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TUESDAY

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Sting op probe Another suspect identified in Delhi, says Karnataka Home Minister

KALABURAGI . (Agency).

The investigation into the sting operation case is in progress and several significant details have already come to light, Home Minister Priyank Kharge said here on Sunday, adding that further investigation is expected to reveal additional facts.

At a press conference here, he said if suspicion falls on any individual during the investigation, legal action will be taken against them, regardless of how influential they may be.The minister expressed his displeasure at Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy, emphasising that those in public life have a duty to uphold the dignity of their position and office. He criticised the persistent personal attacks, derogatory remarks regarding caste and family and the use of disrespectful, informal language (addressing others in the singular/derogatory form).

Priyank said technical analysis during the investigation has uncovered key details. The investigation is trying to determine the origin of the case and the individuals behind it. The FIR contains clear references regarding the dissemination of this matter and those who orchestrated it.

More action in J&K's corridors of power: Interim Chief Secretary appointed as Sajjan Singh Yadav

Jammu (Agency).

The Jammu and Kashmir government, in a major development late Sunday night, assigned the charge of UT Chief Secretary to Shailendra Kumar, a 1995 AGMUT cadre IAS officer, until the arrival of new Chief Secretary Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav in J&K.Kumar is currently serving as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department in the UT Administration, besides holding additional charge of the Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department.According to an order issued by the General Administration Department, he "will continue to look after the charge of chief secretary until Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav, IAS (AGMUT 1995), joins the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir."Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav, according to an order issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, was appointed new Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir with effect from November 1 or the date he assumes charge, whichever is later.He succeeds Atal Dulloo, who retired as Chief Secretary on October 31.

Earlier on Sunday, LG Manoj Sinha had ordered the transfer of six IAS officers, including Shaleen Kabra, a 1992-batch AGMUT-cadre IAS officer, and posted him as DG of Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration & Rural Development.

Kabra was Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary) at the Jal Shakti Department, besides holding additional charge of the posts of Financial Commissioner Revenue, J&K; Administrative Secretary, Estates Department; and Administrative Secretary, Revenue Department.

Yogi Adityanath invites people to Ayodhya for Deepotsav, urges support for artisans

Yogi Adityanath said Ayodhya's Deepotsav is creating livelihoods for local workers and traders. He linked the festival's cultural revival with inclusive growth and community support.

Lucknow (Agency).

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said Ayodhya's Deepotsav was strengthening both faith and the local economy by creating livelihood opportunities for potters, farmers, labourers and small traders, news agency Press Trust of India reported.Adityanath said every lamp lit during the festival brought hope to a family, while claiming that no such effort had been made before 2017 to use Ayodhya's cultural potential to support local livelihoods.In a post on X in Hindi, he said, "The grand Deepotsav of Shri Ayodhya Dham is infusing new energy not only into faith but also into the economy.



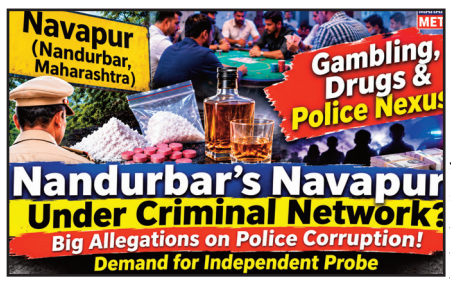
Every lamp lit here is casting new light on the labour of a potter, the produce of a farmer, and the livelihood of a family."But before the year 2017, this light was absent. No initiative was taken to connect the immense cultural potential of Ram Nagari with the prosperity of local artisans, farmers, and small traders. There was a complete absence of vision to transform the power of faith into new opportunities for livelihood. The double-engine government has dispelled this darkness," he said. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the festival, illuminated by millions of lamps, was creating new work and business opportunities for potters, labourers and small traders, Adityanath added."The very diya (earthen lamp) that makes Ram Nagari sparkle also kindles hope for prosperity in the home of a hardworking family. Such is our Deepotsav... Jai Jai Shri Ram," PTI quoted him as saying on X.

In another Hindi post on X, Adityanath highlighted Ayodhya's spiritual importance and invited people to visit the city to witness the Deepotsav celebrations. He also shared a letter titled "Yogi Kee Paatee", addressed to the people of Uttar Pradesh."My esteemed fellow citizens of the state, the foremost among the seven sacred cities, Shri Ayodhya Dham, is thrilled to welcome its 10th grand and divine Deepotsav. Deepotsav symbolises the journey from darkness to light, despair to hope, and faith to progress. It is not merely the lighting of lamps, but a grand festival of the revival of India's eternal consciousness and cultural pride," he said.Describing the celebrations, Adityanath said, "The garland of lamps adorning the banks of Mother Saryu, and the twinkling of millions of lamps on Ram ki Paidi, seem as if the Akash Ganga (Milky Way) has descended upon Ayodhya." He added that drone displays and the participation of artists added to the festival's splendour.

Gambling, Drugs and Corruption: Alleged Criminal Nexus in Navapur Sparks Demand for High-Level Probe

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Nandurbar, Maharashtra: Serious allegations of organised gambling, drug trafficking, illegal liquor distribution and police corruption have surfaced from Navapur in Maharashtra's Nandurbar district. Claims of an alleged criminal network operating near the Maharashtra-Gujarat border have raised questions about law enforcement and the effectiveness of the local administration.The alleged gambling operation is said to be located in Bidkhipada village, behind Hotel Urvashi near the Navi RTO. The claims suggest that the establishment has been operating on a large scale, attracting gamblers from several neighbouring states.Alleged Criminal Network and Underworld LinksAccording to information provided by sources, individuals identified as Pappu Goswami of Lakadkot, Rais Shaikh of Navapur and Suraj Jaiswal are allegedly associated with the operation.Sources have further alleged links between the gambling network and the D-Company syndicate. These claims have not been independently verified.The alleged establishment is said to attract approximately 150 visitors every night from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Daman and Madhya Pradesh, with substantial sums reportedly wagered during overnight gambling sessions.The scale of the operation and the identities of those involved require verification through an independent investigation.Allegations of Drugs, Sex Trafficking and Illegal LiquorThe allegations extend beyond gambling, raising concerns about other forms of organised criminal activity.Sources claim that MD drugs are allegedly supplied through the network, while allegations of commercial sexual exploitation have also surfaced. Claims of illegal liquor and gutkha transportation across the Maharashtra-Gujarat border have added to the concerns.The allegations have not been independently established, and no conclusions regarding the involvement of particular individuals can be drawn without verified evidence.Serious Questions Over Alleged Police Protection.



'BJP's propaganda punctured': Congress says Delhi markets flourished amid INDIA bloc rally

New Delhi (Agency).

The Congress on Monday criticised the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over allegations that the INDIA bloc's November 1 rally would disrupt business activities and cause losses to traders. The party said these claims fell flat, citing reports that markets across Delhi remained busy and shops continued to operate as usual despite the political gathering.Congress general secretary and communications in-charge Jairam Ramesh shared a media report on X, saying concerns about the rally's impact on commercial activity proved unfounded, with businesses reportedly continuing without disruption.In a Hindi post on X, Ramesh dismissed the BJP's claims as baseless, accusing the party of spreading misinformation to undermine the INDIA bloc's mega-rally and discourage people from travelling to the national capital.

He said the BJP had sought to create the impression that the rally would disrupt commercial activities and force markets to close. However, Ramesh argued that it was obvious to anyone that people arriving from across the country would also shop, ultimately benefiting -- directly or indirectly -- every business owner in Delhi.The intent behind this "false and irrational smear campaign" fabricated by the BJP was clear: to divert the country's attention from the real issues of vote theft and the Election Commission's accountability, in order to save Gyanesh Kumar, and to discourage people from joining the mega rally. But the exact opposite happened, he said."People in Delhi and those who came from across the country responded to this smear campaign in their own way. In response to Rahul Gandhi ji's appeal, people went shopping in Delhi's markets. Shops in Old Delhi's wholesale markets opened, and business boomed. On top of that, people bought goods in abundance from small shopkeepers and street vendors too.

Former Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah meets Rahul amid sting operation row

BENGALURU(Agency).

Congress Working Committee (CWC) member and former Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah met Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Sunday amid the ongoing controversy surrounding the alleged sting operation targeting him.Siddaramaiah met Rahul at the residence of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge for around 15 minutes, shortly before participating in the INDIA bloc protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) at Ramlila Maidan. However, the two leaders could not hold a one-on-one meeting, according to sources.Rahul has reportedly given an appointment to Siddaramaiah for Monday, when the former chief minister is likely to discuss the sting operation controversy in detail and its political implications.

Siddaramaiah also met Kharge and interacted with leaders of the INDIA bloc.Earlier in the day, Siddaramaiah participated in the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations organised at the Karnataka Bhavan. He paid floral tributes to the portrait of Goddess Bhuvaneshwari, the presiding deity of Karnataka.The celebrations were attended by the state government's representative in Delhi, T B Jayachandra, Karnataka Bhavan Resident Commissioner Sameer Shukla, Assistant Commissioner Mohan, Karnataka MPs and MLAs, besides bhavan staff and their family members.



'Be quiet or I will give an hour-long speech': Mallikarjun Kharge warns Ramlil Maidan crowd

New Delhi(Agency).

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge dealt with the Ramlila Maidan rally crowd quite sternly. As they repeated a line regarding PM Narendra Modi, which the Congress chief had said around a week ago, he told them that he would keep his speech short only if they settled down.Initially as he took the dais to speak, Kharge stood silently for around 30 seconds. This even as slogans and chants were being raised by the rally crowd and a musical instrument was being played. Clearly, the senior leader was not very impressed by the high decibel levels at the rally.Speaking in Hindi, he said, "Dekho, aap agar chup baithenge, main paanch minute mein apna bhashan khatm kar raha hun. Agar chup nahin baithenge, main ek ghanta bhashan karunga", which when translated reads, "If you stay quiet, I'll finish my speech in five minutes; if you do not stay quiet, I'll speak for an hour."Most of the slogans being raised by the crowd, slammed Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar. His resignation was also the major agenda of the rally.But a small group yelled, "Modi ka baap bhi jayega." These were the exact same words that Kharge had used while speaking at a function in Patna, and stirred a political controversy.To counter Kharge's remark, the BJP came up with a counter slogan, "Modi kahi nahi jayega."Speaking at the Ramlila Maidan on Sunday, Kharge echoed similar sentiments, regarding the PM. But he omitted the controversial bit. He said, "Modi jayega, tabhi loktantra bachega", which translates to, "Modi will go, and democracy will thus survive."



The Patna incident

While speaking at a function in Patna, Kharge was heard shouting, "Modi ka baap bhi jayega", after being heckled by an audience member.

Initially as he took the dais to speak, Kharge stood silently for around 30 seconds. This even as slogans and chants were being raised by the rally crowd and a musical instrument was being played. Clearly, the senior leader was not very impressed by the high decibel levels at the rally.

drowns in bucket of water at home in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 16-month-old girl died after allegedly falling into a bucket filled with water in the bathroom of her home while playing on Sunday in IMT Manesar. Her father was away at work at a factory when the incident took place.

The deceased was identified as Pinky, aged one year and four months. Her family is originally from Sarwan village in Uttar Pradesh's Jalaun district and had been living in the city for around five months. Her father works at a factory. Pinky was the youngest of three children in the family.According to police, the toddler was playing at home when she wandered into the bathroom, where a bucket filled with water had been kept. She is suspected to have leaned over the bucket or tried to play with the water before falling into it. When family members spotted her, her head was submerged in the water and her legs were pointing upwards.The family immediately pulled her out and rushed her to a hospital, but doctors could not save her. She died during treatment.

Zip, zap, zoom: Racing returns to Buddh circuit after 3 years

Noida.(Agency)

Buddh International Circuit (BIC) in Greater Noida hosted Round 4 of Indian Racing Festival (IRF) 2026 from Oct 31 to Nov 1, bringing competitive motorsport back to the venue.

The event featured F4 Indian Championship, an entry-level professional single-seater series that is part of FIA's development pathway and offers young Indian and international drivers a route to higher categories such as Formula 3, Formula 2 and, eventually, Formula 1.

Alongside the F4 championship, BIC hosted Round 2 of Indian Racing League (IRL) during the two-day event. The franchise-based series features mixed-gender driver line-ups representing different cities, bringing together Indian and international racers.

Aryan Narola of Goa Aces JA Racing and Ruhaan Alva of Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru emerged champions in the F4 Indian Championship and IRL, respectively.

Indirapuram footpaths turn parking lots, wrong-side driving chokes roads

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Residents of Indirapuram have flagged poor traffic management, alleging that unauthorised parking on footpaths and rampant wrong-side driving have been worsening congestion in the area. They said the problem is particularly acute at busy locations such as the intersection near Cambridge School and Swarn Jayanti Park, where vehicles parked on footpaths obstruct movement and add to traffic snarls.

In a letter addressed to the traffic inspector of the area, residents said approximately 100 to 150 motorcycles occupy the footpath opposite Cambridge School daily. "It not only obstructs pedestrian movement but also endangers the safety of both pedestrians and vehicles by causing significant road congestion," stated Sudarshan Awasthi, general secretary of Indirapuram Welfare Association. "We call for urgent action by traffic police to ensure the safety of public," he added.Some other residents also voiced concerns about motorists frequently driving in the wrong direction at the intersection in front of Swarn Jayanti Park.

Jain Community Seeks Answers Over Allegations Against Sagar Chandrasagar

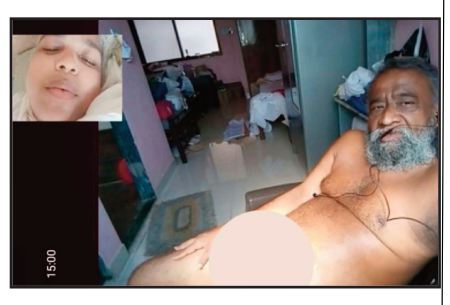
Mahanagar Metro Desk

Mandsaur: A major controversy has erupted within sections of the Jain community following serious allegations of misconduct and financial irregularities against Sagar Chandrasagar, a religious figure associated with the community.The controversy intensified after purported call recordings, photographs and WhatsApp conversations allegedly linked to Chandrasagar began circulating on social media. The authenticity and context of these materials remain unverified, and the allegations require an impartial investigation.Allegations of Misconduct and Financial IrregularitiesThe allegations include claims of inappropriate relationships with women and female ascetics, as well as the al



leged misuse of religious influence.





Questions have also been raised regarding the financial management of certain religious trusts and the possible misuse of devotees' donations.Some community members have called for an independent inquiry into the alleged financial irregularities and the role of individuals associated with the religious institutions concerned.These claims have not been independently established.

A fair investigation and a response from the individuals concerned are necessary to establish the facts.Calls for Accountability in Mandsaur-Chandrasagar is reportedly conducting religious discourses in the Mandsaur region of Madhya Pradesh. The controversy has prompted calls from some members of the Jain community for greater transparency and accountability.

The Lost Evenings of Villages and the Fast-Paced Life of Cities: Where Has Our Childhood Disappeared?

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Gujarat: There was a time when evenings in villages were not merely a sign that the day was coming to an end; rather, they marked the beginning of some of life's most beautiful moments. As the sun began to set, children would start playing in the village streets, elderly people would gather on the front verandas of their homes, and family members would share their joys and sorrows in the courtyard. Life was perhaps not financially prosperous, but it was incredibly rich in love, affection and human emotions.Today, times have changed. Villages, too, are moving towards modernisation. Mobile phones, the internet, vehicles and modern facilities have made life easier. However, amid these changes, the charm of our traditional way of life is gradually fading away. The number of children playing in village streets has decreased, mobile screens have replaced gatherings on traditional verandas, and the beautiful tradition of sitting together and talking face to face is slowly disappearing.There was a time when children did not need ex



pensive toys to enjoy themselves. Their entire childhood was filled with traditional games such as marbles, gilli-danda, hide-and-seek, kho-kho and kabaddi. Today, children have expensive mobile phones and modern video games, but the joy of running in open playgrounds, laughing with friends and learning valuable lessons through victory and defeat seems to have been left behind.The true identity of villages does not lie merely in their streets, fields or houses, but in the warmth and affection of the people who live there. Whenever there was a celebration in someone's home, the entire village would participate. Whenever a family faced difficulties, neighbours would rush forward to offer help. People never needed a formal invitation to maintain relationships. Today, the number of contacts has increased, but the depth of human connection seems to be shrinking.The fast-paced lifestyle of cities has made people increasingly busy. In the race for employment, business, competition and success, people hardly realise how quickly the day comes to an end. Cities offer facilities, opportunities and rapid development, but amid this fast-moving lifestyle, people are gradually forgetting to spend quality time with themselves and their loved ones.Adopting modernity is not wrong, but forgetting our culture, relationships and the innocent joys of childhood in the name of modernisation is certainly not right. It is equally important to introduce the coming generations not only to technology but also to the cultural heritage of villages, community living and human values.Because the evenings in villages did not simply end with the sunset.

Gurgaon records cleanest Oct air in 11 years

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The city recorded its cleanest Oct air since monitoring began in 2016, with the average air quality index (AQI) falling to 162 this year. The improvement came amid excess rainfall during the month and absence of firecracker emissions as Diwali falls in Nov this year.The Oct average AQI was nearly 15% lower than 190 (moderate) recorded in 2025. It was also below 165 (moderate) recorded in 2024 and 183 (moderate) recorded in 2023. Compared with 2022, when the monthly average stood at 202 (poor), this year's reading was 20% lower. The AQI was marginally lower than 164 (moderate) recorded in 2021 and 35% lower than 248 (poor) recorded in 2020. It was 22% below the 2019 average of 207 (poor), 39% lower than 265 (poor) recorded in 2017, and 50% lower than 325 (very poor) recorded in 2018. The 2016 average was 176 (moderate), about 8% higher than this year's reading.The city began recording air quality data in 2016, when it had only one monitoring station. The network gradually expanded and reached four stations by 2019. This expansion is important while comparing historical AQI trends, as data from a single station may not represent pollution levels across the city. However, even when the comparison is limited to 2019 onwards, Oct 2026 recorded the lowest average AQI in eight years, indicating that the improvement cannot be attributed only to a wider monitoring network.

The city recorded six days of poor air quality this Oct, compared with 15 in Oct 2025. There were no days in the very poor or severe categories.Manoj Kumar, an air analyst at Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), said favourable weather conditions and the timing of Diwali may have contributed to the improvement. "Gurgaon's AQI was relatively lower this Oct, partly due to excess rainfall, which helps wash pollutants out of the air, and the absence of firecrackers, as Diwali falls in Nov this year," he said.

Daily readings showed fluctuations through the month. The first 10 days recorded an average AQI of around 182, which improved to nearly 135 between Oct 11 and 20. The improvement, however, did not continue through the final stretch.

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

Mahanagar Metro Desk

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



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

More Aqua Line trains at peak hours, last service now at 11.25pm

Noida.(Agency)

Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) has increased the frequency of Aqua Line trains during peak hours and extended late-night services from Sunday to meet rising passenger demand. The interval between peak-hour trains has been cut from seven minutes 30 seconds to six minutes 35 seconds, while the last train from Sector 51 towards Depot station will now leave at 11.25pm instead of 10pm. The first train continues to depart at 6am from Monday to Saturday and at 8am on Sundays.NMRC general manager Anjenee Kumar said the corporation had announced the measures last week to improve passenger convenience and implemented them from Sunday.The move follows Aqua Line's highest-ever single-day ridership of 1,05,358 passengers on Oct 23. NMRC attributed the rise to several passenger-friendly initiatives, including the skywalk connecting Sector 51 and Sector 52 metro stations, QR-code-based ticketing and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC). Average daily ridership rose from 73,298 in Aug to 83,403 in Sept. Oct's average is yet to be compiled.

The skywalk was opened to the public on Aug 28, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan, and formally inaugurated on Oct 4. It allows commuters to interchange between the two stations without having to navigate the enroached subway at ground level.eanwhile, NMRC is pursuing other infrastructure projects to increase its non-fare revenue. It has invited Expressions of Interest (EoI) for the commercial development of Plot FC-04 in Sector 94, adjacent to Okhla Bird Sanctuary metro station, under a public-private partnership (PPP) model. Spread over 44,151 sqm, the plot has a permissible floor area ratio (FAR) of 4.5



and is suitable for a shopping mall or commercial complex.

The selected developer will design, construct and manage the project at its own cost, and will also have to build and maintain parking space for 800 cars for visitors and metro users. The proposed lease period is up to 40 years, including a three-year construction moratorium. Applications can be submitted until Nov 6 at 3pm.

Bengal Assembly canteen staff member found dead inside restroom; police begin probe

Kolkata.(Agency)

A 46-year-old casual staff member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly canteen died under mysterious circumstances Monday morning after being found unconscious inside a restroom on the Assembly premises in Kolkata. He was rescued and rushed to the Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.Umesh Chandra Das had been working as a temporary employee in the Assembly canteen



for around 15 years. "His body was recovered around 9.10 am inside a washroom in the canteen section," said Kunal Agarwal, Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime).

The discovery of the body inside the high-security Assembly premises triggered tension. Officers from the Hare Street police station and the homicide wing of the detective department arrived at the scene to begin an investigation.The police said they found no visible injuries on his body and suspect no foul play as of now. No formal complaint has been filed regarding the death. The police also made arrangements for an inquest and post-mortem examination, which is expected to explain the cause of death.

Chennai: Garbage uncleared for week, road near suburban terminal turns dumpyard

CHENNAI.(Agency)

The road near platform 12 of Moore Market Complex suburban terminal at Chennai Central has turned into a dumping ground, with garbage piled up for nearly 300 m. The waste, which has remained uncleared for at least a week, gives off a pungent smell that reaches the terminal entrance, forcing passengers to cover their noses as they walk on the platform.During a visit to the spot on Sunday morning, found hundreds of garbage bags containing plastic and food waste piled along the road. Workers were also seen clearing the waste. The road is used as a collection point for garbage generated across Chennai Central railway station and the suburban terminal. Passengers said the stench had made their daily commute difficult over the past few days.V Raju, a resident of Ponneri who travels daily from Gummidipoondi by suburban train, said services bound for Gummidipoondi usually depart from platform 12.

2nd Bengaluru-Mumbai VB sleeper will touch Hubballi, says Vaishnaw

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Karnataka's next Vande Bharat Sleeper train will connect Bengaluru to Mumbai via North Karnataka and Hubballi, covering regions that currently lack access to a world-class train service, announced Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday.The announcement came at the launch of South India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Express connecting Bengaluru to Mumbai. The inaugural special departed from Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT), Bengaluru, and is scheduled to reach Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), Mumbai, at 6.15 am on Monday.Vaishnaw said the proposed second service will start from Bengaluru, pass through parts of North Karnataka towards Hubballi and continue to Pune and Mumbai. The route has been decided in consultation with Union Ministers HD Kumaraswamy, Pralhad Joshi and Somanna, along with MPs from Bengaluru, he added.The service will serve parts of Andhra Pradesh and North Karnataka, including Raichur, Yadgir and Kalaburagi, he said.On demands for better connectivity between Bengaluru and Pune, he said another 3,000 km of bullet train corridors will be announced and the Bengaluru to Pune route could be among them.

Andhra: Cyclonic Storm Murasu landfall between Nellore, Narsapuram likely

She stressed the need for advance measures to prevent inconvenience to people, and ensure their safety in view of successive cyclonic systems affecting the State.

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

Severe Cyclonic Storm Murasu, currently centred over the southwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal, is likely to intensify further, and cross the Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Narsapuram around Monday midnight or in the early hours of Tuesday, triggering heavy to extremely heavy rainfall and gale-force winds in several districts.Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha on Sunday reviewed the cyclone preparedness with officials of the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA), and directed the State machinery to remain on high alert.She stressed the need for advance measures to prevent inconvenience to people, and ensure their safety in view of successive cyclonic systems affecting the State.APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain said the cyclone had moved at a speed of 27 kmph during the past six hours. It was located around 480 km from Chennai, 550 km from Nellore, 560 km from Machilipatnam, 600 km from Ongole, and 610 km from Visakhapatnam.The system was expected to move northwestwards after intensifying over the west-central Bay of Bengal.

Wind speeds at the time of landfall are likely to reach 100-110 kmph, with gusts up to 120 kmph. Strong winds of 80-90



kmph are expected along the Andhra Pradesh coast from Monday afternoon. Under its influence, widespread light to moderate rainfall, accompanied by heavy to extremely heavy showers at isolated places, is likely across South Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema over the next three days.On Monday, heavy to extremely heavy rainfall is forecast in Krishna, Guntur, Bapatla, Prakasam, Markapuram and Nellore districts, with extremely heavy rainfall likely at one or two places.

NDRF, SDRF teams deployed as heavy rain forecast

Eluru, East Godavari, West Godavari, NTR, Palnadu, Tirupati and Chittoor districts may also receive extremely heavy rainfall. Heavy showers are expected in parts of Alluri Sitarama Raju, Polavaram, Kakinada, Konaseema, Nandyal, YSR Kadapa and Annamayya districts.On Tuesday, extremely heavy rainfall is likely in parts of Alluri Sitarama Raju, Polavaram and Eluru districts, while Vizianagaram, NTR, Palnadu, Prakasam, Markapuram, Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor and Annamayya may also experience extremely heavy showers. Several other districts are likely to receive heavy rainfall.On Wednesday, heavy rain is forecast in parts of Krishna, Guntur, Bapatla, Prakasam and Nellore districts.

Anitha directed officials to establish 24-hour emergency control rooms and instructed them to identify people in low-lying and flood-prone areas, and dilapidated houses, and shift them to safer locations immediately.

Panchkula school assault: School principal, two teachers suspended

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

Chandigarh.(Agency)

The Haryana government has suspended the principal and two Junior Basic Training (JBT) teachers of the government school in Panchkula where a six-year-old girl was allegedly assaulted by an eight-year-old boy inside an empty classroom on October 28.The suspension order against the principal was issued on Sunday, a day after the two JBT teachers were suspended.In the order, Haryana Principal Secretary (School Education) Vijay Singh Dahiya said the principal had been placed under suspension under Rule 5 of the Haryana Civil Services (Punishment and Appeal) Rules, 2016.The six-year-old girl was left battling for her life after the eight-year-old boy allegedly attacked her with a brick and a flower pot, banged her head against a desk, and stomped on her face and body on October 28.During the police investigation, prima facie lapses on the part of the school administration came to light, following which an FIR was registered on Saturday under relevant provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).Meanwhile, in a related move, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) Director Prof Vivek Lal said on Sunday that the institute is providing the best possible medical care free of cost to the six-year-old girl, who was critically injured in an alleged assault by an eight-year-old boy at a Panchkula school, and will also extend every possible assistance to the family.

"The circumstances involving this little child are deeply concerning. We want to ensure that she receives the best possible medical care, along with all the support and comfort she needs. The entire treatment is being provided free of cost, and the institute will extend every possible assistance to the family," said Lal, who visited the child and enquired about her health and progress from the treating doctors. He also interacted with the medical team to review the care being provided to her. "At PGIMER, our responsibility goes beyond providing medical treatment. It is equally about standing by patients and their families in their most difficult moments," Lal said.According to a PGIMER spokesperson, Lal has directed that all medical expenses, including the cost of treatment and other facilities, be borne by the institute. A private room has been provided to ensure that the child receives appropriate care, comfort and privacy during her treatment.The girl was left battling for life after the boy allegedly attacked her inside an empty classroom at a government school in Haryana's Panchkula, hitting her with a brick and a flower pot, banging her head against a desk and stomping on her face and body, police said on Saturday.

The girl, who suffered facial frctures, including a nasal fracture, is under the supervision of a multidisciplinary team of specialists at PGIMER, which is closely monitoring her condition and providing the necessary medical attention.

Day after returning from Australia, man stabs wife to death in Ludhiana

Chandigarh.(Agency)

A day after returning from Australia, a 50-year-old man from Vikas Nagar of Ludhiana, allegedly stabbed his wife to death after suspecting her of having an extra-marital affair.Police said that the accused Ravinder Singh had returned from Australia on October 30. His wife and elder son had also gone to receive him at Amritsar airport. A day later on Saturday evening (October 31), he allegedly stabbed his wife Kamaljit Kaur, 49, to death with a knife at their residence."The accused suspected his wife of having an extra-marital affair. The couple had gone to Australia to meet their younger son who lives there while the elder son Gagandeep lives with them. While the wife had returned some days ago, Ravinder returned on October 30. A day after returning, he stabbed his wife to death on Saturday evening. He sent his elder son to buy milk and stabbed wife to death in his absence,"



said Inspector Gurmukh Singh, SHO, Dugri police station.Ravinder Singh is a pick-up driver, said police, while Kamaljit was a homemaker. He allegedly stabbed her multiple times."After the crime, Gagandeep saw his father rushing out of the home. He asked his father that why was he in such a hurry, to which he replied "go and check inside" what he has done," said the inspector.Gagandeep rushed inside and found his mother lying on the bed in blood. He sought help from neighbours, who rushed Kamaljit to a hospital. However, doctors declared her dead.

Inspector said the accused attacked his wife repeatedly with a kitchen knife, inflicting wounds on her stomach and neck.

Death of Dalit student: Family exhumes body, protest for swift action

Lucknow.(Agency)

In an attempt to put pressure on the administration to take action against the accused, the family of a 22-year-old Dalit nursing student, whose body was found on a railway track near her college in Firozabad, exhumed her body and staged a protest on Saturday.The family has alleged that she was sexually assaulted and killed, and her body was later placed on the railway track to make it appear like suicide.The first-year nursing student's body was found on the morning of October 28. On a complaint lodged by her brother, the police registered an FIR against the principal of the private nursing college and his son for attempted rape, murder, and under the provisions of the SC/ST Act.A day later (October 29), she was buried in her village in Mainpuri, 70 km from Firozabad, following the autopsy. However, on Saturday, the family exhumed the body and protested with it outside the district administration, demanding the arrest of the nursing college principal and son.The family demanded action against the local police station in-charge where the FIR has been lodged, alleging that he failed to act promptly on their complaint, and sought financial assistance.Tensions flared during Saturday's protest after the villagers tried to block a road, leading to heated exchanges with the police. Officers later persuaded the family to take the body back to Mainpuri, where it was reburied under police supervision."The investigation is underway, and we are examining the case from all possible angles. We have checked CCTV footage from



cameras installed near the spot, while the call detail records of the victim's mobile phone are also being examined," Firozabad Circle Officer Tejas Tripathi said.A police officer said the post-mortem examination was conducted by a panel of doctors and videographed. The officer claimed that the findings did not support the family's allegations.Police said a preliminary inquiry indicated that the student had gone towards the railway track alone late on the evening of October 27. No suicide note has been recovered so far.

Over 500 delegates to attend international maize conference

The main theme of the three-day conference is "Maize revolution for food, feed, fodder, fuel and Sustainability in the changing world (M4FS)".



Hyderabad.(Agency)

Over 500 delegates from across the country and several other nations, including scientists, policymakers, academicians, industry representatives, development partners, entrepreneurs and farmer organisations, are expected to participate in the International Maize Conference 2026 (IMC-2026) to be organised here from Monday.

The main theme of the three-day conference is "Maize revolution for food, feed, fodder, fuel and Sustainability in the changing world (M4FS)".A curtain-raiser event for the conference was held at the ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management here on Sunday. Briefing the media, ML Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, said that the conference is being jointly organised by the Maize Technologists Association of India, Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre and ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research.

He said that the conference would deliberate on opportunities to further strengthen the maize ecosystem through climate-resilient varieties, advanced breeding technologies, biotechnology, artificial intelligence and smart farming.

Justice inverted between crime and settlement

Consider two recent events. The CEO of Eiffel Tower's managing company stepped down owing to a simple, though sensitive, administrative issue of segregating female employees during the visit of a team of monks. On the other hand, Mark Zuckerberg, the high-profile founder-CEO of Meta Platforms who commands 61 percent voting power in the tech giant, did not lose a single dollar after what the courts agreed were his company's major and deliberate violations relating to child safety, data misuse and platform addiction. Accountability works only if applied universally.Meta, in August, settled a set of suits by agreeing to pay four US states about $18 billion. Two months later, another US court ordered Meta to pay $25 billion to the state of New Mexico in a separate suit alleging sharp practices on data privacy. But for the magnanimity of the judge, this penalty could reportedly have been up to $260 billion.

These are not first-time violations by Meta. Previous penalties on the company and its associates for privacy violations include the 2019 Federal Trade Commission settlement of $5 billion, the 2022 Irish authority's penalty of €405 Million, the 2023 European Union fine of €390 million, just to mention a few. So it's a series of continuing offences of the same nature; apart from competition violation.

However, Mark and Meta are not the only beneficiaries of the new pattern of settlement with cash penalties on the companies (with or without some modification of their companies' business practices). As if the persons-in-charge, the conscience keepers, of the companies have nothing to do with the violations. Big CEOs and other top leadership seem to be too big for jail or even for personal fines.Here are some big examples. Through the 1998 landmark Master Settlement Agreement, Big Tobacco companies committed $206 billion to 46 US states to offset the systemic public healthcare expenditures associated with smoking-related problems. BP settled the Deepwater Horizon oil spill for $20.8 billion in 2016. Volkswagen incurred a $14.7-billion liability the same year on account of its emissions-cheating setup.

In the financial sector, Bank of America's record $16.65-billion settlement in 2014 and JPMorgan Chase's $13 billion resolution in 2013 were stemming from the proliferation of toxic mortgage-backed securities. BNP Paribas agreed to $8.97 billion forfeiture in 2014 for illicitly processing transactions for embargoed jurisdictions. Except in a few cases the CEOs/top management of those companies did not suffer personally.The central argument for settlement is rooted in public interest and speedy justice. In tune with this, State and regulatory frameworks have leveraged unprecedented, multi-billion-dollar financial settlements as the primary mechanisms to mitigate widespread harms on people; including children, the economy and environment. The increasing shift towards out-of-court settlements and plea bargains, is reshaping the relationship between crime and punishment. It is blurring the lines of justice by turning criminal accountability into a financial, commercial or administrative transaction. The practical logic of such light-touch approach to justice and inverted proportionality emanates from politico-economic consequences of the fall of big companies in terms of production, unemployment and the deficiencies in the investigative-judicial machinery to deal with the increasing incidence of large and complex violations.Even the Supreme Court of India travelled this path while closing the Sterling Biotech bank fraud case in 2025, after the promoters agreed to pay a recovery package. This was despite the hitherto strong stand that settling criminal offences was a crime against society

India must never forget scars of 1984

The least a republic owes to the people it failed is a public place where the dead are remembered

Alittle after nine on the morning of October 31, 1984, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated in the garden of her residence on Safdarjung Road by two of her bodyguards, Beant Singh and Satwant Singh. By the evening, the news had been turned into a verdict against an entire community. In the resettlement colonies of Delhi, men gathered with kerosene, iron rods and lists of the houses where Sikh families lived. Nothing that followed in the next three days was spontaneous in the way the word "riots" suggests. The mobs knew exactly where to goIn Trilokpuri, Sultanpuri and Mangolpuri, men were dragged into the lanes and burned alive. Women were raped. Children watched their fathers die and then went hungry in relief camps. Trains arriving in and around the capital were stopped, and passengers wearing turbans were pulled out and killed. The Army was not deployed in time, and police personnel stood aside or lent a hand to the mob in many localities. Within weeks the new Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, said during a rally that when a big tree falls, the earth shakes. It was as if he had already reconciled himself with the tragedy.



The official count was 2,733 dead in Delhi and 3,325 across the country. Citizens' lists put the Delhi toll alone at 3,870. When about 1,200 people were killed in the Hamas-led attacks in October 2023, the world turned its attention to the tragedy at once.The serious question to ask is: Why has the killing of more than twice that number, inside India, by Indian mobs under the eyes of the Indian police, never been given a comparable place in our collective conscience? Where were the leaders, the people, the justice delivery system, the law and order machinery?The anger behind Indira's assassination has a history. In June 1984, the Army entered the Golden Temple complex to remove Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his armed followers. The Akal Takht was damaged and many pilgrims died alongside militants.Punishing a community of millions for what two of its members did is collective punishment, and a democracy that allows it has abandoned its own principles. Sikhs and Hindus in North India were never separate communities; families were joined by marriage, and Hindu households raised a son in the Sikh faith. The killings handed the extremists their strongest argument, and the insurgency that followed took the lives of thousands of Sikhs and Hindus.

The Preamble to the Constitution begins with the words, "We, the People of India", and promises justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. In November 1984, the people who had given themselves that Constitution were, for the most part, not heard. The neighbours watched from their windows, the officers sworn to uphold the law looked away and the country mourned a PM while Sikh homes burned in the capital.Within seven weeks, the country went to the polls and returned the ruling party with 414 seats, the largest majority in the history of the Lok Sabha — a result commonly attributed in part to a sympathy wave. The culprits behind the massacre were exonerated. The question is put hardest to the rest of the country, whose silence taught a minority that the Preamble's guarantees came with conditions.

Justice was slow to come. By one count, as many as 11 commissions and committees of inquiry probed the killings, but almost nothing followed. Sajjan Kumar (now deceased), three-time Congress MP, was acquitted by a trial court in 2013. The Delhi High Court reversed the decision in December 2018 and sentenced him to life imprisonment, describing the violence as a crime against humanity. A second life sentence followed in February 2025.Jagdish Tytler, who served as a Union minister, has been charged with the murder of three Sikhs. He has denied the charges, even as the trial is in progress. Then PM Manmohan Singh apologised in Parliament in 2005, when the principal accused were still roaming free.

Whenever there is a bus or train mishap, the State immediately accepts that it owes something to the families of the dead and announces compensation within a day or two. The victims of 1984 had a stronger claim because cops remained bystanders in several localities and those named by witnesses belonged to the ruling party. Yet the relief that followed was more for property and shelter than for compensating the families of the dead. Compensation for death was fixed at Rs 10,000, later Rs 20,000, against Rs 10,000 for a house wholly destroyed.The Rs 3.5-lakh relief that the High Court ordered in 1996 reached families only through a Central package in 2006, and a further Rs 5 lakh was approved in 2014 for the kin of 3,325 dead. The fulfilment of promises on pensions and jobs has been patchy. In 2023, 10 states had still not reported what they had paid. A State that pays promptly for accidents, but in instalments over four decades for a massacre it failed to stop, has told its Sikh citizens what their lives were worth.

What the survivors did with their grief deserves attention too. They did not respond to the mobs with violence. A minority in Punjab took up arms in later years, but the families of Trilokpuri and Sultanpuri took their grievances to the commissions, the courts and the media, and went on doing so for four decades, asking only for what a citizen asks of a democratic State: an inquiry, a trial, compensation and some security for the generations to come. The Sikh community put its faith in the law, and the law did not keep its side of the bargain.The community's restraint was in stark contrast to the ongoing brutal retaliation in Gaza, whose toll on civilians is widely regarded as disproportionate.

It is important to note that the people who forget the crime they have committed will find it easy to repeat it. Germany has set its guilt in stone in the middle of Berlin, Washington has a Holocaust museum and South Africa built a museum of apartheid. Delhi has the Wall of Truth at the Rakab Ganj gurdwara, raised by the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee and opened in 2017. It is sad that it was built by the victims' own community and not the State.The State should now build a museum in the capital — funded by the government and open to everyone — that displays the names of the dead, the survivors' testimonies, photographs, reports of inquiries and court judgments. It should also carry the names of the Hindu and Muslim neighbours who hid Sikh families in their homes, since their courage is the best proof that none of this was inevitable. It would remind every generation that humans can sink to such brutality, and that the only defence is a State that refuses to look away and a citizenry that stands up for the victims.The failure of successive governments, compounded by the deafening silence of the Indian people in the face of this tragedy, has left an indelible scar on India's conscience and history.

Address tech crunch on mission mode, close education-jobs gap

For India, which derives the largest number of white-collar jobs from the tech sector, the anticipated AI jobs apocalypse has not arrived yet. When it does, the impact will be widely felt

The much-feared job losses in the tech sector are here. About 300-450 jobs are being lost each day across the world, according to estimates compiled by multiple headcount trackers. Before Microsoft's recent announcement of offering voluntary exit to 60,000 employees worldwide, including 23,000 in India, Oracle was in the spotlight for letting go of 12,000 employees in the country. Amazon, Facebook, eBay, Netflix and Salesforce, too, have been in the news for net retrenchments.By most measures, the tech layoffs this year are lower than those seen in 2023, when about 2.65 lakh lost their jobs. But the worrying news is that more cuts are expected in the next six months because companies are increasing investments on AI infrastructure and restructuring ahead of larger transitions.

For India, which derives the largest number of white-collar jobs from the tech sector, the anticipated AI jobs apocalypse has not arrived yet. When it does, the impact will be widely felt. The first round of significant headcount losses is occurring in back-office roles, with global banks like Standard Chartered, HSBC and Barclays announcing plans to reduce such roles in the



coming years. Although Indian majors TCS, Infosys, Wipro and HCL Tech have not joined the aggressive firing bandwagon, their net additions were stymied in the July-September quarter.TCS CEO K Krithivasan has sought to nuance doomsday predictions like Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei's claim of an imminent global white-collar wipe-out. But India cannot altogether escape the industry upheaval. Most unfortunately, it is arriving when the most populous nation's young workforce is bulging, with 30-40 crore fresh workers expected to enter the workforce by 2030. There is no bigger headache than this for policy makers.It's time the government and the industry got their act together. At a time leaders like Krithivasan are talking about the need to reorient tech roles, most engineering curriculums remain way out of date. The government must institute regional coordination mechanisms for academic institutions and industry players to close the education-to-jobs skills gap. While the adoption of AI is accelerating, the technology's promised impact on worker productivity is not yet significant. It's time for companies to use this transitional phase to upskill their existing workforces. What's being done is too little, rolling at too slow a pace. There is no time to be lost.

Speakeasy | Creative Commons in machine age

New French literary award Pascal has opened itself up to machine-assisted works alongside those born purely of human imagination. Kurt Vonnegut's repeated use of fictional writer Kilgore Trout may help us understand co-authorship. Licensing notices could learn from open-source software

In the midst of an insurrection, the indomitable French have found the time to take a step towards reconciling the global intellectual property regime in culture with the new challenges presented by AI. The world's 2026 publishing calendar is pockmarked by the withdrawal of books from literary prizes, and even from publication, due to moral anxieties about the use of AI in literature. Now, weeks after France's Prix Goncourt eliminated Thélyson Orélien's C'était ça ou mourir, a new prize for books written with AI has been announced. French literature is forking—like on Github—between machine-assisted and purely human authorship.Prix Pascal will consider French manuscripts of 10,000-50,000 words accompanied by a seed prompt of up to 100 words, and details of LLMs, agents and prompts used. Submissions close end-November and the winner will be announced in early December. A fast verdict suggests that these AI-generated manuscripts will be evaluated with AI assistance, too. It is perhaps fitting when CVs are being tuned using AIs to apply for jobs which, in turn, screen applications using AI. An AI-inclusive prize is an intelligent response to a year of controversies about AI-assisted texts, which started with Hachette dropping Mia Ballard's debut novel Shy Girl in March. Jerry Falade's Call Me, I'll Hide the Body was another noteworthy casualty. There were many others, and the phenomenon has shaken writers, some of whom are tweaking their styles—self-censoring to visibly demonstrate that they are not using AI.

They protest too much, pointlessly. Because, what does an AI do? It tries to pass the Turing test. It mimics humans it knows. It ploughs through terabytes of human culture to absorb vocabularies, speech patterns and behaviours which it can use to masquerade most convincingly as a human. Theoretically, this suggests that AI-detecting tools are detecting only AIs which can't pretend too well. Human-observable signs attributed to AI input, like a lot of em-dashes, are not reliable, either. Thousands of journalists, academics and writers use them for emphasis, from mere editorialists to Nobel laureates, but this worthless notion has preoccupied the industry for months. But why does the literary world care so much about AI assistance? Because it cares about rights. The literary establishment has always believed that it is best to write in your own authorial voice—which is as distinctive as your audible voice. And thereby, the author came to be regarded as the authentic repository of all



rights relating to their work. Classical copyright notices used to include this statement: "Jane Doe asserts the right to be identified as the author of this work". Now, it's become clipped: "Copyright © 2026 by Aruni Kashyap" (from the new novel How to Date a Fanatic). In Arundhati Roy's Mother Mary Comes to Me, it is terse but speaks volumes: "The moral right of the author has been asserted." The statement implicitly divides rights into moral and commercial. The latter can be freely sold, given away, lent or inherited. The former are unalienable.This neat picture is muddied in fresh editions of texts too old to be copyrighted. A new edition of Odyssey may assign translators and researchers the title of author. Homer's name may not even appear in the copyright notice, though there would be no Odyssey without him. Now, imagine a futuristic, Star Trek-like fanfic of the Odyssey, in which Homer is still excluded. His place is taken by a worldbuilding AI. It's obviously a co-author, but its contribution draws on the myriad writers whose words the machine has swallowed, from the contemporary Kilgore Trout (a work of fiction himself, created by fiction writer Kurt Vonnegut), all the way up the river of time to Homer. The nonhuman co-author contains human multitudes who have not consented to be corralled in there, which breaks the assumptions of the copyright regime about originality.

Not just bad Superiors

people shun good bosses too



If you thought that a bad boss triggers employee exodus, you are probably wrong as workers leave good bosses too and use friendly terms as a source of future business or get key market information to boost their career ahead, an Indian-American professor has found.

According to Ravi S. Gajendran, professor of business administration at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, an organisation's former employees -- or "alumni" -- can potentially be important strategic assets in the future, provided they leave on good terms.

"If you have a good relationship with an employee who's left to join a client or competitor, you can leverage that relationship and potentially use them as a source of future business or as a back-channel source of information," Gajendran said in a university statement.

"Therefore, thinking of ex-employees as a strategic constituency is something more organisations should start doing," he added.

Using data from interviews with ex-employees, Gajendran and his co-authors found that among employees who quit, the quality of the boss-worker relationship is positively related to higher salaries and greater responsibility in a worker's next job as well as the goodwill they feel toward their former company."If you're making people happier, it should stand to reason that they're more committed to the organisation. But the numbers don't bear that out," the authors said.So why do workers leave despite having such a high-quality relationship with their manager?

"What we find is, if you have a good manager, they're going to invest in you, they're going to develop you, you're going to become a better, more competent employee, which also means you're more in-demand as a worker," Gajendran noted.

You could move up in the organisation but that path may not always be available."Managers also might not want you to go up internally because then they're losing a valued employee. So it means you're attractive to employers in the outside job market," the professor pointed out.

That is why people leave good managers, precisely because good managers invest in and develop their employees.

They typically get a better job with more responsibilities at their next employer.While that scenario might leave managers in a bind, Gajendran's research finds that there's a silver lining to valued employees leaving good managers.They are more likely to be open to a reunion with the organisation as a so-called 'boomerang employee', but they could also be a good source of information for the organisation," Gajendran emphasised."Our paper also shows that even employees who are leaving can be valuable somewhere down the line," Gajendran said.As a result, companies need to pay closer attention to the "off-boarding" process.According to the paper, it also helps if managers at least make an overture to retain employees, even if they think it's unlikely they'll accept the offer to stay.

Should you consider taking a Sabbatical?

Abbatical goes a long way to help rejuvenate one's life and career.

Preeti was getting bogged down by her mundane routine job. Her, otherwise, successful career was getting monotonous. Finding a way out of the boredom, she took a sabbatical for one year and spent it with her parents in a sleepy and quaint town in Himachal Pradesh. A year later, Preeti returned, feeling much rejuvenated and energised.

Like Preeti, you may also take a break and get a whiff of fresh air to escape the monotony and infuse fresh life in your work. Today's highly demanding job schedule and work load are most likely to create a sense of lethargy or monotony in one's working life. A sabbatical from the hustle bustle of the city life helps to recharge yourself.

But a sabbatical is somewhat more than a quick break. It is a prolonged break from one's professional job. It gives us the space and time to introspect on our personal and professional lives and evaluate ourselves. It gives us room to take a quick look at our career and long-term goals that are often neglected, thanks to the kind of pressure we need to undergo in our professional life.

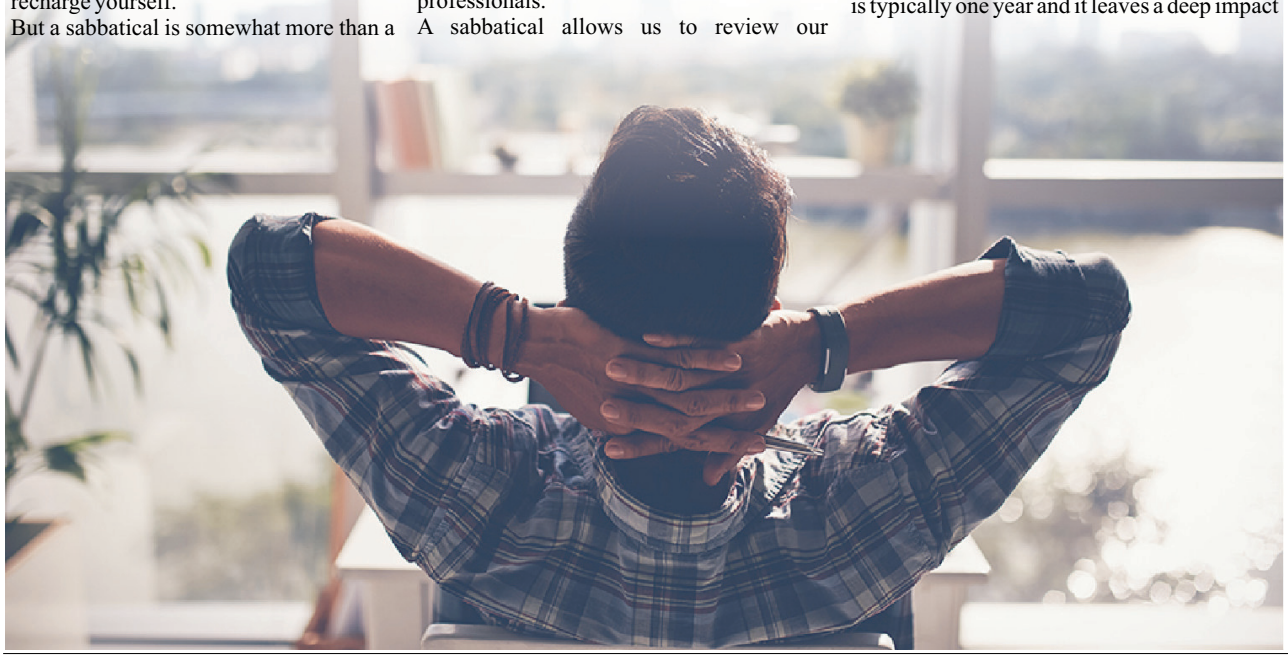
Sanjeev Agrawal, vice president, operations and human empowerment, Impetus Infotech (India) Pvt Ltd says, "With job pressures on the rise in modern times, many employees are opting for breaks to rejuvenate themselves. Sabbaticals provide one such opportunity and help them address their personal issues, pursue their hobbies, acquire new skills and be more fulfilled. If used judiciously, sabbaticals can help individuals to emerge as refined professionals."

A sabbatical allows us to review our accomplishments and shortcomings, fix priorities and set goals in our life. It also helps us strike a perfect balance between our personal and professional lives. Rajeev Bhardwaj, VP HR, Sun Life Financial Asia Service Centre maintains, "A sabbatical can make a positive difference in one's life, but a lot depends on how an individual puts it to use. If taken positively, a sabbatical can turn out to be the turning point of one's life. One gets valuable time to take stock of their life, understand what they are doing and what they would like to do. Once clear about all these aspects, one can be at greater peace with one's self and not afraid or apprehensive of the unknown."

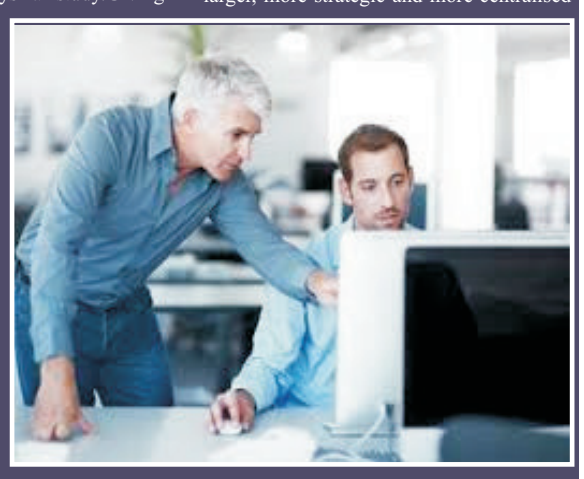
Find out how to save huge on CV fuel costMahindra RisePower in your pocket. Trade anytime, anywheretion for a sabbatical is typically one year and it leaves a deep impact on our personal attitude if taken in the right perspective. Bhardwaj suggests, "A sabbatical is a great opportunity to renew professionally and evolve into a satisfied and well-rounded individual. Such an opportunity can be used to address aspects of burnout or exhaustion, investing time in rebuilding one's self. Such de-stressing of the fatigued mind and soul can be done by engaging in hobbies and interests that might have taken a back seat, volunteering for social causes or even reading or teaching to fine-tune one's craft."

Normally, once we start working, we don't get enough time to renew and upgrade our skills and competencies.As the focus is purely on doing day-today work, one's output can quickly and without realising become stale. One may even end up losing the energy and effectiveness one had at the start. V Krishnan, executive director-HR, Dabur India Ltd says the objective of taking a sabbatical is key to serve the purpose. "If the purpose of the sabbatical is to improve your knowledge and gain skills that help you in performing your roles better and also add value to the organisation, it's a win-win situation," Krishnan notes.Professional success is a combination of competency, energy, drive and ability to reach out and achieve closure. During a sabbatical, one can look at these components and hone these elements to become a better professional and human being, asserts Bhardwaj. "With changing times, employers are also more receptive to employees who have taken breaks as against a few years ago. In fact, the concept of sabbaticals is gaining more and more acceptance across the industry," he adds.

A sabbatical helps you come back as a successful professional with a pronounced freshness in spirit, creativity and energy . It's all about self-renewal and self-growth. So go ahead, take that break and discover yourself, all over again!



Corporate philanthropy impacts employees positively



philanthropy brings in a positive impact on employees of businesses that actively partake in corporate giving, says a study.Giving enhances a business's reputation and strengthens a business's efforts toward corporate social responsibility and also benefits the employees, the study said.The way that firms choose to deploy those funds has a huge impact on the degree to which giving affects employees, the findings showed.Just saving is not enough anymoreMyUniverse"Specifically, the impact is stronger when firms donate to a few big and visible targets rather than to a wider range of charities chosen by the employees themselves," said Emily Block, researcher from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, US.By coupling donations with opportunities to volunteer, organisations can enhance the positive impact on employees, the study revealed.

Employees care about impact and they respond more positively to donations to larger, more strategic and more centralised targets, revealed the study, published in the Journal of Business Ethics.To examine how corporate philanthropy affects those inside the organization, the researchers analysed three years' of data on the attitudes of an average of 14,577 employees in 53 offices.

6 little changes that can take your Career to the next level in 2020



The much-awaited New Year is finally here. While you might have made resolutions to exercise daily, read 20 books before the year ends, splurge less on clothes or learn to play a musical instrument, but have you spared a thought about your professional life? In case, you are still figuring out what all you can do to climb up the corporate ladder in 2019, we have got you covered.

We have compiled a list of six small changes that can make a huge difference in your career. Apart from increasing your daily productivity and managing the stress levels at workplace, these habits would also help you to achieve a better work-life balance. Plus, these changes are quite easy to inculcate in your daily schedule, and are bound to give results even before you start realising.

We all procrastinate at work and it is not a serious issue till the time it starts to hamper your performance. Instead of delaying a task simply because it does not interest you, set a deadline and challenge yourself to complete it. Remind yourself that there is no point in escaping or delaying it and ultimately, you are increasing your own work burden. Make it a habit to prepare a to-do list every morning, and include a few boring tasks (that make you procrastinate) in it among the important ones. If not this, break your task into small, achievable steps, and push yourself to complete them.

Instead of stressing over all the tasks you have in your hand, learn to prioritise them and work accordingly. In fact, try to plan your work a day in advance, so that you already know the things you need to do once you reach office. Use your email calendar to mark all the important deadlines, meetings and other events. Trust us, you won't regret it.

Push yourself out of your comfort zone, and try to take up new projects that offer you learning opportunities. It would help you to address your weak areas, and challenge your existing skills. Commit yourself to give your best shot to whatever you are doing, and you will soon become your own source of motivation.

A constructive feedback hurts no one! Ask your peers to review your work and share their feedback. It will help you to accelerate your own learning and improve your knowledge level. Further, it would help to meet the expectation levels of your manager and make you a better team player.

You might not have realised it, but the pop up notifications on your mobile and desktop, especially from your personal social media accounts like Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, affect your concentration levels. As soon as you reach office, make it a habit to switch off all the app notifications and limit checking these during the day. Instead, spend time on all these apps when you are commuting or at home.

It is important to be ambitious and strive for professional success, but do not forget to appreciate what you have in hand. The next time you crib about your job, think about those who are sitting jobless at home, or those who have got fired due to cost cutting. You are definitely at a better position than millions and therefore, do not forget to count on your blessings every day.

10 career advice you wish your younger self knew

We all learn from our past mistakes and experiences, and later repent brooding—wish we would have known about this earlier...isn't it? And when it comes to professional life, some 'innocent' mistakes can cost you strained relationships with colleagues, and even your job, sometimes!

We got in touch with ten professionals from different walks of life and asked them the one advice they would like to give their younger self. Here's what they had to say...

1. "When I joined my first office, I used to think everyone is good-hearted and humble. I started considering a few colleagues very close and got deeply hurt when the same people started bitching about me behind my back after some time. That was my first learning in the corporate world, and that day, I made sure to not start trusting anybody and everybody in professional life."- Nitya Agarwal, 25

2. "I firmly believe one should not share their secrets and personal problems with anyone in the office. You never know what happens the next day in office and what the situation is. People may change and things may backfire anytime."- Nitish Mishra, 27

3. "I was really ambitious since day one of my professional life and used to think way more than required on how I can grow professionally and get a better salary package. I wish somebody would have advised me to just work hard and go with the flow; and that things fall in place eventually. Additionally, I would have surely advised my 21-year-old self to enjoy life to the core as the responsibilities only increase with time."- Spardha Pandey, 25



4. "Mine is pretty simple and effective. Bitching and gossiping won't make you popular. You need to prove your worth with your work."- Anurima Roy, 28

5. "My advice to myself would be to never stick to one field. Your initial years will shape your entire career. Be more experimental, don't stick to one particular field of work, be open to everything that you are capable of doing. Like if you joined a company as a stylist, be open to writing, doing events and even trying your hands at social media. This way, you will know your own capabilities, have options and even experience. Later, you can always stick to one thing and master that. But initial years, you should know all!"- Dhriti Sharma, 34



6. "I would advise myself to realise where my real talent lies. Don't go after salary for the initial years and focus on the larger picture. If you are good at what you do, you are bound to be successful. Struggle in initial years of profession al life would be worth it."- Samaera Mohan, 29

7. "Initially, I used to get really apprehensive about what my colleagues think about me. I wish I could tell my 21-year-old self that it hardly matters what your office mates think about you. You should know your capabilities and where exactly you need to improve."- Ronika Bisht, 27

8. "It was my first job and I gossiped about my boss with my colleague in an online chat. Later, she showed the same chat to my boss, and I got fired! I would surely advice my younger self to not do that. I got really upset at that time but now, I laugh thinking about it."- Alka Behl, 32

9. "My advice would be to go out and socialise. Going out for office events, parties will help you network with the right kind of people. Getting to know new people will inspire you in so many ways, and it might help you at work someday. So don't just stick around your desk and say no to all parties and events!"- Navya Anand, 25

10. "I am still trying to inculcate this advice in my life, and it's a pretty common advice. One must leave all office-related stress at office, and chill at home. Taking work home or even thinking about office at home should be banned from one's life." Abhilash Kumar, 30

Poll roll protest linked to women safety, education & unemployment

Delhi.(Agency)

Thousands who gathered at Ramlila Maidan for the INDIA bloc's rally against alleged electoral irregularities linked the fight to protect voting rights with concerns over unemployment, women's safety, education and representation of marginalised communities. People joined for reasons beyond the SIR of electoral rolls."If the names of crores of eligible voters have been deleted from electoral rolls, does that mean all these people are illegal immigrants? Are they not citizens of India whose right to vote must be protected?" asked Karuna Kurrey, a member of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress.



Manju Tirki, from a village in Jharkhand, said discrepancies in her documents had complicated her eligibility to vote. "We are not educated; we do not understand English. Nobody listens to us," she said.Young protesters said political indifference had strained friendships. "We have lost friends over this. We have tried to persuade people around us to vote and take an interest in what is happening, but many simply do not care," said a 19-year-old from Bihar.Students from Kerala raised concerns over education and employment. Rubi, a 22-year-old Jamia student, said education must translate into meaningful opportunities for young people. Transgender activist Simran Sharma, 29, highlighted the declining representation of transgender voters in Delhi.

INDIA bloc rally on Nov 1 against CEC Gyanesh Kumar: Why Congress alleges police tried to block Opposition event

Delhi.(Agency)

The Congress is preparing for an INDIA bloc rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on November 1. Around 21 political parties are expected to join the protest against alleged electoral irregularities under the Opposition's "vote chori" (vote theft) slogan.Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal along with Delhi party leaders visited the venue on Tuesday (October 27) to review preparations. The rally is expected to bring Opposition parties together over their allegations of discrepancies in Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the voting process.Congress MP Pawan Khera said that party leaders were working on arrangements for the event."The entire Delhi leadership is here right now to make arrangements for the rally. Venugopal ji is coming here, after which he will give everyone instructions. Preparations are being made accordingly," he told ANI.He added that the programme would involve INDIA bloc leaders and participants from across the country.

Police 'obstruction'

Venugopal accused the police of obstructing preparations for an October 30 programme planned ahead of the main rally. He said that the Congress had sought permission to hold the event on the lawns of the Ashoka Hotel, but the request was denied following police intervention.He further alleged that police personnel stopped party workers from setting up infrastructure at another venue.The October 30 programme was planned as a curtain-raiser for the November 1 rally and march against alleged electoral irregularities, according to him.The Congress leader accused the Centre of trying to prevent Opposition parties from speaking out about electoral rolls and alleged irregularities in the voting process.

"We are not going to succumb to their pressure. We know how to conduct the programme," Venugopal said, adding that the party would announce its next course of action.He also alleged that the government was attempting to suppress dissent and restrict political parties from criticising its actions.The Congress has been mobilising Opposition parties through the "vote chori" campaign. The November 1 gathering at Ramlila Maidan is expected to be a major event in the bloc's campaign.

India's indigenous bullet train B28 undergoes squeeze test at BEML Bengaluru

India's first indigenously designed bullet train is undergoing structural tests at BEML's Bengaluru facility. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw shared details of the train's design and explained why its body needs to withstand pressure at high speeds.

Delhi.(Agency)



India's bullet train project has reached another stage, with the country's first indigenously designed high-speed train undergoing structural testing at BEML's manufacturing facility in Bengaluru. A video shared by Union Minister Piyush Goyal has offered a glimpse of the train and the checks being carried out before it moves closer to operation.Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently visited the facility and inspected the manufacturing process. During the visit, he explained how different parts of the train including its roof, side walls, end walls and driver's cab, are being tested to ensure they meet the required standards.Vaishnaw said the train's design follows global benchmarks and highlighted a compression test being carried out to check the strength of its body. The test is aimed at assessing whether the structure can withstand the pressure and stress experienced during high-speed travel."When the train runs at those very high speeds, then around the train, a vacuum gets created," Vaishnaw said while explaining the testing process.

Why is bullet train undergoing structural tests?

At high speeds, trains face changes in air pressure and strong aerodynamic forces. These can put stress on the train's body, making structural strength an important part of safety checks.The compression test demonstrated during Vaishnaw's visit will help engineers assess how the train's structure responds to such pressure. These tests are necessary to ensure that the train can handle the conditions expected during high-speed operations while maintaining safety and reliability.Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, shared the video of the inspection on X, giving the public a closer look at the work underway at the Bengaluru facility.

BEML's role in India's high-speed rail plans

BEML, a Bengaluru-based public sector manufacturer, is contributing to the development of India's high-speed rail technology. The indigenously designed train is part of the country's wider push to strengthen domestic manufacturing and build advanced railway systems.However, the train will have to clear the required engineering checks and validations before it can enter commercial service. The ongoing work at BEML offers a glimpse of the manufacturing and testing involved as India moves ahead with its bullet train plans.

'Can't even fake it right': Kiren Rijiju's jab at Congress Party's AI crowd post

Delhi.(Agency)

Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju hit out at the Congress for allegedly sharing AI-generated images of the crowd at the Ramlila Maidan, to represent the gathering at Sunday's Opposition rally. He attached an image shared by Congress MP from Telangana, Vamsi Gaddam, to claim that the party had to use AI to show crowds at the INDIA Bloc rally.In the post on social media platform, 'X', Rijiju wrote, "Even the fake AI photo to show that Ramlila ground was full is not done properly by the fake narrative team of Congress Party!"The image used by Gaddam was also shared by several other Congress leaders on their respective social media handles. This included former MP and Congress Working Committee member Jagdish Thakor on his social media handle, 'X'.Several other netizens also pointed out that the image used by the Congress was AI-generated. It showed images of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi on the stage at the 'Ramlila Maidan'. But the stage appeared different from the original stage constructed at the venue for Sunday's rally.

The BJP meanwhile had termed the entire event a 'flop show'. They said that the crowd was nowhere near what the Congress Party had claimed before the rally. Several party leaders posted images from the rally, saying that almost 40 percent of the ground remained empty during the Opposition's mega rally.

Congress claimed 10 lakh would turn up for Ramlila Maidan rally, BJP mocks turnout

In days prior to the rally, the Congress Party had claimed that 10 lakh people would take part in the protest at Ramlila Maidan. This was a protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the Opposition called for his immediate resignation, due to irregularities in the election and SIR process in different states. The Congress has claimed that the names of lakhs of voters had been deliberately deleted from the election roles. The party said that this was being done at the behest of the BJP. The entire process had been termed as "vote chori" by Rahul Gandhi.

Delhi pollution curbs: 1,539 vehicles turned back on day 1, Rs 68.4 lakh in fines imposed

The Delhi Traffic Police and Transport Department checked 14,930 vehicles under the restrictions on non-Delhi pre-BS-VI vehicles, turning back around 10.31 per cent of them.

Delhi.(Agency)



Delhi authorities imposed penalties and environmental compensation totalling Rs 68.4 lakh on the first day of the Winter Action Plan enforcement on Sunday, with nearly 15,000 vehicles checked and 1,539 turned back at border points for violating entry restrictions.According to official data available till 5 pm, authorities issued 566 challans for violations of Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUCC) norms, imposing fines of Rs 56.6 lakh. Another Rs 2 lakh was collected in fines for violating vehicle entry restrictions, while environmental compensation of Rs 9.8 lakh was imposed for violations of dust control norms at construction sites.The Delhi Traffic Police and Transport Department checked 14,930 vehicles under the restrictions on non-Delhi pre-BS-VI vehicles, turning back around 10.31 per cent of them. As many as 127 challans were issued and 62 vehicles impounded.Of the vehicles turned back, 140 were light motor vehicles, 54 light commercial vehicles, 95 heavy goods vehicles and 34 buses. Among 1,423 two-wheelers, three-wheelers and other vehicles checked, 789 were turned back and 38 impounded.Separately, 7,279 non-destined vehicles were checked, of which 314 were turned back. Another 740 vehicles, including those running on CNG, electric vehicles and those involved in essential services, were verified and allowed entry as they were exempt from the restrictions.In the drive against vehicles operating without valid PUCC, the Traffic Police issued 493 challans, amounting to Rs 49.3 lakh, while the Transport Department issued 73 challans, imposing fines of Rs 7.3 lakh.Enforcement against dust pollution resulted in environmental compensation of Rs 9.8 lakh after inspections at 300 construction sites. Of these, 32 were found violating dust control norms.Among 91 large construction sites inspected, 16 were found violating the norms. Authorities issued two closure directions and four show-cause notices, besides imposing compensation of Rs 4 lakh. Of the 209 smaller sites inspected, 17 were found violating the norms. Fifteen closure directions and 15 show-cause notices were issued, with compensation of Rs 5.8 lakh imposed. No violations were reported at exempted infrastructure projects.Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said enforcement teams were monitoring compliance with vehicle entry restrictions, PUCC requirements and construction dust regulations."Today 14,930 vehicles checked, 566 PUC challans and 300 sites inspected. Keep PUC valid, follow entry rules and dust norms. The quest for clean air needs our collective efforts," he said in a post on X.

Traditional dance, graffiti art become language of resistance

Delhi.(Agency)

At the INDIA bloc rally, the Opposition used soft power in their political messaging to influence, connect and mobilise people through culture, shared values and emotional appeal.From Himachali folk music and traditional dances to patriotic Bollywood songs, protesters at Ramlila Maidan turned the demonstration into a vibrant display of cultural identity, highlighting how art has long served as a powerful language of resistance.Members of diverse tribal communities from across the country gathered at nearby CP to present traditional folk dances. Not just traditional dances and indigenous musical instruments, people dressed-up as freedom fighters.People dressed up as lookalikes of Bhagat Singh, Mahatma Gandhi, and Netaji were a common sight, the most prominent being BR Ambedkar. Some participants wore masks depicting PM Narendra Modi, adorned with garlands of chillies. A group of sadhus too joined the protest with chants.There were large graffitis made on the roads with slogans against the alleged "vote chori" as the rally moved from Minto Road, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, towards the Ramlila Ground. Creative expressions found new forms.A 21-year-old demonstrator dressed as a cockroach to symbolically highlight the alleged deletion of citizens' names from electoral rolls, portraying voters as being casually brushed aside.A group of people dressed as an angulimal baba from the legends of Gautam Buddha saying that "he had stopped at 999, but the CEC doesn't seem to stop even after chopping 13 crore votes."A Congress state unit displayed a one-mile-long cloth banner bearing the names of voters allegedly deleted from the electoral rolls, with at least 20 party workers carrying it in a straight line as they marched towards the venue.The leader of the opposition had said multiple times that the rally is "shiv ki baraat", highlighting the fact that "it's time for tandav".The imagery from the demonstration brought those cultural narratives into a larger public conversation.



'Don't behave like protesters': Delhi Police faces protest within its own ranks

Around 80 personnel gathered outside the Police Headquarters seeking the restoration of two officers transferred after a lawyer was injured in a scuffle at Shahdara police station; protesters demanded a meeting with the Commissioner.

Delhi.(Agency)

Tense moments unfolded outside Gate No. 1 of the Delhi Police Headquarters (PHQ) on Monday morning as around 80 personnel stood on the footpath and protested against the transfer of two police officers even as senior officers tried to persuade them to call it off.DCP (New Delhi) Sachin Sharma reached the spot soon after the personnel assembled and was seen speaking to Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Manasvi Vashistha — one of the officers who was transferred — urging him not to stage a protest.Sharma asked the ACP and the other personnel to maintain the discipline expected of a police force and reminded them that they should not behave like protesters. He also requested some of the personnel to accompany him inside the PHQ but no one was ready. Protesters demanded a Sampark Sabha by the Commissioner.

Behind the protest

ACP Vashistha, who was posted in the Gandhi Nagar subdivision, and Inspector Arun Kumar, the Station House Officer of Shahdara police station were transferred following an incident at Shahdara police station on October 23, in which an advocate allegedly sustained a serious head injury during a scuffle.The incident triggered an indefinite strike by district court lawyers, who demanded action against the officers concerned. The lawyers called off their strike on October 28 after the transfer orders were issued.The transfers, however, led to discontent among a section of Delhi Police personnel, who sought an opportunity to meet the police commissioner and raise their concerns over the action taken against the two officers.Messages circulated in Delhi Police WhatsApp groups had called upon personnel to assemble outside the headquarters on Monday morning to express their support for the transferred officers and seek restoration of their previous postings.District DCPs and unit heads had been asked to ensure that their staff did not reach the PHQ for the proposed protest.The developments also come ahead of an interaction programme scheduled by Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu.



Scrapping LTCG tax: Relief for investors, but at what cost

New Delhi. (Agency)

The idea of scrapping long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on equities may sound like good news for investors. After all, who wouldn't want to keep more of the profits they make from stocks? But some experts say removing the tax altogether may not be the best move for the economy, government finances or even investors.Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently said the government would be keen to hear views on removing LTCG tax during the upcoming Budget consultations. Speaking at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in New Delhi on Tuesday, she acknowledged the debate around taxing equity investments, including the securities transaction tax (STT) and whether different asset classes should be taxed similarly..Her comments have brought the issue back into focus, particularly as foreign investors continue to pull money out of Indian markets.

The government raised the LTCG tax on listed equities from 10% to 12.5% in July 2024, while increasing the annual exemption limit from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.25 lakh. The short-term capital gains tax rate was also raised from 15% to 20%.In Budget 2026, the government increased STT on equity derivatives, with the revised rates taking effect from April 1, 2026. However, the LTCG tax rate has remained unchanged.

While a reduction or removal of the tax could offer some relief to investors, some experts believe a complete rollback may come at a considerable cost.

WHY SCRAPPING LTCG TAX MAY NOT BE A GOOD IDEA

One of the biggest concerns is the loss of revenue for the government. LTCG tax collections have grown significantly, and doing away with the levy would mean giving up an important source of income.Rajesh Singla, CEO and Fund Manager at Alpha AMC, pointed out that equity LTCG brought in around Rs 1.29 lakh crore in assessment year 2025-26, compared with Rs 72,249 crore a year earlier.

Rupee falls 21 paise to 94.97 against US dollar in early trade

New Delhi. (Agency)

The rupee depreciated 21 paise to 94.97 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday pressured by the broad strength of the American currency in the overseas market.Forex traders said a positive domestic market and softening of crude oil prices cushioned the downside.At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.90, then fell to 94.97 against the US dollar, registering a fall of 21 paise from its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee had settled at 94.76 against the American currency."USDINR is likely to trade within 94.40–95.60 after ending October near 94.95. RBI measures and market operations have helped contain volatility, supported by reserves of around USD 720 billion," said Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodity and Currency Research, Kotak NEO.Banerjee further noted that softer crude would help the rupee; renewed oil strength would push USDINR towards the upper end.Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 101.94, higher by 0.07 per cent.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading lower by 3.07 per cent at USD 109.95 per barrel in futures trade.

The RBI data released on Friday showed India's forex reserves dropped by USD 1.269 billion to USD 719.748 billion during the week ended October 30. The overall reserves had dropped by USD 5.011 billion to USD 721.016 billion in the previous reporting week ended October 16.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned net buyers and purchased equities worth Rs 3,598.54 crore on a net basis on Friday, according to exchange data.On the domestic equity market front, Sensex jumped 764.72 points to 75,216.80 in early trade, while Nifty surged 201.40 points to 23,255.90.

Fixed SWP or rising withdrawals: Which strategy can better manage retirement inflation

New Delhi. (Agency)

When someone retires, the first concern is usually how much monthly income their savings can generate. But I believe there is another question which is equally important. Will that income remain sufficient 15 or 20 years later? A fixed Systematic Withdrawal Plan (SWP) gives retirees the comfort of receiving a regular amount every month. The problem is that household expenses do not remain fixed. Groceries, electricity, medical bills and domestic help become more expensive over time. What looks like a comfortable retirement income at 60 may become inadequate by 75. Ajay Kumar Yadav, group CEO & CIO, Wise Finserv explains the situation with illustrative examples.

Rising withdrawal strategy

A rising withdrawal strategy attempts to address this problem by increasing the monthly withdrawal periodically, preferably in line with inflation. How inflation changes the retirement equation. Consider someone retiring at 60 who needs ₹60,000 every month. Assuming annual inflation of 6%, compounded annually, the following table shows how much income would be required to maintain the same lifestyle.

Who will compensate us Traders claim Rs 11,000 crore loss due to INDIA bloc rally

CTI said the November 1 Ramlila Maidan rally disrupted trade across Delhi. Its estimate covered retail, transport, hospitality, tourism and daily-wage livelihoods.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Delhi's trade suffered an estimated loss of Rs 11,000 crore on November 1 due to the mega rally held at Ramlila Maidan, the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) has claimed. The traders' body said the disruption affected retail and wholesale markets, transport, hospitality and tourism, with around 2.5 lakh shops remaining shut.According to an assessment released by CTI, retail and wholesale trade accounted for the biggest share of the estimated loss at Rs 8,800 crore. Transport and logistics suffered an estimated loss of Rs 1,500 crore, while the hospitality, hotel, restaurant and tourism sectors lost around Rs 500 crore. The informal sector and daily-wage workers accounted for the remaining Rs 200 crore.A credit score reflects how responsibly a person has handled credit in the past. It does not, by itself, establish whether they can afford another EMI today.Adhil Shetty, CEO of BankBazaar, says several factors go into a home loan approval, including income stability, employment history, age, property value and existing monthly liabilities.A borrower earning Rs 1 lakh a month but already paying close to Rs 60,000 in EMIs, for instance, may not have enough income left to service another loan, even with a strong credit score.CTI chairman Brijesh Goyal said the rally came at a particularly sensitive time for Delhi's traders, as markets were preparing for the festive shopping rush ahead of Dhanteras on November 6 and Diwali on November 8.

RETAIL TRADE, TRANSPORT HIT

CTI said around 2.5 lakh shops remained completely shut across markets within a five-kilometre radius of Ramlila Maidan. These included major trading centres such as Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazaar, Kashmere Gate, Khari Baoli, Chawri



Bazaar, Connaught Place, Karol Bagh, Paharganj and Bhagirath Palace.The organisation estimated that around 80% of business activity in these markets came to a halt. It also said the rally led to panic among customers from nearly 100 cities and towns around Delhi, including Sonipat, Panipat, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Noida and Meerut. These areas typically send around 3-4 lakh customers to Delhi's markets, according to CTI.Transport and logistics operations were also severely disrupted, the traders' body claimed. It said loading and unloading of goods stopped within a 10-kilometre radius of the rally venue, affecting the movement of goods between Delhi's markets and industrial areas.

Around 5,000 trucks and tempos from 56 industrial areas, including Narela, Bawana, Okhla, Mayapuri and Mundka, reportedly bring goods to these markets every day. Another 3,000 vehicles transport goods from Delhi to the NCR and other parts of the country.

EPFO gets WhatsApp-ready: Check PF balance, passbook without office visits

New Delhi. (Agency)

Checking your provident fund (PF) balance or accessing your passbook may soon become easier. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched WhatsApp-based services that will allow subscribers to access key account details without having to visit an EPFO office.

Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the new facility on Sunday during the organisation's 74th Foundation Day celebrations.Through EPFO's verified WhatsApp service, subscribers can check their PF balance, view their latest five transactions and access passbook information. The service will also offer personalised guidance and assistance to employees completing requirements related to the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY).The move is aimed at making routine services easier to access through a platform that millions of people



already use, while reducing the need for physical visits to EPFO offices.Subscribers can use EPFO's verified WhatsApp number to access the new services.

They can also scan the QR code shared by the organisation to start a conversation.

In a post on X, EPFO announced the launch and said subscribers could check their PF balance, view their last five transactions and access their passbook by sending a WhatsApp message.The facility is expected to make it easier for employees to keep track of their provident fund savings without having to log in to multiple platforms or visit an EPFO office for routine information.

Apart from account-related services, subscribers will also receive personalised guidance and assistance with requirements under PMVBRY.

EPFO TO AUTOMATICALLY SETTLE ELIGIBLE INACTIVE ACCOUNTS

Alongside the WhatsApp facility, Mandaviya also launched an automatic settlement facility for certain inoperative EPF accounts.

IDBI Bank stake sale: Is Fairfax using IDBI's own capital to finance its Rs 52,878-crore takeover

New Delhi. (Agency)

The IDBI Bank privatization deal with Fairfax Financial Holdings relies on a highly unusual financing structure, according to investigative reporting by Businessworld. BW says, the buyer plans to use the bank's own capital to purchase the buyer's private businesses. Or in other words, in the purchase deal, the money from the deal is generating the cash needed to fund more than half of the takeover.The CCEA earlier approved the sale of a 60.72 per cent stake in IDBI Bank to Canada Inc., a subsidiary of Fairfax Financial Holdings, for Rs 52,878 crore. The transaction includes the sale of 30.48 per cent stake held by the Government of India and 30.24 per cent stake owned by the LIC. Following the transaction, the government will retain a 15 per cent stake, while LIC will continue to hold 19 per cent in the bank.

Businessworld said that it has reviewed the full transcript of an internal October 15 investor conference call which was held just one day after India's Cabinet approved the sale.The transcript reveals that when an analyst from Raymond James asked if IDBI would use its excess cash to buy shares of Fairfax's insurer Go Digit at market price, Prem Watsa, Fairfax's founder and chairman confirmed in the positive.Explaining the self-financing strategy, Watsa reportedly said, "So the way it works is there's excess capital at IDBI Bank. And so they'll just pay cash... we see them paying cash at the time of the deal at market prices."Earlier on that same call, Watsa outlined that Fairfax would fund the acquisition through cash on hand, insurance dividends, asset sales. Watsa also added that the contributions of Digit and IIFL Capital at their respective market prices, would also come into play.BS said, Fairfax President Peter Clarke quantified these details for investors. The entire IDBI purchase requires $5.6 billion, while the contribution of Digit Insurance (including its Life operations) and IIFL Capital across those three companies is "approximately $3 billion on its own."As Businessworld points out, this $3 billion represents 54% of the acquisition price (roughly ₹28,300 crore)—meaning the bank is essentially .

Sensex, Nifty rally as crude oil sees decline; RIL shares jump 6%

New Delhi. (Agency)

Stock market opened sharply higher on Monday, November 2, with the Sensex jumping over 800 points and the Nifty approaching the 23,260 mark. Easing crude oil prices, strong buying in heavyweight stocks and improving global sentiment supported the rally.At around 9.23 am, the BSE Sensex was trading at 75,261.40, up 801.87 points or 1.08%. The NSE Nifty 50 advanced 205.95 points, or 0.89%, to 23,259.05.The positive start came after crude oil prices retreated from last week's six-month highs amid hopes of progress in talks to end the Iran war. Brent crude was trading around $110.01 per barrel, down 3.02%, while WTI crude fell 3.05% to $100.94.

RELIANCE, METAL AND PSU BANK STOCKS LEAD GAINS

Reliance Industries was among the biggest contributors to the rally, rising 4.42% after reporting better-than-expected September-quarter earnings. Tata Steel gained 3.52%, while NTPC advanced 3.16%. Maruti rose 2.46%, and Power Grid and BEL gained 1.80% and 1.79%, respectively.The Nifty Oil



and Gas index was up 2.39%, while the Metal index gained 1.47%. PSU Bank stocks advanced 1.63%, and the Auto index rose 1.20%. The Nifty IT index was also higher by 0.46%.Broader markets participated in the rally, with the Nifty 100 rising 0.95%, the Nifty 200 gaining 0.92% and the Nifty 500 advancing 0.89%. The Nifty Midcap 100 was up 0.78%, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 gained 0.27%.India VIX, the market volatility gauge, rose 1.71% to 15.57.

The decline in crude oil prices has eased some concerns around India's import bill and inflation. Foreign investor buying has also offered support, with overseas investors purchasing Rs 3,600 crore worth of Indian shares on Friday, according to provisional data.Investors are also reacting to strong quarterly earnings from Reliance Industries.

Worried about expensive flights Government can now intervene in airfares

The government can temporarily direct airline tariffs during extraordinary situations from 2027. The rules retain market pricing while requiring clearer fare disclosures and DGCA monitoring.

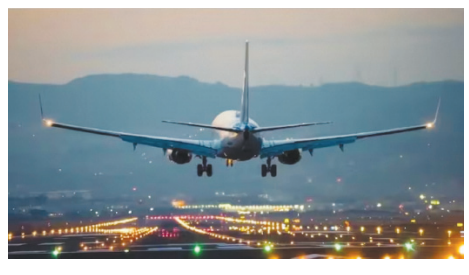
New Delhi. (Agency)

The government will have the power to temporarily intervene in airline ticket prices during extraordinary situations from January 1, 2027, under new aviation rules notified by the government. However, the rules do not introduce a permanent cap on airfares, and airlines will continue to decide ticket prices based on market conditions.

The government has notified the Bharatiya Vayuyan Niyam, 2026, which allows it to issue directions on airline tariffs in the public interest if an extraordinary situation arises.Under Rule 192, the Centre can issue written directions to airlines to regulate tariffs. Any such intervention must be proportionate to the circumstances and will remain valid only for a specified period.The rules, published in the Official Gazette on October 31, do not define what constitutes an extraordinary situation or set a specific threshold for government intervention.This means passengers will not get a fixed upper limit on flight ticket prices. Instead, the government will have the option to step in temporarily if it considers intervention necessary in an exceptional situation.

NO PERMANENT CAP ON AIRFARES

India deregulated airline fare fixation in 1994, allowing airlines to determine ticket prices. Carriers generally use different pricing bands depending on factors such as demand, booking time and operating costs.The new rules do not change this system or require airlines to seek prior government approval before



setting individual fares.Airlines will continue to determine their tariffs, taking into account factors including operating costs. The government, however, will have the power to issue temporary directions under Rule 192 in extraordinary circumstances.The notification also does not provide a separate mechanism for routes served by only one airline or a formula to determine fares based on competition.

AIRLINES TO DISCLOSE FARES, TAXES AND OTHER CHARGES

The new rules also seek to make airline ticket pricing more transparent for passengers.Airlines will have to separately disclose the base fare, taxes, fees, cancellation charges, refund conditions and other applicable charges. Passengers must be shown the total amount payable both during the booking process and on their tickets.

The rules also distinguish between taxes payable to the government and fees collected by airlines for services or facilities provided to passengers.This will allow travellers to see how much of their ticket price goes towards the basic fare, taxes and additional charges instead of viewing only the final amount.

DGCA TO MONITOR AIRLINE TARIFFS

The new rules also provide for monitoring of airline tariffs by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Wedding bells, endless queues: 7,000 turn up at Kerala temple match camp

Kozhikode.(Agency)

Nearly 7,000 people attended a free marriage registration camp organised by a temple in Kerala on November 1, far exceeding expectations and forcing the organisers to print thousands of additional application forms, news agency Press Trust of India reported.The turnout at the Harahara Mahadeva Temple in Karanthur, near Kozhikode, included people from several districts who hoped to find life partners. The queue extended beyond the temple premises and crossed two bus stops along the National Highway, prompting the police to manage the crowd and traffic.The organisers had arranged 1,500 application forms, expecting between 1,500 and 2,000 people. When the forms ran out within hours, they first made photocopies and later approached a printing press for another 4,000 copies.The camp had been announced on social media two weeks earlier, with the notice spreading through WhatsApp and Facebook groups across Kerala.Some participants arrived in Kozhikode early in the morning, while others travelled from Kannur, Wayanad and Palakkad. Some also booked rooms in the city to attend the camp.

Booth-capturing allegations trigger repolling at 12 centres in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati.(Agency)

Repolling began at 12 polling stations in six urban local bodies across Andhra Pradesh on Monday following reports of alleged booth capturing during the November 1 elections, news agency Press Trust of India reported, citing the State Election Commission.Voting began at 7 am and will continue until 5 pm. State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha issued separate orders late on Sunday, declaring the elections held at the affected polling stations void and directing fresh polling on November 2.

In YSR Kadapa district, repolling is being held at three polling stations in wards 3, 17 and 29 of Jammalamadugu Municipality, and at one polling station in Ward 15 of Kadapa Municipal Corporation.Fresh polling is also taking place at four polling stations in wards 1, 3, 7 and 8 of Pulivendula Municipality.The orders were issued after the district administration and district election authority reported that booth capturing had disrupted the polling process and deprived voters of their right to vote, according to PTI.In Palnadu district, repolling has been ordered at two polling stations in Ward 23 of Macherla Municipality. In Anantapur district, fresh polling is being held at one polling station in Ward 30 of Anantapuramu Municipal Corporation.One polling station in Ward 14 of Chimakurthy Municipality in Prakasam district is also undergoing repolling.

Andhra Chainsaw Attacker, Shot By Cops During Escape, May Lose Leg

Amaravati.(Agency)

Twenty-one-year-old Hemanth, who attacked students with a chainsaw in Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur, is now battling for his life after sustaining multiple bullet injuries in police firing. Police fired around six rounds after Hemanth allegedly resisted arrest and attacked a police team with a knife, injuring a Circle Inspector. The accused may lose a leg due to permanent damage he has sustained. However, doctors still need to confirm the same.Hemanth was rushed to the Government General Hospital in Anantapur and admitted for emergency treatment. According to Anantapur Superintendent of Police P. Jagadeesh, the accused suffered injuries in the lower part of his body with the possibility of his legs being amputated. Medical confirmation that either leg will have to be removed or his condition and treatment progress are yet to be publicly disclosed by authorities.Hemanth attacked two girls, both class 10 students, with a chainsaw attack on in Anantapur district on October 31. Police then fired at him while trying to arrest him on Sunday.

A Rs 1,200-crore web of promises: How a Gujarat app drew investors nationwide

A digital wallet app by a Gujarat-based startup, SD Pay, has exploded into a multi-level marketing scam trapping people across states who lost over Rs 1200 crore.

Ahmedabad.(Agency)



A 48-year-old teacher from Vadodara, a single mother to a college-going son, has invested Rs 9.5 lakh from the sale of her 1BHK apartment in 2025 in the digital wallet app SD Pay.By mid-2026, her balance in her digital wallet was Rs 50 lakh, but there was a catch: She could not withdraw her money as the app was shut down in mid-2026.A network marketer of religious items earlier, she met one of the men who allegedly handled SD Pay in Vadodara in July 2025."I declined to join but they showed me the escrow wallet and documents. When I still declined, they gave me a signed blank cheque and told me that if I didn't trust them, I could sign in the amount and cash the cheque at any time. That is how they gained my trust," the teacher told The Indian Express.Launched in 2024 by Dhaval Patel – the prime accused in the scam – SD Pay or Apna Pay mobile application promised to make users' bill payments and mobile recharges more easy. Building confidence of customers because of high initial monetary returns, the application was downloaded by 15 lakh people, through referrals."They used themes of nationalistic propaganda and posed as a bootstrapped startup facing pushback from 'competitors' and the 'government' when the initial arrests were made," an investigator says.When it was first detected in September in Amreli district, the scam touched over Rs 1200 crore with 18 FIRs lodged till date and the arrest of a dozen accused.On September 2, 2026, the Cybercrime Police in Amreli district booked the promoters and directors of these apps along with other accused persons.

They were allegedly paying out 0.15% to 0.30% interest per day depending on the investment slab, bringing in a lot of people.Police said, "With no initial capital to pay out these interests and no revenue generation through production, sales or services, the interest was allegedly paid to investors by the income generated from those who came in after them." This model rose to the height of its organic growth in 2025.Police found one victim from Surendranagar who, in order to invest in the scheme, took a personal loan of Rs 20 lakh in his name, another Rs 20 lakh in his wife's name and then a gold loan of Rs 20 lakh and invested all of this in SD Pay hoping to build a house from the returns. He cannot retrieve even his principal deposit now.

Inside India's only surviving 110-year-old Opera House: From crumbling theatre to cultural hub

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

Mumbai .(Agency)

When conservation architect Abha Narain Lambah first stepped into the Royal Opera House in 2007, she felt she had walked onto the set of Great Expectations. "It was really like walking into some strange dream, like Miss Havisham's mansion," she recalled. The chandeliers were hung with cobwebs and the plaster was peeling. Steel girders had corroded so badly that, she says, "one could peel layers of the metal with one's bare fingers."The roof leaked, balconies leaned, and the south staircase had collapsed.Today the 575-seat auditorium hosts Sufi poetry, jazz, literary conversations and diplomatic roundtables, often in the same week. This October, the building marks ten years since it reopened, and 110 years since it first opened its doors.



A landmark changes hands

Conceived in 1908, inaugurated by King George V in 1911 and completed in 1916, the Opera House brought together European and Indian architectural influences. Its stage hosted figures such as Bal Gandharva, Master Dinanath, Jyotsnabai Bhole and Prithviraj Kapoor.Films started being screened from 1917, and by 1925 the theatre had moved away from drama to become a full-time cinema hall. Ideal Pictures Ltd acquired it in 1935 and renovated it the following year. "This was part of a broader change in the entertainment landscape, as cinema became an increasingly popular form of public entertainment," said HH Maharaja Himanshusinhji of Gondal.

His family acquired the building in 1952, when Maharaja Shri Vikramsinhji of Gondal bought it. "It was a natural fit with the family's interest in preserving India's cultural heritage," he said. Changing viewing habits and the decline of single-screen cinemas eventually took their toll, and the theatre closed in the 1990s. It then sat idle for roughly a quarter of a century.His late father, Maharaja Shri Jyotendrasinhji, commissioned the restoration in 2007. "There was a strong sense that a building of this historical importance should not be allowed to disappear from the city's cultural life," said Himanshusinhji.His mother, Rajmatasaheb Kumud Kumari, supervised the work, with the support of family friend Ashish Doshi (honorary director, Royal Opera House) and Lambah's conservation expertise.

When asked why did it turn it into a cultural space over a theatre as it last served, he said, "Converting it into a multiplex or another commercial development might have given it a different use, but it would not have fulfilled our vision for its revival. Our vision was to restore the Opera House as a living cultural space, rather than preserve it simply as a historic building."

Raising a ruin

Lambah's first problem was finding someone willing to touch the structure. She approached five of the city's best structural engineers, and each turned the job down as too risky. "Finally Satish Dhupelia saw the building, fell in love with it and worked with me to put back the historic structure," she shared.

Chennai: Chromepet station access gap forces residents to risk life on railway tracks

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Two months after an 18-year-old college student died while crossing the tracks near Chromepet Railway Station, hundreds of people from Radha Nagar continue to take risky shortcuts to access the station, saying the railway has failed to provide an easy path from the eastern side.Following the death of S Rajashri in August, the railway constructed compound walls along the GST Road and near the railway parking area, where people used to freely trespass. However, even after the walls were built, trespassing continues as the structures are easily climbable. Scores of people, including the elderly, are seen climbing over the walls to reach the Radha Nagar side and vice versa."After the death, we expected the railway at least to deploy police personnel at vulnerable locations, besides creating awareness and imposing fines," said V Santhanam, president of the Chromepet Railway Users Association.Passengers also said that commuters from GST Road use Radha Nagar Main Road to reach areas such as Nemilichery, Nanmangalam and Kovilambakkam. Santhanam pointed out that, with the Chromepet bus stop also located close to the station, people from Radha Nagar, in a hurry to catch buses at specific timings often cross the tracks carelessly. With several colleges located on the eastern side of the station, hundreds of students also take the risk by crossing the tracks.Though there is a subway from Radha Nagar Main Road, there is no connectivity from the subway to the station platforms. Passengers have urged the railway to provide direct access from the subway to the platforms, similar to St Thomas Mount, Meenambakkam and Palavanthangal railway stations.P Chandrasekaran, a long-time user of the station, said that after reaching GST Road from the Radha Nagar side via the subway, passengers have to walk at least 200m to Platform 1A and then use the footbridge to reach Platform 1 to catch suburban trains towards Tambaram. "It is difficult for elderly, disabled and those with mobility issues. There is no lift or escalator from Platform 1A," he said.Similarly, there is no easy access to the station from Radha Nagar. From the station border road, there is a narrow route, while another pathway through the inner streets takes a few hundred metres.

How to suppress malignant brain tumour growth? IITGN team 'finds' a way

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

Researchers at the IIT Gandhinagar (IITGN) have developed a different attack strategy to tackle glioblastoma—an aggressive form of brain cancer that is resistant to a commonly used chemotherapy drug.In their paper published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry and RSC Medicinal Chemistry, the researchers said two compounds developed by them suppressed the growth of glioblastoma cells by blocking a protein's activity that regulates cell division.The two compounds can target tyrosine threonine kinase (the TTK or Mps1 protein), which is integral to cell division, they argued. High levels of this protein have been linked to glioblastoma progression."Since cancer cells divide at a much faster rate than normal cells, they rely heavily on TTK to survive their chaotic division cycles. The researchers asked whether disrupting this checkpoint could make it harder for glioblastoma cells to manage the damage to their DNA. It can reduce their viability and enhance their sensitivity to treatments like radiotherapy. Earlier studies have linked TTK's involvement in resistance to TMZ, a commonly used chemotherapy drug. We wanted to explore whether modifying a candidate from one of our previous .

Arunachal Congress demands scrapping of Siang dam project, protesters' release

Itanagar.(Agency)

The Congress has demanded that the proposed 11,200-MW Siang Upper Multipurpose Project in Arunachal Pradesh be scrapped and those arrested for protesting against the dam's construction be released, news agency Press Trust of India reported.The Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee said no development project should be carried out at the cost of indigenous communities' ancestral land, identity, culture and livelihood. It said the prior consent of people likely to be affected by the project was essential.advertisementIn a statement issued on Monday, the party said: "Different groups but one voice; different organisations but one collective resolve — Stop SUMP, Save Siang."The Congress urged indigenous organisations, student unions, youth groups, civil society organisations and traditional institutions to unite against the proposed project.It also expressed concern over the arrest of protesters, suspension of government employees and action against gaon buras, or village headmen, who opposed the project, according to PTI.

The party demanded the immediate release of all arrested protesters, the withdrawal of cases registered under the Arunachal Pradesh Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the revocation of suspension orders against government employees and the withdrawal of cases against gaon buras.It also sought the withdrawal of additional security personnel from areas likely to be affected by the project, adequate compensation for those who suffered losses, and medical assistance and rehabilitation for injured protesters.The state Congress urged the Arunachal Pradesh government and the Centre to restore peace in the Siang region through dialogue and confidence-building measures. It appealed to all sections of society to "maintain unity and pursue the movement through peaceful.

Cyclone Arnab: Central team visits Kakinada district to assess damage

KAKINADA.(Agency)

An inter-ministerial Central team led by Chittaranjan Dash, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, arrived in Kakinada on Sunday to assess the damage caused by Cyclone Arnab and review relief and rehabilitation efforts.The team comprised Prashant Armorikar, Additional Commissioner in the Union Ministry of Agriculture; Himalaya Garg, Assistant Director in the Ministry of Finance; Pranay Garg, Deputy Director in the Ministry of Power; and APSDMA Managing Director (MD), Prakhar Jain, among others.



Chittaranjan Dash said the visit aimed to assess ground realities in affected areas, estimate the extent of the damage and review the district administration's relief and rehabilitation measures. He said the team would submit a report to the Central Government based on its findings.He recommended highlighting the district's best practices, particularly the Real-Time Governance Society's (RTGS) technical monitoring and coordination system, in the report. He noted that such innovative approaches could serve as models for other States.Officials informed the team that they had identified 54 vulnerable coastal villages and fishing settlements in advance and prepared plans.

Following warnings received from October 24, the administration imposed a fishing ban from October 25. It deployed NDRF and SDRF teams and evacuated 11,847 people to 63 relief centres.The cyclone damaged crops across 55,000 hectares, including 53,878 hectares of paddy, affecting 86,897 farmers.The storm also damaged 579 fishing boats, 1,044 nets, 1,588 electricity poles, 222 transformers and around 214 km of power lines. The team later visited West Godavari and also inspected the Uppada coast and fishing harbour. Joint Collector Apurva Bharat said eligible farmers would receive compensation of Rs 35,000 per hectare as per government norms.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is being discouraged: Srikkanth tears into Gautam Gambhir's India

New Delhi.(Agency)

Former India captain Kris Srikkanth has criticised the Gautam Gambhir-led team management over its handling of teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, questioning why the youngster was not given an opportunity in the final T20I against New Zealand in Hamilton. India opted to retain their batting combination for the final match despite the result having no bearing on the outcome of the series. While the team made changes to its bowling combination, Sooryavanshi was once again left on the bench, having played two matches earlier in the series when Ishan Kishan was unavailable due to injury.The decision did not sit well with



Srikkanth, who felt India were missing an opportunity to give the 15-year-old valuable international experience. The former opener also argued that the lack of clarity over Sooryavanshi's role could affect the youngster's confidence.

“Give a good run to Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. Give the three openers clarity. Tell them you'll play 3 matches and you'll get the remaining two. Instead, you have benched Vaibhav Sooryavanshi," Srikkanth said on YouTube.

Tchouameni leaves kid in tears with a wayward shot, makes up for it later

New Delhi.(Agency)

Real Madrid midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni accidentally flattened a young fan in the stands with a powerful shot during the team's LaLiga clash against Racing Santander on Sunday. However, the Frenchman made sure to make it up to the child after the match, meeting him near the dressing room and signing a Real Madrid shirt for him.

The young supporter, who appeared to be less than 10 years old, was left in tears after being struck by the ball. What could have been an unpleasant memory from the game, however, turned into a special experience for the child when he got to meet some of Real Madrid's biggest stars.Tchouameni personally met the young fan after the final



whistle and signed a Real Madrid shirt for him. Kylian Mbappe also stopped to meet the child, using the opportunity to have a little fun at his teammate's expense."It's Tchouameni's fault, he doesn't know how to shoot," Mbappe joked, drawing attention to the incident and helping turn an unfortunate moment into a lighter one.The gesture from the Real Madrid players ensured that the young supporter left with more than just a painful memory of the match. Getting to meet Tchouameni and Mbappe, and taking home a signed shirt, made for an unexpected post-match experience.

REAL MADRID CRUISE TO 6TH STRAIGHT WIN

The incident came during a comfortable evening for Real Madrid, who continued their winning run with a 3-0 victory over Racing Santander. Goals from Mbappe, Jude Bellingham and Yan Diomande helped Jose Mourinho's side secure their sixth consecutive win in all competitions.

Hockey back at its mecca: How Jalandhar is reigniting its soul again

The Asian Champions Trophy has brought international hockey back to Punjab after 17 years. Its return tests whether fresh funding can rebuild a nursery weakened by neglect.

Jalandhar.(Agency)

There is something special about Jalandhar. You can sense it the moment you arrive. Calmness and chaos seem to coexist in this sleepy city, around 150 km from Punjab’s capital, Chandigarh. But what truly sets Jalandhar apart is its deep rooted connection with sport, especially hockey.If you don't believe us, try navigating its traffic. The experience offers a glimpse of the situations a player might encounter on a hockey field. Squeezing through narrow roads feels like being a defender trying to break through an opponent's high press.Then come the traffic lights. You need the reflexes of a first rusher at a penalty corner, ready to charge out the moment the signal turns green. Hesitate, and you risk being left behind, watching the rest of the traffic fly past you like a drag flick sailing into the back of the net.Even waiting for a rickshaw to take you back to your hotel or home teaches you a lesson in patience. The wait can be long, and there is little to do but hold your nerve, much like a hockey team probing for an opening before finally finding a breakthrough.But beyond these parallels, hockey is woven into the very fabric of Jalandhar. The city is home to several sports manufacturing companies and has produced some of India's finest hockey players.Look no further than the Indian squad competing in the Asian Champions Trophy, which is being held in the city. Captain Harmanpreet Singh, Mandeep Singh, Manpreet Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Dilpreet Singh and



Krishan Pathak all came through the famous Surjit Hockey Academy in Jalandhar.

The villages of Sansarpur, Mithapur and Khusropur have long served as fertile grounds for hockey talent. On the outskirts of the city, Sansarpur is renowned for producing Olympians who represented India, Canada and Kenya. Nearby Mithapur has also left a significant mark on Indian hockey, producing legends like Pargat Singh and current internationals Manpreet Singh and Mandeep Singh."Hockey is in our blood," the ever-smiling Mandeep Singh told India Today, expressing his happiness at playing in Jalandhar.For all its rich heritage, however, the city has spent years away from the international hockey spotlight. Punjab is hosting an international hockey event for the first time in 17 years. In the intervening period, Jalandhar's celebrated hockey nursery took a hit before beginning to find its feet againTo understand how the city became one of Indian hockey's most important breeding grounds, and how it is attempting to reclaim that status, we traded auto rides for a walk through its lanes..

New Zealand suffer injury blow, lose Mark Chapman, Rachin Ravindra for India ODIs

New Zealand have suffered a double blow ahead of their ODI series against India, with Mark Chapman and Rachin Ravindra ruled out due to injuries. Tim Seifert, Henry Nicholls and Dean Foxcroft have been drafted into the squad.

New Delhi.(Agency)

New Zealand have suffered a double injury blow ahead of their five-match ODI series against India, with senior batters Mark Chapman and Rachin Ravindra ruled out after failing to recover in time from their respective injuries.New Zealand Cricket confirmed on Monday that Chapman needs more time to recover from a hamstring injury, while Ravindra continues to struggle with a shoulder problem. The five-match series against India begins on Wednesday, leaving the hosts with two significant gaps in their batting line-up.Chapman's latest MRI scan revealed that his left hamstring would require another two weeks of rehabilitation before he could return to action. Ravindra, meanwhile, has not recovered sufficiently from his right shoulder niggle to field at full capacity.

"A recent MRI showed Chapman's left hamstring requires another two weeks of rehabilitation before he is fully fit to return to the field, whilst Ravindra's right shoulder requires more recovery time before he's able to field at full capacity," NZC said in a statementThe selectors have made several changes to the squad to cover for the absentees. Tim Seifert, who was initially picked only for the fourth and fifth ODIs, has now been included for the entire series. Henry Nicholls will be part of the squad for the first three matches, while Dean Foxcroft has been pencilled in for the final two games..There is also uncertainty surrounding the availability of Matt Henry. The fast bowler is expected to join the squad on Monday, after which the team management will assess his readiness to play. Matt Fisher, initially selected for the fourth and fifth ODIs, will remain with the squad throughout the series as an additional bowling option.

WALTER EXPLAINS INJURY CONCERNS



New Zealand head coach Rob Walter admitted that losing Chapman and Ravindra was disappointing but stressed that the team would not take unnecessary risks with either player. Walter said Chapman was working hard on his recovery, while Ravindra's shoulder problem had not improved enough for him to comfortably handle the demands of white-ball cricket.

Don't take Sri Lanka lightly, stay in shape: Gambhir bids T20I team goodbye

Gautam Gambhir has urged India's T20I players to stay fit and keep improving during their month-long break after the 3-2 series win over New Zealand. India will next face Sri Lanka in a three-match T20I series in December.



New Delhi.(Agency)

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has urged his players to stay fit and continue improving during their month-long break from T20I cricket after India wrapped up a successful five-match series against New Zealand.India clinched the series 3-2 despite losing the final two matches in New Zealand. The visitors had made a flying start, winning the first three games to seal the contest before the hosts fought back to finish on a high.Addressing the players in the dressing room after the fifth T20I, Gambhir praised the team's efforts, particularly given the limited preparation time and the challenges of playing in unfamiliar conditions."You can be extremely proud of the effort that you guys have put in throughout the series. Winning the series, especially when you had just one day to prepare and were playing against a quality team like New Zealand in their own backyard, is a terrific achievement. You should be extremely proud," Gambhir told the players in the dressing room.India's campaign was not without its challenges. Ishan Kishan missed two matches due to an injury concern, while the bowling attack had a relatively inexperienced look, with Mayank Yadav and Prince Yadav making their first appearances in New Zealand.

Despite those setbacks, India managed to establish control early in the series and secure an important away victory. Gambhir also reminded the players that their job was to set the tone for the rest of India's tour of New Zealand.

"You can go back with your heads held high. We wanted to win the last two games as well, but sometimes these things happen. I thought you guys have set the tone for the rest of the tour. Before the start of the series, I said that you had the responsibility to set the tone. Now, it is up to the ODI and Test teams to continue from where you have left off," he said.

GAMBHIR'S MESSAGE FOR THE BREAK

With the New Zealand T20I series behind them, India's next assignment in the format will come in December, when they host Sri Lanka for a three-match series.

The players will have roughly a month away from international T20 cricket.

Banned in 2020, Russia returns to Olympic stage with Youth Games in Dakar

Russian athletes have returned to the Olympic stage with their national flag and anthem at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, marking a significant shift after years of sporting restrictions. The Games are also making history as the first Olympic sporting event to be hosted on African soil.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Russia has returned to the Olympic stage with its national flag and anthem for the first time since 2020, with a contingent of athletes competing at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Senegal. The return marks a significant moment for Russian sport, which has spent the last six years under various Olympic restrictions following the country's doping scandal and its invasion of Ukraine.Russian athletes had been forced to compete under neutral identities at subsequent Olympic events, without the right to represent their country through its flag, anthem or national symbols. The Dakar Youth Olympics, which opened on Saturday, October 31, have marked a departure from that arrangement.The development comes after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) began easing restrictions on Russia in 2026. The IOC provisionally lifted the suspension of the Russian Olympic Committee in July and withdrew its recommendations restricting the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in international competitions. However, individual sporting federations retain the authority to decide eligibility and participation.

At the Dakar Games, Russian athletes are competing with their national



identity restored, marking their first such appearance at an Olympic event since the 2020 Winter Youth Olympics in Lausanne.

WHY WERE RUSSIAN ATHLETES BANNED?

Russia's Olympic troubles began with revelations of systematic, state-sponsored doping, which led to sanctions against the country's sporting authorities and restrictions on its athletes.The situation became more complicated following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The IOC recommended that international sporting federations exclude Russian and Belarusian athletes from competitions, while allowing some individuals to participate under strict conditions.At the Paris 2024 Olympics, eligible Russian athletes competed as Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN). They were not permitted to use the Russian flag, anthem or other national symbols. Similar restrictions applied at the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics in 2026.

The IOC's decision to ease its restrictions this year has opened the door for a gradual return to international competition. However, the restoration of Russia's national identity at the Dakar Youth Olympics represents a particularly significant step in that process.The development remains politically sensitive, with Ukraine having consistently opposed the reinstatement of Russian athletes while the war continues.

HISTORIC MOMENT FOR AFRICA

While Russia's return has drawn attention, the Dakar Youth Olympics are significant for another reason. The Games mark the first time that an Olympic sporting event is being hosted on African soil.The competition was originally scheduled for 2022 but was postponed by four years because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Almost 2,700 athletes, aged between 14 and 17, from 204 National Olympic Committees are participating in the Games, which will run until November 13.IOC President Kirsty Coventry, who became the first African to lead the organisation after her election in 2025, said the preparations had finally reached their final stage.

Kalyan Chaubey planned to liquate FD to fill AIFF's Rs 85 crore hole. Members block plan

New Delhi.(Agency)

The All India Football Federation's (AIFF) decision to host high-profile international friendlies against Brazil, Uruguay and Panama has left the federation facing a potential financial deficit of Rs 80-85 crore. President Kalyan Chaubey's proposal to liquidate the federation's fixed deposit (FD) to meet the expenses was, however, opposed by members during a Special General Body Meeting (SGBM) on Sunday.

Several members objected to the proposal,



maintaining that the federation's fixed deposit should not be touched except in an emergency. AIFF Vice President NA Haris also intervened during the online meeting, pointing out that the federation's Executive Committee had already decided against liquidating the FD.Chaubey reportedly told members that he wanted to withdraw money from the fixed deposit to clear the deficit arising from hosting the three international friendlies. He subsequently offered to arrange funds through external sources and repay whatever amount was withdrawn from the FD.“Yes, he (Chaubey) said he wants to liquidate the AIFF's fixed deposit to pay the deficit (arising out of the international friendlies)," a senior official of a state association, who attended the meeting, told on condition of anonymity.



'Either You Move Ahead Or...':

Hina Khan

Reveals She And Rocky Jaiswal 'Got Married In Less Than 15 Minutes'

Hina Khan, who got married to her long-time boyfriend Rocky Jaiswal in June last year, has shared that their decision to get married was spontaneous and that they took less than 15 minutes to tie the knot. In a recent conversation, Hina shared that it was during her cancer treatment that the two decided to get married. The decision was so casual that they even forgot their first wedding anniversary.While speaking to Sania Mirza, Hina Khan shared, "This was just a random decision. We didn't plan this. I don't think we were ready to get married or anything. We have been together for the longest time, more than 10 years. I think 13-14 years now. And it is just that, whatever I was going through health-wise, I told him, 'Either you move ahead… you go get married to somebody, whoever you want to, or you better get married to me because I don't know what's going to happen tomorrow.'



"Surprised by the confession, when Sania questioned, "You literally got married in 15 minutes?" Hina replied, "In less than that, actually."Hina then confirmed that her health situation was largely the reason behind their sudden decision and added, "If I had to put it that way, it was uncertainty, because I don't know what is going to happen. That is with everybody, to be very honest. So I was just like, 'Let's go ahead and do it.' And he said, 'Okay.' He never had issues."

"Marriage doesn't define our relationship. Marriage or no marriage, nothing changed. Everything is the same. It's been more than a year, and we did not remember our first wedding anniversary," said Hina, as she believes marriage was just a natural progression for them.

"We didn't until the night, when people started wishing us. Then we looked at each other and wished each other. We are so chill and cool with each other. We are not dates people," Hina said, revealing how her sister-in-law reminded the couple about their first wedding anniversary.Hina Khan and Rocky Jaiswal recently marked a year of marriage, having tied the knot in an intimate ceremony in June 2025 after being together for several years. Hina was undergoing treatment for stage 3 breast cancer around the time of their wedding. Soon after getting married, the couple made their first television appearance together as newlyweds on the reality show Pati, Patni Aur Panga.

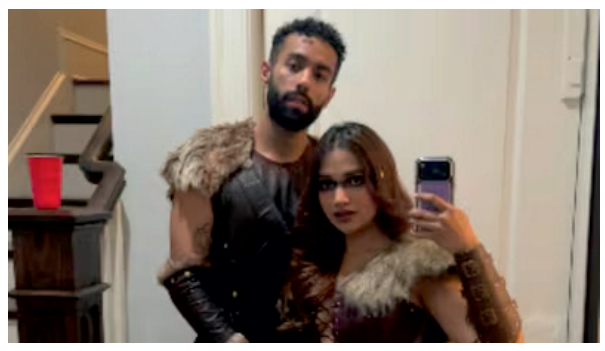


Jiya Shankar

Shares Picture With Fiancé Kaaran Dhanak, Follows Him On Instagram Amid Trouble Rumours

Actress Jiya Shankar sparked speculation after she unfollowed her fiancé, Kaaran Dhanak, on Instagram. What added fuel to the fire were her stories about heartbreak, betrayal and emotional pain. While fans continued to wonder what was happening, she put out a clarification about speculation surrounding her personal life. Now, Jiya has posted a picture with Kaaran and has followed him again on social media.Putting the speculation to rest, Jiya Shankar reshared a picture with Kaaran as they celebrated Halloween in outfits inspired by characters from Game of Thrones. Additionally, Jiya's following list shows that she has followed Kaaran again on Instagram, putting an end to all the rumours.

Jiya Shankar Breaks Silence On Break-Up Rumours



In an official statement, Jiya wrote, "I'd like to clarify something. Recent assumptions about my personal life have gone far beyond what I have actually shared." She then directly requested fans not to circulate theories about her relationship. "Please don't speculate about or spread rumours regarding my relationship," she added. She concluded by saying, "Some things are private, and I'd appreciate everyone respecting that."Jiya announced her engagement to Kaaran on August 5, 2026. The actress had shared a series of pictures from an intimate sunset proposal, offering fans a glimpse of the moment Kaaran went down on one knee. The post also featured Jiya's diamond engagement ring.In the proposal pictures shared on Instagram, the actress looked happy and emotional. While introducing her beau to the world, Jiya penned a long, beautiful caption summing up her feelings for him. A part of her caption read, "So maybe it is true, you do find love when you least expect it, but God really tested my patience here. It wasn't easy, but somehow it still was. Every conversation with you, even though you were thousands of miles away from me, felt like home. This journey wasn't easy, but we chose each other every single day. You showed me the love I waited my whole life for. You made me laugh on my toughest days.

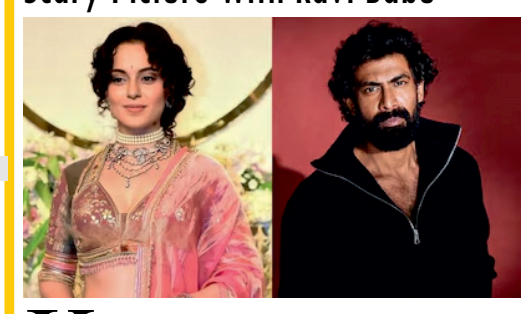
Sanjay Gupta Passes Away: Hansal Mehta Calls Him 'My Only Boss In The Film Industry'



Filmmaker Hansal Mehta is bereaved after the demise of his dear friend Sanjay Gupta. The director remembered the filmmaker calling him perhaps his "only boss" in the film industry. Hansal also revealed that the first and only luxury watch he owns was gifted to him by Sanjay and said he does not think he will ever take it off.Hansal took to his social media account to share an emotional note, recalling the highs and lows they experienced together. Sharing his tribute, Hansal wrote, "Not done, bro. Sanjay Gupta. Gups. My only boss in the film industry, perhaps. But more than that, a dear friend. We went through many lows and many highs together, and through all of it we shared a love for the good things in life."He added, "My first and only Rolex came from him. Today it's the one memory of him I carry on my wrist, and I don't think I'll ever take it off. He held my hand when I was at my lowest. We didn't exactly create magic together, but the time itself was an absolute blast."

He recalled, "The good food, the good booze, the endless parties. I watched some of the best films of my life in his theatre. I borrowed some of the best books I've read from his shelves. My bro code began with you, Sanjay. And now it's ended." He added, "I'm going to miss you more than I can say. The heavens are all set for a big party. Anu, Dalai and Shivansh, may God give you the strength to bear this terrible loss."For the uninitiated, Sanjay Gupta made his directorial debut with 'Aatish: Feel the Fire' in 1994. Over a career spanning more than three decades, he directed films such as 'Kaante', 'Musafir', 'Zinda', 'Shootout at Lokhandwala', 'Shootout at Wadala', 'Jazbaa', 'Kaabil' and 'Mumbai Saga'. His last directorial venture, 'The Miranda Brothers', was released in 2025.Sanjay Gupta passed away on October 30 at his residence in Mumbai. According to reports, he reportedly slipped in the bathroom during the night and sustained a head injury.Other people were present at the house, but his family members were reportedly unaware of the incident at the time. He was found the following morning, after which the family alerted the authorities.Sanjay Gupta is survived by his wife Anu and their two children, Dalai and Shivansh.

Kangana Ranaut's Next Is A Horror Film! Rana Daggubati Announces Scary Picture With Ravi Babu



Kangana Ranaut has an interesting new film coming up, and horror fans might want to keep an eye on this one. The actor has worked in different genres over the years, from drama and comedy to action and horror. Now, she is getting ready to explore the horror genre once again. This time, she will be working with actor-producer Rana Daggubati and a filmmaker known for his unusual storytelling style.Rana Daggubati surprised the audience at HorrorCon India 2026 by announcing his next production. The film is titled Scary Picture and will feature Kangana Ranaut.Videos from the event show Rana making the announcement on stage, with the film's title appearing on the screen behind him. While his production house is yet to share an official announcement, Kangana confirmed the news on Sunday. She reposted a video from an Instagram page showing Rana talking about the film.The film is expected to be made in Hindi. It will also be Ravi Babu's first Hindi feature film. Talking about the project at the event, Rana said, "So, it's a horror film. It's by a director called Ravi Babu, who is a friend of mine. He's made multiple horror films in Telugu. And this is his first Hindi feature. The title is announced here first. It went to no Hindi press; this is the first time we're putting the intimation up."Ravi Babu is the son of late veteran Telugu actor Chalapathi Rao. He started acting in 1998 and made his directorial debut in 2002. He is known for making films that are a little different from the usual commercial movies. His stories often mix genres and come with unusual ideas. Not all his films have worked at the box office, but his experimental style has made him stand out.One of his most interesting projects was Adhugo. Released in 2018, the film had a piglet as its main character and was made on the lines of the Hollywood film Babe. Over the years, Ravi has directed films across different genres, including coming-of-age stories and thrillers. Many of his films also have a good dose of slapstick comedy.He was last seen acting in Coffee with a Killer in 2025 and directed Razor this year. Since he does not often work with big names, his collaboration with Kangana for Scary Picture has certainly made the project interesting.

China's 5,000-Ton Digging Machines Could Hit India's Infrastructure Push

world.(Agency).

China has gotten a lot of bargaining power out of its near-monopoly over rare earths. Now it's looking to repeat the trick in a more mundane industry - and perhaps squeeze a key Asian rival. Beijing's newest export controls target construction equipment - including tunnel-boring machines, some of the world's largest and most complex industrial devices. They're used to build subways or drill roads and railways through mountains. China dominates the global market and India is among its main customers.

Building sites might not be an obvious chokepoint in the global economy - unlike the AI technologies that Beijing has also proposed adding to its restricted list, or the rare earths used in smartphones and high-tech weapons. What's more, China's grip on this industry is strong but not absolute, and seeking to turn it into leverage could spur others to catch up.

11-Month-Old Dies In Freak Balloon Accident In US Days Before First Birthday

world.(Agency).

A heartbreaking incident was reported in Wisconsin, US, where an 11-month-old baby lost his life in a freak accident just days before celebrating his first birthday. According to the New York Post, an animal-shaped balloon popped and became lodged in his oesophagus. The devastating incident has left the family in grief, with the boy's mother warning other parents around the world about the hidden dangers of party balloons. However, the report hasn't mentioned it specifically, but it appeared to be a case of choking. The mother, Kisha Avita-Wilson, spoke to NBC Chicago. She said that her son, Don'Vayaire Avita-Mays, affectionately known as "Baby Don" by family, died on October 24, just two days before his first birthday. .We were keeping the balloons away from Baby Don, and one of the balloons came undone," Avita-Wilson told the outlet.

“He grabbed it, and he bit it, and when he bit it, it shot the tied-up part into the bottom of his oesophagus.""I grabbed him immediately out of his car seat. I performed CPR... I stuck my fingers down his throat," she added.

Longest Ukraine War Ceasefire Ends In Kherson. It Lasted 6 Days

world.(Agency)

The longest truce of the Ukraine war, limited to the eastern Kherson region, ended on Sunday after Russia refused the offer of an extension, Ukrainian officials said.The rare pause in fighting, brokered by US First Lady Melania Trump and which began early Tuesday, enabled a humanitarian mission to the Russian-occupied city of Oleshky as the war grinds through its fifth year.Neither side reported violations after the truce began, in what one Ukrainian lawmaker described as the "biggest de-escalation since 2022".

"The ceasefire, which was in effect from October 27 to November 1, has ended," said Ukraine's Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Dmytro Lubinets.He called the temporary truce "an important step in our joint humanitarian efforts" with Russia.US-mediated talks between Russia and Ukraine are set to resume this month, having been effectively frozen since the United States and Israel launched joint strikes on Iran in February.

Mass shootings over Halloween weekend leave at least six dead and dozens injured across US

The deadliest violence occurred in Dallas, where a handful of shootings in the city's Deep Ellum neighborhood, a center of music and restaurants, killed four people and injured 15 others.

world.(Agency).

Mass shootings over the Halloween weekend — largely in nightlife districts across the U.S, left at least six people dead and dozens injured, officials said.The deadliest violence occurred in Dallas, where a handful of shootings in the city's Deep Ellum neighborhood, a center of music and restaurants, killed four people and injured 15 others, police said.Police in college towns like Fayetteville, Arkansas; Birmingham, Alabama; Newark, Delaware, and Bloomington, Illinois, also reported shootings in their nightlife districts.Dallas Police Chief Daniel Comeaux said investigators were still trying to determine if three separate shootings Saturday night over the span of about an hour and 15 minutes were related, and it wasn't immediately known why they started. Comeaux said some arrests were made but he didn't specify how many or what charges were involved.This is a really big scene. It's spread out," Comeaux said.The department had increased police presence in the district before the shootings. No police officers were injured.One shooting happened after a football game in AlabamaIn Birmingham, one person was killed and eight others were wounded in two separate shootings just outside Legion Field after the annual "Magic City Classic" football game on Saturday night, Mayor Randall Woodfin said at a news conference Sunday.Two were listed in critical condition Sunday, fire officials said.Alabama State and Alabama A&M are archrivals whose annual contest has been played for more than 100 years. Nearly 70,000 fans attended Saturday's game,



won by Alabama A&M 31-28. The event draws some of the largest crowds in the country for games played in their college football division.Michael Pickett, chief of the Birmingham Police Department, said most spectators and families had left the stadium property after the game. The first shooting happened nearby, where vendors were set up along Graymont Avenue.The circumstances of the shootings were unclear, and it was also unclear where the fatality occurred.Police spokesperson De'Rell Freeman said one person had been detained and that "multiple weapons" were found.

Shootings in other nightlife districts

In Newark, Delaware, six people wre shot late Saturday near the University of Delaware campus, Newark police Lt. Greg D'Elia said.Video shared on social media showed people running for safety from the scene. One stretch of the city's Main Street was closed for several hours after the shooting, police said.All six were transported to hospitals for treatment and their conditions were not available. A university spokesperson said they would provide updates on the investigation online as they become available.

At least 19 dead in Venezuela army attack on Colombian rebel camp

Caracas, Venezuela.(Agency)

At least 19 people were killed in the Venezuelan army's recent attack on a Colombian guerrilla group's camp inside Venezuela, an NGO and source close to the operation said Sunday.The FundaRedes NGO -- which monitors rights violations in Venezuela's border states -- initially reported nine deaths in the attack early Friday morning in the western state of Apure.Juan Francisco Garcia, a coordinator with the group, told AFP on Sunday that "another 10 bodies" had been transported to the state capital San Fernando the day after the attack.The attack targeted a camp of the National Liberation Army, a Colombian guerrilla group known by its Spanish initials, ELN.Video shared by FundaRedes showed bodies lying on the ground, trees knocked down and the ruins of



what appeared to be a camp site.A Venezuelan military source close to the operation, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the attack had been supported by US intelligence.

"We had help from the CIA and the FBI. This was an order from the United States," the source said.Requests for comment from the US State Department and Venezuelan government were not immediately answered.The strikes were carried out by drones and attack helicopters targeting the camp, which was located in a rural, forested area in the southwest of Apure, the military source said.The attack took the guerrillas by surprise -- they had no time to react, the source said, noting that most of the people killed were Venezuelan nationals.

After the attack, bodies were initially transported to the town of Puerto Paez, which lies across a river from Colombia.

Exit polls suggest that Yotova wins runoff to become Bulgaria's first elected female president

world.(Agency)

Exit polls in Bulgaria suggest that incumbent President Iliana Yotova is the apparent winner in the country's presidential runoff. Partial official results are expected later Sunday.Surveys by several polling organizations give Yotova about 52% of the vote. If confirmed by official results, she would become Bulgaria's first elected female head of state.Former interim Prime Minister Andrey Gyurov, backed by reformist pro-Western opposition parties, is said to be trailing with around 44%.The vote was the first major test for Prime Minister Rumen Radev's Moscow-friendly Progressive Bulgaria party, which has endorsed Yotova. In April's parliamentary vote, the party won 131 of the 240 seats in Parliament, securing an outright majority.Observers say that a victory for Yotova will keep the presidency in the hands of the governing majority. Such a concentration of power could prevent the effective maintenance of checks and balances on policy decisions by institutions, they say.Yotova, 62, took over the presidency in January, when Radev stepped down to run for parliament, and was seeking her own elected mandate. She's expected to continue Radev's policy of keeping Bulgaria on its European path, while also supporting better relations with Russia and the lifting of sanctions.After casting her vote on Sunday, Yotova said that she voted for a Bulgaria that makes its own decisions and maintains a strong voice on the international stage.

"I voted for national consensus through dialogue, for institutions that work for citizens, for a strong state with its own foreign policy in a strong Europe," she told reporters.The Balkan country joined NATO in 2004 and the European Union in 2007.

Judge dismisses lawsuit seeking to block certification of Alaska Senate race if GOP incumbent loses

JUNEAU.(Agency).

A federal judge on Sunday dismissed a Justice Department lawsuit seeking to block certification of Alaska's US Senate race if Republican incumbent Dan Sullivan loses.Sullivan, an ally of President Donald Trump, faces Democratic former US Rep. Mary Peltola in one of the country's most closely watched races, with Senate control at stake. Tuesday's ranked-choice election also includes two candidates who have done little campaigning, one of whom shares the incumbent's name.The lawsuit, filed less than two weeks before the election and with early voting underway, called for an investigation into whether votes for retired teacher Dan J. Sullivan were intended for the senator. The state said the case lacked merit and argued there would be no way to determine that without violating voter privacy.

US District Court udge Sharon Gleason wrote in the order that the relief the United States seeks is "infeasible" because many voters have already cast their ballots. She said the cast ballots have been mixed together to the point where they cannot be matched to specific voters.More fundamentally, the United States provides no workable plan as to how it proposes to segregate ballots cast for Daniel J. Sullivan on Election Day and then conduct a court-ordered unspecified "investigation" of those ballots in a manner that would preserve voter secrecy," she wrote.

Attorneys for the state, Peltola's campaign and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee argued that the case lacked any legal basis and amounted to interference. The senator and his allies, including Trump, for months have portrayed Dan J. Sullivan as a sham candidate intent on confusing voters and helping Peltola.In the week before Election Day, The New York Times reported that Peltola's campaign was involved in efforts to recruit the second Sullivan. Dan J. Sullivan in June, shortly after entering the race, said he'd had no contact with the campaign about running. He did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report.Peltola's campaign responded by saying the campaign "has no involvement with either Sullivan campaign" — a statement similar to one it released after Dan J. Sullivan launched his bid.

Civilians in Ukraine's Kherson prepare for the return of war as localized ceasefire ends

KHERSON.(Agency)

Civilians in Ukraine's southeastern Kherson region prepared Sunday for the end of a localized ceasefire that has marked the most significant truce between Kyiv and Moscow since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began nearly five years ago.The White House said that U.S. first lady Melania Trump helped to broker the limited truce, which began early Tuesday and is expected to end Sunday evening. The pause in hostilities allowed besieged residents in the front-line city of Oleshky to be evacuated in a rare joint operation that ended Saturday.

"The ceasefire across Oleshky and the surrounding Kherson region has provided residents with the freedom to move, access to food, clean water, medicine, plus a renewed sense of dignity without the constant threat of attack," Trump said on social media. "Let Oleshky become the starting point for lasting peace."An estimated 2,000 civilians were in Oleshky when the temporary truce took hold. They were offered the choice of evacuating to territory controlled by Ukraine or Russia, or remaining in the city with replenished food and medical supplies. For the safety of those who have stayed, exact numbers weren't released after the evacuation.At the Ukrainian border Saturday, family members waited for a glimpse of their loved ones, while residents of nearby villages lined the highway waving flags and flashlights to greet the humanitarian convoy.But Moscow and Kyiv have continued aerial strikes elsewhere, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy saying Sunday that Russia continues to target Ukraine's energy systems before winter.

Hundreds of thousands of families were left



without power overnight as Moscow sought to exploit Ukraine's shortage of air defenses, Zelenskyy said in a post on social media.

"The intensity of the strikes is extremely high, and the Russians are trying to take maximum advantage of the shortage of ballistic missile interceptors," he said in a post on X.Final day of ceasefire brings some respite

Residents in the Ukrainian city of Kherson remained calm Sunday, despite knowing that the quiet of the localized ceasefire would soon end.Don't be afraid, keep holding on," Oleksandr Knyha, head of the Mykola Kulish Kherson Regional Academic Music and Drama Theater, told the audience as he opened a concert.The theater performs every Saturday and Sunday. This weekend's shows fell during the ceasefire.

Trump Bets On His Rallies, Speeches For Republicans' Midterms Win

Trump won Ohio in all three of his presidential runs, but a Marist Poll in October found only 43 percent approving of the job he's doing and 55% disapproving.

world.(Agency)

Donald Trump is capping his final electoral campaign the way he began over a decade ago: hoping a whirlwind sprint across the country will turn out his most fervent supporters and thwart Democratic designs to curtail his power in the sunset of his political career.The 80-year-old president, weary from a nearly month-long blitz through ruby red states, initially called off campaign stops he had planned this weekend in Iowa and Kansas for telerallies instead, before changing his mind and deciding to go forward with them on Sunday.Most surveys give rival Democrats strong odds of gaining three congressional seats needed to take control of the House, and Democrats are increasingly optimistic that they have multiple routes to the Senate, with seven seats closely locked in the polls.

But Republican insiders, based on private data, describe a Senate map - albeit one in which the GOP is unexpectedly on defence - that's still largely in toss-up territory or within reach for a win. They envision a path to Senate control that involves holding seats in Maine and Midwestern states such as Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska.At the Sunday rally in Dubuque, Iowa, Trump talked about traveling across the country for his events.

"You think that's easy?" he said to cheers. "And I've done it all for one very simple reason: to stop America-hating communists and jihadists from taking over the United States of America by taking over the United States Congress."

For Republicans, though, it's unclear whether the president's rallies are a help or a distraction. The GOP is on its back foot, largely burdened by Trump's low approval ratings, including broad disappointment over his failure to fulfill campaign pledges to lower the cost of living and to keep the US out of foreign wars.Moreover, the final leg of his campaign rallies - many at smaller venues than Trump has spoken at over the course of the past decade - have been marked by odd remarks, including musing about male candidates' physiques

, messaging that Democrats have pounced on to bolster their argument that he hasn't paid adequate attention to the economyRepublican Senator Jon Husted is in a closely contested race for reelection in Ohio, but much of the attention Trump has bestowed on him has been for his athleticism and figure - in particular his backside. During a rally in Michigan, another state with a razor-thin race, Trump, in an aside, commented on rapper Nicki Minaj's posterior.