anticipatory bail in a cheating and forgery case registered by the Ahmedabad Detection of Crime Branch (DCB).On Friday, Justice Sanjeev J Thaker recused himself from hearing the matter.In a brief oral order dated November 6, Justice Thaker recorded, "Not before me." The order does not specify the reason for the recusal.Nair, 53, has filed the application through advocate Ronith Joy seeking protection from arrest in the FIR registered on May 29 under Sections 318(4), 336(2), 336(4) and 340(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). According to the FIR, a social media post attributed to Nair appeared on October 24, referring to the proposed investment. The next day, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) issued a



clarification on its official social media account, stating that its investments were made with "prudence and due diligence". Nair allegedly responded by uploading screenshots of documents which the complainant claims were fabricated.The case originates from an investigative report titled 'India's $3.9 billion plan to help Modi's mogul ally after US charges', published by The Washington Post on October 24, 2025. Nair and journalist Pranshu Verma were its co-authors. The report examined a proposed investment of approximately USD 3.9 billion by LIC in Adani Group companies.The complaint was filed by Dushyant Joshi, Deputy General Manager (Communication) at Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), before the Gandhinagar Superintendent of Police on November 20, 2025. Following a preliminary inquiry, the matter was transferred to the Ahmedabad Crime Branch, which registered the FIR.Seeking anticipatory bail, Nair has argued that "the ingredients of Section 318(4) of the BNS are not made out and the provision has been invoked merely to introduce a non-bailable offence".

Surat diamond polisher wanted better life for family, he's now 'missing' in Russia

Ramnik Sakhwala, 40-year-old father of a schoolgoing teen, last spoke with his wife Sheetal on June 24, said he was working as a supplier with the Russian army. He then went silent.

Surat.(Agency)

In June 2025, Ramnik Sakhwala flew to Moscow, hoping to find a job. The diamond polishing industry in his hometown Surat had been battered by the effects of the war in Ukraine, and Ramnik had his wife and teenage son to support.So when his close friend Pankaj Jiwani, also a diamond polisher in Surat, landed a job in Russia, Ramnik decided to tag along, in case he got lucky as well.It's now almost four and a half months since Ramnik went "missing" in Russia. He last spoke with his family on June 24 this year. A member of the family approached the Surat police on Thursday (November 5).The strains that the Russia-Ukraine war put on the diamond industry supply chain impacted the smaller units in Surat the most. Ramnik worked in one of those, and his employer had slashed his modest salary of Rs 35,000 by more than half, members of the family said. Ramnik's son Hemil was 16, and still in school.Pankaj and Ramnik landed in Moscow on June 13, 2025. The two friends rented a room, where they stayed for more than a month. Ramnik got himself a job in a mall in Moscow, his wife, Sheetal, told The Indian Express.



According to the family, things started to go wrong in March this year, when the 40- year-old diamond polisher lost his job at the mall."One day in mid-April, when he was returning home after searching for a job, he was arrested by the Russian police," Sheetal said. According to Sheetal, the police gave Ramnik two options – he could either work for six months in the Russian Army, or he could go to jail. Ramnik, she said, chose the first option."During my last conversation with Ramnik on June 24, he told me he was working as a member of the support staff supplying food to Russian army soldiers on the front. He told me that the commander of his team was a Sri Lankan named Arjun. Ramnik gave me Arjun's phone number, and told me that he himself would be out of network coverage area for about 15-20 days," Sheetal said.

Since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war in February 2022, dozens of media reports have said foreign nationals, including Indians, have been lured or tricked into participating in the fighting.In early October this year, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that it believed 259 Indian nationals had been recruited into the Russian armed forces, 139 of whom had ultimately returned to India.At the end of September, the MEA had reiterated the "risks and dangers" involved, advised Indians to be cautious in "pursuing job opportunities abroad", and to "not get lured by any job offers from unverified individuals".Sheetal said that police had found Ramnik's visa to have been "genuine". She said that before he went missing, her husband had sent Rs 50,000 for their son's education, and that in initial conversations with her, Arjun, the purported leader of Ramnik's team, had assured her that he was well.

Zepto, Biryani By Kilo among 105 outlets face Tukaram Mundhe crackdown before Diwali

Maharashtra.(Agency)

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has suspended the licences of 105 food business operators across the state following a special inspection drive ahead of Diwali. Several prominent food brands and quick-commerce platforms, including Zepto, Blinkit and Biryani By Kilo, have come under the scanner for alleged violations of food safety regulations.

The FDA conducted the inspections across Maharashtra on November 4 and 5, with Mumbai alone accounting for 28 suspended food business licences. The action covered Zepto's Worli outlet and Blinkit, operated by Blink Commerce Pvt Ltd. Food outlets such as Biryani By Kilo, Tossin Pizza's Worli outlet and Jumbo Burger were also among those facing action.

SEVEN ESTABLISHMENTS ORDERED TO SHUT

Taking a serious view of violations of food safety norms, the FDA ordered the complete closure of seven establishments across the state. These included three establishments in Pune, two in Amravati, and one each in Mumbai and the Konkan region.In Mumbai, Rajdhani Biryani Centre in Borivali was ordered to shut down for violations of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regulations.The inspection drive also covered a D-Mart outlet on Kamthi Road in Nagpur, where refined soybean oil was seized after officials found violations of licence conditions.

FOOD STOCK WORTH OVER RS 1.35 CRORE SEIZED

As part of the crackdown, the FDA seized food stock worth more than Rs 1.35 crore from over 69 establishments. Officials suspect that the seized stock may have been unsafe or adulterated.The drive also led to three FIRs being registered in connection with action against prohibited food products. Two people were arrested and two vehicles were seized during the operation.

FDA CHIEF WARNS OF STRICT ACTION

Maharashtra FDA Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe warned food businesses against compromising public health and said strict action would be taken against those found violating food safety regulations.

'Several properties transferred to Punjab MLA's kin by manipulating revenue records': ED

Ludhiana(Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a statement issued Friday said that it has unearthed several "government, municipal and charitable properties" that were "transferred in the name of AAP MLA Dr Amandeep Kaur Arora and her relatives by manipulating revenue records."A day after concluding over 35-hour searches at seven properties of the MLA in Moga and other Punjab districts, the ED listed at least five such properties in its statement.Arora, a first-time MLA from Moga, was re-nominated by the AAP for 2027 in its first list of 40.After the ED searches concluded Thursday around 4 pm, Arora had said that she was "being forced to join the BJP and was even offered a ministerial post" during the ED raid, but she remains a "committed soldier of Arvind Kejriwal." She also accused the BJP of misusing ED in poll-bound Punjab and denied any wrongdoing.The ED statement mentioned that the raids were initiated by Chandigarh Zone under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, at seven premises connected with Arora, her family and other associated persons.The ED mentioned, "ED investigation was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered with the Dharamkot police station in Moga, Punjab, under various sections of the IPC against Navdeep Singh .

Ayodhya decked up ahead of Deepotsav-2026 with 30 lakh diyas to be lit

Ayodhya.(Agency)

Ayodhya is preparing to light 30 lakh lamps for Deepotsav-2026, with only a few hours left before the celebrations begin, news agency Press Trust of India reported.Lighting, decorations and cultural programmes at ghats, major roads and religious sites have given the city a festive appearance. The Uttar Pradesh government said in a statement that Deepotsav's global recognition under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was taking the state's cultural heritage to new heights.Jagatguru Swami Satishacharya Ji Maharaj has arrived in Ayodhya to witness the celebrations and review the preparations.Speaking about the religious, spiritual and cultural significance of the festival, Satishacharya said, "Just as Ayodhya was illuminated with lamps upon the arrival of Prabhu Shri Ram during Treta Yuga, today, through the efforts of Yogi Adityanath ji, the same city of Lord Ram is once again conveying the message of light to the entire world," according to PTI.

"Deepawali holds special significance in Ayodhya, the city of Lord Shri Ram, king of the Suryavansh. On this sacred occasion, the tradition of lighting lamps according to the names and number of deities reflects faith and spiritual consciousness.

The magnificent appearance of Ayodhya is not merely a sight that attracts the eyes, but a living expression of Indian culture and Sanatan traditions," he said.

Ex-minister Sunder Sham Arora favoured realty players, acquired stakes in son's name, says ED

Jalandhar(Agency)

Days after searching 14 locations in Punjab and Chandigarh, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday alleged that Sunder Sham Arora, during his tenure as Punjab industries and commerce minister from March 2017 to September 2021, extended undue favours to private real estate players in the transfer of high-value industrial plots belonging to the Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation (PSIEC), which he directly controlled.The ED further alleged that Arora acquired stakes in real estate companies in the name of his son Parteek Arora.The findings form part of a money laundering investigation, in which the ED on November 2 and 3 searched 14 locations, including Arora's residence in Hoshiarpur, Shivam Hospital and locations linked to SRG Builders and Promoters Pvt Ltd, GRG Developers and Promoters LLP and Gulmohar Township India Pvt Ltd, besides their promoters, directors and associates.The searches resulted in the recovery and seizure of mobile phones, incriminating documents, property documents, records relating to PSIEC plots and digital devices, and freezing of bank lockers, the ED said, adding that further investigation is underway.According to the ED, the investigation stems from an FIR registered by the Punjab Vigilance Bureau under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, against Sunder Sham Arora over allegations of possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.An ED spokesperson said during the searches, the agency traced investments and financial transactions involving several real estate entities, including a Mohali industrial plot transferred for Rs 90.56 crore, which was subdivided and sold to third parties, even before possession and mandatory approvals were obtained.



Mohali industrial plot under scanner

A key transaction under investigation relates to Industrial Plot No. A-32 at Phase 8 in Mohali, originally allotted by PSIEC to M/s JCT Electronics, which is now bankrupt. The plot was transferred to M/s GRG Developers and Promoters LLP for Rs 90.56 crore through an auction conducted by the Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited (ARCIL) in February 2020.

Lions ready to go: Venkatesh Iyer reveals how Gautam Gambhir set the bar at KKR

New Delhi.(Agency)

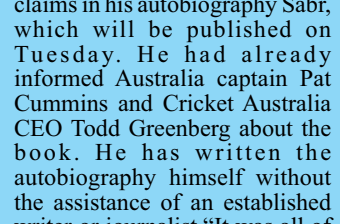
Venkatesh Iyer has offered an insight into Gautam Gambhir's influence in the Kolkata Knight Riders dressing room during their title-winning IPL 2024 campaign, recalling how the former captain created an environment where every player was expected to contribute.Speaking on a podcast with Aakash Chopra, Iyer described the atmosphere in the KKR dressing room and the number of players ready to step in



whenever the team needed them. He recalled a moment when several members of the batting line-up were padded up even before the innings had properly settled.Sunil Narine and Phil Salt are opening, Angkrish Raghuvanshi is padded up, Shreyas Iyer is padded up, Nitish Rana is padded up, I'm padded up, Rinku Singh is padded up, Ramandeep Singh is padded up, Andre Russell is padded up from the second over," Iyer recalled.

He described the sight as a group of "lions ready to go", capturing the confidence and readiness within the squad. For Iyer, that attitude reflected the standards Gambhir wanted from the team.

'It was all of us': Khawaja reveals entire Australian team's involvement in 2018 sandpaper scandal



New Delhi.(Agency)

Former Australian cricketer Usman Khawaja has claimed that the entire team knew about the plot to tamper with the ball in the third Test against South Africa in Cape Town, and the side also used sandpaper during the second match at Port Elizabeth.

During the third Test in 2018, Australian batter Bancroft was caught on camera using sandpaper to alter the condition of the ball before trying to hide it in his trousers. Australia's then-captain, Steve Smith, later admitted that he knew about the plan but had failed to prevent it..Smith and Warner were subsequently banned by Cricket Australia for 12 months, while Bancroft received a nine-month suspension. Smith was also stripped of the captaincy, and the trio was sent home from the South Africa tour.Khawaja is also set to elaborate on his explosive claims in his autobiography Sabr, which will be published on Tuesday. He had already informed Australia captain Pat Cummins and Cricket Australia CEO Todd Greenberg about the book. He has written the autobiography himself without the assistance of an established writer or journalist."It was all of us. Not the batters, not the bowlers, not the staff. All of us. "In an ideal world, I don't want to do this. I don't want to be the one who comes out and talks about the truth. The issue is that I genuinely thought after eight years the truth would have been out by now," Khawaja told Nine newspapers."Maybe I thought Davey would have exposed it, or someone else would have talked about it more. I just didn't think it was going to come down to this. But the longer it's gone on for, and right from the very start, I've been on the train of collectively taking it," he added.

13 years after Test debut, Mohammed Shami announces retirement from longest format

Mohammed Shami has called time on his Test career, drawing the curtain on a remarkable journey defined by match-winning spells, resilience and several memorable comebacks. The India pacer also expressed gratitude to his teammates, coaches, family, the BCCI and CAB.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Veteran India fast bowler Mohammed Shami has announced his retirement from Test cricket late on Friday, November 6. Shami played 64 Test matches for India and took 229 wickets at a brilliant average of 27.71, including six five-wicket hauls. His last appearance in the longest format came in the 2023 World Test Championship final, where India suffered a defeat to Australia at The Oval.Exactly 13 years ago, the Bengal pacer made his Test debut against the West Indies at Eden Gardens on the same day he retired from the format. Shami delivered a sensational performance on his debut and picked up 9 wickets.Although he was particularly effective with reverse swing in subcontinental conditions, the pacer established himself as a crucial member of the Indian bowling attack in overseas conditions. With four of his six five-wicket hauls coming in Australia and South Africa.

"Today, with a heavy heart and countless beautiful memories, I am taking the decision to retire from Test cricket. A thank you to every teammate, coach, family member, and crores of Indians who supported me throughout this journey and kept their faith in me during the good and tough times," Shami wrote in a social media post late on Friday (November 6).Despite multiple injury setbacks, Shami often made strong comebacks to regain his place in the Indian playing XI. After a magnificent outing in the



2023 ODI World Cup, Shami underwent ankle surgery and also suffered knee-related issues that kept him out of the team for a considerable period.

Bidding farewell to the white kit, but never to the memories associated with it'

Shami made his long-awaited comeback in T20I cricket in January 2025 and was subsequently included in the Indian squad for the Champions Trophy. However, he has not played any match for the national team since the final against New Zealand. He has continued to feature in the IPL and domestic cricket for Bengal. The pacer finished his Test career with 229 scalps, making him India's 12th-highest wicket-taker in the format and sixth among fast bowlers."I am bidding farewell to the white kit, but never to the memories associated with it. When I first wore the India Test jersey, I had just one dream, to achieve something for my country. After that, every wicket, every struggle, every injury, and every comeback has taught me something," Shami wrote further.

"Test cricket isn't just a format for me, it has been a very special part of my life. Today, with a heavy heart and countless beautiful memories, I am taking the decision to retire from Test cricket.

Yashasvi Jaiswal answers critics with back-to-back India A centuries

New Delhi.(Agency)

Yashasvi Jaiswal appears to have found his rhythm at just the right time. The India opener struck his second successive century for India A against New Zealand A, scoring 102 off 138 balls in the third four-day match at the Bert Sutcliffe Oval in Lincoln on Saturday.

The knock followed his unbeaten 155 in the second match at Hagley Oval, giving the left-hander consecutive hundreds as he builds



towards India's upcoming Test assignment in New Zealand. India A finished the rain-hit opening day at 227 for 2, with B Sai Sudharsan unbeaten on 77 after sharing a commanding 175-run opening stand with Jaiswal.ar during the T20I series against India.Asked to bat on a green surface after losing the toss, the Indian openers began cautiously against Brett Randell and Zak Gibson, who found movement with the new ball. However, Jaiswal shifted gears once the first-change bowlers came on, taking on Jarrod McKay with a six and a flurry of boundaries. He continued to attack after the interval, surviving a dropped catch at first slip before moving into the nineties and bringing up his century off 127 deliveries.

Jaiswal's innings featured 16 fours and two sixes, with two consecutive boundaries off Dean Foxcroft taking him to three figures. His stay ended shortly afterwards, though, as cramps forced him to receive medical attention. On resuming, he attempted to drive Danru Ferns but chipped the ball to mid-off, departing for 102.

JAISWAL FINDS FORM AT RIGHT TIME

The back-to-back centuries mark a significant turnaround for Jaiswal, who had endured a difficult run in red-ball cricket heading into the New Zealand series. The 24-year-old managed just 77 runs across three innings during India's two-Test tour of Sri Lanka in August and had not scored a half-century in the format since then. His struggles continued on the New Zealand A tour, where he began with scores of 17 and 5 in the first unofficial Test before registering a four-ball duck in the first innings of the second match. He had also fallen for a 13-ball duck in Mumbai's Ranji Trophy opener against Chandigarh.Jaiswal had recorded four ducks in nine innings since the Sri Lanka tour, making his recent turnaround particularly timely. His unbeaten 155 in Christchurch was his 18th first-class century and took him past the 5,000-run mark in the format. He now has 5,145 first-class runs at an average of 53.59, with 18 hundreds and 18 fifties. The 102 in Lincoln has given him another valuable innings in the middle before the two-Test series begins on November 19.

Hockey India elections put on hold as Odisha HC intervenes in governance row

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Odisha High Court on Friday stayed the Hockey India elections scheduled for December 5 and the federation's show-cause notice to Hockey Odisha, which had proposed its reclassification from a permanent member to an associate member.A single-judge bench of Justice RK Pattnaik passed the interim order while hearing a writ petition filed by Hockey Association of Odisha challenging the minutes of Hockey India's 120th Executive Body meeting held on October 6 and the show-cause notice issued on October 7, 2026.The next hearing will be held on December 9.Hockey India had issued a show-cause notice to the Hockey Association of Odisha proposing its reclassification from a permanent member to an associate member over alleged non-compliance with the national federation's bye-laws on October 7.The national federation had raised eight grounds of concern, including what it described as serious deficiencies in the functioning of HAO's 30 district units.According to the federation, key positions such as president and secretary in all 30 district associations are held ex officio by administrative officials, including District Magistrates and Sub-Collectors, instead of being filled through elections.

Hockey India also said none of the district units had submitted election notices, minutes or results to establish that their governing bodies had been constituted through a legitimate electoral process.The state association contended that the show-cause notice was legally unsustainable as the term of the current Executive Committee of Hockey India had already expired on September 30.Amid internal infighting, Hockey India's election to select its office bearers for the 2026-2030 term was scheduled to



be held on December 5.During the hearing, Odisha Advocate General P Acharya also drew the court's attention to the sponsorship agreement and the contribution of the Odisha government to Indian hockey.Since 2018, Odisha has been the official sponsor of India's senior and junior men's and women's national teams, and the state has committed to continuing its support until 2036.The court issued notices to Hockey India, directing it to file the necessary requisites within seven days.The court order comes amid an escalating power struggle within Hockey India between president Dilip Tirkey, former Rajya Sabha member from Odisha, and secretary general Bhola Nath Singh, with differences over administrative decisions, governance and the conduct of executive committee meetings threatening to overshadow the federation's functioning.

Usman Khawaja blows open Sandpapergate, claims entire Australia team was involved



Eight years after the Cape Town scandal, Usman Khawaja has challenged Australia's long-standing account of Sandpapergate. He claims the entire touring party knew about the ball tampering and questions why he was never interviewed.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Usman Khawaja has reopened one of the darkest chapters in Australian cricket, claiming the entire team knew about and was involved in ball tampering during the 2018 tour of South Africa. The former Australia batter has also alleged that sandpaper was used on the ball in the previous Test in Port Elizabeth, now Gqeberha, before Cameron Bancroft was caught on camera in Cape TownThe scandal broke during the third Test at Newlands in March 2018, when television cameras caught Bancroft using a piece of sandpaper to rough up the ball in an attempt to generate reverse swing. Cricket Australia's investigation found that David Warner had come up with the plan, Bancroft had carried it out and then captain Steve Smith knew about it but failed to stop it. All three were sent home from the tour. Smith and Warner received 12-month bans from international and domestic cricket, while Bancroft was suspended for nine months. Warner was also handed a lifetime ban from leadership roles in Australian cricket, which was overturned in 2024.Speaking to Nine newspapers ahead of the release of his autobiography Sabr on Tuesday, November 10, Khawaja offered a very different account of what happened. He claimed the practice had started during the second Test in Port Elizabeth and questioned why Cricket Australia's investigators never spoke to him, despite him sitting next to Bancroft during the Cape Town Test.."It was all of us. Not the batters, not the bowlers, not the staff. All of us," Khawaja told Nine."In an ideal world, I don't want to do this. I don't want to be the one who comes out and talks about the truth. The issue is that I genuinely thought after eight years the truth would have been out by now," he said, explaining why he had decided to speak up.Khawaja said he had always felt the responsibility should have been shared by the team rather than left with three players. He recalled telling his teammates in the dressing room to take collective responsibility after the incident, but said that was not how things unfolded. He also spoke about the toll the scandal had taken on Smith, Warner and Bancroft, who, in his view, continued to carry the weight of what happened.

Shami had more Test cricket in him: Ravi Shastri disappointed with pacer's retirement

New Delhi.(Agency)

Ravi Shastri believes Mohammed Shami had more to offer in Test cricket and is disappointed that the fast bowler did not get another opportunity before announcing his retirement. The former India head coach questioned the repeated focus on Shami's fitness, pointing to his workload and performances for Bengal as evidence that he could still contribute at the highest level.Shami announced his retirement from Tests on November 6, exactly 13 years after making his debut. He leaves the format with 229 wickets from 64 matches, but his final appearance for India came more than three years ago, in the 2023 World Test Championship final against Australia.Speaking on Extra Innings ahead of India's second ODI against



New Zealand, Shastri said he had expected Shami to add another 30-40 wickets to his Test tally.

"It's sad when someone who's played so well for the country has to go. I definitely thought he had another 30 or 40 wickets in him. He should have played in the last 12 months and perhaps should have been in the side as a Test-match bowler," Shastri said.

SHOULD FITNESS CONCERNS HAVE COST SHAMI?

Shami's India career was interrupted by a series of injuries after the 2023 ODI World Cup. He underwent ankle surgery in February 2024 and subsequently dealt with knee issues, missing India's five-Test tour of Australia.

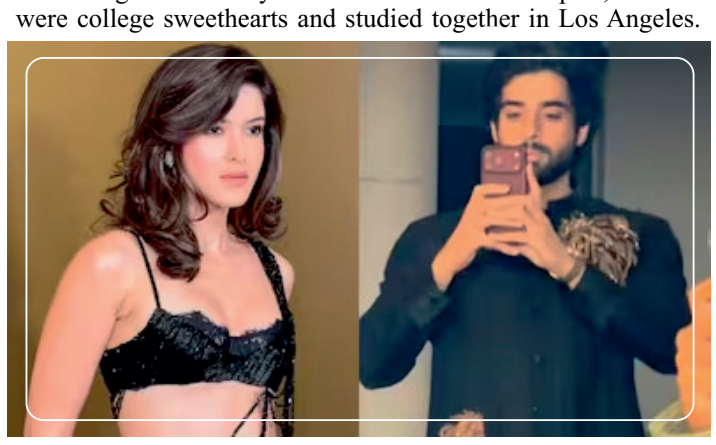


Shanaya Kapoor

Keeps It Solo For Paps, But Rumoured BF Karan Kothari Is Busy Recording Her

Sanjay Kapoor and Maheep Kapoor's daughter Shanaya Kapoor is reportedly in love with Karan Kothari. Although neither of them have confirmed their relationship, the lovebirds are also not trying to hide it. On November 5, they attended fashion designer Manish Malhotra's star-studded Diwali party in Mumbai together. Karan won everyone's hearts by showing us what a green flag he is.As Shanaya took to the red carpet to pose for the paps waiting for her, her boyfriend Karan Kothari was seen recording her standing with the photographers. Needless to say, he was her biggest cheerleader. The two did not pose together on the red carpet.

Shanaya has often commented on Karan's Instagram posts. According to a January 2023 Hindustan Times report, the two were college sweethearts and studied together in Los Angeles.



Karan is a Mumbai-based businessman who also reportedly runs a startup in LA. His father, Avinash Kothari, owns Kothari Fine Jewels. Shanaya has earlier modelled for the jewellery brand.

The two have also been spotted holidaying together, including in the Maldives. A source had told Hindustan Times, "Shanaya has not posted anything about her beau, and it's quite obvious that she wouldn't talk about him. However, he has been her plus-one to many Bollywood parties, and she has even introduced him as her partner to her colleagues."However, Shanaya and Karan have never publicly confirmed their relationship or spoken about the dating rumours.On the work front, Shanaya will next be seen in Karan Johar's Student of the Year: After Dark. Directed by Reema Maya, the series is a spin-off of the popular Student of the Year franchise. It will premiere on JioHotstar on November 13, 2026.



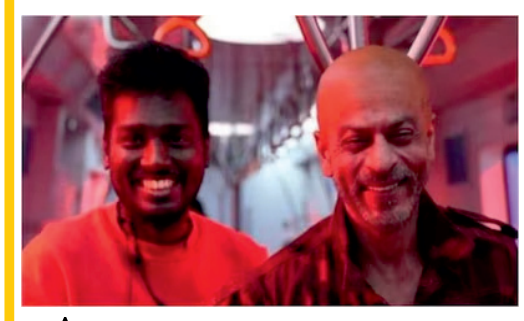
Nora Fatehi

Tells Court She's In India On T-Series Employment Visa In Sukesh Chandrashekhar Case

Nora Fatehi appeared before Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court on Friday, November 6, in connection with the Rs 200-crore extortion case involving conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar. During her statement, Nora told the court that she is in India on an employment visa with T-Series. She also spoke about her visit to Chennai and her meeting with Sukesh's wife, Leena Maria Paulose.Nora's statement is being recorded as part of the ongoing trial. She is appearing as a witness in the case and is sharing details about her interactions with Sukesh and Leena.Nora's name came up during the investigation after she attended a charity event in Chennai in December 2020. The event was organised by Leena at a five-star hotel. Nora was invited as the chief guest and was also asked to judge a dance competition and distribute money to children with disabilities.

During her earlier statement, Nora told investigators that Leena gifted her a Gucci bag and an iPhone. Leena also introduced her to Sukesh over a phone call. He thanked Nora for attending the event and told her that he and his wife were fans of hers. He also offered to gift her a BMW car.Nora said she was initially not comfortable accepting the car. However, Sukesh continued making the offer and eventually got in touch with her relative Bobby. The BMW was later linked to Bobby. Sukesh and Bobby also discussed possible business opportunities, including a film project. Nora had told investigators that she did not know Sukesh personally before the Chennai event. Her first interaction with him happened through Leena.The actress's appearance in court on Friday comes after she was asked to attend the November 2 hearing. However, her lawyers had requested an exemption, saying that she had received the summons at short notice and had prior work commitments. The court then asked her to appear on November 6. On November 3, Nora's legal team also clarified that she was not an accused in the EOW case and had been called only as a witness.In a statement, her team said, "The EOW matter concerning Sukesh Chandra Shekhar was listed today before the Rouse Avenue Court, Delhi, where Nora Fatehi was summoned as a witness. Her advocates appeared before the Court and submitted that she had received the summons at a very short notice and was unable to attend due to prior professional commitments.

Shah Rukh Khan And Atlee's Reunion On The Cards? SRK Says 'Missing The Madness Of Our Sets'



Actor Shah Rukh Khan expressed his wish to reunite with the 'Jawan' director Atlee in his latest Tweet on Thursday.Reacting to Atlee's birthday wish on November 2, SRK wrote on his timeline, "Thank you my Jawan captain. Missing the madness of our sets. Let's create some more soon. Love you. (sic)"Commemorating King Khan's birthday on Monday, Atlee had shared on the micro-blogging site, "Happy, happy, happy Birthday King Khan, SRK sir! The song 'Tu Mil Jaaye' is lovely. Can't wait to see you on a big screen sir, looking forward for 'KING'. (sic)"The filmmaker called Shah Rukh Khan his biggest inspiration in a post that further read, "Thank you for being my mentor, my guide, my well-wisher and my biggest inspiration in this incredible journey. The time spent with you has taught me so much -not just about cinema but about life, people and staying truly humble. Grateful, always".'Jawan' which also featured Deepika Padukone, marked the first professional association between Atlee and Shah Rukh. Aside from being a massive success at the ticket counters, the movie also bagged SRK his first National Award as 'Best Actor'.

Congratulating the 'Devdas' actor, Atlee had written on his official handle, "Shah Rukh sir being near you itself is a great blessing, sir. As a fanboy, working with you and making a film and presenting it in a mass mode of SRK, sir, is a pure, pure blessing from God, and finally, God is so kind to give us back the greatest moment in our life. Can't ask for more, sir. This is more than enough for me; I'm the best fanboy of yours, sir. Love you. Love you. Love you. Lots of love sir."Produced by Gauri Khan under Red Chillies Entertainment, 'Jawan' also starred Vijay Sethupathi, Nayanthara, Priyamani, Sanya Malhotra, and Sunil Grover in prominent roles.

Ramayana: Lara Dutta Wishes Her Late Father Could See Her As Kaikeyi, Pens Emotional Note



As Ramayana: Part One reached theatres on Thursday, Lara Dutta shared her first detailed thoughts about stepping into the role of Kaikeyi. Along with photographs showing her elaborate looks from the Nitesh Tiwari directorial, Lara wrote about wanting audiences to reconsider a character who has carried the weight of one decision through centuries of retellings.The actress described playing Kaikeyi as an "extraordinary privilege" and spoke about approaching her as a woman with conflicting emotions rather than reducing her to the decision that sends Rama into exile. The release also became an emotional occasion for Lara, who remembered her late father and admitted she wished he had been around to watch her in the film.

Lara Dutta Wants Viewers To Look At Kaikeyi Differently

Lara began her note by recalling a wish she had carried for years: to become part of a story larger than herself."What began many years ago as a fervent wish… to be a part of something greater than oneself. Greater than the collective. Something that transcends time itself… something woven into the very fabric of our being," she wrote.She added that the wish had now found its place in a story "as timeless as eternity."It was Kaikeyi, however, that occupied much of Lara's note. Calling her "perhaps one of the most misunderstood women in history," the actress said she felt a responsibility to bring out different facets of the character."To be entrusted with the responsibility of bringing alive her humanity… her angst, her vulnerabilities, her guilt and her remorse," Lara wrote.Kaikeyi, the queen of Ayodhya and Bharat's mother, becomes central to the events of the Ramayana after seeking two boons from King Dasharatha, including Rama's exile and Bharat's coronation. Lara sees her part in the story through a wider lens.

Airstrikes on a market in southwestern Yemen kill at least 30, Houthis say

CAIRO.(Agency).

Airstrikes hit a market in southwestern Yemen on Friday, killing at least 30 people, according to an official with the Iran-backed Houthi rebels. It would be one of the deadliest attacks since fighting resumed between the Houthis and Saudi-backed government forces.
Another eight people were wounded in the airstrikes on the market in al-Waziyah in the province of Taiz, a Houthi health ministry spokesperson, Anees Alsabahi, said on X.
Yemen's Saudi-backed military and the Houthi rebels traded accusations over responsibility for the deadly airstrike on the market. The Associated Press could not independently verify their claims.Taiz is mostly controlled by the Houthis, who have besieged the provincial capital, where the Saudi-allied government and its forces are based.Footage aired by Al-Masirah showed plumes of smoke rising from the site, with a damaged building containing canned food, destroyed vehicles, scattered fruit boxes and rubble and debris.

OpenAI Raises $11 Billion At $1.25 Trillion Valuation

world.(Agency).

OpenAI has closed on new funding of roughly $11 billion, the initial part of a round that values the company at $1.25 trillion, according to people familiar with the matter.
The funding was wired to the company as of Friday, said the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity as the information is not public. The remainder of the round, which could increase to as much as $20 billion in total, is expected to be completed in the coming weeks, one person said.The AI developer has been in talks for more than a month to raise a large funding round after delaying its plans for an initial public offering. OpenAI initially set out to raise $30 billion or more at a $1.4 trillion valuation, Bloomberg News has reported, before scaling back its plans amid a public market rout for the AI sector.OpenAI declined to comment. The Wall Street Journal previously reported some details of the funding.
Investors that contributed to the first funding close include Coatue Management and T. Rowe Price, the people said.

"We Hope To Reach Good Agreement": Qatar Expresses Optimism On US-Iran Talks

world.(Agency)

Qatar's Prime Minister said the country's mediation efforts between the US and Iran were continuing to prevent the situation in the region from spiraling out of control, Al Jazeera TV reported on Saturday.The US administration remained willing to find a solution even after the midterm elections, signalling that Washington's interest in reaching an agreement had not changed, Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said. Significant progress had been made and Al-Thani expressed confidence that a settlement could be reached.
"We cannot wait to reach a perfect agreement; we hope to reach a good agreement," he said.
Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency said on Saturday that initial reports indicated two missiles had struck Qeshm Island, adding there was no official information on possible damage.
The United States has not yet announced any attack on targets inside Iran. Countries in the region had been anticipating that US President Donald Trump, who has held off on strikes on Iran during the weeks leading up to Tuesday's midterm elections.

Meghan's estranged father arrested and charged with possessing child sexual abuse materials

Thomas Markle Sr. was in a wheelchair wearing handcuffs when he was transported by ambulance with federal agents, according to video posted by The Daily Mail, a British tabloid newspaper.

TAMPA, Fla.(Agency).

The 82-year-old estranged father of Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, was arrested Friday at a senior care facility in Florida on a charge of keeping child sexual abuse material in storage units in California, authorities said.
Thomas Markle Sr. was in a wheelchair wearing handcuffs when he was transported by ambulance with federal agents, according to video posted by The Daily Mail, a British tabloid newspaper.Markle's arrest followed the seizure of "approximately 78 items, including slides, film negatives, and books" that contained suspected child sexual abuse images in storage in the Los Angeles area, said First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli.Some images appear to depict him with children, according to an FBI affidavit filed in court."These allegations are extremely serious, and we will prosecute Mr. Markle to the fullest extent of federal law," Essayli said.Phone and email messages seeking comment from his court-appointed attorney were not immediately returned. After his arrest in Polk County, Markle appeared in federal court in Tampa and was released back to a senior care center with the condition that he be electronically monitored.U.S. Magistrate Judge Lindsay Griffin also ordered a psychiatric exam, saying Markle might be unable to understand the proceedings or properly assist his lawyer.
Court hearings will eventally move to California "but likely won't happen for several weeks at least," the U.S. Attorney's Ofice in Los Angeles said.Materials found overseas led to US investigationMarkle's arrest followed reports by The Sun, another British tabloid, that Meghan's half brother found a collection of child sexual abuse images while clearing out their father's home



in the Philippines. That discovery led to information about two U.S. storage units in the Los Angeles area, which Markle has rented since 2008.Essayli told The Associated Press that there's no evidence of victims in the United States, based on the seized material, but the investigation was ongoing.Markle was living in the Philippines earlier this year when he suffered a stroke and had his left leg amputated. That forced him to return to the U.S.The Sun reported that Thomas Markle Jr. found "hundreds, if not thousands" of child sex abuse images in boxes at his father's home in Cebu City. Markle Jr. told The Sun that he reported the images to police in the Philippines and contacted the FBI."I have supported, cared for him and helped him for years — but that stops now," Markle Jr. said. "I won't speak to my father ever again unless I'm called to give evidence against him."Meghan has distanced herself from her fatherMeghan, an American citizen who starred in the U.S. television drama "Suits," married Prince Harry at Windsor Castle in 2018.
They have two children, Prince Archie and Princess Lilibet.She recently said she was "deeply distressed" by allegations that a collection of child sexual abuse images had been found at her father's former home. She also revealed that a letter containing "troubling allegations" about him had been sent to police in London in 2019.

Iranian forces 'stronger' than at beginning of war: army spokesman

Tehran, Iran.(Agency)

Iran: Iran's military is "stronger" and more motivated than it was when the United States and Israel started the war in February, Iranian state media reported on Saturday, citing an army spokesman.na last week. Queen Camilla has Today, the Islamic Republic's armed forces... having gained experience from direct confrontation with the United States and the Israeli regime, are on higher alert and are stronger than they were at the beginning of the war," Mohammad Akraminia said, according to the state news agency IRNA."They now possess greater motivation, commitment, and self-confidence."The war, which began when the United States and Israel carried out a massive wave of strikes in late February, has been deadlocked for months.Tehran has sought to limit traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, which normally carries about one-fifth of



global oil consumption.Akraminia said that Iranian armed forces retained control over the strategic waterway and that it would remain closed until the United States accepted Tehran's demands."Under the order of the Supreme Leader, the response of the armed forces will be immediate, effective, and without geographical limitations," he added.
US President Donald Trump this week confirmed new strikes on the Islamic republic, after American media reported attacks on Iran's Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.On Saturday, the local Tasnim news agency reported that two missiles had struck Qeshm, adding that there was no official information so far on the damage.Iranian state television reported two explosions on the island.
The Iranian army said early Saturday that its air defences had "struck and destroyed" a US drone that was flying over the island, according to state media. It did not say whether the island was attacked.

'She Fought Till The Last Minute': Father Of Co-Pilot Killed In Florida Crash

world.(Agency)

The father of the 20-year-old co-pilot killed alongside eight others in a Florida Learjet crash said Friday he has repeatedly listened to her final radio transmissions, searching for answers and finding pride in how she handled the crisis.Allan Filgueiras, a pilot who helped teach Nathalia Gadelha Filgueiras to fly, said he marveled at how "she's tough" even as the plane plunged straight toward the ground Sunday."I wanted to be by her side. Inside the plane, to help," he said at a news conference, often holding back tears."She showed me what it is to be a hero," he said, "because once you see that coming, a lot of the big boys - military or whatever - they can't handle. And she was the one over there to the last minute fighting."Nathalia Filgueiras can first be heard calmly telling air traffic control about ice buildup on the plane as it flew into a thunderstorm. Turbulence tossed it up and down by 700 feet (200 meters), but the situation quickly escalated as the aircraft fell at breathtaking speed. "Declare an emergency 722-Bravo-Delta. We are in an overspeed condition descending 20,000 feet per minute!" she said.
Her father and aviation safety experts have praised her composure as she called out updates while knowing the plane's fate was sealed. The captain, 55-year-old Jeff Gregory, is believed to have been at the controls."For the family - it's like having the heart torn from my chest," Allan Filgueiras said in Spanish. "I have to find a way to go on living."
The family has challenged online criticism questioning whether she had enough experience to be in the cockpit of a high-performance business jet. She had more than 1,300 hours of experience and completed extensive training to earn her commercial pilot's license and Learjet certification.Her father's attorney, Stuart Grossman, said the news conference aimed to "preserve not just her memory, but her reputation."She was at the top of her class in everything that she did.

US military carries out new targeted strikes on Iran as Tehran's leaders weigh mediator's proposals

WASHINGTON.(Agency).

President Donald Trump said the U.S. military on Friday carried out new limited strikes on Iran, targeting an Iranian air defense system.Iranian state media reported the sound of two explosions in the Suza area of Qeshm Island, which is in the crucial waterway for oil shipments.Trump in an exchange with reporters described the military action as "minor."
"They knocked out -- they built a little bit of an anti-aircraft device and we knocked it out in about 15 minutes, maybe five," Trump told reporters shortly after arriving in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Friday evening.Trump did not offer further details about the target. But U.S. officials have reported that most of Iran's air defense systems were destroyed or severely degraded during a June 2025 bombardment by Israel and in the early stages of the current conflict. U.S. officials have assessed that Iran would try to rebuild them and other military infrastructure over time.
The U.S. military also reported carrying out what it described as defensive strikes on Monday. Explosions were heard on the islands of Qeshm and Hengam in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, and in the nearby mainland area of Bandar Abbas.Friday's strikes are the first since Trump's Republican Party was dealt a stunning repudiation in Tuesday's midterm elections in the U.S.
The electoral setback — Republicans lost both chambers of Congress — was stoked in part by voter dissatisfaction with Trump's execution of the conflict and elevated fuel prices, a byproduct of the war that's affected nearly every sector o the global economy.
In the days since Republicans' shellacking at the polls, Trump has vacillated between threatening to "destroy" Iran and suggesting a resolution to the war is near.
Qatar presents new proposals to Iranian officials
Earlier Friday, two Middle East government officials said Iran was reviewing proposals presented by chief mediator Qatar aimed at addressing differences with the United States about Tehran's nuclear program.
But one of the ocials stressed that the Iranians, at least at the moment, remain unwilling to engage in negotiations with the Trump administration over their atomic activities until the U.S.

The final day of voting begins in New Zealand's election as an unusual law bans any talk of politics

WELLINGTON, New Zealand.(Agency)

Polling places opened in New Zealand on Saturday for a final day of voting in the country's election, with results due to be released in the evening.Voting began on Oct. 26, with more than 1.6 million voters out of nearly 3.8 million people enrolled having already cast their ballots by the end of Thursday, according to the country's Electoral Commission. Polling stations opened Saturday at 9 a.m. and will close at 7 p.m.



Influencing someone's vote on election day is a crimeThe country's election day unfolds in a manner almost entirely free from politics, due to an unusual law making it a criminal offense to influence someone's vote. The 19-hour election day blackout, which ends when polling places close, bars everyone, including political parties, news outlets and social media users, from commentary about likely election outcomes, campaign issues and anything else that might encourage or discourage them from voting in a particular way.Opinion polls can't be released on election day and exit polling or interviewing people outside voting places is banned. Partisan billboards and advertising must be removed by midnight and it's common to see political parties' supporters rushing to dismantle roadside hoardings at the last minute.Bumper stickers, T-shirts and even social media profile pictures are covered by the law. Breaches can incur a fine of 20,000 New Zealand dollars ($11,000).
While news outlets can name parties or candidates, they must ensure it's not done in a way that might influence someone's vote. They're not required to remove political content published before election day.
Political leaders are pictured shopping or running errands with their families on election day, planning outings as private citizens to ensure public visibility while making no remarks about current events. One major party leader in 2017 allowed reporters waiting outside her home to photograph her dressed in sweatpants and painting a fence.\
Social media photos of dogs replace partisan debate on election day
Some analysts have suggested the measures are redundant because New Zealanders can vote for almost two weeks before election day, when campaigning, advertising, and round-the-clock news coverage remain in full swing. More than half of voters in the South Pacific country of 5 million people cast early ballots before election day in 2023.

Stephen Miller replaces Susie Wiles as Trump's White House chief of staff after GOP's midterm defeat

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

President Donald Trump said Friday that Stephen Miller was replacing Susie Wiles as White House chief of staff, installing as his closest adviser a loyal, combative bulldog for his "America First" agenda as the president prepares to stare down a newly empoMiller, long a member of Trump's tight inner circle, is a key architect of the administration's hard-line immigration policies. He is one of Trump's longest-serving aides, joining his long-shot 2016 presidential campaign as a speechwriter. He most recently has served as White House deputy chief of staff for policy and oversees a broad portfolio, though he is best known for his role in Trump's immigration policy.
The staff shuffle signals that Trump, whose Republican Party was handed monumental defeats in Tuesday's midterm elections, is resisting a conciliatory approach to Democratic lawmakers who are eager to investigate the administration — including Miller himself as a top target. Miller, 41, is a dogged defender of Trump and has built a deep and sophisticated understanding of a president's executive power and how the federal government operates, portending a potential burst of executive actions in the final two years of Trump's presidency.wered Democratic Congress next year.
Wiles gave Trump her resignation Thursday night, a person familiar with the events told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe the private conversation. Trump praised Wiles and said she'd continue to work for his political organization.Trump on Friday night denied that he made the change because he was unhappy with his team after the deep losses his party suffered.
"Not because of the election. It's just time," Trump said. "Sometimes you change. The election wasn't my election. I wasn't on the ballot."Wiles, the steely political operator and longtime adviser to Trump, was the first woman to ever serve in that post and the longest-serving White House chief of staff for Trump, who cycled through four of them during his first four-year term."Serving President Trump in the White House has been the honor of a lifetime. I'm so proud to have been a part of what we've accomplished together from securing our border and cutting taxes to strengthening our economy and putting America First," Wiles said in a social media post shortly after Trump's announcement.The departure also came months after Wiles indicated she no longer showed evidence of breast cancer after she underwent months of treatment for the disease, a diagnosis she went public with in March 2026.Miller is tied to immigration policies that voters said went too far
During the midterm campaign, Miller took frequent partisan swipes at Democrats, calling them "extremists, freaks and America-hating lunatics" on social media and promoting unfounded theories about election fraud in California and Alaska.