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Women are leaders, not merely participants; Nari Shakti Vandan Act must be implemented: NCW chief

NEW DELHI . (Agency).

National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar has said women in India are not merely participants but leaders who have demonstrated their capabilities across sectors, expressing confidence that the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam will be implemented soon to ensure greater representation of women in Parliament and state assemblies.In an exclusive interview with PTI, Rahatkar said women had proved their leadership abilities whenever they were given opportunities, citing their growing representation in Panchayati Raj institutions following the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments.

"Women in our country are not merely participants; they are women who lead the nation. And this is not just something we say. We have witnessed this since ancient times. Women in India have demonstrated leadership in every section of society and in every field," she said.Referring to the 33 per cent reservation for women in Panchayati Raj institutions, Rahatkar said there were initial doubts about whether women would be able to discharge their responsibilities effectively.

'Needs to be dealt with iron hand': SC issues contempt notice to KPCC over post targeting CJI

New Delhi(Agency).

Observing that the independence of the judiciary is not a matter of "political convenience", the Supreme Court on Friday issued contempt notices to all office bearers of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) over a social media post targeting Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant.A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi said the Constitution is supreme and that no individual or political organisation stands above it."Judgments are always open to criticism. Freedom of expression can't be a shield of intimidation to interfere with the administration of justice. Howsoever high position a person occupies, any attempt to undermine the authority of the court needs to be dealt with an iron hand," the bench said."Authority of the court doesn't require political endorsement; it rests on the rule of law. Where administration of justice is established, the law must take its course," the bench added.The bench reiterated that the independence of the judiciary is not a matter of political convenience.The top court appointed a senior advocate as amicus curiae to examine whether criminal or civil contempt provisions apply in the matter. It also sought the assistance of Attorney General R Venkataramani.A post targeting the CJI, published on the official X account of the Kerala unit of Congress, went viral on October 12, drawing sharp criticism on social media before it was deleted. The party subsequently said it had removed the person responsible.

PM Modi likely to visit Bihar's Vaishali on November 21 to inaugurate projects linked to proposed industrial corridor

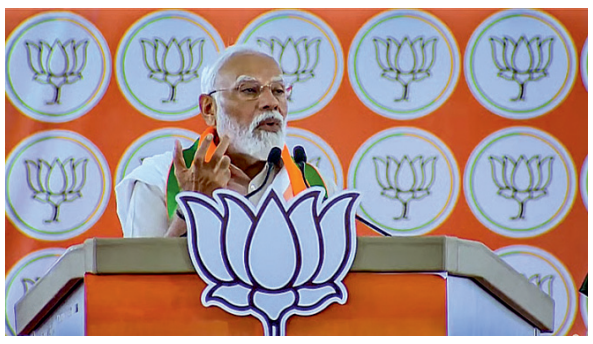
Saraogi said preparations for the Prime Minister's visit were reviewed at a meeting of NDA leaders at Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary's residence.

PATNA (Agency).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Bihar's Vaishali district on November 21 to inaugurate projects linked to a proposed 1,650-acre industrial corridor."During his visit, Modi will also address a public meeting," Bihar BJP president Sanjay Saraogi said here on Friday.

The visit will come a day after the NDA government in Bihar completes its first year in office on November 20.Saraogi said preparations for the Prime Minister's visit were reviewed at a meeting of NDA leaders at Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary's residence on Thursday.The proposed programme will be held at Jafarpatti in Vaishali district, where an industrial corridor is being developed across around 1,650 acres.He said Bihar could also receive several other development projects during the Prime Minister's visit.Meanwhile, Saraogi declined to comment on the reported move by two Independent MLCs, Brajbhushan Brajwasi and Rahul Raj, to join the BJP.

Both were recently elected from the Tirhut Graduates' and Saran Teachers' constituencies, respectively, defeating candidates backed by NDA constituents.



State JD(U) president Umesh Singh Kushwaha, however, asserted that all was well within the NDA.Kushwaha said the JD(U) had contested four seats in the recent MLC elections and won one. The party had sought feedback from all its candidates and would formulate its future strategy accordinglyA meeting of JD(U) leaders, including all district presidents and other office bearers, was held in Patna on Thursday to review the party candidates' performance in the MLC polls.JD(U) could win only one out of four seats it contested. JD(U) leader and party candidate from Tirhut Graduates' seat Abhishek Jha alleged that he could not get support from alliance partners as expected.

He said he had learnt several lessons from the recent legislative council elections, including how conspiracies and political manoeuvring could influence electoral outcomes.Jha said everyone had shared their experiences of the election and the party leadership had listened patiently.

"People say we have lost the election. I believe that in an election, you either win or learn. You learn from your shortcomings and experiences. Sometimes, people also resort to conspiracies and machinations, and it teaches you a lot. I have learnt a great deal from this election," he said.Jha said he had conveyed everything he wanted to tell the leadership and that the discussions were internal matters of

Sagar Chandra Sagar Controversy: Viral Chats and Financial Allegations Rock Jain Community

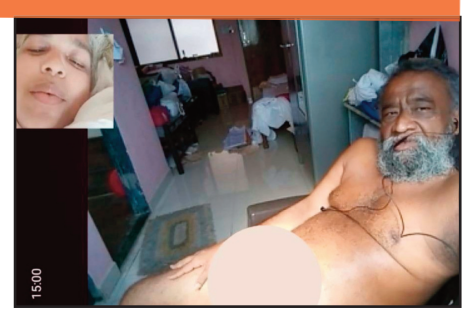
Viral Chats Spark Outrage, Probe Demanded

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh: The centuries-old traditions of Jainism, founded on the sacred principles of non-violence, non-possession, self-restraint and moral conduct preached by Lord Mahavira Swami, are facing a serious and deeply sensitive controversy. The developments have triggered widespread concern across the Jain community, from Masaur in Madhya Pradesh to the prominent pilgrimage centre of Palitana in Gujarat.At the centre of the controversy are serious allegations of misconduct and financial irregularities involving Sagar Chandra Sagar. The allegations have raised uncomfortable questions about the possible misuse of religious authority and the sanctity associated with the monastic tradition.Viral Chats and Questions Over the Dignity of Monastic LifeThe controversy gained momentum after alleged WhatsApp chats, audio call recordings and suspicious photographs began circulating widely on social media. The viral material has sparked discussions about the strict discipline, five great vows (Panch Mahavratas) and high moral standards expected from those following the monastic path.The allegations reportedly include claims of inappropriate and alleged illicit relationships involving certain women and female ascetics. These claims have generated considerable discussion and concern within the Jain community.The central question now is whether the allegations are genuine or merely an attempt to malign someone's reputation. If the material is fabricated and intended to damage someone's image, a clear and convincing explanation should be presented before the public. Conversely, if the allegations contain any truth, the matter must be subjected to an impartial legal investigation.No individual should be considered above the law or granted immunity on the basis of religious clothing, position or influence.Forensic Investigation Essential to Establish the TruthIn order to protect both an individual's reputation and the faith of millions of devotees, an impartial and scientific investigation is essential.In the present digital age, questions have emerged regarding the authenticity of the circulating chats, photographs and audio recordings. Whether these materials are genuine, digitally manipulated, edited or created using deepfake technology can only be established through a professional forensic examination.A comprehensive investigation by qualified forensic experts is therefore necessary to establish the facts. The matter goes beyond a few leaked



photographs or audio recordings; it concerns public confidence in religious institutions and the sanctity of Jain traditions.Crores in Donations, Trustees Under Scrutiny and Demand for Transparent AuditingJain pilgrim





age centres, temples and religious trusts receive donations worth crores of rupees from devotees across India and abroad. These contributions are generally intended to support animal welfare, education, charitable activities, religious propagation and public welfare.However, following the emergence of this controversy, questions have also been raised about the functioning of trustees, administrators, office-bearers and key associates, including media coordinator Abhay Chopra.

'This isn't just vote theft, it's rights theft': Rahul Gandhi flags voter ID link to welfare benefits

New Delhi(Agency).

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused the BJP government of attempting to turn voter identification into a condition for accessing welfare benefits, alleging that the move, coupled with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, could deprive millions of their rights."This isn't just vote theft, it's rights theft," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said, reacting to Union Panchayati Raj Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh's announcement that voter ID cards would replace Aadhaar for identifying beneficiaries of social welfare schemes.

In a post on X, Gandhi alleged that the government was conspiring to link access to welfare schemes with electoral rolls at a time when the SIR exercise was resulting in the deletion of millions of names from voter lists."The conspiracy runs very deep -- take your time to understand it. Under the guise of SIR, millions of names are being struck off voter lists. If not stopped, even more will be removed. Whose names are being targeted the most? Those who are furious with the BJP," he said.



Gandhi questioned the impartiality of the Election Commission, alleging that electoral rolls were effectively in the hands of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, whom he accused.

JKNC MLAs meet Farooq Abdullah, CM in Srinagar to discuss cabinet reshuffle

SRINAGAR(Agency).

The crucial meeting between a group of around 20 disgruntled ruling Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) MLAs and the party leadership began at the residence of party president Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar on Friday, with the legislators seeking action on their grievances following Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's first cabinet reshuffle.The disappointed legislators, who have held four meetings within a week, have raised concerns over the composition of the reshuffled cabinet and demanded changes to accommodate senior leaders and those left out.The group of MLAs have been demanding the dropping of four ministers who have been part of the CM's cabinet since its formation in October 2024, seeking their replacement with senior party leaders and those who were overlooked in the recent reshuffle.

The group has also sought removal of Chief Minister's advisers Nasir Aslam Wani and Shammi Oberoi, fulfilment of the party's electoral promises and a more assertive stand



on restoration of statehood and Article 370, which figured prominently in the JKNC's 2024 Assembly election manifesto.

The legislators, including Farooq Shah, Abdul Majeed Larmi, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi, Aijaz Jan, Sajad Uri, Saifudin Bhat, Mubarak Gul, Qaisar Jamshed Lone, Arjun Singh, Khurshid Ahmed, Javaid Mirchal and Nazir Ahmad Gurezi, arrived at Abdullah's Gupkar residence for the crucial meeting."We have come to meet the leader. We have come to talk to him. He is our leader, and we will share our grievances with him," JKNC MLA Nazir Ahmed Gurezi told reporters before entering Abdullah's residence.The leadership has moved quickly to reach out to the dissenting legislators, particularly after party leader and Srinagar MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday announced his decision to quit the party and resign from the Lok Sabha seat.Ruhullah had accused the Abdullahs of "betraying" the 2024 public mandate and criticised the party leadership for failing to fulfil key electoral promises.Against this backdrop, Friday's meeting assumes significance as the JKNC leadership seeks to contain.

700m underpass to ease Gaur choke but commuters flag uneven patches on stretch

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Commuters travelling between Delhi-Meerut Expressway (DME) and Bisrakh avoided the busy Gaur Chowk roundabout on Thursday as the 700-metre underpass opened for trial. Greater Noida Authority said nearly 14,000 vehicles used the underpass in the first five hours, from 6am to 11am. Around 50,000 vehicles use the Taj Highway stretch daily.Akash Kumar, a food delivery executive who crosses the intersection several times a day, said the underpass has brought significant relief. "I travel through this stretch multiple times a day to deliver food. Earlier, I would spend 2-3 hours daily negotiating traffic at this intersection. The underpass has now made commuting much easier," he said.

The underpass, delayed by 10 months after missing multiple deadlines, had already developed uneven patches on both carriageways. Annu Khan, president of the Noida Extension Flat Owners and Members Association, said the underpass was one of the most-awaited infrastructure projects in Greater Noida West.

Airport engineer among two held for cannabis smuggling

Noida.(Agency)

Two men have been arrested for allegedly operating a cannabis supply network that catered to young people living in flats, paying guest (PG) accommodations, hostels and colleges across Delhi-NCR.The accused are Sumit Raghav and Manish Kumar Jha (33), who works as a technical engineer at IGI airport.

They allegedly took orders through WhatsApp, obtained customers' locations, and delivered the contraband to them. To evade suspicion, the cannabis was packed into 25- and 30-gram portions and wrapped in packets disguised as parcels from online delivery companies.

Police seized 12.2 kilograms of cannabis, two mobile phones, and a Splendor motorcycle. A portion of the cannabis was already divided into 42 pre-packaged parcels.Noida DCP Preeti Yadav said the arrests were made on Wednesday following inputs from local intelligence and beat policing.A police team arrested Sumit near Medicine Cut in Sector 57. A search of his bag led to the recovery of around 1.9 kg of cannabis concealed in packets bearing the names of online delivery platforms.

Notices sent to 14 doctors in Ghaziabad for zero e-Sanjeevani consultations in September

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

At least 14 medical officers in Ghaziabad failed to conduct a single teleconsultation under the Centre's e-Sanjeevani scheme in Sept and are being served notices for falling short of the prescribed monthly target of 60 consultations. The data has raised concerns over the implementation of the digital healthcare initiative meant to provide medical advice to patients remotely.

According to information from the district health department, 139 medical officers collectively conducted 8,266 teleconsultations during the month, averaging 59.47 consultations per doctor — marginally below the target. While some doctors managed to conduct up to 44 consultations, several others recorded only three to 23 consultations. Fourteen doctors, meanwhile, had zero consultations against their names.

The low participation comes despite the scheme being designed to improve access to healthcare, particularly for patients who may find it difficult to travel to govt health facilities.

Wind helps clear pollutants, but AQI still 'poor' in NCR

Ghaziabad.(Agency)



As wind picked up speed, air quality saw marginal improvement across NCR on Thursday, but there was no let-up in the smog blanket. In Noida, AQI was recorded at 283 (poor) on Thursday after slipping to 330 (very poor) a day ago. Greater Noida recorded an AQI of 238, significantly better than Wednesday's 309, while air quality in Ghaziabad was 263, which was similar to Wednesday's 257.

Weather experts attributed the change to westerly winds blowing at 15-20 kmph across the region and a slight increase in temperature — the maximum temperature hovered around 30 degrees Celsius and the minimum was 17 degrees. A shift in wind speeds or daytime solar heating caused the rolling 24-hour average to drop much faster than standard winter trap models predict.A hub of corporate offices and commercial complexes, sector 62 in Noida remained in the 'severe' category for the third consecutive day with an AQI of 412, while two more monitoring stations — sectors 110 and 150 with a significant presence of industries and offices — remained in the 'very poor' category with AQIs above the 300 mark. Sector 1 recorded an AQI of 221 and sector 125 was at 273. In both areas, PM10 was the major pollutant.

While Sector 39 saw an AQI of 283, Sector 116 saw the cleanest AQI of 185, in the 'moderate' category.

In Greater Noida, Knowledge Park 3 and Shiv Nadar University monitoring stations recorded AQIs of 268 and 277, whereas Knowledge Park V was the cleanest with an AQI of 170 in the 'moderate' category. The UPPCB has added two more monitoring stations in the city, but they are yet to start recording data.In the eight monitoring stations in Ghaziabad, PM2.5 was the dominant pollutant. Commercial hub Indirapuram remained the worst with an AQI of 322. Six of the monitoring stations remained in the 'poor' category with an AQI below the 300 mark. Govindpuram's AQI was 123 (moderate).

Partially burnt body of unidentified woman found on pyre in Ghaziabad cremation ground

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The partially burnt body of an unidentified woman, presumably in her 20s, was recovered from a pyre at a cremation ground on Banthala Canal Road in Loni Border on Wednesday night, police said, adding that there were injuries and ligature marks on her neck.The people performing her last rites allegedly fled on seeing others approach on a JCB for work. The body has now been sent for postmortem examination. Villagers alerted police after noticing the body on the pyre with nobody nearby.

The Mystery of Kali Chaudas: A Sacred Message of Faith, De votion and Fearlessness!

Mahanagar Metro Desk



Rupesh Solanki: In Indian culture and Sanatan Dharma, every festival carries a spiritual significance, religious belief, and a meaningful message that guides human life in the right direction. Kali Chaudas, celebrated on the eve of the auspicious festival of Diwali, is one such unique religious occasion. This festival is also known by different names, such as Naraka Chaturdashi, Roop Chaudas and Bhoot Chaturdashi. According to various traditional beliefs, this day holds special religious significance.The very mention of Kali Chaudas brings thoughts of fear, tantra-mantra and superstitions to the minds of some people. However, the fundamental message of this festival is not to spread fear but to inspire human beings to discover their inner strength, faith and spiritual purity. This day encourages us to remove the darkness of negative thoughts, ego, jealousy, hatred and ignorance from our lives and illuminate our minds with positive thoughts.According to religious beliefs, Kali Chaudas is also associated with the killing of Narakasura by Lord Shri Krishna. As mentioned in the mythological accounts, Narakasura was a demon who had subjected many people to suffering and oppression. Lord Shri Krishna defeated and killed him, freeing innocent people from his atrocities. This episode is considered a symbol of the victory of good over evil, righteousness over unrighteousness and truth over falsehood.The tradition of taking an early morning Abhyanga Snan, or ritual oil bath, is also observed in many families on this day. According to religious beliefs, this practice symbolizes the purification of the body and mind. In certain regions, the tradition of Yam Deepdaan is followed, in which a lamp is lit with prayers for the health, longevity and well-being of family members. In Gujarat, the worship of Lord Hanuman, along with offering oil and vermilion, is also a tradition observed at many places on Kali Chaudas. Devotees recite the Hanuman Chalisa and pray for strength, wisdom and fearlessness.In our culture, Kali Chaudas is not limited merely to religious rituals and ceremonies. A beautiful philosophy of life is also hidden behind this festival. The greatest darkness in a person's life does not exist outside but within oneself. Emotions such as anger, greed, attachment, ego and selfishness make a person's thoughts dark and negative. On the other hand, when qualities such as compassion, forgiveness, love, sympathy and selfless service enter the heart, life becomes truly illuminated.In today's modern era, science and technology have .

Police warn of legal action for violating construction ban in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Police have warned construction contractors, office managements and individuals of legal action if they violate anti-pollution restrictions in force across the city from Nov 5 to 20.The police have been directed to assist enforcement agencies in checking violations, with action possible under Section 14 of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Act, 2021, under which non-compliance can attract fines and imprisonment.The restrictions include a ban on dust-generating construction and demolition activities and a cap of 50% on physical attendance in govt and private offices. The remaining employees are required to work from home. Industrial establishments and essential services where this arrangement is not feasible are exempt from the attendance requirement.The district administration has assigned enforcement duties to multiple departments. Sub-divisional magistrates (SDMs) and regional officers of Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) have been directed to conduct daily inspections, with the police commissioner asked to provide necessary assistance.Officials have also been asked to submit daily action-taken reports detailing inspections, violations detected and action taken. These reports must reach HSPCB regional officers by 5pm, after which a consolidated report will be sent to Gurgaon's additional deputy commissioner.

The construction ban covers dust-generating activities related to road projects, flyovers, overbridges, pipelines and other linear infrastructure works. Railway and metro services, airports, hospitals, water supply and sanitation works, defence and national security activities, and projects of national importance are exempt, subject to prescribed dust-control norms."We appeal to residents, contractors and establishments to comply with the restrictions and cooperate with the departments conducting inspections. Violations will invite action under applicable legal provisions," Sandeep Turan, police spokesperson, said.

Bike-borne snatchers on prowl in different parts of Gurgaon, target two women in a week

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Two cases of snatchers targeting women in different parts of the city have been reported to police within a week. While bike-borne men took a gold chain from a woman and left her injured in Tulip Chowk in Sector 70, another woman's phone was snatched while she was sitting in an auto near IFFCO Chowk Metro station.In the first incident, a 10-gram gold chain was snatched from Neha, a resident of Tulip Orange housing complex and an employee of an IT company. She said she had returned home from work on Wednesday night and stepped out around 8.30pm to buy some groceries from a nearby shopping complex when she was targeted near Tulip Chowk.According to her complaint, two men riding a black Splendor motorcycle approached her and before she could react, the pillion rider snatched the chain from her neck. The duo fled towards Elan Epic Mall. Neha suffered scratch marks on her neck because of the incident.Although she raised an alarm, passersby failed to stop them. A local resident alerted the police control room, following which a team from Badshapur police station reached the spot. "I could not remember the number of the bike. A Rapido driver tried to chase them down, but they managed to escape," she said.Police took details of the incident from the victim and launched a search for the suspects by setting up barricades in the surrounding area. However, the accused had escaped by then. An officer said investigators are examining CCTV footage from cameras installed around Tulip Chowk to identify the motorcycle and establish the suspects' identities.The second incident took place on Oct 31 near IFFCO Chowk Metro station on MG Road at 10.18pm, where a woman's mobile was snatched by two men while she was sitting in an auto. The incident came to light on Wednesday after footage of the snatching, captured by a dashboard camera of a nearby



car, surfaced on social media.The footage shows two bikers approaching an auto-rickshaw from behind after overtaking a car. The motorcyclist then rides alongside the auto and snatches the phone from the woman's hand with one hand while controlling the motorcycle with the other. The accused sped away through moving traffic before the woman could react.Police took cognisance of the viral footage, and a snatching case has been registered at Sector 29 police station. Investigators are working to identify and trace the accused.

Bandhwari landfill cleanup gets new deadline, MCG now targets July 2027

Gurgaon.(Agency)

MCG has set July 31, 2027, as the fresh deadline for clearing waste from Bandhwari landfill, admitting that 14.8 lakh metric tonnes (MT) remained unprocessed as of Oct 31, 2026.In an affidavit submitted before National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday, the civic body outlined a two-stage remediation plan. Under existing agreements, two agencies are expected to process a cumulative 16.8 lakh MT of waste by Feb-end 2027. However, around 8.5 lakh MT is expected to remain at the site even after this exercise, requiring a fresh round of processing.MCG has sought administrative approval from Haryana govt for processing the remaining waste under a separate arrangement. It has proposed starting the work on March 1, 2027, and completing it by July 31.The proposal was sent to the state govt on Oct 22, with approval expected by Dec 5. MCG plans to invite tenders on Dec 10, complete their technical and financial evaluation by Dec 31, and seek rate approval on Jan 5. The approval is expected by Jan 31, followed by the issuance of a letter of acceptance (LOA) on Feb 2. The selected agency will have to submit a bank guarantee by Feb 12, with the agreement scheduled to be signed by Feb 20.A senior MCG official said the new deadline would depend on approvals from the urban local bodies (ULB) department and weather conditions.

"Monsoon generally hampers waste processing work at the landfill," the official said.According to the affidavit, MCG initially engaged Daya Charan and Company and MKG Green Energy Pvt Ltd to process 14 lakh MT of legacy waste. An additional 2.8 lakh MT was later allocated following a high-powered works committee decision, taking their combined target to 16.8 lakh MT.By Oct 31, the agencies had processed 7.2 lakh MT against a cumulative target of 7.5 lakh MT, which MCG described as around 97% achievement. However, they missed their monthly targets in April, June and Aug 2026, primarily due to the monsoon. Their revised schedule targets completion of the entire 16.8 lakh MT by Feb 2027.



New scorpion species discovered in Similipal, 1st Liocheles genus in Odisha

BARIPADA.(Agency)

Researchers have discovered a new species of scorpion in the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR), documenting the first occurrence of the genus Liocheles in Odisha. Measuring between 44 mm and 53 mm in length, it is distinguished by its glossy, bluish-black appearance.Named Liocheles similipalensis, the newly-identified species was recorded in rocky habitats within tropical moist deciduous forests at an elevation of approximately 1,000 metre above sea level.

The discovery was made by a team of researchers from the Thackeray Wildlife Foundation (TWF), in association with officials of the STR. The research team comprised Saurabh Kininge, Tejas Thackeray, Akshay Khandekar and STR field director Prakash Chand Gogineni.The specimens were initially collected by forest personnel in the reserve and subsequently forwarded to Akshay Khandekar, a scientist at TWF, for detailed taxonomic examination. Researchers established its classification under the genus Liocheles by identifying minute hair-like structures beneath the second segment of the tarsus of its legs.Gogineni said the species has been named after Similipal, the protected forest landscape where it was first discovered.

Heavy rain & thunderstorms forecast for seven TN districts on November 6

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning is likely at isolated places in seven districts of TN on Friday, with the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) forecasting a continuation of the wet spell over parts of the state over the weekend.Theni, Dindigul, Madurai, Thoothukudi, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga and Pudukkottai districts are likely to receive heavy rain on Friday. The spell is expected to continue in Theni, Dindigul and Madurai on Saturday.On Sunday, the rain is likely to shift towards the delta and southern districts, with heavy rain forecast in Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi and Kanyakumari districts, besides Karaikal.In the 24 hours ending Thursday morning, Thudiyalur in Coimbatore district recorded the highest rainfall in the state at 10.3 cm, followed by Kengarai in the Nilgiris with 9 cm.Between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm on Thursday, Thirukoilur in Kallakurichi district recorded.

Public criticism: Petition seeks protection from TN police action

CHENNAI.(Agency)

A public interest litigation (PIL) petition has been filed in the Madras High Court, seeking a direction to the director general of police to put in place certain safeguards against prosecuting political leaders, activists, journalists, and citizens for airing criticism on social media and public fora.Petitioner H Syed Alim, an advocate, noted the recent arrests of Vilathikulam DMK MLA G V Markandayan and the party's IT wing activists, Anbanandam and Vinoth Suriya Kumar, who faced police action for making certain allegations and comments against the ruling dispensation. He said the police register FIRs under pressure from their political bosses without checking the maintainability of such complaints or the locus standi of the complainants.The petitioner prayed for a direction to the DGP to take a reasoned decision on issuing a police standing order or circular prescribing "uniform administrative safeguards" for police stations, cybercrime units, and investigation officers while receiving, registering and investigating complaints arising from social media posts, political criticism, satire, and online speech."The necessity of such safeguards has arisen in the view of the increasing initiation of criminal proceedings in matters concerning speech and expression," he said.

Pre-teens face more 'social media stress' than older teenagers, study finds

The cross-sectional study covered 1,306 school-going adolescents aged 10–16 years from government and private schools in urban Chandigarh and rural Raipur Rani block of Panchkula district.

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Children aged 10–13 are more vulnerable to social media-related stress than teenagers in the 14 and 16 age group, a study conducted by PGIMER has showed. The study further states that younger adolescents experienced mild to severe "digital stress", compared with 48 per cent of those aged 14–16.The study, titled 'Social Media Use and Digital Stress Among School Adolescents in North India', was conducted between January and April this year by researchers from PGIMER's Department of Community Medicine and School of Public Health, and Department of Psychiatry. It was authored by Dr Nupur Vats, Professor Madhu Gupta, Dr Tanvi Kiran from Community medicine and Dr Sandeep Grover from Psychiatry department.According to the study, the younger group was also more likely to show problematic social media use.The study mentions, "Around 20 per cent of adolescents aged 10–13 reported problematic use, compared with about 12 per cent among those aged 14–16.""Overall, 52 per cent of the 1,306 students surveyed experienced mild to severe digital stress, while 32 per cent spent more than three hours a day on social media on weekdays," it was added.While speaking to Professor



Madhu Gupta said, "Social media can create pressure among adolescents to remain constantly available, seek approval through likes and comments, and keep up with what others are doing online. The fear of missing out, along with the need for social validation, can contribute to digital stress. These pressures are particularly concerning for younger adolescents, who may be less equipped to manage them. Parents and schools need to help children develop healthy digital habits rather than simply focusing on the number of hours they spend online."The study concluded, "Younger adolescents, urban residents, and those reporting problematic use are particularly vulnerable."

The cross-sectional study covered 1,306 school-going adolescents aged 10–16 years from government and private schools in urban Chandigarh and rural Raipur Rani block of Panchkula district.Of these, 687 were from Chandigarh and 619 from Raipur Rani. Boys accounted for 54.3 per cent of the sample and girls 45.7 per cent; the mean age was 13.6 years.The researchers used a two-stage cluster sampling method to select 20 schools — 10 government and 10 private, equally divided between the urban and rural areas. Forty classes were selected from 59 sections. Of the 1,428 students approached, 1,306 participated, while 122 were either absent or declined to take part.

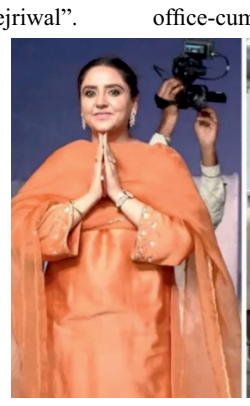
AAP MLA says ED raid came with offer to join BJP and a ministerial post

The MLA, who is also the president of the AAP's state women's wing and has been renominated from Moga for the 2027 Assembly elections, said the raids were intended to intimidate her following the party's decision to field her again.

Ludhiana.(Agency)

AAP MLA from Moga, Dr Amandeep Kaur Arora, Thursday claimed that the nearly 42-hour-long Enforcement Directorate (ED) raid at her residence was accompanied by pressure "to join the BJP and get a ministerial position", something that she said she refused as a "loyal soldier of Arvind Kejriwal".

Accusing the BJP-led Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of misusing central agencies in poll-bound Punjab, Arora claimed that the ED teams, which searched seven premises linked to her and her family, failed to recover any incriminating material or "a single penny"."They told me, 'soch lo, aane wale dino mein mantri honge aap… mainu keha geya mantri da pad mil jega par assi Kejriwal de sipaahi haan' (They said I should think about it. They said I would get a ministerial post in the future, but I am a loyal soldier of Arvind Kejriwal). AAP is our mother party and Bhagwant Mann is our leader," Arora told reporters after the searches ended.The MLA, who is also the president of the AAP's state women's wing and has been renominated from Moga for the 2027 Assembly elections, said the raids were intended to intimidate her following the party's decision to field her again."PM Modi sent ED to my house to pressurise and scare me. They came to our house at 5 am when I was sleeping with my children," she said.The ED teams had arrived early Wednesday at her residential flat on GT Road, her camp office-cum-bungalow on Dosanjh Road and a private de-addiction hospital run by her husband, Dr Rakesh Arora, in Moga. Searches were also conducted at the houses of her maternal and paternal grandparents in Libra village of Khanna and Chandumajra village of Patiala, respectively. The searches concluded on Thursday afternoon."They even checked our washrooms and my children's drawings and marksheets. Search was completed around 12 noon, but they stayed till 4 pm deliberately," she said, adding that the searches had left her family, particularly her young children, distressed.Arora alleged that the agency questioned her not only about her own family's properties but also about transactions involving other people in Moga, including property purchases and sales over the past few years. She said the questioning also covered transactions involving individuals such as Bipan Unkara and Rakesh Sitara, dating to the period before the formation of the AAP government. "They claimed we did money laundering," she alleged.





The ED searches were linked to a money laundering investigation arising from a case registered by the Moga police in June 2024 concerning alleged fraudulent mutation of government land acquired for National Highway 754-A and wrongful disbursement of compensation.According to an official source in the ED, the agency's action was based on an FIR registered on June 16, 2024, at Dharamkot police station under sections relating to cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy of the Indian Penal Code. The FIR named revenue official (patwari) Navdeep Singh and a woman migrant labourer, Dilkhush Kumari.

Sugarcane farmers end NH-48 protest after late-night deal with mill owners

Pune.(Agency)

More than 61 hours after road blockades disrupted traffic on the Mumbai-Bengaluru National Highway-48, farmers' union Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana called off its agitation early Friday after sugar mill owners agreed to a payment formula that will ensure sugarcane farmers receive up to Rs 4,200 per tonne.The agreement was reached late Thursday night at a meeting held at the Kolhapur district collector's office, attended by Minister Hasan Mushrif, representatives of sugar mill owners, and the Sanghatana led by Raju Shetti.Shetti, who had initially demanded Rs 4,500 per tonne, agreed to settle for Rs 4,200.

Sugarcane farmers agree to revised formula



"The formula has been finalised. Farmers will receive an initial payment of Rs 3,900 per tonne, followed by Rs 100 at the end of the crushing season. The remaining Rs 200 will be paid before the next crushing season, provided sugar prices remain stable at Rs 45 per kg," Shetti said.It was also decided that if sugar prices rise above Rs 45 per kg, 70 per cent of the additional revenue will be passed on to farmers, while the remaining 30 per cent will go to sugar factory owners. This provision is intended to ensure that farmers benefit from any increase in sugar prices, Shetti added.

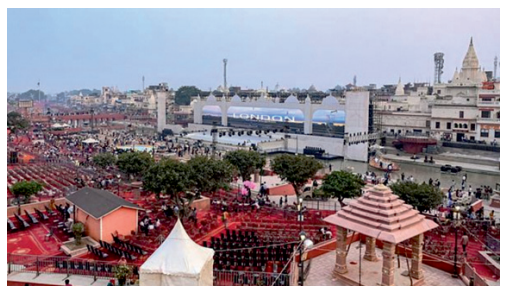
Traffic resumes on NH-48

Following the agreement, Shetti announced the suspension of the agitation at the Kini toll plaza and at Satara at around 1 am on Friday. He also called off a strike scheduled for Friday.With the protest ending, traffic on the Pune-Satara-Kolhapur stretch of NH-48, which forms part of the Mumbai-Bengaluru highway, gradually returned to normal.

With 30 lakh diyas, 2,100 drones, Ayodhya ready for 10th Deepotsav

Lucknow.(Agency)

More than 30 lakh earthen lamps along the Saryu riverfront, a 2,100-drone show depicting the Ramayana and performances by artists from five countries will mark the tenth edition of Ayodhya's Deepotsav, with the main event scheduled for November 7.Preparations are underway at Ram Ki Paidi and other venues across the city. The five-day celebrations, which began on November 5, will combine religious rituals, cultural



programmes and technology-based attractions, officials said.From approximately 1.71 lakh diyas in its first edition in 2017 to a display expected to surpass 30 lakh diyas across 56 ghats this year, Deepotsav has expanded in scale. The 2025 edition saw 26.17 lakh diyas lit, setting a Guinness World Record.The main event will be the lighting of more than 30 lakh earthen lamps along 56 ghats at Ram Ki Paidi on November 7, Around 35,000 students from colleges in Ayodhya will take part in the arrangements, officials said.

The Saryu Maha Aarti will feature 2,147 participants, including public representatives, councillors and members of the public. The ceremony will include Vedic chanting and aarti along the riverfront.A fleet of 2,100 indigenous drones will present scenes from the Ramayan through choreographed formations in the night sky. This is nearly twice the 1,100 drones used in the 2025 edition.A floating stage will depict Ram's return to Ayodhya through dance, music and Hindi narration. The programme will include an eight-minute laser show and a 20-minute projection mapping presentation, along with musical fireworks.

Ramayan across the city

Visitors will be able to view five three-dimensional scenes from the Ramayan through an augmented reality application available on Android and iOS. By scanning designated locations at Ram Ki Paidi, they can view the scenes against their actual surroundings and record and share them.

The digital outreach programme will also include nationwide reel-making and painting competitions, with a target of reaching five crore people.Ayodhya will have 13 thematic gateways, 20 selfie points and installations along key routes. Displays between Lata Mangeshkar Chowk and Ram Ki Paidi will depict episodes from the Ramayan.A procession of 22 tableaux based on the seven kands of the epic will include Ram Rath, Ram Darbar and Pushpak Viman. Ramkatha Park will also host sand art and other themed installations.

Odisha farmer ends life over crop loss due to floods caused by cyclone Arnab

BERHAMPUR.(Agency)

Another farmer of Ganjam allegedly died by suicide after his standing crops were damaged in the recent floods triggered by cyclone Arnab in the district.The deceased was identified as 34-year-old Bulu Malik of Sadabrata Nuagaon under Baliasara panchayat in Kabisuryanagar block. The incident comes four days after a farmer of Sheragada block allegedly ended his life over crop loss due to the floods.According to reports, Malik had cultivated paddy and vegetable crops on his farmland. However, a major portion of his crops was reportedly destroyed in the recent floods. He was said to have been under severe mental distress following the agricultural losses.At around 10 pm on Wednesday night, he allegedly attempted to die by suicide by consuming pesticide at his home. Family members rushed him to Kabisuryanagar hospital. As his condition deteriorated, he was later shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Berhampur. However, he succumbed during treatment.Police said the deceased's body will be handed over to his family after postmortem. Though crop loss is suspected to have driven Malik to take the extreme step, the exact circumstances are yet to be established.



Further investigation is underway.Earlier on November 1, 65-year-old farmer Arjun Panda of Bakilikana village under Dengapadar panchayat in Sheragada block had allegedly consumed pesticide at his residence after losing his entire paddy and vegetable crops to floodwaters. He later died in the hospital.

Meanwhile, the Ganjam unit of the Odisha Krushak Sabha staged demonstration in front of the district collector's office on Wednesday demanding adequate compensation and financial assistance for farmers who suffered extensive crop losses due to cyclone Arnab and the subsequent floods. The agitators submitted a six-point memorandum addressed to the chief minister through the collector, seeking immediate relief for affected farming families. They also demanded Rs 25 lakh compensation for the families of farmers who died by suicide following the cyclone.

A nation stuck between scriptures and the Constitution

Last week, a court in Gujarat's Gandhinagar district in imposed the punishment of imprisonment for life term to three persons accused of cow slaughter. It was done under the Gujarat Animal Preservation Act. In the judgement, the court cited Manusmriti and certain Vedic ideas, opining that if the accused are not punished, eventually there will be extinction of 'Gau Mata'.This is not an isolated case. The Allahabad High Court, in a 2023 judgement, spoke more or less in the same voice. The Lucknow Bench of the court refused to quash a chargesheet prepared under the Uttar Pradesh Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act. The court stated, "In Hinduism, the belief and faith is that cow is a representative of divine and natural beneficence and should therefore be protected and venerated." In 2017, the Rajasthan High Court issued directives for declaring cow the national animal of India. Justice Mahesh Chandra Sharma issued the direction just one day before his retirement. In 2021, Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court also said that the cow must be declared the national animal and its protection must be declared a fundamental right of Hindus. According to the judge, there are scientists who believe that the cow is the only animal that inhales and exhales oxygen!

In yet another episode, in a maintenance case, Justice Praveen Kumar Giri of the Allahabad High Court cited Manusmriti to underline the husband's "pious obligation" to support his wife.Any court in India is entitled to rely on constitutional or statutory text to justify its conclusion in a case. But often, the judges rely on Puranas and other religious texts, creating a sort of judicial populism that tends to support religious majoritarianism. This is not a healthy development for a secular democracy. While dealing with cases of gender equality or caste, if a constitutional court relies on ancient religious texts instead of constitutional principles, serious problems could arise.Indian secularism, as explaind by the Supreme Court in S R Bommai (1994), is not against religion. Yet, when our courts try to decide cases based on religious text or beliefs, there is an inevitable element of subjectivity and uncertainty in adjudication. For the process to remain constitutional—and not ecclesiastical—the judges need to follow adjudicative discipline.In a multi-religious society, it is the Constitution that unites various faiths, ideas, languages and cultures. It is the document by which we resolved to constitute India as a democracy. It is the document that promises and gives liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship. It is the home that offers dignity to every individual and assures equality before the law and equal protection of the laws. The judges of the higher judiciary take oath under this Constitution while assuming charge, and are bound to be faithful to it.Let it not be, however, misunderstood that such inclinations towards Hindu religious texts is only a recent judicial trend. Scholar Saumya Saxena in a 2018 paper has shown that the Supreme Court's judgements have tried to legitimise the politics of Hindutva right from the 1990s. She has referred to judgements like Ramesh Yeshwant Prabhoo vs Prabhakar Kashinath Kunte (1995) and Manohar Joshi vs Nitin Bhaurao Patil (1995). Yeshwant Prabhoo projected Hindutva as "a way of life of the people in the subcontinent". In Manohar Joshi.

Industrial growth needs a policy shift

Recent underwhelming performance is partly due to India's lopsided interaction with the rest of the world

THE Economic Survey 2025-26 set a target for India's manufacturing as a share of its GDP at 25%, to be achieved by 2035. This constitutes a nearly 100% increase in the share over its current level. Are we adequately prepared for this leap? There are many reasons why India's industrial growth has been lacklustre. I want to confine myself to discussing India's macroeconomic policy, and, under that rubric, draw the reader's attention to a cause that is not discussed at all, except in moments of crises.Macroeconomics as a sub-discipline of economics is of recent origin. One can trace its beginning to British economist John Maynard Keynes' writings on combating the Great Depression. His arguments were so persuasive that policymakers used his analysis of demand management to achieve full employment in advanced capitalist countries in the post-World War II period — this came to be known as the "Golden Age" of capitalism.This period came to an end when, in the mid-1970s, the members of OPEC (Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) increased the price of oil. It was clear to everyone that Keynesian demand management policies were ill-suited to handle supply shocks of the type that an increase in the price of imported oil represented.This failure of the Keynesian policymaking framework reinforced the hands of those economists who, following American economist Milton Friedman, asserted that markets "work", i.e. private individuals are capable of taking optimal decisions. The government (in this context, the monetary and fiscal authorities) cannot do better than what the private sector would do. The government should confine itself to following pre-announced paths for the policy variables. This requires that the government budget debt should follow a sustainable path and the monetary authorities must ensure that inflation stays within a range. Indian policymakers accepted this prescription wholeheartedly.What is often forgotten is that India is a developing country whose features are different from those of advanced Western economies. It has limited access to the world capital markets and requires foreign exchange to pay for international transactions. In a rules-based framework, we need the government to guide the economy on international variables like the exchange rate and the availability of foreign exchange.A discussion of these questions is fobbed off with answers like: "The exchange rate is market-determined. Only in cases of excess volatility will the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervene." We are left to figure out what is the acceptable level of volatility, and hence, what is "excessive"? What form will the RBI's intervention take?General Helmuth von Moltke the Elder, the Prussian Field Marshal during Otto von Bismarck's tenure as German Chancellor, said, "No (battle) plan survives the first contact with the enemy." This should not be interpreted as a green signal for being frivolous in designing a policy framework. Indian policymakers have left out crucial areas in performing a cut-and-paste from the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries' policy structures. These countries have fully convertible currencies, and hence do not have an external "constraint".This is well understood (e.g. in the context of the Latin American debt crises), but somehow our policy quiver is missing arrows for the external sector. India's recent underwhelming industrial performance is, in part, attributable to our lopsided interaction with the rest of the world.



In the early 1990s, when Manmohan Singh "opened up" the economy, he liberalised both trade in goods and foreign capital flows. It was hoped that unleashing India's entrepreneurial energy, together with its presumed comparative advantage in labour-intensive goods, would create increased employment, thereby lifting millions out of poverty. In the event, this did not happen.

One possible cause was that foreign capital inflows caused the Indian rupee to appreciate (in "real" terms). The RBI intervened to limit some of this appreciation (via what is called sterilised intervention). The net result was a huge trade deficit — India's imports of goods and services exceeded its exports. Economists refer to this phenomenon as the "Dutch Disease" (since it was noticed in the Netherlands in the 1970s). India never gained its presumed share of the world's labour-intensive goods sales because of the perverse effects of international capital inflows. There is no denying the fact that India needed FDI (foreign direct investment) to be competitive in exports, but unbridled portfolio flows played havoc with our trade balance.It is worth remembering that the East Asian economies have grown by exporting and running current account surpluses.This discussion of the Dutch Disease is meant to highlight the fact that a macroeconomic policy response is called for. What types of capital flows should be allowed? What levels of exchange rates are desirable? How much foreign exchange reserves are enough? Answers to these questions will not be forthcoming unless an open economy is an integral part of our policy discussion.

Now fast-forward to 2026. The US-Israel war on Iran has hurt India along many dimensions. It has made oil and natural gas imports more expensive and put pressure on the Indian currency through a reversal of capital flows (although the reversal predates the war). India's macroeconomic policy response is always a knee-jerk reaction to raise interest rates on NRI deposits.

In particular, we have this anomalous situation where the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has had to raise interest rates more than it would otherwise do to prevent the depreciation of the currency.

In Nipah probe, focus on facts, not politics

Attributing deaths to expired medication without indisputable evidence would be irresponsible

Keralam's sustained battle against the deadly Nipah virus is a defining chapter in its impressive healthcare journey. Its handling of the first outbreak in 2018 and subsequent occurrences has earned global recognition. However, that hard-won reputation is now under serious challenge following allegations that expired doses of the antiviral drug Remdesivir were administered to Nipah patients between 2023 and 2025, during the previous LDF regime. The UDF government has constituted a medical board to ascertain whether the expired drugs contributed to the six Nipah deaths during this period, triggering a sharp backlash from the LDF and a rebuttal from health experts.The controversy offers a much-needed reality check for Keralam's celebrated public healthcare system. It raises serious questions about inventory management, treatment protocols and administrative accountability. The state government procured 3,000 vials of Remdesivir in June 2021, with an expiry date of May 30, 2023. Data from Kozhikode Medical College show that 102 of these vials were used in 2023-24, 34 in 2024-25 and 10 in 2025-26. Health Minister K Muraleedharan, who flagged the possible lapses, said that the packages carried an expiry date but no manufacturing date, and some stock was labelled 'For clinical trial use'. Dismissing the suspicion, critical care specialist Dr A S Anoop Kumar said none of the six Nipah fatalities between 2023 and 2025 had received Remdesivir from the medical college, as all were diagnosed only after death.



Attributing deaths to expired medication without indisputable evidence would be irresponsible. Nipah is an exceptionally dangerous infection, and the effectiveness of drugs remains far from conclusive. But that does not make the questions any less serious. Why was the medical college retaining out-of-date medication? Was any of it administered to patients? Any lapse in procurement, storage or inventory management must be identified and responsibility fixed. If this leads to a better treatment protocol, that would be a bonus for a state battling recurring outbreaks.However, accountability must not become a pretext for discrediting a system built over decades. Nor should a serious public health issue degenerate into a political slugfest. Keralam's healthcare system must remain open to scrutiny precisely because its achievements are worth protecting. The priority must be to establish facts, address systemic deficiencies and strengthen public confidence, not to score political points.

Restoring trust in public service

Karnataka Public Service Commission is mired in controversies all too often. New allegations and a recent Supreme Court verdict should trigger extensive reforms. While that happens, a constitutional provision can be used to request the Union Public Service Commission to conduct the state's recruitments for a while

IKarnataka's Public Service Commission is facing a crisis that can no longer be dismissed as a series of isolated examination irregularities. The investigation into former KPSC Controller of Examinations Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar has reportedly uncovered a much wider problem. Following his interrogation, the Enforcement Directorate informed a Bengaluru court that at least 13 recruitment exercises between 2024 and 2026 may have involved systematic extortion.The allegations include deliberate manipulation of preliminary merit lists to enable confidential candidate information to be accessed and monetised. Alleged exchanges between the examination machinery and commission members, including its suspended chairman, point to a systemic failure. The key question is no longer merely whether an examination was compromised, but whether the recruitment machinery itself was compromised at both Executive and constitutional levels.This crisis is not an isolated event. KPSC has been dogged by recruitment irregularities, paper leaks and delays for over a decade. The 2011 gazetted probationers' recruitment—involving 362 posts and 1.38 lakh applicants—became a prolonged administrative controversy. The selection was cancelled following serious findings of corruption and nepotism. Yet in 2022, the state legislature passed a validation Act to revive those appointments. On October 29, the Supreme Court struck down the Act as unconstitutional and terminated the appointments made under it.The court directed the state to initiate fresh recruitment with a one-time age relaxation for earlier candidates. The judgement reaffirmed that legislative power cannot be used to bypass judicial rulings while leaving underlying illegalities intact. It also highlighted the severe human cost: a recruitment process initiated 15 years ago has still not delivered finality.The current generation of aspirants is understandably unwilling to let this cycle repeat. Recently, a delegation led by former MLC V S Ugrappa proposed to postpone the November 15 examination for 319 posts until the House Committee recommendations headed by MLA R V Deshpande are implemented. Some have even suggested shifting recruitment to the Karnataka Examinations Authority. At the same time, public declarations by political leaders suggesting that KPSC might simply be "closed down" fail to offer a lawful path forward.Neither halting recruitment indefinitely nor making administrative threats of closure provides a viable solution. The Constitution does not permit a state to abolish its public service commission by Executive declaration—Article 315(1) explicitly mandates a commission for every state. When public confidence collapses, political posturing is no substitute for institutional mechanisms. To restore candidate trust, Karnataka must look to the constitutional options already available.Article 315(4) provides a practical interim arrangement. Under it, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) may, at the request of the Governor and with the approval of the President, agree to conduct recruitment for a state. Karnataka should request UPSC to handle its gazetted Group A and B recruitments—particularly the gazetted probationers' exams—for a limited period of three to five years.Practically, this arrangement requires a formal request by the Governor, presidential approval, and UPSC's consentbased on its operational capacity. Crucially, it does not surrender state autonomy. Karnataka's service rules, reservation matrix, Kannada-language requirement and local quota provisions would be contractually preserved and applied by UPSC. The examining agency temporarily changes; the state's substantive policy control does not. This step is not a permanent handover, but an emergency stabiliser to buy time while KPSC undergoes structural repair.



That structural reform must begin with how commissionmembers are appointed. Article 317 deliberately makes removal difficult—requiring a Presidential order following a Supreme Court inquiry—to protect institutional independence. Because removal is complex, selection must be exceptionally rigorous. Echoing the spirit of the Hota Committee recommendations and practices adopted in other states, Karnataka should establish a statutory selection process.This should feature an independent search committee operating under publicly notified criteria, alongside a selection committee that includes representation from the government, the opposition and an independent constitutional authority (such as the Chief Justice of the high court). Curating panels through an open, multi-member framework raises the political cost of partisan packing and guards against turning selection into a routine executive ratification.

The examination architecture needs matching operational controls. Question paper preparation, printing, custody, evaluation and result tabulation must feature digital audit trails, multi-person authorisation and independent security reviews. Marks, cut-offs and marking sheets should be published automatically within a strict timeframe.

Interviews should carry limited weight and be digitally recorded. Lower-tier recruitments can be permanently shifted to a strengthened Karnataka Examinations Authority, allowing KPSC to focus exclusively on high-level civil services.Accountability must also be pursued on parallel tracks. While criminal investigations proceed against individuals, the state should use Article 317 wherever credible material warrants action against serving members. Systemic repair cannot wait for every court case to conclude: individual prosecution and institutional reform must move together.

The state cannot cite KPSC's constitutional status to defend its autonomy while disclaiming responsibility for its operational failures. Nor can it ask aspirants to invest years of preparation on faith alone. The Supreme Court's decisions and current investigations both signal that incremental fixes are no longer enough.

Article 315(4) provides a constitutional bridge out of this stalemate. By temporarily entrusting gazetted recruitment to UPSC, Karnataka can rebuild candidate trust today while overhauling KPSC for tomorrow. A public service commission exists to safeguard merit and equal opportunity; its credibility depends on ensuring that entry into public service is decided by •

5 Steps to a Flat tummy in 7 days



You've been missing your routine at the gym very often thanks to your busy schedule (or plain laziness) and suddenly you realize that in one week you have to attend a wedding.

You want to wear your favourite saree or figure-hugging dress but are worried about your flabby stomach bulging out. Well, you still have a last option. While you cannot reduce fat, you can lose belly fat by decreasing your total body fat percentage. And you don't have to completely alter your daily habits to get a flat stomach within 7 days!

Step one:

If you want to build muscle and burn fat at the same time, you have to perform circuit training, three days per week. How can you achieve this? Indulge in full body exercises like lunges, push-ups, and pull-ups, for one set of 15 repetitions. Don't forget to follow every exercise with one minute of jumping rope. You should be able to burn around 500 to 600 calories per workout.



Step two:

You have to work on your abdominal muscles three times in the week. Crunches and leg raises for three sets of 20 repetitions should be done. Also, do planks by holding your body in a push-up position on your elbows for 30 to 60 seconds for four sets.

Step three:

The kind of food you will eat in this period is vital in bringing about any change. Natural foods like fruits, vegetables, whole grain breads and pastas, chicken, beef, fish and low fat dairy should replace processed foods full of sugar.

Step four:

To minimize water retention, lower your sodium intake. This means you need to avoid salt. You can flavour your food with other herbs and spices instead.

Step five:

Stressing and anxiety can cause the over-production of a certain hormone called cortisol, which encourages weight gain about the belly area. So try to keep your cool!





7 home remedies for water retention

If you have a bloated feeling or have swollen face, hands or feet, you are most likely suffering from water retention.

While water retention is normal if you are pregnant or menstruating, it needs cure if you are not. It could indicate imbalanced diet, drug reaction, menopause, thyroid, liver or kidney disorders among others. Here are some ways you can treat it at home:

Have lots of water: More water means less water retention but make sure that your water intake is evenly spread out through the day. Guzzling water down in a short period of time can lead to water intoxication.

Less salt and sugar: Salt clogs water tissues and excessive salt means fluid retention. Even sugar ups the insulin level in the body, decreasing body's function to flush out sodium aka salt.

Opt for natural diuretics: Instead of rushing to the medical shop to purchase diuretics, look in your kitchen. The biggest reliever is cranberry juice. It can be taken in excess too in order to fix water retention. Closely following the lead would be raw cabbage leaves. Foods like apple cider vinegar, green tea, parsley and fennel are also some of the natural diuretics that can come to your rescue.

Herbal tea to the rescue: Herbal teas with tea tree or parsley base help in removing excess water from the body.

Garlic: Having garlic empty stomach in the morning helps in a big manner. It also helps break down the fats.

Ice packs: Stuff ice cubes in a thin cloth and press it against the affected area. It will give you relief. However, it is not a good option for diabetics.

Say no to alcohol: Alcohol leads to water retention and should be taken in moderation. It forces the body to store even more water.



10 quick and easy home remedies for Headaches



Monday mornings usually spell headaches for most of us. Back from a fun vacation and already feeling the first few waves of a debilitating headache?

Here are some great tips that ensure speedy recovery and even prevention of headaches - the simple and drug-free way. Dr. Vikram Singh, Consultant, Neurosurgery at Moolchand Medcity, gives us some excellent home remedies for headaches. Read and practise these tips today. Over to Dr. Vikram Singh...

Hydrate yourself: Dehydration can be one of the top causes for a headache. One should have many fluids like water and fresh fruit juices, and avoid caffeinated drinks like tea and coffee, which dehydrate the body.

Head massages: Apply gentle, steady rotating pressure to the painful area of your head with your index finger and/or thumb. Maintain pressure for 7-15 seconds, then release. Repeat as needed. Massaging helps in relieving the tightened muscles and improves blood circulation.

Follow a balanced diet with proper meal timings: There has to be a balanced diet and proper timings for the said diet. In fact, one should follow a fixed timetable for all the four meals of the day. The brain needs glucose and deprivation of glucose can cause hypoglycemia and thus the headache. So the food should be consumed at timely intervals for the proper functioning of your body's metabolism.

Adequate sleep: Sleeping properly in the right posture for adequate time durations is very necessary. Lack of sleep or interrupted sleep can disturb your sleep cycle and hence cause headaches. An average duration of 6-8 hours of uninterrupted sleep is necessary, and the thickness of the pillow should not be too much.

Rest for a while: Close your eyes and try to release the tension and the pressure in your back, neck and shoulders while sitting in a low-lit room. Avoid bending over or physically exerting yourself.

Hot shower: Stand in the shower and let the hot water hit your head and run down your neck and back. Doing so will loosen the muscles in your head and neck, allowing better blood flow.

Try smiling and laughing: In case of minor headaches, smiling can prove to be a cure. Smiling and laughing release endorphins within the brain, working on a positive feedback loop - the more you smile and laugh, the more "feel-good" chemicals the brain releases, and the more of these chemicals it releases, the more you smile and laugh! Endorphins will help to relieve the pain.

Relax and do what your heart says: During headaches, music works wonders as it helps in easing the stress. Apart from that, close your eyes and think pleasant thoughts.

Breathe in fresh air: Deep breathing exercises can also help in relieving a headache; it will be even more effective as a natural headache cure if it is done in the fresh air.

Time-out: Remove yourself from a stressful situation by taking a walk or by distracting the mind and taking a few minutes to concentrate on something relaxing. A five-minute time-out "vacation" is a quick and easy stress buster and a great home remedy for headaches.



Best foods for quick Weight loss



No matter how healthy your daily routine might be, sometimes, the sudden need for quick weight loss manages to creep in unannounced.





Whatever the reason - a school re-union or your 30th birthday - none of us are above the need to lose weight and lose it fast. And here's some good news: Coupled with the right exercise and healthy nutrient intake you can lose weight quickly and surely by consuming these best foods for quick weight loss. aRemember the first tenet of a healthy diet is portion control, and you're on your way to quick weight loss success...

Lean protein:

A recent study from Purdue University has proved yet again that lean protein enables weight loss through appropriate appetite control. While non-vegetarians can get lean proteing from lean meat and egg white, vegetarians should look to include these protein foods in their daily diet:
Chickpeas, soyabeans, kidney beans, tofu, other beans and pulses, and dairy. Even peanut butter is a good substitute as an appetite controller here.

Fruits and vegetables:

This is a best practise followed by people who lose permanent weight successfully. Even if you love meat, including at least 2-3 whole fruits and a side serving of vegetables with each meal goes a long way in curbing your appetite and enabling quick weight loss. So leave those diet pills, exotic foods that you buy just once and never eat again, and step over to the neighbourhood grocery store. Your best bet with quick weight loss lies within these humble, yet extremely healthy, fruits and vegetables.

Broth-based soups:

Pureed and chunky broth (not cream) based hot soups tend to satisfy a range of food cravings, while filling you up on low-calorie healthy foods. Additionally, making these soups at home is quite simple. Just buy some vegetables, puree the pulpy ones, chop the hard ones, start with a steam or stir fry and slowly add water with stock for volume. Don't forget the seasoning. Quick weight loss largely depends on how you control your appetite with healthy substitutes to unhealthy, high-fat and creamy foods.

Whole grain :

A list of best foods for quick weight loss can never be complete without whole grains. Even without changing other areas of your daily diet, just a shift from processed to whole grain will work wonders for quick weight loss. Whole grains are nutrient-packed powerhouses and are excellent appetite controllers.



Low-salt and low-starch foods:

Cutting back on sodium and high-starch foods **(read:** bad carbs) results in a kind of cheat weight loss, which - if properly maintained can lead to permanent weight loss. In the short run this strategy leads to low fluid retention and what you lose initially is 'water weight'. This is why most weight loss diets that promise quick weight loss begin with a no-carb, no-salt shock phase. You can do this cleverly by cutting down reasonably and continuing a daily exercise routine to maintain healthy appetite and calorie burn.

8 health benefits of Ginger tea



Nothing beats cold in the winter like a piping hot cup of ginger tea. With its high levels of Vitamin C, magnesium and other minerals, ginger root is extremely beneficial for health.

Once made into tea, you can add peppermint, honey or lemon to mask the taste of the ginger. Here's why you should have this soothing beverage.

Relieve nausea

Drinking a cup of ginger tea before travelling can help prevent the nausea and vomiting associated with motion sickness. You can also drink a cuppa at the first sign of nausea to relieve the symptom.

Improve stomach performance

Useful in improving digestion and increasing absorption of food, ginger tea can bloating after eating too much.

Reduce inflammation

Ginger contains anti-inflammatory properties that make it an ideal home remedy for muscle and joint problems. In addition to drinking ginger tea, you can also use it to soak inflamed joints.



Fight respiratory problems

Ginger tea can help relieve congestion associated with the common cold. Try a cup of ginger tea for the respiratory symptoms associated with environmental allergies.

Improve blood circulation

The vitamins, minerals and amino acids in ginger tea can help restore and improve blood circulation that may help decrease the chance of cardiovascular problems. Ginger may prevent fat from depositing in the arteries helping to prevent heart attacks and stroke.

Relieve menstrual discomfort

This one is for all women suffering from menstrual cramps. Try soaking a towel in warm ginger tea and apply it to your lower abdomen. It may help relieve the pain and relax the muscles. At the same time, drink a cup of ginger tea with honey.

Strengthen immunity

Ginger tea can help strengthen your immunity due to the high levels of antioxidants in ginger.

Relieve stress

Ginger tea has calming properties that may help lower your stress and tension. This is thought to be due to a combination of the strong aroma and healing properties.

Don't wait for a heart Attack!

So sick was the Indian government of the procrastinating Indian citizen who refused to opt for preventive health care, that it bribed them to see a doctor. In 2012, the then finance minister offered a plan to save up to Rs 5,000 on tax by opting for an annual preventive check-up.

While Indians refuse to visit a hospital unless they need to be brought in on a stretcher, Americans, they say, can't get enough. In the US, annual check-ups account for more than 8 per cent of doctor visits, and cost the health care system $8 billion a year. Each visit takes around 23 minutes, adding up to a total of 17 million hours each year spent checking 45 million healthy people.In Europe, a study revea2led that many routine checkups led to over-diagnosis and over-treatment of relatively mild health problems, leading some patients to take medication for years with no apparent benefit.



But with the average age of patients diagnosed with cardiac problems dipping, and lifestyle-related disorders on the rise, doctors here are keen to catch the bug early. Thus, avoiding a case of 'surprise' heart attack, like actor Farooq Sheikh's.

Don't wait for a heart attack, says Dr Lekha Pathak, cardiologist. One in 10 Indians suffer from hypertension. And most aren't aware of it. For people above 40, I suggest a twice-a-year check up. This should include Electrocardiography (ECG), cardiac stress test, 2D echo and blood biochemistry to check blood sugar, kidney and lipid profile.

Smokers and those who have a family history of cardiac illness, diabetes and hypertension are part of a high risk group. They must start with these tests at 30.

Often, those suffering a 'surprise' heart attack are those who have lived with symptoms of high cholesterol and hypertension, without knowing it. This is not specific to an age group or sex. But 40 per cent of patients suffering from cardiac issues tend to be below 40.

Start gynaec visits in mid-20s, says Dr Rajeev Chhabra, gynaecologist

Indian women are just not in the habit of visiting a gynaecologist regularly. In fact, most women don't go to a doctor even when suffering from the symptom of a illness. It's always a last minute visit when the pain gets unbearable.

For women above 45, they need to start caring for their bones, since menopause will soon strike. Start with the following tests: CBC, Creatinine levels, SGPT and SGOT levels, calcium and phosphorus, USG (ultrasonography), PAP smear and mammogram.

Women between 23 and 30 need to take annual thyroid tests, prolactin, DHEA-sulfate test and ultrasonography. These are purely preventive tests ensure that when they do decide to conceive, they encounter no complications. Lifestyle disorders like Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOD) are detected at such times.

In case you are sexually active with multiple partners and don't insist on the use of condoms, take the PAP smear test every year.

For every known diabetic, there's one undiagnosed, says Dr Rajiv Kovil, diabetologist

In 2012, 11.8 million patients were diagnosed with diabetes, adding to the 65 million who live with the metabolic disorder. Sixty per cent of them were diagnosed during a routine health check up, having lived with silent symptoms.

It's a cultural problem. Indians feel they are wasting money on tests if they aren't sick.

There is noage bar to check blood sugar levels. It's meant for every adult. For whose who aren't diabetic, a yearly check-up should include fasting and post meal blood sugar tests. Add the hpa1c test, that's usually missing from the basic package. It's to check the average plasma glucose concentration over prolonged periods of time.

For patients who are diagnosed with diabetes, the tests need to be specific; like those that test the effect of the illness on the liver, kidneys and retina.

Post a comment

Teachers join RCSA protest, seek Dr Saripalli's reinstatement

Delhi.(Agency)

The Ramjas College Staff Association (RCSA) on Thursday organized a protest demonstration at the college gate, Ramjas College, against the alleged arbitrary and unjust termination of Dr. Saripalli V. Ravikiran from the Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE/SOL), University of Delhi.The protest was held pursuant to the unanimous resolution adopted at the RCSA General Body Meeting on November 4, 2026. Teachers from various colleges of the University of Delhi joined the demonstration and collectively condemned the action of the CDOE/SOL Administration. All the participants extended their solidarity to Dr. Ravikiran and strongly demanded the immediate reinstatement of his services.The demonstrators expressed concern over the arbitrary termination of a teacher's services, emphasizing that such actions undermine the dignity of the teaching profession, teachers' service rights, and job security. The gathering reaffirmed that the protection of teachers' rights and resistance to unjust administrative actions must remain a collective responsibility of the entire teaching community.

The participation of teachers from various colleges reflected the strong unity and solidarity of the Delhi University teaching fraternity. The protest underscored the collective resolve of teachers to stand together against arbitrary administrative decisions and to uphold justice, dignity, and fairness in the academic system.RCSA reiterated its firm demand for the immediate reinstatement of Dr. Saripalli V Ravikiran and appealed to the concerned authorities to take appropriate corrective action without further delay.

Supreme Court's new 24-hour detention rule: What changes for police and arrested persons?

Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court has delivered an important ruling on police detention and arrest in India. The court has clarified that the 24-hour deadline for producing an accused before a magistrate begins from the moment a person is actually detained, and not from the time police officially record the arrest. The judgment could affect how investigating agencies handle suspects during searches, questioning and arrests.A bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Atul S Chandurkar delivered the ruling on November 5 in the case of Sujit Das v. Union of India. The court held that police cannot keep someone in custody for several hours and then start a fresh 24-hour countdown by recording a formal arrest later. The judgment strengthens the protection against prolonged detention without judicial supervision.

What has the Supreme Court ruled?

Under Article 22(2) of the Constitution, an arrested person must be produced before the nearest magistrate within 24 hours. The only permitted exclusion is the time necessary to travel to the magistrate's court.The Supreme Court has now clarified that this countdown begins when a person's freedom is effectively restricted by the investigating authority.For example, if police detain someone at 10 am on Monday but officially arrest them at 6 pm, the 24-hour deadline starts at 10 am Monday. Police cannot use the later arrest time to extend custody.

What was the earlier rule?

The Constitution already required production before a magistrate within 24 hours. The dispute concerned how that period should be calculated.Some High Courts had allowed investigating agencies to exclude periods spent questioning suspects or conducting searches.

Agnipath scheme changes apply only to serving Agniveers; 4-year model to continue for fresh recruits

Delhi.(Agency)

The Centre has clarified that the latest changes to the Agnipath scheme will apply only to the nine batches of Agniveers currently serving in the Indian Armed Forces. Fresh recruits joining after December 2026 will continue under the original four-year engagement model for now. The clarification comes after the government announced an additional two-year service period for Agniveers, leading to questions about whether the existing recruitment structure was being permanently changed.According to defence officials, the revised arrangement is a transitional measure for personnel already in uniform and does not mean that the four-year Agnipath model has been scrapped. The government will review the rules for future batches depending on the requirements of the armed forces.



What changes for the 9 existing batches?

Under the revised arrangement, the first 25 per cent of each batch will continue to be absorbed into the regular cadre after completing four years of service, based on merit.The remaining 75 per cent, who were earlier expected to leave after four years, will now be offered an additional two-year engagement. After completing this period, they will have an opportunity to join the regular armed forces without a fixed numerical ceiling.

However, enrolment will not be automatic. Agniveers must be willing to continue serving and meet the required physical fitness, performance and disciplinary standards.

Will Agniveers get equal seniority?

Seniority was another major concern following the announcement. Defence officials have clarified that those joining the regular cadre after the additional two years will be placed immediately after the members of their own batch who were absorbed after four years.This means their delayed entry will not push them below personnel recruited in subsequent batches. The revised arrangement also includes enhanced remuneration and benefits during the additional engagement period.

Is the Agnipath scheme being rolled back?

The government has maintained that the latest changes do not amount to a complete rollback of the Agnipath scheme. The original four-year service period and the provision for retaining 25 per cent of each batch after four years remain unchanged.The additional two-year engagement simply creates another opportunity for the remaining Agniveers to continue their military careers and qualify for regular enrolment. The Union Cabinet approved the changes following an assessment of Agniveers' performance and feedback from the armed forces.

What about future Agniveer recruits?

For candidates planning to join the armed forces, the distinction is important. Those inducted after December 2026 will continue under the existing four-year engagement framework, with the government keeping the option of reviewing the rules later.The latest clarification makes it clear that the additional two-year opportunity is currently limited to serving Agniveers. Whether the same arrangement will be extended to future recruits will depend .

Sirsa says stubble burning incidents rising in Punjab, questions Mann's claims

Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa accused Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann of making misleading claims about paddy harvesting in the state, saying the Punjab government's own data showed that 77.38 per cent of the paddy area had been harvested by November 2.Sirsa questioned whether smoke from Punjab was reaching Delhi and cited rising farm-fire incidents to highlight the deterioration in air quality. He said Delhi's AQI rose from 60 on October 30 to 117 on October 31 and 377 on November 4.

Punjab recorded 584 farm fires on November 3, compared with 98 on November 2 and 292 on October 31. Between October 29 and November 3, the state reported 1,383 incidents, taking its cumulative tally to 2,196. "I am showing present data showing pollution in



Punjab; the figure is over 1,100 in Bathinda and over 1,000 in Talwandi Sabo," Sirsa said, alleging that the AAP was putting the health of Punjab's residents at risk. He said Tarn Taran recorded 545 farm fires, followed by Ferozepur with 305 and Amritsar with 198 as of November 3.According to the Decision Support System, stubble burning contributed an estimated 20.2 per cent to Delhi's pollution on November 4.Sirsa questioned the Punjab government's claim of a reduction of over 90 per cent in stubble burning. He said the state had registered 494 FIRs by November 3, while prosecution proceedings had been initiated in 16 cases and warning notices issued in 609 cases.

Culture of Diwali gifts adds to vehicular pollution: Supreme Court on Delhi's AQI

The Supreme Court said a 'cultural shift' was needed to curb the annual pollution menace in Delhi as the overall AQI in the national capital came within touching distance of the severe category.

Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court on Friday flagged the culture of exchanging Diwali gifts as a contributor to vehicular pollution in Delhi as the national capital continued to breathe toxic air. Underlining that a "cultural shift" was needed to curb the annual pollution menace in Delhi, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant said the rich had turned the practice of exchanging Diwali gifts into a social and status symbol."The culture of Diwali gifts adds to vehicular pollution. People need to realise what our original culture is and what should be done," the CJI said. The Supreme Court's sharp remarks came as the overall AQI in Delhi came within touching distance of the severe category on Friday. As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the average AQI was recorded at 389, even though it surged past 400 in several regions.It is a situation that Delhi deals with every year, with stubble burning from neighbouring states making the city a literal gas chamber around Diwali.

Delhi's markets have been choc-a-bloc over the past few days, witnessing a festive rush ahead of the key festival on November 8. Especially in North India, exchanging gifts during Diwali has become an entrenched tradition.

WHAT CJI SAID ON DELHI'S POLLUTION MENACE

The CJI pointed out that the root problem was not merely the number of vehicles on Delhi's roads, but the fact that vehicles from across the country enter the city, making it difficult to monitor their emissions.

"It's a free-for-all. Vehicles from across the



country come in. You cannot monitor the overall condition of the vehicle or what kind of emissions it is making. Even if a vehicle comes in for two hours, the damage is done," the CJI said.To this, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, said steps were being taken to tighten monitoring.Stage 2 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has already been imposed, which includes measures like water sprinkling and stricter border checks to enforce vehicle restrictions."Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates are now being geotagged at the spot where the tests are being conducted," the ASG said, adding that measures were already underway to stop "visibly polluting vehicles".However, the top court pointed out that the issue was not simply the number of vehicles. "It's not the strength of the vehicles.

Delhi's air quality worsens to brink of 'severe' category ahead of Diwali, 30 stations record severe AQI

Delhi.(Agency)

A thick blanket of smog engulfed Delhi on Friday as air pollution levels surged to alarming levels, with the city's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) touching 391, just short of the 'severe' category, two days ahead of Diwali.As many as 30 of the 59 air quality monitoring stations across the national capital recorded 'severe' pollution levels at 9 am, while the remaining stations reported 'very poor' air quality, highlighting the deteriorating pollution situation across the city.Rohini emerged as the most polluted area, recording an AQI of 475, followed by IIT Delhi at 472.According to the Air Quality Early Warning System, Delhi is likely to witness its first 'severe' air quality day of the season on Friday, with hazardous pollution levels expected to persist until November 8, coinciding with Diwali.The worsening air quality comes at a particularly concerning time, with the region witnessing the peak stubble-burning season. The anticipated bursting of firecrackers during Diwali celebrations is likely to further aggravate the pollution crisis, pushing air quality levels deeper into the hazardous zone.The city's AQI showed a steady deterioration through the morning, rising from 389 at 8 am to 391 an hour later. An AQI reading between 301 and 400 falls in the 'very poor' category, while readings above 400 are classified as 'severe' by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Weather experts have warned that several pollution hotspots in Delhi could record AQI levels exceeding 450, particularly amid the combined impact of stubble-burning and



firecracker emissions.Meanwhile, the minimum temperature at Safdarjung, Delhi's base weather station, was recorded at 17.2 degrees Celsius, 1.9 degrees above the seasonal average.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast a maximum temperature of around 30 degrees Celsius on Friday, with shallow fog likely during the morning. Similar conditions are expected to prevail in the capital until November 9.

Chawri Bazaar building collapse: MCD acts, suspends two engineers

CM Rekha Gupta orders inquiry, says accountability will be fixed and negligence won't be tolerated.

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi government has ordered an inquiry into the collapse of a three-storey building under construction in Old Delhi's Chawri Bazar, which claimed two lives and left four others injured, and directed officials to register an FIR against the contractor.Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and mayor Pravesh Wahi had visited the site and directed officials to ensure necessary measures for rescue and relief operations. Following Gupta's directions, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has suspended a Junior Engineer (JE) and an Assistant Engineer (AE) pending the outcome of the inquiry.

As per the preliminary report, the building collapsed while the shuttering of the third floor roof was being removed. The collapsed G+3 building stood on a 45-square-yard plot, inaccessible to vehicles. An April 28 advisory had warned Samiullah, the owner, about the building's deteriorated condition.After a June 15 police communication about repair work, an inspection was conducted. Primary records show that no application for a Sanction of Building Plan (SBP) had been submitted by the property owner or builder. Also, no complaint regarding the ongoing construction activity at the site had been received by the corporation prior to the incident.

Also, property tax records show a G+4 declaration. MCD has sought an FIR and initiated neighbouring building safety surveys and action against illegal construction. According to a senior official in the MCD's Building Department, there were no complaints against the building, including from the



police, and no unauthorised construction booking had been initiated against it.The CM, however, said that accountability would be fixed and negligence at any level would not be tolerated.

CM assures aid, best medical care

The CM said that victims must receive the best medical care. She asked officials to provide ex-gratia aid to the families affected. She appealed to citizens to pay special attention to all necessary safety standards while constructing their homes.

Higher premium income lifts LIC profit by 20% to Rs12,076 cr in Q2

New Delhi.(Agency)

National insurer Life Insurance Corporation on Thursday reported a full 20% year-on-year growth in net income at Rs12,076 crore in the September quarter, driven by a robust growth in premium income that printed in at over 16%.Net premium income increased to Rs1,47,018 crore in the reporting quarter, up 16.2% YoY, taking the total income to Rs2,62,739 crore, compared to Rs2,39,614 crore a year ago. Total income growth was also supported by higher renewal premium, which grew to Rs68,375 crore from Rs64,996 crore.However, the country's largest life insurer saw its first-year premium slightly declining to Rs10,432 crore from Rs10,836 crore in the previous fiscal year. On the other hand, one-time premiums from new policies jumped 35% and renewal premium rose more than 5%.

Total asset under management (AUM) of the company rose 4.15% to `59.61 trillion." The Q2 numbers show that impact of the successful implementation of our product and channel diversification strategy. The non-par APE share of individual business is up 34.03%, in line with our current strategy of maintaining levels of one third of individual APE from non-par products," CEO R Doraiswamy told reporters at the earnings call on Thursday.

Stock market today: Will Wall Street's sell-off break Dalal Street's rally?

New Delhi.(Agency)

After a strong rally in the previous session, Indian stock markets could face a tougher start on Friday as a sharp sell-off on Wall Street weighs on global investor sentiment. The rout in US technology and semiconductor stocks has raised concerns about a possible correction in global equities, while early signals from GIFT Nifty point to a weaker opening for domestic benchmarks.

GIFT Nifty was trading at 24,430.50, down 169 points or 0.69%, at 8:21 am on Friday. The index's movement suggested that the Nifty could open lower, potentially giving back some of the gains recorded in the previous session.On Thursday, the BSE Sensex had surged 2,008.61 points, or 2.60%, to close at 79,310.01. The NSE Nifty 50 ended at 24,536.60, gaining 576 points or 2.40%.The key question now is whether the global sell-off will trigger profit-booking in Indian equities or whether domestic buying interest and the recent improvement in sentiment.

Cabinet approves Rs 14,500 crore scheme to boost grid-scale energy storage systems

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a Rs 14,500 crore viability gap funding (VGF) scheme to develop 92 GWh of grid-scale energy storage capacity across the country by 2031.The scheme will run from financial year 2026-27 to 2030-31 and support energy storage projects that are yet to be commissioned. The proposed capacity is equivalent to 170 per cent of India's existing grid-scale energy storage capacity.The initiative is aimed at helping India meet its projected requirement of 411 GWh of grid-scale energy storage capacity by 2031-32. It is also expected to improve the integration of renewable energy into the electricity grid and ensure a reliable and affordable round-the-clock power supply.

WHAT WILL THE Rs 14,500 CRORE SCHEME FUND?

The scheme envisages the development of three categories of energy storage capacity:The projects are expected to attract a total investment of Rs 97,600 crore. The government's viability gap funding will help improve their financial feasibility and speed up the development of large-scale storage infrastructure.

Home sales jump 12%, but why are buyers flocking to these 3 cities?

New Delhi.(Agency)

Home sales across India's top seven cities rose 12% in the July-September quarter of 2026. But a closer look at the numbers reveals that demand is heavily concentrated in just three markets. Bengaluru, Mumbai and Pune together accounted for nearly 60% of all homes sold during the quarter. So, what makes these cities stand out?According to property consultancy JLL, residential sales across the country's top seven cities increased to 76,181 units in Q3 2026, compared with 67,974 units in the same period last year.

Of these, the three cities together recorded 45,174 housing sales. Their combined share remained broadly unchanged from the year-ago quarter, underlining their continued importance in India's residential property market.However, the growth story differs across these markets. While Bengaluru saw a strong rise in sales, Mumbai largely held its ground and Pune witnessed a decline.

BENGALURU LEADS, MUMBAI HOLDS GROUND, PUNE SEES A DIP

Bengaluru emerged as the strongest performer among the three cities. It recorded sales of 19,208 residential units in Q3 2026, up from 15,624 units in the year-ago period.Mumbai followed with 13,595 units sold. However, sales in the city were marginally lower than the 13,628 units recorded in Q3 2025.Pune recorded 12,371 housing sales during the quarter, compared with 13,863 units a year earlier, marking a decline of around 11%.

The numbers show that while all three cities crossed the 12,000-unit mark, Bengaluru was the clear growth driver. Mumbai maintained its sales volumes, while Pune witnessed some moderation.

WHY ARE THESE CITIES ATTRACTING HOMEBUYERS?

One reason behind the strong housing market is the growing appetite for premium homes, particularly in the higher price brackets.Suresh HA, Managing Director of Bengaluru-based Sanjeevini Group, said the market was witnessing a strong shift towards premium housing, especially homes priced between Rs 1.5 crore and Rs 3 crore.He said



Bengaluru continued to be one of the best-performing residential markets, with sales remaining healthy despite a contraction in new project launches."High-earning professionals and buyers in Bengaluru are no longer just looking for standard square footage. They are aggressively investing in premium, high-value assets that promise long-term lifestyle enhancement and capital preservation," Suresh said.He also pointed to rising property prices as an indication of strong end-user demand in the city.

PREMIUM HOMES ARE CHANGING THE HOUSING MARKET

The preference for higher-value properties is not limited to Bengaluru. Across India's top seven cities, homes priced at Rs 1 crore and above accounted for 72% of total residential sales during January-September 2026, compared with 62% a year earlier.Sales in this segment grew 23% year-on-year, while the Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 3 crore category recorded a sharper 54% rise.Lalit Parihar, Managing Director of Gujarat-based Aaiji Group, said the improvement in residential sales reflected stronger buyer sentiment and confidence in the housing market.He said the growing contribution of premium housing showed that buyers were increasingly.

Binance hack: How hackers moved billions in crypto with a $15 transaction

New Delhi.(Agency)

Hackers who stole cryptocurrency worth $6.3 billion from Binance used an Ethereum feature to move around $2.5 billion in a single transaction after paying just $15 in network fees, reported Bloomberg.The attackers exploited a feature called EIP-7702, which allows a cryptocurrency wallet to authorise software to carry out transactions on its behalf. The feature was introduced to make crypto wallets easier to use, but the hackers used it to move a large amount of stolen cryptocurrency quickly, reducing the chances of being caught during multiple transactions.



According to the report, hackers first gained access to Binance through a sophisticated campaign involving fake job postings. The attackers allegedly tricked an engineer into downloading malicious code, compromising devices and gaining access to the exchange's systems.They then targeted a hot wallet called Binance 14, which the exchange uses to process customer withdrawals and which holds large amounts of cryptocurrencies.

HOW DID THE HACKERS MOVE $2.5 BILLION?

An examination of transactions on the Ethereum blockchain showed how the attackers used EIP-7702 to authorise software to move funds from the compromised wallet.At around 8.20 pm UTC on October 29, the hackers submitted instructions using a valid signature from the Binance 14 wallet. This allowed attacker-controlled software to act on the wallet's behalf.The transaction did not immediately move any cryptocurrency. Instead, it gave the software permission to access and transfer funds. The hackers paid around $15 in network fees to set up this authorisation, Bloomberg reported, citing blockchain security firm Blockaid.Around three-and-a-half minutes later, they used that permission to transfer approximately $2.5 billion in a single transaction.

The amount included 167,464 Ether and more than 60 other tokens. The largest component was Tether's USDT stablecoin, worth around $1.6 billion.Ordinarily, moving several types of cryptocurrency would require multiple transactions. Each transfer would take time and create another opportunity for security systems to flag suspicious activity. The Ethereum feature allowed the hackers to combine these actions and move the funds much faster.

WHY BINANCE COULD NOT IMMEDIATELY STOP THE TRANSFERS

The attack also exposed a weakness in how permissions granted through EIP-7702 work.Since the authorisation was recorded on the Ethereum blockchain, shutting down Binance's hot-wallet services did not automatically cancel it. This meant the attackers could continue initiating transfers even after Binance detected the breach.According to blockchain intelligence firm Elliptic, the hackers ultimately used the same permission to move around $3.6 billion, including the initial $2.5 billion. This included $823 million taken from another Binance account and four subsequent transfers from Binance 14.

The continued flow of deposits into Binance 14 also meant that funds remained available to be moved using the permission already granted.

WHAT HAS BINANCE SAID?

Binance acknowledged that EIP-7702 played a significant role in the incident and said it had taken steps to address the security risk.The exchange said it had revoked the affected authorisation, rebuilt the affected wallet infrastructure and updated its signing and monitoring controls.

Diwali cheer missing for crypto investors as Bitcoin crashed over 6%: What's next?

New Delhi.(Agency)

With Diwali just around the corner, the cryptocurrency market has taken a sharp hit. Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency, has fallen over 6% in the last 24 hours, slipping towards the $75,000 mark. The sell-off has also spread to other popular cryptocurrencies, with Ethereum, XRP and Solana witnessing steep losses.At 11.50 pm, Bitcoin was trading at $75,458.76, down 6.21% over the past 24 hours. The decline comes amid growing concerns in global financial markets, particularly after a sharp fall in US technology and AI stocks.The broader crypto market has also come under pressure, with its total market capitalisation falling 5.1% to $2.64 trillion.

ETHEREUM, XRP AND OTHER CRYPTOCURRENCIES FALL SHARPLY

Bitcoin was not the only cryptocurrency to face selling pressure. Its closest rival, Ethereum, fell 8.3% to $2,221.39 during the same period.Other popular cryptocurrencies also traded deep in the red. XRP declined 8.4%, while Solana lost 6.9%. Chainlink and Cardano were down 7.2% and 6.9%, respectively.Meme coins, which are known for their sharp price swings, were not spared either. Dogecoin fell 6.9%, while Shiba Inu declined 3.9% over the last 24 hours.The widespread losses suggest that investors are turning cautious and moving away from riskier assets.

WHY IS BITCOIN FALLING?

The latest fall in Bitcoin comes against the backdrop of weakness in global technology stocks, particularly those linked to artificial intelligence and semiconductors.Prateek Gupta, Head of Business at Mudrex, said Bitcoin had slipped to around $76,000, wiping out its post-election gains following a sharp decline on Thursday.He pointed out that weakness in US technology and AI stocks had spilled over into the cryptocurrency market. The Nasdaq fell 4.7%, triggering a broader shift away from risky investments. The sell-off was further intensified by large-scale liquidations. Nearly $1.08 billion worth of crypto positions were liquidated in 24 hours, with bullish traders bearing much of the impact.

Diwali cleaning goes beyond your home: 5 money checks you shouldn't skip

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

Diwali cleaning is not just about dusting shelves, clearing cupboards and getting rid of things you no longer use. It is also a good time to take a closer look at your finances. After all, old bank accounts, forgotten investments and unused subscriptions can quietly pile up over the years.A little financial housekeeping can help you track your money better, avoid unnecessary expenses and ensure your family does not struggle to find important financial information when they need it. From checking nominees to reviewing loans and insurance policies, here are five things you should look at this Diwali.

WHO GETS YOUR MONEY IF YOU'RE NOT AROUND?

When was the last time you checked the nominees in your bank accounts or insurance policies? If you cannot remember, this Diwali is a good time to do so.Check nominations across savings accounts, fixed deposits (Fds), mutual funds, demat accounts, insurance policies, Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and National Pension System (NPS) accounts.It is particularly important to update these details after major life events such as marriage, childbirth or the death of a nominee. Also, make sure your family knows where important financial documents and account details are kept.Having updated nominations and properly organised records can make it easier for family members to trace and claim financial assets when required.

STOP PAYING FOR WHAT YOU DON'T USE

Small recurring payments may not seem like much, but they can add up over time. You may be paying for an OTT platform you no longer watch, an app you rarely use or a service you had signed up for months ago.Check your UPI AutoPay instructions, standing instructions, debit and credit card mandates and recurring subscriptions. Cancel services you no longer use and remove unnecessary payment mandates to avoid unwanted deductions.At the same time, check the payment details linked to



essential bills, insurance premiums and investments. Make sure active mandates are linked to the correct bank account or card so that important payments do not fail.

TIME TO SHUT ACCOUNTS GATHERING DUST

Many people have more than one bank account, often because they changed jobs, moved cities or opened an account for a specific purpose. Over time, some of these accounts may become inactive and get forgotten.Old accounts may also have outdated KYC details, contact information.

Dhanteras 2026: Gold and silver prices fall. Check city-wise rates

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

Gold and silver prices declined on Dhanteras on Friday, November 6, offering some relief to buyers looking to purchase precious metals during the festive season.On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures were trading at Rs 1,41,644 per 10 grams at 12.43 pm, down Rs 2,451, or 1.70%, from the previous close. Silver futures were trading at Rs 1,83,358 per kg, falling Rs 3,782, or 2.02%.The decline comes amid a sharp correction in precious metal prices, particularly silver, which has faced pressure from global market developments and concerns over industrial demand.For consumers planning to buy gold or silver on Dhanteras, here is a look at the latest city-wise rates.

GOLD RATE TODAY: 22K AND 24K PRICES

According to the city-wise rates shared on November 6, 22-carat gold was priced at Rs 12,909 per gram in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Jaipur, Kolkata and Pune. Chennai was slightly more expensive at Rs 12,939 per gram, while Hyderabad's rate stood at Rs 12,907 per gram.For 24-carat gold, the rate was Rs 14,093 per gram in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Jaipur, Kolkata and Pune. Chennai recorded a higher rate of Rs 14,125 per gram, while Hyderabad's price stood at Rs 14,091 per gram.

SILVER RATE TODAY: CITY-WISE PRICES

Silver was priced at Rs 182 per gram in Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jaipur and Kolkata. Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune recorded a rate of Rs 181 per gram.For eight grams, silver was priced at Rs 1,456 in Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Jaipur and Kolkata, while Mumbai,



Bengaluru and Pune recorded Rs 1,448.

WHY HAS SILVER SEEN A SHARP CORRECTION?

Silver has faced considerable pressure in recent weeks. According to Dr Renisha Chainani, Chief Research Officer at Augmont, silver futures fell around 20% in October.She attributed the correction to expectations around US Federal Reserve policy, rising US bond yields and a sell-off in technology stocks, which led some investors to sell precious metals to cover losses.

Two months on, Gujarat man gets life in jail for killing partner at bus station

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

A court in Gujarat's Bhavnagar on Thursday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for thrashing his 40-year-old partner at a bus station, which caused her death, just a month after the chargesheet was filed in the case.Principal Sessions Judge Rizwana Bukhari convicted Faisal alias Khatki Rafik Lakhani for the murder of Kajal Baraiya, who lived with him on a footpath for the last eight years as his partner.The brutal assault on the woman in the busy bus station in the city had caused a public outcry, prompting the police to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by DySP R R Singhal.During the crime scene reconstruction, police had flogged Lakhani at the same spot, with officials claiming that it was done to appease public sentiment. A video of the flogging had gone viral on social media.A statement from Bhavnagar Police said, "Lakhani was on Thursday sentenced to imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life. This marks the first instance in Bhavnagar district in which a trial was concluded with such speed, resulting in the sentencing of the accused within just 31 days."

Why Surat diamond cutters will have short Diwali break, textile workers long

Surat.(Agency)

Diamond cutters and polishers in Surat will have a shorter-than-usual Diwali break this year. But those engaged in the city's other mega trade, textiles, will stay away from work for longer than usual.Blame the up and down in the two industries on the vicissitudes of two global wars and President Donald Trump's tariffs policy. The time for which their workers will be away can be seen as a proxy for how well – or badly – Surat's diamonds and textiles trades are doing currently.On November 5, the day before Dhanteras, manufacturing units in the historic Hira Bazaar, through which more than 90% of the world's uncut diamonds pass, went on vacation for 15 days.Their annual holiday usually lasts 25 days, but the workers are coming back sooner because the gems-and-jewellery market, battered over the past several years by a range of factors including the war in Ukraine and the tariffs imposed by the United States, has begun to pick up at last.

By contrast, units in Surat's synthetic textiles industry started downing their shutters for the holidays on November 1, and will not open until the month-end, taking a much longer break than in other years.

Christian forum holds Kolkata prayer rally, refutes forced conversion narrative

Kolkata.(Agency)

In response to incidents of alleged minority persecution targeting Christians in West Bengal, the Bangiya Christiya Pariseba (BCP) organised a mega prayer rally Thursday at Rani Rashmoni Avenue in Kolkata's Esplanade, attracting attendees from across the state and beyond.BCP represents more than 1.3 million Catholics and non-Catholics in West Bengal. BCP functionaries, Christian religious leaders from other denominations in the state, and those from Odisha, Nagaland, Mizoram, and others attended the meet.Addressing the crowd, Herod Mullick, the organisation's founding state secretary, said, "Christians in the state are in an unprecedented crisis. The past 5 months have witnessed incidents of threats, vandalism, and violence against Christian prayer meetings."He said that although the official count of such alleged incidents in West Bengal is 48, "unofficial figures suggest a higher number". He also accused the police of complicity with the alleged attackers, or under coercion from them, stating that the police in most cases have refused FIRs and that only 16 FIRs have been filed.

Changing City: A swimming pool in Ghatkopar like no other, Rs 118 crore project planned

Besides the pool, the complex will also house badminton, table tennis, lawn tennis, a shooting range, boxing and a gymnasium

Mumbai .(Agency)

In a first for Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is constructing an Olympic-standard open-to-sky swimming pool on the rooftop of the six-storey Odeon sports complex in Ghatkopar. While several private buildings and luxury hotels in Mumbai have rooftop swimming pools, this will be the civic body's first such facility, officials have said.

Project features:

The swimming pool will have dimensions of 50 meters by 25 meters and a water-holding capacity of approximately 20 lakh litres. Designed to meet Olympic standards, the swimming pool will be an open-to-sky facility.Furthermore, the structure incorporates specialised Vierendeel girders to withstand the enormous water load. The pool will also have an automated temperature regulation system.

Besides the pool, the complex will also house badminton, table tennis, lawn tennis, a shooting range, boxing and a gymnasium.



Why was the pool moved to the rooftop?

The land parcel where the sports complex is being built was also reserved for a swimming pool. To accommodate both facilities, the civic authorities decided to shift the swimming pool to the fifth floor, previously located at ground level. It was done to gain a larger Floor Space Index (FSI) and accommodate other sporting facilities.

Project cost and deadline:

The cost of this project has been pegged at Rs 118 crore, and the pool is set to become operational by March 2027.

Administration speaks:

"Besides being a premium sporting and recreational facility, this pool is also going to be an engineering marvel.

Usually, indoor-roof top swimming pools are meant for recreational purposes only, however, this pool has been made to accommodate sporting activities as well," said a senior official associated with this project.

Why you can't buy Old Monk in Maharashtra, and what happens next

The food regulator says a drink made from neutral spirit and rum flavouring can't be sold as rum. After sales were halted in May-June, the maker has dropped its court fight and will submit new labels

Mumbai .(Agency)

Old Monk, one of India's best-known liquor brands, hasn't been sold in Maharashtra since May this year. The reason comes down to a question that sounds simple: Is it rum? The country's food regulator, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), says it isn't.On Thursday, the company that makes it at Khopoli withdrew its challenge in the Bombay High Court (HC) and said it would submit fresh labels instead. Here's how the winter warmer Old Monk turned out to be 'not' rum in Maharashtra.

Why can't you buy Old Monk in Maharashtra?

The FSSAI inspected its plant in the Khopoli area of Raigad district and issued an order prohibiting its sale.Old Monk sales in Maharashtra have been halted since May-June.Mohan Rocky Springwater Pvt Ltd, part of the broader Mohan Meakin business group, then moved the Bombay HC in August this year against the FSSAI order.

Not rum? What is the regulator's objection?

It started with the label. The FSSAI said the product contained external rum flavouring, but its label did not specify whether it was "flavoured liquor" or "rum-flavoured spirit".That, the regulator said, masked the drink's natural composition and misled consumers.The FSSAI said the product is made with neutral spirits and rum flavouring, and so, it cannot be sold as rum at all. "It cannot be sold as rum," its counsel, senior advocate Rajshekhar Govilkar, told the court in September.



"It must have the characteristics as well as the quality of the product. It may be whiskey, rum or anything. They (the petitioner) are predominantly selling it as a rum." He argued that "neutral spirit added with rum flavours is not a product which can be called a rum".The regulator also took issue with the "7 years old blended" description. Govilkar said the product, with added flavour, "is not very old vatted", meaning it had not been matured in a particular barrel or wooden cask. The FSSAI has said it would allow sales if the labels describe the product as "rum-like" instead of "rum".

What does the company say?

The company said that it is making rum. Its counsel, senior advocate Navroz Seervai, argued the FSSAI's objection was contrary to the law and regulations.The company, he said, was "manufacturing exactly the rum as per its definition, from neutral, rectified, distilled spirit of agricultural origin".

What happened in court?

The company approached the HC in August, seeking to quash the FSSAI order. On August 10, the court asked FSSAI to reply and refrained from passing any interim order.On August 31, the court refused an immediate interim stay. After the court's oral objections, the company agreed to change its labels to prominently display "added flavour" and drop the "7 years old blended" description.

Karnataka Cabinet nods to 30-year lease of four acres to Bengaluru Turf Club

BENGALURU.(Agency)

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved a 30-year lease of four acres of government land to the Bengaluru Turf Club (BTC), and decided to reclaim the remaining property for development.The decision follows the revision of the existing lease agreement and the BTC's request for a 30-year lease. The government has decided against extending the lease over the entire property and will retain the remaining land for its own development.Briefing reporters after the cabinet meeting, RDPR Minister Eshwar B Khandre said, "The turf club's lease had come up for revision. The cabinet approved the proposal to give them four acres of land on lease for thirty years." Explaining the government's decision to reclaim the remaining land, he said the BTC had earlier been in possession of a much larger area, but



the government had decided to lease only four acres and take back the rest."Only four acres will be given to them on lease. The remaining land, which is already in the possession of the turf club, will be taken over by the government and developed by the government," he said.

Khandre clarified that the four-acre parcel would include the existing heritage building belonging to the Archaeological Department.The question of relocating the turf club and shifting its horse-racing operations, however, remains unresolved. The club has sought additional time to relocate, and the government is yet to take a final decision."We will obtain a detailed report and take a decision after examining the matter," Khandre said.

Three airports, three seaports in Andhra Pradesh put on Ebola alert

VIJAYAWADA(Agency)

The Andhra Pradesh government has stepped up precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus, with screening arrangements being made at three international airports and three seaports in the State.Secretary (Health) G Veerappandian informed the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Thursday that medical teams had been kept ready to screen passengers with suspected Ebola symptoms at Tirupati, Bhogapuram and Vijayawada airports. Similar arrangements were being made at the ports of Visakhapatnam, Kakinada and Nellore.

A State-wide mock drill will be conducted on November 12 to assess preparedness in State. Veerappandian and Health Commissioner Chakradhar Babu explained the measures.

Officials said suspected samples could be tested at the ICMR-National Institute of Virology in Pune and at Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories located at Andhra Medical College in Vizag, SVIMS in Tirupati and Government Siddhartha Medical College in Vijayawada.Meanwhile, as of October 31, 2026, five countries had reported 10,498 confirmed and 5,107 deaths. The Democratic Republic of the Congo accounted for 10,467 cases and 5,103 deaths, while Kenya reported nine cases and two deaths, Uganda 20 cases and two deaths, Nigeria one case and France one case.

Bengalureans must brace for 18-month traffic curbs on Ballari Road

BENGALURU.(Agency)

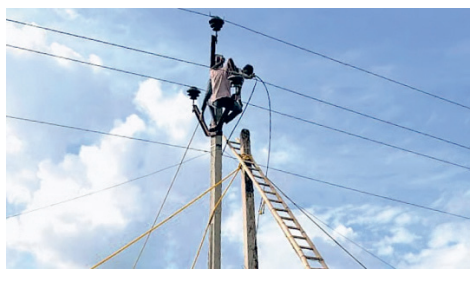
Commuters travelling on Ballari Road will have to take alternative routes for the next 18 months as the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has taken up the construction of a four-lane elevated corridor between UAS Staff Quarters and Mehkri Circle.The construction work, scheduled to commence on November 6, 2026, will continue for 18 months. In view of the anticipated traffic congestion, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) have imposed restrictions on vehicle movement along the stretch falling under the jurisdiction of Sadashivanagar and Sanjaynagar traffic police stations.

In order to facilitate the smooth movement of traffic, the movement of all types of goods vehicles, including Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs), Medium Goods Vehicles (MGVs) and Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), as well as KSRTC and private buses, are completely prohibited on Ballari Road. Therefore, vehicles travelling via Hebbal towards Kempegowda International Airport and Bengaluru City, including emergency vehicles, are advised to use the following alternative routes mentioned below.Vehicles proceeding towards Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) are advised to take the route via Old High Grounds Junction – Kalpana Junction – Old Udaya TV Junction – Cantonment Railway Station – Tannery Road – Nagawara Road, and proceed towards the International Airport.

Cyclone Murasu: 3,500 electric poles collapse across Prakasam district

ONGOLE.(Agency)

Overcoming the challenges posed by Cyclone Murasu, APCPDCL officials are working round the clock to restore power infrastructure damaged by winds and heavy rain. Since the wee hours of Tuesday, when Murasu made landfall, power supply has been disrupted across the entire district. By Wednesday, officials had restored supply to several cyclone-hit areas, but many localities remained without power.Kothapatnam, Naguluppalapadu and several parts of Ongole city and rural areas were among the worst affected. Mobile phone services were also disrupted, with several networks experiencing signal problems and SIM-based data and internet remaining unavailable. Cable and internet wires, which are routed along CPDCL power poles, were damaged as several poles collapsed, leaving wires disconnected.CPDCL officials in the Ongole Circle initially estimated that around 1,300 electric poles had been damaged or uprooted. The estimate has since risen to around 3,500, with 2,000 to 2,500 poles damaged or collapsed in Naguluppalapadu area alone."We have brought nearly 750 support staff from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and we have to pay for their support. Already, we found that around 3,500 electric poles were damaged and have to be replaced and other allied equipment will also be replaced. All this will escalate damage estimate to `10 crore and above," K Venkateswarlu, Superintending Engineer, CPDCL Ongole Circle, told Two days after the cyclone, CPDCL officials and staff continued working to restore normal power supply with the assistance of personnel from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.CPDCL Director (Projects)



TVSN Murthy and Director (Technical) Murali Krishna Yadav separately inspected restoration works in Ravinuthala and Naguluppalapadu areas on Thursday.Murthy inspected the restoration of the 33 kV feeder at Ravinuthala, the installation of new poles to replace damaged ones and electricity line repair works. He offered suggestions to officials to expedite the work. During the operation, women labourers working in a nearby field noticed the difficulties faced by electricity personnel and came forward for help.

IND vs NEP, U19 Asia Cup: Star kids Sehwag, Dravid look to make their own mark

Doha.(Agency)

Al Amerat offers India an opening challenge that carries a little more intrigue than the fixture might suggest. Nepal have already had a taste of the conditions, and their narrow 10-run defeat against Oman after posting 280 showed they have the batting resources to make a contest of it. For India, the task will be to establish control without allowing a familiar opponent in unfamiliar surroundings to dictate the terms.The Indian side arrives with expectations attached to its World Cup-winning pedigree, although the road since that triumph has not been entirely smooth. A 1-2 series defeat in Sri Lanka exposed some early-season shortcomings before a 3-0 sweep of Australia at home provided a timely response.The Asia Cup, however, brings a different challenge, with India needing to adapt quickly to Oman's conditions and find consistency across the tournament.There will also be interest in two names that carry considerable weight in Indian cricket. Aaryavir Sehwag and Anvay Dravid have earned their places through performances in the Vinoo Mankad Trophy, where both produced imposing centuries.

Their famous surnames will inevitably attract attention, but the continental tournament offers an opportunity to build reputations of their own. Under captain Lakshya Raichandani, India will look to make a statement through their cricket, while Nepal will be keen to ensure the opening day does not go according to the script.

Transition, evolution and LA 2028: India cannot afford to bask in ACT glory

Mohali.(Agency)

India coach Craig Fulton's words after India's Asian Champions Trophy title win on Thursday, November 5, reflected the satisfaction of a job well done. His side had gone unbeaten throughout the tournament and, even when faced with adversity, stood together to get the job done. The final was perhaps the perfect example of that resilience. India were left chasing the game until the 42nd minute, when Shilanand Lakra finally opened the door. It was a performance that mirrored their group-stage clash against Japan, with the 4-1 scoreline also making a repeat appearance.India claimed their sixth Asian Champions Trophy crown and a third consecutive title, underlining their dominance over the continent. Once again, they had established themselves as Asia's undisputed kings.But was their title triumph ever really in doubt? The answer is no.India arrived at the tournament on the back of their Asian Games gold medal triumph. Apart from a tricky semi-final against Pakistan, they were rarely pushed to their limits. They also secured direct qualification for the 2028 Olympics, giving themselves ample time to prepare for Los Angeles.But that is where the real challenge begins.Indian hockey now needs to rethink how it prepares for the biggest tournaments. The disappointing World Cup campaign earlier this year was a stark reminder of where India stand in the global pecking order. They might be kings in Asia, but against the world's heavyweight teams, there is still plenty of ground to cover.

So, what's next for the Indian men's hockey team? What needs to change as they enter a crucial phase in their Olympic preparations?

OUTGROWING COMPETITION IN ASIA

It is no secret that India have little competition left in Asia. Their dominance has reached a stage where the gap between them and the rest of the continent is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore.

Why Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma have an edge in New Zealand's fielding challenge

New Zealand's compact grounds leave fielders with little time to react, but Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have experience on their side. India's fielding coach Subhadeep Ghosh explains how anticipation sets the veterans apart.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's experience is proving valuable as India adapt to New Zealand's short-boundary challenge on the ongoing tour. Fielding coach Subhadeep Ghosh believes their ability to anticipate the ball, honed over years of playing in the same positions, gives them an edge when reaction time is limited.India were sharp in the field during the opening ODI in Auckland, with Kohli taking a superb catch and Rohit producing a quick pick-up and throw to run out Daryl Mitchell. The visitors went on to win by five wickets, taking a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.Speaking ahead of the second ODI, Ghosh explained how experience and anticipation have helped the two senior players stand out. He also outlined India's efforts to prepare for the specific demands of fielding on New Zealand grounds."In fielding, one thing that is important is anticipation. Virat has fielded in covers, and point for lakhs of time. He knows the trajectory of the ball, the path of the ball, impact of the ball. He reads the situation earlier than other guys," Ghosh said."Same for the Rohit run out, he was anticipating the ball. Experience as well as natural talent (goes into making a great fielder) and doing the same thing again and again," he added.Ghosh said India are also working on stability and judging the ball early, using lighter balls in practice to sharpen the players' reactions. He pointed out that New Zealand's smaller grounds leave fielders with less time to respond, making positioning and anticipation even more important.



EXPERIENCE GIVES VETERANS AN EDGE

Kohli's years of fielding in the covers and at point have helped him develop an instinct for reading the ball's trajectory and movement. That familiarity allows him to anticipate where it is headed and react quickly when the ball comes his way.Rohit's run-out of Mitchell was another example of that awareness. Ghosh believes such moments are the result of a combination of natural ability, experience and repetition, with both players having spent years honing their fielding skills.

SHORT BOUNDARIES, QUICKER REACTIONS

New Zealand's compact grounds pose a different challenge for visiting fielders. With the boundary closer, there is often little room for traditional outfield positioning, leaving players inside the circle with less time to react.India have been using lighter balls in training to prepare for these conditions.

Mike Hussey takes up expanded Australia role ahead of Ashes, 2027 World Cup

New Delhi.(Agency)

Former Australia batter Mike Hussey will take on an expanded role with the national team, serving as a consultant coach ahead of the 2027 Ashes and ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. He will also work as a T20 advisor as Australia prepare for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and the next T20 World Cup cycle.Hussey's appointment comes with Australia facing a packed international calendar across formats over the next two years. He will provide coaching assistance during the upcoming T20I series against England and work with the team ahead of the Test series against New Zealand, before taking on broader responsibilities for the major tournaments in 2027 and 2028.In a statement released by Cricket Australia, Hussey said he was looking forward to becoming a more involved part of the national setup. He also expressed his hope of contributing to a team that has enjoyed considerable success in recent years."I am extremely excited about being a part of the team in a more formal and meaningful role in the coming years," Hussey said.Cricket Australia General Manager of National Teams Ben Oliver welcomed the expanded arrangement, highlighting Hussey's international experience and understanding of the domestic game. Head coach Andrew McDonald also backed the appointment, pointing to the former batter's knowledge across formats and his ability to complement the existing coaching group.

"We are thrilled to have Mike expand his role with the team. Mike brings substantial international experience having represented Australia more than 300 times across his celebrated playing career," Oliver said.

HUSSEY TO BRING T20 EXPERTISE

Hussey's advisory responsibilities in the shortest format will cover campaign planning, opposition analysis, player scouting and performance support.

With Australia's Test commitments expected to keep the coaching staff occupied over the coming months, his role will provide additional focus on the T20 setup as the team builds towards the Los Angeles Olympics and the 2028 T20 World Cup.The former left-hander played more than 300 international matches for Australia across formats and earned the nickname 'Mr Cricket' during his playing career. Since retiring, he has built a coaching portfolio spanning international cricket, the IPL and The Hundred. He was also part of England's coaching setup during their 2022 T20 World Cup triumph.



New Zealand's injury crisis deepens as Devon Conway ruled out of India ODIs

Mohali.(Agency)

New Zealand have suffered another setback in their ODI series against India, with opener Devon Conway ruled out of the remaining four matches after sustaining a concussion during training. Already without two important players in Rachin Ravindra and Mark Chapman, the hosts now have another gap to address as they look to recover from their defeat in the series opener.Conway missed the first ODI after colliding with Matt Henry during a fielding session at Eden Park on Tuesday. Tim Seifert replaced him at the top of the order and made 38, but New Zealand were bowled out for 185 in 40.2 overs. Blair Tickner's late contribution of 34 helped them reach that total after Arshdeep Singh picked up four wickets and Gurnoor Brar claimed three.India's chase was interrupted by rain, with the target revised to 143 in 32 overs under the DLS method. Rohit Sharma fell for a duck, but Virat Kohli's 74 off 51 balls and Shubman Gill's 37 put India in control. The visitors eventually reached 143 for five in 22.4 overs to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.New Zealand Cricket confirmed on Friday that Conway would miss the remainder of the contest. Nick Kelly, who was originally selected for the fourth and fifth ODIs, has been called up as his replacement and will join the squad in Wellington. Auckland Aces batter Dale Phillips has, in turn, been brought into the New Zealand A squad for the final four-day match against India A.



HOW DID CONWAY GET INJURED?

The incident occurred during a training session at Eden Park on Tuesday, when Conway and Henry collided while attempting to take the same catch. Both players received immediate medical attention and underwent head injury assessments.Conway was taken to the Accident and Emergency department of an Auckland medical facility, where further examination confirmed a concussion. Henry has since been cleared of concussion and is available for selection for the second ODI.

INJURIES LEAVE NEW ZEALAND SHORT-HANDED

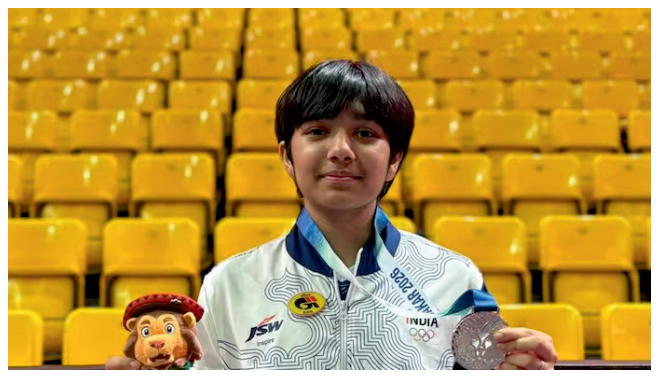
Conway joins Ravindra and Chapman on New Zealand's injury list. Ravindra is recovering from a shoulder problem, while Chapman has been sidelined by a hamstring injury. Both were ruled out before the series began. Henry's availability is a positive for the hosts, although the fast.

Love-all in China, moulded in India: The making of Tanvi Patri

At 15, Tanvi Patri has won Youth Olympics silver and announced herself on the international stage. But her journey began in China, where her father introduced her to badminton. Five years after returning to India, she is beginning to show the world what an academy in Bengaluru had seen in her all along.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The badminton coach in China had two students to look after. One was a little girl from Odisha, discovering the joys of badminton. The other was her father, Rabinarayan Patri, who was getting a chance to fulfil a childhood wish of his own.While the coach worked with Tanvi, he would also correct her father's technique. He would ask Rabinarayan to practise at home so that he could play with his daughter outside their training sessions."When he was training the kid, at the same time, he was making me rectify my skills. He used to tell me, 'You practise at home sometimes.' That helped," Rabinarayan recalls, speaking to .By 2026, that little girl was standing on the podium at the Youth Olympics in Dakar, having pushed the reigning junior world champion to the very edge in an 82-minute final. Her father watched from the stands, carrying with him the memories of all those years, all those journeys and the sacrifices that had brought them here. But there was a flight to catch. The two who had once learnt the game side by side had come a long way.At 10-19 down in the deciding game against China's Zhang Yi Xin, Tanvi Patri appeared to be running out of energy. She had taken the opening game, but the physical demands of the contest were beginning to show. Zhang, two years older, was pushing her towards the back of the court, drawing her forward with deceptive drops and making her work for almost every point.There were moments when Tanvi appeared to rush her winners. But she found a way to stay in the contest. She stopped looking for quick finishes, adjusted her length and began trusting her ability to sustain rallies. From 10-19, she fought back to 20-20, saving five gold-medal points in the process. Zhang saved three of her own before a net chord and the finest of margins eventually separated the two teenagers.Tanvi had come within touching distance of the title, but there was no shame in the silver. At 15, she had taken the reigning junior world champion through 82 minutes of badminton and made her fight for every point.It was Tanvi's biggest medal yet. She had become the first Indian girl to reach a badminton singles final at the Youth Olympics. For the coaches at the Centre for Badminton Excellence (CB) in Bengaluru, formerly the Prakash Padukone Academy, it was a moment they had been waiting for. They had seen the promise since she joined them as a 10-year-old in 2021.



Dakar was a long way from where it all began. Long before the medals and the packed tournament schedule, Tanvi was a little girl in China, learning to hold a racket and find her way around a badminton court. It was a beginning that neither she nor her father could have known would lead them here.

THE BEGINNINGS IN CHINA

Rabinarayan had wanted to play badminton himself. Growing up in Odisha, however, he did not have the financial means or access to the kind of infrastructure that could have allowed him to pursue the sport seriously. Like many others, he had to prioritise education and finding a job.

Messi's farewell, Ronaldo's fallout. Do football legends get the send-off they deserve?

New Delhi.(Agency)

For years, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have been the two names around which international football's biggest conversations revolved. Their goals decided games, their presence changed the mood of tournaments and, for millions of supporters, watching Argentina or Portugal meant watching them. Now, both have played their final games for their countries. But the way their international careers have ended tells two very different stories.Messi got his moment at the Monumental in Buenos Aires, in front of a crowd that had followed him through the criticism, the disappointments and, eventually, the triumphs. Ronaldo's Portugal career ended with a video announcement following a public disagreement with coach Jorge Jesus.Their departures raise a question that goes beyond two celebrated careers. Does football know how to give its greatest international servants the send-off they deserve?

A FAREWELL IN BLUE

The Monumental was always going to be an emotional setting for Messi's final appearance in an Argentina shirt. Around 85,000 supporters turned up to see their captain one last time, and the team gave them a fitting result. Argentina beat Benin 3-0, with Messi scoring and providing two assists.The opposition may not have offered the sternest test for a farewell of this stature. A fixture against a leading international side would perhaps have made for a more competitive occasion. But the significance of the night was never going to rest on the quality of the opposition. It was about recognising what Messi has meant to Argentina.That relationship was not always so comfortable. For much of his international career, Messi was judged against Diego Maradona and the burden of Argentina's footballing history. Defeats in successive major finals only intensified the criticism. There was even a point when he announced his retirement from international football before returning to lead the national team again.

Ananya Panday



Gets Bombay HC Protection Against AI Deepfakes, Unauthorised Use Of Photos

The Bombay High Court has granted interim protection to Ananya Panday against the unauthorised use of her identity, including photographs, AI-generated images and video clips allegedly circulated without her consent. The court has also directed the removal of objectionable material identified by the actress from the internet.According to LiveLaw, Justice Madhav Jamdar passed the ad-interim order on Thursday, November 5, after Ananya approached the court seeking protection of her personality rights. She alleged that several products and online outlets had been using her photographs as well as AI-generated images and videos without permission.

Ananya Panday Moves Court Over Unauthorised Photos And AI Content



Ananya's plea objected to the unauthorised exploitation of her identity across digital platforms and sought protection against the continued circulation of the disputed material.After examining the content placed before it, the Bombay High Court found that a prima facie case had been made out in her favour.Justice Jamdar held that the material prima facie violated Ananya's right to privacy, right to publicity, moral rights and her right to live with dignity. The court consequently ordered the deletion of such objectionable content available online.The relief is currently ad-interim in nature and has been granted while the matter proceeds further.

Rupali Ganguly Also Gets Relief From Bombay High Court

Ananya is not the only actor to have approached the courts over alleged misuse of her identity.On the same day, the Bombay High Court also ordered the removal of objectionable online content concerning Anupamaa actress Rupali Ganguly. She had alleged that several portals were using her images and video clips without authorisation, while some had also created deepfake and AI-generated material for commercial purposes.The court directed the respondents to take down the disputed material, barring one entity whose case was treated separately

Karan Johar



On Trying To Dissuade His Kids From Entering Bollywood: 'I'll Be Too Old To Protect Them'

Ace filmmaker Karan Johar opened up about his concerns over his children entering the film industry. He said that he is almost trying to dissuade them from joining the business because he fears he may not be able to protect them when they eventually enter the world of Bollywood.Karan made the revelation while discussing parenting and the challenges of raising children in the film industry, on an episode of Koffee With Karan featuring Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor.He said that although he is deeply connected to the business himself, he is conscious of the difficulties and pressures that come with being part of Bollywood. "Well, look, as I said, it's not an easy place. It's tough. I am almost dissuading my children from the business. And everybody says, 'Why are you doing that? Why are you doing that?'"

"I am like, look, I will be too old to protect them at that time," Karan said. Kareena Kapoor then offered a different perspective on parents being protective of their children. "But I feel maybe the protection is also what is causing the issue. I think sometimes we just have to, like, probably just... you know, we're all so protective towards our children," she added."I feel sometimes our parents just let us go and say, 'Karni hai toh karo, you know, karo. You have to go and 'ragdo.'" Karan agreed with her before the conversation moved on.For the uninitiated, Karan is the father of twins, son Yash and daughter Roohi whom he welcomed via surrogacy in February 2017.

The twins were named after members of Karan's family. Yash was named after his late father, filmmaker Yash Johar, while Roohi is an anagram of his mother Hiroo Johar's name.Karan Johar himself is the son of veteran producer Yash Johar and has built one of Hindi cinema's most prominent production houses.

Sunny Deol Visits Father Dharmendra's Farmhouse With Son Karan Deol, Says 'Missing You Papa'



While we usually see Sunny Deol busy with his films and work commitments, this time the actor gave fans a glimpse of something quite different. Sunny recently visited his late father Dharmendra's farmhouse in Lonavala along with son Karan Deol and shared a video from the visit. He also penned an emotional note, revealing that he is missing his father.

Sunny Deol Shares Video From Dharmendra's Farmhouse

The video shows farmers going about their work in the fields. They can be seen carrying bundles of dried crops and beating them against a drum as part of the traditional threshing process. The video then shifts to Sunny Deol, who can be seen looking around the farmhouse and sharing a personal moment with his son. As he shows Karan around the farm, Sunny says, "Papa's farm. Bade papa for you."In his caption, Sunny Deol wrote, "Missing you Papa," along with several red heart emojis. Check out the video below!

Dharmendra's Farmhouse

Legendary actor Dharmendra's Lonavala farmhouse was much more than just a holiday home for the veteran actor. Spread across a reported 100 acres, the property reflected his deep love for nature and farming. Away from the hustle and bustle of Mumbai and the film industry, Dharmendra enjoyed spending time amid greenery. He often shared glimpses of his life there on social media.

Sunny Deol In Ramayana

Meanwhile, on the work front, Sunny Deol is part of Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana, starring Ranbir Kapoor, Yash and Sai Pallavi. However, his appearance as Lord Hanuman is limited to the post-credit scene. A glimpse of the scene has surfaced online, but Sunny's face is kept hidden. The clip shows Lord Hanuman making an entry amid powerful background music, followed by a wider shot of him soaring through the air while hailing Shri Ram.

KWK 9: Karisma Kapoor's Unfiltered Reaction To Mira Rajput, Kareena Kapoor's Crossover Is Too Funny To Miss



Karisma Kapoor found herself in a hilarious situation when she answered her sister Kareena Kapoor's call during a segment on Koffee with Karan, only to further realise that she was speaking on speakerphone amidst a live shoot.The amusing moment unfolded during a segment in which the guests were asked to call celebrities and get them to say, "Hi Karan, it's me," to earn points. Kareena decided to call her sister Karisma, who was seemingly unaware that she was being put on speakerphone from the sets of the show.Kareena began the conversation by asking Karisma what was happening, and Karisma casually revealed that she was watching the latest episode of What Women Want, hosted by Kareena, that featured Mira Rajput.It appeared that she was about to spill some tea and simply trying to gossip with her sister about what she had been watching, before realising that the conversation was happening amidst a live shoot.

The exchange went with Kareena asking Karisma casually, "What's up? What's happening? What's the news?" Karisma said "I am just watching you and Mira. Everyone's like what's going on?"Kareena, figuring out where the conversation was heading, tried to cover it by saying, "What's going on means, what do you mean?" She came on my show na, on What Women Want."Before Karisma revealed more, Karan jumped in and said, "No, no, you are Koffee with Karan, don't say any more." A flummoxed Karisma said, "Oh no, how can you do this to me?"Karisma's notabe emphasises on Mira's name with a teasing, almost subtly snide tone, gave the impression that she was perhaps about to gossip more.For the uninitiated, Mira Rajput had recently appeared on Kareena Kapoor Khan's talk show What Women Want, and the episode became a talking point, particularly because Mira is married to Kareena's ex-boyfriend Shahid Kapoor.

NEWS BOX

Harmeet Dhillon resigns as US Civil Rights chief, calls role honour of a lifetime

Washington.(Agency)

Indian-American Harmeet Kaur Dhillon has resigned as US Assistant Attorney General and head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, becoming the first senior official to leave the Trump administration since the mid-term elections, news agency Press Trust of India reported.Dhillon said she resigned voluntarily but delayed announcing her decision at the request of White House chief of staff Susie Wiles until after Election Day.Attorney General Todd Blanche announced the resignation on social media, saying Dhillon had "led the Civil Rights Division with conviction". "She has defended the civil liberties of every American and enforced the law without fear or favour," Blanche wrote on X on Thursday. "The department is grateful for her dedicated public service, and we wish her every success in her future endeavours," he added.Dhillon, whose law firm was part of Donald Trump's campaign legal team, told Fox News that she had resigned of her own volition, according to PTI."Serving my country as AAG for Civil Rights has been the honour of a lifetime. We ushered in the downfall of illegal DEI, we fought to protect women and girls' sports, and so much more. I want to thank President Trump for giving me this opportunity. I look forward to what's next," she said in a post on X.Born in Chandigarh into a Punjabi Sikh family, Dhillon moved with her parents first to London and later to the United States. A staunch ally of President Donald Trump, she ran her own law firm in San Francisco for several years before joining the Justice Department.

Netanyahu's allies divided, Eisenkot gains backing as Israel faces coalition test

WORLD .(Agency)

Israel could be headed for a coalition government as the post-election deadlock continues, with neither Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nor his main rival Gadi Eisenkot having a clear path to securing a parliamentary majority.President Isaac Herzog is set to nominate a candidate to form the next government on Sunday, but has said that competing political vetoes make the choice far from straightforward.According to Reuters, Eisenkot received the backing of 67 lawmakers in consultations held by Herzog on Wednesday and Thursday, compared with 46 who endorsed Netanyahu.However, the numbers have not resolved the political impasse, with divisions within both camps complicating the possibility of forming a coalition.In televised remarks after the consultations, Herzog said that although the recommendations might appear to point clearly in one direction, "mutual vetoes between the blocs and within the blocs themselves" made it difficult to determine who had the best chance of forming a government.The President said he would announce his choice on Sunday after holding further discussions with some party leaders over the weekend.The October 27 election produced no outright winner, leaving the country facing a difficult coalition-building exercise.Netanyahu's Likud emerged as the largest single party with 27 seats in the 120-member Knesset, but his broader religious-nationalist bloc secured only 53 seats.Eisenkot's anti-Netanyahu grouping, comprising four Jewish-led parties ranging from the centre-left to the right, won 48 seats.Meanwhile, two parties representing Israel's Arab minority secured a combined 19 seats, an unprecedented tally.

Ro Khanna's supporters launch campaign for 2028 bid, Marco Rubio rules out early exit

Washington. (Agency)

Attention in the United States has shifted to the 2028 presidential election after the midterm polls, with allies of Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna seeking support for his possible candidacy and reports suggesting that Secretary of State Marco Rubio may also enter the race, according to news agency Press Trust of India.While a group supporting Khanna has begun raising funds and building support, Rubio has dismissed reports that he could leave the Trump administration to prepare for a presidential bid.A section of the media reported on Thursday that Rubio might resign from the administration for a possible presidential run. However, he said he planned to work for President Donald Trump until the end of his term.Working for Trump until the end of his term has "always been my plan", Rubio told The New York Times. "I don't know where these things come from, to be honest with you," he said in response to reports that he could soon leave the Cabinet.Former Congressman Jamaal Bowman and progressive strategist Nomiki Konst have launched a group called "Run Ro" to support Khanna. The group can raise money from donors and begin building support while he considers a 2028 campaign."By launching now, we are trying to ensure that the presidential primary debate is framed from a progressive populist perspective," Konst told NBC News.A possible Khanna candidacy would face significant challenges. James Garfield, elected in 1880, is the only person to have won the presidency directly from the House of Representatives.Khanna, a fifth-term lawmaker, has drawn attention for bipartisan efforts to secure the release of the Jeffrey Epstein files and end the war in Iran, PTI reported."We need America's Next New Deal.



Whether I run or support someone else is something I will decide with my family after the holidays," Khanna said in a statement to NBC News.Khanna, who was a co-chair of Bernie Sanders' 2020 campaign, is also popular among progressives across the country. The Philadelphia-born lawmaker has been visiting early primary states for months.Khanna and fellow Democratic leaders, Senators Cory Booker and Chris Van Hollen, are scheduled to attend a gathering of prominent Democrats in Denver next week to discuss the party's future course.The meeting, to be held from November 12 to 14, is being hosted by Majority Democrats. The group was formed last year by largely moderate elected representatives and other prominent Democrats who say they are "committed to reshaping and growing the Democratic Party".Other potential presidential candidates expected to attend include former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, Senator Raphael Warnock of Georgia, Senator Ruben Gallego of Arizona and Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut.

Trump weighs resuming war, says if need be, he will have to destroy rest of Iran

WORLD. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump met with his national security team on Thursday to discuss the possibility of resuming military operations against Iran, as the US Central Command (CENTCOM) stepped up preparations for a potential new wave of strikes.However, Washington has not yet issued any formal directive to restart major combat operations.



According to US officials cited by Fox News, key meetings on Iran were held at the White House on Wednesday and Thursday. The Thursday meeting, which took place during Trump's weekly intelligence briefing, was the first discussion involving the President and his top national security advisers on Iran since the US midterm elections.Trump told reporters in the Oval Office that Washington would soon decide whether to launch further attacks on Iran's nuclear programme. "Now we will make a decision. Do we want to go further" with strikes to ensure that Iran's nuclear programme is dismantled and "it will never happen again?" he said."I would rather not destroy the rest of the country if possible, but maybe I will have to. You'll know soon enough," Trump added.According to an Axios report, the administration is weighing three broad options: launching fresh military strikes, continuing economic pressure on Tehran through sanctions and other restrictions, or reaching a diplomatic agreement involving significant concessions from Iran.

US MILITARY PREPARES FOR POSSIBLE FRESH STRIKES

CENTCOM is finalising preparations for a possible resumption of major combat operations in Iran, a US official told reporters. However, the command has not received fresh instructions from Washington to begin military action.Fox News also reported that November 9 would bring a new moon in the Middle East, creating conditions with little or no moonlight. Such conditions can be advantageous for certain military operations.

BLA ousts Dhurandhar who rattled Pakistan. Female fighters of Majeed Brigade linked to fall?

WORLD.(Agency)

Bashir Zeb of the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), who rose from dabbling in student politics to occupy the top post of the armed separatist outfit, has been ousted. Zeb, who made a name for himself by orchestrating the most audacious attacks across Pakistan targeting the country's military, security forces, infrastructure and Chinese interests, would no longer serve as the outfit's Commander-in-Chief, BLA's spokesperson Jeeyand Baloch announced on Tuesday, (November 3).Bashir Zeb's appearance and videos of him riding through Balochistan with armed fighters drew comparisons with Hamza Ali Mazari, the protagonist of Dhurandhar. But was his ouster from the BLA triggered by an internal rift over a costly military offensive, or did his use of women suicide bombers and the criticism it attracted play a role?

Zeb, a mechanical engineering graduate and a literature student, became the BLA chief in December 2018, succeeding Aslam Baloch, who was killed in a suicide bombing in Afghanistan. Under his leadership, the BLA was responsible for attacks on the Chinese Consulate in Karachi (2018), the Pearl Continental Hotel in Gwadar (2019), and the Pakistan Stock Exchange in Karachi (2020). The BLA was also responsible for launching coordinated assaults across Balochistan province under Operations Herof and Herof-2, and also hijacking the Jaffar Express in March 2025.In short, Zeb's antics rattled Pakistan's Asim Munir-led establishment to the core. As such, the sudden ouster of a militant who had given both Islamabad and Rawalpindi nightmares, has raised more questions than answers.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT ZEB'S OUSTER?

The BLA announced on November 3 through a press release carried by news outlet The Balochistan Post that Bashir Zeb would no longer serve as its Commander-in Chief. All his administrative, military and policymaking powers would be transferred to the armed separatist outfit's Senior Command Council pending the appointment of a successor.According to The Balochistan Post, the decision followed a joint meeting of the BLA's highest bodies on October 16 where commanders unanimously approved the transition. The BLA stated that the move followed the group's constitutional principles adopted during its 2018 restructuring, which sought to prevent a single leader from assuming lifelong leadership.

More Indian than Arab: US's 1st Muslim senator Abdul El-Sayed on his desi connect

WORLD.(Agency)

Democrat Abdul El-Sayed's election as the first Muslim member of the US Senate, which perhaps broke the thickest of glass ceilings in American politics, has brought renewed attention to his Indian connection. While Abdul was born to Egyptian immigrants, his wife's family traces its roots to Bhatkal, a coastal town in Karnataka. Now, an old podcast clip has surfaced in which he opened up about his Indian connection and fondness for desi culture.Speaking in the podcast with Exxodus Pictures, titled 'Meet the real Abdul El-Sayed', the senator-elect underscored how two decades of his marriage had made him familiar with Indian culture. "I have been married to a South Indian family for 20 years. I might be more Indian than Arab," Abdul quipped. After a pause, he added jokingly, "Everybody likes desis more than Arabs".



US GETS FIRST MUSLIM SENATOR

The Democrat scripted history after defeating Republican Mike Rogers in Michigan during the midterm elections, marking a significant moment for Muslim representation in American politics. The elections proved to be a setback for President Donald Trump of epic proportions as the Democrats seized control of both chambers of the US Congress.Abdul, a physician and epidemiologist, is married to Dr Sarah Jukaku, who was seen during the victory night celebrations on Wednesday. Sarah was born into an Indian-immigrant Muslim family with roots in Karnataka's Bhatkal, around 450 km from the capital, Bengaluru.

Can Democrats reverse Trump's H-1B policies? What US midterms mean for immigrants

WORLD.(Agency)

A shift in the political balance of the US Congress following the midterm elections may create fresh opportunities to debate immigration policy, but it is unlikely to result in an immediate reversal of the Trump administration's restrictions on H-1B visas and employment-based immigration.Despite expectations among some immigrant workers and applicants, a change in congressional leadership does not automatically undo policies introduced through executive orders, federal regulations and administrative decisions.The distinction between political change, legislative reform and administrative action is crucial to understanding what the election results could mean for foreign workers in the United States.



HOW IMMIGRATION POLICIES ARE IMPLEMENTED

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) provides the statutory framework for the US immigration system. Congress determines the broad legal structure, including employment-based immigration provisions and numerical limits for several visa categories.However, the federal government also has considerable authority to administer these laws. Agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Department of State and Department of Labor implement immigration policies through regulations, executive actions, policy guidance and administrative procedures.

No difference in praying: Rohingya struggle to find sense of community in Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur.(Agency)

Rohingya refugees in Malaysia continue to face difficulties in practising their faith and rebuilding their lives despite finding safety from persecution in Myanmar, according to a report carried by news agency Press Trust of India. Malaysia does not legally recognise refugees, leaving many vulnerable to detention and limiting their access to places of worship, education, healthcare and fair wages.About 7,00,000 Rohingya fled a military crackdown in Myanmar in 2017 and crossed into neighbouring Bangladesh, according to the UN refugee agency, UNHCR. Others sought refuge in countries including Malaysia, India, Indonesia and Thailand. As of February 2026, about 126,000 Rohingya were registered with UNHCR in Malaysia.Nur Sadek, who now studies law and advocates for Rohingya rights in Malaysia, was once preparing to become an Islamic scholar. His mother had hoped he would serve as a religious leader in their village in western Myanmar. The Rohingya, a predominantly Muslim ethnic minority, live in Myanmar's Rakhine State alongside Buddhists and a smaller Hindu population, in a region long shaped by ethnic and religious divisions.Sadek fled Myanmar with his family in 2017 after soldiers opened fire on his community and bullets struck the tin roof of his home. He escaped with only the clothes he was wearing and never returned.Religious freedom advocacy group CSW said Rohingya refugees in Malaysia cannot officially register their own places of worship, according to the report carried by PTI.



Most pray at local mosques, but some face discrimination or stay away because they fear immigration detention. "Religious solidarity is often overtaken by social and cultural differences between the two groups," CSW said.

PERSONAL CRISES LOOM IN

Nurul Hakim, the first of 10 siblings to leave Myanmar, fled in 2010. He reached Kuala Lumpur after travelling for days on foot, by car and by boat through Thailand. Although his family was not directly attacked, years of violence and discrimination had made life increasingly difficult for the Rohingya community.Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine faced restrictions for years on religious gatherings, access to mosques and Islamic education. Authorities closed mosques and limited communal prayers, according to reports by the United Nations and Amnesty International.Hakim said he can now pray freely and feels welcomed by local Muslim religious leaders. However, he has heard of Rohingya elsewhere in Malaysia being barred from mosques. Rohingya Rights Response, an organisation co-founded by Sadek to monitor issues affecting refugees in Malaysia, has also documented restrictions on religious practices. Banners saying Rohingya were unwelcome have been displayed outside mosques in some neighbourhoods.