

No mercy: Yogi Adityanath's stern warning for rioters during festivals in UP

The CM warned that attempts to disrupt law and order would not be tolerated, recalling that earlier administrations had even honoured rioters and mafias. He emphasised that such practices were over and stressed strict enforcement to maintain peace and public safety.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday issued a stern warning to potential troublemakers ahead of Dussehra, emphasising zero tolerance for riots or lawbreaking. The Chief Minister said that Dussehra symbolises the triumph of good over evil, and during this period, law enforcement must act decisively against

any miscreants. He instructed officials to ensure that FIRs are immediately registered for incidents of unrest in districts including Kanpur, Varanasi, and Moradabad, and that the properties of rioters are thoroughly investigated. Video footage and social media monitoring should be used to identify every individual involved in such disturbances, he added.

CM Yogi stressed that women's safety remains a top priority, directing authorities to hold everyone from police stations to PRVs accountable for incidents like harassment, chain snatching, or acid attacks. Special instructions were given for Garba and Dandiya events, including screening for intruders and implementing Mission Shakti 5.0 on the ground.

COMMUNAL HARMONY, SECURITY NON-NEGOTIABLE
The Chief Minister ordered strict

measures to prevent communal tensions and emphasised that directives must be implemented in letter and spirit. Security during Durga Puja and Ravana effigy burning programs will be paramount, with precautions including avoiding oversized idols and arranging



alternative immersion points. Police chiefs have been tasked with surprise inspections of slaughterhouses and ensuring compliance with safety norms.

CROWD MANAGEMENT AND MINISTERIAL MONITORING

To prevent crowding at UP ITS and other major sites, CM Yogi instructed authorities to prioritise smooth traffic flow and tight security. Districts are to be closely monitored, with ministerial visits and meetings coordinated for maximum administrative oversight.

Reports from core group meetings are to be sent directly to the Chief Minister's office for prompt action.

POSTER WARS IN LUCKNOW

In Lucknow, a new poster campaign responded to the earlier display of "I Love Muhammad" posters in some areas. BJP Youth Morcha Lucknow general secretary Amit Tripathi put up posters reading "I Love Shri Yogi Adityanath Ji" and "I Love Bulldozer," featuring images of the Chief Minister and a bulldozer. These were installed at prominent intersections including Samata Moolak and Raj Bhavan Chowk.

NDA constituent Bodoland People's Front sweeps BTC polls in Assam, wins 28 of 40 seats

Guwahati.(Agency)

The Bodoland People's Front (BPF), a constituent of the NDA led by Hagrama Mohilary, swept the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) polls in Assam, winning 28 of the 40 seats, officials said on Saturday. The United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) and the BJP, alliance partners in the outgoing council, finished a distant second and third with seven and five seats respectively, down from their previous tally of 12 and nine.

Mohilary won from the Debargaon constituency, but lost the Chirangduar seat to his former comrade Khampa Borgoyary, who joined the UPPL. Outgoing BTC chief Pramod Boro won from Goimari, but lost in Dotteda to BPF's Prakash Basumatary. Among other prominent winners are former minister and BPF candidate Rihon Daimari from Bhaibakunda and former AGP minister Rekharani Das Boro, now in the BJP, from Baganpara constituency.

The BPF had emerged as the single largest party in the 2020 polls with 17 seats, but the UPPL formed the council with the BJP and the Gana Suraksha Party (GSP).

Election to the 40-member council, comprising the five districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Udaguri and Tamulpur, was held on September 22. Over 78 per cent of the electorate of 26,58,153, comprising 13,23,536 males, 13,34,600 females and 17 people of other genders, had cast their votes in 3,359 polling stations. Among the 40 seats, 30 are reserved for Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates, five for non-STs and the remaining five are open to both ST and non-ST candidates.

PM unveils BSNL's swadeshi 4G network, commissions 97,500 towers

PM also commissioned more than 97,500 mobile 4G towers built by BSNL, including 92,600 sites featuring the new 4G technology. The towers, established at a cost of around Rs 37,000 crore, use entirely indigenous technology, positioning India among a select group of nations with domestic telecom manufacturing capabilities.

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a big push towards Digital India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited's (BSNL) 'Swadeshi' 4G network from Jharsuguda, Odisha, marking a significant step for the country's telecommunications sector. The launch coincided with BSNL's silver jubilee celebrations, underscoring the government's emphasis on indigenous technology in critical infrastructure. Officials described the development as a key milestone in expanding digital

connectivity and fostering rural empowerment, reported news agency PTI. "The rollout of the 'swadeshi' 4G network is a transformative step in line with the Prime Minister's vision of Digital India, bridging the digital divide and empowering rural communities, while paving the way for BSNL's 5G upgrade and integration," an official statement said, adding, "This will serve over 20 lakh new subscribers." Alongside the launch, PM Modi commissioned more than



97,500 mobile 4G towers built by BSNL, including 92,600 sites featuring the new 4G

manufacturing capabilities. Unveiling the 'Swadeshi' 4G network, PM Modi said the coming decade would drive Odisha toward prosperity. He vowed that the resource-rich state would no longer be left behind, announcing plans for a semiconductor park. Odisha has been immensely gifted by nature. Odisha has seen many decades of suffering, but this decade will take Odisha towards prosperity. This decade is very important for Odisha... The Central government has recently approved two.

Fadnavis meets PM Modi, seeks financial help for Maharashtra's rain-hit farmers

More than 65 lakh acres of crops were damaged in Maharashtra, which bore the brunt of the heavy rains.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday to seek help for farmers who have suffered major losses due to heavy rains. The Centre will send a team to Maharashtra to assess the damage. Based on their report, the Union government is likely to announce a relief package for farmers. Later, Fadnavis said he handed over a memorandum to the Prime Minister on the situation in Maharashtra. "The Prime Minister asked the state government to send a proposal in this regard, which will be considered constructively," the Chief Minister said.

When asked about the opposition's demand to waive farm loans, Fadnavis said the BJP manifesto includes a loan waiver for farmers, and the government is focusing on making it more effective.

"We have set up the committee and that will decide on the loan waiver. A loan waiver cannot be done time and again, so the focus will be on how to make it more effective by addressing loopholes. Our focus will be in its proper implementation," he said. He added that loans taken for the kharif crop will have to be repaid next year. "The immediate concern of the farmers is help in their accounts. So, it will be our priority to extend this help," Fadnavis said. More than 65 lakh acres of crops were damaged in Maharashtra, which bore the brunt of the heavy rains. Besides discussing relief, Fadnavis presented the Maharashtra Defence Corridor plan to the Prime Minister, which aims to boost defence manufacturing, generate jobs, and create opportunities. The corridor will be developed at three locations in the state. He also discussed the roadmap for steel manufacturing in Maharashtra.



"Will I Kiss Her?" Row Deepens After Madhya Pradesh Minister's Remark On Rahul-Priyanka Gandhi Bond

Bhopal.(Agency)

The controversy over Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya's remarks targeting Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's bond with his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has now deepened, with his cabinet colleague Vijay Shah openly backing him. Mr Shah, who has previously drawn fire for his inflammatory comments, reignited the controversy at an event in Khandwa. "This is not our culture; our

civilization, customs, and traditions do not teach this. Whatever they teach, practice it in your own homes, not at public places," Mr Shah declared, echoing Mr Vijayvargiya's criticism of public displays of affection between siblings.

Pointing to fellow MLA Kanchan Tanve during his speech, Mr Shah added: "She is also my real sister, so would I kiss her in public? Indian culture and civilization do not teach this." This is not the first time Mr Shah has invited

outrage. On May 13, 2025, after Operation Sindoor, he made a deeply controversial remark about Colonel Sophia Qureshi, saying: "Those who



destroyed the vermillion of our daughters, send their sisters to strip those mutilated people naked..." He later retracted, apologizing and saying, "I am not God, I am a human being, and if anyone's sentiments have been hurt, I apologize ten times over." The Congress has launched statewide protests, burning effigies of Mr Vijayvargiya and now slamming Mr Shah for defending him. Congress spokesperson KK Mishra said, "It is unfortunate that no action

Centre may extend Parliamentary panels' terms by 2 years, boost for Shashi Tharoor

While changes in committee chairs are unlikely, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who chairs the external affairs committee, could retain his position for another two years despite recent differences with his party.

Bengaluru.(Agency)
The government is considering extending the tenure of parliamentary standing committees from the current one year to two years, according to sources. The move aims to improve continuity and enable in-depth scrutiny of bills, reports and policy matters. The current committees' terms are set to expire on September 26. The proposal has particular political significance for Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who currently chairs the external affairs committee. With an extension, he could retain his position for another two years despite recent differences with his party. Parliamentary standing committees are permanent bodies comprising a fixed

number of MPs from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. These committees play a crucial role in examining proposed legislation, reviewing government policies and scrutinising budget allocations. They also hold ministries accountable through inquiries and evidence collection on specific areas of governance.



When Parliament is not in session, standing committees often function as "mini-parliaments", enabling MPs to conduct detailed policy and legislative oversight without waiting for full parliamentary sittings. Currently, these committees are reconstituted every year. However, several MPs, including members of the opposition, have urged the government to extend their term to at least two years, arguing that a single year is insufficient for conducting comprehensive, in-depth studies of assigned subjects. While changes in committee chairs are unlikely, the tenure of newly appointed members may be doubled, allowing committees to work with greater continuity and focus on legislative and policy matters.

News box

High-speed crash in Gurgaon kills 5; Thar flips after hitting divider near Jharsa Chowk

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Five black Thar occupants died after their car crashed into a divider located at exit-9 near Jharsa chowk around 5 am on Saturday. The deceased included three females. According to the police, the victims were plying from Delhi to Gurgaon side. The driver lost the control due to high speed and rammed the vehicle into the divider which then overturned repeatedly claiming five lives. After being informed by the onlookers, police reached the spot and took the victims to a local hospital where they were declared dead. The car was completely mangled and was removed from the main carriageway by the

We have sharp eyes': Gurgaon cop stalks digital creator using her car number; harasses her online

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A police constable was suspended and an FIR was registered against him after he traced a 50-year-old digital creator using her car registration number and harassed her online. The ordeal for the woman began on Sept 14 near Ardee City, where the constable was on PCR (police control room) duty. Spotting the woman — whom he found "attractive" — he noted the registration number of her white Tata Punch and accessed her personal details through official channels — a clear violation of protocol.

Using the information, he tracked down her Instagram account and left a comment on one of her posts from the handle simran_chopra102. The comment read, "15 min pehle ap Ardee City Gate 3 se nikal ke Sec 45 me enter hue ho kya? In your Tata Punch car (did you leave for Ardee City Gate 3 from Sector 45 in your white Tata Punch 15 minutes earlier?)" directly referring to her recent movements. At first, the woman assumed the message was from a female follower. However, when she sought to know how the sender had identified her, the constable replied cryptically, suggesting that cops have "sharp eyes" and urging her to continue the conversation via Instagram direct messages. The situation took a disturbing turn when — through further interaction — the woman realised that the sender was indeed a cop who had been patrolling the area in a PCR van. In a three-minute video she uploaded online, the woman recounted her ordeal, expressing shock and dismay that a govt-appointed official — tasked with public safety — had used his authority to invade her privacy. She described how the constable admitted to tracing her car registration, finding her Instagram profile, and reaching out to her because he was drawn to a "different" personality. He also commented on her appearance, saying she looked younger than her age and lamented he did not have any female friends. "I was shocked that a govt-deployed PCR cop, who is supposed to protect us, traced my live movements and personal details. Receiving such messages from a police constable left me disturbed. Moreover, I was frustrated that even at the age of 50, I have to protect myself from such individuals. I pity younger girls who might face worse," she shared in her video. Disturbed by the incident, the woman filed a formal complaint at Cyber Crime police station on Sept 16. Initially, according to her, police advised her to simply block the accused. However, on Sept 23, the constable was suspended and an FIR was registered against him under Section 79 of BNS, which deals with acts intended to insult the modesty of a woman.

1.8kg marijuana, pistol seized from Gurgaon cop's house after daughter-in-law's plaint; alleged abortion pressure, dowry torture

**Noida. (Agency)**

An FIR was lodged on Friday against a head constable and his family by Gurgaon police for alleged possession of 1.8kg of marijuana, a weapon and live cartridges. The complaint against Pokhar Ram came from his daughter-in-law Meenu, who said her in-laws would torture her and demand dowry. She accused her husband — Ram's son — of forcing her to get an abortion, and alleged that he and her father-in-law sold drugs.

Meenu claimed that when she asked her father-in-law about a sack kept in the house containing a green substance, Ram revealed that it was marijuana. He then allegedly threatened her with a weapon, warning her to stay silent. Civil Lines police raided the accused's house in the police lines and recovered the contraband, a pistol and live cartridges. The accused have been booked under BNS sections 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 316(2) (cheating), 85 (cruelty by a husband or his relatives towards a woman), 89 (causing miscarriage without the woman's consent) and 3(5) (crime done by several persons), as well as relevant sections of NDPS Act and Arms Act. Sources said the police were also looking into whether the drugs were planted following a family dispute. "Both families were present when the police reached the house. The accused denied having any knowledge of the marijuana or the weapon. Since this is a marital dispute, we are investigating all angles. We will take appropriate legal action after a thorough probe," an investigator said.

Greenbelt off highway occupied for a decade in Loni, NGT seeks answers

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has sought a response from Loni Nagar Palika on why a 15km green belt along Delhi-Saharanpur highway remained lost to encroachments for over a decade and what steps were being taken to reclaim the land. The stretch, running from Loni Roundabout to Pavi Sadatpur, was originally meant to serve as a vital environmental buffer. Instead, both sides of the highway are now lined with houses and shops, the result of years of unchecked encroachment. This leads to constant traffic jams and worsening air pollution. Rashid Warsi, a petitioner and member of the RWA of Prem Nagar, described the growing frustration among locals. "This is the main road to go from Delhi to Saharanpur, known as NH-709B. Both sides of the road between Loni Road roundabout and Loni Border have been encroached upon. Houses and

shops have been built, leading to constant traffic jams," he said. Efforts to reclaim the green belt have repeatedly taken a hit. In 2022, the Loni civic body floated a tender worth Rs 1.2 crore to fence the area and plant grass, but the project was shelved after officials failed to clear the encroachers. "The stretch is a mess. We approached the district administration and even the Ghaziabad Development Authority, but nothing happened. So, we filed a case in NGT in June this year," Warsi added. Taking note, a two-member NGT bench led by chairperson Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel issued notices to the authorities on Sept 18. Officials have been asked to submit their responses by affidavit at least a week before the next hearing, scheduled for Dec 18.



Environmental stakes are high. Loni has emerged as one of the most polluted areas in the country, with road dust and heavy vehicle traffic pushing PM10 and PM2.5

levels far above safe limits. "The Delhi to Saharanpur road, which sees heavy vehicles round the clock, is one of the main reasons for high pollution in Loni. The 15km green belt, if restored, will go a long way in checking pollution, which is why we filed a case in NGT," Warsi said.

Officials from Loni Nagar Palika admitted there was a challenge, but hoped to clear the stretch before the next hearing — something the authorities couldn't do in a decade. "We tried to restore the green belt, but faced opposition from locals. As a result, the project has been shelved even after a tender was issued. Now, with the NGT issuing directions, we are working on a plan to crack down on encroachers. Hopefully, before the hearing in Dec, we will clear the stretch," said a municipal official.

Surajkund to host Diwali mela from Oct 2-7 with over 500 stalls, cultural shows

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Feb still months away, but Surajkund is set to transform into a vibrant festive hub from Oct 2 to 7 as it hosts a grand Diwali Mela. The six-day event — a precursor to the annual winter cultural extravaganza — promises to be a celebration of handloom, handicraft and haute cuisines featuring over 500 stalls and will be inaugurated by chief minister Nayab Singh Saini. Themed 'we unite families', the fair is set to offer a range from ethnic wear, jewellery, handicrafts and home decor to festive gifts, books, plants and beauty items. To enhance the shopping experience, the mela will be organised into colour-coded zones, making it easier for visitors to navigate through the bustling marketplace. Visitors can look forward to a spread that balances regional delicacies with modern cuisine.



Organisers said the second edition of the fair will embrace technology with a fully digital ticketing system, allowing for seamless entry through QR codes. Students can enjoy a special discount, receiving 50% off on ticket prices. The evenings will feature daily cultural programmes from 6pm. The line-up includes Kathak by Meenu Thakur (Oct

2), a fashion show by NGF College students (Oct 3), a Punjabi musical evening with Dipesh Rai (Oct 4), a performance by Indian Idol's Salman Ali (Oct 5), folk music by the Himachal Police Band (Oct 6), and a grand closing ceremony (Oct 7). Organisers have put in place several layers of security on the ground.

While the entire venue will be under CCTV surveillance with a dedicated control room, besides ambulance services, separate entry points and parking. Local NGOs and RWAs will assist in management. Tourism department director, Shalin, said the mela is designed to support local talent, boost trade, and provide a festive platform for families.

Roads, sewers & water supply: MCG nod to 16 projects in Rs 99 crore infra push

Ghaziabad . (Agency)

The finance and contract committee (F&CC) of MCG on Friday gave its nod to 16 key development projects amounting to more than Rs 99 crore, promising major upgrades to the city's road, sanitation, sewerage and water supply infrastructure. The approvals came during a meeting chaired by mayor Raj Rani Malhotra at the corporation's headquarters. Among the approvals, the committee sanctioned purchase of 10 truck-mounted sprinkler-cum-anti-smog guns for Rs 4.9 crore and two recycler super sucker machines for Rs 10 crore. Road and sewerage work formed a bulk of the approved projects, including construction of model roads at Bajghera Firma at a cost of Rs 5 crore, industrial development centre, Sector 16, at Rs 8

crore, and Sector 66 at Rs 7.4 crore. Construction and upgrade of roads in Mayfield Garden at Rs 2.8 crore, Maruti Kunj Road from Sohna Road to Naya Gaon at Rs 5.7 crore, and a 33-foot-wide revenue road from Bajghera to Bandhwari at Rs 3.3 crore were also approved. One of the costliest clearances was given to a proposal for constructing a community centre in Nathupur at an estimated cost of Rs 9.5 crore. Sewerage and water supply projects, including a 900mm sewer line from Godrej Summit to Dhanwpar STP at Rs 8 crore, Sector 17A housing board colony at Rs 6.5 crore, Miya Wali Colony at Rs 4 crore, and Wazirabad market to Jheel Chowk at Rs 3.5 crore, also got clearance. The committee also approved laying interlocking tiles and water

pipelines in Naya Gaon at Rs 4.3 crore, reconstruction of lanes in Bajghera village at Rs 4.8 crore, and construction of a cowshed in Bajghera at Rs 6 crore. "These projects will fulfil long-pending demands of the citizens and give a new direction to the city's infrastructure. I hope that the completion of these works will provide better facilities to residents," the mayor said. MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya said all projects will be completed as per their timelines and put emphasis on transparency and quality to ensure that the infrastructure remains sustainable. The civic body's F&CC was elected on Aug 11 this year. Sundar Singh from ward number 1 and Anup Singh from ward number 25, both from the BJP, were unanimously.

Meanwhile, districts like Ambala, which has 10 existing and 10 planned devices, and Sonipat, with 30 devices, are set to receive far more equipment than Gurgaon, despite being less urbanised.

Public health experts warn that the lack of sufficient devices comes at a cost.

"Noise pollution is not just a nuisance; it contributes to stress, hypertension, and sleep disorders," said Shubhang Tiwari, a research associate with Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). "Districts with zero coverage are essentially flying blind." during the festive season," said Tiwari.

From village chaupals to drone shows: Ramlilas take centre stage with modern twist

Noida. (Agency)

From erstwhile swang khela — a rustic folk-theatre form performed in village chaupals of North India — gatherings at village chaupals to sound and light shows with soundtracks, LED screens in place of curtain calls to elevated action and drone shows, Ramlilas in NCR have come a long way. In its 125th year this season, Sullamal Ramlila at Ghantaghara is the oldest in Ghaziabad and is still using a pre-British era rath (carriage) of Ram in its performances. The wheels creak, the paint is faded, but for the organisers — and the audience — it remains the heart of the performance. "Sullamal was a swang artiste," said Virendra Kumar, or Veero Baba, a former president of the Sullamal Ramlila, who has been associated with the group for over six decades. "Around 1990, he started performing in Ramlila. His team grew popular, and people began calling it the Sullamal Ramlila. Later, it became a committee and got registered."

For Kumar, who once dreamed of playing a 'vanar sena' (monkey soldier) in the Ramlila, the journey from a modest performance to today's sprawling productions is personal. He recalls how, in his childhood, male actors from Mathura Shaila — a style of theatre — played every role, even Sita's. Women were never on stage. Costumes were heavy layers of fabric, and scenes were staged on a single wooden platform. "There would be bullock carts lined up from nearby villages on Dussehra," he said. "Everyone came because it was the only entertainment." The Ramlila eventually moved from a neighbourhood chaupal to a five-acre ground. Today, its stage stretches 120 feet across, where professional actors from Delhi and neighbouring cities play out the chapters of the epic. The committee spends nearly Rs 1 crore each year, financed through donations and sponsorships, said Ajay Bansal, the current president of Sullamal Ramlila. Where once eight to 10

curtain calls were needed to change sets, LED screens now flicker instantly to depict forests, palaces or the burning of Lanka. Instead of scratchy microphones, the show now has surround sound. Characters appear and vanish mid-air with the help of elevation rigs, drawing cheers from the crowd. And yet, the rath remains unchanged. Every year, the 19th-century chariot is dusted, decorated, and brought out, a reminder of the Ramlila's roots. Ram Bala — then & now

Among the most popular segments of the Ramlila is still the Ram Bala, when Ram's wedding procession passes through the town. "Earlier, one local band would play on a small stage as actors would walk up to the stage among petal shower," Kumar said. "Now, 80 to 90 carts and up to 20 bands take part. They treat it as seva — a service. For them, it is more about devotion than money."

While the scale has grown, so has the audience. Organisers estimate that lakhs throng the ground by Dussehra night. And

like most cultural events, the Ramlila now streams live on television and social media, extending its reach far beyond the fairground. Still, Kumar worries about waning religious fervour among the young. "Children today are more interested in the rides, food, and selfies than in Ramayana. Earlier, people came to listen. Now, many come for selfies," he said, with a sigh. A 3.5-hour experiment at Kaviraj Nagar Ghantaghara's Ramlila is steeped in history, the Adarsh Ramlila Samiti Ramlila in Kaviraj Nagar is an experiment. In its 48th year, it condenses the entire Ramayana — from Ram's birth to his coronation and the war with Ravana — into a 3.5-hour performance every evening. Bhupendra Chopra, of the Shri Dharmik Ramlila Samiti, which organises the second oldest Ramlila in the city, said, "It's the Sampoorn Ramayana, staged daily." The format, he added, caters to today's audiences who may not sit through 15 nights of storytelling. The production is slick: a 90-foot-wide stage, pre-

recorded soundtracks and actors from the Sanskrit theatre group lip-syncing their parts. "On Oct 5, the final night, we will have a drone show. Images of Ram and Ayodhya will be displayed in the sky.

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Water ATMs remain elusive in JJ clusters

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: In the narrow lanes and crowded streets of Delhi's JJ clusters, the promise of clean water continues to remain elusive. Despite assurance from the BJP to install water ATMs and ensure safe water supply during the elections, residents across Seemapuri, Wazirpur, Madanpur Khadar and Rohini are still left guessing about what these machines are. More importantly, they are still forced to survive on contaminated or scarce water sources. During a visit to these colonies, it became evident that the manifesto promises have yet to translate into reality. The BJP, in its 2025 Delhi Assembly election manifesto under the section 'Ensuring Basic Amenities in JJ clusters,' had assured voters not only installation of water ATMs but also measures to address the problem of polluted water. Yet, for the residents, these pledges remain just words on paper. Voicing the frustration, Uma Sharma, a resident of Rohini, Sector 24, said: "I've never even heard of a water ATM. Tap water is so bad that you wouldn't consider bathing with it, let alone drinking it. Everyone here depends on buying bottled water. That's the only way to survive". Echoing the sentiment, Asha, a sin-

gle mother who works in nearby house-holds, said: "What are water ATMs? Here, the only water we have is what we buy in

Wazirpur, where water flows slightly more regularly, residents still struggle with quality issues. Vandana Kaur explained,



bottles. Otherwise, water comes only once every two days after the tube well tanks are filled. It's not enough for all residents, and we have no other options." In

"Water pressure is only good in the morning hours during the winter and monsoon. But it's often yellowish, smelly and unsafe. We sometimes boil it, but even then, it

doesn't feel right to drink." Long-time shopkeeper Ramodhar, who has lived in Wazirpur since the colony's inception, was unaware of the water ATM initiative. "I didn't even know these things existed. Politicians only visit us during elections, make promises and then disappear. After that, no one remembers us," he lamented. The situation in Seemapuri is similar, with residents seeing no sign of the promised infrastructure. Rekha, a resident, said: "I've lived under the Congress, AAP, and now BJP rule. Parties may change, but the water situation doesn't. Under the Congress, things were slightly better, at least other basic services were somewhat manageable. Here, nothing has changed much." Madanpur Khadar, one of the largest JJ clusters, presents a particularly grim picture. Streets are littered with garbage, and residents appear resigned to the daily struggle for clean water. Sohail Khan, who has lived in the area with his family for over 50 years, said: "Clean water? That's a distant dream. Water itself is a dream. We had to dig our own tube well to get even a minimal supply. The government has given up on us, and we've stopped expecting anything. We have to fend for ourselves." Another resident, Anita Gupta, said, "The area has always

been filthy, almost like a garbage dump. Party workers make a token effort to clean it only when officials are expected, but the rest of the time, we are left to manage on our own. In such conditions, even dreaming of clean water feels like an impossible hope." Despite announcements by Water Minister Parvesh Verma in June promising the installation of 5,000 water ATMs across the city, none have been installed in JJ clusters. The government's assurances about improving access to safe drinking water are yet to reach the residents who need it the most. The situation highlights a wider problem of neglect in Delhi's informal settlements, where residents often rely on bottled water purchased at high costs due to the poor quality and irregularity of water supply. The lack of awareness about water ATMs underscores the failure in communication and implementation of policies intended to benefit vulnerable populations. For the residents of Delhi's JJ clusters, the dream of clean water is not only deferred, but also seems to be slipping further away as political promises clash with the harsh realities on the ground. Efforts to obtain responses from the Water Minister's office regarding delays in setting up water ATMs remained unanswered till the filing of this report.

30-yr-old elephant Shankar died of acute cardiac failure

New Delhi: Shankar, around 30-year-old African elephant who had lived at the National Zoological Park (Delhi Zoo) for nearly three decades, died suddenly on the night of September 17 due to acute cardiac failure, zoo officials confirmed. A preliminary post-mortem has indicated that Shankar's death was due to acute cardiac failure. However, the exact cause of the cardiac failure will be determined once laboratory reports from samples collected during the post-mortem are received from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, an official said. Moreover, the official added that a high-level investigation by the ministry and the zoo authorities is also underway to examine possible reasons for the elephant's sudden death. The zoo authorities reported that Shankar collapsed inside his shed around 7:25 pm on Wednesday. Despite immediate emergency treatment by the veterinary team, the elephant was declared dead at approximately 8 pm. According to Zoo Director Sanjeev Kumar, Shankar had been showing minor symptoms earlier in the day, including reduced consumption of leaves and grass and slight loose motion, but was otherwise eating concentrates, fruits and vegetables normally. The veterinary team had administered treatment and kept him under observation, but the sudden collapse proved fatal. The authorities confirmed that surveillance and testing of other animals and birds in the zoo have shown no signs of H5N1 or other influenza-related infections. Random sampling conducted on September 4 in various enclosures, including aviaries, carnivore, herbivore, omnivore and flightless bird areas, as well as environmental samples from ponds, came back negative.

NHRC notice to Delhi govt, municipal commissioner over death of worker while cleaning sewer

New Delhi: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday said it has issued a notice to the Delhi Government, the municipal commissioner and the city police chief seeking a

"occurring frequently", the rights panel observed in a statement. The commission has "taken suo motu cognisance of a media report that one worker died and three others were critically injured

report, if true, raises a serious issue of human rights violation. Therefore, it has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of Delhi, Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the city Police Commissioner, seeking a detailed report in two weeks. It is expected to include the status of the investigation and the health of the injured workers. The details of compensation paid to the next of kin of the deceased and to the injured workers have also been sought, the statement said. According to the media report, carried on September 18, the police control room had received a call late in the night on September 16 regarding the incident. The police rushed all four victims to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital. Doctors declared one of them as 'brought dead', while the three others were admitted to the ICU in a critical condition. While these remain important, we realised that without choking the financial channels,



NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

detailed report on the incident in which a worker died and three others were critically injured while cleaning a sewer in Ashok Vihar earlier this month. In spite of directions given by the Supreme Court and the advisory by NHRC to all states and union territories to ensure safety of the sanitation workers, such tragic incidents are

while cleaning a sewer in the Ashok Vihar area of northwest Delhi on September 16", it said. Reportedly, their co-workers said that allegedly no safety equipment was provided by the private construction company, which had engaged them for cleaning work, the statement said. The commission has observed that the content of the media

from cooling appliances. In Delhi, most households own just one air conditioner, with 94 per cent reporting a single unit and only 6 per cent owning more than two. Approximately 94 per cent of these units are rated at 1.5 tons of refrigeration (TR) or lower, while only 6 per cent exceed 2 TR. Temperature settings vary modestly, with 51 per cent of households keeping their ACs at 23-24°C, while 31 per cent set theirs at 22°C or lower. Energy-efficient models are widely adopted, with 97 per cent of households using air conditioners rated 3-star or higher. Among them, 68 per cent use 3-star models — the highest proportion among the surveyed

cities. On average, daily AC usage in Delhi stands at 3.9 hours per house-

sumers an estimated Rs 7,000 crore and releasing 52 million tonnes of CO2

ber of ACs will triple to 245 million. But are we operating and maintaining increasingly conscious of energy efficiency, awareness about refrigerants and their environmental consequences remains low. Furthermore, there is a lack of regulations and systems to monitor and prevent refrigerant leakage. The survey also revealed ideally, an AC should be refilled once every five years. In reality, however, most are refilled every two to three years — far more frequently than recommended. "Total emissions from air conditioners are projected to rise from 156 million tonnes in 2024 — equivalent to all passenger cars — to 329 million tonnes by 2035, making ACs the top greenhouse gas-emitting appliance by 2030," the survey stated.



hold, in line with the national average. Nationally, around 40 per cent of air conditioners are refilled each year, costing Indian con-

sumers an estimated Rs 7,000 crore and releasing 52 million tonnes of CO2

equivalent in 2024 alone, the survey found. "The sale of room ACs has been growing exponentially since 2020. In the next ten years, the num-

ber of ACs will triple to 245 million. But are we operating and maintaining

increasingly conscious of energy efficiency, awareness about refrigerants and their environmental consequences remains low. Furthermore, there is a lack of regulations and systems to monitor and prevent refrigerant leakage. The survey also revealed ideally, an AC should be refilled once every five years. In reality, however, most are refilled every two to three years — far more frequently than recommended. "Total emissions from air conditioners are projected to rise from 156 million tonnes in 2024 — equivalent to all passenger cars — to 329 million tonnes by 2035, making ACs the top greenhouse gas-emitting appliance by 2030," the survey stated.

Police paralyse drug syndicates, freeze properties worth Rs 21 cr

New Delhi: In what appears to be a major step towards paralysing drug cartels in the national capital, Delhi Police claimed to have frozen properties worth over Rs 21 crore, belonging to narco offenders, officials said on Friday. According to data shared by the police, till September 15 this year, properties worth approximately Rs 21.5 crore — belonging to 30 narco offenders — have been frozen and additionally, financial investigation is underway against 19 narco offenders, involving properties valued at over Rs 5 crore. These figures are the highest logged in the last three years. The data added that in the previous year, properties worth Rs 5 crore of 28 offenders were frozen, and in 2023, properties worth around Rs 38 lakh, belonging to three narco offenders, were frozen. Most of these financial actions were taken by Delhi Police's Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of the Crime Branch, which has been at the forefront of integrating financial investigation into all major Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) cases. "Earlier, our focus was primarily on detecting contraband, making arrests and ensuring convictions. While these remain important, we realised that without choking the financial channels,

traffickers would always find ways to re-group and resume their operations," Devesh Chandra Srivastava, Special Commissioner of Police (ANTF Head), said. Accordingly, the ANTF has institutionalised a two-pronged strategy, wherein the 'top to bottom' approach of investigation and establishing all linkages is utilised to arrest traffickers, seize contraband, and dismantle the supply net-

Delhi Govt orders study on 'smog-eating' surfaces to cut city's pollution

New Delhi: The government has ordered a time-bound feasibility study on photocatalytic coatings, a technology designed to neutralise harmful gases like nitrogen dioxide and volatile hydrocarbons that fuel the city's toxic air, according to an official. The purpose of this is to find new ways to reduce Delhi's air pollution, especially harmful gases like nitrogen dioxide and volatile hydrocarbons, which are dangerous for both health and the environment, he said. Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa has directed his department to sign a memorandum of understanding with a reputed scientific institution within 30 days to evaluate the effectiveness of titanium oxide-based surfaces on city roads, pavements and public spaces. The study, to be completed within six months of the MoU signing, will include on-ground field trials at selected locations and monthly updates on progress. If found effective, the department will move a proposal before the cabinet for large-scale deployment across Delhi, Sirsa said. "This is about protecting Delhi's people with solutions that work on the ground. We are putting simple, safe, science-based tools on the ground and measuring results openly so families feel the difference in the air they breathe and in their lives," the minister said. According to officials, the trials will focus on safety, sustainability and cost-efficiency of the technology, while mapping credible suppliers to ensure scalability. Sirsa said the initiative is part of the government's broader technology-driven action plan against pollution.

PIL in Delhi HC seeks removal of graves of Afzal Guru, Maqbool Bhatt from Tihar Jail premises

New Delhi: A plea has been filed in the Delhi High Court, seeking directions to remove the graves of terrorists Mohammad Afzal Guru and Mohammad Maqbool Bhatt, who were awarded death penalty and executed in Tihar Jail here, from the prison premises. The PIL also sought directions to the authorities concerned to relocate the mortal remains, if necessary, to a secret location to prevent "glorification of terrorism" and misuse of jail premises. The plea filed by Vishwa Vedic Samatan Sangh and one Jitendra Singh claimed the construction and continued existence of these graves inside a state-controlled prison was "illegal, unconstitutional, and against public interest".

The petitioner's counsel said they have not received the date of listing of the petition but it could be listed on Wednesday, the day when the high court usually hears PILs. The plea alleged that presence of these graves has turned the central jail, Tihar, into a site of "radical pilgrimage" where extremist elements gather to venerate convicted terrorists. "This not only undermines national security and public order, but also sanctifies terrorism in direct contravention of the principles of secularism and rule of law under the Constitution of India," it said. The plea claimed that existence of these graves inside the jail "violates the express provisions of the Delhi Prisons Rules, 2018",

which mandate disposal of bodies of executed prisoners in a manner that prevents glorification, ensures prison discipline, and maintains public order. "The petitioners therefore seek the urgent intervention of this court to direct the respondents to remove the said graves from Tihar Jail and ensure their relocation in a secure, undisclosed manner, in line with established state practice in the cases of executed terror-

ists such as Ajmal Kasab and Yakub Memon, where every precaution was taken to prevent glorification," it said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

The Chief Engineer/Const/RS/PR/NR, 901 B Tower-9, 9th Floor, Konnectus Tower, DMRC Building, Ajmeri Gate, New Delhi-110002 for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work:-

Name of work	Construction of (Bridge portion & Approaches) of four lane Road over bridge (ROB) in lieu of level crossing No.164A/2-E at Km 353.990 between Doraha and Sahnewal station on Ambala - Ludhiana section of Ambala Division & Construction of two lane Road over bridge (ROB) in lieu of level crossing No. B-4/E-2 at Km 3/2-3 between Amritsar - Khemkaran section near Bhagwanwala Railway station of Firozpur Division of Northern Railway under the Road Safety Project Unit (RSPU)/NR New Delhi.
Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1152120826.14/- Rupees Only (One Hundred Fifteen Crore Twenty One Lakh Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Six Rupees and Fourteen Paisa Only)
Completion period of the work	18 months Period
Earnest Money to be deposited	5910600.00/- Rupees only (Fifty Nine Lakh Ten Thousand Six Hundred Rupees Only)
Sale/availability of tender document on R/s Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 26.09.2025 to 24.10.2025
Last date/time of upload of tenders	Tender document can be uploaded on IREPS website upto 24.10.2025, 11:30 hrs.
Date and time of opening of tender	Any time after 24.10.2025, 11:30 hrs.
No. 17-W-09-2025-WA-DyCEC-RSP Dated: 26.09.2025	2996/2025
	Serving Customers With A Smile

Interstate drug syndicate busted, 2 in police net

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Crime Branch has busted a drug syndicate based in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, arresting two persons and seizing nearly 2 kg of smack worth around Rs 4 crore, cash and gold and silver, the police said on Sunday. On September 15, a team apprehended Aman Khan (22), a resident of Bareilly, at the Anand Vihar Bus Terminal in Delhi and recovered 214.5 grams of smack from his possession. A case was registered against the accused under Section 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at the Crime Branch police station. During questioning, Aman revealed that his travel to Delhi was arranged by Uwaise Khan (20). Following the lead, Crime Branch officials, in coordination with the local police, conducted a raid in Bareilly on September 18. The operation led to the arrest of Uwaise from his residence in Gugai village falling under the jurisdiction of the Meerganj police station. At his instance, the police recovered 1.76 kg of smack, Rs 10.30 lakh in cash, 435 grams of gold and 550 grams of silver. The police said Uwaise had a criminal background. He was booked in an NDPS case at the Shyampur police station in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, in 2022. Officials said further raids were on to nab other members of the syndicate.

NEWS BOX

Google Turns 27: Birthday Doodle Brings Back Its "First-Ever" 1998 Logo

World. (Agency)

Google is marking its 27th birthday with a special throwback on its homepage, offering a glimpse of where it all began. The search giant has shared a celebratory Doodle that features the company's very first logo, bringing a wave of nostalgia to users.

"This Doodle marks Google's 27th birthday. We're celebrating by getting nostalgic with our first-ever logo. Search on," read the message by Google.

The artwork goes back to 1998, the year the now-mighty tech enterprise was born. As the Doodle description said, "The Doodle artwork features Google's first-ever logo (created in 1998). Let this vintage logo transport you back to the '90s and teleport into the future by checking out Google's newest AI innovation." Though the company was incorporated on September 4, 1998, it eventually chose September 27 as its official anniversary date. The change is linked to one of the earliest Doodles, an "out of office" design, created when its founders headed off on a trip. "The very first Doodle launched as an 'out of office' message of sorts when company founders Larry and Sergey went on vacation."

Back then, two Stanford PhD students, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, were running their fledgling search engine from a garage in Menlo Park. Their mission, to "organise the world's information and make it universally accessible," has since reshaped how billions of people interact with the internet.

In 27 years, the company has grown into a global powerhouse, now under parent firm Alphabet Inc. Beyond its core search business, Google now spans cloud services, advertising, Android, YouTube, smart devices and artificial intelligence. Under CEO Sundar Pichai, the company continues to break new ground in machine learning, quantum computing and e-commerce. Doodles have also evolved dramatically from that first playful design. Over the years, these homepage artworks have turned into elaborate animations, interactive games and tributes to scientists, artists and global milestones.

At UN Address, Bangladesh's Muhammad Yunus Calls For Revival Of SAARC

United Nations. (Agency)

Bangladesh interim government Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Friday called for the revival of the SAARC grouping, stressing regional cooperation based on mutual respect, transparency, and shared prosperity. In his address to the General Debate of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, Yunus said that there is no alternative to regional cooperation among neighbours except for shared development.

He said that SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) achieved notable progress in its early years and laid a strong foundation for regional cooperation. Yunus added that despite political deadlock, the grouping's institutional structure remains intact, Bangladesh's state-run BSS news agency reported. The South Asian regional grouping comprises India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Its biennial summits have not taken place since the last one in Kathmandu in 2014. "We believe SAARC still holds the potential to deliver welfare to the hundreds of millions in our region, just as ASEAN has done on its own," Yunus was quoted as saying.

Bangladesh is advancing regional connectivity and trade through initiatives such as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal initiative, the Asian Highway, and the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation, he said.

Wall Street To Academia, Who Is In Trump's Line Of Fire

World. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump has escalated his criticism and actions against executives, corporations and institutions. His unprecedented actions — from novel export deals to frozen university grants — have upended the status quo between the government, law, academia and corporate America.

On Friday, Trump called for the firing of Lisa Monaco, Microsoft's global affairs president, calling her a "menace to US National Security."

Here are some influential figures and entities that Trump has publicly criticized:

GOLDMAN SACHS

Goldman's economic research arm had published a note in August that said US consumers had absorbed 22% of tariff costs through June, and their share could rise to 67% if the recent levies follow the same pattern as the earliest ones. "David Solomon and Goldman Sachs refuse to give credit where credit is due," Trump said in a post on Truth Social, shortly thereafter. Trump said it was mostly "companies and governments, many of them foreign, picking up the tabs". He also took a dig at Solomon for his former DJ-ing hobby.

INTEL

In early August, Trump demanded Intel CEO Li-Bu Tan step down due to China ties. Reuters had reported in April that Tan invested at least \$200 million in hundreds of Chinese advanced manufacturing and chip firms, some of which were linked to the Chinese military.

"The CEO of INTEL is highly CONFLICTED and must resign, immediately. There is no other solution to this problem," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform. Tan responded to Trump, saying he shared the president's commitment to advancing US national and economic security and that the Intel board was "fully supportive of the work we are doing to transform our company." After a meeting between the two, Trump praised Tan and the US government decided to take a stake in the chipmaker.

FBI fires agents photographed kneeling during 2020 US racial justice protests

The number of FBI employees

terminated was not immediately clear, but two people said it was roughly 20.

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

The FBI has fired agents who were photographed kneeling during a racial justice protest in Washington that followed the 2020 death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers, three people familiar with the matter said Friday. The bureau last spring had reassigned the agents but has since fired them, said the people, who insisted on anonymity to discuss personnel matters with The Associated Press. The number of FBI employees terminated was not immediately clear, but two people said it was roughly 20. The photographs at issue showed a group of agents in a taking a knee during one of the demonstrations following the May 2020 killing of Floyd, a death that led to a national reckoning over policing

and racial injustice and sparked widespread anger after millions of people saw video of the arrest. The kneeling had angered some in the FBI but was also understood as a possible de-escalation tactic during a period of protests.

The FBI Agents Association confirmed in a statement late Friday that more than a dozen agents had been fired, including military veterans with additional statutory protections, and condemned the move as unlawful. It called on Congress to investigate and said the firings were another indication of FBI Director Kash Patel's disregard for the legal rights of bureau employees. "As Director Patel has repeatedly stated, nobody is above the law," the agents association said. "But rather than providing these agents with fair treatment and due process, Patel chose to again violate the law by ignoring these agents' constitutional and legal rights instead of following the requisite process." An FBI spokesman declined to comment



Friday. The firings come amid a broader personnel purge at the bureau as Patel works to reshape the nation's premier federal law enforcement agency. Five agents and top-level executives were known to have been summarily fired last month in a wave of ousters that current and former officials say has contributed to declining morale. One of those, Steve Jensen, helped oversee investigations into the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the US Capitol.

Another, Brian Driscoll, served as acting FBI director in the early days of the Trump administration and resisted Justice Department demands to supply the names of agents who investigated Jan. 6. A third, Chris Meyer, was incorrectly rumored on social media to have participated in the investigation into President Donald Trump's retention of classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida. A fourth, Walter Giardina, participated in high-profile investigations like the one into Trump adviser Peter Navarro. A lawsuit filed by Jensen, Driscoll and another fired FBI supervisor, Spencer Evans, alleged that Patel communicated that he understood that it was "likely illegal" to fire agents based on cases they worked but was powerless to stop it because the White House and the Justice Department were determined to remove all agents who investigated Trump. Patel denied at a congressional hearing last week taking orders from the White House on whom to fire and said anyone who has been fired failed to meet the FBI's standards.

Trump Urges Microsoft To Fire Ex-Biden Administration Official

World. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump called on Microsoft on Friday to fire its head of global affairs, Lisa Monaco, a former senior official in Democratic administrations. "It is my opinion that Microsoft should immediately terminate the employment of Lisa Monaco," Trump said in a post on Truth Social. Since taking office in January, the Republican president has taken a number of punitive measures against his perceived enemies and political opponents. Former FBI director James Comey, a prominent Trump critic, was indicted on two criminal counts on Thursday and Trump said Friday he hopes "there are others." Trump, in his call for Microsoft to fire Monaco, noted that she served as deputy attorney general in the Joe Biden administration, when

criminal cases were brought against him. Monaco has been shockingly hired as the President of Global Affairs for Microsoft, in a very senior role



with access to Highly Sensitive Information," he wrote. "Monaco's having that kind of access is unacceptable, and cannot be allowed to stand." She is a menace to US National Security, especially given the

major contracts that Microsoft has with the United States Government," he added. "The US Government recently stripped her of all Security Clearances, took away all of her access to National Security Intelligence, and banned her from all Federal Properties." Trump was the target of several investigations after leaving the White House in 2021. The FBI raided his Mar-a-Lago home in 2022 as part of a probe into mishandling of classified documents and Trump was charged by Special Counsel Jack Smith with plotting to overturn the results of the 2020 election. Neither case came to trial, and Smith -- in line with a Justice Department policy of not prosecuting a sitting president -- dropped them both after Trump won the November 2024 vote.

S Jaishankar Stresses Multilateralism, UN Reforms At BRICS Meet In US

NEW YORK. (Agency)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday hosted a meeting of the BRICS Foreign Ministers in New York, highlighting the bloc's pivotal role in promoting multilateralism and constructive international engagement. Hosted a meeting of the BRICS Foreign Ministers in New York today. Addressing the gathering, Mr Jaishankar highlighted that "when multilateralism is under stress, BRICS has stood firm as a strong voice of reason and constructive change."

He emphasised the need for the bloc to reinforce principles of peacebuilding, dialogue, diplomacy, and adherence to international law," Mr Jaishankar wrote on X. On institutional reforms, S Jaishankar stated, "BRICS must amplify its collective call for a comprehensive reform of the principal organs of the United Nations, especially the UN Security Council," reflecting the group's long-standing demand for

more representative and effective global governance. He also addressed economic challenges, stating, "as rising protectionism, tariff volatility and non-tariff barriers impact trade flows, BRICS must defend the multilateral trading system." EAM Jaishankar also pointed out that "technology and innovation would define the next phase of BRICS cooperation." Outlining India's priorities as the current Chair of BRICS, he stated, "India's Chairship will focus on food and energy security, climate change, and sustainable development through digital transformation, startups, innovation, and strengthened development partnerships." A great meeting of the IBSA Ministers in New York this evening.

IBSA made a strong call for the transformative reform of the UNSC. Discussions also on IBSA Academic Forum, maritime exercise, Trust Fund and intra-IBSA trade. IBSA will continue to meet frequently," he added. He also co-chaired the India-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, alongside Foreign Minister Rosa Yolanda Villavicencio of Colombia. "Delighted to co-chair the India-CELAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting along with FM Rosa Yolanda Villavicencio of Colombia in New York this morning," Mr Jaishankar wrote on X. We agreed to strengthen our existing broad-based cooperation in fields such as agriculture, trade, health, digital, HADR and capacity building. Also to explore emerging areas such as AI, technology, critical minerals, space and renewables. India & CELAC also concur on the urgent need to reform multilateral institutions to better represent the Voice of the Global South," the post added.

Security Council. "A great meeting of the IBSA Ministers in New York this evening. IBSA made a strong call for the transformative reform of the UNSC," S Jaishankar wrote on X. "Discussions also on IBSA Academic Forum, maritime exercise, Trust Fund and intra-IBSA trade. IBSA will continue to meet frequently," he added. He also co-chaired the India-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, alongside Foreign Minister Rosa Yolanda Villavicencio of Colombia. "Delighted to co-chair the India-CELAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting along with FM Rosa Yolanda Villavicencio of Colombia in New York this morning," Mr Jaishankar wrote on X. We agreed to strengthen our existing broad-based cooperation in fields such as agriculture, trade, health, digital, HADR and capacity building. Also to explore emerging areas such as AI, technology, critical minerals, space and renewables. India & CELAC also concur on the urgent need to reform multilateral institutions to better represent the Voice of the Global South," the post added.

UN Security Council Rejects Russia, China's Bid To Delay Iran Nuclear Sanctions

United Nations. (Agency)

The U.N. Security Council on Friday rejected another last-ditch effort to delay the reimposition of sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program a day before the deadline and after Western countries claimed that weeks of meetings failed to result in a "concrete" agreement.

The resolution put forth by Russia and China — Iran's most powerful and closest allies on the 15-member council — failed to garner support from the nine countries required to halt the series of U.N. sanctions from taking effect Saturday, as outlined in Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. "We had hoped that European colleagues and the U.S. would think twice, and they would opt for the path of diplomacy and dialogue instead of their clumsy blackmail, which merely results in escalation of the situation in the region," Dmitry Polyanskiy, the deputy Russian ambassador to the U.N., said during the meeting. Barring an eleventh-hour deal, the reinstatement of sanctions — triggered by Britain, France and Germany — will once again freeze Iranian assets abroad, halt arms deals with Tehran and penalize any

development of Iran's ballistic missile program, among other measures. That will further squeeze the country's reeling economy. In an interview Friday afternoon, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian called the decision "unfair, unjust and illegal." The move is expected to heighten already magnified tensions between Iran and the West. But despite previous threats to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Pezeshkian said in an interview with a group of reporters that the country had no intention to do so right now. North Korea, which abandoned the treaty in 2003, went on to build atomic weapons. Four countries — China, Russia, Pakistan and Algeria — once again supported giving Iran more time to negotiate with the European countries, known as the E3, and the United States, which unilaterally withdrew from the accord with world powers in 2018. "The U.S. has betrayed diplomacy, but it is the E3 which have buried it," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said after the vote. "This sordid mess did not come about overnight. Both the E3 and the U.S. have consistently misrepresented

Iran's peaceful nuclear program. "The European leaders triggered the so-called "snapback" mechanism last month after accusing Tehran of failing to comply with the conditions of the accord and when



weeks of high-level negotiations failed to reach a diplomatic resolution. Since the 30-day clock began, Araghchi, has been meeting with his French, British and German counterparts to strike a last-minute deal, leading up to this week's U.N. General Assembly gathering. But those talks appeared futile, with one European diplomat telling the Associated Press on

Wednesday that they "did not produce any new developments, any new results."

Therefore, European sources "expect that the snapback procedure will continue as planned." But Pezeshkian painted a different image of how the meetings transpired, saying that it was the Europeans and Americans who refused to make a deal during the high-level week. In a sprawling interview on the sidelines of the U.N., the president said that one night this week, members of the U.S. delegation were supposed to meet with their Iranian and European counterparts but did not show.

The Americans never showed up, what are we supposed to do?" Pezeshkian said. He added that when the Americans did show during the six weeks of negotiations earlier this year, it was hard to rely on their word and that President Donald Trump's envoy, Steve Witkoff, had flip-flopped on issues that were previously agreed upon. "The distrust at this moment between us and the U.S. is so large," Pezeshkian said, answering a question about what it would take for Iran to come back to the negotiating table.



list" contradicting long-standing conspiracy theories that Epstein was blackmailing elite figures, including powerful Democrats. Musk has been criticising the Trump administration ever since a report alleged that Trump had written a birthday note to Epstein in 2003. In a now-deleted post, he had claimed that Trump's name appeared in the Epstein files, implying that it was the reason documents were still under wraps. The Tesla CEO later admitted the post "went too far".

Weeks after stepping down as the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) following a feud with Trump, Musk posted a series of scathing remarks against the Republican leader for not releasing the Epstein files. In a post on X, he asked, "Are there likely to be electronic records in any government or commercial computers recording who travelled on Epstein's plane to the US Virgin Islands?" In another post, Musk pressured the US President to release the case files related to the sex offender, as promised. "Seriously. He said 'Epstein' half a dozen times while telling everyone to stop talking about Epstein. Just release the files as promised," he said.



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Man wanted for killing of Gorakhpur NEET aspirant shot dead in Rampur encounter

Lucknow .(Agency)

Rampur police on Friday shot dead a man wanted in connection with the killing of a 19-year-old youth in Gorakhpur's Pipraich area on September 16, officials said.

The man, identified as Jubair alias Kalia, had Rs1 lakh reward for information leading to his arrest after being declared absconding in the September 16 incident, in which Deepak Gupta, 19, who was preparing for the NEET exam, was injured when chasing alleged cattle smugglers. He later died during treatment at a hospital. The police said they received a tip-off that Jubair was in the Ganj area. Officers said an exchange of fire took place when they attempted to apprehend him. Jubair was critically wounded and later died at a hospital, they added.

Two policemen were also injured in the shootout, officials added.

According to police, Jubair faced 18 cases, mainly in connection with cattle smuggling and violations of laws relating to cow slaughter, and that three of his brothers were already listed in local police records.

The arrest and killing come after a string of actions across the region. The Gorakhpur police, working with their counterparts in Kushinagar, had earlier arrested four suspects in connection with the case following clashes in the area. More than 35 policemen, including station house officers (SHOs) in Gorakhpur and Kushinagar, have been suspended or removed from their posts amid criticism that local law enforcement failed to check the movement of smuggling networks, officials said. The September 16 incident had sparked tension in the area. Police say a group of alleged cattle smugglers in two pickup vans were confronted by residents after being seen removing cattle.

'He had reaped the fruits of his actions': A murder on Gandhinagar's Narmada canal banks & an 'encounter' that killed accused near site days later

Ahmedabad .(Agency)

"Je karma karyu, tenu fal madyu" (He had reaped the fruits of his actions), says Kamala Parmar, who lives in a three-storey house located in the congested neighbourhood of Bansi Ni Chaali next to Ashok Mills BRTS bus stand on Naroda road in Ahmedabad.

Kamala is the stepmother of Vipul alias Neel Vishnu Parmar, 32, who was allegedly shot dead in a police encounter on September 24, on the banks of the Narmada canal in Adalaj, Gandhinagar.

Vipul Parmar was taken there by police as part of the investigation of the murder of aspiring model Vaibhav Manvani, on September 20, when the latter was celebrating his 25th birthday with a 23-year-old woman friend.

A report of 'accidental death' has been filed to investigate the "police encounter", the first in Gujarat after the "police encounter" of Hanif Khan Jat Malek and his son Maddin Khan, alleged members of the 'Talpatri gang', in November 2021. Six policemen are under investigation in that case, after a petition was filed in the Gujarat High Court.

Gandhinagar Superintendent of Police Ravi Teja Vasamsetty told The Indian Express, "We have reported the September 24 custodial death to the National and State Human Rights Commissions. We have also informed the Gandhinagar District Collector as well as the District Court, which will initiate a judicial inquiry."

The Gandhinagar police registered another FIR against the deceased, Vipul Parmar, for attempting to murder a police constable. An Accidental Death (AD) report filed in Parmar's death will be investigated separately by the Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO/DySP).

Mashaal Raas: Jamnagar's fire dance that makes Navratri nights vibrant with energy and devotion

Ahmedabad .(Agency)

Wearing the traditional 'kediyu-choiyni' (pleated tunic and pantaloons), holding lit-up fire torches in their hands, six in an inner circle and another six in the outer one, men dance to the tune of 'Ramti aave maadi, ramti aave, aaj maat meldi, ramti aave', a song dedicated to goddess Durga. This is the famous Mashaal Raas, the two-decade-old torch dance that has now become a part of the Navratri repertoire of Saurashtra.

The other dancers swaying to garba songs stop to watch the amateur troupe of dancers from Shri Patel Yuval Garbi Mandal perform their iconic swastika (sathya) and Trishul (trident) formation. Their patience finally pays off when a person from outside the circle throws flaming balls of cotton inside, forming a circle of light as the dancers jump over the blazing bales of fire and light, seemingly unscathed by the fire, as the rhythm of the devotional hymn picks up speed. The troupe has been performing Mashaal Raas for the community for the past

two decades in Jamnagar city of Gujarat. The troupe of 12 dancers, selected from about 80-odd dancers who train at Garbi Mandal for two months before Navratri each year, has to not only be adept enough to dance with flaming torches in their hands, but also learn how to expertly jump over burning cotton balls inundating their circle without breaking lockstep to the beat and with the rest of the group.

For 35-year-old Hardik Jaman Thummar, who started the Mashaal Raas tradition, it is the embodiment of his faith in the goddess. "The goddess takes many forms, among which one is that of wrath. So we thought that this was a way to show our faith. If we have faith in Mataji, then anything is possible. It is not superstition, it is faith," Thummar told. He stressed that there has not been a single major injury to any dancer in the two

decades since he started the tradition of Mashaal Raas. "We don't use any lotion or anything of that sort. And the dancers are on



the ground itself, and you can see if they are burned or not. In 20 years, there hasn't been a single case of injury," he pointed out.

The Shri Patel Yuval Garbi Mandal has been

extant for over 80 years in Jamnagar, and new members of the Patel community join and exit the troupe over the years, but only the 12 male dancers are selected to perform the Mashaal Raas during the nine days of Navratri.

On the routine of the Mashaal Raas, Thummar said, "It includes only 12 male dancers, and we make the formation of the swastika as well as trishul, which is the weapon of the goddess. Then lastly, we dance on burning cotton balls."

When asked about how he came up with this type of raas, he said, "I tried dancing on burning cotton balls and found that it was possible to do so without burning the feet. We tried one year, practised the second year, and brought it to the stage in the third year by which time we had a full complement of 12 people," said Thummar, who owns a brass auto parts business in Jamnagar.

Mumbai rains: IMD issues red alert for city, surrounding areas today

The IMD has sounded a red alert for Mumbai, Raigad and Thane until Monday morning, indicating the possibility of extremely heavy rainfall in isolated pockets.

Mumbai .(Agency)

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has declared a red alert in Mumbai and its neighbouring districts of Raigad and Thane on Sunday amid the likelihood of extremely heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and lightning over the festive weekend until Monday morning.

In light of the heavy showers, the IMD has warned of a possibility of low-lying areas getting inundated, flash floods, and disruption to road, rail, air and ferry transport over the coming days.

Data furnished by the weather bureau showed that amid a yellow alert sounded between Friday and Saturday morning, the Colaba station received 54 mm of rainfall while the Santacruz observatory received 12 mm. Records from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC's) automatic weather stations show that between 8.00 am on Friday and Saturday, the heaviest rain was recorded over the island city division at an average of 30.07 mm, followed by 26 mm of rainfall in the eastern suburbs and 10 mm average rainfall in the western suburbs.

The IMD has said that rain activity is set to gather further pace, placing Mumbai and its neighbouring districts under a red alert on Sunday. While the red alert, stating the possibility of extremely heavy rainfall in isolated pockets, has been sounded in Mumbai, Raigad and Thane until Monday morning, an orange alert has been sounded thereafter. Meanwhile, the neighbouring Palghar district has been placed under a red alert for two days on Sunday and Monday. Meteorologists have attributed the increase in rain activity across Maharashtra to a well-marked low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal, which is likely to move west and concentrate into a depression over the next 12 hours.

Maharashtra: Pharmacy Council of India bars admission to 89 pharmacy colleges for not meeting norms

Mumbai .(Agency)

Just as pharmacy admissions in Maharashtra were about to start finally after a prolonged wait of two months, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has issued a circular barring admission to 89 colleges, including 18 degree and 71 diploma colleges across the state for non-compliance with PCI norms.

The move comes following the findings of an inquiry conducted by Maharashtra's Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) of over 100 colleges, including B.Pharm and D.Pharm, which found deficiencies in several institutions. All these colleges are not allowed to partake in admissions for academic year 2025-26, as per the circular issued by the PCI on Friday.

The order comes just a day before Maharashtra Common Entrance Test (CET) Cell is scheduled to display the seat matrix for Pharmacy admissions in the state, with Common Admission Process (CAP) round to begin from September 28.

Stating that the action taken is in reference of the letter by Maharashtra government regarding cancellation of permission given to these pharmacy colleges, the circular stated, "It was

decided to place the 71 D.Pharm institutions and 18 B.Pharm institutions in 'Not to make admission category' in first year in 2025-2026 academic session." While Maharashtra government and other relevant regulatory



bodies have been notified about the decision, the circular attached with the list of names of all these colleges along with details on their deficiencies is now uploaded on the PCI's website for all stakeholders. In a major crackdown on mushrooming pharmacy colleges in the state after the pandemic led boom; Maharashtra's DTE in August this year

had issued showcase notices to a total of 172 colleges for failing to meet mandatory requirements to run pharmacy programmes. In a notice, DTE had declared that all these institutes will be barred from admission if they fail to provide satisfactory responses to the deficiencies found in them.

The DTE's crackdown was result of government-mandated re-inspection of pharmacy colleges that received approval in the past three academic years; after noticing an alarming number of vacant seats in pharmacy colleges in Maharashtra. Several colleges had allegedly obtained approvals by submitting forged documents, including fake utility certificates, possession proofs, and building plans following which a re-inspection was ordered by the state's higher and technical education department, as per standards laid down by the (PCI). Since the Covid-19 pandemic, pharmacy education has seen a surge in demand, leading to a rapid increase in the number of institutions. But the vacant seats reported in the past three years indicated that many colleges are turned down by students for not being able to offer quality education.

Around Town: How a 10th pass Sindhi compounder built Bandra's famous and celebrity-approved Elco Pani Puri Centre

Mumbai .(Agency)

On any given day, Elco Pani Puri Centre is buzzing. Actors like Preity Zinta drop by, chefs such as Hussain Shehzad of The Bombay Canteen and Papa's sing its praises, and countless Mumbaiwars line up for its pani puri — ice-cold, sweet, tangy, and spicy all at once. Hailed as the city's ultimate chaat destination, Elco has become part of Mumbai's food lore.

But the story begins far from the glitz of Bandra. The late Mohandas Bhagnani, eldest of seven siblings in a Sindhi family that migrated to India during Partition, grew up in Ulhasnagar's Sindhi Camp. After finishing Class 10, he worked as a compounder at Sion Hospital, travelling to Bandra and Khar to administer injections.

"He knew the money would never be enough to support such a large family, so he decided to start his own business," recalled his younger son, Deepak Bhagnani, 45. Mohandas picked up tricks of the trade from a fellow Sindhi chaatwala in Ulhasnagar and soon began preparing Sindhi-style pani puri

at home — without ragda, only boiled potatoes and sprouts. He would pack them into a tokra (basket), carry it on his head, take the train to Bandra, and set up at the entrance of Elco Market, selling six puris for 25 paise.



Over time, the tokra would become a small handcart, and the handcart a roadside stall. Slowly, he carved out a reputation for himself — one crisp puri at a time.

"The secret was his chilled pani, made with a secret spice mix," Deepak said. And what

about the popular internet rumour that they add Thums Up? He laughed it off: "A big no." He went on to recall, "Back in the '90s, we would have actors like Rani Mukerji, Kajol, Raveena Tandon, Govinda. Preity Zinta was a regular — she still comes whenever she's in the city, usually eating inside her car."

In 2003, the family bought the corner shop behind the stall. Two years later, they purchased the flats above it and combined the spaces into a 150-seater restaurant with a mezzanine and an expansive first floor. "Until then, we had just four items — pani puri, dahi batata puri, chole pattice, and kulfli falooda — which are still our bestsellers. But once we became a restaurant, we wanted something for everyone. That's when we added chole bhature, pav bhaji, sandwiches, pizza, South Indian dishes, and desserts," Deepak said. Business only grew. In 2014, they opened two branches in Dubai, run by his elder brother Anil Bhagnani, while his uncle Pushotam Bhagnani and he managed the Bandra outpost.

D B Patil: The farmers' leader after whom Mumbai's newest airport may be named

D B Patil played a central role in shaping the development of Navi Mumbai while championing the rights of those displaced by land acquisition.

Mumbai .(Agency)

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday expressed the state government's intent to name the soon-to-be-inaugurated Navi Mumbai International Airport after D B Patil, a towering figure in Raigad's social and political landscape. Known for his tireless advocacy for farmers and project-affected communities, Patil played a pivotal role in shaping the development of Navi Mumbai while championing the rights of those displaced by land acquisition.

Zeeshan Shaikh traces the life, political journey, and legacy of Patil and explores why he resonates with locals and the factors that fuelled the push to honour him by naming the airport after him.

Who was D B Patil?

Born in Jasai village in Raigad district to a farmer's family in 1926, Dinkar Balu Patil grew up in an environment where social activism was important. He undertook his



As part of the Maharashtra government's plans to create a twin city across the harbour to

address Mumbai's growing population, the state, through the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO), began acquiring land in Uran, Panvel, and surrounding villages to build Navi Mumbai in the 1970s-80s. Ever since 1970, when the state government notified that 20,000 hectares of land across 93 villages would be acquired for the development of New Bombay, farmers have been up in arms.

While some land was initially purchased, it led to resentment as locals felt the compensation was far below the market value of agricultural land at the time. Farmers were not only losing land but also their primary source of income and food security. Many feared permanent displacement without rehabilitation. Patil emerged as the face of the agitation, organising farmers into large protests, sit-ins, and road blockades against CIDCO's acquisition policies, demanding compensation of Rs 40,000 per acre.

Tensions escalated in 1984 when the government attempted to take possession of the 1,147 hectares notified for the Rs 500-crore Nhava Sheva port project.

On January 14, 1984, Patil, the local MLA and driving force of the Save Land Committee, was arrested in Uran. Being a heart patient, he had to be immediately rushed to St George's Hospital in Bombay. This reportedly acted as a trigger for violence.

On January 15, a gathering of 10,000 farmers approached to present a memorandum to the authorities near Jasai. The State Reserve Police (SRP) opened fire. Over 60 rounds were fired at the crowd, which included women and children. Two people died, and over a dozen were injured. The next day, a similar tragedy occurred at Dastan Phatak, with three more dead and many injured. By the end of January, five villagers were dead, several were injured, and many others were arrested in scattered attempts to resist the acquisition.

How states can parry the trust of GST cut rate

Before the Goods and Services Tax Council met earlier this month to finalise the new rates and transfer hundreds of products from higher to lower slabs, many experts expected verbal fireworks before the real firecrackers on Diwali. The prospect was that the larger and more volatile states would take on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman regarding fears of a fall in revenues. As taxes come crashing down, the Centre's collections would plummet, and so would the share of states from the central booty. Shockingly, only murmurs and whispers were heard. Instead of two days, the council finished its meeting in a day. The FM claimed that there was complete consensus. So the hype was created by the experts. The fact remains that states—including some of the larger ones—do not depend too much on the share of central GST collections. It is one of the several myths that were blasted by a first-of-its-kind decadal report—covering 2013-14 to 2022-23—on state finances that was recently released by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). “The 10-year comparative data... charts out a trend with respect to the fiscal parameters state-wise, and will provide useful insights to policy-makers and other stakeholders,” wrote CAG K Sanjay Murthy in the foreword. As the report does so, some misgivings related to state revenues are cast in a fresh light. Of the total revenue receipts of 28 states in 2022-23, just over a fourth (27 percent) came from the Centre's taxes. Over the past decade, the annual figure has never crossed 30 percent. Only 10 states gobbled up more than 70 percent of the amount the Centre shared in 2022-23. Uttar Pradesh was the largest beneficiary, receiving almost 18 percent of the total, followed by Bihar (just over 10 percent), and Madhya Pradesh (just under 8 percent). The decadal pattern was similar—the same 10 states accounted for 73 percent of the Centre's devolution. Indeed, the bulk of states' revenues are generated by themselves. In economic jargon, they include states' own-tax revenues (SOTR) and state non-tax revenues (SNTR). Ironically, the former includes a part of the overall GST, or state GST (generally 50 percent), which goes directly into the states' kitty, apart from value-added tax, sales tax, excise duties on liquor, petroleum products, and electricity (all three excluded from GST), vehicular taxes, land revenue, stamp duties, and registration fees. SNTR includes royalties from minerals and mining, interest and dividends from profitable state-owned units, and user charges and profits from state enterprises involved in supplying transport, power, drinking water, and other amenities. While 10 of the smaller states—including the seven Northeastern sisters—accounted for about 3 percent of the combined revenue receipts in 2022-23, the remaining 18 gorged on the remaining amount. For the top seven in the latter category, the annual own-taxes comprised 60-70 percent of their revenue receipts. The top contender was, surprisingly, Haryana at 71 percent; another shocker was Telangana in the third position with 67 percent. The others included the high-consumption states of Maharashtra (68 percent), Karnataka and Gujarat (63 percent each), and Tamil Nadu (62 percent). In comparison, the share of the seven sisters was under 20 percent each. However, the buoyancy of the combined SOTR over the decade, which is calculated as the ratio between the growth of own-taxes vis-à-vis the state's GDP growth, went up from below 1 in 2014-15 to 1.4 in 2022-23. As expected, the figure dropped to 0.3 in 2019-20 during the Covid year, but it remained over 1, considered a healthy position, in only four of the remaining seven years. In percentage terms.

Student stress: A crisis that can't be mothered away

IIT Kharagpur's Campus Mothers initiative places women from faculty households as anchors of emotional care for young students battling loneliness and competitive pressure. Even with good intentions, it domesticates and feminises emotional labour in a patriarchal manner. The lens is shifted away from the systemic malaise

The surge of campus suicides is a silent scream echoing off concrete hostel walls, one we can no longer afford to ignore or smother beneath well-intentioned policy. In 2025 alone, more than 13,000 Indian students died by suicide—7.6 percent of all national suicide cases, a rate that claims one young life almost every hour. We read about these tragedies often as fleeting news items, but rarely do we sit with their urgency and stare at their roots. Institutions search for answers, governments convene panels, yet mothers mourn, friends wonder, and those closest to the crisis—students—tread a terrain of isolation. Into this discourse IIT Kharagpur has introduced ‘Campus Mothers’, an initiative intending to place women as anchors of emotional care for young adults battling competitive academia. On paper, the premise is warm, almost poetic: women from faculty households voluntarily trained to recognise student distress, reaching out and listening to struggles in unassuming, everyday moments. The institute reaffirms this is not a replacement for professional mental health services, merely a supplement, a gesture of home for students far from family and familiar comforts.

But what happens when good intentions collide with internalised patriarchy? What happens when the burden of emotional labour is once again thrust upon women—not as a celebrated choice, but in reflexive expectation? Like unpaid nurses, teachers, and confidantes, ‘campus mothers’ are assigned a role so naturalised it vanishes into invisibility. In this initiative, emotional labour is domesticated, feminised, and rendered a campus fixture, never quite named or acknowledged as labour or expertise. The programme arises urgent and experimental, but its design belongs to a social script centuries old: women as caregivers, mothers as emotional shock absorbers.

What troubles me—and should trouble us all—is not just the reproductive logic of gendered care, but the way it shifts the lens from systemic malaise to individual intervention. Are students suicidal because they lack maternal affection, or because institutional architectures remain inhospitable to emotional struggle? Twelve percent of Indian students admit to suicidal thoughts, and 6.7 percent confess prior attempts. Academic failure, toxic competition, and family strife propel young men and women to the brink, while mental health support remains woefully inadequate.

Faculty and administration are often ill-equipped to notice silent suffering, counselling services are stretched thin, and peer environments are toxically competitive. Instead of questioning why institutions fail, we outsource the emotional hope to ‘mothers’—never fathers, never paid

professionals, assuming some inherited wisdom from motherhood will outwit the violence of loneliness, bullying, or discrimination. Patriarchy internalises emotional labour as a woman's duty so deeply that even progressive interventions risk reinforcing it. Campus mothers are trained, yes, and participation is voluntary. Yet, there is a presumption that women, by virtue of biological experience, know how to listen, absorb, and soothe. There's no recognition of how women on campus already bear invisible burdens in both their professional and domestic spheres. This programme risks

not pasted as extra-curricular charity. Faculty should be trained not in the gendered art of mothering, but in active skills of emotional first-aid, gatekeeping, and empathetic leadership. Peer environments should reward camaraderie over competition. Professional counselling must be accessed on campus as a right, not a privilege or compensation gift after tragedy. This is not to diminish the warmth or heroism of the women signing up for campus mothering, but to insist we see it for what it is: a band-aid on a wound that requires surgery. It is cognitive dissonance to call this progress while neglecting to fund counselling,



institutionalising those burdens rather than dismantling them. And when the labour is unpaid, informal, and often unrecognised, it fuses the worst of compliance culture with the soft violence of gender roles, reducing care to a free supplement instead of a rightful campus infrastructure. What does it mean for the students themselves? Is the promise of an emotional anchor enough to shift the culture of silence and alienation? The trends are relentless: Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh lead in suicide numbers, and districts like Kota, with its infamous coaching centres, become epicentres of tragedy. We must not allow surface gestures to substitute for expensive, necessary reform. What students need are not only listening ears, but systemic change. Mental health education must be woven into curriculums,

ignoring the need for mental health professionals, or averting eyes from toxic hostels and relentless curriculum. If anything is to change, our approach to emotional labour must be radically transformed. First, by recognising its worth, next, by redistributing its load, and most importantly by professionalising care to treat mental health as a serious issue. As I write, I am reminded of how quietly despair circulates, how rarely we witness its full force unless it lands in our backyard. Let this crisis urge us to build policies that recognise student vulnerability as a permanent condition of learning, not as a temporary inconvenience to be mothered away. Let Campus Mothers be a cautionary chapter. Grieve, critique, and act for those sorrowing in silence and those we have lost.

Close trade deal with EU on equal footing

At a time when abrasive and unreasonable demands being made by the US, the EU is a potentially stable partner and lucrative market that India needs to pursue

After concluding the UK free trade agreement, the Indian government has moved fast on another trade deal—with the European Union, a bloc that accounts for 17 percent of global GDP and 15 percent of global trade. In their recent joint communication, both sides committed to concluding the negotiations by the end of 2025. India and the EU are spurred by the US's tariff tantrums to expedite the deal and cushion each other from the fallout. However, trading with Europe is not the easiest of tasks, given its stringent phytosanitary rules, and environmental and sustainability clauses. In the communiqué, the EU obliquely raised concerns over India's imports of Russian oil and defence goods. The framework, besides covering the usual issues of market access, also lays down ‘robust sustainable development provisions’. These cover a wide array of issues including labour standards, gender equality, environment, and biodiversity protection.

Trade talks are no longer only about tariffs and the movement of goods and services. They cover other aspects of business, investment and even governance, and are backed by World Trade Organization norms. Issues such as gender, environment, labour, and data protection



often become a drag on the negotiations. The India-EU talks, which resumed in 2022 after initial attempts in 2007, cover 24 chapters including sustainable food systems, transparency, and good regulatory practices. Some of

these chapters are worded in a manner that projects a big-brotherly approach. The developed world has often criticised India for its hard stance on tariffs and some measures of protectionism. It is equally true that the EU has used non-tariff barriers such as standards and norms to limit access for Indian goods. At the same time, as against the abrasive and unreasonable demands being made by the Trump administration, the EU is a potentially stable partner and lucrative market that India needs to pursue. Therefore, the deadline for concluding the deal must be adhered to. However, India should remain wary of accepting conditions that undermine its own policy prerogatives, cultural ethos, and sovereignty. Perhaps it is too early to learn from the recently-concluded deal with the UK, in which some earlier-held positions on non-trade issues such as gender and labour were given up. Such changes may well be needed—but they are better formulated in Delhi, not Brussels.

Industry 2025: Time to pivot

In the heart of this magical night, I can see your face at a distance. You have quietly crept into a hidden corner of my heart Like a fresh droplet of dew on my withered mind Like the bright sunshine But otherwise, I have danced with the storm for years I had befriended darkness a long time ago.

THE world is no longer predictable. Wars in Europe and West Asia drag on. Supply chains are weaponised—from chips to APIs to energy. Tariff walls rise faster than agreements. The WTO limps; our neighbourhood—the Gulf, Pakistan, China—adds its own risk premium. Nor is India alone. The United States shields its industries with tariffs, and now H-1B. Europe deploys carbon walls. Africa grapples with dependence, and ASEAN struggles with supply chain fragility. Each geography can offer stability; only those who build inner resilience can offer stability to others.

Atmanirbharta as compass

For India, survival is no longer enough. Atmanirbharta is not a slogan but a mission: a country dependent on others for its core needs cannot claim autonomy in a fracturing world. This is why the Finance Minister's call to industry carries unusual urgency: invest and pivot. Globally, Industry 4.0 is shorthand for smart factories, automation and digital integration. For India, it must mean something deeper. Industry 4.0 is our own compass—Inquiry, Inclusion, Investment, Innovation. Inquiry in classrooms must breed creators, not imitators. Inclusion should unlock the widest talent pool. Investment must treat profits as seed corn, not disposable cash. Innovation should build ownership instead of paying royalties. This is not the West's Industry 4.0, it is India's version, rooted in conscience and scale, aimed not just at efficiency but to inclusivity devoid of crutches.

Breaking the vicious cycle Margins are thin because scale is weak, and scale weak because purchasing power is low. The way out is global markets with higher margins, comparative advantage and reinvestment into R&D. Our much-celebrated IT industry is another case: a high-margin business that prefers to return cash rather than build translational AI models. The result: leadership in services but not in global products.

The mirror Too often, we mistake volume for value. We celebrate scale, but not substance.

India assembles cars, yet no indigenous 300-350 HP engine has gone commercial. Railways still relies on foreign-designed diesels. Defence shells without power plants. Strategy cannot ride on borrowed transmission chains and horsepower. A Stanford study ranks India fourth in AI vibrancy, engineers flood GitHub, discourse is active, skills abundant. But in patents, investment, infrastructure and foundational models, we lag. We contribute to AI, but do not own it. Vibrancy without platforms is dependency. This is the mirror: horsepower borrowed, chips outsourced, APIs dependent, telecom leased, batteries bought. A nation of engineers still running on royalties.

The choice is stark: to persist as an IT service economy without its own products, and a hard-engineering base running on borrowed parts; or to pivot to inquiry, innovation and ownership.

Not without success

This is not failure alone. When inquiry, investment and resolve align, India delivers.

- ISRO put probes on Mars and the Moon at a fraction of global cost. - Aadhaar, UPI, CoWIN show digital inclusion at scale. - Despite API dependence, pharma made India the world's trusted generics supplier. - Unicorns in fintech, logistics, SaaS prove entrepreneurial fire. - Mission for 6G, though nascent, and Quantum, both on the way. These successes prove the point: when policy, profit and shareholder value align, India performs. The pivot is not just technical but mental. Dependency cannot remain strategy; innovation must.

Time to pivot

Industry cannot be a bystander. It must be co-traveller, not

passenger. The state can de-risk, but only industry can take the risk. Shareholders must see themselves not only as collectors of quarterly returns, but as partners in a 25-year journey. Each rupee of profit is not an end, but a

ecosystems in telecom and mobility. Israel turns defence R&D into startups. Everywhere, profits are treated as seed corn, not disposable dividends.

Unlocking advantage: Where policy, shareholders & capital unite This is where India's true edge lies: policy and capital acting in concert to build global players, not domestic survivors. If both sides rise to this compact, India's advantages will no longer turn ironic; they will be iconic, compounding into returns, resilience and reach. A yearly “conscience call” should stand beside quarterly results, measuring inclusion and responsibility.

Policy must de-risk

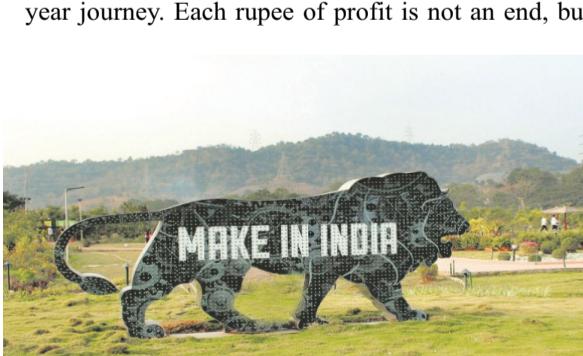
Policy must:

- Reward long-term R&D, not just capital expenditure.
- Co-invest through sovereign innovation funds. - Simplify regulation so startups build, not drown in compliance. - Guarantee swift IP protection. - Ready Indian exports for carbon tariffs. - Channel pension and insurance funds into innovation capital. - Lay down norms; benchmark companies; incentivise compliance; scale up the willing and performing firms into global players.

The clarion call This is a call for all hands on deck — policy, academia, scientists, entrepreneurs and veterans who can transit from uniform to seed unicorns. Atmanirbharta here is not exclusion but creation: a knowledge powerhouse that is non-invasive, inviting, sharing and caring.

India's industry has always risen when the world doubted, in Y2K, in the IT boom, in digital public goods. Today, the doubt is within: are we content to assemble and re-label, or will we design and own? The answer will not come from policy alone, but from boardrooms that choose civil courage over comfort (exceptions apart).

Blessed by geography, we anchor the global maritime lifeline in the Indian Ocean; powered by demographics of age and scale.



passport to global presence. The nation's comparative advantages, scale, talent, geography mean little if companies aim only to survive. They must aspire to lead, co-invest with the state and carry the flag abroad.

They have the responsibility in shaping the nation's arc. The mirror is harsh, but it is also generous: it shows a vast, unfinished canvas. The call is not to retreat behind tariffs but to venture into global markets with confidence. If industry travels this path, it does so not alone but alongside policy, capital and people. Together, this quartet forms the true engine of Atmanirbharta. Industry is not being summoned to serve policy; it is being invited to script history; and bring in the tide that raises all boats.

Learning from global practice

Apple, Microsoft, Google plough billions into risky research; the few wins lock in leadership. Amazon reinvests in logistics and cloud. Huawei and BYD build

Chief Minister of Assam Inaugurates New Road Over Bridge at Panbazar

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 27th September: Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated a 290 m-long Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Panbazar in Guwahati on 27th September, 2025. Constructed by the Northeast Frontier Railway at cost of Rs. 47 crore, the ROB is a significant infrastructure milestone aimed at easing traffic congestion in the city. The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of several distinguished dignitaries, including Shri Jayanta Mallabaruah, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Assam; Smt. Bijuli Kalita Medhi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha); Shri Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Hon'ble MLA; Shri Mrigen Sarania, Hon'ble Mayor of Guwahati Municipal Corporation; Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager, N.F. Railway; Shri Samir Lohani, Divisional Railway Manager, Luming; along with senior officials from the Railways and the State Government. On the occasion, the Chief Minister stated that the new

Road Over Bridge will ease traffic congestion, enable faster move-

Guwahati Railway Station. He also highlighted key railway initiatives

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in Assam, rapid progress in electrifi-



ment of electric trains and support

in the region, including the redevelopment work at

cation and the construction of a new double line along with a bridge

at Saraihat. The Chief Minister also stated that the Ministry of Railways has sanctioned the double line projects between Luming - Furkating and Furkating - New Tinsukia. Once completed, these projects will significantly improve connectivity, making it easier for passengers to travel to Delhi and Kolkata. The Chief Minister highlighted the historic rail connectivity provided to Mizoram under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and expressed gratitude to the Northeast Frontier Railway and Indian Railways for their continued efforts in transforming the region's rail infrastructure. The Road Over Bridge includes a 7.5 m wide carriageway, 1.5 m wide footpath and is supported by 41 foundation piles. Equipped with advanced engineering elements such as a 60-metre Bow String Girder and composite girders, the structure ensures improved vertical and horizontal clearances for transportation. This will allow smooth movement of trains, including electric locomotives and over-dimensional con-

signments, while simultaneously helping to ease road congestion in the busy Panbazar-Paltan Bazar corridor in Guwahati. The old Panbazar ROB, constructed in 1965, had served the city for nearly six decades but had become inadequate due to its narrow width, low clearance and frequent waterlogging. These shortcomings not only created severe traffic congestions but also disrupted electrified train operations. To address these issues and meet the growing transport needs of the state capital city, NFR initiated the replacement project in March 2024. Despite the complexity of dismantling and modern construction, the project was completed successfully within a span of 18 months in August 2025. With the commissioning of this important project, Guwahati gains a vital infrastructure that promises safer, faster and more reliable connectivity. The new Panbazar ROB will not only benefit citizens and road users but also facilitate faster train operations, support the re-modelling of Guwahati Railway Station and strengthen multimodal transport.

KAMS urges government to issue timely order on SSLC exam reforms to benefit over eight lakh students

Bengaluru (Agency)

The Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) has appealed to School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa to take immediate steps on the proposed revision of the SSLC examination system.

In a letter to the minister, the association referred to the draft notification issued on July 24, which was released for public objections and comments within 15 days.

The KAMS stated that objections and suggestions from students, teachers, education experts, and the public across the state had already been submitted to the government and consolidated by the Education Department for final orders.

KAMS said the government and the department's efforts to address the concerns of state syllabus students and to ensure equal justice without discrimination compared to students of other curricula were welcomed and appreciated.

The KAMS noted that the date for the current year's SSLC examination has already been fixed, and with six months remaining, the issuance of an official order would ensure that students can prepare without unnecessary burden.

The association emphasized that more than eight lakh students appearing for the SSLC exam in 2026 would benefit from timely reforms. It also observed that consideration of internal marks, as followed in other curricula, would remove the need to award grace marks.

Viral video of woman being beaten over saree theft leads to arrest of shop owner, employee in Bengaluru

Bengaluru (Agency)

A 44-year-old wholesale saree dealer and his employee have been arrested by the City Market police for mercilessly beating a 55-year-old woman after she stole a bundle of sarees kept at the shop's entrance. The incident happened on September 20.

The woman has also been arrested for stealing 61 sarees worth around Rs 91,000. She had stolen the sarees to arrange money to buy alcohol.

The shop owner has been identified as Umed Ram, owner of Maya Silk Sarees on Avenue Road, and his employee Mahendra Seervi (25). The woman has been identified as Hampamma from Guntakal in Anantapur of Andhra Pradesh.

At the time of the theft, the shop owner had gone out. Later, when he couldn't find the sarees, he checked the CCTV footage and saw the woman, accompanied by a boy, entering the shop as a prospective customer and taking the bundle. The next day, he spotted the woman near the shop and thrashed her along his employee.

They kicked her on her abdomen multiple times. The duo continued beating her despite her apologising. Ram then called the police control room and the patrolling staff took her to the station. Following the shop owner's complaint, she was arrested on September 21 and sent to Bengaluru Central Prison in Parappana Agrahara.

However, after a video of the woman being beaten went viral, the police swung into action and arrested the duo. A few Kannada activists protested outside the shop on Thursday (September 25) evening. The Karnataka State Commission for Women has also written to the City Police Commissioner to look into the matter.

Babbar Khalsa terrorist extradited from UAE to India; Punjab Police take custody

Parminder Singh alias Pindi was allegedly involved in multiple heinous crimes, including petrol bomb attacks, violent assaults and extortions in Punjab's Batala-Gurdaspur region.

Chandigarh (Agency)

A wanted Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorist, Parminder Singh alias Pindi, has been extradited from Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to India.

Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said the extradition was possible due to the efforts of the Punjab Police and the close coordination and support of central agencies.

Pindi is a close aide of foreign-based terrorists Harwinder Singh alias Rinda and Happy Passia and is allegedly involved in multiple heinous crimes, including petrol bomb attacks, violent assaults and extortions in the Batala-Gurdaspur region.

'Punjab has zero tolerance towards terrorism' Acting on a Red Corner Notice (RCN)

requested by Batala Police, a four-member team led by a senior police officer travelled to the UAE on September 24. It coordinated with the Ministry of External Affairs and UAE authorities, completed all legal formalities, and successfully brought the accused back to justice.

"This successful extradition underscores Punjab Police's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and organised crime as well as its advanced investigative capabilities and global reach. We are thankful to the central agencies, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Government of the United Arab Emirates for their invaluable cooperation in this joint effort to uphold justice and strengthen national security," said DGP



Yadav. An RCN is an international alert issued by Interpol at the request of a member country (in this case, India) to locate and provisionally arrest individuals wanted for

serious crimes, including terrorism, pending extradition.

Based on reliable reports from Indian law enforcement agencies like the Punjab Police, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), several individuals linked to Punjab-based terrorism—primarily Khalistani separatist groups such as BKI, Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), and Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF)—have active RCNs against them. These are fugitives accused of orchestrating attacks, targeted killings, and terror funding in Punjab.

From SIM boxes to fake warrants: the hidden machinery of cybercrime rackets

Chandigarh (Agency)

It often begins with a call that makes your heart race: "Your mobile number and bank account are linked to money laundering." On the other end of the call is not a government officer, but a cybercriminal armed with a script, a SIM box and a fake arrest warrant.

Investigations into several cases by the Cybercrime Cell of the Chandigarh Police reveal how these racketeers use cheap gadgets, forged documents and psychological pressure to trap victims into parting with their savings.

First hook: mass calling through machines

Scams start with automated IVR (interactive voice response) calls, usually in a robotic voice, claiming to be from law enforcement, telecom authorities or a bank. These calls

are powered by SIM boxes—small yet powerful devices that can hold dozens of SIM cards and generate thousands of calls daily. By routing internet-based VoIP (Voice over Internet

compromised point-of-sale outlets. Hundreds of SIMs may be pushed into circulation this way, ensuring call centres never run dry."

Escalation: fake officials and forged paperwork

Once a target responds, the pressure escalates. Victims are shifted to WhatsApp or Skype video calls where they meet purported "investigating officers."

These fraudsters, often dressed formally, back up their claims with forged documents—arrest warrants, RBI notices, and even fake police IDs—which are flashed on screen. The aim is simple: create enough panic to override rational thinking.

According to Cybercrime police station SHO Inspector Eram Rizvi, "Each SIM card is often fraudulently activated, using stolen or duplicate IDs through

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Protocol

If destroyed runways look like victory...: India tears into Pakistan at UN

►India hit back at Pakistan Prime Minister Shehzad Sharif's UNGA speech, mocking his "victory" claim in the May 7-10 conflict and blasting Islamabad for glorifying terrorism.

Delhi godman still on the run files anticipatory bail plea, court turns down petition

Agency New Delhi.
A Delhi court on Friday rejected the anticipatory bail plea of self-styled godman Chaitanyaanda Saraswati in a multi-crore fraud and sexual harassment case, saying police require custodial interrogation to unravel the full extent of the alleged crimes.

Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur noted that the investigation is still at an early stage and the accused is currently unreachable. "Investigation of the present case is at a nascent stage, and the investigating officer (IO) requires custodial interrogation of the applicant to establish the entire chain of fraud, cheating, conspiracy and misappropriation of funds. As per the version of IO, the applicant is not available at his given address, and his mobile phone is switched off." The FIR lists offences including cheating by personation, cheating by dishonestly inducing a person to deliver property or consent to its retention, forgery and use of forged documents or electronic records, criminal conspiracy, and criminal breach of trust. Police further allege that Chaitanyaanda sexually harassed 17 female students of a private management institute in Delhi. Authorities claim the strengthened his control over the institute by subletting properties belonging to Sri Sharada Peetham to private companies, diverting the proceeds for personal use.

MCD property tax scheme extended by three months



Agency New Delhi.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has extended the deadline for its ongoing Sumpattikar Niptaan Yojana (SUNIYO) 2025-26 by three months, till December 31, officials said on Friday. The terms and conditions of the scheme will remain unchanged during the extension period, except for the addition of a 2% late fee on the principal tax amount for those paying between October 1 and December 31.

Under the scheme, all interest and penalties on outstanding dues prior to the financial year 2020-21 will be completely waived off if the taxpayer clears the principal amount of property tax for the current financial year (2025-26) along with the previous five financial years without any interest or penalty.

Delhi Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh stated that several citizen-centric proposals were approved, further reinforcing the commitment of the civic body towards better governance and public welfare. "The Central government has taken commendable steps to simplify and make the country's economic system more transparent and citizen-friendly," he said. "The reduction in GST rates has provided significant relief to people and strengthened the spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. Similarly, the MCD's decision to extend the amnesty scheme deadline will help residents save their money."

Since its launch on June 1, the scheme has attracted 1.16 lakh taxpayers, bringing in Rs 370.27 crore in revenue. Significantly, 65,874 new taxpayers paid property tax for the first time under SUNIYO, contributing another Rs 187.8 crore. Overall, tax collection during the current financial year 2025-26 stands at Rs 2,111.63 crore from 11.63 lakh taxpayers, reflecting a 22.5% rise in revenue and 18% growth in taxpayer base compared to the same period last year.



Agency New Delhi.
India on Saturday ridiculed Pakistan Prime Minister Shehzad Sharif's claim of "victory" in the May 7-10 conflict, telling the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that images of destroyed air bases and damaged military infrastructure during Operation Sindoora painted a very different picture. Exercising India's right of reply at the 80th UNGA session, Petal Gahlot, First Secretary at India's Permanent Mission to the UN, said the evidence was plain for the world to see. "The intervening event was the destruction caused to multiple Pakistani air bases by Indian forces. The pictures of that damage are, of course, publicly accessible. If destroyed runways and burnt-out hangars look like victory, as the Prime Minister claimed, Pakistan is welcome to enjoy it," Gahlot said.

PAKISTAN'S BIZARRE ACCOUNT OF THE CONFLICT

Sharif had used his UNGA speech to portray Pakistan as the winner in the brief military escalation with India in May. "We have won the

war, and now we seek to win peace in our part of the world. Pakistan, stands ready for a composite, comprehensive, and result-oriented dialogue with India on all outstanding issues," he claimed. However, Gahlot dismissed Sharif's version outright and said the sequence of events pointed to a very different reality.

"The Prime Minister of Pakistan also advanced a bizarre account of the recent conflict with India. The record on this matter is clear. Till May 9, Pakistan was threatening more attacks on India. But on May 10, its military pleaded

with us directly for a cessation to the fighting," she stressed.

She added that Pakistan was once again responsible for a terrorist attack on Indian civilians and that New Delhi had acted decisively to defend its people. "The truth is that, as in the past, Pakistan is responsible for a terrorist attack on innocent civilians in India. We have exercised the right to defend our people against such actions and have brought the organisers and perpetrators to justice," Gahlot said.

PICTURES OF DEAD TERRORISTS

Gahlot went further, citing photographic evidence of India's strikes on Pakistani terror hubs during Operation Sindoora. "A picture speaks a thousand words and we saw many pictures of terrorists slain in Bahawalpur and Muridke terror complexes by Indian forces during Operation Sindoora. When senior Pakistani military and civilian officials publicly glorify and pay homage to such notorious terrorists, can there be any doubt about the proclivities of this regime?" she said.

AAP ruckus in MCD over rising dengue-malaria cases

Agency New Delhi.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) session on Friday witnessed a ruckus as the opposition party councilors entered the House wearing mosquito nets. The opposition, raising slogans like "Delhi Bachao, Macchar Hataao" against escalating pollution and the mosquito menace, demanded urgent action. Participating in the protest, MCD Leader of Opposition (LoP) Ankush Narang draped a mosquito net and alleged that even the MCD chamber has not been spared from the mosquito menace. He urged the government for protection for Delhiites from the unchecked spread of these deadly seasonal diseases.

He alleged that the ruling party has so far failed to take any concrete steps to prevent these seasonal diseases and has not even initiated a public awareness campaign to help citizens protect themselves. "The AAP wants a serious discussion on this grave issue inside the House, but the BJP government is not even willing to engage," Narang said, adding that AAP will continue to raise the voice of Delhiites strongly both inside the House and on the streets.

Narang said that malaria has already recorded 333 cases in 2025, breaking all records of the past five years. Cases of chikungunya are also at their highest in five years, while dengue is spreading at an equally dangerous pace. "Delhi is witnessing a rapid rise in malaria, chikungunya and dengue, but the corporation has no concrete action plan to fight these diseases," he charged.

Narang pointed to the Civil Lines Zone including Jahangirpuri, the ward of Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh as hotspots for surge in dengue and malaria cases. "If the mayor cannot control these diseases in his ward, how can he stop the surge across the city?" he said.

55 MW solar power through rooftop plants on 1K govt buildings launched in Delhi

Agency New Delhi.

Delhi will install solar panels on 1,000 government buildings to generate 55MW of clean electricity, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Friday.

The plan envisages converting unused rooftop space across departments into decentralised power sources, reducing reliance on conventional generation and lowering pollution in the national capital. The launch event in Rithala marked the beginning of the initiative as Gupta inaugurated a 25KW solar installation at the local sewage treatment plant. She said the complete rooftop rollout is scheduled for completion by January next year.

Soon, work on panels will begin at other identified government buildings. The target of 55MW from 1,000 rooftops will be achieved through a phased schedule that includes surveys, retrofits, and grid connections.

In addition to the solar push, Gupta also laid the foundation stone for a power grid project being built by TPDDL, signalling an integrated approach to emergency services and distribution upgrades. She framed these steps as part of her administration's environmental agenda for the "golden chapter" of a clean, green Delhi.

Waste management was also a focal point. Gupta noted that Delhi generates an estimated 11,000-12,000 metric tonnes of solid waste daily, of which roughly 7,000 tonnes are disposed of, and cautioned that unprocessed garbage would only build "mountains" if left unchecked. The administration has intensified efforts on waste-to-energy plants and biogas facilities to tackle the shortfall and convert waste into usable energy. Work has begun on an e-waste processing plant in Tehkhand to handle discarded electronics, chargers, and batteries.

Gupta highlighted the procurement of 3,000 electric buses to reduce vehicular pollution and modernise public transport. Officials expect the programme to attract private investment and create technical jobs.

5 Dead As Speeding Thar Loses Control, Hits Divider On Gurugram Highway

Agency New Delhi.

Five people died and one was left severely injured after a speeding Thar they were in lost control and crashed into a divider on the National Highway in Gurugram on Saturday morning. The incident took place around 4:30 am near the highway's exit number 9. According to officials, the group of six people - three men and three women - had travelled to Gurugram from Uttar Pradesh for some work.

As the driver of the high-speed SUV lost control, it crashed into a divider. Four people died on the spot, and the remaining two were rushed to a nearby hospital - where one of them died. The injured victim, undergoing treatment, is said to be in a critical condition. The impact of the collision was so severe that Thar was left in a completely mangled wreck. This is yet another incident

involving the Mahindra Thar - which is known for often featuring in reels and short videos. The SUV, in recent times, has been under the spotlight for rash driving and accidents. Last

Singh Sodhi, fled immediately, leaving his car behind, with the police finding two bottles of alcohol in the vehicle.

In another incident, a pedestrian died after a speeding Thar hit them in New Delhi's high-security diplomatic enclave, Chanakyapuri. Officials said that the accident occurred just about two kilometres from Rashtrapati Bhavan, but the pedestrian's body lay on the road for four hours. The accused was subsequently arrested, who told the police that he had dozed off and lost control of the vehicle. Earlier this month, a biker died after a speeding Thar hit him in Delhi's Moti Nagar area. Visuals showed the bike completely crushed between the car and a truck. Many cracks could also be seen on the car's windshield. The accused Thar driver, Amarinder

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us. Approvals came on calls, just by sharing documents online. It used to be nerve-racking; now, we have everything a week in advance," he added.

Mitra recalled how clearances once meant running from pillar to post. "We had to go to MCD, police, multiple departments, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee separately. This year, it was all under one roof," he said.

The focus now shifts to the celebrations. Several pandals marking milestone years have planned elaborate themes. At the CR Park Mela Ground, the pandal will showcase the Mahishadal Rajbari, a 16th-century palace in East Midnapore, West Bengal.



From rajbaris to daaker saaj: Delhi's Durga puja finds new ease, nostalgia

Agency New Delhi.

Durga Puja organisers across the capital are brimming with enthusiasm this year, crediting the administration's single-window clearance system for a hassle-free run-up to the festivities. The process, handled by district magistrates, has won rare praise from puja committees long accustomed to chasing multiple departments for permissions. Avik Mitra, assistant treasurer of the CR Park Mela Ground Durga Puja Samiti, said the extended use of loudspeakers till midnight has added to the excitement. "Young people are looking forward to the cultural nights, especially the musical fest," he said. Organisers said the difference from previous years

has been dramatic. "I am not endorsing any party, but the arrangements are exceptional this time," said Monish Mukherjee, general secretary of the Kashmere Gate Durga Puja Samiti. "Earlier, we had to chase officers relentlessly. This year, officials were following up with

us. Approvals came on calls, just by sharing documents online. It used to be nerve-racking; now, we have everything a week in advance," he added.

Mitra recalled how clearances once meant running from pillar to post. "We had to go to MCD, police, multiple departments, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee separately. This year, it was all under one roof," he said.

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Delhi Ashram Baba Withdrawn Over Rs 50 Lakh After Case Was Filed Against Him

The court said the Swami Chaitanyaanda Saraswati vested a specific plot into the fraudulent trust and sublet the same without any approval or intimation to the authority concerned.

Agency New Delhi.

Self-styled godman Swami Chaitanyaanda Saraswati, accused of sexually harassing 17 girl students of a Delhi institute, allegedly used different names and particulars to operate bank accounts and withdrew over Rs 50 lakh after FIR was registered against him, investigators claimed on Friday.

During the investigation, it was revealed that Saraswati had allegedly been operating a bank account under two different names by submitting documents with varying particulars at the time of account opening and transfer. Police also said that around Rs 50-55 lakh had been withdrawn since the registration of the FIR.

Meanwhile, a Delhi court on Friday dismissed the anticipatory bail plea of Saraswati in a case of alleged cheating,

forgery and criminal conspiracy against him. Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur said, "Investigation of the present case is at a nascent stage and the investigating officer (IO) requires custodial interrogation of the applicant/accused to establish the entire chain of fraud, cheating, conspiracy and misappropriation of funds. As per the version of IO, the applicant/accused is not available at his given address, and his mobile phone is switched off." "Considering the seriousness of allegations and gravity of offence, this Court is not inclined to grant anticipatory bail to the applicant/accused. Therefore, the present bail application stands dismissed," the judge added.

The investigation, so far, the court noted, showed creation of a fraudulent trust,

namely Sri Sharada Institute of Indian Management Research Foundation

"Revenues and funds generated from plot number 7 were intended for the benefit of Sri Sharada Institute of Indian Management Research and the peetham (Sri Sri Jagadguru Shankaracharya Mahasamsthanam Dakshinamanya Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri), but the accused diverted these revenues and funds for his own benefit and criminally misappropriated the property and funds of the peetham," the order said.

Saraswati has been booked for allegedly sexually harassing 17 female students, who he controlled by confiscating their mobile phones and original certificates, creating a sense of fear that compelled them to comply with his demands, according to a friend of one of the victims.

Trust, by Chaitanyaanda "to disburse the property of Sri Sharada Institute of Indian Management Research in the 'fraudulent trust' created by him. The court said the accused vested a specific plot into the fraudulent trust and sublet the same without any approval or

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NEWS BOX

Sunil Gavaskar's advice for Suryakumar Yadav before final: Give yourself 3 to 4 balls

ABU DHABI. (Agency)

Legendary batter Sunil Gavaskar advised Suryakumar Yadav to take a few deliveries in the middle to assess the pitch conditions before playing his natural game in the Asia Cup 2025 final against Pakistan. In the tournament so far, the 35-year-old Suryakumar has scored 71 runs in five innings at an average of 23.66 and a strike rate of 107.57, with scores of 7 not out, 47 not out, 0, 5 and 12. His Asia Cup form contrasts sharply with his IPL 2025 performance, where he scored 717 runs at an average of 65.18 and a strike rate of 167.91. On Friday, Suryakumar scored 12 off 13 before Wanindu Hasaranga accounted for his wicket. Gavaskar stressed the importance of adapting to conditions for India's title hopes. Stay updated on Asia Cup 2025 with India Today! Get match schedules, team squads, live score, and the latest Asia Cup points table. "He's undoubtedly a class player. All I would suggest is that he give himself three or four



deliveries in the middle to assess the conditions—check for pace, bounce, or turn. Watching from the dugout and stepping onto the field can feel very different," Gavaskar told Sports Today.

"Sometimes, if a batter is ahead, it might seem like there's nothing in the pitch, but it's always better to take a few balls to gauge the conditions before playing your natural game," Gavaskar added. Tough day before final can be beneficial."

Gavaskar said that a tough day before the final could benefit India, showcasing the team's resilience and composure in their Super Over win against Sri Lanka. India posted 202 for five, with Abhishek Sharma scoring 61 and Tilak Varma 49 not out. Sri Lanka responded strongly, led by Pathum Nissanka's 107 and Kusal Perera's 58, pushing the match to a Super Over. Arshdeep Singh's exceptional bowling then helped India secure the victory.

Test door not shut on Karun Nair, West Indies snub will make him hungrier: Coach

New Delhi. (Agency)

Karun Nair's hopes of cementing his place in India's Test side have hit a roadblock. After a nearly nine-year absence, the Karnataka batter made a long-awaited return during the challenging England tour earlier this year, only to struggle for consistency across four Tests. Now, Nair finds himself left out of the squad for the upcoming series against the West Indies, starting on 2 October in Ahmedabad. Yet, those close to him insist that Nair remains in prime form and that this setback could be the spark he needs to come back stronger than ever. "I felt very bad for him. He was deserving one more chance, that is what I feel. But, again, it is the selectors' call. They think in a different way," Vijay Madyalkar, Nair's childhood coach, told IndiaToday.in. Karun Nair was omitted from the 15-man squad for the Test series against the West Indies, which marks the start of a brief home season for India, who will also play South Africa in a two-Test series in November. Chief selector Ajit Agarkar, who announced the India squad in Dubai on 24 September, explained the



decision to drop Nair, saying the team management expected a bit more from the senior batter during the England tour, which was also his comeback run in the Test set-up after nearly a nine-year absence. In place of Nair, his junior state teammate Devdutt Padikkal was handed a recall, while Sai Sudharsan, who batted at No. 3 in England, was also retained. Vijay said Nair deserved a chance in home conditions, particularly given his stellar domestic run over the last few years.

India's Super Over epic eats into recovery time ahead of Sunday's Asia Cup final

Calling the high-scoring

Super Over thriller against Sri Lanka a match that "felt like a final," India captain Suryakumar Yadav said his team would focus on a proper recovery ahead of the big Asia Cup final against Pakistan.

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's final Super 4s clash against Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup turned out to be one of the most exhilarating contests of the ongoing tournament, even though the game itself was inconsequential for the standings. The high-scoring thriller went down to a Super Over, leaving players physically drained and forcing the Indian team to focus on recovery

ahead of the Asia Cup final against Pakistan, scheduled just 36 hours later. Calling the match "a game that felt like a final," India captain Suryakumar Yadav acknowledged the toll it took on his squad. "Let's have a good recovery tonight. Let us not think about that [the final] right now. Few boys had a lot of cramps today. Have a good recovery day tomorrow and we will turn up the same way we did today. What I wanted from the boys was just to execute their plans, be clear, and not to fear—that was really important, and I am sure everyone got what they wanted. Happy to be in the final," Yadav said when asked about the upcoming clash against Pakistan. The Indian captain also noted that several players had struggled with physical discomfort in the humid conditions of Dubai, particularly Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma and Hardik Pandya, underlining the physical cost of such an intense contest. Stay updated on Asia Cup 2025 with India Today! Get match schedules, team squads, live score, and the latest Asia Cup points table. Hardik Pandya bowled just a solitary over against Sri Lanka, claiming a wicket in his first spell, but did not return to bowl thereafter. Following his opening over, Pandya left the field and remained absent for the remainder

of the match. With substitute fielders Rinku Singh and Jitesh Sharma occupying the field for a significant portion of the game, India



moments of the match, Yadav said: "It felt like a final [laughs]. The boys showed a lot of character after the first half in the second

innings. I told them to play this like a semi-final: get everyone involved, maintain good energy, and then let's see what happens. Good to be on the winning side. To have that start, and then see someone like Sanju and Tilak batting the way they did, taking the tempo ahead from where Abhishek left [cannot say from where I left it] Sanju, not opening, going down the order, taking responsibility, and Tilak gaining confidence and responsibility—that was good to see." The Super Over was dominated by Arshdeep Singh, whose composure under pressure proved decisive. "Arshdeep has been in that situation many times and he has delivered for us. I only told him to back his own plans and not to think about anything else. We are already in the finals, but focus on your own execution. I have seen him execute his plans and do really well for India and his IPL franchise. His confidence says it all—no one but Arshdeep for that Super Over," Yadav explained, highlighting the faith the team has in their young pacer.

Suryakumar Yadav consoles Dunieth Wellalage after India's Super Over win

MADRID. (Agency)

Indian captain Suryakumar Yadav consoled Sri Lanka's Dunieth Wellalage after their Asia Cup Super 4 clash on Friday, September 27, at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, showing a moment of compassion that went beyond the match. Wellalage, 22, had recently lost his father, Suranga Wellalage, to a heart attack. Despite his grief, he returned to join the Sri Lankan squad for the Super 4 stage, showing great courage and determination. Stay updated on Asia Cup 2025 with India Today! Get match schedules, team squads, live score, and the latest Asia Cup points table. After the tense Super Over that India narrowly won, Yadav went up to Wellalage on the field. In a touching gesture, he placed a comforting hand on Wellalage's shoulder, spoke words of support, and embraced him. This act of empathy by Suryakumar underlined the true spirit of sportsmanship, reminding everyone that beyond the rivalry, players share human emotions and experiences. For Wellalage, Yadav's gesture was a meaningful reminder that compassion and understanding can bring comfort during moments of sadness.

India edge past Sri Lanka in thriller

India kept their unbeaten streak alive in the



2025 Asia Cup by edging past Sri Lanka. Batting first, India posted a strong total of 202 for five. Abhishek Sharma led the way with a blistering 61 off 31 balls, his third consecutive half-century.

Tilak Varma remained unbeaten on 49, while Sanju Samson added 39 runs. Sri Lanka fought back, with Pathum Nissanka scoring the tournament's first century—107 off 58 balls. He shared a vital 127-run partnership with Kusal Perera (58), which took Sri Lanka level with India and forced a Super

Over. In the one-over decider, Arshdeep bowled superbly, giving away just two runs and taking two wickets in five balls. Suryakumar Yadav then sealed victory for India on the first ball of their chase, scoring three runs through the covers off Wanindu Hasaranga.

This win extended India's winning run to six matches, keeping them unbeaten in the tournament. They will now face Pakistan in the final, making it the first-ever Asia Cup final between the two rivals.

Harry Kane nets 100th Bayern goal, breaks Ronaldo and Haaland's record

New Delhi. (Agency)

New Delhi: Harry Kane continues to smash records in Germany. The Bayern Munich striker scored twice in his side's 3-1 win over Werder Bremen on Friday to reach 100 goals for the club in just 104 matches. With this milestone he became the fastest player to achieve the feat in Europe's top five leagues. The England captain converted a penalty right before half-time for his first goal of the night, before pouncing on a rebound in the 65th minute to complete his brace and seal yet another milestone. By doing so, he moved past Cristiano Ronaldo and Erling Haaland, who both needed 105 games to reach 100 goals with Real Madrid and Manchester City respectively. Bayern had earlier taken the lead through Jonathan Tah's flicked effort that deflected in off Luis Diaz while Konrad Laimer added a late fourth to wrap up the victory. For Kane,



though, the focus was all on the century mark and the fact he got there quicker than two of the game's most ruthless finishers.

Records breaking machine

This wasn't Kane's first brush with history in a Bayern shirt. Just last week, he hit a hat-trick in a 4-1 win over Hoffenheim, a performance that also saw him set two Bundesliga records. He became the fastest

player to 70 goals in the competition, reaching the tally in only 67 games, and he had earlier claimed the record for most goals in 50 Bundesliga appearances with 54 strikes. On Friday night, he added another entry to the record books by becoming the first player in Bundesliga history to convert his first 18 penalties, a flawless streak that underlines his composure from the spot. Few strikers combine such consistency with the ability to produce in big games and Kane has done both since his move from Tottenham in 2023. Kane's output this season shows no signs of slowing as he has already netted 15 goals in eight matches across all competitions including two hat-tricks in the league. Bayern remain unbeaten at the top of the Bundesliga under new boss Vincent Kompany, who praised his star forward's work ethic as much as his goals.

The golden rule of T20 cricket is to take wickets. Morkel said that the golden rule in T20 cricket is to take wickets, and it is a good chance for Bumrah to do the same in the powerplay for the team. "We know the number one rule or the golden rule in T20 cricket is to take wickets and if we can do that by using one of our best bowlers and for us to strike upfront. That might change according to what we feel will be best in the day. But yeah, we just felt that it's a nice opportunity to give him that role to try and strike for us up front," said Morkel.

Bumrah has picked up five wickets so far in the four matches he has played. The star pacer was rested for the game against Sri Lanka.

World Archery Para C'ships: Sheetal, Sarita storm into women's compound team final

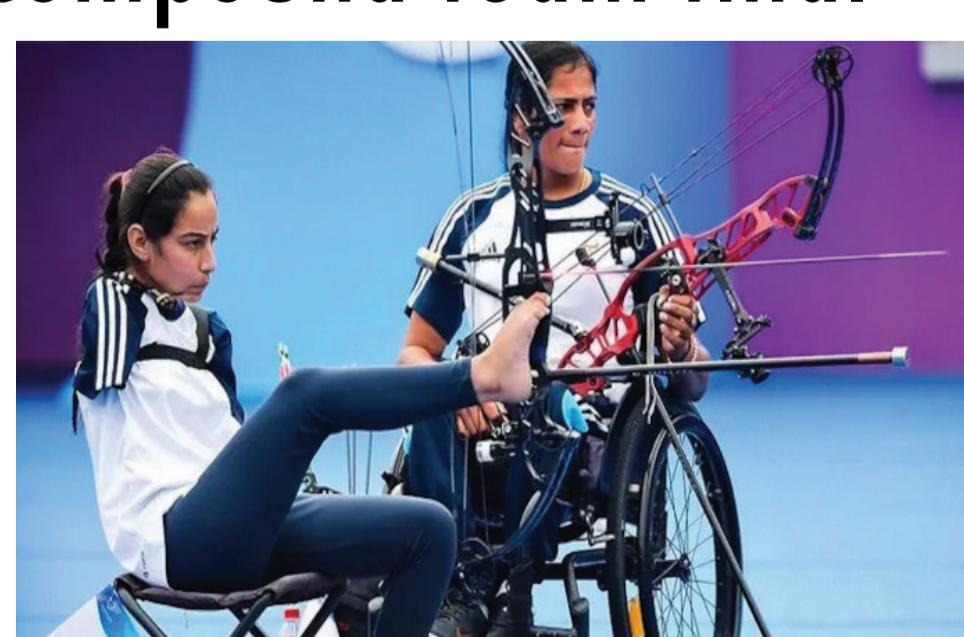
New Delhi. (Agency)

Sheetal Devi and Sarita created history on Friday, September 26, as they became the first Indian pair to reach the final of the Women's Compound team event at the World Archery Para Championships in South Korea. The Indian archers defeated the top-seeded Great Britain team of Phoebe Paterson Pine and Jessica Stretton in the semis to reach the summit clash. The win meant that India has been assured of four medals at the event, ensuring India's best-ever tally at the championships. The duo started the semi-final in perfect fashion as they scored 38 in the first round as Pine and Stretton were a point behind. There was nothing to separate the four archers in the second round as they matched each other and got 38. It was in the third round that the pressure got to the top seeds as they faltered and got 36. The Indian duo responded with a near-perfect round as they scored 39 to extend their lead to four points, heading into the last set. While Pine and Stretton got their

act together with 39 in the final round, Sheetal and Sarita did just enough to get the win with a scoreline of 152-150 to progress to the final. Sheetal, who is already in the final of the Women's Compound Individual event, will be looking to bag gold in both, while Sarita is aiming to secure her second world title after being already the defending champion in the mixed team category.

Other results

In the other results, Rakesh Kumar and Toman Kumar couldn't carry over their fine form from the individual events to the doubles one and were beaten in the quarterfinals of the men's compound team event. They lost in the quarter-finals with a scoreline of 150-152 to Canada. India also had a medalless campaign in the W1 and recurve categories for the second consecutive edition. After the withdrawal of Harvinder Singh, the men's recurve team didn't take to the field and the women's team lost in the quarter-finals to Korea.



Well-Developed Financial System Crucial For Viksit Bharat At 2047: SBI Chairman

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

New Delhi: A well-developed financial system will be crucial as India embarks on its journey towards Viksit Bharat at 2047, SBI Chairman CS Setty has said. Addressing the capital market leaders here, he said a well-developed financial system will be crucial which calls for deepening of capital markets, fostering innovation, and nurturing financial talent. Capital Market participants widely appreciated the quality of service extended by SBI as well as the quick turnaround time in handling their requests. The country's largest lender reported a 12.5 per cent increase in net profit at Rs 19,160 crore for the April-June quarter of the current financial year, compared to the corresponding figure of Rs 17,035 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal. SBI's operating profit for Q1 FY26 grew by a robust 15.49 per cent year-on-year to Rs 30,544 crore. Meanwhile, the combined value of all Bombay Stock Exchange-listed companies has crossed Rs 465 lakh crore, marking its highest level in 11 months. The figure is currently just 2.7 per cent shy of the all-time peak recorded on September 27, 2024, with nearly Rs 20 lakh crore added since the beginning of September.

Potential easing by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in October also boosted investor sentiments, as domestic inflation showed signs of softening.

State-owned firms played a huge role in the recent rally driving the BSE PSU Index up by 7.5 per cent, even as the BSE 500 gained 5 per cent. BSE Auto rose by 9 per cent, BSE Bankex up 6.8 per cent, BSE Metal added 8.1 per cent and Oil & Gas went up 4.5 per cent. According to market watches, there is a high likelihood of above 15 per cent growth in corporate earnings in FY27 due to GST reforms, leading to a turnaround in FPI sentiments.

Nifty Falls 3% In 7 Sessions As FIIs Pull Out Rs 30,141 Crore In September Amid Tariffs, Visa Fee Hike And Rupee Slide

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

The Indian stock market ended lower for the seventh straight session on Friday last week, weighed down by escalating trade tensions and sustained foreign selling. The Nifty 50 index slipped from 25,423 to 24,654 over these seven sessions—losing more than 750 points or around 3 percent despite steady domestic institutional buying.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) sold Indian equities worth Rs 30,141.68 crore in the cash segment this month, marking the third consecutive month of net outflows. They had already pulled out Rs 47,666.68 crore and Rs 46,902.92 crore in July and August 2025 respectively. With only two sessions left in September, FIIs are expected to remain net sellers. A series of US policy shifts has dented investor confidence. These include the Trump administration's imposition of 25 percent tariffs on Indian goods, an additional 25 percent tariff on crude oil imports from Russia, and a steep hike in H-1B visa fees to USD 100,000 for new applicants. High market valuations, weak corporate earnings, and rupee depreciation have compounded the pressure, particularly on export-driven sectors like IT, textiles, jewellery and chemicals. The Nifty trades at a price-to-earnings ratio of around 22—above historical averages—making Indian equities relatively expensive. Subdued earnings growth has further reduced their appeal compared to cheaper markets such as China and South Korea, where FIIs are redirecting capital for better risk-adjusted returns.

Tariffs and Rupee Depreciation Add to Uncertainty

India's trade ties with the US have deteriorated, with tariffs on select goods rising sharply and a 100 percent tariff on branded pharmaceuticals adding to economic uncertainty. At the same time, the Indian rupee has fallen to record lows against the US dollar, eroding foreign investor returns and reinforcing the shift towards domestic institutional ownership of equities.

Trump pressures Microsoft to dismiss ex. DAG Lisa Monaco, citing security risks

New Delhi. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump has called on Microsoft to remove Lisa Monaco, its President of Global Affairs, claiming that her past government roles under the Biden and Obama administrations pose a national security risk. Monaco, who joined Microsoft in July 2025, previously served as Deputy Attorney General under President Joe Biden and as Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Advisor in the Obama White House. Trump alleges that her security clearances were revoked and that she has been barred from certain federal properties. He argues that her presence at Microsoft is particularly troubling because the company holds extensive contracts with the US government, including sensitive defense-related projects, global media reported early Saturday. Microsoft has so far declined to comment on Trump's demand. The situation comes at a politically charged moment, following Trump's broader efforts to challenge figures linked to past administrations and to assert stronger control over institutions he views with suspicion. Trump's intervention places Microsoft in a difficult position. If the company complies and removes Monaco, it risks being seen as yielding to political coercion, which could damage its reputation with employees, investors, and international partners.

Weekly Review: Indian equities end lower, rupee hits record lows, commodities diverge

Market breadth turned negative by the end of the week, while Indian rupee had its weakest week in a month.

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Indian equities ended the week (September 22-26) on a weak note after swinging between optimism and selling pressure. The BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty 50 slipped, with the decline deepening on Friday as IT and metal stocks dragged the indices lower.

Early in the week, markets drew support from hopes of progress in India-US trade talks, but sentiment soured after Washington raised visa fees and imposed steep tariffs on certain drug exports. Foreign portfolio investors turned net sellers in the latter part of the week, adding to the downward pressure.

Sector performance was mixed. Public



sector banks, realty and defence shares extended recent gains, while export-linked IT and pharmaceutical companies came under stress. Market breadth turned negative by the end of the week as global cues weighed heavily. The Indian rupee had its weakest week in a month, closing around Rs 88.72 against the US dollar with a weekly drop of about 0.7 percent. The currency even touched a new intraday

record low of Rs 88.80 before recovering slightly. The slide was triggered by higher US visa fees, tariff concerns and capital outflows. The Reserve Bank of India was active in the foreign exchange market to contain volatility, but bond market pressures and stronger US yields limited the rupee's ability to recover.

Commodities offered a contrasting picture. Gold continued its rally, crossing Rs 1.11

lakh per 10 grams in domestic markets as investors sought safe-haven assets. Silver also posted weekly gains. In energy markets, crude oil prices slipped globally on oversupply concerns, easing some pressure on India's import bill. Base metals, including copper, were under pressure due to weaker demand trends. On the trade front, analysts projected India's edible oil imports could hit a record 17.1 million metric tons in the coming year, with palm oil leading the rise. Russia has also stepped up efforts to expand sunflower oil exports to India.

Outlook
The coming weeks will be shaped by the progress of US-India trade talks, foreign investor flows and global rate expectations. The rupee remains vulnerable to external shocks, while commodity prices may stay volatile. Domestically, earnings trends and festive-season demand will be key factors for equity performance, but political and trade risks from overseas are likely to keep volatility elevated.

UAE Regulator Bars HDFC Bank's Dubai Branch From Onboarding New Clients

New Delhi. (Agency)

HDFC Bank has informed that its branch in Dubai International Financial Centre, namely 'DIFC branch', has received a decision notice from the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA), restricting it from onboarding or soliciting new clients. Further, DIFC has also been banned from soliciting, onboarding or engaging in any financial promotions with any new client, the HDFC Bank informed in an exchange filing. According to the notice, the DIFC branch has been prohibited from engaging in financial services for new clients, including advising on financial products, arranging deals in investments, arranging credit, and providing custody services. The regulator highlighted concerns regarding the branch's practices around financial services provided to customers not fully onboarded and issues linked to its onboarding process. The Bank has already initiated necessary steps to comply with the directives in the above-referred notice and is committed to



them promptly to avoid further delays. The refund process is closely linked to e-verification, so unverified returns will not be processed. Taxpayers are advised to carefully review their submitted information, including bank account details, PAN, and other critical data, to ensure accuracy and prevent

potential refund issues. Being proactive in monitoring emails and communications from the IT Department can significantly help in resolving refund-related problems quickly. To track your ITR refund status, visit the Income Tax e-filing portal at eportal.incometax.gov.in/iec/fo services/ and log in using your Income Tax user ID and password. After logging in, click on the 'e-File' tab, select 'Income Tax Returns,' and choose 'View Filed Returns.' The portal will display your current and past refund statuses, and you can click 'View details' for more comprehensive information on your refund. Regularly checking the status allows taxpayers to stay informed, address any discrepancies promptly, and ensure that the refund is processed smoothly without unnecessary delays.

FAA restores Boeing's ability to certify Max jets for flight more than 6 years after fatal crashes

New Delhi. (Agency)

Boeing is getting back the ability to perform final safety inspections on 737 Max jetliners and certify them for flight more than six years after crashes of the then-new model killed 346 people, the Federal Aviation Administration said Friday. The FAA said it decided to restore the aerospace company's authorization to issue airworthiness certificates for Max and 787 Dreamliner passenger planes starting Monday following "a thorough review of Boeing's ongoing production quality.

Federal regulators took full control over 737 Max approvals in 2019, after the second of two crashes that were later blamed on a new software system Boeing developed for the aircraft. The FAA ended the company's right to self-certify Dreamliners in 2022, citing ongoing production quality issues.

Going forward, Boeing and FAA

inspectors will take weekly turns performing the safety checks that are required before aircraft are cleared for delivery and declared safe to fly. The FAA said the arrangement will free up more of its inspectors to conduct "rigorous" quality checks on the production line at Boeing plants. The Associated Press sent emailed requests Friday to Boeing for comment. The company's stock price was up about 4% in afternoon trading, as the FAA announcement coincided with news about Boeing securing two more orders from foreign airlines.

Turkey's flag carrier, Turkish Airlines, said Friday that it planned to buy 75 Dreamliners and wants to eventually buy up to 150 more 737 Max jets. Boeing said the Max purchase would be the largest single order for its best-selling aircraft, if the deal is finalized. Norwegian Group, the aviation company that operates Norwegian Air Shuttle and regional airline Widerøe,

also placed an order for 30 Boeing 737 Max 8 planes, Boeing said Friday. Since President Donald Trump's return to the White House this year, his administration has made Boeing a focus of its plans to revive US manufacturing. A number of international airlines have signed sales agreements with Boeing in recent months. Some Boeing critics have questioned how meaningfully the company has reformed its culture and processes to ensure the passenger planes it produces are safe.

The FAA announced earlier this month that it was seeking \$3.1 million in fines from Boeing over alleged safety violations between September 2023 and February 2024, including a blowout of a paneled-over exit door on a 737 Max during an Alaska Airlines flight. After the January 2024 Alaska Airlines incident, the FAA capped Boeing's production of Max jets to 38 per month.

work with the DFSA in its ongoing investigation and to promptly remediate and address the DFSA concerns at the earliest," the filing said. The restrictions, however, do not impact existing customers or clients who were previously offered financial services but had not yet been onboarded. The DFSA order will remain effective until it is amended or revoked in writing. As on September 23, 2025, the DIFC Branch has 1,489 customers onboarded, including joint holders. The regulatory action comes in the backdrop of a two-year-old controversy regarding the alleged mis-selling of high-risk Credit Suisse additional tier-1 (AT1) bonds. Investors had accused the bank of pushing the products through its UAE operations, which included advisory from DIFC officials, relationship management by staff at its Dubai representative office, and account booking with its Bahrain branch. Investigations were done on whether clients were properly onboarded in DIFC.

NPS Rule Changes From October 1: Key Updates Investors Must Know—Details Here

In the past decade, the National Pension System (NPS) has seen significant changes—ranging from greater market exposure to revised tax benefits and updated withdrawal rules.

New Delhi. (Agency)

New Delhi: Planning for retirement is no longer just about saving money but it's about choosing the right investment that grows with you. One such option is the National Pension System (NPS), which opened up for the non-government sector in 2009. Over the past 16 years, it has steadily evolved into one of the most trusted retirement investment choices. With government-backed reforms, NPS has been shaped into a market-linked, flexible, and tax-friendly plan, making it a practical way for millions to secure their financial future.

Big Shifts in NPS Over the Years

In the past decade, the National Pension System (NPS) has seen significant changes—ranging from greater market exposure to revised tax benefits and updated withdrawal rules. Among the most recent updates is the launch of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), which has been introduced exclusively for central government employees, with the exception of those serving in the Indian armed forces.

What's Next for NPS? Upcoming Changes You Should Know

The National Pension System (NPS) is set to undergo another round of major updates, starting October 1, 2025. Among the key changes are the option to invest up to 100% in equities and the launch of a new Multiple Scheme Framework (MSF). In addition, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has rolled out draft proposals aimed at making withdrawal and exit rules much simpler for subscribers.

Key Upcoming Changes in NPS You Should Know

Here are some of the major updates coming to the National Pension System (NPS) in the months ahead:

100% Equity Investment Option (From October 1, 2025)

- Non-government sector subscribers will soon be able to invest up to 100% of their funds in equities under the new Multiple Scheme Framework (MSF).

- This offers higher return potential for those

operated under a single PRAN (Permanent Retirement Account Number).

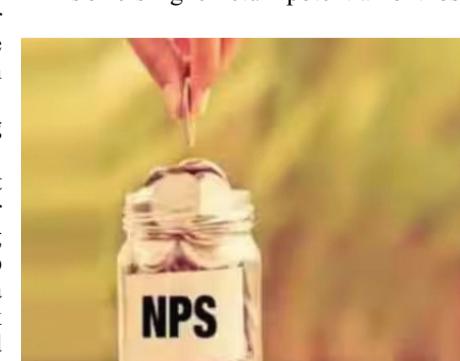
- With MSF, investors can manage multiple schemes from different Central Record Keeping Agencies (CRAs) under one PRAN, giving them more flexibility and choice.

Simplified Exit and Withdrawal Rules

- PFRDA has proposed changes to make exiting and withdrawing from NPS more flexible. - Exit after 15 years: Non-government subscribers may be allowed to exit after 15 years instead of waiting until retirement. Higher lump sum withdrawals & easier partial exits: Investors may get more freedom to withdraw funds for needs like education, medical expenses, or building a home.

Major NPS Updates in the Past Year

Over the last year, the National Pension System (NPS) has gone through several important changes. One of the biggest was the launch of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)—introduced only for central government employees (excluding the armed forces), many of whom had been pushing for the return of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).



comfortable with stock market exposure, but also comes with higher risk due to market volatility.

Introduction of Multiple Scheme Framework (MSF)

- Until now, only one scheme could be

Tara Sutaria

Sets Internet On Fire With Her Bold Photos, Fans React

Tara Sutaria has again taken social media by storm with her latest bold pictures. The Student of the Year 2 actress is known for her fashion choices. She has turned up the heat as she shared sizzling photos from her latest vacation in the Maldives. The photos quickly went viral among her fans. Taking to her Instagram handle, Tara Sutaria shared photos and wrote, "A weekend with the dolphins." She is seen flaunting her perfectly toned body in a black bikini. The actress opted for minimal makeup. In no time, it went viral and fans were reacting to it with heart emojis. Many also called hot in the comment section.

Veer Pahariya, Like A True Gentleman, Opens Door For Ladylove Tara Sutaria



Tara Sutaria and Veer Pahariya are making hearts flutter, one joint appearance at a time. On Tuesday, it was just another date for the rumoured couple, a glimpse of which is now circulating online. The duo was spotted making a love-filled entry at what seems like a lavish entry in Mumbai and we can't help but stop and stare, thanks to their adorable chemistry. Veer, like a true gentleman, opened the door of the car for Tara who was seen blushing as she exchanged a glance with her rumoured beau. As she made her way straight to the venue, Veer simply walked past her, showcasing what love looks like.

Both Tara and Veer decided to skip posing but made sure to greet the paparazzi with a sweet smile and even waved their hands at them before exiting the spot. It wasn't just their sweet gestures that won hearts but the stylish fits and on-point fashion also captured the attention. In an all-black ensemble, Veer exuded effortless charm whereas Tara's stunning backless copper brown dress made her look like a total smokeshow.

Tara Sutaria And Veer Pahariya's Relationship

Speculation around Tara Sutaria and Veer Pahariya's relationship have been creating buzz for months now. Fueling the rumors, the two would often step out together for parties, screenings and casual outings.

Earlier, a source spoke to Zoom about the couple and shared, "They're not making an effort to keep it a secret, but they're not showcasing it either. Their chemistry was undeniable—they couldn't stop laughing, and there were sparks everywhere."



Priyanka Chopra Spends 'Loviest Day' With 'Loviest Girl' Dia Mirza: See Photo

Dia Mirza and Priyanka Chopra fans are thrilled to witness their favorite actresses getting reunited after a long time. The Bollywood divas were seen together in New York City spending time with each other as Dia captured the moment and shared it on social media. In the picture, Dia Mirza and Priyanka Chopra were seen standing in a park holding a water bottle, but their faces were not visible. Sharing the glimpse of their meetup, Dia wrote, "Love your #travellingbottle. Love you more," followed by a UNGA hashtag. She further added, "Goodbye, NYC! I carry back inspiration, hope and so much love in my heart." Later, Priyanka Chopra re-shared the picture on her Instagram stories and wrote, "The loveliest day with the loveliest girl. See you soon."

Dia Mirza and Priyanka Chopra's Friendship

Dia Mirza and Priyanka Chopra's friendship spans over decades. The divas became friends when they competed in the Miss India pageant together in 2000. Previously, during an interview with Simi Garewal, Priyanka Chopra recalled her friendship with Dia during pageant days and said, "Dia was 18, and I was 17, and we were like these little babes. I wouldn't know what to wear or how my makeup was. And I remember one time she took me to the bathroom, and she showed me the right makeup to use for my skin. Totally look up to her for that."

Both the actresses share the same bond to date. Recently, Dia Mirza was seen praising Priyanka Chopra following the release of her film Heads of State. Taking to Instagram stories, Dia wrote, "Priiiiiiiii! So damn proud of the strength you embody. A treat to watch you. 'She said she'll take care of it,' and she does!!! What a woman! @priyankachopra Go watch our desi girl pack a punch #HeadsOfState." To which, Priyanka reacted, saying, "Aww Dee, thank you so much for your generosity (red heart emoji) @diamirzaofficial."



Devoleena Bhattacharjee Enjoys Maharaja Bhog With Husband And Son On Durga Puja



Devoleena Bhattacharjee celebrated the fifth day of Navratri with a grand feast with her husband, Shahnewaz Shaikh and their son, Joy. The couple, who got married in December 2022 and were blessed with their first child two years later, have been marking every milestone in the child's life with a special celebration. To mark the auspicious day during the ongoing festivities, the actress opted for enjoying a Maharajabhog. Taking to her Instagram stories, Devoleena Bhattacharjee posted a collage of a couple of stunning moments from their visit to the popular eatery, Maharajabhog India, located in Skycity Mall, Borivali, Mumbai. The family of three was seen enjoying a grand meal, seemingly a vegetarian buffet to mark the auspicious celebration of Navratri.

Devoleena Bhattacharjee Twins In Orange With Her Son, Joy

The actress, who has served pure mother-son fashion goals with sneak peeks into her baby boy's Joy's Annaprashan ceremony or the first Janmashtami celebrations, opted for an orange anarkali set for her casual yet stylish outing look. She was seen twinning with her 9-month-old, and their candid moments truly captured the family's pure joy in the grand culinary experience.

Devoleena Bhattacharjee's Unplanned Reunion With Nidhi Uttam And Ishita Ganguly

The Saath Nibhaana Saathiya actress also reposted a picture shared by the actress Nidhi Uttam, known for her roles in Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai, Kasautii Zindagii Kay, Ek Boond Ishq, Dil Bole Oberoi and Aghori, among others.

Besides the two divas, the picture also featured Siam Sandeep Arora and Richa Gupta Arora, among others. While posting the picture, Nidhi tagged Devoleena and wrote, "It was so good to meet you after such a long time," indicating their unplanned meeting, which provided immense joy to the duo.

Devoleena also met actress Ishita Ganguly, known for her roles in shows like Shastri Sisters, Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi – Kahani Mata Rani Ki, and Peshwa Bajirao, among others, at the same eatery. The 33-year-old shared a video capturing her alongside her friend and her son, Joy. Sharing the video on her Instagram stories, the actress wrote below the adorable moment, "With my 2 cuties #Joy & debo @devoleena #cutieeee #masilove."

Anil Kapoor's Salt And Pepper Look Reminds Fans Of His Film Taal



Anil Kapoor is one such actor in Bollywood who is redefining ageing with his fine looks. The veteran star was spotted on the streets of Mumbai in a candid moment with his fans. However, it was his casual yet chic avatar even at 68 that mesmerised the fashion mongers.

In a video posted on Instagram, Anil Kapoor was seen exiting a place while being approached by a couple of fans, who were seen waiting for him near the exit gate. Soon, the Nayak: The Real Hero actor flashed his bright smile to humbly greet the people stationed over there. He was also seen showing adaab and salaam to his fans, and without pausing for a bit to pose for the shutterbugs, he went straight inside his swanky car parked outside the place.

Anil Kapoor Is Winning Hearts With His Casual Yet Chic Avatar

For the day, the actor was seen wearing a beige-hued T-shirt from Nike teamed with a pair of black denim pants and leather shoes. A classic watch, a leather belt, and round rimmed glasses, maximised Kapoor's charm. Additionally, it was his salt and pepper look that left the fashionistas hooked on his look.

The video sparked a wave of admiration amongst fans. While one user called him his "Fav Man," another mentioned, "Always young," followed by a red heart emoji. Many others flooded the comment section dropping appreciative emojis like heart-eyed faces, hearts and more.

Anil Kapoor's Recent Projects

The Laadla star has appeared in over 138 Hindi films, as well as international films and television series, throughout his career spanning over 45 years. He has also donned the cap of a producer since 2005, producing an impressive list of films, including Badhaai Ho Badhaai, Aisha, Khoobsurat, Veere Di Wedding, Thank You for Coming and Crew, among others.

Even at 68, the actor continues to work nonstop. Last year, he appeared in two films: Siddharth Anand's directorial aerial action film, Fighter, as Rakesh 'Rocky' Jai Singh and the action thriller movie, Savi, portraying the role of Joydeep Paul. At the beginning of 2025, he starred in War 2, an action-thriller film directed by Ayan Mukerji and produced under the banner of Yash Raj Films.

Doing up your study your way

For many, reading is recreational. Given a choice, everyone would want to have that little space in the house to do what you like the most without any speck of distraction. Having a study at homes and apartments is a rare luxury, thanks to space constraints. However, it is not impossible. "A study or an office space in home should be a cosy corner that is relatively tucked away from the on-goings in the house, especially away from the television," says Shweta Kaushik, a multi-disciplinary design consultant based in Mumbai.

There are umpteen things that go into planning and decorating a study room - from the colour and kind of furniture to the allotment of space and so on. Below are a

corner with a laid-back and relaxed theme in mind. Throw a few bean bags, cushions and sitting mats on the floor. Get a low, wooden coffee table where you can place your computer or laptop. A bright coloured rug will help add more drama to the already informal setting. For newspapers and magazines, pick multi-coloured book holders that will further



few ideas that you may implement while doing up your own study at home:

Decor

Ambience is the foremost important thing to be taken care of while decorating your study. The comfort level of the room rests in your hands.

Casual setting: Do up your reading

take away the seriousness of a conventional study room. Not to mention, pick a contemporary design for the bookshelf and stack all your favourite books.

Formal setting: Serious work needs serious atmosphere. A large bookshelf is a must for such setting, especially the one that has glass doors. Place your books neatly on the shelf to give it an organised look. A smaller bookshelf can be placed beside it to store all your

stationery. A dark wooden table and a chair to go along with it will complete the look. Ensure that the table has sufficient drawers where you can store important documents. Also, arrangement of equipments

Add personality to your home

decor



A home is your most most prized and intimate space. But does it reflect the person you are? Are you wasting your time and energy in having a decor just because it is in vogue or you just want it to be appreciated by your friends? Is it possible that a person who doesn't really know you walks into your home and get a feel of who exactly you are as an individual and what are your tastes? It's time to bring that touch of your personality to your decor.

There's a thumb rule:

Just like your wardrobe, your decor should reflect personal style. So, if you are a cinephile, then you can source those lovely film posters to add a unique decor to your home. Similarly if you are a person who loves entertaining friends and having a party in a relaxed way then your home should reflect this. In that case, you can have informal entertainment zone where people can put their feet up and soak in the warmth of your home.

Think what are your preferences and add pieces that reflect it. So, add rugs, floor cushions, table lamps to add your unique touch to the decor.

While buying items for your home, ask yourself, "Does this define my personality?" If it doesn't, then don't buy one. Your home is not something to flaunt, it is a just reflection of who you are as a person.

How to add Life

Be a little creative and add more colour and vibrancy to your wall

Walls with a dash of colour and imagination can change the look of your room. And there are simple not so expensive ways to add more life to your walls. Just let your creative juices flow. And then see the change.

Art power: Nothing brightens up the wall like a canvas. So, if you have an artwork then display it. Choose the perfect place to showcase it so that it becomes the centre of attraction. And if you don't have the money to buy original art, don't lose heart. You can always buy a print and with a stylish frame, it can change the look.

Colours of life: Interestingly, fabrics add much colour to a wall. India is a country of great textile heritage. So, you can choose from the ikkats to mangalgiris for adding a completely different, vibrant look to your wall. If you have seen the Calico Textile Museum in Ahmedabad, you will

definitely know the power of textile in adding a warm rich look. Learn to use saris, dupattas, rugs in adding more colour and texture to your decor.

Stringing memory: Memories are great to have as company in your intimate space. Dig into

your album for your favourite family photos and then arrange it to bring in a sense of personal touch to your space. How about being a little different and creative? Write your favourite poem on a nice handmade paper and then frame it. You can also make a collage out of your kids' paintings and then frame it to hang on the wall.

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