

1940 To 2025: All That Has Changed Between 2 Congress Meetings In Bihar

**The CWC meeting is
also aimed at
showcasing the
Congress's
organisational
strength ahead of
the Bihar election**

New Delhi.(Agency)

Ramgarh, 1940: Congress Working Committee meets in Ramgarh in undivided Bihar. Presided over by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, this session committed the Congress to the creation of Constituent Assembly to frame and adopt a Constitution for a free India. Patna, 2025: The Congress is holding its Working Committee

meeting in Bihar again. Much has changed in the 85 years between Ramgarh and Patna. The Congress, then at the forefront of the freedom movement, now leads the opposition at the Centre and is gearing up for the Assembly election in Bihar.

The Congress's who's who, from party chief Mallikarjun Kharge to Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, to all Congress chief ministers, are meeting at Patna's Sadaqat Ashram today. Mr Kharge unfurled the party flag at the Bihar Congress headquarters this morning, after which the meeting began. The party leadership may pass key resolutions with the Bihar polls in mind, sources have said.

Revisiting History

The Congress's choice of Sadaqat Ashram as the venue for the CWC meet suggests an attempt to showcase its role in the freedom struggle. The Sadaqat Ashram, which now houses the state

Congress office and a museum, was once the venue of meetings by Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr Rajendra Prasad and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. The Congress's choice of



this venue digs into its history as its leaders speak about a "second freedom struggle". This morning, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh shared how a key decision during the

Independence struggle was taken at a CWC meeting in Bihar. "It was at its Ramgarh session held in mid-March 1940 that the CWC passed its landmark resolution that, for the first time, formally committed the Indian National Congress to the creation of a Constituent Assembly to frame and adopt a Constitution for a free and independent India. The rest is, as they say, history - including the bitter opposition of the organisation now celebrating its centenary to the Constitution that was to be adopted on Nov 26, 1949, and come into effect on Jan 26, 1950," he wrote on X, taking a swipe at RSS.

The Hyderabad Formula

On the agenda of this CWC meeting in Patna is the Congress campaign against alleged voter fraud and brainstorming for the upcoming Bihar polls. Setting the tone for the meeting, Congress president Kharge accused the BJP of playing the communal.

Karnataka bars foreign travel for officers till 2025 end, seeks pending trip reports

Karnataka.(Agency)

The Karnataka government has imposed a blanket restriction on all official foreign travel by state officers until the end of 2025 or until further orders after it was found that many of them did not submit study reports after previous such tours. According to a circular dated September 23 issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, proposals for future foreign trips will be entertained only if officers have submitted detailed reports on their previous official visits.

The government noted that several officers had failed to submit such

reports despite earlier instructions. The order, approved by the Chief Minister, applies to all state government officers who undertook official foreign travel between August 2024 and July 2025.

"It is hereby informed that any future proposals for official foreign travel will only be considered if the reports from previous travels (including learning and implementation details) have been duly submitted," it said.

The directive states that these reports must include observations, learning, and recommendations, along with details of how the takeaways have been implemented. The circular, signed by T Mahantesh, Under Secretary to the Government, says the foreign travel ban will stay in effect until further notice.



Providing Modern Sports Facilities in Rural Areas is Our Commitment: CM Rekha Gupta

The Sikh Times

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, 24 September: As part of the Delhi Government's initiatives under the 'Seva Pakhwada' marking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta inaugurated a Rs 3.5 crore sports complex at CM Shri School, Hiran Kudna village, Outer Delhi. The state-of-the-art facility features a 200-metre, five-lane synthetic athletics track with a dedicated 100-metre sprint section, areas for long jump, triple jump, shot put, high jump, and discus throw, a multi-purpose field for handball and other games, and a volleyball court. Separate changing rooms for boys and girls, toilets with water coolers, and rooms for trainers and sports managers have also been provided. Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister said, "This sports complex will help students prepare for district, state, and national competitions. Rural youth are talented and determined, and it is our responsibility to provide them with the facilities they need to shine."



Highlighting the government's focus on education, the Chief Minister noted that nearly Rs 20,000 crore of Delhi's Rs 1 lakh

crore budget has been allocated to the sector, with special attention on developing school and rural sports infrastructure. She also announced that interstate bus services in and around Delhi would soon resume, with new buses and routes to improve connectivity for remote areas. "By next year, several long-pending rural projects will be completed, bringing lasting benefits to villages," she added. Education Minister Ashish Sood said, "This complex demonstrates how modern facilities can nurture talent. It will not only boost sporting skills but also raise the standard of government education. With 75 new CM Shri Schools being established, government schools will transform into centres of excellence." With this initiative, Hiran Kudna now has a facility that promotes health, fitness, teamwork, and determination, giving young athletes the chance to excel and represent Delhi at higher levels. The sports complex has been constructed at an approximate cost of Rs 3.5 crore. It is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities designed to enhance the training and development of athletes. **Contd....page-5**

Highest C-Sections In Andhra? Chandrababu Naidu Slams "Greedy Doctors"

The Chief Minister's remarks come as new data reveals Andhra Pradesh has one of the highest C-section rates in the country

Patna.(Agency)

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has sharply criticised private healthcare facilities, blaming "greedy doctors" for the state's alarmingly high rate of caesarean section (C-section) deliveries. Speaking in the state Assembly, Naidu called the trend a "dangerous" and unnecessary practice, particularly when a natural delivery is a viable and healthier option. The Chief Minister's remarks come as new data reveals Andhra



Pradesh has one of the highest C-section rates in the country, with a staggering 56.62% of all deliveries in the state now performed surgically. Naidu highlighted that private hospitals are responsible for a disproportionate share of this figure, with a reported 90% of C-section operations taking place in these

facilities.

"They are setting up mahruts (fixed auspicious times) and then doing the deliveries. That is wrong," Naidu stated, implying that many C-sections are being scheduled for reasons of convenience or superstition rather than medical necessity. He emphasised that the human body should not undergo surgery unless it is absolutely required.

Naidu further revealed that a significant portion of the state's health scheme, Dr. NTR Vaidya Seva

Trust, is being spent on C-section procedures, draining public funds. The chief minister has directed health minister Y Satya Kumar Yadav to address the issue head-on. The government plans to engage with private hospitals to ensure that surgical births are only performed when medically indicated.

Kerala Congress claims CPM-BJP nexus after Yogi Adityanath's Ayyappa event message

Kerala Opposition leader VD Satheesan accused the CPI(M) government of an "unholy nexus" with the BJP. He criticised reading Yogi Adityanath's message at the Ayyappa Summit and questioned the government's minority appeasement.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Kerala Opposition leader VD Satheesan accused the CPI(M)-led state government of striking an "unholy nexus" with the BJP after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's wishes were read out at the Ayyappa Summit organised by the government. Satheesan questioned why the BJP needed to hold a separate Ayyappa devotees' gathering when one of its tallest leaders had already sent a message to the state government's event. "Yogi is like their biggest leader after Narendra Modi. The BJP people should have also just gone and sat there."



Everything would have been perfect then," he said. He alleged that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's government had shifted from "minority appeasement" to "a majority appeasement" after failing to gain electoral traction. "Yogi Adityanath is the best partner for Pinarayi Vijayan. Because that is the line that has been followed since the last parliamentary elections. Before that, it was minority appeasement. When that was not working, it came out with majority appeasement," Satheesan said. Referring to reports of a proposed minority gathering by the government, the Congress leader mocked the Left's ideological stance. "The real communists are wondering what this government is doing. First, they held the Ayyappa meeting. Then they got scared. They are going to hold the minority meeting after that. In that case, let them hold meetings in the name of each religion. This is a far-right party. This is not a communist party. Real communists will vote for the UDF this time," he said.

'50% Relief Borne By States': MK Stalin Slams PM Modi Over Delayed GST Cuts

Tamil Nadu.(Agency)

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Monday took on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the timing of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) cuts, accusing the Union government of denying states their rightful funds. In a strongly worded statement, Mr Stalin said the Centre had ignored long-standing Opposition demands for tax relief and was punishing states like Tamil Nadu for resisting "Hindi imposition." "Prime Minister Narendra Modi now says Indians will save Rs

2.5 lakh crore through GST reform and Income Tax relief. But this is exactly what the Opposition has been demanding from the very beginning," Mr Stalin said. "If these measures had been taken eight years ago, families across the country would already have saved many lakh crores more." He added that states bear half the burden of the relief but receive no recognition. "50 per cent of this relief has been actually borne by the state governments, a fact which the Union has failed to acknowledge as well as



appreciate. On the contrary, the Union BJP Government is denying funds that rightfully belong to the states. Tamil Nadu is being denied Samagra Shiksha funds only because we refuse to accept

Hindi imposition. When will this injustice end?" he asked. The Chief Minister also urged the Centre to respect federalism. "India cannot grow by punishing states that defend their rights and stand for their people. Respect federalism, release the funds, and let the people benefit from what is rightfully theirs," Mr Stalin said. Responding to the attack, BJP spokesperson Narayanan Thirupathy dismissed Mr Stalin's criticism, saying the DMK leader lacked understanding of taxation and economic reforms.

Income Tax department opposes TVK chief Vijay's plea against Rs 1.5 crore penalty

Actor Vijay faces an Income Tax penalty of Rs 1.5 crore for not declaring Rs 15 crore income during 2015-16. He challenged the fine in the Madras High Court, citing a delay in initiating the proceedings. The court has asked his counsel to produce a similar past verdict by October 10.

New Delhi.(Agency) The Income Tax department has opposed Tamilaga Vettai Kazhagam (TVK) president and actor Vijay's petition challenging a penalty of Rs 1.5 crore for non-disclosure of income during the assessment year 2015-16. Appearing before Justice C Saravanan, senior standing counsel for the I-T department, AP Srinivas, said the penalty was correctly imposed under Section 271AAB(1) of the Income Tax Act and argued that the writ petition should be dismissed. Officials said documents seized during a 2015 search of Vijay's residence showed he had not disclosed

Rs 15 crore from the film Puli, justifying the fine. Vijay's counsel, however, contended that the penalty proceedings were barred by the limitation period, claiming they should have been initiated

on or before June 30, 2019, rather than on June 30, 2022. The judge asked the petitioner's counsel to produce, by October 10, 2025, a verdict he had delivered in a similar case related to limitation.

Vijay argued that the notice was issued in 2022, seven years after the 2015 raid, and was therefore barred by the limitation period. He claimed proceedings should have been initiated by June 30, 2019, and sought quashing of the penalty.

The court asked his counsel to produce a verdict from a similar limitation case by October 10, 2025, when the court is expected to deliver its decision.



News box

Cop found unconscious at Haryana minister house dies; suicide suspected**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

A constable deployed at Haryana minister Rao Narbir Singh's house in the city died after he was found unconscious while being on duty in the early hours of Tuesday. Police said they suspect that the constable — Jagbir Singh (49) of Bhurawas village in Jhajjar — died by suicide as preliminary autopsy results indicate he consumed a toxic chemical. On his wife's complaint, police said, seven members of his extended family were named in an FIR filed for abetment to suicide.

Sources said Jagbir's wife has told cops he was disturbed after his nephew eloped with a woman from their Jhajjar village a few months ago.

Jagbir was named in a police complaint filed by the woman's family, and he was ostracised on the directions of the panchayat. The constable was found unconscious by a colleague at the minister's Civil Lines house around 2.30am. The colleague alerted other security personnel present at the spot and rushed Jagbir to a private hospital, from where he was referred to Civil Hospital in Sector 10.

He died during treatment there. A team from the Civil Lines police station reached the minister's house along with a forensics team and gathered evidence. "We have registered an FIR under sections 108 (abetment of suicide) and 3(5) (crime done by several persons) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Civil Lines police station," an investigator said. He added that no suicide note was found at the spot and police investigation in the case is still on. The body was handed over to the family after autopsy was conducted. Police are yet to make an arrest in the case. Jagbir is survived by his wife and two children. He was recently deployed as part of Rao Narbir Singh's security detail after the BJP MLA became a cabinet minister last year. Jagbir joined Haryana Police in 2014 after retiring from the Indian Army. According to police, he was facing a probe in Jhajjar for allegedly joining the Army with forged documents. He had,

Sex ratio falls in 11 Haryana districts, by 20-plus points in 3**Ghaziabad. (Agency)**

Haryana's fight against gender imbalance has hit a roadblock, with fresh data revealing that 11 districts have seen a decline in sex ratio this year despite the state's overall numbers showing a marginal improvement.

Between Jan and Sept, the state's sex ratio rose slightly to 907 girls per 1,000 boys, up from 904 during the same period last year. However, the latest district-wise figures — reviewed at a recent state task force meeting chaired by health secretary Sudhir Rajpal — have exposed deep-rooted challenges that threaten to undo the state's progress. The most significant drops were recorded at Charkhi Dadri, Kaithal, and Sirsa, where the sex ratio fell by 26, 25, and 23 points, respectively. Other districts with notable declines included Hisar (down 18), Ambala (down 15), Yamunanagar (down 14), and Sonipat (down 10). Smaller but concerning decreases were recorded in Bhiwani, Karnal, Palwal, and Mahendergarh.

The figures prompted the health department to issue warnings to chief medical officers (CMOs) in the affected districts, making it clear that accountability would be enforced. "The CMOs of underperforming districts are under close watch. They will face strict action if numbers don't improve," Rajpal said at the meeting, instructing officials to strengthen field monitoring and prepare immediate corrective plans.

Haryana, Rajpal asserted, has adopted a "zero-tolerance approach" towards female foeticide. He said the govt was committed to making Haryana a model state under the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign. The meeting also reviewed recent enforcement measures, which included the suspension of a pharmacist in Kaithal who was caught illegally selling medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) kits. Cases, officials told Rajpal, were also registered against private doctors for similar violations. Health officials said investigations were being widened to check for illegal sale of MTP kits at other pharmacies, amid concerns that such practices may be more widespread than currently reported.

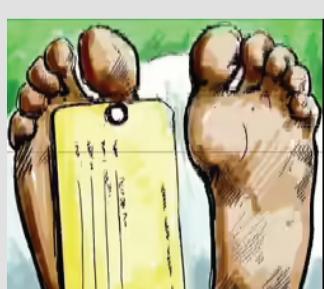
Gurgaon guard (30) dies in hit and run, co-worker injured**Noida. (Agency)**

A 30-year-old security guard died, and his colleague suffered injuries in a hit-and-run incident near the Haldiram restaurant in Kherki Daula on Monday.

Around 10:20 pm, Rinku was walking back home with his co-worker and roommate Rajiv, when an unidentified vehicle struck them from behind and fled the scene.

A native of Mainpuri, UP, he worked as a security guard in a private company on Sohna Road. Rinku suffered serious head and leg injuries and succumbed to them on the spot. Rajiv, a resident of Etawah in UP, sustained injuries to his hand and leg and is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital.

According to his family, Rinku was living on rent and sharing a flat in the Kherki Daula area. He is survived by his father, wife, and two daughters, aged six and two years. Their co-worker, Awadhesh Kumar, said, "We got to know that they did not reach home after work for a long time. They had left together, and hence we started searching. After a while, we got to know that they had met with an accident and Rinku had died. We informed his family, who reached Gurgaon on Tuesday morning. Police are investigating the incident and trying to identify the vehicle involved in the accident. Cops are checking the CCTV footage near the spot to trace it. A case has been registered against an unidentified vehicle under Sections 286 (rash driving) and 106 (causing death due to negligence) of BNS at Kherki Daula police station.

**Thar mows down property dealer in Gurgaon, ACP son under probe****Nuh. (Agency)**

A property dealer in Faridabad was run over by a Thar registered in the name of an assistant commissioner of police, sparking allegations that the investigation was being influenced because of connections of the accused. Police are also probing if the ACP's son was driving the vehicle at the time of the incident. The victim, Manoj Kumar Mangla, was on his way back from Vrindavan with friends when he stopped at a restaurant near a convention hall in Sector 12 around 1.30am on Sunday. According to his brother, Vicky Kumar, Mangla was struck by the Thar that crushed him under its wheels when he asked the driver to slow down. The accused then allegedly reversed the SUV to run him over a second time before fleeing the scene. Mangla was rushed to a private hospital, but succumbed to his injuries there. The Thar — bearing the number HR19H-0027 — is registered in the name of Rajesh Lohan, ACP (Sarai).

Faridabad Police initially registered a case under Section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the BNS, but upgraded it to murder following allegations from Mangla's family. Usha Devi, DCP (central Faridabad), confirmed that four persons, including the ACP's son, had been detained for questioning. However, investigators have yet to establish who was behind the wheel when the accident occurred. A special investigation team led by ACP (central) has been formed to examine technical and human evidence, including CCTV footage and call records.

The sequence of events leading up to the accident is still under scrutiny. Minutes before the incident, Mangla and his friends allegedly had an argument with two bikers, Navdeep and Aman. Police



said they were investigating if this earlier altercation was linked to the murder in any way, though they maintained that the incident took place elsewhere.

At Faridabad Civil Hospital, where a heavily injured Mangla was taken to, his family members refused to accept the body or proceed with the cremation, demanding immediate arrests of the accused and a murder case against them.

The family accused police of shielding the suspects because of their influential background, insisting that it was the ACP's son who was in the driver's seat. Mangla's body was finally handed over to his family for cremation on Tuesday after the cops assured them of swift action. Police, however, have denied any inaction or bias in the investigation. "We have formed an SIT and are collecting crucial evidence, such as CCTV footage and call details of the four men detained. No one is being favoured here. The Thar registered in ACP Rajesh's name was impounded, and all four suspects, including the ACP's son, were rounded up within hours. It's not common to add a murder charge in an accident case. We will investigate all possible angles," said DCP Devi.

Criminal nabbed in Ghaziabad's first encounter by all-woman police team**Ghaziabad. (Agency)**

A criminal wanted in multiple two-wheeler and phone snatching cases was chased down and arrested on Tuesday following an encounter, the first such operation led entirely by an all-woman police team in the district. ACP Nandgram Upasana Pandey said the accused, Jitendra, was intercepted during a routine night checking operation against vehicles with hooters and tinted windows in Lohia Nagar by a team led by Mahila Thana station officer Ritu Tyagi, along with sub-inspectors Vineeta Yadav and Bhuvneshwari Singh and two women head constables Preeti and Neetu.

In a memorandum addressed to the President of India, the trust stated that Rezang La remains one of the most remarkable chapters of India's military history, where 120 soldiers of the 13 Kumaon Regiment's Charlie Company fought against overwhelming Chinese forces on Nov 18, 1962. Out of the 120 soldiers, 117 were Ahir warriors, most of them from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

Jitendra, who was riding a two-wheeler, was signaled to stop at the checkpoint but attempted to flee. "When the team had tried to stop him for routine checking, Jitendra panicked and tried to flee. But his scooter slipped and he fell. As he got up and tried to run, our team chased him down. As we closed in, the accused attempted to fire at us with a country-made pistol. In retaliatory firing, he was injured on his leg and eventually overpowered,"

"SI Tyagi said.

He was taken to MMG district hospital for treatment and later booked under BNS sections 109(1) (attempt to murder), 317(2) and (5) (whoever dishonestly receives or retains any stolen property) and the Arms Act. A tablet, a mobile phone, a country-made pistol and ammunition have been recovered from the accused, police said. Cops also impounded the two-wheeler and are probing if it was also stolen. During interrogation, Jitendra told cops that he would steal mobile phones, tablets and two-wheelers across NCR, particularly in Sahibabad and Loni, and sell the stolen goods in Delhi through a network of receivers. ACP Pandey said that the accused has eight cases of loot, theft and snatching registered against him at Vijay Nagar police station. Commanding the swift action by the all-woman team, the officers said,

"This encounter has set a strong precedent for Mission Shakti and women's empowerment in policing."

FIR filed against protesters for blocking Kherki Daula toll over film '120 Bahadur'**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

A case has been registered against members of the Sanyukt Ahir Regiment Morcha for staging a protest at the Kherki Daula toll plaza on the Delhi-Jaipur highway on Sunday. The protest was against actor-director Farhan Akhtar's upcoming film 120 Bahadur. Police said the protesters, who were demanding the film's title be changed to Veer 120, blocked traffic at the toll plaza for around 25 minutes, causing inconvenience to commuters travelling between Delhi and Jaipur. They also staged a demonstration at Hero Honda Chowk later.

"Around 50 vehicles were stranded at the toll, while nearly 125 vehicles had to be diverted, leading to major traffic disruption," an officer said. Subsequently, a complaint was lodged at the Kherki Daula police station against 14 named

individuals, along with several others. The FIR mentions that leaders, including Arun Yadav, Ravi Yadav,

Satveer Yadav, Balbir, Kehar Pal, and others, participated in the blockade without prior police permission. The group has demanded not only a change in the film's name but also that the film highlight the correct historical

contribution of all Ahir soldiers who fought in the 1962 war. They have also urged that the movie be screened for the families of the martyrs before its public release. Earlier, Arun Yadav, the trust's founder, had warned that if the film's name was not changed, a large-scale agitation would be launched. He announced that a massive rally would be held from Gurgaon to Delhi on Oct 26.

In a memorandum addressed to the President of India, the trust stated that Rezang La remains one of the most remarkable chapters of India's military history, where 120 soldiers of the 13 Kumaon Regiment's Charlie Company fought against overwhelming Chinese forces on Nov 18, 1962. Out of the 120 soldiers, 117 were Ahir warriors, most of them from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

spot and a preliminary assessment suggested that the cave-in may have been caused by soil settlement due to an underground utility. The highways authority is ascertaining the cause and extent of the cave-in. An NHAI official said, "It seems like a settlement due to utility service below. Any leakage or weakening of the utility could have triggered the subsidence. However, we are checking the utility details to determine whether it belongs to GMDA or the developer's internal utility services. Although we have barricaded the area, we will not be able to repair the road until we find the cause of the damage and rectify it." A 1,400mm master sewer line of GMDA runs parallel to this service road, connecting Cyber Hub to Iffco Chowk. This is not the first such incident in the city. The Sohna highway has witnessed repeated cave-ins in the past, particularly near SD Adarsh Public School, where a

damaged sewer line caused at least five such incidents in the last two years.

After two years of inaction and repeated back-and-forth between GMDA and the highways authority, it was decided that the NHAI would carry out rehabilitation of the master sewer line. In 2022, the sewer line was officially handed over to GMDA once the Sohna highway project was completed. In recent months, the city has witnessed multiple cases of road cave-ins linked to underground sewer lines. In Aug, Basai Road collapsed twice within two days due to an ageing sewer system. The network was originally laid in 2009 by PWD and HSSP before being handed over to MCG in 2018. Just weeks earlier, in July, a portion of the road near the Sector 12 intersection caved in after the wall of an underground sewer manhole gave way. These repeated incidents highlight the fragile state of the city's underground infrastructure.

This is hard to swallow: Nh8 service road caves in, gaping hole opens up in Gurgaon**Gurgaon. (Agency)**

A portion of the service road along Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway caved in on Monday evening, creating a pit more than two feet wide near the entrance of DLF 2. With no immediate barricading or response from authorities, locals stepped in to warn approaching vehicles. Wooden sticks and a cloth banner were placed inside the pit to make it visible to motorists. The sudden cave-in, right next to one of the busiest stretches connecting Cyber Hub and IFFCO Chowk, once again highlighted the concern over the safety of road infrastructure in the city. Ishwar Kewalramani, a resident of DLF 2, said on Tuesday, "It is extremely risky, especially at night when visibility is low. This is the entry-exit point to our colony and an accident can happen at any moment if the authorities don't cordon off the stretch properly and repair it on priority." Later, NHAI officials said they cordoned off the

area to prevent further damage.

Noida. (Agency)

An FIR was registered against the management of Presidium School in the city, nearly three weeks after a Class 6 student collapsed on campus and died.

Police said on Tuesday that the FIR was registered under Section 75 (cruelty to a child by anyone in charge) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and Section 357 (breach of contract to attend on and supply wants of a helpless person) of BNS. On Sept 4, 10-year-old Tanishka Sharma was at the Sector 31 school when she collapsed and was declared dead by the time she was taken to a hospital. The school had said at the time that the girl choked on food that got stuck in her windpipe. A senior police officer told TOI on Tuesday that doctors have indicated the possibility of brain haemorrhage but the autopsy could not ascertain the cause of death. "Viscera samples have been preserved for forensic analysis," the officer said.

Though a complaint was filed by Tanishka's family on Sept 8, an FIR was only registered after the education department submitted its inspection report to police on Tuesday. In the report, district inspector of schools (DIOS) Rajesh Kumar Singh flagged lapses in the

school's security apparatus and noted that 16 CCTV cameras were not adequate to cover the entire campus. "There are several blind spots inside the school, which are not under CCTV cover. One of them was the spot where the girl collapsed and died," Singh said.

He added that the surveillance lapse was found after a team of the education department inspected the school and recorded statements of teachers, students and the principal. "The school premises are large, and the number of CCTV cameras inside the school was not sufficient to cover it entirely. Other than that, investigation will be further carried out by police," he said. The FIR and the DIOS report came a day after Tanishka's mother Tripta, an IT professional based in Noida, made an emotional appeal on Facebook, saying she deserved to know how her daughter, who was healthy, died at the school. "What happened to my daughter in her final moments? As a mother, I deserve to know... I am asking the truth. Let me grieve with answers, not silence," she said in the clip. The girl's family had earlier sought CCTV footage of the moment the girl collapsed. The family had also alleged the school delayed treatment by initially taking

the girl to the campus medical room instead of a hospital and raised questions about conflicting accounts on what happened the day Tanishka died. "What is shocking is that no one saw her when she collapsed. Her friends said that they saw her lying unconscious on the second floor. The school has given numerous statements and refused to share footage with me," Tripta told TOI earlier this week. A school spokesperson had said the management was cooperating with police and the student's family. According to norms, the DIOS said, every school needs to have CCTV cameras covering all areas on campus — among them corridors, classrooms and staircases, with washrooms the only exception. The DIOS said he has asked the Central Board

of School Education (CBSE) to review compliance with CCTV installation guidelines in all affiliated schools. "CBSE guidelines mandate all schools to cover 360-degree CCTV cameras. Inspections are done by CBSE regional offices. A letter has been given to the CBSE regional headquarters. I have urged them to form a committee to conduct an inspection and submit a report," Singh said. Asked about surveillance infrastructure, the school spokesperson said on Tuesday CBSE's norms for CCTVs were meant to be enforced from the next academic year. "But the school has already started installing CCTVs.

FIR registered against Noida school, nearly 3 weeks after Class 6 girl's death



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Mother Dairy slashes prices across dairy, processed foods

New Delhi: Mother Dairy on Tuesday announced a price reduction over select value added dairy products and processed foods (under Safal brand), effective September 22, passing on the benefits of the recent Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate cut directly to consumers. The wholly owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) said the move ensures that its entire range of products now falls under the nil or lowest 5 per cent GST slab. With the revised prices, ultra high temperature (UHT) milk (toned; tetra pack) (1 litre) will retail at Rs 75, down from Rs 77, while UHT milk (double toned; pouch) (450 ml) will now cost Rs 32 instead of Rs 33 and paneer (200 gm) has dropped from Rs 95 to Rs 92. Butter (100 gm) will cost Rs 58 instead of Rs 62, cheese cubes (180 gm) will now cost Rs 135 instead of Rs 145, cheese spread (180 gm) will cost Rs 110 instead of Rs 120 and cow ghee jar (1 litre) has seen a major cut from Rs 750 to Rs 720. Milkshakes (180 ml) have been reduced from Rs 30 to Rs 28. Ice creams too have seen notable cuts — chocoo vanilla cone (100 ml) will now cost Rs 25, down from Rs 30, and strawberry crush tub (1 litre) has come down from Rs 330 to Rs 300. The company's Safal portfolio has also seen a uniform GST reduction from 12 per cent to 5 per cent across frozen snacks, jams, pickles, coconut water and tomato puree. Consequently, frozen french fries (400 gm) will cost Rs 95 instead of Rs 100, frozen aloo tikki (400 gm) Rs 85 instead of Rs 90 and frozen nuggets (300 gm) Rs 105 instead of Rs 110. Processed foods like lime pickle (400 gm) have been reduced from Rs 130 to Rs 120, coconut water (200 ml) from Rs 55 to Rs 50 and mixed fruit juice (500 gm) from Rs 180 to Rs 165. Announcing the revision, Manish Bandlish, Managing Director, Mother Dairy, said: "The recent GST reduction across a wide range of dairy and processed food products represents a progressive step that will significantly boost consumption and accelerate the adoption of safe, high-quality packaged offerings. As a consumer-centric organisation, we are passing on 100 per cent of the tax benefit to our patrons, effective September 22, keeping up with the spirit of this reform." He said the move is expected to have a positive impact across the value chain — benefiting consumers with affordable pricing, while also boosting demand and supporting farmers. It is noteworthy that pouch milk in poly packs

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto Known as MALA W/O AKASH residing at 10659, Cell No. 7/8, Pratap Nagar, Gulabi Bagh, North Delhi, Delhi - 110007 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PINKI

NAME CHANGE

I, DHOOM SINGH S/O SHYAM SINGH R/O HOUSE NO-202, GALI NO-2 VILLAGE TAHPUR, JHILMI, SHAHDARA, DELHI, DELHI-110095 have changed the name of my minor daughter KANAK aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as KANAK NEGI.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, ANAND LAL son of Shri PANCHAM LAL, residing at WZ-95 Block-WZ, Dasghara Village, Near Holi Chowki, Iari Pusa, I.A.R.I., Central Delhi, Delhi-110012, declare that name of my minor son and my wife have been wrongly written as SOHAM and CHANDA in my minor son SOHAM RAIKWAR aged 14 years in his School Record. The actual name of my minor son and my wife are SOHAM RAIKWAR and CHANDA RAIKWAR respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, HARSH KUMAR S/O SUSHIL KUMAR R/O 238, STREET NO. 4, WAZIRABAD VILLAGE, BURADH, NORTH DELHI, DELHI-110084 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as SUSHIL KUMAR SAXENA in my Driving Licence-DL1220016583. The actual name of my father is SUSHIL KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, ANAND LAL son of Shri PANCHAM LAL, residing at WZ-95 Block-WZ, Dasghara Village, Near Holi Chowki, Iari Pusa, I.A.R.I., Central Delhi, Delhi-110012, declare that name of my minor son and my wife have been wrongly written as SOHAM and CHANDA in my minor son SOHAM RAIKWAR aged 14 years in his School Record. The actual name of my minor son and my wife are SOHAM RAIKWAR and CHANDA RAIKWAR respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

ELECTRICAL GENERAL WORK AT KATIAR

E-Tender Notice No.: EL_GEN_41_25-26 Dated: 19-09-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: Electrical general work in connection with "Provision of Isolation facility in OHE with earth heeling arrangement at North & South goods yard at New Jalpaiguri for Rootop examination of BTWN rakes" Schedule-B Electrical live indication system for isolation facility at Goods yard New Jalpaiguri. Tender Value: ₹54,81,761.32/-, Earnest Money: ₹1,09,600/- Date & Time of closing of tender: At 15:00 hrs. & opening at 15:30 hrs. on 13-10-2025. The complete information of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in

Dr. DEE/TRD & GS, Kathiar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

MULTIDISCIPLINARY SPORT COMPLEX AT LUMDING

E-Tender Notice No.: LMG/Engg/70 of 2025 Dated: 18-09-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: Multi-disciplinary sport Complex at Lumding for Basket Ball, Volley Ball, Lawn Tennis, Badminton etc. & development of Railway Stadium for Cricket & Football at Lumding under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/IV. Tender Value: ₹6,87,10,894.10/-, Earnest Money: ₹4,93,500/- Date & Time of closing of tender: At 15:00 hrs. on 13-10-2025 & opening at 15:00 hrs. on 14-10-2025. The complete information of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 13-10-2025 in website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (W), Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers with a smile

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rachayata Banerjee alias Rachayata Banerjee D/O Bibhusan Banerjee W/O Kalyan Biswas R/O Flat no- E303 Savouri Green Arch GH-10A, Tech Zone 4 Greater Noida West Gautam Budha Nagar UP 201306 Have changed my name from Rachayata Banerjee to Rachayata Biswas for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Shaurya Vats S/O Aman Sector-151 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201310 Have changed my name to Shaurya Sharma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Shaurya Vats S/O Aman Sector-151 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201310 Have changed my name to Shaurya Sharma for all future purposes.

ENGINEERING WORK

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. TSK/Engg/51 of 2025; dated: 19-09-2025. E-tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Item No.; Brief Description of item: Dibrugarh Town - New Tinsukia Jn. (SL) - CTR(P) - 15.0000 Tkm & TSR(P) - 8,000 Km. Tender Value: ₹7,00,49,818/-, Earnest Money: ₹5,00,300/- Item No.; Brief Description of item: At Tinsukia Division:- P-Way Ancillary work in connection with the maintenance of Track in the section Dhamalaong-Taniang-Sisibisar, Chaiang 16/200-44/200 including Y link of South Bank under jurisdiction of SSE/P/Way/CD/ibrugarh. Tender Value: ₹2,72,43,638/-, Earnest Money: ₹2,86,200/- Item No.; Brief Description of item: At Tinsukia Division:- P-Way Ancillary work in connection with the maintenance of Track in the section Dhamalaong-Taniang-Sisibisar, Chaiang 16/200-44/200 including Y link of South Bank under jurisdiction of SSE/P/Way/CD/ibrugarh. Tender Value: ₹2,91,70,565/-, Earnest Money: ₹2,95,900/- Item No.; Brief Description of item: Tinsukia Division:- Ancillary work in connection with Through Ballast Recouping including deepscreening from Km 329.00 to Km 406.3 between Ferkating Jn.-Simulgarh Jn. Section Total:77.3 Km. Tender Value: ₹3,55,65,200/-, Earnest Money: ₹3,27,800/- E-tender will be closed at 16:00 hrs. on 14-10-2025 and opened at 16:00 hrs. on 14-10-2025. The complete information of above e-tender will be available upto 16:00 hrs. of 14-10-2025 in website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (W), Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers with a smile

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, MOHD RAFI S/O KHALIL AHMED R/O V-10, OLD NANGAL, DELHI-CANTT-110001, have changed my son's name from MOHAMMAD ABDULLA to MOHD ABDULLA for all future purposes.

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NEWS BOX

UN address takes an equestrian turn as Mongolia's president applauds horses

UNITED NATIONS. (Agency)

UN General Assembly speeches address countless facets of human existence. But on Tuesday, one world leader also made a point of honoring the existence of horses. "Horses have been integral to human livelihoods, culture and civilizations since time immemorial," said Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, whose Central Asian nation led the Assembly earlier this year to designate July 11 as World Horse Day. Noting Mongolia's long history of horse-riding, he thanked Assembly members for supporting the initiative.

The designation is meant to raise awareness of the role that horses have played and still play in the world, from farm work and transportation to equestrian sports and tourism. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, there are over 60 million horses worldwide. Mongolia counts more horses — 3.4 million — than people, who number 3.3 million.

"From the moment of birth, we Mongols have grown up on horseback," the president told the Assembly.

His shoutout to equines came about two-thirds of the way through a speech that emphasized Mongolia's contributions to UN peacekeeping and other activities. He also addressed water issues and women's role in politics and peacekeeping, among other issues.

Typhoon Ragasa: 14 Dead, 124 Missing As Lake Barrier Bursts In Taiwan

WORLD.(Agency)

At least 14 people were killed when a decades-old lake barrier burst in Taiwan, a government official said Wednesday, after Super Typhoon Ragasa pounded the island with torrential rains. Ragasa lashed the northern Philippines and Taiwan on Monday with heavy rain and strong winds, forcing thousands to evacuate. The barrier lake in eastern Hualien county burst Tuesday, washing away a bridge and sweeping into a town. "As of 7 am Wednesday (2300 GMT Tuesday), 14 people are confirmed dead and 18 injured," said Lee Kuan-ting, a Hualien County Government press official.

Lee told AFP rescuers were also searching for 30 people reported missing in the area. The National Fire Agency later updated the number of missing people to 124. Hualien fire officials said flood water temporarily rose as high as the second floor of a house in some parts of the town Tuesday, stranding about 263 people. They were not in immediate danger and were asked to stay and wait for the water to recede. Footage released by the fire agency showed



flooded streets and half-submerged cars as trees were uprooted in the area. Across Taiwan, more than 7,600 people were evacuated due to Typhoon Ragasa.

Around 3,100 people were evacuated beforehand and moved in with relatives in the area near the creek in Hualien, according to the fire agency.

Taiwan experiences frequent tropical storm from July to October. Typhoon Danas, which hit the island in early July, killed two people and injured hundreds as the storm dumped more than 20 inches of rain across the south over a weekend.

Schools Shut, Flights Cancelled As Typhoon Ragasa Heads To Hong Kong, China

Sloviansk, Ukraine.(Agency)

Hong Kong and parts of southern China were on high alert early Wednesday as Super Typhoon Ragasa approached with powerful winds and lashing rain, forcing Chinese authorities to shut down schools and businesses in at least 10 cities.

Ragasa had already toppled trees, torn the roofs off buildings and killed at least two people while ripping through the northern Philippines, where thousands sought shelter in schools and evacuation centres.

The super typhoon was generating maximum sustained winds of 195 kilometres (121 miles) per hour near its centre while moving west across the South China Sea, according to Hong Kong's weather service.

The Hong Kong Observatory issued its highest typhoon warning, T10, at 2:40 am (1840 GMT Tuesday), saying it will "remain in force for some time" as Ragasa comes closest to the Chinese finance hub later in the morning. It also warned of significant swells and storm surge as the storm moves through, with some areas potentially seeing water levels four to five metres above normal. An AFP reporter saw waves nearly five metres high smash into the seaside promenade of Hong Kong's Heng Fa Chuen residential district around nightfall. Resident Terence Choi said he had stocked two days' worth of food at home, adding that he was "quite nervous" about the prospect of the housing estate losing power and fresh water supply. Yang Lee-o, who has lived in the coastal neighbourhood of Lei Yue Mun for 40 years, said government workers had already spent a day placing sandbags. "Lei Yue Mun is the hardest hit whenever there's a typhoon or rainstorm," said the 71-year-old, adding that the water level went up to her thighs during a previous super typhoon.

India Expects To Increase Energy Trade With US: Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal

New York .(Agency)

India expects to increase its trade with the US in energy products in the years to come, and the country's energy security goals will have a significant element of US involvement, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said. "Clearly, the world recognizes that (energy security) is one area where we all have to work together. India is a big player in the energy field... we are big importers of energy from across the world, including from the US," Mr Goyal said here on Tuesday. Mr Goyal delivered the keynote address at an event, 'Energy Security in a Shifting Global Landscape: Building Resilient Energy Markets Across Borders' hosted by the Consulate General of India in New York, US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), and India's leading decarbonisation solutions provider, ReNew. "We expect to increase our trade with the US on energy products in the years to come. And being close friends, natural partners, our energy security goals will have a very high element of US

involvement, which will ensure price stability, diversified sources of energy for India and help us unlock limitless possibilities with the US on various fronts, energy and beyond," he said. Mr Goyal is leading a delegation for meetings in New York with the US side to achieve an early conclusion of a bilateral trade agreement. Noting that September 22 is the commencement of Navratri, a very auspicious day of the Hindu calendar, he said it's said that on this day, "things are expected to turn for the better." The dignitaries attending the event included Member of Parliament Anurag Thakur, Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Pankaj Jain, USISPF CEO and President Mukesh Agni, ReNew co-founder Vaishali Nigam Sinha and ReNew Chairman and CEO Sumant Sinha.

Mr Goyal stressed that another area where India and the US can work together and plan to work together is nuclear power. "It's an area that we've been talking of for a long time. There were certain elements which needed to be set right. And I believe



we are working in India to support private efforts on nuclear power." "I think the best way forward for all of us is to ensure resilient critical mineral supplies, see how we can diversify our sources to ensure that trade is not weaponized. We have to work on creating infrastructure, particularly transmission grid infrastructure within countries and across borders," which can become the backbone of clean energy transition for different nations, he said.

"We all have to work very seriously to align our regulatory frameworks to see how this cross-border energy can be guaranteed

without any concerns of geopolitics overtaking the energy resilience or energy security," he said. Mr Goyal added that India continues to invest in nuclear power and looks to double "our nuclear power in the coming years through government intervention, but we do hope to take it on a much bigger scale. It does have challenges related to price and energy costs, which will need to be addressed. We'll have to make it more competitive," he said. He underlined that collectively today, India is in a "sweet spot" to expand its clean energy and over the next five years, "we hope to grow from 250 gigawatt to 500 gigawatt." Mr Goyal referred to the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which, he said, has far-reaching implications. "In fact, it could isolate the EU and hurt their economy because they would be like a small island and everybody else around them would be trading, whereas they would become price-competitive, they would actually cause inflation in their own economy.

Did UAE Suspend Tourist, Work Visas For Bangladesh Envoy Responds

WORLD.(Agency)

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has not imposed any visa restrictions on Bangladeshi nationals, a senior Bangladeshi official confirmed, dismissing social media reports as false, according to Khaleej Times. Tareq Ahmed, Bangladesh's Ambassador to the UAE, stated that no official directive has been issued by UAE authorities regarding any tourist or work visa ban. Several online platforms had reported that the UAE had suspended visa issuance for citizens of certain countries, including Bangladesh. However, these claims lacked confirmation from any UAE government source, as per the news portal. Speaking to the Bangladeshi daily newspaper Business Standard, Tareq Ahmed said that "so far, neither our embassy nor the consulate has received any information from the UAE government regarding such a

ban." Md Rashedujjaman, the Consul-General of Bangladesh in Dubai and Northern Emirates, estimated the Bangladeshi population in the UAE to



be around one million. Global Media Insight places this figure at approximately 0.84 million, making Bangladeshis the third-largest expatriate group in the country, after Indians and Pakistanis.

In a recent interview with Khaleej Times,

Rashedujjaman mentioned ongoing talks with the UAE government to ease visa processes for Bangladeshi nationals, expressing hope for deeper integration into the UAE's growth story. What Was The Unverified News About The UAE Visa Ban?

Add NDTV As A Trusted Source

The news that is floating on social media is that the UAE has temporarily suspended new visa applications from nine countries, including Bangladesh, Libya, Yemen, Somalia, Lebanon, Cameroon, Sudan, and Uganda. Starting from 2026, residents of these countries will be prohibited from applying for tourist visas and work permits, with no specified timeline for review or potential changes to this policy. However, there is no official confirmation of this report.

US Seeks Probe As Escalator, Teleprompter Malfunction During Trump UN Visit

Washington.(Agency)

President Donald Trump appeared to laugh it off Tuesday when an escalator and a teleprompter both malfunctioned during his United Nations visit -- but for US officials it was no laughing matter. The White House called for an investigation into whether the moving stairway was stopped on purpose to humiliate the US president, who bashed the global body in his speech to the UN General Assembly in New York. "If someone at the UN intentionally stopped the escalator as the President and First Lady were stepping on, they need to be fired and investigated immediately," Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said on X. A UN spokesman told AFP the mishap happened because someone in front of Trump accidentally set off a safety mechanism on the escalator, causing it to shut down. However, Leavitt pointed to a report in the Times of London newspaper on Sunday saying that UN staff members had joked that they would turn off the escalators and "tell him they ran out of money" amid

sweeping US funding cuts. Several other White House figures and conservative commentators also speculated about a plot against Trump.



Footage showed the 79-year-old president and First Lady Melania Trump getting on the escalator at UN headquarters, before it stopped with a lurch after a short distance. Trump's bad luck continued when his teleprompter was not working for the start of the speech. "Whoever is operating this teleprompter is in big trouble," said Trump. He then went on to -- apparently jokingly -- link the two

incidents to what he said were the UN's multiple failings, including a lack of support for his peace efforts in a series of conflicts. "I ended seven wars, dealt with the leaders of each and every one of these countries, and never even received a phone call from the United Nations," Trump said. "All I got from the United Nations was an escalator that, on the way up, stopped right in the middle. If the first lady wasn't in great shape, she would have fallen, but she's in great shape. We're both in good shape." He added: "These are the two things I got from the United Nations, a bad escalator and a bad teleprompter. Thank you very much." But the United Nations insisted there were simple explanations for it all. "The safety mechanism was inadvertently triggered by someone who was ahead of the president on the escalator," Stephane Dujarric, a spokesman for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, told AFP. The escalator was "reset" and was soon back in operation, he said.

It will maintain a central database of evidence, including screenshots and timestamps, the document said.

Diamonds, Drones, DJs, And Databases Officials said one wedding under review carried a price tag of nearly 248 million rupees (\$878,000). Documents seen by Reuters showed nearly \$283,000 spent on diamond and gold sets and \$124,000 on bridal outfits by leading South Asian designers. Guests entered through a hallway of floral arches as drones lit up the sky, before sitting down to multi-course meals prepared for 400 people. The celebrations featured top makeup artists, DJs and traditional qawwali music bands, while international consultants helped choreograph the six-day affair that officials said epitomised the kind of extravagant spending now in their crosshairs.

The wedding is just one of several cases under review, officials said. Investigators are also examining videos of luxury cars, high-end property tours and influencers flaunting expensive lifestyles. People themselves tag the event managers, the caterers, the jewellers, etc. It makes our work easy," another official said, adding the expenditure of the two families involved did not match their income declaration. Despite its recent formation, the new unit has already shortlisted multiple files for deeper scrutiny, officials said.

Italian Cinema Queen Claudia Cardinale Dies At 87

Paris. (Agency)

Sixties screen siren Claudia Cardinale, who died on Tuesday aged 87, entranced audiences across the globe with the sultry gaze that made her the muse of Luchino Visconti and Federico Fellini.

With her fierce beauty and husky voice, Cardinale not only captivated Italy's greatest filmmakers, she played opposite most of the leading men of the time, from Burt Lancaster to Alain Delon and Henry Fonda. She died at Nemours near Paris, in the presence of her children, her agent told AFP, adding that the date and place of her burial had not yet been fixed. "She leaves us the legacy of a free and inspired woman both as a woman and as an artiste," Laurent Savry said in a message. Italian Culture Minister Alessandro Giuli called her "one of the greatest Italian actresses of all time" and said Cardinale embodied "Italian grace". Cardinale's fairytale career began as a nightmare. She was raped in her teens by a film producer and became pregnant. With few options open at the time, she made the tough decision to bring up her son Patrick and try "to earn a living and her independence" from cinema, even though she never wanted to be in films. "I did it for him, for Patrick, the child I wanted to keep

despite the circumstances and the enormous scandal," she told French daily *Le Monde* in 2017. "I was very young, shy, prudish, almost wild. And without the slightest wish to expose myself on the film sets." - Reluctant actress - Born in La Goulette, near Tunis, on 15 April 1938, to Sicilian parents, Cardinale's life had already been turned upside down at the age of 16 when she was picked out of a crowd to win a beauty contest. Crowned "The most beautiful Italian woman in Tunis", the prize was a trip to the Venice film festival where she immediately turned heads and reluctantly, turned her back on her plans to become a teacher. "All the directors and producers wanted me to make films, and I said, 'No, I don't want to!'" she said. It was her father who eventually convinced her to "give this cinema thing a go". She started to land small film roles, she was raped. A mentor convinced her to secretly give birth in London and entrust the child to her family. Patrick would officially be her younger brother until she revealed the truth seven years later. "I was forced to accept this lie to avoid a scandal and protect my career," she said. "Fairytale" - From then there was no looking back, as she became swept up into the

golden age of Italian cinema, even though she knew "not a word" of the language, speaking only French, Arabic and her parents' Sicilian dialect. At 20 "I became the heroine of a fairytale, the symbol of a country whose language I barely spoke,"



she wrote in her 2005 autobiography "My Stars." "Her voice had to be dubbed in Italian until she starred in Fellini's Oscar-winning "8 1/2" in 1963, when the star director insisted she use her own voice. That year, aged 25, Cardinale filmed both Visconti's epic period drama "The Leopard" and Fellini's surreal hit "8 1/2" at the same

time. "Visconti wanted me blonde, Fellini wanted me Brunette," she said. Critics called her the "embodiment of postwar European glamour", and she was packaged as such, both on screen and off. "It's almost like she had sexiness thrust upon her," Britain's *The Guardian* wrote in 2013. Embraced by Hollywood, where she refused to settle, Cardinale had a huge hit with Blake Edwards' "The Pink Panther" with Peter Sellers, then Henry Hathaway's "Circus World" with Rita Hayworth and John Wayne. "The best compliment I ever got was from actor David Niven while filming 'The Pink Panther', Cardinale recalled. He said: "Claudia, along with spaghetti, you're Italy's greatest invention." Refusing to have cosmetic surgery, she went on to perform into her 80s, including in "La Strana Coppia", a female version of

Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple" at the Teatro Augusteo in Naples. - 'Only love' - Although desired by many, she said her "only love" was the blue-eye Neapolitan director Pasquale Squitieri, father to her daughter Claudia with whom she worked on a series of films over four decades until his death in 2017.

7 people injured as fire breaks out at chawl in Mumbai's Kandivali

Mumbai . (Agency)

Seven people sustained serious burn injuries after a fire broke out at a densely populated residential chawl in the Kandivali (East) area of Mumbai Wednesday.

According to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)'s Disaster Management Cell, the blaze broke out around 9.05 am in a shop located on the ground floor of the ground-plus-one-storied structure.

The seven people who were injured have been identified as Shivani Gandhi (51), Nitu Gupta (31), Janaki Gupta (39), Manaram Kumacat (55), Raksha Joshi (47), Durga Gupta (30), and Poonam (28). Out of these seven people, Raksha Joshi, Durga Gupta, and Poonam had sustained burn injuries between 85 and 90 per cent, and the rest of the victims sustained injuries between 70 and 80 per cent.

"The victims are residents living in nearby chawl areas. After the blaze broke out inside the shop, the fire spread, resulting in injuries to the victims around the perimeter. The fire brigade responded immediately, and the blaze was extinguished within 20 minutes," a fire brigade official told.

The official said that although the actual cause of the blaze has yet to be determined, preliminary evidence suggests that the fire originated from an electric wire or installation.

"The blaze remained confined within the electrical installations spaces and kitchen area, comprising items like edibles, LPG cylinders and gas cylinders. Before the flames could spread to a larger area, they were brought under control," the official added.

Following the fire, civic authorities transported the seven victims to the ESCI and BDBA Hospitals in Mumbai, after which they were shifted to Kasturba Hospital for further treatment and they are under observation.

Surat: Row erupts after hospital staff among others 'offer prayers' to Asaram's photo

Ahmedabad . (Agency)

The management of Surat New Civil Hospital (NCH) on Tuesday clarified that no permission was granted for the puja, after a controversy erupted over a group allegedly offering prayers to Asaram Bapu's photo in one of the buildings on the hospital campus, on Sunday.

The aarti was allegedly performed at the main gate of the Stem Cell Hospital — earlier the COVID building — when some individuals visited the building to distribute fruits to patients. After distributing the fruits, they proceeded to the building's main entry gate for the aarti.

Later, they were reportedly joined by a few nurses, security guards and a professor and head of the pediatric ward — Dr Jigisha Patadiya. The NCH medical superintendent, Dharitri Parmar, and the resident medical officer (RMO), Dr Ketan Naik, were out of the campus and were informed by security supervisor R.K. Singh.

The medical superintendent told The Indian Express on Tuesday, "I am out of the town and I came to know about the incident from the security supervisor. I ordered him to remove all the people who were present at the spot. The initial inquiry revealed the followers had not obtained any official permission... We have suspended three security guards on duty."

The RMO condemned the incident and said it shouldn't have happened. He said, "One of our staff members had called me and sought permission for distributing fruits to patients by Asaram's followers, to which we agreed. However, no permission was taken for putting up the photo and pooja on the hospital premises."

Sources said that someone also took a video of the puja, which was shared widely on social media platforms. No inquiry has been initiated, and no police complaint has been filed as of now.

String of animal deaths at Delhi zoo exposes poor medical infrastructure

New Delhi: On the morning of September 17, the elephant was reportedly eating less leaves and grasses offered with slight loose motion, but taking the concentrate, fruits and vegetables normally. The National Zoological Park (NJP) in Delhi has witnessed a string of animal deaths over the past month, sparking concerns over the zoo's medical infrastructure and acute shortage of trained staff. On September 17, two zebra finches were found dead, with samples sent for testing to determine the cause. A day later, Shankar, the zoo's three-decade-old African elephant, died suddenly, drawing renewed attention to the lack of timely veterinary care. Earlier this month, five of six tiger cubs born to tigress Aditi did not survive, with officials admitting that delayed diagnosis and limited critical-care facilities reduced their chances. In late August, cases of avian influenza had claimed the lives of painted storks, forcing emergency quarantine measures. Commenting on the deaths of the tiger cubs, zoo director Sanjeev Kumar had told The Tribune that these losses are part of a natural process, particularly for newborns in large litters. "In such cases, only 40-50% of cubs survive," he explained. While two cubs died shortly after birth, three later succumbed to an unidentified infection. One cub remains alive, but officials have not disclosed its current condition or the findings of diagnostic tests. Official sources at the zoo said that the decades-old animal hospital lacks modern equipment and sufficient staff. Currently, just one veterinary officer, an

assistant, and a compounder oversee hundreds of animals, assisted by daily-wage workers who cannot be trained extensively due to high turnover. A full team — including pathologists, lab technicians, and hand-rearing specialists — remains a distant goal. Funding for a new, modern hospital has been proposed at around Rs 500-600 crore, but bureaucratic processes have delayed implementation, a source had told the Tribune. Beyond medical care, the zoo employs roughly 300-350 people covering security, sanitation, gardening, animal care, and administration. Yet permanent staffing is limited, and supervisory roles are often thinly stretched. "Some key posts are necessary for accountability, but it's very tough to restructure and hire permanent staff," Kumar had said. Dr Piyaz Khudsar, a

wildlife biologist, noted that the immune system has been weakened, the power to fight disease is automatically reduced," he explained. The Capital's zoo lacks in-house facilities of testing and postmortem. Samples of migratory painted stork that died of H5N1 virus were sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal

disease. "Because the immune system has been weakened, the power to fight disease is automatically reduced," he explained. The Capital's zoo lacks in-house facilities of testing and postmortem. Samples of migratory painted stork that died of H5N1 virus were sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal

Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal. Recently, after African Elephant Shankar's death, the body was sent to Indian Veterinary Research Institute is located

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as NARENDER KUMAR S/O LAL MAN SHARMARO B-171, KHATU SHAYAM MANDIR, SHYAM VIHAR, NAJAFGARH, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110075 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SATISH KUMAR GOYAL.

NAME CHANGE

I JAY INGLE S/O BHARAT R/O NEAR GRAMPANCHAYAT OFFICE, PIMPRI GAWALI, BULDHANA, MAHARASHTRA - 443102. I have changed My name to JAY BHARAT INGLE Permanently for all the purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I JAY INGLE S/O BHARAT R/O NEAR GRAMPANCHAYAT OFFICE, PIMPRI GAWALI, BULDHANA, MAHARASHTRA - 443102. I have changed My name to JAY BHARAT INGLE Permanently for all the purpose.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I PINKI devi W/O Dev Singh, R/O H-2/33, Ranholi, Kunwar Singh Nagar, Nangli, West Delhi, 110041, declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as PRAKASH and SHALU in my minor daughter TANIA Aged 15 years in her Birth Certificate. The actual name of mine and my wife is PRAKASH KUMAR PURVEY and SHALU, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I PINKI devi W/O Dev Singh, R/O H-2/33, Ranholi, Kunwar Singh Nagar, Nangli, West Delhi, 110041, declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as PRAKASH and SHALU in my minor daughter TANIA Aged 15 years in her Birth Certificate. The actual name of mine and my wife is PRAKASH KUMAR PURVEY and SHALU, which may be amended accordingly.

ed in Bareilly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that Mr. Kartik Bajaj is the owner of One Room, P.V. No. 4, located on the Lower Ground Floor, having a super area of 440 sq. ft. (i.e. 40.8773 sq. meters), without roof rights, built on the property bearing Municipal No. 4735/XL, Kohli No. 22, now known as Prakash Deep, situated at Delhi Medical Association Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi. The initial owner of the said property was M/s. P. Tex Builders (P) Ltd., by virtue of a Sale Deed dated 01.06.1994. Subsequently, M/s. P. Tex Builders (P) Ltd. sold the said property to Mrs. Manita Bajaj through a Sale Deed dated 25.10.2007. Unfortunately, Mrs. Manita Bajaj passed away on 10.05.2021, leaving behind her legal heirs, namely Mr. Kartik Bajaj (Son) and Mr. Vijay Kumar Bajaj (Husband). Thereafter, Mr. Vijay Kumar Bajaj relinquished his 1/2 undivided share in the said floor in favour of Mr. Kartik Bajaj through a Relinquishment Deed dated 22.06.2023. As a result, Mr. Kartik Bajaj is now the absolute owner of the Said Floor, which is free from all kinds of litigation, encumbrances, liens, charges, or claims. Kindly note that the said property is currently being mortgaged with RBL Bank Ltd., Branch: Okhla, New Delhi. If any person(s) objection &/or claim is filed against the property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the publication of this notice. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

[ASHWANI KUMAR] Advocate

Chamber No. 122

Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

Over 200 drones to showcase story of Goddess Durga and Mahishasura at 'Udgam Na Garba' in Gujarat

'A recent survey conducted amongst Udgamverse Schools shows a large number of parents are unable to explain the story... What remains is celebration without context,' said executive director of Udgamverse Manan Choksi

Ahmedabad . (Agency)

Through showcasing culture and heritage with the help of technology, the Udgamverse chain of Udgam School for Children is transforming Garba into a cultural learning experience.

For the first time in Gujarat, a ten-minute drone show will narrate the epic battle of Goddess Durga and Mahishasura, symbolising the triumph of good over evil. From September 22 to October 2, each night of Navratri will be brought alive through visuals and narration, with more than 200 drones lighting up the sky with voice-over effects.

"In today's fast-changing world, schools prepare children in multiple literacies—digital, financial, ecological, and emotional. Yet one

crucial dimension is often overlooked: cultural literacy. While children may know festivals by name, few understand the deeper stories and values behind them."

Take Navratri for example. Gujarat hosts the world's longest dance festival, but a recent survey conducted amongst Udgamverse Schools shows a large number of parents are unable to explain the story of Goddess Durga's nine-day battle with Mahishasura to their children.

What remains is celebration without context," executive director of Udgamverse Manan Choksi told.

Choksi said, "A recent drone show based on the Sundarkand Katha simply explained in Hindi really fascinated me and hooked everyone

to the show; they set aside even food. From there, we thought of doing this for our children."

The venue, a private party plot on the SP Ring Road near Applewoods, will also showcase representations of the 51 Shakti Peethas of India, mapped and explained with their significance. With the aim to bridge this gap by making cultural literacy central to its educational vision beginning with this year's Udgam Na Garba — Mythological Wonderland.

"Cultural literacy is as essential as digital or financial literacy. Children who understand their heritage grow with confidence, empathy, and pride and are better prepared to represent themselves globally," Choksi said.



Vadodara: Garba organisers initiate refund after patrons dissatisfied over wet ground

Hemant Patel, one of the trustees of UWB said, "We had made the announcement on Monday night after they refused to grant us a day to repair the ground"

Vadodara . (Agency)

The organisers on Tuesday announced a refund for patrons who were dissatisfied with the wet garba ground at the United Way of Baroda (UWB) on the first night of Navratri on Monday. Agitated over the inconvenience, at least 700 patrons surrendered their passes at the UWB office on Tuesday, organisers said. The UWB announced a window between 10am and 3pm for processing the refunds.

On Monday evening, a group of garba players raised slogans and interrupted the celebrations in protest, seeking a refund over the wet ground. Renowned garba singer Atul Purohit, who draws several fans to the UWB — which is one of Gujarat's biggest congregation of garba players for the nine nights, with close to 28,000 patrons — also stepped in to mediate



for peace. Purohit urged the patrons to continue playing and grant time to the organisers to rectify the problem. However, the protesters were unconvinced and demanded that the trustees of UWB publicly explain the issue. Hemant Patel, one of the trustees of UWB said, "We had made the announcement on Monday

night after they refused to grant us a day to repair the ground... The ground was wet as Vadodara received rain of about two inches ahead of the garba and the preparations that were made for the garba were washed away. Our team has been working since 3am on Tuesday and since there has been no rain, the ground is ready for the second night of Garba."

The trustee said the passes were accepted for a refund without any questions. "When the patrons demanded that the trustee must accept mistakes for mismanagement, I stepped on to the stage and clarified that there has been no mismanagement... those who did not want to give it another chance, will be refunded the full amount... We have not decided yet what we will do with the surrendered passes," Hemant said.

'Landmark moment': Mumbai Metro commuters can now book end-to-end journeys through OneTicket app

Piloted on Metro-3 in June 2025, the enhanced version of the OneTicket app generates tickets with QR codes that can be scanned at Metro gates, eliminating the need for multiple transactions.

Mumbai . (Agency)

Commuters of Mumbai Metro will now be able to book a single ticket across multiple

as OneTicketIndia, is designed for simplicity. Commuters can sign up with a mobile number and

cards, and receive a QR ticket instantly. The app also provides station and route information, making it useful for daily commuters as well as first-time riders.

"This is a landmark moment not just for technology, but for citizens," said Ravish Sahay, CEO of SequelString AI, highlighting the convergence of AI, mobility, and digital commerce in urban transit. Nitin Nair, Senior Executive Director at ONDC, said the integration allows commuters to plan end-to-end journeys in one application. "For example, a trip from Dahisar to BKC can now be booked in a single transaction, offering a hassle-free experience," he said. Authorities expect the OneTicket app to significantly simplify commuting for Mumbaikars as the Metro network expands, setting a benchmark for unified digital ticketing in urban transport.



OTP, select source and destination stations—automatically detecting the nearest station—choose the number of tickets, complete payment via UPI, debit, or credit

cards, and receive a QR ticket instantly. The app also provides station and route information, making it useful for daily commuters as well as first-time riders.

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Ahmedabad: Two get 5-yr RI each in fire insurance fraud



Ahmedabad . (Agency)

The special judge for CBI court in Ahmedabad sentenced two persons to five years of rigorous imprisonment each in a case of fraudulent fire insurance claim and also imposed a total fine of Rs 60 lakh, Tuesday. The CBI, in a statement, said the court sentenced Rashik J Patel Dalsani — Partner of M/s. Mira Chemicals in Bharuch — to an RI of five years and imposed a fine of Rs 45 lakh. The court also sentenced Sanjay Ramesh Chitre — Proprietor of M/s S R Chitre & Co (Surveyor) — to undergo an RI of five years, with a fine of Rs 15 lakh. The case was registered by the CBI, A.C.B. Gandhinagar on June 29, 2006, on the basis of source information. It alleged that public servants of United India Insurance Company Limited (UIICL) were involved in a criminal conspiracy. It also alleged the employees extended pecuniary advantage of Rs 36,86,451 in a Fire Insurance Claim settlement.

According to the CBI's probe, the chemical company — a partnership firm led by Rashik — suffered a fire at their factory in GIDC Panoli on January 20, 2002. The fire resulted in significant damage to the building, equipment, stocks, and chemicals. The firm then reported the incident to the UIICL and M/s S R Chitre & Co was appointed as the surveyor — who assessed the damage at Rs 36,92,137. The claim was approved and the payment was made after scrutiny from UIICL officials, including the branch and divisional offices. However, the investigation later revealed that fake bills and vouchers were submitted to exaggerate the damage and reinstallations.

The CBI then filed its first chargesheet on December 31, 2008, and a supplementary one on October 28, 2010. During the trial, 34 prosecution witnesses and 234 documents/exhibits were examined in support of the charges against the accused. The court found merit in the charges against Rashik and Sanjay.

The trouble with temporal minders of godly wealth

The first World Ayyappa Convention, backed by the CPI(M)-led Kerala government and presided over by the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB), took place in Pamba near Sabarimala on Saturday. Many allies of the CPI(M)—who face an assembly election next year—were part of the event. Every politician loves a rich god.

In late 2022, the TDB was caught in a scandal. Gold ornaments offered to Lord Ayyappa by devotees over decades were sent for remodelling to a goldsmith in Thiruvananthapuram. When they were returned, their weight had lessened considerably. The TDB claims the difference is only about 4 kg—standard wastage from refining. However, critics, including a temple advisory committee member, allege that up to 90 kg of material is missing, suggesting the gold was either stolen or swapped with inferior metal.

The Crime Branch, which comes directly under Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, is investigating the case. Naturally, it is not in a hurry to conclude its findings. The case is once again at the centre of state politics, with the opposition interpreting the convention as a cynical exercise to win over believers and convert bhakti into the only thing of political value—votes. God is big business. Sabarimala attracts over 20 million devotees in a typical pilgrimage season. The TDB's annual income from the shrine is estimated to be well over ₹500 crore. This is admittedly less than the income of the Sree Krishna Temple in Guruvayur, which has an annual footfall of 8-10 million but generates an estimated ₹600-800 crore, thanks to its year-round operations and gold reserves of approximately 2,500 kg.

To put the temple business in perspective, both these rich temples in Kerala are inferior in income and influence to the titan of temples in India, Tirumala Tirupati. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams oversees 25-30 million annual pilgrims, stores over 9 tonnes of gold, and collects over ₹1,500 crore in yearly donations.

Another prominent Kerala temple in the news is Sree Padmanabhaswamy in Thiruvananthapuram. In 2011, the opening of the temple's 'Vault B' unveiled a treasure of gold, diamonds, and artefacts valued at about ₹1.2 lakh crore, making it one of the richest places of worship in the world. These are India's gods of gold. Can politics be far behind? As of now, a Supreme Court-nominated committee manages the Padmanabhaswamy Temple's affairs, including its finances and security. This is seen as a working compromise reducing the direct control of both the royal family and the state government, the main contestants for managing the funds. A fraction of temple funds is used for philanthropy. The Tirumala authorities run hospitals and universities. In contrast, the Kerala temple boards' charitable output is perceived to be minimal. For example, nothing ought to prevent them from running good hospitals for the poor, yet there are few such institutions. The vast majority of temple wealth disappears into a labyrinthine ecosystem of administrative overheads, opaque fixed deposits, non-transparent tenders for everything from ladies to laddus, and real estate deals. The boards governing these temples are often vicarious centres of political patronage, where appointments are rewards, not responsibilities. The annual audit reports, when they see the light of day, are often chronicles of compromise. The Sabarimala case is exceptional because of its direct nexus with politics. The TDB, which manages over 1,200 temples, is currently headed by a leader of the CPI(M), a party in power for nearly eight consecutive years. One might ask: what has Marxism to do with Manikantan (another name for Ayyappa)? The 90 kg vs 4 kg debate is not a simple accounting error. It is facetious to claim a considerable quantity of gold simply evaporated.

Whenever Pakistan finds itself on a surer footing with its key international partners, it tends to be more adventurous towards India.

SAUDI Arabia and Pakistan signed the Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement during the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who was accompanied by Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, to Riyadh. According to the joint statement, "any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both." The full text of the agreement has not yet been disclosed. A Saudi official has been quoted as saying by Reuters that the accord is a culmination of years of discussions and it "encompasses all military means"—a pointer towards Pakistan's nuclear arsenal. On being asked a day later whether Pakistan's nuclear assets were part of the agreement, Defence Minister Khwaja Asif said, "What we have, our capabilities, will absolutely be available under this pact." He did not rule out the inclusion of other Arab nations in the accord.

After India's nuclear tests in 1974, Pakistani leaders, notably then PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, came up with the idea of an 'Islamic bomb' in response to a 'Hindu bomb', a 'Jewish bomb' and a 'Christian bomb'. Pervez Musharraf disowned this label after N-proliferation skeletons came tumbling out of nuclear physicist AQ Khan's cupboard. However, the latest developments have a whiff of the Islamic bomb. It is perhaps with an eye on the international implications of this impression that in a subsequent media interview, Asif made the cryptic remark that nuclear weapons "were not on the radar."

Pakistan has had long-standing defence ties with Saudi Arabia in the form of deployment of troops in the kingdom, training of Saudi armed forces, joint exercises and the pledge to protect the holy mosques at Mecca and Medina. In 1979, Pakistan deployed its Special Services Group to help the Saudis in ending the siege of the Grand Mosque in Mecca by militants opposed to the monarchy. The Saudi-led Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition is commanded by a former Pak Army Chief, Gen Raheel Sharif, since 2017.

In this backdrop, the recent defence accord is continuation of a long trend, except for the concept of joint deterrence against any aggression and the subsequent hints of Pakistan's nuclear umbrella for Saudi Arabia. It may have been under discussion for a long time, but came in the wake of the Israeli attack on the Hamas leadership in

Qatar. Israel has decimated Hezbollah and Hamas over the past two years. Its spectacular air attacks in June this year decapitated the Iranian military command and nuclear establishment, causing a serious setback to Iran's nuclear programme. Its attack on Qatar, which has strong defence ties with the US and houses the forward headquarters of the US Central Command, was a strong signal of its emergence as the pre-eminent military power in the region. The downplaying of the incident by the US raised serious doubts about the American protection that

another country. Moreover, even a hint of the nuclear dimension coming into play would alarm other major powers, including Pakistan's iron brother China. There has been no reaction to the accord from the US so far. Was Washington kept in the loop or does it regard the agreement as no more than reinforcement of the traditional defence ties? We do not know the answer for the moment. India has said that it is aware of the development to formalise a long-standing arrangement between the two countries and would study its implications. India has also spoken of its wide-ranging strategic partnership with Saudi Arabia and expressed the expectation that the latter would keep in mind mutual interests and sensitivities. The apprehension of the Saudis getting physically involved in a future India-Pak armed conflict is misplaced. India's ties with Saudi Arabia, including in the defence domain, have strengthened over the past two decades. The Saudis, like other oil-rich countries in the region, are trying to diversify their economy and see good opportunities in India. Moreover, if they had the capability of coming to Pakistan's aid on the ground, they would not need its help for their own defence. However, Saudi Arabia has played a key role over the years in shoring up the Pakistani economy by supplying oil on credit and extending loans and deposits. An increase in this flow of Saudi investment in Pakistan's

military-industrial complex would be a matter of concern to us. The defence agreement is yet another signal of Pakistan emerging slowly from the geopolitical tight spot in which it had found itself for over two decades because of its complex internal problems and terrorists with linkages to Pakistan surfacing all over the world. It has solid backing of China and is entering another phase of a transactional relationship with the US. Experience tells us that whenever Pakistan finds itself on a surer footing with its key international partners, it tends to be more adventurous towards us.

Finally, India will have to keep a close eye on the evolving situation and security ties in West Asia. It has developed multi-faceted relations, including defence cooperation, with all countries in the region. An obvious course is to strengthen these ties further to safeguard India's interests.



the Arab monarchies have counted upon. This seems to have spurred Saudi Arabia to conclude the agreement with Pakistan. We may see further churn in the security architecture of the region. With the signing of the defence accord, the traditional defence linkages between the two sides should continue. Such linkages can be ensured by Pakistan's conventional military capability, but if the Saudis see the accord as a hedge against a possible threat from Israel, it would make little sense without bringing Pakistan's nuclear capability into the equation. After all, an Israeli threat will not take the form of a ground offensive and Pakistan is no match for Israel's air warfare capability. Hence the hints at Pakistan's nuclear arsenal. The efficacy of the Pakistani nuclear umbrella is, of course, quite another matter. While the Pakistani establishment is proactive in flaunting its N-arsenal, it will never put itself in jeopardy by pulling the nuclear trigger in favour of

Odisha must expand its tiger paw-print

A healthy tiger population is not just good news for the forest ecosystem; it also drives tourism

The photograph of a melanistic tiger cub from Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve triggered a wave of jubilation last week. From top political leaders to forest officers, there was a flood of congratulatory messages. The reason was that the young tiger with a striking dark pelt adorned the cover of an international wildlife magazine—feature rare for this part of the country. However, pseudomelanistic tigers are not rare, thanks to the mutation of a particular gene. Over 30 years back, L A K Singh, a state research officer, had officially documented what is colloquially called a black tiger. Half a decade ago, a team headed by scientists from Bengaluru's National Centre for Biological Sciences decoded the gene responsible for the anomalous phenotype.

So was the celebration over-the-top? Not exactly, because it shines the spotlight on the state's big fauna on a big stage. However, the big picture must not be missed. The mutation could be caused by the isolated nature of the tiger population in Similipal, one of India's earliest reserves



notified way back in 1973. It points to excessive inbreeding and lack of genetic diversity. Much of it was elucidated in the research that called for 'genetic rescue'—the reason the National Tiger Conservation Authority suggested bringing over tigers from other parts

to Similipal. Last year, the government enumerated 30 tigers in the state—27 were from Similipal, of which 13 were pseudomelanistic. A healthy tiger population is not just good news for the forest ecosystem; it also drives tourism. In central, western and northern states, tigers have brought in waves of ecotourism activities. Odisha for long missed the bus because of its unimpressive count and reluctance to experiment. After being nudged by the authority, the state translocated two females from the Tadoba-Andhari reserve. More such actions must be taken up. At present, Odisha has two notified reserves with Satkosha devoid of tigers, having suffered a failed reintroduction in 2018. No new reserve has been added in the last 18 years. The Sunabeda sanctuary was given in-principle consent by the Centre in 2008, but its fate hangs in balance. Another proposal to develop Debrigarh sanctuary in western Odisha should be fast-tracked. Instead of basking in melanistic glory, the government must go for experiments. Tiger supplementation involves risk, but it's one worth taking.

Business can go to talent when talent won't come to it

After stiff tariffs on goods, Trump's H-1B bomb is a levy on Indian service exports. If American firms can't bring over the people they need, they should go where the expertise is

The week gone by ended with a bang. President Donald Trump decided to impose a stiff \$1,00,000 fee for H-1B visa applicants. This move, in the wake of the 50 percent tariff that was imposed on Indian exports to the US just recently, seemed to be a double whammy of sorts. The good part: the White House seemed determined to ensure that American jobs were secure. The bad part: the American dream of many a young Indian wanting to make a career in the US seemed a bit shaken, if not stirred and decimated altogether.

There was chaos for an entire day. Amid the confusion of understanding the fine print of the presidential order, companies sent out advisories to their employees to return to the US immediately by September 21 to avoid the risk of not being allowed to re-enter. Social media videos of those just about leaving US airports wanting to de-board out of sheer fright made the news. There was panic and uncertainty in the air. The US had dropped the H-bomb—the H-1B visa bomb. The American dream could not be taken for granted. The times were uncertain. The US administration clarified quite quickly in a day that existing visa holders need not worry. That was calming for those with a visa on hand. Only those who sought new visas and those that came up for the next round of lottery were the ones who would have a big fee to pay. Companies bringing in overseas resources to work in the US were being told to bring in only high-value-added human resources. Folks you were willing to pay a stiff fee to bring in. President Trump does not want you to replace lower-end American jobs with the Indian or Chinese import. He even went about

quoting the case of a company that sacked more than 20,000 American workers to bring in just about that number of overseas employees at a lower cost. Trump seemed fine with "brain-shopping" at the top end, but seemed staunchly against "body shopping", something that has been the very foundation of the Indian IT end-to-end services industry. He wants to put an end to this, and hence the plan. This action on the H-1B visa seems to be part of this plan. The key idea is the noble intent of protecting American jobs. From the Indian side of the fence, all that was well, but this is a business challenge. One that will make Indian IT exports uncompetitive. This is not to be for the Indian company alone, but for some of the biggest American companies as well that bring in Indians to work for them on American soil. The data throws up names of some of the biggest American companies on the list—Amazon, Microsoft, Meta, Apple and Google included. The double-whammy perception of it is, however, the fact that Indian imports were being taxed, both of the goods and the human kind now. India was certainly at the receiving end of this order, as 71 percent of the approved visas (of the total 85,000 H-1B approvals) went to Indians, with China coming a distant second with 11.7 percent. The pressure was clearly on India and Indians. The world is getting less flat all of a sudden. Nations are getting protective and the MAGA agenda in the US is not a force to be ignored. India and the Indian are under pressure. The US is no longer the land of milk and honey for us to drink from. What then is the India response? What must it be? As I ask this question,

there is a fair bit of chaos and lack of clear thinking in the industry. The government response is yet to come, as the diplomacy back-channels must be working overtime. The people's response is loud



and chaotic though, as it usually is. Our television channels are full of 'quick-gum Murugan' responses. Everyone is aghast and irritated. Everyone is against the US actions. And then there is a fair bit of crisis-romanticism at play here. People who just don't know the business reality at play are suggesting political motives with solutions that talk of things that seem just out of a Mills & Boon business romance series, if there ever was one. An entire reverse brain-drain on the US with our Indian doctors and scientists and engineers returning home to work for India, in India is one of them. As the Indian response is shaping up, what can we do? I do believe when a nation is pushed, it pushes back. This pushback has begun. When

pushed against the wall, you need to survive and fight back. Indian IT houses need to think this out carefully. The writing has always been on the wall and internal think tanks within companies have always ideated on this possibility. Our scenario-planning exercises have always visualised this eventuality. This is nothing new. Our IT-led and -enabled enterprises have, over the years, hedged their bets across geographies. What started as a US-need-centric business is today hedged across geographies. India works across the world. Yes, the US is still the biggest market, but it certainly is not the only market. In that manner of speaking, an Amazon will face the bite of this action more than a TCS. The business response will, therefore, come from the biggest of American firms that use and depend on Indian resources.

When the resource cannot come to the company at economic cost, must the company go to the resource then? Therein lies a salivating thought for India. I do believe action on this will come from American companies and not by hands-tied Indian ones. In the beginning, they will test the legality of this presidential action, and if it holds, I do believe business will go where it makes sense to go. The large number of global capability centres (GCCs)—1,900 at the last count—that have made Indian soil their home are examples of how businesses go where it makes sense to go. These GCCs have been set up in India not only because India is hungry for them (that as well). They are here because they are hungry for India and what it offers them.

'No jurisdiction': Punjab opposes BBMB's water release to Haryana in high court

The Punjab and Haryana High Court bench asked Punjab to place the 1974 Bhakra Beas Management (Board) Rules on record to examine the board's jurisdiction.

Chandigarh . (Agency)

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday witnessed a sharp exchange over the Bhakra Beas Management Board's (BBMB) move to release additional water to Haryana earlier this year, with Punjab Advocate General M S Bedi contending that the board had no authority to pass such a decision.

A division bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry was hearing Punjab's challenge to the April 23, 2025, minutes of a BBMB meeting, where the board recorded a decision to allow Haryana up to 8,500 cusecs of water, citing an acute drinking water crisis and canal repair work.

Bedi argued that the BBMB's decision could set a dangerous precedent, stressing that the distribution of Ravi-Beas waters was governed by Sections 78 and 79 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, and not by board resolutions. "The BBMB has no jurisdiction to release water to any state beyond its share. This is strictly within the statutory

framework, and altering it is impermissible," he said, pointing out that Punjab had already objected during the meeting.

Appearing for the BBMB, senior advocate Rajesh Garg, assisted by advocate Neha Matharoo, countered that the board had acted

Punjab and Haryana," Garg told the court. The bench examined the minutes of meetings held on April 23 and 24, noting that while Haryana had pressed for extra supply, Punjab had insisted it should not exceed the 4,000 cusecs agreed earlier. The BBMB chairman, however, observed that lowering reservoir levels was technically necessary and said both states could discuss the matter bilaterally.

The judges repeatedly asked Punjab whether Rule 7 of the Bhakra Beas Management (Board) Rules, 1974, provided an alternative remedy through an appeal to the central government against BBMB decisions. "If you are aggrieved by a BBMB resolution, why not represent to the Centre under rules?" Chief Justice Nagu

the statutory remarked. The court directed Punjab to file the full text of the 1974 Rules and the Act under which they were framed to clarify the scope of BBMB's powers.



within its mandate. "BBMB does not alter state shares. It regulates month-wise outflows from Bhakra and Pong based on inflows, reservoir safety and seasonal conditions. The April note was tentative, subject to bilateral agreement between

Massive fire engulfs Ludhiana house; elderly woman, grandson dead



Ludhiana . (Agency)

An elderly woman and her grandson died after a massive fire broke out at their residence in Punjab's Ludhiana on Wednesday morning. The police identified the deceased as Sudha Rani, who was in her late seventies, and her grandson as Gary Chopra, 17. Police Inspector Bikramjit Singh, the station house officer of the Division Number 5 police station, said that the multi-storey house in the Bharat Nagar area of Ludhiana was owned by the Chopra family, who also ran a hosiery thread cottage unit at the premises.

"While the thread was stored on the ground floor, the family stayed on the upper floors. Massive flames engulfed the entire building," Singh said. Rani, who was wheelchair-bound, was rescued and taken to Civil Hospital, where she died, he said. "Gary Chopra died undergoing treatment at Dayanand Medical College and Hospital," he added.

The police suspect that a short circuit led to the fire. The fire brigade was at the spot at the time of filing of this report, and flames were being doused. "The priority is to douse the raging fire," Singh said. "We will check later if the cottage industry inside the house has the required permits," he added.

AEE targeting us for builder complaint: Whitefield residents

Bengaluru (Agency)

Whitefield residents have alleged that they are being harassed by the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) of Whitefield Subdivision, Gururaj, after they complained against an AP-based builder for constructing illegal floors for commercial purposes in residential areas.

A resident, Usha Raghavan, said, "Four residents have been harassed by officials instead of checking and stopping illegal buildings belonging to Pulgadda Srinivasa Rao and Murali Govindarajulu. The owners came to build residential homes and got the plan sanctioned. But there are deviations and they have also added unauthorised floors at Nallur Halli village of Hagadur ward in Mahadevapura.

The matter was brought to the notice of officials six months ago. But, the engineer and team have issued notice to the complainants." She said, "The AEE came with a team and gave notices under Sections 313 and 248 (1) and (2) (for building violation). I have been staying here for the last 25 years. Still, I got notice based on false complaints. The AEE did not show the same intent in acting against the violators in a genuine case."

The issue escalated to KN Ramesh when he was the Zonal Commissioner, Mahadevapura, before BBMP was split. "The official termed the notice against me harassment and asked officials to close the file before he was shifted as commissioner to Bengaluru South City Corporation," said Usha. AEE Gururaj was not available for comment.

Another resident from ECC Road, which has 15 houses in Whitefield in Hoodi, complained about a six-floor building that has come up with violations. The officials, instead of taking action, sent notices against the four residents who complained about commercial buildings. They said they are being harassed by AEE and also planning department officials of Bengaluru East City Corporation.

Lucknow man killed over interfaith relationship by woman's brother after he was called to 'discuss marriage'

There was tension in the locality as the woman was from a different community and her family was opposed to their relationship. Police said three people, including the woman's brother, have been arrested.

Lucknow . (Agency)

Tension gripped Lucknow's Saadatganj after a 26-year-old man was allegedly assaulted and killed by the family of a woman he was in a relationship with on Monday night.

Police said the woman was from a different community and her family was opposed to their relationship. Police said the woman had purportedly called the victim, Ali Abbas, to her home where he was allegedly assaulted by her brother and his friends.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Lucknow) Srivastava said three persons have been arrested in connection with the murder, which he attributed to a "love affair". A police officer said those arrested are the woman's brother, Himalaya Prajapati (27), and his two neighbours and friends, Saurabh (24) and Sonu Kumar (30). The accused were

produced in court, which sent them to judicial custody, said Station House Officer, Saadatganj police station, Santosh Kumar Arya. A heavy police force has been deployed in the locality and officials said the situation remains under control.

Ali worked as a delivery man. Police said they received information late Monday night that a youth had been attacked with sticks in the Lakarmandi Hata area of Saadatganj. A team rushed to the spot and found the man unconscious, lying in a pool of blood, with injuries to his head and body. He was taken to hospital, where he succumbed within minutes.

His death triggered tension in the area as the attackers belonged to a different community. An additional police team was rushed to the area, and the situation was soon brought under control. During the preliminary inquiry, police found that Ali had been in a relationship with the woman, who lived near his home, for the past four years.

While Ali's family had raised no objection to the relationship, the woman's family strongly opposed it. They had repeatedly warned Ali

and pressured the woman to end all contact with him. Despite the opposition, the two continued to remain in touch.

According to the DCP, the deceased's father alleged that the accused's family had called his son to their home on Monday night, through the woman, on the pretext of discussing marriage. Police said Ali informed his family about the conversation before leaving home. About 10 minutes later, Ali's father received a call from the woman, who told him that her brother and his friends were assaulting Ali with sticks and stones. The family rushed to the spot but by then, the accused had fled. Ali's father, Arif Jameer, claimed that Ali had initially been reluctant to go, but was persuaded after receiving repeated calls. "They called him dhokha se (by deceit) and killed him," he alleged.

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Consumer court raps matrimonial firm for failing to send 'sufficient profiles' to man

Chandigarh . (Agency)

The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission of Chandigarh has directed a matrimonial firm to refund Rs 11,000 for failing to send "sufficient" numbers of suitable 'tall, beautiful, working girl' profiles to the complainant.

The Commission also ordered for a nine per cent interest with effect from the date of institution of the consumer complaint till the date of actual realization.

The complainant said, on July 8, 2023, he had given a matrimonial advertisement. The next day he received a phone call from the Var-Vadhu Matrimonial Service — claiming to be a very popular matrimonial agency. It further claimed that it would send thousands of profiles suiting the complainant's requirement.

On the firm's direction, the complainant shared his bio-data to the firm on WhatsApp. Following which, the firm shared two profiles with the complainant on July 10, 2023, and July 18, 2023, and told him that he would have to pay Rs 11,000 to gain access to more profiles.

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The Commission observed that, "No doubt, the opposite party (matrimonial firm) was not bound to make a matrimonial match for the complainant but having received consideration from the complainant, it certainly was required to send a sufficient number of suitable profiles to him which it failed to do.

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Navy Chief meets Sri Lankan PM, discusses maritime security, cooperation

► **Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, who is on a four-day visit to Colombo, met Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dr Harini Amarasuriya. Their discussions focused on deepening maritime cooperation and defence ties.**

Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi met Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya in Colombo on Tuesday during his four-day official visit to Sri Lanka, with discussions focused on deepening maritime cooperation and defence ties. The talks reaffirmed the longstanding naval partnership between India and Sri Lanka, with both sides committing to enhanced operational engagements, capacity-building efforts, and participation in multilateral maritime forums such as the International Fleet Review, MILAN, and the Admiral's Cup Regatta. Prime Minister Amarasuriya underscored the importance of collective regional efforts to secure maritime commons. She highlighted the need for closer cooperation on issues like anti-narcotics operations, illegal fishing, marine pollution, and maritime terrorism. The Prime Minister also called for stronger coordination on search and rescue missions and expanded naval training exchanges.

Admiral Tripathi's visit comes amid India's



increasing strategic focus on the Indian Ocean Region, particularly in response to China's growing presence in Sri Lanka and other neighbouring countries.

During his visit, the Navy Chief held a series of high-level meetings with key Sri Lankan defence officials, including Deputy Defence Minister Major General KP Aruna Jayasekera, Defence Secretary Sampath Thuyaontha, and Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy, Vice Admiral Kanchana Banagoda. He also met Commander of the Sri Lanka Air Force Air Marshal VB Edirisinha, and Commander of the

the Sri Lanka Army, Lieutenant General Lasantha Rodrigo.

According to the Indian Navy, the discussions "underscored the shared resolve of both nations to enhance defence cooperation and interoperability across the services." Key areas included joint training, naval collaboration, and improved maritime domain awareness.

Admiral Tripathi also laid a wreath at the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) Memorial in Colombo, honouring Indian soldiers who served during the IPKF operations. The Navy described the gesture as a tribute to the shared history and sacrifices that underpin the India-Sri Lanka relationship.

On Tuesday, the Navy Chief addressed officers at the National Defence College in Colombo. He spoke on evolving maritime security dynamics, highlighting the need for credible capability, regional cooperation, and technological transformation.

He cited Indo-Sri Lankan joint efforts in anti-piracy and narcotics interdiction as examples of effective collaboration.

New batch of cheetahs likely in December, talks on with Kenya, Botswana, Namibia

Agency New Delhi.

India is likely to receive a new batch of cheetahs by December this year, with negotiations underway with the three African nations of Kenya, Botswana, and Namibia. Officials confirmed that 8 to 10 cheetahs are expected as part of this transfer. The move is part of India's ongoing efforts to restore its cheetah population, which had become extinct in the country decades ago.

Kenya, Botswana, and Namibia have indicated they are open to sending cheetahs to India. Authorities expect that talks with one of these countries will reach a conclusion before December, paving the way for the arrival of the new animals.

If the new batch of cheetahs arrives from Botswana or Namibia, plans are in place for them to be sent to Gandhinagar and Kuno. Both sites have been prepared with infrastructure, including secure enclosures and monitoring systems, to support a ~~claim~~ and long-term survival. Meanwhile, the ones from Kenya will be sent to Barni.

As part of the efforts, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav met his Namibian counterpart Indileni Daniel on the sidelines of a COP15 event in Zimbabwe and discussed ways to deepen ties in cheetah conservation and wetland protection. As part of efforts to reintroduce cheetahs, which went extinct in India in 1952, 20 African cheetahs have been brought to the country so far: eight from Namibia in September 2022 and 12 from South Africa in February 2023. Eleven of them have survived. Since the introduction of African cheetahs, 26 cubs have been born in India, of which 17 have survived.

'Godman' Who Rarely Uses Mobile Phones. Who Is Delhi Baba Accused Of Molestation

Agency New Delhi.

'Swami Chaitanyaanda Saraswati' - a self-styled 'godman' born in Odisha as Partha Sarathy - has been accused of sexually harassing over a dozen women at an ashram in Delhi's posh Vasant Kunj. Ostensibly the 'director' of a privately-run management institute, the Sri Sharada Institute of Indian Management, he faces complaints from 17 students, ranging from using abusive language, the sending of lewd text messages, and forced physical contact. The statements of all 17 - they also said they had been blackmailed - were recorded.

The role of women faculty members and administrative staff is also under scrutiny - they reportedly forced students to comply with sexual demands - in this shocking case. The 'godman' is on the run; his last known location was Agra. Police teams have been set up to track down and arrest him but progress has been hampered, largely because he rarely uses mobile phones and, in today's digital-first world, that makes it difficult to pinpoint his location.

Who Is Delhi Baba Accused Of Sex Assault?

Police sources told 'Chaitanyaanda Saraswati' has been living in the Vasant Kunj ashram, of which he claimed to be the 'caretaker', for 12 years.

Ashram authorities said they had 'expelled' him after the sex assault allegations broke. However, he already faces two cases of molestation - filed in 2009 and 2016 - with no apparent action having been taken by the ashram. In 2009 a molestation and fraud complaint was filed in Delhi's Defence Colony and he was briefly arrested. Seven years later a second molestation case was filed, this time in Vasant Kunj. While his financial status is unclear, it does appear he has amassed significant funds over the past decade, enough, at least, to buy fake diplomatic number plates for his car, a saffron-coloured Volvo sedan. The car was found in the basement of the 'ashram' in Vasant Kunj.

UP headmaster under probe for assault thrashes education officer with belt

Agency New Delhi.

A government school headmaster, who was under probe for allegedly harassing an assistant teacher, thrashed an education officer with a belt inside the latter's office in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district. The shocking incident, caught on CCTV, took place on Wednesday during an enquiry against the accused, Brijendra Verma, who was later arrested following a complaint by the officer.

Verma, the headmaster of the primary school in Mahmudabad area, was harassing an assistant teacher from the same school. The enquiry also involved a letter which went viral among political groups. Akhilesh Pratap Singh, the Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA), had summoned the headmaster to his office to discuss the issue. Singh began the enquiry by having both the headmaster and the assistant teacher face each other.



CCTV footage showed Verma, after a brief exchange with the officer, slamming a file on the table, removing his belt, and repeatedly striking the officer. The assault continued until office staff intervened and restrained Verma and held him within the office premises. The situation was brought under control and law enforcement was notified.

"When everyone present indicated that the headmaster was guilty, he suddenly became enraged, took out his belt, and attacked me," PTI news agency quoted Singh as saying.

Following the incident, Verma was arrested and was also suspended from his position by the education officer with immediate effect, according to officials.

Constructed on air: Supreme Court slams plea over Uphaar trauma centre delay

Agency New Delhi.

The Supreme Court heard a plea filed by the Association of Victims of Uphaar Tragedy (AVUT) alleging non-compliance of its earlier directions mandating the construction of a trauma centre in memory of those who lost their lives in the 1997 fire. The plea states that in 2015, the court had imposed a fine of Rs 60 crore on the Ansals brothers, directing that the amount be utilised for setting up a trauma centre at a suitable location in Dwarka within two years. AVUT has alleged that while nearly a decade has passed since the fine was deposited with the Office of the Chief Secretary, the project remains a "non-starter." The association argued that despite the



passage of time, no land has been allotted, construction has not commenced, and no committee has been constituted as directed.

The lawyer appearing for AVUT contended, "Convicts got the benefit of reduction in sentence but no work has been undertaken. Even the board, which was required to contribute Rs 5 crore and provide five acres of land,

has not complied." Questioning the petitioner's claim, the top court queried, "Do you think this hospital has been constructed on air? That is government land. What are you saying? Have you checked how much land has gone into making the Indira Gandhi Hospital in Dwarka?"

The bench observed that trauma facilities should be available across the city and not confined to one area. "Whatever happened at that time has happened... Now they are talking about construction of a hospital with a trauma centre in Dwarka which is an isolated area. Such facilities should be in every corner of the city so that there is access to emergency care," the court said.

India's only active volcano erupts twice in a week. What's going on?

Agency New Delhi.

India's only active volcano on Barren Island has erupted not once, but twice within a week. The volcano, which was dormant for over 200 years, reawakened in 1991 with a major eruption. Since then, the eruptions this week, though minor, are the fifth and sixth.

Though minor, the recent eruptions in India's only active volcano cannot be overlooked, as they may signal deep activity beneath the island, which lies on a fault that triggered the 2004 tsunami. The Barren Island volcano erupted on September 13 and 20, news agency PTI reported, citing officials.

The eruption on September 20 was preceded by a magnitude 4.2 earthquake that struck the region two days earlier, along the seismically active boundary of the Indian Plate and the Burma (Myanmar) Microplate, reported The Times of Barren Island is part of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and as its

name suggests, isn't inhabited. The first eruption at the Barren Island volcano took place in 1787, according to data from the Andaman and Nicobar administration, reported PTI. The last time the volcano erupted was in 2017.

IS THERE A TREND IN BARREN ISLAND VOLCANO ERUPTION?

Then it remained dormant for 204 years, before a major eruption in 1991. Volcanic activity was seen again in 2005, 2017 and 2022. An expert said that the region's volatile tectonics could be behind the pattern of intermittent eruptions.

Such episodic volcanic eruptions were witnessed in 1991, 2004 and 2005, O P Mishra, the director of the National Centre for Seismology told The Times of India, highlighting how seismic events often precede outbursts. The National Centre for Seismology's director, O P Mishra, also explained that the fault's

coordinates align with the latitude of the Barren Island volcano and lie close to the quake's longitude, conditions that made the magma chamber prone to a "premature magmatic eruption".

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The September

NEWS BOX

Phil Salt on becoming a father and playing IPL final: Wife made the decision

New Delhi. (Agency)

England and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) wicketkeeper-batter Phil Salt shared the story of how his wife made the crucial call for him to fly back to Ahmedabad and play the IPL 2025 Final against Punjab Kings, immediately after the birth of their child. Having missed the IPL 2024 final with Kolkata Knight Riders, Salt was determined not to let history repeat itself, ensuring he was part of RCB's title-deciding clash.

Speaking to ESPNcricinfo, Salt described the hectic few days and how his family influenced his decision. "I was in Ahmedabad two days before the final, and got a phone call off the missus to say it was definitely happening," he recalls. "I got on the plane as quickly as I could." "Abi kicked me out the door, basically," he says, laughing. "She said, 'You have to play'. She made the decision for me, which was very funny - and very selfless of her." Salt had flown back to the UK following RCB's Qualifier 1 victory over



Punjab Kings in New Chandigarh to be with his partner for the birth of their son on June 1. Remarkably, he returned to India almost immediately, landing in Ahmedabad early on the morning of the final. That night, he contributed 16 runs off nine balls and took a spectacular catch in the deep, helping RCB defeat Punjab Kings and win their first-ever IPL title at the 18th attempt. This marked Salt's second consecutive IPL triumph, after being part of Kolkata Knight Riders' title-winning campaign last season. Salt also reflected on how missing out on the 2024 final with KKR, after being one of their standout batters throughout that season left an incomplete feeling inside him. One that he did not want again with RCB. "I missed an IPL final the year before, and that one really hurt because we [Kolkata Knight Riders] went on to win it."

Ravichandran Ashwin set to play for Sydney Thunder in Big Bash League: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is reportedly set to feature in the Big Bash League (BBL) for the first time, with Sydney Thunder closing in on his signature. If confirmed, it would mark the first instance of a major Indian men's cricketer playing in Australia's premier T20 competition.

According to Code Sports, Ashwin is expected to join the Thunder after completing his commitments in the UAE-based ILT20, where he has already registered for the auction. The Sydney franchise boasts a strong line-up, including David Warner and rising batter Sam Konstas, with Ashwin's experience likely to strengthen their spin department. Ashwin, who announced his retirement from international cricket and all domestic competitions in India earlier this year, including the IPL, had previously expressed a desire to explore franchise opportunities abroad. Indian players are



permitted to play overseas leagues only after stepping away from both international and domestic commitments. The 38-year-old has already established himself as one of modern cricket's finest off-spinners, with over 700 wickets across formats for India. His arrival in the BBL is seen as a landmark moment for both the tournament and Indian cricket, given the long-standing restrictions on active Indian players participating in foreign franchise leagues.

India vs West Indies: What to expect from Test squad for season's first home series

India vs West Indies: India's squad for the two-Test series, starting on 2 October, will be announced on Wednesday. Jasprit Bumrah is expected to make the cut, attention will be on Karun Nair as he bids to retain his place after a subdued comeback in England. It also remains to be seen whether Axar Patel will earn a recall.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The senior selection committee, led by Ajit Agarkar, will convene on Wednesday, 24 September to select the squad for India's forthcoming two-Test series against a visiting West Indies side. The series begins in Ahmedabad on 2 October, just four days after the Asia Cup final in Dubai, marking a swift shift of focus to red-ball cricket for the first time since the enthralling Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy. For the first time in more than a decade, India will host a Test series without their stalwarts — Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and R Ashwin — all of whom retired prior to the England Tests. The new generation, led by Shubman Gill, exceeded expectations by drawing the five-

match series in England 2-2, and they will be buoyant as they prepare to face a West Indies outfit with a poor record away from home. This series also marks India's first appearance on home soil since their shock 0-3 defeat to New Zealand last year. Chief selector Ajit Agarkar is expected to announce the squad during a press interaction in Dubai on the sidelines of India's Asia Cup Super Four clash with Bangladesh on Wednesday, 24 September. Here is a look at how the Test squad might shape up for Shubman Gill's first home series as captain. India have a fairly settled Test squad, with more than half the side selecting itself. However, several crucial positions remain open for debate. Will Bumrah Play? The major talking point ahead of selection day concerns Jasprit Bumrah's availability. With a packed schedule building towards the T20 World Cup in February-March next year, there was speculation that Bumrah could be rested. However, India's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate hinted that the pace spearhead will be included. While noting that Bumrah

might not be rested during the Asia Cup Super Four stage, the former Netherlands international suggested that the fast bowler could still play the first Test at the Narendra Modi Stadium, despite the short turnaround



feature in India's Champions Trophy campaign in February. Reports suggest selectors and team management doubt his physical readiness to withstand the rigours of five-day cricket. India's pace unit is therefore expected to consist of Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and Akash Deep, with Bumrah's inclusion bolstering the attack. Siraj returns fresh from success in England, while Prasidh awaits his first home Test. Akash, meanwhile, is recovering from an impact injury and will be assessed prior to selection. Should he miss out, Harsit Rana or Arshdeep Singh may be called up. No Rishabh Pant India's first-choice wicketkeeper-batter will miss the series as he continues to recover from the leg injury sustained during the England tour.

Dhruv Jurel, who kept wicket in the final Test at the Oval, is likely to start. He has impressed for India A.

Virat Kohli was always focused, nothing affected his game, says Ishant Sharma

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former Indian pacer Ishant Sharma reflected on his early days in cricket, sharing the field with Virat Kohli and explaining what made the legendary batter truly special. According to Ishant, Kohli possessed an unparalleled focus, ensuring that nothing outside the pitch ever affected his performance. Speaking on the Raj Shamaani podcast, Ishant first talked about the cricketers who carried a "legendary aura" during his career. While he encountered many big names early on, it was Kohli who consistently stood out. See, when I first started playing, I used to feel everyone had that vibe, everyone was a legend. Later on when I played, I felt that with just one person, Virat Kohli,"



Asia Cup 2025: India enter the Super 4 clash as clear favourites, but Bangladesh's history of upsets - from the 2007 World Cup to consecutive bilateral wins in 2015 and nail-biting finishes in Asia Cup finals - proves they can make even the giants sweat.

AMSTERDAM. (Agency)

India might come into Dubai as favourites, but the underdog tag attached to Bangladesh is one that often deceives. Time and again, the Tigers have shown they can bloody the nose of bigger opponents on the big stage — remember the 2007 World Cup game in Port of Spain, their win against Australia in Cardiff in 2005 or their win



over England in the 2011 World Cup? So, should India really be complacent heading into their Asia Cup Super 4 clash? Bangladesh's cricketing DNA is built

on resilience and a fighting spirit. Their spinners thrive on slow, gripping surfaces; their seamers know how to exploit pressure in the final overs. And with a batting order that can counterpunch fearlessly, the Tigers have developed a knack for stretching contests deeper than expected. The Dubai pitch has been good for batting, especially

in the second half, but Bangladesh's bowlers could make India's stroke-makers work harder for fluency. One incorrectly read session — a batting collapse or an expensive over — might be all Bangladesh need to sniff an upset. The question lingers: will India impose dominance, or can the Tigers once again turn underdogs into disruptors? Shakib-less Bangladesh is more than capable. Bangladesh may be without star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, but the Tigers remain a formidable force. Saif Hassan, brimming with confidence after his match-winning knock against Sri Lanka, has emerged as a game-changer, capable of turning tight chases into thrilling victories. Towhid Hridoy, steady and composed as Bangladesh's top run-scorer in the Asia Cup, complements him perfectly, while Litton Das continues to anchor the innings, having recently become the country's all-time leading T20I run-scorer.

Did another Pakistan bowler, Nashra Sandhu copy Haris Rauf's 6-0 gesture: Explained

Pakistan spinner Nashra Sandhu celebrated her six-wicket haul and 100th ODI wicket with a six-finger gesture. The pose has sparked debate about whether it was a celebratory act or a political statement amid India-Pakistan tensions.

New Delhi. (Agency)

A fresh video from Pakistan cricket has sparked debate on social media, this time involving women's team spinner Nashra Sandhu. The left-arm bowler was seen posing with a hand gesture showing the number six after Pakistan's ODI win over South Africa at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Monday, September 22. The clip drew immediate comparisons to pacer Haris Rauf's controversial gestures during the



Asia Cup Super 4 clash against India last week. Rauf, visibly agitated by fans chanting Virat Kohli's name, had responded with multiple signals, including showing "six" with his fingers and mimicking a plane going down. These gestures were widely interpreted as references to Pakistan's claims of shooting down Indian jets during "Operation Sindoor," India's military retaliation to the recent Pahalgam terror attack. Sandhu's actions, however,

may have been in a very different context. In the match against South Africa, she produced a career-best spell, claiming six wickets and helping Pakistan secure a comfortable six-wicket victory. The 27-year-old also reached the milestone of 100 ODI wickets on the same day. Soon after the win, she shared celebratory pictures where she displayed the six-finger gesture — a move that many believe was simply a nod to her performance. Gesture sparks mixed reactions. Despite this, the timing of Sandhu's gesture has led to speculation. Pakistan cricketers, including Rauf and even batter Sahibzada Farhan in the Asia Cup, have been criticised for using provocative gestures on the field. Farhan notably pointed his bat like a gun after completing his half-century against India. India's Arshdeep Singh had also responded with a gesture of his own after India's victory in the same Super 4 match, which fans interpreted as a retort to Rauf. Former India pacer, Irfan Pathan, also criticised Pakistan's players for their antics, considering the tensions between the two countries.

Sanju Samson battles middle-order blues after Shubman Gill's T20I return

MANCHESTER. (Agency)

India have been on a rampage in the ongoing Asia Cup 2025, having rolled over their opponents so far. The Men in Blue have hammered the UAE, Oman and Pakistan (twice) in the tournament and are looking like the team to beat. While India are ticking most boxes in their victories, there are still a few chinks in the armour that opposing teams could exploit as the competition progresses. The Indian top order has done a marvellous job so far, consistently giving the team phenomenal starts. The opening pair of Abhishek Sharma and Shubman Gill have complemented each other beautifully, setting up matches for India in the powerplay itself. However, this devastating partnership has come at a cost, as wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson has been pushed down the order to accommodate Gill at the top. Samson had earlier sealed his place as an opener, having been promoted to the role by captain Suryakumar Yadav in October. The sacrifice for Gill



2024. The 30-year-old repaid his captain's trust by smashing three centuries in just 12 innings, winning two Player of the Match awards. In those 12 innings, he scored 417 runs at an average of 37.90 and a blistering strike rate of 183.70. Samson and Abhishek had established themselves as a formidable opening pair, capable of dismantling even the fiercest bowling attacks. Stay updated on Asia Cup 2025 with India Today! Get match schedules, team squads, live score, and the latest Asia Cup points table. However, after good outings against Bangladesh and South Africa, Samson faltered against England earlier this year, managing just 51 runs across five innings. Despite those low returns, his previous performances had earned him a longer run at the top, and he was widely expected to open alongside Abhishek in the Asia Cup.

Much to everyone's surprise, the selectors brought back Shubman Gill into the T20I side after a gap of over 13 months. Gill returned as vice-captain on the back of a prolific run in the recent five-Test series against England. Given his rich form and added leadership responsibilities, Gill could not be benched and was slotted into his natural position at the top of the order. That meant Samson had to sacrifice his opening spot and move into the middle order.

The wicketkeeper-batter has since struggled to adapt to his new role. Ever since Gill's return, Samson has batted at number three and number five in two innings respectively, but has failed to score as freely as before.

After not getting an opportunity against the UAE and Pakistan in the first two matches, Samson was promoted to number three against Oman and struck a match-winning half-century (56 off 45), earning the Player of the Match award.

However, it was not the most fluent of knocks, as he struggled for timing at the start of his innings. Later, in the Super 4 game against Pakistan, Samson again looked uncomfortable trying to clear the ropes and failed to take India over the finishing line, eventually dismissed for 14 (17). His struggles were plain to see, as he appeared devoid of the free-flowing bat swing that had made him one of the most effective T20I openers over the past year.

H-1B crackdown cracks the rupee. Know why INR hit an all-time low

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

The rupee fell to a fresh record low on September 24. On September 24, it opened between Rs 88.85 and Rs 88.90 against the US dollar, breaking its previous record low. This is the steepest one-day fall in a month, and it has investors and everyday Indians asking why their currency is slipping so fast. One big reason is the US H-1B visa fee hike. Indian IT companies, which send thousands of professionals to the U.S. each year, now face higher costs for every employee deployed. This could slow down IT exports, which bring in billions of dollars to India. Analysts quoted in a Reuters report said growth in IT exports could dip below 4% in the coming fiscal year, down from an earlier estimate of 5%.

The visa fee hike also affects individual professionals. Higher costs might discourage them from taking assignments in the US, meaning fewer Indian workers sending money home. Economists estimate that remittances, the money Indians abroad send back, could drop by around \$400 million. For a country that relies on foreign money flowing in, that's significant. Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, said that the rupee's woes don't stop there. US tariffs on Indian goods are squeezing exporters, while other Asian currencies are also weakening. "When neighbouring currencies fall, it puts extra pressure on the rupee. Global uncertainties, including what the US Federal Reserve will do with interest rates, are making investors nervous and further weakening the currency," he added. Hariprasad K, Sebi-registered Research Analyst and Founder - Livelong Wealth, said, "In India, bullion prices spiked even further as the rupee weakened, pressured by higher H-1B visa fees. Adding to the momentum, China's push to deepen its influence in the bullion market—by encouraging central banks to build reserves via the Shanghai Gold Exchange—has reinforced the bullish undertone for gold globally."

SBI shares gain 1% to hit 52-week high. Should you buy

New Delhi. (Agency)

State Bank of India (SBI) shares touched a new 52-week high on Wednesday, rising 1% as PSU banks also rallied on Dalal Street. The stock opened at Rs 875.20 and climbed to Rs 880.40 during the day, before closing higher than its previous close of Rs 870.50. SBI shares have seen an uptick in the past few days. This has been a reaction to the country's largest lender completing the sale of a part of its stake in YES Bank. SBI confirmed it had sold a 13.18% stake, or 4,130 million shares, in YES Bank to Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) for Rs 8,899 crore at Rs 21.5 per share. Approvals for the deal were cleared earlier, with the Reserve Bank of India granting its nod on August 22, 2025, and the Competition Commission of India on September 2, 2025. Following the sale, SBI's holding in YES Bank has reduced to about 10.8%. With this development, SBI regained a market capitalisation of over Rs 8 trillion. As of Wednesday, the bank's market value stood at Rs 8.05 trillion, making it one of only six Indian companies with a market cap above this level. The others include Reliance Industries (Rs 18.82 trillion), HDFC Bank (Rs 14.77 trillion), Bharti Airtel (Rs 11.64 trillion), Tata Consultancy Services (Rs 11.11 trillion), and ICICI Bank (Rs 9.98 trillion). Brokerages say the stake sale will add about 2-3% to SBI's book value, which is already reflected in the stock price. Analysts believe the bank's steady performance will continue to push valuations higher. ICICI Securities has listed SBI as a top pick, pointing to the positive impact of upcoming interest rate cuts, GST reforms, festive season credit demand, and the benefits of the recent Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) cut. While some slippages have been reported in unsecured retail loans, credit costs remain under control. SBI's capital position is also expected to strengthen further after the Rs 25,000 crore capital infusion made in July 2025. Global rating agency S&P has projected that SBI's risk-adjusted capital ratio will improve to 7-7.5% over the next 24 months, compared with 5.9% in March 2024, aided by India's improved economic outlook and the sovereign upgrade.

L&T shares recover from day's low after tie-up with BEL for Air Force's AMCA programme

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) shares recovered from early losses and traded off the day's low after the company announced a strategic partnership with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the Indian Air Force's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme. The stock opened firm and rose nearly 1% to an intraday high of around ₹3,688 but later slipped as broader market pressure emerged. By 12:30 pm, it was quoted above its session low of about ₹3,636, compared with the previous close of ₹3,658. The stock recovered to ₹3,698 at 12:43 PM. BEL, however, was under selling pressure and traded nearly 2% lower. Under the partnership, L&T and BEL will form a consortium to respond to the Expression of Interest issued by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) for the AMCA project. L&T will bring its expertise in aerospace structures and systems integration, while BEL will contribute its capabilities in avionics and defence electronics. Both companies have earlier collaborated on the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme. The AMCA is India's ambitious fifth-generation twin-engine stealth fighter jet being developed indigenously by ADA and DRDO.

Overcharged after GST rate cut? Here's how you can take action

Experts say that raising a complaint not only helps individual consumers reclaim their rightful benefit but also strengthens overall market accountability.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)
The government has reduced GST rates on a range of essential products and household items, aiming to ease the burden on consumers. Yet, many shoppers report that they have not seen any reduction in prices at stores or on e-commerce platforms. The gap between the tax cut and the actual prices being charged has prompted concerns over whether the benefit is reaching the end consumer. Complaints are pouring in against online retailers and brick-and-mortar stores for failing to pass on the tax



savings. Consumers have expressed frustration, saying that while GST rates dropped on paper, their wallets haven't felt the difference. This has prompted the government to step in and ensure that the benefits of the GST reduction are fully transmitted to buyers. For consumers, it is important to know that inaction is not necessary. If you feel you have been overcharged, the National Consumer

Helpline (NCH) has made it simple to raise your grievance. The helpline is actively accepting complaints specifically related to GST and has been given the responsibility to monitor these closely. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has also assured that each valid complaint will be addressed and appropriate action taken against non-compliant retailers.

Income tax audit 2025: Deadlines, rules and penalties you must know

The clock is ticking for taxpayers who fall under the audit bracket. With the income tax audit deadline for FY 2024–25 just around the corner, here's a quick look at key dates, rules, and penalties.

New Delhi. (Agency)
The deadline to submit an income tax audit report for the financial year 2024–25 is September 30, 2025. This comes just weeks after the due date for most individuals and Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) to file their income tax return (ITR). For those whose accounts are subject to audit, including companies, proprietorships, and partners in firms, the ITR filing date has been set for October 31, 2025. The audit report, however, must be filed first by the September deadline. As of now, the Income Tax Department has not announced any extension. **WHAT IS A TAX AUDIT?** A



calculated as per the law. It is not about finding faults but ensuring compliance with the Income Tax Act.

WHO NEEDS TO GET THEIR ACCOUNTS AUDITED? A tax audit does not apply to everyone. It mainly concerns businesses with turnover above Rs 1 crore in a year. In cases where cash dealings form less than 5% of total transactions, the limit is relaxed to Rs 10 crore. For professionals, the rule kicks in once

their yearly receipts cross Rs 50 lakh. In certain situations, however, an audit may be required even if these thresholds are not met.

WHAT IF THE AUDIT REPORT IS NOT FILED ON TIME? Missing the deadline can be costly. Under Section 271B of the Income Tax Act, a penalty applies if the audit report is not filed before September 30. The penalty is 0.5% of total sales, turnover, or receipts, subject to a maximum of Rs 1,50,000. However, there is relief if the taxpayer can show a valid reason for the delay. In such cases, the tax department may waive the penalty.

WHY IT MATTERS

Tax audit compliance is crucial for businesses and professionals. Filing the report on time not only avoids penalties but also clears the way for smooth ITR filing.

With just days left for the deadline, taxpayers who fall under the audit bracket should ensure their accounts are in order and reports submitted without delay.

RBI Urges Banks To Step Up Efforts To Return Crores In Unclaimed Deposits

New Delhi. (Agency)
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has urged banks to intensify efforts to identify and return unclaimed deposits of over Rs 67,000 crore to rightful owners. Unclaimed deposits include dormant savings accounts and current accounts, matured term deposits, uncollected dividends, interest warrants, and insurance proceeds. A special outreach initiative is planned from October to December in rural and semi-urban regions to trace owners of these dormant accounts and settle them, according to multiple media reports. Balances in savings and current accounts that remain inoperative for ten years, or term deposits not claimed within ten years from the date of maturity, are classified as unclaimed deposits and subsequently transferred by banks to



publicity in various languages via print and electronic media. State Level Bank Committees (SLBCs) will analyse unclaimed-deposit data by age profile and bucket-wise concentration to provide a more localised analysis, with

special efforts to trace them and settle the deposits. UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits - Gateway to Access Information) portal is a centralised online platform launched by the RBI to help the public find their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks in India. The portal currently covers approximately 90 per cent of unclaimed deposit value with participation from around 30 banks.

As per the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI), all insurers who have unclaimed amounts from policyholders for a period of more than 10 years are required to transfer the same with interest to the Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund (SCWF) every year.

higher disposable income ahead of Diwali often translates into robust retail activity. Economists note that festive-linked payouts such as these have a wider multiplier effect on the economy. With inflation moderating and policy incentives encouraging consumer spending, an additional inflow of cash in employees' hands may help sustain demand momentum into the final quarter of the year. The government, too, is closely watching consumption trends as it seeks to balance fiscal prudence with growth. If cleared, the Diwali bonus for railway staff will not only bring festive joy to lakhs of families but also provide a timely nudge to India's consumption story at a moment when policymakers are keen to stimulate economic activity.

How to buy gold the right way this festive season

Gold shopping is a festive tradition for many Indian families, but with rising prices and endless options, making the right choice can feel tricky. Here's how you can buy gold the right way this season.

New Delhi. (Agency)
India's love affair with gold has a long history, but it continues to intensify with each passing decade. Irrespective of market fluctuations, the precious metal is found in the homes of most Indian families, reflecting their status. It has adorned brides on their special day, illuminated festive gatherings like Akshaya Tritiya, Diwali, Dhanteras, and even sealed the promise of commitment among couples starting on their journey together. As consumer demand remains strong, gold prices continue to surge, especially during the festive season. For consumers, though, the experience of making such a valuable purchase can be overwhelming due to lack of trust, transparency, authenticity and certification of retailers. So, what is the

right way to go about your gold purchase during this very busy festive season? Here are some tips:

FINDING THE RIGHT RETAILER

One of the biggest concerns among consumers today is finding a retailer who is trustworthy, responsible, ethically sourcing his gold and following sustainable practices. Often, uninformed, innocent consumers end up spending their hard-earned money buying gold from a retailer who is not genuine, and they end up losing their money and long-term returns. One of the primary checks should be to choose a retailer who is verified to sell hallmarked gold jewellery by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

PAPER TRAIL AND HALLMARK STAMPS

Authentic proof of your purchase and of the credibility of the retailer is mandatory. A reliable seller should be able to give you all documents that validate your purchase, such as invoices, guarantee cards and assay reports detailing the purity of the gold. Invoices should further break down different parts of the purchase—the gold rate of the day, making charges, wastage, and tax—so you can compare and choose the best retailer. Make sure the retailer has a clear return or buyback policy, offers efficient after-sales service and is

displaying all his certifications at the outlet. Consumers should not leave the store without checking their jewellery has a hallmark stamp to ensure they get the best resale prices and insurance coverage. Ask your retailer for proof that he is using



nationally approved laboratories to test the purity of gold.

CHECK THE SOURCE AND MANUFACTURING

When making such a high-value purchase that also doubles up as a lucrative, long-term investment, you need to ensure that your gold is sourced and manufactured ethically by the retailer. It should not be smuggled gold or laundered gold that has been recast by the retailer.

UNDERSTAND HOW THE PRICING WORKS

Gold is gold, but it is priced as per purity.

Knowing your gold well ensures you make the right purchase. 18K gold is an alloy of three-fourths gold and other metals. Jewellery made from 18K gold is light, intricate and modern. 22K gold is 91.6% pure gold and the preferred choice for weddings and traditional festivities. 24K gold is not ideal for jewellery but best bought as coins and as a long-term investment. Remember that the alloy mix directly impacts the durability, appearance, and long-term value of your jewellery. Your retailer should be transparent about pricing, giving you all the information you need to make an informed decision about your purchase.

LEARN ABOUT LONG TERM INVESTMENT, BUYBACK AND DIGITAL GOLD

For Indians, buying gold has mostly been a traditional ritual to mark a happy occasion, but it is also increasingly being seen as a buffer against inflation and market volatility. Its stability and long-term returns are placing it high on the lists of annual investments made by Indians. Parents are leaving it as a legacy for their children and young couples and families are choosing it in its digital form rather than its physical form for long-term investments.

HOW TO REGISTER COMPLAINT? There are multiple ways to lodge a complaint. Consumers can dial 1915 to reach the National Consumer Helpline, or use the official website, mobile app, email, or WhatsApp to register their case. To make the process accessible, complaints can be filed in 17 different languages. The government receives over a lakh complaints each month across various categories, and GST-related grievances now have a dedicated category to ensure they receive focused attention. Experts say that raising a complaint not only helps individual consumers reclaim their rightful benefit but also strengthens overall market accountability. It signals to retailers and platforms that tax reductions are not just a bureaucratic exercise, they are meant to translate into real savings at the checkout counter. If the recent GST reduction has not translated into lower prices for you, taking the step to register a complaint is both your right and your responsibility as a consumer.

Union Cabinet likely to clear productivity-linked bonus for railway staff soon: Government sources

New Delhi. (Agency)

With the festive season approaching, railway employees are set to receive a productivity-linked bonus, with the Union Cabinet expected to clear the proposal in its upcoming meeting, government sources indicated. The bonus, extended to non-gazetted railway employees, is meant to recognise their contribution to the efficiency and performance of one of India's most crucial transport networks. Last year, nearly 11 lakh employees received the payout, which not only boosted morale but also added to festive season spending across the country. A similar announcement this year is expected to have a comparable ripple effect. The timing of the likely approval is significant as retailers and businesses are banking on stronger demand during the festival season, particularly in the wake of recent GST rate cuts on several categories of goods. A bonus for railway employees, who form a large consumer base spread across urban and semi-urban India, could provide a direct push to household consumption. From durable goods and electronics to apparel and festive essentials,



Anushka Sen

Is Ready For Garba Night In Shimmery Cream Lehenga, Fans Say 'Looking Like A Wow'

Navratri is one of India's most cherished and vibrant festivals, observed with grandeur and devotion across the country. Celebrated over nine days, the festival honours the nine divine forms of Goddess Durga and represents the eternal triumph of good over evil. Marked by spiritual rituals, fasting, prayers and dazzling cultural events, the celebration also brings people together through the colourful traditions of Garba and Dandiya nights. Every year, celebrities and actors immerse themselves in the Navratri spirit, often sharing glimpses of their festivities with fans. From traditional pujas to glamorous festive looks, they inspire audiences with their style and devotion. This year, Anushka Sen is among the stars who gave fans a sneak peek into their Navratri celebration.

Anushka captivated her followers by showcasing a glamorous take on traditional festive wear. In the pictures she shared, the actress looked radiant in a cream-colored lehenga paired with a matching blouse. The choli was beautifully adorned with sequins and intricate embroidery, while the lehenga carried a similar shimmering design, creating a balanced and elegant ensemble.

To complete her look, Anushka styled her outfit with ornate dangling earrings and a matching necklace, enhancing the sparkle of her attire. Her hairstyle featured soft waves with a neat middle part, while her makeup highlighted defined eyes and a radiant glow, perfectly suited for a festive occasion.

Adding a personal touch to her post, she captioned the pictures, "Happy Navratri" along with the track Nagada Sang Dhol. Fans poured love into the comments, with one admirer writing, "Cutie pie", while another enthusiastically remarked, "Just looking like a wow."

When is Navratri 2025?

This year, Navratri 2025 began on Monday, September 22 and will conclude on Thursday, October 2. The festival spans nine days of devotion, where each day is dedicated to a different manifestation of Goddess Durga. Beyond its religious significance, Navratri is also a time of joy, community bonding, and cultural vibrance, symbolising the power of righteousness prevailing over evil.



Nothing Here, Just

Sreeleela

Turning The Airport Into Her Runway

Sreeleela can elevate a simple airport arrival into a full-fledged fashion experience. The actress added glitz and glam to Mumbai airport with a dazzling arrival at the terminal, looking effortlessly elegant in an all-white suit that combined comfort and luxury. Sreeleela's simple yet fashionable style wowed onlookers, and she did so without pushing too hard. Sreeleela walked confidently ahead, paused for

projects. She will be seen in Anurag Basu's next film starring Kartik Aaryan. Earlier in February, the crew unveiled the first peek at the untitled film, which comprised bits of Sreeleela and Kartik's romance sequences, giving fans a glimpse of their on-screen chemistry. According to recent reports, Sreeleela may join Ranveer Singh and Bobby Deol in an untitled mega-project. According to insiders, the big-budget

film will necessitate a great level of enthusiasm and change from all three performers. However, there is presently no official confirmation.

Sreeleela to work with Ranveer Singh and Bobby Deol

Filmfare quoted the source as saying, "Sreeleela joins Ranveer Singh and Bobby Deol for a mega project. All three actors are deeply invested in reshaping themselves for their roles. The project demands a level of intensity and evolution never seen before from them."

Sreeleela is preparing for her forthcoming film, Junior, in which she will appear alongside Kireeti Reddy. Sreeleela began acting as a young artist in 2017. Later, she played the lead in the Kannada film Kiss in 2019, setting the stage for her Telugu debut, Pelli SandaD, in 2021.

She starred in Dhamaka, which earned her the SIIMA Award for Best Actress – Telugu. She also acted in films such as Skanda, Aadikeshava, Extra Ordinary Man and Guntur Kaaram.

the cameras, and calmly posed with her lovely smile after removing her mask. Her simple elegance managed to capture attention, demonstrating that true style always shines. The actress was seen in a blazer top and sleek fit matching trousers.

Sreeleela's Upcoming projects

The actress appears to be working on a number of other



National Film Awards Cash Prize: How Much Do Winners Of Golden And Silver Lotus Get?



The National Film Awards, the most prestigious accolades in Indian cinema, are being presented. Organised annually by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, this ceremony honours the best films and artists. At the 71st National Film Awards ceremony, many prominent artists, including Mohanlal, Shah Rukh Khan, and Vikrant Massey, were honoured with awards in various categories.

Established in 1954, the National Film Awards are held annually in Delhi. They recognise the best stories not only in Hindi cinema but also Tamil, Malayalam, Bengali, and other regional cinemas. These awards encourage not only artists but also film technicians, editors, and others involved in filmmaking. Two types of medals are awarded across several categories.

Gold Medal vs Silver Medal: What Do They Mean?

The National Film Awards are divided into two categories: the Golden Lotus and the Silver Lotus. The Golden Lotus is the highest honour, awarded for Best Feature Film, Best Director, or Best Popular Film. It symbolises excellence. The Silver Lotus is awarded for other categories such as Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Music, or Editing.

Award Prizes And Perks

Every recipient of a National Film Award receives an official certificate signed by the President, certifying their achievement. Some awards also include a shawl or plaque, which holds cultural significance. For example, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award includes a shawl and a medallion along with the Golden Lotus. A cash prize is also awarded, varying depending on the medal and category.

How Much Is The Prize?

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting also awards a cash prize with the National Film Award. The Golden Lotus categories carry prize money of approximately Rs 300,000, while the Silver Lotus categories carry prize money of Rs 200,000. The Dadasaheb Phalke Award, based on lifetime achievement, offers Rs 1.5 million along with the award, an increase from Rs 1 million.

Nargis Fakhri Declares Jacqueline Fernandez Has The 'Best Legs In Town', Fans Think She Is...



Jacqueline Fernandez turned heads with her dazzling appearance at Anamika Khanna's AK I OK showcase at London Fashion Week, which took place on September 22. Staying true to her effortlessly chic style, Jacqueline opted for an edgy look. The actress shared glimpses of the show on her Instagram account, where she was seen enjoying the show and posing with Anamika Khanna, Business of Fashion's founder and CEO Imran Amed and famous creative director Nikhil Mansata, among others. Neetu Kapoor has also frequently been clicked by the paparazzi at the construction site.

Jacqueline Fernandez Donned an Edgy Look

The actress was seen appearing at the show in a printed oversized blazer and matching shorts, picked from the AK I OK Spring/Summer 2026 collection. The geometrically patterned fabric with shades of silver, pink and black made the ensemble stand out even more. Jacqueline's blazer featured a metallic sheen that gave her look a modern, luxe appeal. She accessorised the ensemble with bold golden jewellery, including a multi-layered chain with intricate detailing resembling a scarf on her neck and long statement earrings, adding a hint of glam to the look. She completed her look with pointed burgundy heels and kept her makeup minimal with defined eyes and soft lips, giving her outfit the chance to take centre stage.

How Did The Internet React To It?

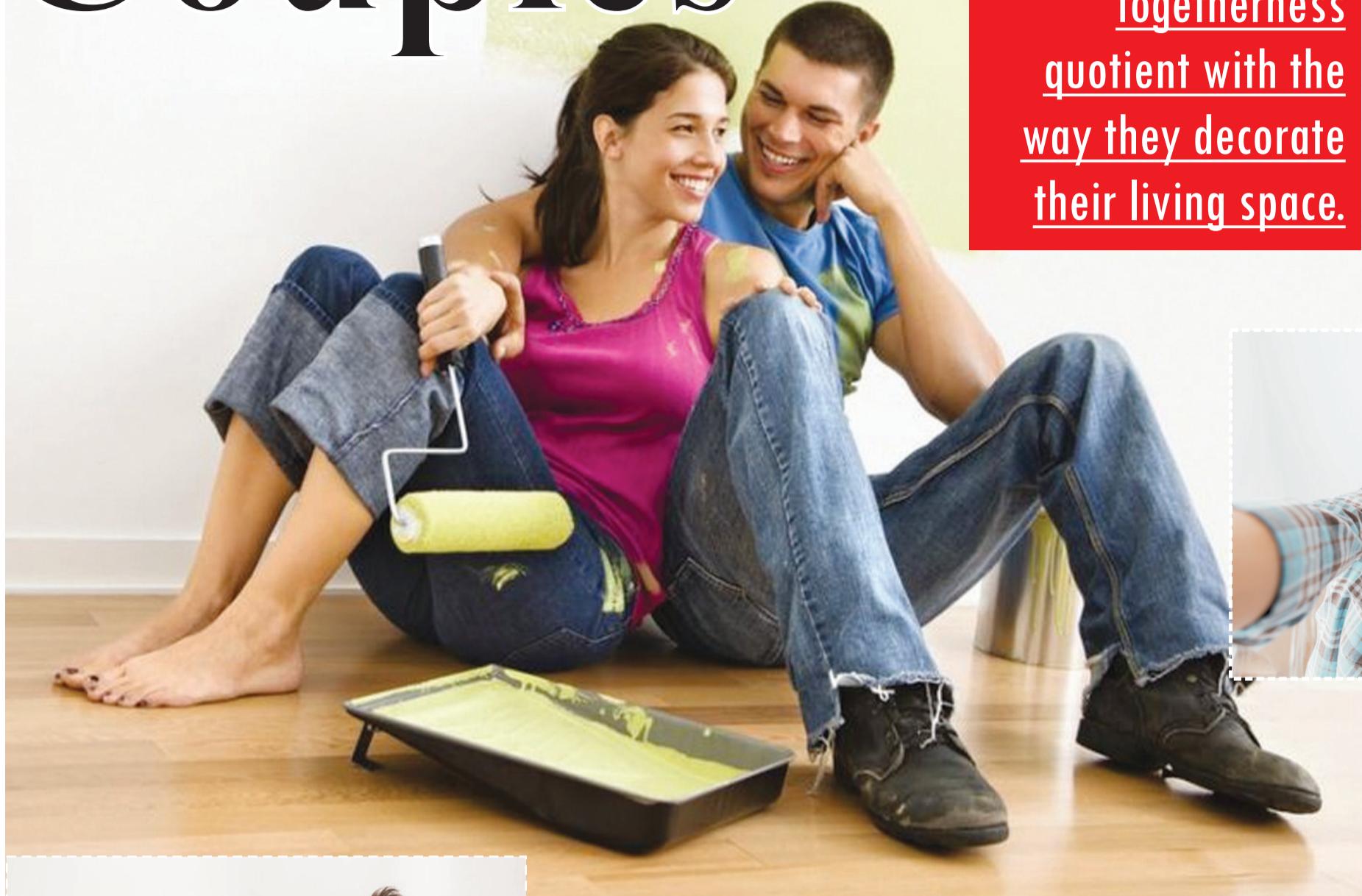
Her friend and fellow actress Nargis Fakhri took no time to call it the 'Best legs in town.' Seems like their bond from Housefull 5 is not fading away anytime soon.

The show marked Anamika Khanna's debut at London Fashion Week, where she showcased her AK I OK Spring/Summer 2026 line. The show took place at Hamleys, one of the most iconic toy stores in the world. In no time, Jacqueline's followers showered the post with love. While one called her the queen of all, exclaiming, "Mah Jacqueline", another fan commented, "Looking gorgeous so much."

Jacqueline Fernandez on the Work Front

Jacqueline Fernandez was last seen in Tarun Mansukhani's comedy thriller Housefull 5, the fifth instalment of the Housefull franchise. Alongside Jacqueline, the film featured an ensemble cast including Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, Sanjay Dutt, Fardeen Khan, Shreyas Talpade, Nana Patekar, Jackie Shroff, Dino Morea and Nargis Fakhri, among others.

5 Decor secrets of happy Couples



He likes clutter. She wants simplicity combined with luxury. So, how does a modern couple create a space for a happy marriage? After the wedding, a couple should do up the decor of their home reflecting their combined tastes. For instance, they should display small takeaways from their travels in their living room. Don't let your

home have furniture that's designated as 'his' or 'hers' or 'yours' or 'mine'. In her book, Luxurious Minimalism, author Karen Howe writes, newlyweds can find ways to combine their two styles. "Strong-willed couples should learn to make room for the other's visual style." Here are some home decor solutions for couples:

Get a cosy coffee table for two

It's a place where you begin your day, discuss your goals and dreams. And it's a place where you come to have your evening coffee after a tiring day. Make sure the coffee table is big

Married couples and live-in partners can increase their togetherness quotient with the way they decorate their living space.

softer, and creates a cosy ambience. White light is too harsh and unromantic, so go for dim yellow lights in your bedroom." Says interior designer Raseel Gujral, "Do fun things with your bedroom that raises the romance quotient."

A fun corner to play

Delhi-based couple Rakesh and Tanya Sehgal play table tennis on their dining table. "It's a great way to let out stress. Every couple needs to have a game corner. It's a great way to laugh and bust stress in your relationship." Says marriage counsellor Gitanjali Sharma, "You could be doing anything... practising yoga as a couple, playing chess or cards; these activities are a great way to spend time together."

Be creative with space

Whether decorative or functional, be specific with the utilisation of space in your house. Place ashtrays close to where your spouse likes to unwind, keep the keys on a table at the entrance, for instance. Try to keep the objects that you like within eye view. Says Sharma, "Most couples fight over small things in the kitchen or in the wardrobe; try to systematically place objects of everyday use."

Have a garden spot



A great outdoor spot with flowers and greenery is pure therapy. Says interior design expert Sanvari Alagh Nair, "Floral plants bring freshness to your home." Meera Patel, 35, marketing professional, says, "I think it's essential for a couple to surround themselves with herbs and vibrant flowers around the house. If they spend time in a mini garden together, they will bond deeply."

This season is perfect for growing phlox, helichrysum, gazania, salvia, cineraria and verbena. These winter flowers will come to full bloom in your homes. You can also have small chairs where you can relax after a hectic day."

Don'ts

Don't fight over that lamp, mug or rug. Don't remove or move any furniture without asking your partner. Ask your partner specifically what colours or prints they like before doing anything drastic. Try to keep away from bronze sculptures of leopards, cheetahs or anything too flashy and over the top. Don't over-decorate your room, it's distracting and unnerving. Your home is not a museum, try not to keep anything you can't touch.

Add magic to your home decor



Bring in the change in your decor.

Proper lighting: Lighting can make or break a room. Mood lighting is very essential part of decor. Invest in a nice table lamp. Even hanging lamps will add much magic to your room.

A little bit of greenery: The sure shot way to add life to your room is to have an element of greenery in the room. Having plants in a room also has a soothing effect on one's mind. You can also have fresh flowers in the

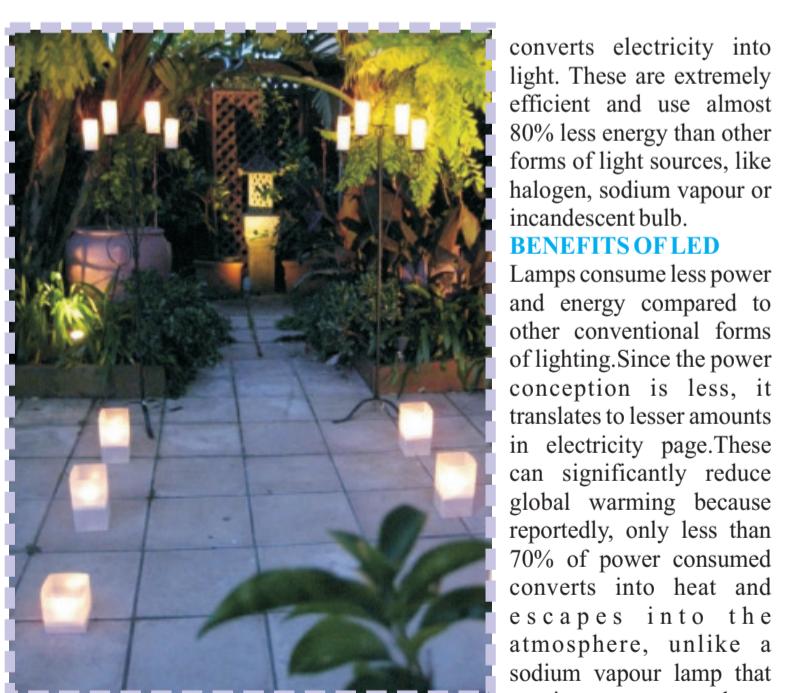
vase. The fragrance of jasmine in a room really uplifts the soul. In your kitchen, add a small herb garden to your windowsill to add life to the room. Plus, they taste great!

Framed memories: Photographs are wonderful ways to add warmth and a sense of vibrancy to your home decor. Photographs that recall fond memories also can give a personal touch to your home. It brings in loads of happy memories. If you have old family photographs, then have these framed and hang them on the wall. Choose your frames carefully. A frame adds much life to photographs.

Fabric magic: Fabric is an easy and inexpensive way to combine all the elements of your room. Break in the monotony and play with your imagination. Think beyond only the ready-made fabric. Have fun by combining patterns, styles and different textures of fabric in accessories and furniture.

Bring a glow to your life with LEDs

The civic authorities across the country have taken PM Narendra Modi's 'Prakash Path' campaign seriously and are replacing High Pressure Sodium Vapour Lamps on the streets with LED ones.



People are also installing the power-saving lamp in their homes. Let's take a look at a few other stylish and interesting ways in which one can use the LEDs...

LIGHTUPSTAIRWAYS

Using stairways as an optimal storage space is the in thing now. The latest trend is to install in-built racks under each stair in the house. How about lighting up the stairways in LEDs to throw some bright light? 3LED spotlights can light up the storage space enough to help you find whatever you are looking for.

JEWELLERYLED

Bracelets, neckpieces, rings and anklets are some options that you can gift your girl friend.

CLOCKS

Watches with radium dials and fluorescent watches have always been available. Now, time pieces that have LEDs to emit light are also flooding the market.

DRESSES

Katy Perry impressed everyone with her lights-embedded dress a few years ago.

Now, you can flaunt LED dresses in style, too.

PARTY SUPPLIES LED

sticks, showlights and other party supplies like sunglasses, hats and magic wand can up the fun quotient in your bash.

ACCESSORIES

Having LEDs embossed in bags, clutches and purses can be a good option. Especially if you are out late in the night and need to desperation fish into your bag for cash and

cards!

FLASHY INTERIORS

Feel like throwing a house party and want to give a makeover to your home? A line of colourful LEDs will do the trick.

CUSHIONS AND PILLOWS

Glow-in-the-night pillows and cushions in various colours and shapes can add a zing to your bedroom.

WHATIS LED

A Light Emitting Diode (LED) is a semi conductor device that

converts electricity into light. These are extremely efficient and use almost 80% less energy than other forms of light sources, like halogen, sodium vapour or incandescent bulb.

BENEFITS OF LED

Lamps consume less power and energy compared to other conventional forms of lighting. Since the power conception is less, it translates to lesser amounts in electricity page. These can significantly reduce global warming because reportedly, only less than 70% of power consumed

converts into heat and escapes into the atmosphere, unlike a sodium vapour lamp that emits more than 80%.

These are resistant to vibrations and temperatures, are free of hazardous materials like mercury and can operate in low DC voltage as well. LED bulbs can reportedly last for up to 100,000 hours. These can be made in any shape and colour.

DRAWBACKS

LEDs are costlier than conventional forms of lighting. These emit only about 80% of luminescence as compared to other forms of lighting. However, that can be altered by adding extra diodes.