

**GST Bachat Utsav** CBC 15502/13/0028/2526

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**COMBINE HARVESTER THRESHER CHEAPER BY UPTO ₹1.25 LAKH**

**TRACTOR CHEAPER BY NEARLY ₹40,000**

**GOVERNMENT OF BHARAT**

## How 'I love Muhammad' row gives Yogi Adityanath ammo against Akhilesh Yadav

**Analysts say the issue, initially local, has been transformed into a broader ideological debate, allowing UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to consolidate support on a Hindutva platform during Navratri and force the Samajwadi Party into a balancing act.**

**Lucknow.(Agency)**

The "I love Muhammad" campaign that has spread to several districts of Uttar Pradesh has unexpectedly handed Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath a potent political weapon, leaving Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav largely silent and on the backfoot, even as some

of his party's Muslim leaders and spokespersons have spoken out on the issue. The row began in Kanpur in the first week of September when, during a Barawafat procession, a banner with the phrase "I Love Muhammad" was displayed along the route. Local Hindu groups objected to what they said was a "new tradition". The dispute soon spread beyond Kanpur, sparking rallies in several parts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Telangana, and Maharashtra. Clashes were also reported in Bareilly and Nagpur. What began as a local issue has since morphed into a statewide trend in Uttar Pradesh, helping Yogi Adityanath to champion the cause of Hindutva during the ongoing Navratri festival.

The row gives Yogi Adityanath an opening to consolidate Hindu sentiments and force the SP into a delicate balancing act. While the party

cannot alienate its minority base, it also cannot afford to be seen as openly antagonistic to Hindus during the festive period.

Observers point out that the controversy

threatens to disrupt Akhilesh Yadav's careful months-long outreach to the PDA bloc -- Pichcha, Dalit, Alpasankhyak (Backward, Dalit, Minorities) -- at least for now. While minorities remain a core part of the SP's vote bank, the timing of the row during Navratri risks it turning into a straight Hindu vs Muslim debate. This was seen

recently, when during a 'I love Muhammad' demonstration in Bareilly, Samajwadi Party spokesperson Sumaiya Rana, daughter of the late poet Munawwar Rana, warned of a mass mobilisation in Lucknow. The SP quickly had to move and seek a clarification from her. Adding to the party's woes, police have arrested Zubair Ahmed Khan, who is the prime accused in the Kanpur unrest that sparked the row in the first place. A dismissed UP Police constable, Khan had recently joined the Samajwadi Party. Meanwhile, Yogi has taken a hard line against Maulana Tauqeer Raja, the main accused in Bareilly's 'I love Muhammad' unrest, who allegedly tried to incite violence in the area by asking people to gather and protest after Friday prayers at a mosque. The Chief Minister has vowed to "teach a lesson" to the maulana, launching strict legal and administrative measures.

**MK Stalin calls Vijay's Karur rally stampede 'great tragedy', warns against rumours**

**Guwahati.(Agency)**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Monday called the stampede at actor-politician Vijay's rally in Karur "a great tragedy" and appealed to the public to avoid spreading rumours or defamation on social media.

Forty-one people, including women and children, were killed on Saturday evening when a massive crowd surged



during a TVK public meeting. The incident has triggered a political storm. MK Stalin said he immediately mobilised the district administration after learning of the disaster and visited Karur that night. "The scenes I witnessed in the hospital are still fresh in my mind. I remain in deep sorrow," he said, announcing Rs 10 lakh compensation for each bereaved family. He added that the injured are receiving full medical care under government supervision.

To determine the cause of the stampede, the state has set up a one-person inquiry commission headed by former Chief Justice Aruna Jagathesan. "The government will take all further action based on the commission's report," the Chief Minister assured. Vijay, whose Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) organised the event, claimed the venue approved by authorities was narrower than the original location proposed, a factor he said may have contributed to the tragedy.

## Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Performs Havan At BJP's New Delhi Headquarter

**Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta congratulated all the BJP workers on the newly built party headquarter.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta performed a traditional havan at the new BJP Delhi headquarters on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, on Monday, ahead of its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Several Delhi Ministers, including Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Supriya Swaraj, Ashish Sood and Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, were present at the havan ceremony. Delhi BJP President Vinodra Sachdeva was also present. While interacting with the media, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta congratulated

all the BJP workers on the newly built party headquarter and said, "I congratulate all the party workers. It is a historic moment to see the world's biggest party's headquarter built in the Capital. This will also motivate the thousands of party workers. It will be inaugurated by PM Modi. I consider myself very fortunate, as I am also a party worker of the BJP."

Earlier, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday night congratulated Team

India on their emphatic victory over Pakistan to clinch the Asia Cup final and stated

Chief Minister said, "From the bottom of my heart, my congratulations to the entire Indian cricket team for winning the Asia Cup. India's historic victory during this Navratri of Maa Durga is a joyous occasion for the 144 crore people of India."

Earlier, Rekha Gupta inaugurated the newly constructed flyover at Nand Nagri, stating that the long-pending project has been completed in a short span under her government's tenure.



that India's "historic" victory during this Navratri of Maa Durga is a joyous occasion for the 144 crore people of India. Speaking to the reporters, Delhi

Venugopal claimed Mahadev is a spokesperson of the BJP and made the remarks during a televised debate on a Malayalam channel. "In a brazen act of incitement of violence, Mr Mahadev openly declared that 'Rahul Gandhi will be shot in the chest'. This is neither a slip of tongue, nor careless hyperbole. It is a cold, calculated and chilling death threat against the Leader of Opposition and one of India's foremost political leaders," Venugopal said.

"That such poisonous words are uttered by an official spokesperson of the ruling party not only places the life of Rahul Gandhi in immediate danger,

## Omar Abdullah accuses Centre of betrayal over J&K and Ladakh, slams delay in statehood restoration

**At a book launch Sunday, Omar Abdullah said the Centre failed its roadmap for J&K and Ladakh, accusing it of misleading Ladakh with "impossible" promises.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has accused the Centre of betraying both Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir by failing to fulfil its promises and deepening mistrust through delays in restoring statehood.

Speaking at the launch of senior journalist and author Harinder Bawej's latest book, They Will Shoot You, Madam: My Life Through Conflict, on Sunday, Abdullah said the government had failed to follow through on its own roadmap, first for Jammu and Kashmir and now for Ladakh, alleging that the latter was misled with "impossible" assurances. "When you wanted them (Ladakh) to participate in Hill Council elections, you promised them the Sixth Schedule. Everyone knew that giving



the Sixth Schedule to Ladakh was nearly impossible. A region that shares frontiers with China on one side and Pakistan on the other requires a sizeable defence presence, which the Sixth Schedule makes impossible. Yet, you made promises to get electoral participation," he stated.

The 55-year-old also criticised the sudden shift in stance towards Ladakhi leaders, especially climate activist Sonam Wangchuk. "A gentleman who, until yesterday, was praising the Prime Minister as an environmental warrior and thanking him profusely in 2019 for fulfilling the dreams of Ladakhis by giving UT status... nobody found fault with him then. Today, suddenly, we find a Pakistani connection. Two days ago, there was none."

## Will Chief Justice BR Gavai's Mother Attend RSS Vijayadashami Event? Jury Out

**The RSS' flagship Vijayadashami event is always at its head office in Nagpur, while events are also held at other locations, including a programme at Deekshabhoomi.**

**Mumbai.(Agency)**

Uncertainty persists over Kamalai R Gavai - Chief Justice of India BR Gavai's mother - attending a Vijayadashami function in Maharashtra's Amravati next week. The function, to be held at 6.30 pm on October 5, has been organised by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the ideological mentor of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

Mrs Gavai is not at her residence, and her phone has been switched off. However, her personal assistant in Amravati has said she will neither be present at nor participate in the event. She had earlier accepted the engagement, RSS sources told. Invitation cards naming her the 'chief guest' - which were reportedly printed only after organisers received her consent, sources said - have been distributed.

Mrs Gavai's apparent change of plans has been linked to pressure over the optics of the mother of the Chief Justice at an event organised by a group with close ties to the federal government. It also follows criticism of the Chief Justice himself, by the right-wing Vishwa Hindu Parishad, over an in-court comment; the Chief Justice told a petitioner to 'pray to Lord Vishnu for the repair of his Vishnu idol'. The VHP declared the remark had "mocked the Hindu faith".

The Chief Justice later explained his remark had been misinterpreted, but the VHP continued to criticise the country's seniormost judge, demanding he "exercise restraint in his speech". Also, Mrs Gavai's late husband, Ramkrishna S Gavai, was a Republican Party of India leader who was the Lok Sabha MP from Amravati and also represented the state in the Rajya Sabha.

## "Will Be Shot": Congress Flags "Chilling Death Threat" To Rahul Gandhi

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Congress general secretary K C Venugopal on Sunday wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah over a former ABVP leader's controversial remarks targeting Rahul Gandhi during a televised debate, saying a failure to act against him swiftly will be judged as complicity and normalisation of violence against the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.

In the letter, Venugopal flagged what he termed a "chilling and heinous" death threat to Rahul Gandhi by Printu Mahadev, a former state president of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the RSS.

Venugopal claimed Mahadev is a spokesperson of the BJP and made the remarks during a televised debate on a Malayalam channel. "In a brazen act of incitement of violence, Mr Mahadev openly declared that 'Rahul Gandhi will be shot in the chest'. This is neither a slip of tongue, nor careless hyperbole. It is a cold, calculated and chilling death threat against the Leader of Opposition and one of India's foremost political leaders," Venugopal said.

"That such poisonous words are uttered by an official spokesperson of the ruling party not only places the life of Rahul Gandhi in immediate danger,

but also undermines the Constitution, rule of law, and the basic security assurances owed to every citizen - let alone the Leader of Opposition," the Congress general secretary in-charge of the organisation said.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), entrusted with the security of

Rahul Gandhi, has written multiple letters regarding threats to his safety, Venugopal said. "Shockingly, one such letter addressed to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was leaked to the media under mysterious circumstances, raising serious questions about the intention behind doing so." Against this backdrop, it is not only alarming but utterly reprehensible that a spokesperson of the BJP felt emboldened enough to issue a naked and open death threat that carries the stench of a larger, sinister conspiracy being cultivated to validate violence against Rahul Gandhi," Venugopal said.

## Kerala Assembly unanimously passes resolution against hasty SIR of voter list

**The Kerala Legislative Assembly warns that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists, if conducted hastily, could undermine democratic rights, disproportionately affect marginalised communities, and must be replaced by a transparent update.**

**Kerala.(Agency)** The Kerala Legislative Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a resolution opposing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list, with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan presenting the resolution. Opposition members suggested certain amendments, some of which were accepted before the motion was adopted. The resolution expressed concern that the SIR process could be used by those attempting to revive the Citizenship Amendment Act, which grants citizenship based on religion, posing a challenge to democracy. "This Assembly unanimously demands that the Election Commission, in defiance of

such measures that violate fundamental rights, should conduct a transparent update of the voter list," it stated. The Assembly criticised the hasty implementation of the SIR, noting that the process requires long-term preparation and consultation. With

elections to local bodies due soon in Kerala, followed by the Assembly elections, the resolution warned that conducting the SIR in a rush appeared ill-intentioned and could subvert the will of the people. The resolution cited the experience of Bihar, where the SIR process was viewed as a politics of exclusion, leading to the illogical removal of voters from the list. "While the constitutional validity of the Bihar SIR process is under consideration by the Supreme Court, it cannot be viewed naively that the same process is being hasty introduced in the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, which are on the verge of elections," the resolution noted.

## News box

**Two years on, MRG Meridian flats not handed over, homebuyers protest****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Homebuyers of MRG Meridian project in Sector 89 staged a protest demanding timely possession of their long-delayed flats. The allottees, who booked homes through a draw held on Feb 18, 2019, said the project received environmental clearance in Oct 2019 and was originally slated for possession by Sept 2023.

However, despite repeated follow-ups, the builder failed to deliver the homes even after two years of delay. Protesters said the builder's recent claim of applying for an occupation certificate (OC) offers little relief, as families continue to face financial stress due to the prolonged wait. "The builder now claims to have applied for an OC, but that doesn't change the fact that we have been waiting endlessly. We are paying rent and EMIs simultaneously. This is sheer harassment," said one of the protesting allottees. Several families said that they had exhausted their savings and taken loans, expecting possession in 2023. The continued delay, they said, has left them financially and emotionally drained. The protesters have urged the Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) and the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HRERA) to intervene, ensure accountability and expedite possession. Despite multiple follow-ups, the developer has not provided a revised timeline for handover. The allottees warned that if delays persist, they will intensify their agitation and seek relief through legal channels. Media spokesperson of MRG World said, "The project has been a full-time commitment. Despite periodic delays caused by NGT bans, construction work now stands fully complete with no pending civil activity."

**Residents seek transparency, control in BPTP Astaire Gardens in Gurgaon****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Residents of BPTP Astaire Gardens staged a protest on Sunday against the builder's maintenance agency, BPMS, moments after the society's general body meeting. The protest, led by the Astaire Gardens Owners Association (AGO), demanded an immediate and lawful handover of the society to residents, citing lack of transparency and arbitrary hikes in common area maintenance (CAM) charges. A GOA President Jaswant Rao said residents were asserting their right to self-governance and would not tolerate exploitation. BPMS Managing Director Shyam Sunder refuted the claims, asserting that CAM charges were fully justified and backed by third-party audits and that over Rs 4 crore in dues remain unpaid. The demonstration erupted moments after the society's General Body Meeting (GBM), organised by the Astaire Gardens Owners Association (AGO). In response, Shyam Sunder, managing director of BPMS, rejected the allegations, stating that complete transparency had been maintained. "We have provided third-party CA-certified cost certificates, vendor invoices, and comparative analyses to residents," he said.

**Raids at 8 shops in Gurgaon, 16 food samples seized, sent for tests****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Amid ongoing Navratri celebrations, the food safety department conducted raids at eight shops, seizing 16 food samples due to safety concerns related to fasting items such as kuttu atta, singhara atta, sabudana, samak, mustard oil, jaggery and buura.

The crackdown targeted adulteration-prone goods in high demand during the festival, with samples now sent to a Karnal lab for testing. A major violation was found at Swami Agencies in Shelta Colony, operating without an FSSAI licence—prompting seizure of multiple samples. Another shop was caught selling unpackaged and unlabelled food items. Officials warned of legal action if adulteration is confirmed, citing past food poisoning incidents and urging consumers to choose sealed, branded products and report any suspicious vendors. Dr Ramesh Chauhan, a food department official, stated that the department would take strict action if any of the samples are found to be substandard or adulterated.

This inspection comes in the wake of a food safety scare earlier in March 2024, when ten people from Sector 14 fell ill after consuming fritters made with adulterated kuttu flour.

**'Hike in upkeep fee to funds misuse': Buyers protest against builder in Gurgaon****Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

Alleging that the developer has been taking "unilateral decisions" behind closed doors, excluding homeowners from key discussions, over 200 residents of M3M Golf Estate in Sector 65, along with the Golf Estate Action Group (GEAG), held a protest march on Sunday against the builder and its associates M-Worth and Abante.

A major grievance raised was the non-disclosure and alleged misuse of the interest-free maintenance security (IFMS) fund, estimated at over Rs 100 crore. Residents alleged that no proper accounting has been shared despite repeated requests. Other key issues pertained to the hike in common area maintenance (CAM) and common area electricity (CAE) charges. The silent march began at 10am from Elevate Club, with residents carrying placards and banners demanding transparency, accountability and legal compliance in the management of their community. Meanwhile, M3M representative refuted the allegations and said, "We would like to clarify that the Golf Estate community is managed entirely by its resident welfare association (RWA), which is already in place and operational. All decisions pertaining to the management, maintenance and day-to-day functioning of the property are taken by the RWA and its governing council, which oversees facility management."

**E-rickshaw chaos: Last-mile lifeline a traffic menace too in Noida, Ghaziabad****Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

On a typical weekday morning, the streets around Noida's Sector 18 metro station resemble a congested maze of battery-powered vehicles weaving through pedestrians, private buses, and autos. E-rickshaws, once hailed as a convenient, eco-friendly solution for last-mile connectivity, now dominate the city's arterial and residential roads, often creating gridlock and chaos. In the last decade, the number of e-rickshaws in Noida has soared from a mere 10 in 2011 to roughly 24,000 in 2025. Their surge underscores a growing demand for affordable, last-mile transport in a city with a patchy public transportation system. Yet, the very vehicles that connect commuters to metro stations, offices, and markets are increasingly viewed as a menace, operating largely outside the framework of traffic regulation. Not just Noida, in neighbouring Ghaziabad too, e-rickshaws are a common sight along

crowded commercial streets and high-speed corridors such as NH-9 and the Delhi-Meerut Expressway.

In Ghaziabad, authorities estimate that more than 40,000 e-rickshaws now ply the city's roads, with roughly 70% assembled illegally. Many of these vehicles lack basic safety features, from shock absorbers to proper lighting, posing risks to passengers and pedestrians alike. The growth has been exponential, but regulation has not kept pace. E-rickshaws are exempt from vehicle permits and pollution-under-control certificates.

A driver only needs a valid license, insurance, registration and fitness certificates to operate one. There are no official rules governing routes, fares, speed limits or passenger capacity," ARTO (administration, Noida) Siyaram Verma said. The consequences of this regulatory vacuum are evident. Vehicles often overload beyond the four-passenger

limit, drive on the wrong side of busy roads, and cluster around metro stations, parking haphazardly and narrowing



carriageways. In Noida, corridors near Botanical Garden, Sector 18, 16, 52 and City Centre experience daily jams as dozens of e-rickshaws compete for space with autos, taxis, and private vehicles. On DSC Road, dozens of e-rickshaws operate between Botanical Garden and Sector 18, parking haphazardly and

narrowing carriageways. Most of these e-rickshaws are also running on the wrong side from GIP Mall to Botanical Garden metro station. Shopkeepers frequently complain of encroachment, leaving little room for customers and pedestrians. "Street vendors already occupy space, and now e-rickshaws park right on the road. Metro commuters can barely move," CB Jha, president of the Atta Market Association, said. Residents echo the sentiment. "E-rickshaws are convenient and cheaper than autos, but drivers flout rules and make congestion worse," said Arvind Kumar, a Sector 15 resident. But the safety toll is mounting in both cities. Earlier this month, five women were injured when a car hit their e-rickshaw on GT Road in Ghaziabad. On July 22 this year, a wrong-side e-rickshaw on NH-9 collided with a sedan, killing the driver and triggering a multi-vehicle pile-up. In Sept last year, a speeding Honda Amaze hit an e-rickshaw on Ambedkar Road, killing two and injuring another.

**Sewers choked, water overflows and enters houses in Noida, Greater Noida sectors****Noida . (Agency)**

Sewer overflow due to clogged drains has continued to be a prominent issue in the district, despite the end of the monsoon season. Sewer water has inundated streets in Noida's Sector 51 and Alpha 2 in Greater Noida, where residents said the dirty water has entered their homes many times.

Sanjeev Kumar, RWA general secretary of Sector 51, blocks C to F, said that the sewer overflow has affected numerous households. In house C 154, he said, the basement has been continuously flooded with sewage. "This particular resident has unfortunately contracted dengue and is currently hospitalised," said Kumar, attributing the illness to the ongoing sewer blockage. Several other households have reported similar issues for the past 15 days, Kumar said, adding that there's been no redress despite



become especially difficult with the festive season going on," said Roshan Lal Yadav, president of Sector 57 RWA. The smaller pipeline cannot handle the required volume, leaving large parts of

the approved 200mm line, directly connected to the UGR. "The authorities need to step in urgently and ensure that the infrastructure projects meant for our sector are implemented in letter and spirit.

In the meantime, we have requested the installation of submersible pumps at four locations within the sector to augment supply," said Jaipal Kaushik, RWA general secretary. The MCG officials however, refuted the allegations, maintaining that the pipeline work was completed as per the plan. "The pipeline work stands complete. The disruption in supply was due to an issue with a tube well, not the new line. We are also exploring the option of installing one or two additional tube wells in the area, if required, to stabilise supply," an MCG official said.

**Bridge corporation takes Noida to court over Rs 150 crore dues for flyover project****Noida . (Agency)**

Along-simmering payment dispute between UP State Bridge Corporation Ltd (UPSBCL) and Noida Authority over the Bhangel Elevated Road project has escalated to the Allahabad high court, with the state-run construction firm seeking judicial intervention to recover dues of nearly Rs 150 crore. The corporation has approached the court to appoint an independent arbitrator, citing Noida Authority's persistent silence and inaction despite repeated reminders. While the application was filed in Aug, the case is expected to come up for hearing soon.

The 5.5km, six-lane elevated road was built as a vital link to ease congestion in Bhangel, Barola, and surrounding sectors. Completed earlier this year, the project was officially handed over to Noida

Authority in Aug. However, the handover did not mark the end of the road for UPSBCL. Instead, it triggered a fresh round of correspondence over unresolved payments related to price escalation, additional GST incurred by the corporation, and interest on delayed payments. "We have been left with no option but to seek the court's help. Our repeated letters invoking the arbitration clause under the contract have gone unanswered. The dues, which include statutory taxes and interest, have been pending for months," said a bridge corporation

dispute has also stalled critical ancillary works. Construction of service roads and drains under the flyover — essential for smooth traffic flow and drainage — has slowed to a crawl. UPSBCL has formally

requested the Authority to either relieve it from these obligations or approve an additional Rs 25 crore for completing the remaining work. "We cannot be expected to bear the cost overruns without payment," the official added.

The first formal step towards arbitration was taken on Nov 12, 2024, when UPSBCL invoked Clause 34 of the General Conditions of Contract. On May 7 this year, the corporation followed up with a list of three independent candidates for appointment as sole arbitrator, as required under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. With no response forthcoming, a final reminder was sent in June, in which UPSBCL expressed willingness to consider conciliation if the dues were settled.

several complaints to sewer department officials. Additionally, residents in the sector have also reported water shortages, further complicating daily life, especially during the ongoing Navratri festival. In Greater Noida's Alpha 2, RWA president Subhash Bhati reported that overflowing sewers and leaks have contaminated the living conditions, prompting health concerns as residents battle against filth and disease.

**Police team pelted with stones, shots fired during raid in Nuh****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Tension simmered in Indiana village of Nuh on Saturday after a police raid to investigate a case of vehicle thefts from Punjab escalated into violence. The confrontation resulted in several policemen being injured after being pelted with stones, shots being fired, and multiple vehicles damaged. According to officials, the incident occurred around 11.30am when a joint team of the Tauru and Punhama CIA units raided the house of Azad, a former councillor and main accused. As soon as Azad spotted the approaching cops, he allegedly fired at them, narrowly missing constable Sameer. He fled the scene, but his wife was caught in the scuffle. The situation deteriorated rapidly as Azad's alarm drew villagers to the scene. Armed with stones, sticks, and firearms, the crowd confronted police. Several cops suffered injuries during the attack, and police vehicles were vandalised. As the villagers gathered, they began pelting the cops with stones and attacking



them with lathis and firearms. This forced the police team to respond defensively," a police official said. A case was registered at the Bichhor police station under a host of serious charges, including rioting, unlawful assembly, attempt to murder, assault on public servants, escape from custody, criminal conspiracy, and voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons. Provisions

of the Arms Act and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act were also invoked. The FIR mentioned 30 people, with an additional 50 to 60 unidentified villagers implicated in the violence. Among those named were Azad and his associates Shahid and Shahrkhan, as well as Wajid, Yusuf, Fajeen, Hafiz, Nasir, Shaukeen, and Yunus. The complaint also listed several

women, including Naima (wife of Arshid), Shahina (wife of Azad), and Najma (wife of Javed). According to police, one of the accused allegedly fired at the cops with a rifle, while another used a country-made gun. Police responded by firing warning shots in the air in an attempt to disperse the crowd. The villagers allegedly blocked the road with an excavator, complicating efforts to restore

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# Ayodhya once saw bullets for devotees, now it showers them with flowers: CM

## The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Policemen stand guard outside Sarvodaya (Co-Ed) Senior Secondary School after it received a bomb threat, at Mehrauli in New Delhi on Saturday. Over 100 schools in the national capital received bomb threats via email on Saturday morning, triggering panic among parents and the authorities. However, the threats were later declared hoax after thorough checking. The email received at 6:10 am came from a user, which called itself "terrorizers111". The email was sent to all schools at the same time from an Indian domain, said an investigator. The subject of the email mentioned "bombs placed in your building, react or face the disaster". The email stated: "To the Administration and IT department of all build-

ings, I am nothing but the definition of pure hatred. I am the child of evil, my existence makes gods fear

building. You have 24 hours to disarm the bombs or you will face the blood proof." Following

declared hoax, a police official mentioned. The schools that received threats include Delhi

threats, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal slammed the Delhi Government over repeated threats to institutions in the national capital. "Delhi schools are repeatedly receiving bomb threats. Panic had ensued everywhere, schools are shut down, and fear in spread-



me, my presence makes the mundane terrify, I am the untouchable one, my alias go by 4zurf, aka owner of terroristic group known by millions, aka terrorizers111. We have placed bombs around your

the threat, bomb disposal squad and Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Services teams rushed to the campuses. After thorough checking of the premises, nothing suspicious was found. The threats were later

Public School (DPS), in Dwarka, Krishna Model Public School, Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, CRPF Public School in Dwarka, and Mata Vidya Devi Public School in Najafgarh. Following the bomb

## Faridabad police apprehend four criminals in two separate encounters

Gurugram: In the early hours of Saturday, the Faridabad police apprehended four criminals in two separate encounters. The accused were identified as Shashikant from Koylak village in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh; Rohit from Uncha village in Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh; Kamal Bhadana from Mohammadabad in Faridabad; and Manish from Motihari, Bihar. According to Varun Dahiya, ACP Crime-2, Faridabad, around 4 am, the Crime Branch Sector 30 team attempted to apprehend two bike-riding suspects on the Pali-Surajkund road. The suspects opened fire, prompting the police to retaliate, injuring Shashikant in the leg. Shashikant and his accomplice Rohit were subsequently arrested, and a motorcycle and two illegal pistols were seized. During Rohit's interrogation, it was revealed that his associates Kamal Bhadana and Golu were planning another crime. The Crime Branch team reached Sainik Colony, where they spotted two individuals on a motorcycle who attempted to flee upon seeing the police. The suspects opened fire, and in the ensuing exchange, Kamal Bhadana sustained leg injuries. He and his associate Manish were apprehended, and a motorcycle, six illegal weapons, a magazine, and four cartridges were seized. ACP Varun Dahiya stated that the accused had previously extorted money from a cloth merchant in April and had opened fire, injuring an elderly woman in Ghazipur Road, Dabua Colony, in September. Both cases had warrants against the accused. According to police records, Kamal has 15 registered cases, Shashikant has six, and Manish has four.

### NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Sishu Pal Prasad S/o Shyam Pyare Prasad R/o B-368 A Budh Nagar, Indepuri, Central Delhi, Delhi-110012 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shishupal Prasad.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Dinesh Kumar S/o M. Umed Kumar is owner of Freehold Residential Built-up Property land area measuring 256 sq. yds. out of Khasra No. 894 and New Khasra No. 115, Situated in the old Lal Dora (1908-09) Abadi Deh of Village Alipur, Delhi-110036, by virtue of Regd. GPA (for her Husband) dated 13.03.2019 duly registered in SR-VIE, Delhi/New Delhi, Vide Doc. No. 129, Vol. No. 52, Book No. 4, Pages No. 49-72, Dated-13.03.2019, now our client is declaring that that any other person does not have any right over the said property, and same property to be Mr. Tushar Sharma and Mrs. Devki Devi and same has been financed by SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited Branch: Moti Nagar U.P. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

### NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA

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F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad  
Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09958871432

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAVINDER CHAUDHARY s/o late sh. OMPARKASH CHAUDHARY r/o: 42/19 Ashok Nagar New delhi - 110018 have changed my name to SHIVANG CHAUDHARY for all purpose

### NAME CHANGE

I, ANITA CHAUDHARY w/o RAVINDER CHAUDHARY r/o: 42/19 Ashok Nagar New delhi - 110018 have changed my name to ANITA CHAUDHARY for all purpose

### NAME CHANGE

I, Aarma Wadhwa D/o Amit Wadhwa R/o C4903, Puri Diplomatic Greens, Sector 10/11, Gurugram, Haryana-122017 have changed my name to Aarma Wadhwa to Aarma Amit Wadhwa for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, GEETA JOSHI w/o MOHAN CHAUDHARY residing at D-20, STREET NO. 7, NEAR SABJI MANDI, MANDAWALA, UNCHI PAR, SHAKARPUR, DELHI-110092 declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as GEETA JOSHI in school records. The actual name of mine is GEETA PANDEY. Which may be amended accordingly

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAJU GOEL S/o SHARWAN KUMAR resident of PLOT NO-81 UG FLOOR OPPOSITE TIHAR JAL PRATAP NAGAR HARI NAGAR DELHI-110064, have changed my name to RAJUL GOYAL for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD FURQAN son of MAHMOOD HASAN residing at H.NO-1206, GALI NO-934 NEAR KHADOOJ WALI MASJID, JAFRAABAD, SEELAMPUR, DELHI-1248179 have changed my name to MOHD FURQAN for all future purpose.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SHIVANG CHAUDHARY s/o RAVINDER CHAUDHARY r/o C-2/19 Ashok Nagar, New delhi - 110018 have changed my name to SHIVANG CHAUDHARY for all purpose

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I, Hamid Khan S/o Aslam R/o Loi, Muzaffar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 251309, I have changed my name to HAMEED KHAN Permanently

### NAME CHANGE

I, Shashi Mishra W/o Vijendra Mishra R/o H. No. C-1/387, Gali No-27, Khajoori Khas, Karawal Nagar, Dayalpur, North East, Delhi-110094 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Shashi in my minor daughter Diksha Mishra aged 14 years in her School Record. The actual name of mine is Shashi Mishra. Which may be amended accordingly

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## NEWS BOX

**Two dead, over 20 injured after minibus falls down slope in Nepal's Lumbini****KATHMANDU. (Agency)**

At least two people were killed and over 20 others injured on Monday after a minibus crashed and fell down a slope in Nepal's Lumbini province, according to media reports.

The accident occurred in the Arghakhanchi district of the province when the vehicle's brakes failed on a steep turn, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported, quoting police. The minibus was travelling from Butwal to Purnotdaha at the time of the accident. A 10-year-old and a 13-year-old were killed in the accident, while 20 others were injured, according to the newspaper. My Republica news portal reported a higher figure of 24 people being injured. Quoting Chief of the District Police Office Diwas GC, it said that four of those injured were critical. The minibus was reportedly carrying 26 passengers, exceeding its 16-seat capacity, and the accident is reported to have been caused by a combination of brake failure and overcrowding, according to District Police Office information officer Inspector Jhalak Prasad Sharma.

**Gunman in truck smashes into Michigan church and opens fire, killing at least four and injuring eight****MICHIGAN. (Agency)**

At least four people were killed and eight injured when a gunman in a pickup truck smashed through the doors of a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chapel in Michigan during a Sunday service attended by hundreds, opened fire and set the building ablaze.

Police shot and killed the suspect, authorities said. The attack occurred at about 10:25 am. The gunman got out of the four-door pickup with two American flags in the truck and started shooting, Police Chief William Renye told reporters. He apparently used gas to start the fire and also had explosive devices but it wasn't clear if he used them, said James Dier of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Authorities identified the shooter as Thomas Jacob Sanford, 40, of the neighboring small town of Burton. The FBI is leading the investigation and considered it an "act of targeted violence," said Ruben Coleman, a special agent in charge for the bureau. Officers responding to a 911 call were at the church within 30 seconds and killed the shooter about eight minutes later, Renye said. After the suspect left the church, two officers pursued him and "engaged in gunfire," the chief said.

Renye said people inside the church during the attack were "shielding children" and "moving them to safety." Flames and smoke could be seen pouring from the large church for hours before the blaze was put out. The bodies of two of the victims were found as authorities searched the debris, Renye said.

He said authorities had yet to make it through the entire church and that more victims could be found. One of the wounded people was in critical condition Sunday evening and the seven others were stable.

Renye said "some" people were unaccounted for, but he didn't have an exact number. Michigan State Police Lt. Kim Vetter said bomb threats were made at other churches in the area after officers shot and killed Sanford. No bombs were found and police were investigating the threats.

**Taliban frees US citizen from Afghan prison, weeks after agreement with US envoys****ISLAMABAD. (Agency)**

The Taliban on Sunday freed a U.S. citizen from an Afghan prison, weeks after they said they had reached an agreement with U.S. envoys on a prisoner exchange as part of an effort to normalize relations. The deputy spokesperson for the Taliban Foreign Ministry, Zia Ahmad Takal, identified the man as Amir Amiri. He did not say when Amiri was detained, why, or where. An official with knowledge of the release said Amiri had been detained in Afghanistan since December 2024 and was on his way back to the U.S. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the details with the media.

Qatar facilitated Amiri's release in the latest diplomatic achievement resulting from its security partnership with the U.S. that has secured the freedom of four other Americans from Taliban detention this year. The energy-rich nation on the Arabian Peninsula also helped in releasing a British couple who were imprisoned for months. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio welcomed Amiri's release, saying it marked the administration's determination, reinforced by U.S. President Donald Trump's recent executive order, to protect American nationals from wrongful detention abroad. "While this marks an important step forward, additional Americans remain unjustly detained in Afghanistan. President Trump will not rest until all our captive citizens are back home."

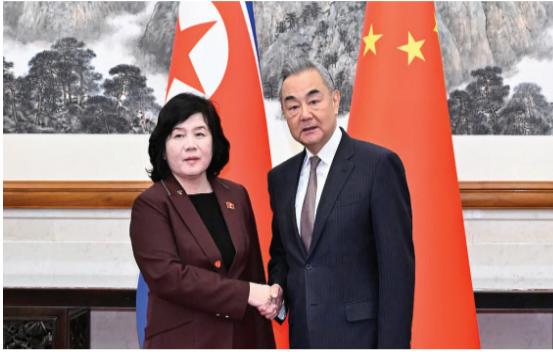
**The comments likely referred to their countries' separate confrontations with the United States — China over strategic competitions with the U.S. and North Korea over its nuclear weapons program.****SEOUL. (Agency)**

The foreign ministers of North Korea and China agreed to deepen bilateral ties and resist hegemonism or unilateralism, a likely reference to their pushbacks against the United States. Their meeting in Beijing on Sunday came about three weeks after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Chinese President Xi Jinping held their first summit in more than six years and pledged mutual support and enhanced cooperation. Kim and Xi earlier attended a massive Beijing military parade marking the end of the World War II, with other

world leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin. The joint appearance of Kim, Xi and Putin, the first of its kind, displayed a potential three-way unity against the United States, though it's unclear how far China would go in such an anti-U.S. partnership.

In a meeting with her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui cited Kim as saying that further bolstering ties with China is North Korea's unwavering position. Choe expressed an intent to deepen and develop friendly ties with China in line with the spirits of Kim-Xi summit, the North's Korean Central News Agency reported Monday. Wang said China maintains a firm position that it intends to solidify bilateral ties, saying it's necessary to boost strategic communications and exchanges, KCNA said. China's Xinhua News Agency cited Wang as saying China oppose "all forms of hegemonism" and stands ready to strengthen cooperation with North Korea in international and regional

affairs. It quoted Choe as saying that North Korea "is willing to closely cooperate with China in multilateral affairs, jointly resist unilateralism and power politics and



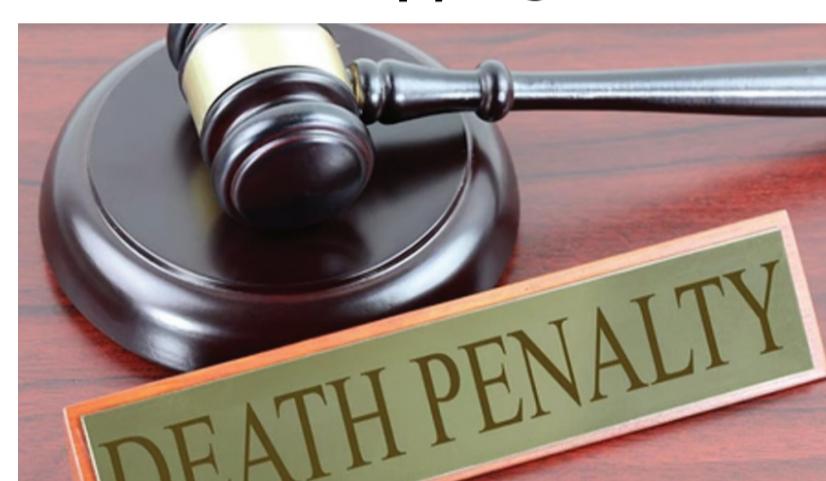
promote a fairer and more just world order." The comments likely referred to their countries' separate confrontations with the United States — China over strategic competitions with the U.S. and North Korea over its nuclear weapons program. KCNA said Choe and Wang exchanged views on regional and

international affairs reached a complete consensus on the issues, but didn't elaborate. Kim's attendance at the Beijing military parade was his first attendance at a major multilateral event during his 14-year rule. In recent years, North Korea has been focusing on expanding cooperation with Russia by supplying combat troops and ammunitions to support its war against Ukraine. But experts say Kim now feels the need to improve ties with China, North Korea's biggest trading partner and aid benefactor, as he has to brace for the war's end. They say China, for its part, would want to maintain influence over North Korea, as bilateral ties reportedly cooled in the past few years.

Attention has turned to the makeup of the delegation China might send to North Korea when it commemorates the 80th founding anniversary of its ruling Workers' Party next month. North Korea is expected to mark the anniversary with its own military parade to display new weapons targeting the U.S. and its allies.

**Iran hangs man accused of 'spying' for Israel****DEIR AL-BALAH. (Agency)**

DUBAI: Iran said Monday it hanged a man accused of spying for Israel, the latest as Tehran carries out its largest wave of executions in decades. Iran identified the executed man as Bahman Choobiasl, whose case wasn't immediately known in Iranian media reports or to activists monitoring the death penalty in the Islamic Republic. However, the execution came after Iran vowed to confront its enemies after the United Nations reimposed sanctions on Tehran over its nuclear program this weekend. Iran accused Choobiasl of meeting with officials from the Israeli spy agency Mossad. Iran's Mizan news agency, which is the judiciary's official mouthpiece, said Choobiasl worked on "sensitive telecommunications projects" and reported about the "paths of importing electronic devices." Iran is known to have hanged nine people for espionage since its June war with Israel. Israel waged an air war with Iran, killing some 1,100 people, including many military commanders. Iran launched missile barrages targeting Israel in response.



Earlier this month, Iran executed Babak Shahbazi, who it alleged spied for Israel. Activists disputed that, saying Shahbazi was tortured into a false confession after writing a letter to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy offering to fight for Kyiv. Iran has faced multiple nationwide protests in recent years, fueled by anger over the economy, demands for women's rights and calls for the country's theocracy to change.

In response to those protests and the June war, Iran has been putting prisoners to death at a pace unseen since 1988, when it executed thousands at the end of the Iran-Iraq war. The Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights and the Washington-based Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran put the number of people executed in 2025 at over 1,000, noting the number could be higher as Iran does not report on each execution.

**Charlie Kirk's assassination case suspect, Tyler Robinson, faces court hearing****PROVO. (Agency)**

The 22-year-old man charged with killing Charlie Kirk will have a court hearing Monday where he and his newly appointed legal counsel will decide whether they want a preliminary hearing where the judge will determine if there is enough evidence against him to go forward with a trial. Prosecutors have charged Tyler Robinson with aggravated murder and plan to seek the death penalty. The Utah state court system gives people accused of crimes an option to waive their legal right to a preliminary hearing and instead schedule an arraignment where they can enter a plea. Kathryn Nester, the lead attorney appointed to represent Robinson, declined to comment on the case ahead of Monday's hearing. Prosecutors at the Utah County Attorney's Office did not respond to email and phone messages seeking comment. The hearing in Provo is open

to the public, just a few miles from the Utah Valley University campus where many students are still processing trauma from the Sept. 10 shooting and the day-and-a-half search for the suspect. Authorities arrested Robinson when he showed up with his parents at his hometown sheriff's office in southwest Utah, more than a three-hour drive from the site of the shooting, to turn himself in. Prosecutors have since revealed incriminating text messages and DNA evidence that they say connect Robinson to the killing.

A note that Robinson had left for his romantic partner before the shooting said he had the opportunity to kill one of the nation's leading conservative voices, "and I'm going to take it," Utah County Attorney Jeff Gray told reporters before the first hearing. Gray also said that Robinson wrote in a text about Kirk to his partner: "I had enough of his hatred." The assassination of Kirk, a close ally of President Donald

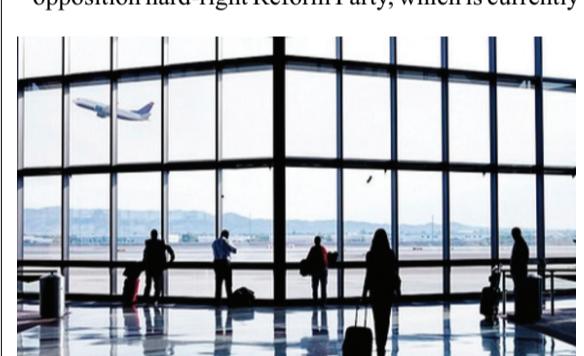
Trump who worked to steer young voters toward conservatism, has galvanized Republicans who have vowed to carry on Kirk's mission of moving American politics further to the right. Trump has declared Kirk a "martyr" for freedom and threatened to crack down on what he called the "radical left."

Workers across the country have been punished or fired for speaking out about Kirk after his death, including teachers, public and private employees and media personalities — most notably Jimmy Kimmel, who had his late-night show suspended then quickly reinstated by ABC. Kirk's political organization, Arizona-based Turning Point USA, brought young, evangelical Christians into politics through his podcast, social media and campus events. Many prominent Republicans are filling in at the upcoming campus events Kirk was meant to attend.

**UK plans tougher rules for migrants seeking to stay in country****LONDON. (Agency)**

Migrants seeking to settle in the UK will have to have a job, not claim benefits, and undertake community work under plans to be unveiled by the interior minister on Monday. Currently, those with family in Britain and who have lived there for five years qualify for "indefinite leave to remain" — permanent residence — as do those who have lived legally in the UK for 10 years on any type of visa.

Eligible applicants meeting those thresholds also earn the right to live, work and study in the UK and to apply for benefits and British citizenship. But in a major policy shift, interior minister Shabana Mahmood was Monday to announce that migrants would have to make social security contributions, claim no benefits, have a clean criminal record and volunteer in their community in order to stay. Mahmood will outline the plans at the annual conference of the ruling Labour party, and the government will consult on the changes later this year, according to a press release from the party. The announcement comes shortly after the opposition hard-right Reform Party, which is currently



leading in national polls, said it would get rid of "indefinite leave to remain" altogether, with migrants instead required to reapply for visas every five years. This would apply to the hundreds of thousands of people who have already attained leave to remain.

"These measures draw a clear dividing line between the Labour government and Reform, whose recent announcement... would force workers, who have been contributing to this country for decades, to leave their homes and families," said the Labour party statement.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Sunday called Reform's plan "racist", adding it would "tear the country apart". In her first speech to the Labour conference as interior minister, Mahmood will say that migrants should learn English to a high standard and that she will be a "tough" minister. Immigration is a key issue in the UK, and Mahmood will warn party members that a failure to tackle it will mean that "working people will turn away from us."

**Netanyahu, Trump set to meet amid mounting pressure to end Gaza war****CHISINAU. (Agency)**

WASHINGTON: Days after his defiant speech at the United Nations rejecting demands to end the war in Gaza, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to confer with his most important supporter. But Monday's meeting with President Donald Trump in Washington comes at a tenuous moment. Israel is increasingly isolated, losing support from many countries that were long its steadfast allies. At home, Netanyahu's governing coalition appears more fragile than ever. And the White House is showing signs of impatience. The question now is whether Trump, who has offered steadfast backing to Netanyahu throughout the war, will change his tone and turn up the pressure on Israel to finally wind down the conflict. In a post-Sunday on social media, the president said: "We have a real chance for GREATNESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ALL ARE ON BOARD FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL, FIRST TIME EVER. WE WILL GET IT DONE!!!"

Trump and Netanyahu are scheduled to meet

in the Oval Office, and a joint press conference is expected later.

The uncertainty surrounding the meeting casts it as "one of the most critical" in the years-long relationship between the two leaders, said professor Eytan Gilboa, an expert on US-Israeli relations at Bar-Ilan and Reichman universities. "Netanyahu might have to choose between Trump and his coalition members," a number of whom want the war to continue, Gilboa said. A move by Netanyahu to end the war would leave him on shaky political ground at home a year before elections.

Indeed, Ailam, a researcher at the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs, agreed that Trump is likely to demand a permanent ceasefire, leaving Netanyahu with few options. Netanyahu has repeatedly vowed to continue the offensive until Hamas is destroyed.

Israel could seek to include "red lines" if Trump puts the pressure on, the Israeli



leader would probably seek to include "red lines" in any deal, Ailam said. He might demand that Hamas be dismantled, Ailam said. Netanyahu might also set a condition that if the militant group resumes fighting or returns to power, the Israeli military would have the right to operate freely in Gaza, he said. Trump joined forces with Netanyahu during Israel's brief war with Iran in June, ordering U.S. stealth bombers to strike three nuclear sites, and he's supported the Israeli leader during his

corruption trial, describing the case as a "witch hunt." But the relationship has become more tense lately. Trump was frustrated by Israel's failed strike this month on Hamas officials in Qatar, a U.S. ally in the region that had been hosting negotiations to end the war in Gaza.

Recent comments have hinted at growing impatience from Washington. Last week, Trump vowed to prevent Israel from annexing the West Bank — an idea promoted by some of Netanyahu's hard-line governing partners. The international community opposes annexation, saying it would destroy hopes for a two-state solution.

Michael Doran, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, dismissed the idea that Trump's comments about the West Bank were a sign of friction. He said the remarks allowed Netanyahu to resist pressure from right-wing members of his government.

No pension to employee sans 20 years of service, says Madras High Court



**Chennai .(Agency)**

The Madras High Court has dismissed a petition filed by a former woman employee of the State Bank of India seeking orders to pay her pension benefits, stating that she was forced to retire due to stress and mental agony, as she had not completed 20 years of service to become eligible for pension under exit option scheme.

S Vasanthi Subash Chandran of Saligramam in Chennai, joined the clerical services in 1987 on compassionate grounds. She said she opted to retire under the exit option scheme in 2006 since factors like no promotion and denial of transfer to Chennai caused her health issues, including depression.

SBI denied pension benefits citing the need to complete 20 years as per the SBI Employees Pension Fund rules. The petitioner argued that Rule 22 (ii) of the said rules provided for grant of pensionary benefit if an employee, attaining 55 years, is incapacitated bodily or suffered from mental infirmity from doing further service.

Advocate Chevanan Mohan, representing the bank, contended that the 20-year rule applied to the petitioner. Justice T Vinod Kumar dismissed the petition finding that it did not have merits and suffered from laches as the petitioner remained silent for 14 years before approaching the authorities. The judge also found her ineligible to claim pension under Rule 22 (ii).

## 46,000 dogs roam on Tambaram streets

**Chennai .(Agency)**

The Tambaram City Municipal Corporation (TCMC) has put the estimates of the number of stray dogs in the area at 46,286, at the conclusion of the corporation's first-ever DogPop Survey. Of these, only around 5,467 dogs (11%) were found to be already vaccinated.

The numbers have, for the first time, put into context the scale of the task at hand for the civic body, in terms of the number of animal birth control surgeries and vaccinations that need to be done ever year.

Zone 4 (Perungulathur) has the highest concentration of strays at 13,268, followed by Zone 5 (East Tambaram) with 10,699. The remaining zones - Pammal, Pallavaram and Sembakkam have 8,213, 6067 and 8039 dogs respectively, as per the census. The survey, conducted over 44 days from February 25, recorded sterilisation and vaccination levels apart from enumerating stray dogs.

Following the survey, the corporation launched a vaccination drive to cover all identified strays. "Based on the report, an ARV vaccination drive is under way in TCMC. Vaccination in four of the five zones is expected to be completed by September 30, and the next phase will begin on October 9. As of September 25, a total of 26,387 dogs had been vaccinated," an official told TNIE on condition of anonymity.

Officials said the data collected would serve as a baseline for monitoring trends in the stray dog population and assessing the effectiveness of the Animal Birth Control programme in the years ahead. "The survey and vaccination campaign will help devise long-term strategies for managing strays, reducing human-dog conflicts, and ensuring public safety while safeguarding animal welfare," the official added.

# As Mumbai's lakes overflow, why BMC can't store the excess water

**Mumbai .(Agency)**

As heavy rain lashed Mumbai and Maharashtra over the last 24 hours, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) data shows that the overall water stock in all seven lakes that supply water to the city stood at 97.57 per cent on Monday morning.

Mumbai draws its water from Tansa, Bhatsa, Tulsi, Vihar, Upper Vaitarna, Middle Vaitarna and Modak Sagar lakes. Even though the lakes reached full capacity last week, the water stock has been hovering between 95 and 99 per cent daily, failing to reach the 100 per cent mark despite the heavy rainfall recorded in Mumbai, as a massive amount of excess water gets washed away.

Of the seven lakes, Tulsi and Vihar are located within Mumbai, while the others are in the satellite districts of Palghar, Thane and Nashik. The full quantum of water stored in these lakes stands at 14.47 lakh million litres. Last year, on this day, the water stock in all seven lakes stood at 99.09 per cent, as

compared to 2023, when the stock stood at 99.33 per cent.aim pension under Rule 22 (ii). Daily, the BMC supplies water amounting to 3,850 million litres daily (MLD). As a result, the current stock is expected to last for nearly 12 months.

The civic body's data also show that the overall stock has seen a dip by 2 percentage points in the past 24 hours, even though the catchment areas of each lake recorded good rainfall. In the last 24 hours, the catchment area of Middle Vaitarna Lake recorded 275 mm of rainfall, followed by 273 mm at Modak Sagar Lake, 195 mm at Tulsi Lake, 173 mm at Bhatsa, 91 mm at Upper Vaitarna, and 55 mm around the catchment area of Vihar Lake.

"The water stock cannot touch 100 per cent because it is a live storage stock, which means the existing quantum of water is being used and supplied daily. It is normal for the water stock to hover between 97 per cent and

99 per cent during the months of September and October, considering the lakes start to get filled during the months of June and July, and by this time, the water bodies reach their full

However, this issue got automatically resolved this year since monsoon onset happened very early," the official added.

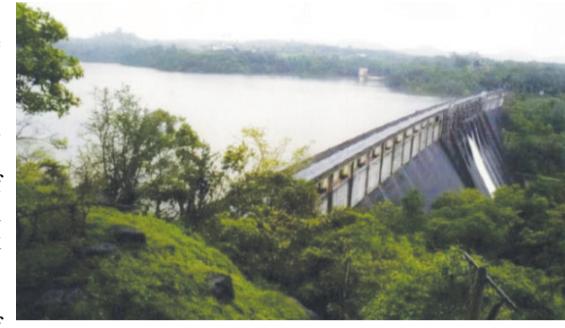
After intense rains picked up during the middle of September, the lakes neared full capacity by September 20, and since then, the water stock has been hovering between the 96 and 99 per cent mark. Meanwhile, civic officials maintained that as all the lakes are full now, the surplus water that is coming from the recent rains is getting washed away.

**Why is the BMC unable to catch the surplus water?**

Civic officials said that the administration is unable to hold the water because the quantum of surplus water that gets washed away is massive. Of the seven dams, the Upper Vaitarna has a capacity to hold 2.25 lakh million litres of water, while Middle Vaitarna holds 1.86 lakh million litres, and the Modak Sagar has a quantity of 1.25 lakh million litres.

## 'Extraordinary bravery': Head constable risks own life to tackle suicidal man out of train's way in Ahmedabad

**Bharwad stopped his bike, sprinted toward the man, and in a split-second decision that possibly risked his own life, jumped forward, caught hold of the man in his arms, and forcefully pushed him backwards in the opposite direction**



capacity," a senior civic official said.

"At present, the water stock is adequate to last us till next monsoon. However, owing to the increasing summer temperatures, we are witnessing a faster dip in water levels due to rapid evaporation. This is a concern.

## 'Wake up call': Lower than national average, why Gujarat's PARAKH score is a cause for concern

**In Gujarat, 1.4 lakh students of three classes — Class III, VI and IX — were assessed under PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024**

**Ahmedabad .(Agency)**

IN GUJARAT, on an average, 63 per cent Class III students can identify and extend simple patterns in their surroundings, shapes, and numbers against the national average of 69 per cent. Only 48 per cent can arrange numbers up to 99 in ascending and descending order against national average of 55 per cent while 47 per cent can perform addition and subtraction of 2-digit numbers fluently using flexible strategies of composition and decomposition of both numerical and word problems — the same as the national average.

In terms of Language, 52 per cent can read short stories and comprehend their meaning — by identifying characters, storyline and what the author wants to say — on their own against the national average of 60 per cent.

These are a few results of the PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) -Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024 for Gujarat that had revealed a concerning state of

education in the state. What makes the situation more alarming is the fact that the performance levels of students has been declining since the 2017 National Assessment Survey (NAS),



which has been replaced by PARAKH. Not only the average performance levels of students of Class III, VI and IX in Gujarat across areas is lower than the national leverage — the state also ranks in the 10 lowest performing states — none from Gujarat is among the 50 high-performing districts in Class III, VI and IX.

At the same time, several districts from Gujarat have been ranked in the 50 low performing districts in Class III and IX. In Gujarat, 1.4 lakh students of three classes — Class III, VI and IX — were assessed under PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024.

In Class III, among the 50 low-performing districts, five are from Gujarat: Porbandar is at 48 and Chhota Udepur at 47 position while Kheda is at 44, Gir Somnath at 28 and Jamnagar at 21st position. In the low-performing districts ranked for Class IX, Chhota Udepur is at 49 position, Dahod is at 16, Dang at 31 position.

The state survey, which was conducted in English, Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Odia, Sanskrit and Urdu languages across government, grant-in-aid and private schools in Gujarat reveals a dismal picture where the performance outcomes across classes are below the national average. For instance, in Class III, in both Language and Mathematics, the average performance of students in Gujarat is below the national average.



**Ahmedabad .(Agency)**

A Head Constable saved the life of a suicidal man by tackling him out of the way of a goods train on Friday. Superintendent of Police Om Prakash Jat said that Head Constable Lalji Bharwad, posted at Viramgam Town police station in Rural Ahmedabad, "displayed extraordinary bravery and presence of mind, setting a shining example for the entire force."

At around 4 pm on Friday, while on routine patrolling duty, HC Lalji Bharwad noticed a middle-aged man suddenly running toward a railway track near a crossing. At the same moment, a fast-approaching goods train was arriving on the tracks.

Bharwad stopped his bike, sprinted toward the man, and in a split-second decision that possibly risked his own life, jumped forward, caught hold of the man in his arms, and forcefully pushed him backwards in the opposite direction. Both fell aside, just as the train passed.

"The daring rescue left both with minor injuries from the fall, but it saved a precious human life from certain death," said SP Jat. Police later spoke to the man, who informed them that he had been facing family problems, due to which he had decided to take the step.

## Telangana rains: Rebuilding after deluge

**Hyderabad .(Agency)**

A day after the swollen Musi River inundated several localities and wreaked havoc, floodwaters began to recede across most areas on Sunday, bringing partial relief to residents.

Several riverbank colonies, particularly around Chaderghat, remained blanketed in mud and slush, with heaps of waste scattered across lanes and inside homes. Essential household items such as furniture, clothes, utensils, and electronics were left caked in silt as families struggled to clean their flood-hit dwellings.

In response, GHMC launched massive cleanup operations in the affected pockets. Sanitation workers were deployed to remove debris, garbage, and silt, while disinfectants were sprayed to prevent outbreaks of vector-borne and waterborne

diseases. Officials said the drive would continue until all flood-hit zones are restored to normalcy.

At Moosarambagh bridge, workers began



dredging and clearing the riverbed, while pump sets were pressed into service to drain stagnant water from low-lying areas. Large-scale disinfection drives were also carried out

at the Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) and adjoining neighbourhoods. In addition, food was distributed to affected families, and special medical teams were stationed in vulnerable colonies to provide healthcare support and safeguard public health.

Beyond government efforts, NGOs have stepped up to support affected families. Terminate Hunger, a five-year-old NGO, has been actively providing relief. Founder Mohammed Imad Ali told TNIE that as residents slowly return from rehabilitation centres to begin cleaning their homes, volunteers are ensuring food and water supplies.

"We have supplied food to nearly 2,000 people since Saturday. On Monday, we will distribute clothes to affected families," he said. Currently, two to three rehabilitation centres are operating in the flood-hit zones.

## Curated by a Maharani, how a garba hosted on palace grounds in Vadodara has become a safe space for LGBTQ community

**Brainchild of the royal family's Radhikaraje Gaekwad, the garba witnesses many proudly walking in with special category entry passes that read "Devotion has no gender"**

**Vadodara .(Agency)**

Dressed in a resplendent red and black chaniya choli and a multicoloured dupatta, Sonia rushes through the security processes at the Lukshmi Vilas Palace (LVP) grounds in Vadodara. Her eyes scan through the crowd and her lips, painted with a bright lipstick, break into a smile. It's Priyal. Sonia runs towards her companion, the cowrie shells on her outfit and oxidised accessories on her ears and neck jangling in perfect tandem.

Priyal is not merely a garba partner for Sonia. The two young women have been in a relationship for a while now and this garba venue, according to Sonia, gives them the space to be themselves and express their love for each other without the fear of being judged by the society.

Like Sonia and Payal, this garba has been doubling up as a sanctuary of sorts for several members of the LGBTQ community in the city since 2021.

Curated by the royal family's Radhikaraje Gaekwad, the garba witnesses many from the LGBTQ community proudly walking in with special category entry passes that read "Devotion has no gender".

Says Sonia, who works at a financial institution in the city: "Dance is a vehicle for expression of emotions. And what can be better than garba to do it? To have a garba venue that recognises the LGBTQ community as an integral part of the celebrations just makes it special... A regular patron, Sonia says, "There are no disapproving eyes or frowns and all the players just infuse into one big circle of dancers enthralled by the beat of the music and the lyrics in devotion of Maa Ambe... It is a space where both Priyal and I can be ourselves and express our love, although she is yet to confide in her family about her identity..." An 'Indian pride parade'

catalyst in creating something bigger that can bring about change... Bringing in people, who may not be included in the



society..." says Radhikaraje. "So, it is kind of a utopian place where everyone is meeting for a purpose larger than themselves... Many have used this platform to come out and embrace their identities keeping up with the Indian ethos and culture, not having to wave a rainbow flag... It is a space where they can

come out in a respectful, traditional way," says Radhikaraje.

Raje, the crowned Maharani of the royal family, also pioneered Gazra cafe in the old city of Vadodara, which is considered Gujarat's first cafe run by transgender persons.

Her association with the LGBTQ community began during the Covid-19 pandemic, when she reached out to fellow royal and gay prince, Manvendra Singh Gohil, to understand how she could help the community in times of crisis.

"What began as an outreach with dry ration kits for the community turned into a relationship of trust as I literally coaxed the members of the LGBTQ community to take up vocational training courses at the Shri Maharani Chinnabai Stree Udyogalaya to be able to fend for themselves.

## The non-Brahmin priests of Hinduism

Under British rule, the notion took hold that the only legitimate priests in Hinduism are upper-caste sacred-thread Sanskrit-knowing Brahmins. This is absolutely not true. Hinduism has many groups and communities. Different castes and tribes have different gods. Each of these gods have different priests. Bhopas from Bhil communities are priest-performers who sing the tale of Pabu-ji and invoke his presence in the deserts of Rajasthan. Guravas are traditional managers of shrines in many temples of Maharashtra and Karnataka. Jogammas and Jogappas carry images of Yellamma in the borderlands of Maharashtra and Karnataka. Across Himachal, the much-revered devatas of the mountains have their own hereditary pujaris and gurus, who do not belong to the Brahmin caste. The Potraj or Pota-raju of Maharashtra and Telangana are heralds of goddesses.

These local priests are being increasingly sidelined as academicians and authorities try to homogenise Hinduism. They are even being seen as "low" caste. Even impure. Even after independence, these traditional priests are not allowed to be spokespersons of Hinduism. A colonial hangover clearly. These priests of Hinduism will tell stories that may upset the apple cart of purity that drives Brahminism.

Once upon a time, an upper-caste girl discovered that her husband belonged to a lower caste but had deceived her into marriage by pretending to be a Brahmin. Enraged, she killed her children, burnt down her house, and beheaded her husband, transforming into a terrifying goddess. To appease her, it was decided that a man from the village would be chosen to dress in bright, colourful garments befitting the goddess. Though he would be the most virile man in the village, he would dress like a woman, dance for her, whip himself for her pleasure, lead processions in her honour, and offer young male buffaloes as sacrifices. In another version, an upper-caste girl fell in love with a lower-caste boy. They married, but she died during childbirth. Neither community was willing to cremate her. In his grief, the boy buried her and chose to wear her clothes, worshipping her as a goddess who had died in childbirth. It is said that all who came to this shrine had their wishes fulfilled, while those who failed to show respect suffered from ailments and diseases. This is another explanation for the Potraj traditions of the goddess. The first version speaks of inter-caste marriage as a crime that annoys the goddess. The second version speaks of inter-caste marriage as an expression of true love that evokes the goddess. Which is the true version? Which is likely to be promoted as authentic?

There are other versions. To appease the goddess of tigers, who is married to a god who rides bulls, a village woman offers a young male buffalo calf as sacrifice. Her son serves as the herald of the goddess, smearing his body with turmeric and vermillion, whipping himself, warning people about her great power. Here we see how buffalo sacrifice is legitimised as cattle sacrifice is banned. The goddess is a cow; her husband is a bull. The buffalo is sacrificed. It evokes India's dairy industry, the beef ban, and the buffalo-slaughter that allows India's beef/buff industry to thrive. As efforts are made to sanitise Hinduism, there is a tendency to deny the existence of its cross-dressing rituals and animal sacrifices. Priests from 'lower' caste traditions worship goddesses who are often believed to be part of a group of seven sisters, accompanied by a single male deity. These deities are found across India, with the Potraj tradition being the most distinctive expression of this belief in the Deccan region.

Watering holes are essential retreats for all species, in the real jungle or the urban one. They provide the chance to rub noses (and the occasional unsuspecting posterior) in a relaxed setting. But whereas in the jungle there is only one rule — the bigger guy drinks first — we have managed to prescribe a weird set of dictums to regulate membership and behaviour in our gated oases which we call clubs. In Delhi's Gymkhana Club, for example, one has to apply for membership before one is even born, such is the waiting list. New members are inducted only in place of old ones who kick the ice bucket, as it were, so a kind of Death Watch prevails on the club premises at all times, with the "waitees" keeping a close watch on the "oldies" and plying them with loads of cholesterol to help the natural process of ageing. I have just learnt that there exists a club in Europe called the Giga Society; it has only nine members, primarily because to qualify one has to score more than 195 in the IQ test. That rules out everyone in India except Mr Mani Shankar Aiyar, but I'm told that they are not accepting any applications from India after Vyapam — they don't trust our marking system. The whackiest membership requirement, however, comes from, where else? My home state, UP. There is an exclusive club there called the Mritak Sangh, and to become a member one must be dead! No kidding. The saving grace, however, is that you don't have to be dead-dead or brain dead as in a bureaucrat, but only declared dead, through false affidavits, forged letters and documents, usually by relatives who are fed up of waiting for you to call it a day so they can grab your real estate (and sometimes your wife). These walking dead have now formed a guild so they can get together and drown their sorrows. In the USA, there is an Ejection Club! It had 5,607 members at last count, and to become one you must have survived being fired out of a military plane by an ejection seat. Being fired by the government from your job does not qualify, so that rules out Urijit Patel and Raghuram Rajan, who in any case have parachuted safely to the Davos club. The ADC Club in Shimla persists with a unique caste system, in violation of our Constitution. It's run by the Army but they have to take in some civilians also because the property belongs to the government. The civilian chappies can't vote, but the unkindest cut is that they have to pay more for their booze! The Army guys get their liquor at CSD rates while the bureaucrats have to pay the normal, post-excise, bootlegger rates. They are the new OBCs (Other Boozing Classes) of Shimla. This doesn't do too much for civil-military bonhomie but it ensures that at least one-third of the membership is sober at all times and that only civilian bottoms get pinched on New Year's eve.

Which brings me naturally to another club where liquor

## Watering holes and waiting lists

### Weird dictums regulate the membership of various clubs



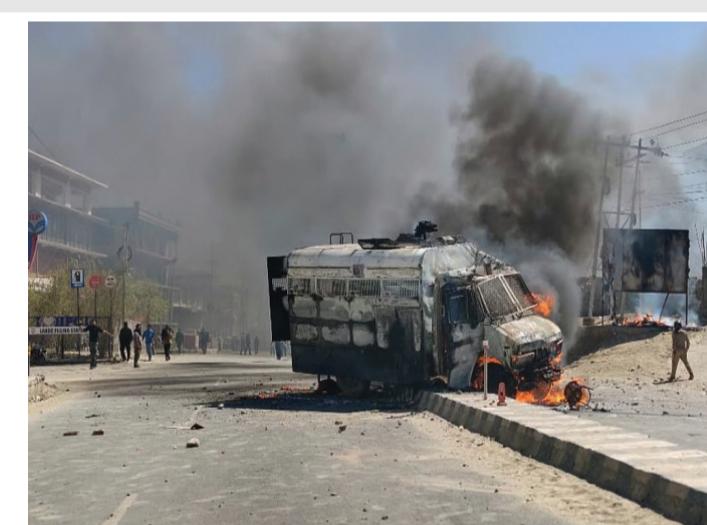
poses another kind of problem — the CSOI (Civil Services Officers' Institute), Delhi. It's a splendid place with a fine bar and two restaurants, created exclusively for bureaucrats so that they can let their hair down without any arms dealers exploiting the bald patches. It's the place where pensioners are dispatched by their wives every morning to get them out of their hair. Unfortunately, it appears to be run by some teetotaller gnome in the Cabinet Secretariat who has never heard of CCTVs. Nothing else can explain the decision that the bar will open only at 7 pm on weekdays. My discreet inquiries have revealed that the government's innovative 360-degree assessment system had perhaps revealed that some babus were playing hookey on working days, having gimlets at the bar when they should have been recording dissenting notes on files or suppressing the data on employment generation. But why shut down the bar? Why not just install a CCTV? That would have worked just as well, for a CCTV a day makes a babu earn his pay, as the ditty goes. I am reliably informed that the retired babus are now planning to move to Assam or Bihar en masse where hooch is freely available in police stations and excise offices. Their wives will not follow them, of course, which is another reason why they are shifting base. The IIC (India International Centre) in Delhi has fine

dining rooms where the members come to relax after delivering lectures on how to change the world in 90 days. I was there some time back with a group of retired cadre mates and their spouses (for some reason, they are never called "wives" in government parlance, have you noticed?). Now, IAS officers while in service are a bit like that Russian dog in that old joke — they are well-fed but not allowed to bark. So when the muzzles come off after 35 years, they tend to be a chatty lot. In the middle of all our yapping and general mirth, a waiter emerged from nowhere like Banquo's ghost with a placard which, shorn of bureaucratise, essentially asked us to shut up. Since it was an unsigned statement, like the note submitted to the Supreme Court on the Rafale deal, we took no notice of it. After five minutes, the undertaker himself materialised (it was actually the manager) to advise us in a sepulchral tone that the IIC had a high cholesterol, low decibel policy and could we please, therefore, speak in Chinese whispers? I learn that the rules also prescribe that if one has a cardiac arrest in this club, it must be a silent heart attack so that other members are not inconvenienced. It's damn irritating if you are a waitee on the waiting list, because you never get to know when a member has left for his heavenly abode and a vacancy has arisen. So now I begin my day by reading the obituary columns.

### Address aspirations of Ladakh's youth, engage with locals

**The unrest in Leh is yet another indication of the prevailing discontent among jobless youth who lack avenues to channelise their energies gainfully. Addressing their aspirations holistically with empathy is the only way forward.**

A seemingly Gandhian agitation for Ladakh's statehood went sideways in the peaceful town of Leh as a sudden burst of protester fury snowballed into vandalism and a regrettable loss of lives. The agitation was spearheaded by Sonam Wangchuk, who had begun a hunger strike on September 10. What's said to have lit the fuse were concerns over the deteriorating health of some strikers, an administrative response perceived unsatisfactory, and some fiery speeches at the protest venue. However, the actual cause of the violence is a matter of detailed investigation. Ladakh has been placed under curfew and Wangchuk has called off his protest. This is not the outcome he would have wanted. The engineer has inspired generations of scientists through phenomenal contributions to climate innovation and education reforms, which was showcased in the 2009 blockbuster, 3 Idiots. Yet, now it has also emerged that the CBI is probing his Himalayan Institute of Alternatives for alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act. The demand for statehood, a separate legislature and Sixth Schedule rights germinated months after Ladakh was carved out of J&K as a separate Union Territory in 2019.



The Sixth Schedule provides constitutional safeguards and greater autonomy to tribal areas. If in the undivided J&K Ladakh was the region most ignored by the

executive, the Union Territory status ignited a firestorm of aspirations. The protests that followed created an unexpected congruence among the Buddhist-majority Leh and the Muslim-majority Kargil, who until then were like oil and water. Political and religious groups on both sides went on to set up a joint platform and hold multiple rounds of talks with the Union home ministry. The unrest in Leh is yet another indication of the prevailing discontent among jobless youth who lack avenues to channelise their energies gainfully. Addressing their aspirations holistically with empathy is the only way forward. Since Ladakh shares its borders with China and Pakistan, the Centre would understandably be wary of loosening its grip on the territory. Other innovative mechanisms could be thought of within the framework of the Constitution for seamless consultation with the locals on all matters instead of the Centre taking unilateral decisions through the Lieutenant Governor. As for Wangchuk, he too needs to be wisely engaged with.

## Bhagat Singh to students

**On his birth anniversary, it is fitting to recall not only the image of Bhagat Singh walking to the gallows, but also his voice, his message**

Bhagat Singh is remembered as the young man who flung a bomb in the Central Assembly, who walked calmly to the gallows, and who turned defiance into legend. Yet there was another Bhagat Singh, less often recalled — the thinker who measured the limits of violence, the strategist who recognised the strength of mass action, the writer who drafted a future in words.

Among his scattered writings, his Message to the Punjab Students' Conference, delivered on October 19, 1929, stands apart. It was read aloud to the gathering by Subhas Chandra Bose, who presided over the conference held at Bradlaugh Hall, Lahore. This brief text, framed as a "wireless message" from Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt, reveals a turning point in his thought: a shift from armed militancy to a vision of mass political mobilisation rooted in socialist ideals.

"Today, we cannot ask the youth to take to pistols and bombs," the message begins. The sentence is startling in its candour, coming from a man who only months earlier had carried out the Assembly bombing and had stood unrepentant in court. But this was not a renunciation of revolution. It was a sober recognition that sporadic acts of violence could not carry the weight of a national movement. Bhagat Singh had seen how the assassination of Saunders, though dramatic, had not stirred the masses beyond outrage. He had seen how the Assembly bombs, designed as a protest, could at best awaken but not organise. The hour demanded a different approach.

With the Congress preparing to demand complete independence at its forthcoming Lahore session, Bhagat Singh understood that the stage of Indian politics was shifting. In this moment, he chose to urge students to adopt a more arduous and more enduring role — that of educators, organisers, and torchbearers of revolutionary consciousness.

For Bhagat Singh, independence was never to be defined by the mere withdrawal of British rule. "A revolution that

will bring freedom and would render exploitation of man by man impossible," the message declared. Here, in one phrase, lies the mature Bhagat Singh: nationalist, socialist, and humanist. His was not the dream of a flag replacing a flag. It was the abolition of all forms of exploitation — imperialist, capitalist, feudal, and casteist. The words echo unmistakably of Marxist thought, but they are also grounded in India's own reality, in the villages and slums where millions lived in poverty.

To him, a struggle that ended with the transfer of power to a new Indian elite would be no liberation at all. True freedom meant economic justice, social equality, and a republic built on solidarity. That vision, he told the youth, was their responsibility to carry forward.

The students, he argued, must become the channels through which this revolutionary message flowed. "The youth have to convey the message of revolution to the farthest corner of the country, to the sweating millions in factories, slums, and village huts." The appeal is remarkable not only for its breadth but also for its clarity. It was not addressed to leaders or notables, nor to the educated elite alone, but to those living in "worn-out cottages" and "industrial slums". Bhagat Singh was redefining the very constituency of politics: the poor, the workers, the peasants. And it was the educated youth, with their relative freedom and access, who were charged with the task of awakening them.

The revolution was to be built not on isolated conspiracies, but on the slow, patient, and disciplined work of consciousness-raising. In making this appeal, Bhagat Singh also turned to his own province. "The Punjab is considered politically backward," he admitted. Rather than bask in the martial pride of his homeland, he asked its students to confront the stigma of inertia and prove it false. Responsibility, he reminded them, was not distributed evenly by

geography; it had to be assumed. And to give flesh to this responsibility, he invoked the fresh memory of Jatindra Nath Das, who had died only weeks earlier after a 63-day hunger strike in Lahore Jail.

"Following the glorious example of our great martyr Jatindra Nath Das," he urged, let the youth rise with fortitude and firmness. Das' sacrifice was not to be



mourned in silence but to be translated into action. In that moment, Bhagat Singh turned martyrdom into pedagogy, grief into fuel for organised struggle. What emerges from this brief message is not just an exhortation but a political doctrine. Students were not to be mere demonstrators or temporary recruits to a nationalist cause. They were to be the vanguard of an ideological movement, tasked with spreading socialist

consciousness, organising the dispossessed, and shaping the moral compass of the nation.

Bhagat Singh's tone is not romantic, nor is it sentimental. It is instructive, precise, and demanding. He does not flatter the youth; he burdens them. He does not call for blind sacrifice; he calls for clarity of thought, discipline, and political responsibility.

Bhagat Singh had entered politics as a teenager — impatient, impulsive, and drawn to the drama of conspiracy. By 1929, in jail and surrounded by comrades, he had grown into a thinker who could look beyond the immediacy of action. His subsequent essays — on atheism, on the meaning of revolution, on the tasks of young political workers — would deepen this philosophical turn. But already here, in this message, we see him moving from passion to purpose, from the romance of violence to the architecture of social transformation.

The Tribune, in its October 22, 1929, report on the conference, noted: "The president then read the following message which he said the conference had received by wireless from Bhagat Singh and Mr Batukeshwar Dutt." How the message could have been transmitted "by wireless" from revolutionaries confined in jail is a puzzle. More likely, it was a rhetorical flourish or a device to dramatise its arrival. But the fiction itself is revealing. It suggests how the figure of Bhagat Singh had already become larger than life — his words expected to leap over prison walls, to travel invisibly across airwaves, to speak to youth as if by direct communion. Myth was being woven even as history unfolded.

# Bahraich wolf attacks: Carcass of adult male found in sugarcane field

**Forest officials have, prima facie, ruled out the possibility that the wolf died of a gunshot injury. However, they did not dismiss the likelihood that the animal may have been attacked and killed by villagers**

**Lucknow .(Agency)**

The Bahraich Forest Department on Sunday recovered the carcass of an adult male wolf from a sugarcane field in Manjhla Taulki village. Several villages in Bahraich have been facing frequent animal attacks that have claimed the lives of four children and left 16 others injured since September 9.

On Saturday, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had visited the district and directed the Forest Department to capture the wolf behind the recent attacks, or, if necessary, call in shooters to eliminate it for public safety.

Forest officials have, prima facie, ruled out the possibility that the wolf died of a gunshot injury. However, they did not dismiss the likelihood that the animal may have been attacked and killed by villagers, many of whom have been patrolling the area with traditional weapons in view of the recent spate of attacks.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ram Singh Yadav said the carcass has been sent for post-

mortem examination and the report is awaited. "The next course of action will be decided on the basis of the post-mortem findings," he said. Yadav further stressed that the department's primary objective remains to capture the wolf alive rather than eliminate it. Forest officials have not ruled out the possibility that this wolf may have been part of the same pack responsible for the recent attacks on people.

The series of attacks in Bahraich began on September 9, when a child was killed in Paragpurwa village. Since then, the district has witnessed repeated incidents. The most recent one occurred last Thursday night at Bhabhanpura village, where a minor boy was mauled.

On Friday morning, a woman heading to the fields was also targeted, but she managed to raise an alarm and villagers working nearby rushed with sticks. The wolf attacks have so far been reported within a 15-km radius spread across Mahsi and Kaiserganj tehsils of Bahraich, with the majority of incidents

concentrated in Kaiserganj. Among the four victims, the body of one of the children is still missing. All those injured are adults, except for one child.

According to forest officials, the wolves' behaviour this year appears to have changed compared to last year. While earlier attacks were largely confined to nighttime, the animals are now striking during daylight hours as well. This shift, officials noted, has heightened fear among residents.

Forest officials said that extensive precautionary and security measures have been rolled out in the affected villages. For better monitoring and search operations, the region has also been divided into separate zones.

In September last year, a pack of wolves had killed eight people, mostly children, and injured 18 others in Mahasi tehsil of the district. The Forest Department had then launched 'Operation Bhediya', during which six wolves purportedly linked to the attacks were captured.

## Volunteers collect sackful of gutkha in one hour at Silkboard Junction

**Bengaluru .(Agency)**

A sackful of gutkha sachets picked up at the Silk Board Junction in just one hour indicated how widespread chewing and spitting of gutkha (a smokeless tobacco product) in public spaces in Bengaluru is.

A gutkha plog was organised by the Solid Waste Management Round Table (SWMRT), Indian Ploggers Army, HSR Citizens Forum, Beautiful Bharath and Stonesoup, along with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) here on Sunday, where volunteers picked up gutkha sachets and masala packets, documented the litter, and urged the government to ban gutkha in public places.

In May, the state government amended the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, which made not just smoking, but also chewing and spitting of gutkha in public illegal. The fine was also increased from Rs 200 to Rs 1,000. The volunteers said they stood face-to-face with the unsightly, unhygienic and persistent reality of gutkha and tobacco litter. But they confronted the stench and stains for the

cause of a cleaner and healthier planet. They will continue to work with authorities and scale up efforts and work towards a gutkha ban collectively, they added.

Shanti Tummala, a citizen activist from HSR Citizens Forum and SWMRT, said, "People are sick looking at the litter and red stains of gutkha. We demand that the government enforce the gutkha ban."

The organisers said they coined the word Mr Gutta, an imaginary character who chews gutkha and recklessly spits on roads, walls and public places. Through the gutkha plog, they conveyed the message, "Don't be a Gutta, keep your neighbourhood clean."

"A ban without enforcement is a mere ink on paper. We request the

enforcement of gutkha ban urgently. What is even more disgusting was gutkha spit filled in bottles. Gutkha is not only dangerous to health, but also Mother Earth. Gutkha is still haunting our streets and walls, please enforce the ban," said Bharathy from the Indian Ploggers Army.



## Chandigarh: Company carrying out mechanised sweeping in southern sectors may get another extension

**Chandigarh .(Agency)**

The Lion's company that carries out GIS-based mechanised sweeping in the southern sectors is set to get extension. Even as they knew that the three-month extension given to the firm is set to expire on September 30, the municipal corporation floated tenders late, it seems.

The firm takes Rs 5.10 crore a month for the GIS-based mechanised sweeping in the southern belt. An agenda item in this regard will be placed before the General House meeting scheduled for Tuesday.

A supplementary agenda item regarding the tender document for GIS-based mechanised and manual sweeping of southern sectors of Chandigarh was placed before the General House on June 3, 2025.

The discussions were held and it was decided to defer the agenda for the next House meeting. Subsequently, in the next meeting, the General House meeting considered and approved constitution of a committee consisting of two members from each party, including two nominated members and the chairman of the sanitation committee as a special invitee to discuss the agenda and submit its recommendations.

In the said meeting, the General House also granted approval for the extension of the existing contract with M/s Lion Services Ltd for further period of three months (01.07.2025 to 30.09.2025) or till the allotment of the new tender, whichever is earlier, on existing terms and conditions along with the advance payment of wages to the workforce engaged under the contract. Thereafter, an agenda consisting of recommendations of the committee was placed before the General House in its 352 meeting held on August 26 which was approved by the General House in its said meeting. The monthly estimated expenditure involved will be Rs 5,10,00,000.

## Water level in reservoirs hits 4-year high, Chennai stocked to quench summer thirst

**Chennai .(Agency)**

The city's drinking water reserves have recorded a significant improvement this year, promising respite from shortage that marks the summer months. As of Sunday, the combined storage in the city's reservoirs stood at 68.87%, the highest recorded in the past four years during the same period.

According to data from the Water Resources Department accessed by TNIE, inflow into the Poondi reservoir has seen a sharp rise. The inflow was only 330 cusecs and the storage level stood at 4.39% during this time last year. However, on Sunday, the inflow touched 680 cusecs and the storage was 77.93%. This shows the inflow has gone up by more than 106%. A senior WRD official told TNIE that Tamil Nadu had received only 2,412 million cubic feet (mcft) of water from Kandalur reservoir during the same period last year.

"This year, it has already increased to 3,595 mcft. The southwest monsoon has also brought good rains in the catchment areas of the Poondi reservoir, which has further helped in increasing storage," the official said.

He added that the present storage levels will play a key role in meeting the city's drinking water requirements during summer next year. As regards the Chembarambakkam reservoir, the storage was 1,117 mcft (30.64%) last year. On Sunday, it stood at 1,755 mcft (48.15%). Another senior official expressed hope that the levels would go up if the city receives more rainfall during the northwest monsoon from which Tamil Nadu usually gets most of its annual rainfall.

## 'Spirit of brotherhood': Distributed aid worth over Rs 2 crore among flood-hit families, more on the way, says Punjab Shahi Imam

**Ludhiana .(Agency)**

Ahrar Foundation, an NGO founded under the leadership of Punjab Shahi Imam Maulana Mohammad Usman Rahmani Ludhianvi, has distributed assistance worth over Rs 2 crore, including Rs 1.3 crore financial aid through cheques and relief materials, among flood-affected families in the state.

"The amount has been collected through voluntary donations done by the Muslim community from across the country and especially the northern Indian states," said Shahi Imam, who appealed to the Muslim community to make donations for flood-hit families in Punjab.

"More help will be provided to affected people," Shahi Imam told The Indian Express. "On September 2, I appealed to the Muslim community through a video message to help the flood-hit Punjab. The people of Punjab have always given to the country. Now, they are in dire need of help... and the response was unbelievable. We got donations in kind and cash from nearly 3,000 masjids

from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and even as far as Karnataka."

According to the Shahi Imam, initial donations were received in the form of dry rations, but he then made another appeal on September 12, leading to contributions such as mosquito repellents, medicines, mosquito nets, and monetary assistance as well.

Ensuring fair distribution, a three-member committee comprising Mohd Mustkeem, Michael Singh and Sonia Arora was formed at the Jama Masjid in Ludhiana to verify families in need of donations.

Mustkeem, press secretary of Shahi Imam, said, "On September 10, Rs 50 lakh were distributed among flood-hit families of Bhoa in Pathankot, Dasuya in Jalandhar, Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur and Ajnala in Amritsar. At Kullianwal village in Bhoa, three Muslim Gujjar families in

Bhoa were given Rs 1 lakh each and nine non-Muslim families, whose houses were completely damaged, were given Rs 2 lakh



each. Besides them, several affected people visited the Jama Masjid in Ludhiana to collect relief material and cash. Additionally, Rs 30 lakh through cheques was distributed among flood-affected families till September 25, and thereafter Rs 50 lakh on September 27."

The foundation also extended medical and veterinary aid. "Ahrar Foundation also bought an ambulance and sent it to flood-affected areas, along with a team of doctors. We have medicines for both humans and animals. Nearly Rs 20 lakh has been earmarked for medicines alone, and fodder worth Rs 30 lakh has also been distributed in flood-affected villages in Fazilka, Ferozepur, Amritsar, Pathankot, Gurdaspur, etc.," Shahi Imam said.

Hailing the spirit of unity, Shahi Imam added, "It is the religious duty of our community to stand by their brothers and sisters affected by floods in Punjab. This is not just support, but also a message of love, as the land of Punjab has always seen people of all faiths stand together in times of happiness and sorrow. The Muslim community will continue working tirelessly, alongside people of other faiths, to rehabilitate flood victims until normalcy returns."

## Sacked constable arrested in Kanpur for inciting people after Friday prayers

**Lucknow .(Agency)**

A 47-year-old dismissed police constable has been arrested in Kanpur for allegedly attempting to incite members of a community against the government and administration by circulating provocative audio speeches after Friday prayers, officials said.

The accused, identified as Zubair Ahmed Khan alias Zubair Ghazi, circulated the audio message with the intention of creating unrest in the city, police said.

An FIR was registered on charges of "unlawful assembly and wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot" against Zubair and 25 unidentified persons at the Rail Bazaar police station on a complaint by sub-inspector Raj Mohan Mishra.

Zubair, a resident of Chandari, Sujatganj, who was dismissed from the police force in 2015, was produced in a court on Sunday and has been sent to judicial custody, the Rail bazaar police station in charge said.

The identity of others who had gathered after the audio message was circulated is being established, and appropriate action will be taken against them, he added.

According to police, soon after Friday prayers, when people were heading back to their homes after offering prayers at a mosque, Zubair allegedly circulated the purported audio message with an intent to incite riots. Nearly 20-25 people gathered near Madar Hotel crossing after the audio was circulated, they said, adding a

police team was rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the crowd. The gathering eventually dispersed and returned to their homes, they said.

"Similar to the incident in Bareilly, attempts were made here too to create unrest after prayers. However, due to the prompt intervention of the police, the situation was brought under control," a police officer said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Satyajeet Gupta said, "The police rushed made loudspeaker announcements appealing to the gathering to remain calm and quickly dispersed the crowd before the situation could spiral out of control.

The situation could have turned volatile had timely action not been taken."

## White-topping work still in limbo, leaving Chamrajpet in a big mess

**Bengaluru .(Agency)**

While most of Bengaluru reels under traffic disruptions exacerbated by rainfall, the streets of Chamrajpet present a deeper hell beneath the street level. Parallel roads near the vicinity of Uma theatre are dug up and unusable, due to maintenance of underground sewage lines and white-topping, resulting in inconvenience and even death.

There is a messy expanse while driving down Bull Temple Road. Excavators occupy the entire breadth of streets and roads, having dug up chasms that render the paths unusable for vehicles, and barely usable for pedestrians.

The parallel roads — from 1st Main to 5th Main — tell the same story. While these two roads bear the majority of the brunt, the ones in the middle suffer

disruptions as well. If buses are added to the chaos, movement comes to a complete halt. All of this has been going on for months. Rakesh Jain, manager at Arrham Lights 'N' Beyond, a store for lighting and construction solutions on 5th Main Road, says the road has been closed for two-and-a-half months, and there is no clarity or any indication of work drawing to a close.

Business is not the only thing that has been hit, with an approximately 70 per cent drop in footfall. "Many people have fallen and suffered fractures, including my cousin. A little girl was killed while riding a pillion with her mother. She came under a BMTC bus after the rider swerved to avoid construction debris," he says.



## CML Survivor Day: 'For us PGI is a temple, and I have no words to express my appreciation for the doctors here'

**Chandigarh .(Agency)**

The Department of Clinical Hematology and Medical Oncology at PGI manages over 500 patients of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) every month, with a total cohort of nearly 5,000 patients under regular follow-up. CML, once considered a fatal disease with an average survival of only two-three years, witnessed a historic breakthrough in 2001 with the introduction of Imatinib, popularly known as the 'magic bullet.'

With regular treatment and follow-up, most patients today are leading normal, productive lives, much like individuals with diabetes or hypertension," says Prof Pankaj Malhotra, head, Department of Clinical Hematology and Medical Oncology, PGI.

To celebrate this remarkable journey of hope and resilience, the department, in collaboration with

the Department of Hematology, The Max Foundation, Friends of Max, Sahayta, and Sanjeevani, organised the CML Survivor Day at Zakir Hall on Sunday. The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 600 patients and caregivers. Here, some shared their journey of will, hope, living with CML and how they emerged stronger, against all odds, with the support of the doctors here, and their families.

One such braveheart who took centre stage Sunday was Kashma Sharma, who, with her zest for life, poetry and smile, won many hearts at the CML survivor day. Standing close to her was her husband, a pillar of strength who has never left her side at home or the hospital. "For us PGI is a temple, and I have no words to express my appreciation for the doctors here, who light up our lives, with their faith, dedication and expertise giving us a

new lease of life," smiles Kashma, a teacher of Social Studies at a CML, and when I came here to Dr Pankaj Malhotra, my treating doctor, I was 23 kg, and I told him how my children were very young, with my daughter in Class VI and my son in Class III. He listened patiently, understood our fears, and gave us full support, both emotionally and psychologically, and I felt at ease immediately," recalls Kashma, who was 40 when she was diagnosed with CML. The journey has been long, at times full of apprehension, sometimes pain, but never without strength. Kashma says she still gets goosebumps when she remembers the painful bone marrow test, after which she could not sleep, just sitting for more than 20 days.

"I didn't tell anyone about her condition, not even the children, and would wake up at 3:30 am to make breakfast before our PGI



visits, and one day my daughter remarked why are the paranthas so thick. She and her brother one day found the PGI file and read up on CML, and she came up to me and gave a big hug, saying dad, you have been doing this all alone. That's the day I cried for the first time," recalls Ravi, who left his job in the IT industry to take care of his wife. With regular medication, follow-ups with doctors, support of the family, Kashma was on the road to recovery, with poetry helping her express her feelings, emotions, and experiences. Encouraged by her husband, she has now published a book, 'Yeh Teri Kripa', with the poetry an expression for gratefulness. She continues her job as a teacher, writes, and helps other patients of CML by counselling them, sharing her own journey and leaves her number at various cancer survivor meets so she can give others like her support.

# Hot nights, hotter days: Why Delhi has been sweltering this September

**►Delhi Weather**  
**Forecast: The Capital reeled under daytime heat, with Sunday's maximum temperature rising to 38.1°C, three degrees above the seasonal average — and the hottest September day in two years.**

## Three men arrested for jewellery heist near Bharat Mandapam; one at large



### Agency New Delhi.

A four-day pursuit across Delhi-NCR ended with the arrest of three alleged members of a robbery gang that police say carried out a daylight heist near Bharat Mandapam last week. During the chase, the accused allegedly attempted to ram their vehicle into officers, injuring Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Parmod, police said. Police recovered 37 kg of silver, 200 grams of gold, and Rs 1.86 lakh in cash, along with vehicles and other evidence.

According to police, the complainant—a supervisor at Umrao Singh Jewellers in Bhogal Market—was returning from Chandni Chowk with a consignment of gold and silver on September 24 when two men on a blue motorcycle intercepted him and his friend near Bhairon Mandir. The pillion rider allegedly pulled out a pistol and snatched a bag containing the jewellery before fleeing, officers said.

An FIR was registered at Tilak Marg police station under Section 309(4) (robbery) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Police examined hundreds of CCTV cameras, deployed technical surveillance, and followed leads from informers to track the accused, officers said. On Sunday, a suspect identified as Vishnu (43) was apprehended in Karol Bagh while allegedly attempting to sell part of the stolen property.

Upon questioning, police said he admitted to disposing of the loot on behalf of his associates Pardeep (40) and Jai Malik (32). Acting on his disclosures, a trap was laid near Khajuri Khas flyover, where the duo was intercepted in a car after a high-speed chase, police added.

## 'Godman' who molested 17 women stayed in 13 hotels in 2 months, faked UN posts for favours — arrested in Agra

### Agency New Delhi.

The chancellor and director of a private educational institute in South Delhi, who has been accused of sexually harassing at least 17 women students, was arrested from a hotel in Agra by Delhi Police early Sunday.

According to the police, they recovered fake visiting cards from the accused, Chaitanya Sarawati alias Parthasarathy — one card claimed he was Permanent Ambassador at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and another that he was Commission member and Indian Special Envoy De Premiere at BRICS. The police said they also recovered three mobile phones and an iPad.

The arrest followed allegations levelled by at least 17 current and former students of the institute, most of them from the Economically Weaker Section, that Chaitanya made unwanted physical contact with them. The accused was brought to Delhi and produced in a local court, which remanded him in police custody for five days.

According to officers, Chaitanya allegedly changed locations over the past two months, moving through Mathura, Agra and Vrindavan, and stayed in 13 hotels. He would allegedly make his staffers call officials and demand favours such as pilot and escort cars, and accommodation, by falsely claiming that he was a part of the PMO, an officer said.

"He had given them threats. (CCTV) cameras were installed to monitor their movements... some were installed in bathrooms. Around 16 girls have complained."

### Agency New Delhi.

Delhi woke up to an unusually hot Monday, with the minimum temperature rising to 28.2°C, five degrees above normal — marking the hottest September morning in six years. The same minimum temperature was logged on Sunday, pointing to persistently warm nights at a time when temperatures usually begin to ease. The last time the city recorded a higher September minimum was in 2019, when 29.6°C was reported on September 12 of that year. The Capital also reeled under daytime heat, with Sunday's maximum temperature rising to 38.1°C, three degrees above the seasonal average and the hottest September day in two years. The last time the maximum was higher was on September 5, 2023, at 38.6°C.

#### What's behind the heat?

Though Northwest India saw 42% surplus rainfall this September, the Southwest monsoon withdrew from Delhi on September 24 — its earliest retreat since 2002. The absence of rain-bearing systems since then has

reinforced the hot spell. After the early withdrawal of the monsoon, the unusually high temperatures have been due to a mix of clear skies allowing more daytime heating and high humidity levels that slowed night-time



#### cooling.

With the relative humidity oscillating between 56% and 76% through the day, moisture in the air acted like a blanket, trapping heat near the surface. Easterly winds kept moisture levels elevated, further curbing relief at night. Over the past 24 hours, easterly winds with

speeds up to 20 kmph have prevailed over the city, as per the IMD. The wind shift has also helped air quality by blocking smoke from farm fires up north.

According to Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) data, 130 stubble-burning incidents have been reported so far this season, with 90 in Punjab, 27 in Uttar Pradesh, 6 each in Haryana and Madhya Pradesh, and 1 in Rajasthan. These have started to emerge since September 15, and their impact on Delhi's air quality remains minimal.

Delhi's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 139 ("moderate") at 4 pm on Sunday, a marginal improvement from Saturday's 169, which was also the city's highest since June 13.

#### Will it get cooler?

Forecasts by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) suggest the air quality is likely to remain "moderate" through the week. Meanwhile, the temperature conditions are expected to ease out, as per the weather department.

## Three of family killed in accident on flyover in Outer Ring Road

### Agency New Delhi.

Three members of a family, including a child, were killed in a road accident near the Mukundpur Flyover on Outer Ring Road early Monday morning.

At 12.05 am, police received a PCR call reporting the accident, prompting a swift response from the authorities. Upon arriving at the scene, police discovered three individuals who had been riding a motorcycle when the crash occurred.

The victims have been identified as Shahid, 60, his son Faiz, 28, and his grandson Hamza, 12. All three were residents of North Gonda, said police. It is suspected to have been a hit-and-run incident, though no immediate evidence has been found to identify the vehicle involved, said police. The area surrounding the site was examined, but no CCTV cameras were present to capture the incident. Investigators are now combing through nearby routes in search of footage or any other potential clues. Police also said no eyewitnesses have come forward with information regarding the crash.

In response to the incident, the Delhi Police have registered a case at Jahangirpuri police station, with charges under sections 281 (rash driving or riding in a public way) and 106(1) (causing death by negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The investigation is ongoing, and authorities are working diligently to piece together the events leading to the loss of life.

On September 14, Navjot Singh, 57, who was posted as a deputy secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs under the Finance Ministry, was killed and his wife injured when a BMW allegedly rammed into them.

Police said the woman behind the wheel, Gaganpreet Makkar, took them to a hospital in GTB Nagar — nearly 17 km from the site. She was arrested the following day and granted bail on Saturday. More recently, on Saturday, a late-night outing for six people ended in tragedy when their Mahindra Thar crashed on National Highway 48 near Jharsa Chowk in Gurgaon.

The victims included three men and three women — the youngest being 21 and the oldest 31 — were returning from a nightclub in Sector 30 to their respective hostels and rented accommodations in Greater Noida when the accident occurred.

## Dragonfly survey in Delhi brings good news: Surge in count, new species logged

### Agency New Delhi.

A surge in the overall count of dragonflies and damselflies and a new species — a new survey across seven DDA biodiversity parks in Delhi has brought good news.

A 54% increase has been registered — from 8,630 last year to 13,253 so far this year — during the three-day count. The parkwise tally of species — in the survey undertaken between September 25 and September 27 — also rose at a few sites, including Neela Hauz, Aravalli and Kalindi.

At the Yamuna Biodiversity Park, Yellow-tailed Ashy Skimmer (Potamarcha congener) has been recorded for the first time. "This species (of dragonfly) is found across the northern and northwestern plains. We are observing it here for the first time," said Dr Faiyaz Khudsar, Scientist-in-Charge, Yamuna Biodiversity Park. He also noted that Kalindi also logged wider diversity this year. Kalindi and Kamla Nehru Ridge together accounted for more than half of the citywide count. Kamla Nehru Ridge led the citywide tally with 3,935 individuals and 26 species, followed by Kalindi (3,682 individuals and 20 species) and Aravalli (2,249 individuals and 16 species). Yamuna recorded 1,730 individuals across 21 species; Tughlaqabad 1,061 across 14; Neela Hauz 523 across 15; and Tilpat Valley 73 across 6. Wandering Glider dominated sightings in several parks, while Ditch Jewel topped counts at Tughlaqabad and Neela Hauz. Compared to last year, the tally climbed in Aravalli (10 to 16), Kalindi (14 to 20) and Neela Hauz (5 to 15). The count at Kamla Nehru Ridge rose from 25 to 26 and from 12 to 14 at Tughlaqabad park.

## From colonial era 'rajbaris' to the forgotten folk art of jatra: Delhi pandals revisit roots this Durga Puja

### Agency New Delhi.

It is that time of the year again. Despite the dust kicking off all the feet walking into Delhi's Chittaranjan Park, a whiff of the 'pujo pujo gondho' (scent of Durga Puja) is unmissable — a heady mix of the sweet aroma of blooming shuli flowers, the earthy smell from the clay idols and the woody notes of the 'dhuno' (incense made from Sal tree resin). The veil has been lifted, and you know Durga is home.

Three out of the over 10 puja pandals — K Block (cooperative), B-Block and Mela Ground — in the predominantly Bengali neighbourhood in South Delhi mark their golden jubilees. The celebrations began on the fourth day of Navratri — two days earlier than usual — with cultural programmes. For this milestone year, all the three

pandals have dipped into their Bengali roots for the themes. If Mela Ground is turning to Bengal's glorious past to reimagine a colonial

era 'rajbari' (a palace or a mansion), K-Block is celebrating Bengal's rich cultural legacy by recreating the historic fortress from Satyajit Ray's 1974 film — Sonar Kella. The puja pandal at B-Block, on the other hand, is going back to the roots, quite literally. Their theme is 'the soil'. "In this golden year, the soil is

the true gold," reads their tag line.

"Over the last several years, there has been an attempt towards presenting Durga Puja in a modern way. Pandals

experiment to make the themes more contemporary. We did not want that at all," says Avik Mitra, who has been part of the Mela Ground Puja Managing Committee for the last 23 years.

"Through our pandal, we wanted people to remember our traditions. The design of our pandal is inspired by the Mahishadal Rajbari or the Phoolbagh palace of East Midnapore — a forgotten royal seat from 16th-century Bengal, where kings and queens hosted Durga Puja not as a festival but as a tradition wrapped in discipline, opulence and deep faith," Mitra adds.



## 'They've already taken our water sources, temples, cremation ground': NSG eviction notice to village near Delhi Airport sparks uproar

### Agency New Delhi.

The residents of East Mehram Nagar, a village located near the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in Delhi, on Sunday held a Mahapanchayat to protest against the eviction notice served by the National Security Guard (NSG) earlier this month. Thirty-six communities from 360 villages attended the massive gathering to mark solidarity with those facing eviction.

The notice, affixed to houses in the village, asks "unauthorised occupants to vacate the land by removing any encroachments, unauthorised constructions, or occupations" by September 30. While the residents allege that their ancestors and prior generations lived in the area for over 300 years, the NSG claims that the land was allotted

to them by the Defence Ministry. "This land was given to us by the Defence Ministry and we have the legal documents. If they claim that the

area near the arrival gate of the Terminal of the IGIA in 1965 — had settled in this village. However, encroachment and illegal construction followed. Responding to villagers' claims that government authorities provided a token allotment of 60 houses, the NSG official stated, "We have not issued notices to the marked 60 houses, and if any of those received notices, it may be due to illegal construction of additional rooms." According to villagers, around 10,000

people reside in Mehram Nagar, the majority belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. Many are retired professionals who previously worked with airport authorities and airlines.

village is 300 years old they should possess proper documents. This is an encroached land," a NSG official said.

According to the officials, the families — after they were relocated from an

area near the arrival gate of the Terminal of the IGIA in 1965 — had settled in this village. However, encroachment and illegal construction followed.

Responding to villagers' claims that government authorities provided a token allotment of 60 houses, the NSG official stated, "We have not issued notices to the marked 60 houses, and if any of those received notices, it may be due to illegal construction of additional rooms." According to villagers, around 10,000

people reside in Mehram Nagar, the majority belonging to Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. Many are retired professionals who previously worked with airport authorities and airlines.

The car was later identified as belonging to a resident of Kali Bari Lane. The police

interrogation, the four allegedly revealed

that the boy had been sold to one Santosh Srivas, 54, in Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh. A raid was conducted there, and the child was rescued unharmed.

Srivas, who had allegedly bought the boy, was also arrested. The police said Srivas, who has two daughters, had told the accused he was willing to pay up to Rs 1 lakh for a male child. "On this assurance, the accused conspired to abduct a child. They sold him to Srivas for Rs 45,000. The buyer intended to raise him as his own son," said Nidhin Valsan, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central

## Delhi toddler sold for Rs 45,000 rescued from UP; 4 held, minor apprehended

### The one-and-a-half-year-old boy was abducted from the footpath near Ganga Ram Hospital, where he was asleep next to his family, the Delhi Police said.

A one-and-a-half-year-old boy who went missing in Delhi was rescued after he was traced in Uttar Pradesh, the Delhi Police said on Sunday, adding that four accused and a minor have been arrested and apprehended, respectively, in the case.

The child, who had gone missing from Pusa Road in Karol Bagh and was located in Mahoba, had been sold for Rs 45,000 and was to be adopted by a couple, the police said.

#### Family Slept On Pavement

According to the police, the child's father, Mukesh, who hails from Rajasthan, had come to Delhi with his family to sell handicraft items at a festival fair at Desh Bandhu Gupta Road. The family slept on the footpath near Ganga Ram Hospital

after the day's work. On the morning of September 24, Mukesh woke up to find his son missing, the police said.

A case was registered at Delhi's Karol Bagh police station, and a team was formed to trace the boy. Investigators said they examined footage from more than 100 CCTV cameras across central Delhi. Around 4 am, two men on a Scooty were seen with the child on Pusa Road, with the number plate concealed, the police said. The vehicle was tracked through Rajender Nagar, DBG Road, Connaught Place, Mandir Marg, and Paharganj before it was spotted near RML Hospital, where the suspects transferred the child into a white Nissan Magnite, the police said.

The car was later identified as belonging to

a resident of Kali Bari Lane. The police

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laid a trap and arrested Anant, 22, Raju, 24, and Sahil Kumar, 21. They also

apprehended a 17-year-old. During

## NEWS BOX

**Women's World Cup: Chamari Athapaththu goes for one last push in Sri Lanka's title hunt****New Delhi. (Agency)**

Sri Lanka are poised for a deeply emotional return to the Women's World Cup, stepping onto the field on Tuesday against Harmanpreet Kaur's India at Barsapara Stadium in Guwahati. After being heartbreakingly absent from the 2022 edition in New Zealand, this moment marks the end of an agonising eight-year wait—a dream long deferred but never forgotten.

Their journey back to the world stage has been one of resilience and quiet determination. From finishing fifth in the ICC Women's Championship to being runners-up in this year's home tri-nation series, and lifting the Asia Cup in T20 cricket last year, Sri Lanka have steadily rebuilt their white-ball credentials with grit and grace. With five of their seven league matches set at the R Premadasa Stadium, familiar conditions may offer a small edge, but it's their spirit that will truly define them. Sri Lanka may not be favourites, but their hearts, their fight, and the weight of a nation's hopes make them a force to be reckoned with.

Chamari Athapaththu's one last hurray When



Sri Lanka lifted the Asia Cup last year, Chamari Athapaththu shared her dream of playing at least until the Women's World Cup 2025. That moment has finally arrived—and it may very well be the last time we see her on cricket's biggest stage, as she approaches 40. At 35, she stands as arguably the greatest Sri Lankan woman cricketer of all time. Who could forget the brilliant 178 she scored in Bristol, carrying the team almost single-handedly? Who could forget the thunderous 195 against South Africa in Potchefstroom, a record chase that made Sri Lanka the first—and still the only—team to conquer a 300-plus target in women's cricket?

But Athapaththu is more than just her bat. With 45 wickets at an economy of 5.33, she has been a steadfast pillar for Sri Lanka. Every match she plays is a masterclass in leadership, courage, and determination. In this World Cup, she will give everything—every sinew, every heartbeat—to lead Sri Lanka on a journey that could define her remarkable legacy.

**Pulisic magic leaves Milan wondering what American can do when fully fit after he destroys Napoli****MILAN. (Agency)**

A fully fit Christian Pulisic will be feared by every Serie A team after the United States international led AC Milan to a 2-1 win over defending champion Napoli on Sunday. It was Napoli's first loss of the season.

Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri had said shortly before kickoff that Pulisic was not in the best shape but the American lit up San Siro and had a goal and an assist before he had to be sacrificed when his team was reduced to 10 men early in the second half.

It was Pulisic's sixth goal in seven matches this season for Milan. Milan and Napoli top the



Serie A standings with 12 points along with Roma after the capital side beat Hellas Verona 2-0. The match was billed as an early season title battle and it was also the first meeting in more than 11 years between two of the most successful Italian coaches in Allegri and Napoli counterpart Antonio Conte. Milan got off to the perfect start as it took the lead after less than 150 seconds thanks to some magic from Pulisic. The American evaded Luca Marianucci to race from his own half down the left and keep the ball from going out. He cut in and went past the Napoli defender again to roll the ball across for Saelemaekers to tap in.

Milan should have doubled its lead through Pulisic's superb throughball but Youssouf Fofana fired over. Pulisic got on the scoresheet himself in the 31st minute. This time it was Strahinja Pavlovic who was allowed to surge forward and he rode a couple of weak challenges before pulling back for Fofana, who touched it on for Pulisic to sweep home. Milan appeared to be heading for a surprisingly comfortable win but made matters harder for itself when defender Pervis Estupiñan needlessly gave away a penalty and was sent off for dragging back Napoli captain Giovanni Di Lorenzo in the area.

# Asia Cup was all about India vs India: Harbhajan Singh plays down Pakistan rivalry

**Harbhajan Singh has claimed that the Asia Cup was always about how well India would perform in the tournament and said that the rivalry with Pakistan was well and truly over. India defeated Pakistan to win the Asia Cup 2025 final.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Harbhajan Singh reiterated Suryakumar Yadav's statement and said that the Asia Cup final showed once again that the India vs Pakistan rivalry doesn't exist anymore. India defeated Pakistan by five wickets to claim the Asia Cup 2025 trophy and extend their dominance. India last lost a game to Pakistan during the 2022 edition of the tournament and has since beaten them in white-ball cricket. Suryakumar famously said after the Super 4s clash that there is no rivalry with Pakistan for India at this time. Speaking exclusively to India Today, Harbhajan said



that there was nothing wrong with the statement made by the Indian skipper and they are way ahead of Pakistan in all aspects. The former spinner praised the team for getting the win on Sunday, with a special word for Tilak Varma, who guided India home with his unbeaten 69. "Well, I think he made the right statement. There is no

competition between India and Pakistan. India is way above Pakistan in all aspects, not just in cricket. If you see the record, the recent record shows that India have won almost all the games. The last 10 games, if you see, India must have won 9 games out of 10, which goes on to show there's no rivalry." "So, Surya was right, even though it was a

tough game today, but credit to the boys out there. Someone like Tilak who had a very, very calm mind on his shoulder, and he kept going, you know, taking those, small ticks along the way and making sure he's there till the end. This is how you win matches. This is how you win a tournament. It goes on to show that how well prepared the Indian team is," said Harbhajan.

**'If India play 60 percent to their potential, no team would come close'**

Harbhajan said that the Asia Cup was always about how well India could perform in the competition. The former spinner also claimed that if India play to sixty percent of their potential, then no team in the world can beat them. "Forget about what Pakistan did in this competition, but here it was just the competition between India versus India. How well India can play." "If India played to 60 percent of their potential, no team would come close to India. So today I think India was slightly on the edge in the first six overs, but great to see youngsters lifting the burden on their shoulders and taking the team through. So this is what India is all about. They'll fight till the end, and in the end, they'll become winners," said Harbhajan.

## Abhishek Sharma subtly jabs 'premium' pacer Shaheen Afridi after Asia Cup triumph

**MADRID. (Agency)**

India opener Abhishek Sharma seemed to take a subtle dig at none other than Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi after India's triumph over Pakistan in the Asia Cup final on September 28, saying that his plan to play attacking cricket from the very first ball of the powerplay remains the same, no matter if even a "premier" fast bowler is up against him. Abhishek Sharma was India's prolific batter from the top order and one of the driving forces in their ninth Asia Cup triumph. While Abhishek had been leading India's attacking intent from the opening spot, ending the tournament as the leading run-scorer with 314 runs in seven matches, his aggressive approach from the very start of every innings left fans speechless. Speaking at the post-match presentation after receiving the Player of the

Tournament award, Abhishek made it clear that his plan involved taking no prisoners and attacking every bowler he faced, subtly hinting at Shaheen Afridi. "If you see that I



had a plan, if I get spinners or pacers in the powerplay, I'm going to utilize that powerplay. Because if you see any bowler, even a fast bowler, any of the premium fast bowlers as well, I want to go from the first

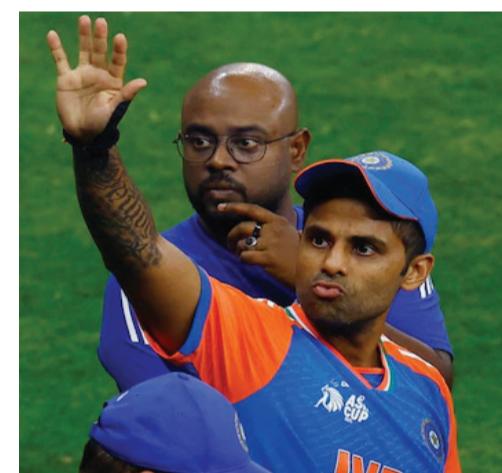
ball, no matter who's the bowler. And obviously that's going to make me give that impact to the team. And that's what I want to do," Abhishek said. Abhishek and Shaheen had a war of words after India's opener brushed the Pakistan pacer aside, hitting Shaheen for a six on the very first ball of the innings during the India vs Pakistan Super 4 clash. Tensions had been high ahead of this key matchup, but things did not spill over in the summit clash on Sunday.

Abhishek Sharma was dismissed for just 5 by Faheem Ashraf in the final during India's 147-run chase, part of the initial scare India faced, which was later compounded by the early dismissals of Shubman Gill and skipper Suryakumar Yadav. But India did not require their top batter to fire, as Tilak Verma, Shivam Dube, and Sanju Samson stepped up, guiding the Suryakumar Yadav-led side to their ninth Asia Cup title.

## You're getting angry: Surya shuts down salty Pakistan reporter with witty remark

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Suryakumar Yadav had a witty remark to shut down a salty Pakistan reporter who questioned the India captain for his behaviour during the tournament towards the Pakistan team after the win in the final of the Asia Cup 2025. India defeated Pakistan for the third time in the tournament to lift the trophy but more than cricket, it was the controversies that dominated the rivalry this time around. Everything started with Suryakumar and the Indian team refusing to shake hands with the Pakistan players after the first game between the two teams. After the final, the Indian team refused to accept the Asia Cup trophy from Pakistan cricket board chairman and Asian cricket council chief Mohsin Naqvi, and they were forced to celebrate without the trophy. Pakistan captain



Salman Agha even claimed that the Indian team disrespected cricket after the final. During the press conference, a Pakistan reporter asked Suryakumar if he was the first captain to bring politics into cricket. Today you are champions, you played a great game. But the question is, throughout this tournament your behavior towards the Pakistan team has been noticed—you didn't do handshakes, you didn't take part in the photo session with the trophy, then you held a political press conference. Do you think that in the history of cricket you are the first captain who has brought politics into the game of cricket?" asked the reporter. Before Suryakumar could answer, the media advisors intervened and asked him not to answer. The Indian captain joked that the reporter was getting angry, which left the media room in splits.

## Cricket was played in Asia Cup final. Tilak Varma's day in the sun is proof of it

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

The scoreboard read 10 for 2. The Dubai International Stadium buzzed with expectation, tension hanging thick in the air. Pakistan bowlers were getting purchase from the pitch, and the required run-rate was soaring past 10. India's hopes of an Asia Cup win now rested on the young shoulders of Tilak Varma. What followed was an innings that would not just secure India's ninth Asia Cup title but announce the arrival of a star in his own right. But barely an hour after Tilak had guided India across the line with five wickets to spare, an unprecedented trophy fiasco took centre stage, making the Hyderabad-born batter's masterclass feel not like it had happened an hour ago, but eight years ago. The Asia Cup trophy was not presented to the champions after India declined to accept it from Pakistan's Interior Minister and Asian Cricket Council president, Mohsin Naqvi. The ceremony, delayed by over an hour following India's victory on Sunday, ended in extraordinary fashion, with the winners walking off the field without the silverware.

Captain Suryakumar Yadav confirmed that the decision was entirely India's, emphasising that no external pressure had



forced their hand. He added that, as a consequence, the trophy was not awarded to them. India had reportedly been willing to receive it from Emirates Cricket Board vice-chairman Khalid Al Zarooni, who shared the stage with Naqvi, but that option was blocked. Yet long before the off-field drama unfolded, Tilak Varma had produced the innings that ensured cricket remained the true protagonist of the day.

**TILAK THE STAR IN MAKING**

Tilak, who had spent much of his early career in the shadow of Suryakumar Yadav at his peak, and was later shuffled down the order to make way for Sanju Samson, Shubman Gill, and Abhishek Sharma during this tournament, finally justified the faith invested in him. Back in 2022, when he was only 19, Rohit Sharma had boldly predicted Tilak would soon be an all-format player for India—such was his technique, temperament, and range of strokeplay. When Suryakumar was at his peak, nobody could look beyond him because he had taken T20 batting to the next level. Then came Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson. They were opening and both batters were getting those hundreds. So, Tilak had to make do with whatever opportunities that he had. But here, he has shown that he can be a lynchpin at that position. Even in the last game against Pakistan, he was the one who put the finishing touches. There is something about him, and we saw that in the IPL while he was playing for Mumbai Indians. Now, under pressure, he is delivering too," Sanjay Manjrekar said on Sony Sports. This was a different Tilak. Necessarily so.

## From bearded Vikings to smooth warriors: India complete cricket Ashwamedh

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

It's a few months ago, Indian cricket was defined by the era of bearded giants. In the Kohli-Rohit years, the dressing room was a hall of Viking warriors, with thick stubble and fierce eyes that mirrored their intent on the field. Now, as the Asia Cup final reaffirms, the beards have faded. The new faces are sharper, smoother, trimmed of excess. Thankfully, only the faces have changed—the Viking warrior's spirit still endures. Team India still carries the same steel, the same hunger, the same fighters who march to the merciless rhythm that turns tournaments into a replica of the ancient ritual of Ashwamedh—nobody dares stop the Indian conquering steed and the team goes back undefeated, untamed.

India didn't lose a single match in the 2023 World Cup final on its road to the final. In the 2024 T-20 World Cup and the recent Champions Trophy, they were rarely tested, retaining an all-win record. And the war-script was repeated at the Asia Cup.

Pakistan's Tragedy: The Unbreakable Deewar. Pakistani cricket is turning into a circus of repeated errors, which now incites less laughter and more pity. The final revealed a tragicomic destiny for Pakistan: they came, they tried 3x, they lost. Their plight may remind fans of Indian cinema of an iconic scene in Amitabh Bachchan's Deewar: locked inside a godown with him, Peter, the head of hafta-seekers at the Bombay dock, aims his knife at Vijay (Bachchan). The knife misses the mark, and Vijay tosses it back, clucking with a mix of pity and disdain, taunting the goon to try again. At Dubai, Pakistan got three shots at India-group stage, super four, and the final. But they got thrashed each time like the dock toughs. To their credit, it can only be said at least in the finals they landed a few punches to keep the drama going till the end. But the overall script was still rehashed deja vu. Pakistan, opting to bat first, started with promise, raising the hopes of its fans, and then imploded. Their middle order collapses

and Dhoni's ice. His unbeaten 69 off 53 balls—a knock of quiet ferocity, blending calculated sixes over deep midwicket with nuzzled singles drained Pakistan's spirit. Shivam Dube, the all-rounder with a swing that belies his smoothness, and reminds everyone of Yuvraj Singh, muscled 33 runs in a crucial stand, his partnership with Varma resurrecting India from the abyss.

**The New Amar, Akbar Anthony**

India's ninth Asia Cup title—a record-extending haul—isn't just a win; it is a reminder of the legacy of the era of the bearded giants. It reaffirms that Team India is a machine-oiled, relentless, clinical—forged by successive generations of greats, each living behind an upgraded version. Victories are not accidents; they are expected outcomes of a system in sync. Batting collapses are rarities, bowling meltdowns almost extinct. From the opening overs to the death slog, India moves like a tide, swallowing opposition in consistency.



have become so routine that it is difficult to understand why Pakistan don't try a different strategy and play with eight bowlers. Because, it was their bowling against India's that ignited the real drama. When India slumped to 20/3 in the powerplay—a rare collapse—the air thickened with the dread of a rare Indian off day, with Kohli no longer around to upset the script with the force of his destiny. But Tilak Varma played like an avatar of some of his predecessors—calm, calculated, and brutal, a mix of Kohli's fire

**Sensex opens 142 points higher, Nifty above 24,500; BEL gains 2%**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Benchmark stock market indices opened higher on Monday, starting the week in green after having witnessed downside for the past 5 sessions. The S&P BSE Sensex added 114.15 points to 80,540.61, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 36.45 points to 24,691.15 as of 9:24 am. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said that the market drifted down continuously during the last six trading days pulling the Nifty below the 24800 level, which was a support zone. "Technically the market continues to be weak, but it has reached oversold levels and, therefore, a short-term bounce back is likely any time. However, if any rally is to sustain the market needs positive news particularly on the trade deal with the US. Therefore, the market focus will be on that," he added.

Among the top gainers in early trade, Bharat Electronics Limited led with a strong rise of 2.41%, followed by Eternal which gained 1.87%. Tata Steel climbed 1.16%, while Titan advanced 1.13% and Mahindra & Mahindra rose 0.98%. Hindustan Unilever faced the biggest decline, dropping 2.27%. Asian Paints fell 0.33%, while Bharti Airtel went down 0.29%. Axis Bank lost 1.58% and ITC declined 0.77%. The Nifty Midcap100 gained 0.68% while Nifty Smallcap100 rose 0.72%, and India VIX climbed 0.10%. Among the sectoral indices, most sectors showed positive momentum with Nifty Realty leading at 1.03%, followed by Nifty PSU Bank at 0.96%, Nifty Metal at 0.94%, Nifty Oil & Gas at 0.84%, Nifty Healthcare at 0.50%, Nifty IT at 0.48%, Nifty Media at 0.40%, Nifty Auto at 0.35%, Nifty Pharma at 0.34%, Nifty Financial Services at 0.24%, and Nifty Consumer Durables at 0.20%.

## LIC sees Rs 1,100 crore inflows on Day 1 of GST-free life cover: Report

**NEW DELHI. (Agency)**

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) received over Rs 1,100 crore in inflows on the first day after the goods and services tax (GST) was scrapped on individual traditional life insurance policies, reported The Economic Times. This sharp rise comes in contrast to the Rs 5,000 crore of monthly premium income from retail policyholders seen in August 2025. The GST exemption took effect on September 22, 2025, under a new two-rate structure, covering term, unit-linked, and traditional life insurance products, as well as health covers such as family floaters and senior citizen plans. Most of the surge came from regular endowment products rather than any new product launches. Prior to the tax change, LIC's early September sales were lower compared to the previous year as customers and agents delayed purchases in anticipation of the GST exemption.

Executives said LIC's initial September sales had been down from a year earlier as agents and customers held off purchases in anticipation of the tax change applicable since September 22, as per the report.

Once the new regime came into force, pent-up demand was quickly released, resulting in the significant inflow. However, industry insiders believe that it will take several months to determine the long-term trend for the sector. Ticket sizes in insurance have increased in recent months, and the exemption is expected to make insurance products more affordable, potentially encouraging higher annual premium commitments for certain buyers. Despite higher ticket sizes and increased inflows, the overall number of policies issued has declined. New business premiums grew by 6.2% during April-August 2025 compared to the same period last year, driven mainly by rising ticket sizes rather than policy count.

## Nayara Energy restores operations after sanctions, leadership shake-up

**CHENNAI. (Agency)**

Nayara Energy is gradually restoring operations and sales after being hit by European Union sanctions in July that triggered a sharp slowdown in refinery activity, disrupted exports, and prompted the exit of several top executives.

The sanctions, imposed due to Nayara's links with Russian crude supplies and shipping networks, restricted access to European banking, insurance, and shipping services. In the immediate aftermath, the Vadinar refinery reduced run rates to about 70-80% of capacity, while several European executives, including the chief executive officer, resigned. Indian banks also limited foreign trade transactions with the company, adding to its operational stress. Despite the initial shock, Nayara has managed to stabilize its business. The company has stepped up domestic fuel sales, including higher supplies to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), helping offset lost exports, say reports quoting sources familiar with the development. The refiner has also found new overseas buyers, redirecting shipments to markets such as the Middle East, Turkey, Taiwan, and Brazil, though export volumes remain below earlier levels, the reports quoted highly placed sources. Operational bottlenecks have eased after Microsoft restored IT services that were suspended post-sanctions, while the Indian government cleared UCO Bank to process the company's international payments. Nayara has also relied on alternate logistics, including road and rail distribution, as global shipping firms remain cautious about lifting its cargoes. To manage leadership churn, the company had recently appointed Sergei Denisov, formerly chief development officer, as the new CEO. The move is part of a wider restructuring aimed at aligning the company with sanction-era operating realities.

# Will RBI announce a rate cut in the upcoming MPC meeting? Here's what to expect

**The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee begins its three-day meeting to decide whether it is time to cut interest rates or hold steady. With inflation easing and growth signals mixed, all eyes are on what the central bank does next.**

**NEW DELHI. (Agency)**

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) starts its three-day meeting in Mumbai today. The members will review the state of the economy and decide whether to change the repo rate, which currently stands at 5.5%. The outcome will be announced by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Wednesday, October 1, at 10 AM.

Markets, businesses and policymakers are keeping a close eye on the decision, as it can influence borrowing costs, investment sentiment and overall economic activity.

**WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME?**

In the August meeting, the MPC voted unanimously to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.5%. Since February this year, the RBI has already cut rates by 100 basis points before pausing in August. This week's decision is expected to be a close call, with opinions divided on whether the RBI should act now or wait a little longer.

**WHY SOME EXPECT A PAUSE**

Many experts feel the RBI may lean towards maintaining the current rate rather than announcing a cut. Vinayak Magotra, Product Head and Founding Team at Centricity WealthTech, believes the central bank will remain cautious for now. "We expect RBI to maintain a pause on the rate cuts in the upcoming Monetary Policy meeting. The

recent GST rationalisation is expected to provide a short-term boost to consumption, especially ahead of the festive season," he said. He also pointed out that surplus liquidity in the banking



He added that strong growth numbers and lower inflation ease pressure on the RBI.

"The growth forecasts for FY26 have been maintained at 6.5% in the last two meetings. This coupled with the recent quarterly real GDP at 7.8%, underscores confidence that there are no immediate downside risks to growth. Meanwhile, the downward revision of CPI for FY26 from 3.7% to 3.1% provides the additional policy flexibility as price pressures are expected to remain contained."

**THE CASE FOR A RATE CUT**

On the other hand, a report by the State Bank of India suggests that this could be the right time for a rate reduction. The report says a 25 basis points cut is the "best fit" for the current situation.

It argues that inflation is under control and likely to ease further. According to the report, inflation is already tracking below 2% for September and October, even without any additional GST cuts.

## EY raises India's FY26 growth forecast to 6.7% following GST 2.0, monetary easing

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

India's real GDP growth for FY26 is now projected at 6.7%, up from the earlier 6.5%, according to EY India's September edition of Economy Watch. The revision reflects expectations of monetary easing and the demand stimulus from GST 2.0 reforms, even as global headwinds weigh on exports.

"With GST 2.0 reforms boosting disposable incomes and domestic demand, and trade diversification efforts opening new opportunities, India is well positioned to sustain its growth momentum in FY26," said DK Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor, EY India. He added that strategic investments in technology and targeted policy measures would be crucial to translating reforms into long-term gains.

**GST 2.0 boost**  
New GST structure has consolidated rates into two slabs of 5% and 18%, with a special 40% rate, while

eliminating the 12% and 28% categories. The rationalisation is expected to reduce prices across sectors such as textiles, consumer



electronics, automobiles, healthcare, and food products. Agriculture-linked industries, including fertilizers, agri-machinery, and renewable energy, are also expected to benefit from lower input costs. EY noted that the reforms, by lifting disposable incomes and spurring consumption, are likely to offset near-term revenue shortfalls, strengthen demand, and support the growth base.

**Trade diversification imperative**

The report flagged India's continued reliance on the US and China as major trade partners, calling for diversification towards BRICS+ economies to mitigate risks from tariff-related uncertainties and supply chain disruptions. Policymakers have set a target of USD 500 billion in Indo-US trade by 2030, evenly split between exports and imports. To achieve this, Indian exports of services to the US will need to expand rapidly, while imports of crude, natural gas, and defence goods are set to grow. EY underlined that scaling service exports will require greater investment in AI-driven technologies to sustain competitiveness. Despite external challenges, EY said India's growth outlook remains resilient, supported by domestic demand, accommodative monetary conditions, and opportunities for trade realignment.

## Arattai success proves why Zoho won't rush going public, says Sridhar Vembu

**Kolkata. (Agency)**

The possibility of a Zoho IPO has often been a subject of speculation in business circles. However, the company's co-founder and CEO, Sridhar Vembu, has once again made it clear that the software major is not in a rush to list on the stock markets.

In a recent post on X, Vembu said that some of Zoho's key projects, such as its messaging app Arattai, would have never been built under the financial pressures faced by public companies. "Arattai would very likely not have been built by a public company that faces quarter to quarter financial pressure. It was a 'hopelessly foolish' project, and even our employees had expressed scepticism that Arattai would ever gain any traction," he wrote. Vembu stressed that the decision to develop such products was driven by a belief that

India needs to build strong engineering capabilities at home. "We built it because we felt we need that kind of engineering capability in Bharat. We need a lot more of such capabilities in



Bharat and we are on it," he added. The Zoho founder highlighted that the company is currently running several long-range research and development projects across areas such as compilers, databases, operating systems, security, hardware, chip design, robotics, and artificial

intelligence. He said Zoho has also invested in many R&D-heavy firms where immediate profitability is not expected. "Zoho is a kind of an industrial research lab that also makes money to fund itself. We essentially ignore short-term profits, as long as we don't lose money," Vembu explained.

He noted that Zoho's leadership team follows a frugal lifestyle, similar to scientists and engineers at ISRO, to focus resources on innovation and long-term growth rather than short-term gains. Framing this approach as central to Zoho's identity, Vembu called it the "essence of Bharat" and compared it to Japan's developmental model. While speculation around a Zoho IPO is likely to continue, Vembu's comments make it clear that the company's priority is to strengthen its engineering base and fund ambitious R&D projects rather than chase the quarterly pressures.

## Smallcase investment managers pick nine sectors poised to drive India's festive market growth

**The managers believe that the festive season is likely to act as a significant market growth catalyst across diverse segments, including Auto Components, FMCG, Defense, and Renewable Energy.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Investment managers on Smallcase, an investment platform, are bullish on India's upcoming festive season, identifying nine high-conviction sectors expected to outperform, driven by strong consumption, supportive policy, and unprecedented retail participation in capital markets. The managers believe that the festive season is likely to act as a significant market growth catalyst across diverse segments, including Auto Components, FMCG, Defense, and Renewable Energy. This optimism is underpinned by robust data points underscoring the Navratri economy's

momentum. E-commerce sales are projected to hit Rs 1.2 lakh crore, marking a 27% year-on-year growth. August 2025 saw UPI volumes cross 20 billion transactions, while MSME festive credit demand is anticipated to surge 35-40% to Rs 3.45 lakh crore. Here are the nine sectors Smallcase fund managers are bullish on:

Consumption and FMCG is entering a strong upcycle. Supported by a 13.9% FMCG value growth in Q2-CY25, led by rural recovery, overall FMCG sales are pegged at USD 211-245 billion in 2025. The outlook is for a multi-year revival, with staples, beauty, and discretionary categories seeing a sustained festive uplift. Gold demand is poised for a strong surge, combining cultural tradition with a strategic hedge against macroeconomic uncertainty. The manager highlights that global trends, such as central banks increasing their gold reserves to 2.4% — the highest in 30 years — combined with rising domestic household incomes, are likely to drive record purchases this Navratri-Diwali. The capital markets sector is positioned for sustained growth and wealth creation, driven by accelerating financialisation of

household savings. Retail participation is at record highs, with 155 million demat accounts, more than double 2020 levels, underpinning steady equity market liquidity via robust mutual fund SIP



flows. The NBFC sector is riding a seasonal credit surge, with MSME festive loan demand set to rise significantly. Overall credit growth is projected at 13-15% in FY25-26, with NBFCs noted as critical growth enablers, particularly as 70% of festive loan demand originates from smaller towns. Auto Components are expected to see a festive rebound, buoyed by factors like cooling CPI (1.69%), an above-normal monsoon, and the Rs 25,938 crore PLI-Auto/Components programme. The manager notes elevated

PV inventories (~56 days) signal strong deliveries ahead, with higher offtake anticipated in components like tyres and batteries. Pharmaceuticals and healthcare is projected to grow at a 12-14% CAGR over FY25-28, outpacing overall GDP growth. The sector benefits from domestic demand, export growth, and policy support, with festive demand often coinciding with heightened health and wellness spending. Infrastructure and construction equipment is supported by robust government-led capital expenditure, with a central allocation of Rs 11.21 lakh crore in FY26. Forecasted growth in Construction Equipment volumes and potential cost reductions from GST cuts on cement are expected to boost utilisation in the second half of FY26. Renewable energy is driven by significant structural shifts, including solar power's 31% YoY growth in 2025 and the target of 500 GW renewable capacity by 2030. The festive sentiment around sustainability aligns with long-term opportunities in renewables and EVs. Defense is identified as entering a high-growth phase. Defense production touched Rs 1.50 lakh crore in FY25, and exports hit a record Rs 23,622 crore.

Naga Chaitanya And

# Sobhita Dhulipala

## Bump Into Sai Durgha Tej At Hyderabad Event

Actor couple Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala are the cutest couple in the filmy world. Recently, the couple was spotted as they exited the airport and left in two separate cars, which sparked conversation. Now, Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala set major goals as they reached out to attend an engagement ceremony in Hyderabad. The video of So-Chay reaching the venue, looking dapper in a coordinated ethnic outfit, is now getting love from netizens. In one of the videos, the couple was seen greeting guests present, and they bumped into actor Sai Durgha Tej at the ceremony. In the clip, Naga Chaitanya is seen hugging Sai as they bump into each other. Meanwhile, Sobhita also stretches her hand out for a handshake with the actor before the couple makes their way. The video features Chaitanya wearing a green kurta with a light-coloured pyjama, while Sobhita looks drop-dead gorgeous in a beautiful grey and cream-hued saree paired with pearls and diamond jewellery. As soon as the video went viral, fans started reacting to it. One wrote, "Cool couple." "Couple Goals," another fan shared. A third fan wrote, "Adorable couple."

### How do They Spend Time Together Amid Busy Schedules?

Since making their relationship public, Naga



Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala have openly shared their love for each other. The couple often find small moments to spend together and relax despite their busy shooting schedules. In a previous conversation with Vogue, Naga spoke about one special quality in Sobhita that melts his heart, while Sobhita revealed what made her fall in love with her husband.

According to Naga, "We're always looking for little pockets of time to squeeze in a holiday or chill together." While Sobhita Dhulipala shared, "He was clear-headed, even-keeled, and optimistic. At that point, I was also at a place in my head where I could see that I was ready to give and to receive. The timing was just perfect. We love eating—and not just a little. We really bond over South Indian." Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala tied the knot in a private ceremony in Hyderabad last December.

# Yami Gautam

## Shares Sunkissed Selfie, Thanks Fans For Showering Love On Haq Teaser

Yami Gautam has shared a sunkissed selfie and expressed her gratitude to fans for the overwhelming response to Haq teaser. The post has since gone viral, with fans praising both her look and her performance. The film also stars Emraan Hashmi and will be released on November 7.

Taking to her Instagram handle, Yami Gautam shared photos and wrote, "पहाड़ों में सुबह की धूप, हाथ में चाय और दिल में आभार Thank you for so much love to

rousing debate on a provocative topic that begs a solution even today – a courtroom battle spotlighting greater questions of faith, identity, liberalism, personal belief and eventually policy and law – the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) under article 44.

In HAQ, Yami portrays an inspiring Muslim woman who refuses to be silenced. Wronged and abandoned, she fights a system stacked up against her. She is unafraid to go to court demanding her 'HAQ' for herself and her children under section 125. Coming together for the first time, Yami Gautam Dhar and Emraan Hashmi deliver a compelling story, with Hashmi playing the role of a razor-sharp and celebrated lawyer and Yami leading a battle that dares society to pick a side.

### About the film

HAQ is a fictionalized and dramatized version of events stated in the book titled 'Bano: Bharat ki Beti' written by Jigna Vora, and revisits one of the most controversial cases in the India of the 80s – the conversation that started more than 4 decades back remains urgent and relevant in our society even today – shouldn't the opportunity of justice be equal for all? Is it time for one nation, one law? Where do we draw the line between personal belief and secular law? Should there be a Uniform Civil Code (UCC)? A mother's raw, uncompromising courage, is the soul of HAQ.



"Haq" teaser Releasing this November 7!" Fans reacted with heart emojis. One of the fans wrote, "She never disappoints us by her acting skills." Another wrote, "You killed it Yami."

**HAQ Teaser Out, Film To Release On THIS Date**  
The teaser opens with a love story, and a private dispute between a husband and wife shifts to a



Gauahar Khan And Zaid Darbar Name Their Newborn Son 'Farwaan', Share FIRST Glimpse



Actress Gauahar Khan and her hubby Zaid Darbar welcomed their second child, a baby boy, on September 1. Now, weeks after announcing the delightful news on Instagram, the couple has finally revealed that they have named him 'Farwaan'. The couple is already parents to their two-year-old son, Zehaan. Now, while introducing Farwaan, Gauahar and Zaid shared an adorable glimpse of Zehaan holding his little brother Farwaan's tiny hand.

### Gauahar Khan And Zaid Darbar Reveal the Name of Their Second Son

On Sunday, Gauahar Khan and Zaid took to their Instagram to share the first picture of their newborn baby boy Farwaan. The picture shows the baby boy's tiny hand placed over his brother Zehaan's hand. While the newborn's face isn't visible in the picture, he can be seen wearing a cute black-and-white striped outfit, wrapped snugly in a blanket. In her caption, Gauahar revealed the baby boy's name, and wrote, "FARWAAN (red heart emoji) Zehaan introduces his little brother . Allahumma baarik lahu." Check out the post below!

Reacting to Gauahar's post, one fan wrote, "We heard the name already in yesterday bb episode may Allah grand both the kids love in success," while another one commented, "Blessings and love to the little one." Anam Darbar commented, "Allah humma baarik lahu," while Nakuul Mehta showered love on the baby boy by commenting, "Farwaan," along with a heart emoji.

### Gauahar Khan and Zaid Darbar's Marriage

The 42-year-old actress tied the knot with the actor and son of music director Ismail Darbar, Zaid Darbar, on Christmas 2020 after dating for some time. Later, they were blessed with a baby boy on May 10, 2023, whom they lovingly named Zehaan. On September 3, 2025, Gauahar and Zaid announced the arrival of their second son. They shared a joint note on Instagram that read, "Bismillah fir Rahmaan fir Raheem — Zehaan is overjoyed to graciously share his kingdom with his new baby brother, born on September 1, 2025, as the grateful and giggling parents, Zaid and Gauahar, seek everyone's continued love and blessings for their elated family."

## Sumeet Vyas, Aditi Pohankar, Priyanshu Painyuli To Star In Raj Chakraborty's Web Series



Acclaimed Bengali filmmaker and politician Raj Chakraborty is stepping into the Hindi OTT space with an upcoming romantic thriller series, set to stream on JioHotstar. The project brings together an ensemble cast featuring Parambrata Chatterjee, Sumeet Vyas, Aditi Pohankar, and Priyanshu Painyuli in pivotal roles. The series, which has completed its shoot across Kolkata and Darjeeling, is currently in post-production. According to a source close to the project, the story explores themes of betrayal and hidden agendas within a relationship, unfolding against the backdrop of Kolkata's changing socio-political landscape and the hills of Darjeeling. "The series revolves around a relationship tested by betrayal and hidden motives, set against the shifting social and political undercurrents of Kolkata and the hills of Darjeeling. The team has shot several key sequences in Kolkata's older neighbourhoods and colonial-era buildings," the source told Mid-Day.

Work on post-production is underway in Mumbai. The platform is expected to confirm the title and release date later this year. "The post-production is currently underway in Mumbai, and the streamer is expected to announce the title and release date later this year," the source added.

Raj Chakraborty, one of Bengal's most popular directors, has delivered several hits in regional cinema. Before making his debut in films, he worked extensively in Bengali television. He was closely associated with Zee Bangla's popular shows Mirakkel, a comedy series hosted by Mir, and Dance Bangla Dance, a dance reality show judged by Mithun Chakraborty, during their early years. Chakraborty also directed I Laugh You, a comedy programme for Star Jalsha. Since 2021, he has been serving as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Barrackpore, West Bengal. Raj Chakraborty completed his graduation from Rishi Bankim Chandra Colleges, Naihati, which is affiliated with West Bengal State University. Between 1993 and 1995, he was actively involved in theatre, working backstage for several productions in his locality. After finishing his studies, he left home and shifted to Belgachia to pursue a career in acting.



# Face cream

ingredient may help slow down ageing

Using complex genetic data analysis and testing, scientists have shown for the first time that allantoin, which is found in botanical extracts of the comfrey plant and is an ingredient of many anti-ageing creams, can mimic the effect of calorie restriction and increase lifespan in worms by more

than 20 percent. Calorie restriction -- a reduction in calorie intake without malnutrition, has been found to slow down the ageing process in several animal models from worms to mammals, and developing drugs that can reproduce this effect, without the side effects, could have widespread human applications.

"Calorie restriction has been shown to have health benefits in humans and, while more work is necessary, our findings could potentially result in human therapies for age-related diseases," said study lead author Joao Pedro de Magalhaes from University of Liverpool in Britain.

To identify potential calorie restriction mimetic compounds, the team made use of existing molecular signatures from human cells and

treated with a variety of small-molecule drugs. The researchers found that worms treated with allantoin, rapamycin, trichostatin A and LY-294002 not only lived longer, but also stayed healthier. Molecular analysis of allantoin suggests it acts by a different mechanism from rapamycin, a well-known longevity drug. "Testing anti-ageing interventions in humans is not practical, so developing computational methods to predict longevity drugs is of great use," Shaun Calvert from University of Liverpool noted.

## Go from drab to fab in just a few minutes

With the party season in full swing, you need to make sure that you are equipped to change from a work-dreary daytime look to a festive-cheery party look in a jiffy, despite that demanding job and a host of household chores.

Since you are getting dolled up within the office itself, the look should be one that uses only enough products that can fit into your tiny makeup pouch. One of the tips to keep in mind is not to experiment with makeup when you are in a hurry, rather stick to the tried and tested techniques. This step-by-step guide can help you transform in a matter of minutes.

### Wash off the day's grime with a scrub

Begin on a clean canvas. After working the whole day, your face needs a good wash, so use a gentle face scrub to clean it up and remove all remnants of makeup.

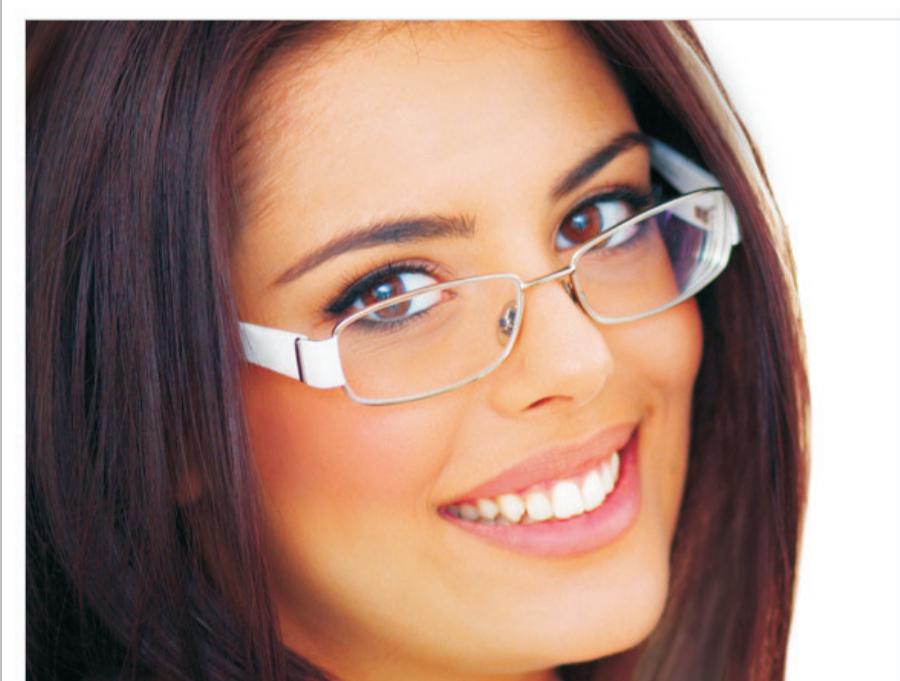
Use a light-reflecting moisturiser and

under your eye with the base of your triangle, parallel to your lower eyelid. Then blend it gently with a brush or fingers.

### Define your eyes

Use a black kohl or an eyeliner in some cool colour to line your upper lashes. Or try your favourite tried-and-tested (avoid experimenting with eyeliner if you are in a hurry) cat-eye look with a black gel liner. Then use an eyelash curler and once curled, apply a few coats of mascara to open up your eyes. Let dry between coats to avoid clumpy lashes.

### Sculpt your face



## Say hello to bouncy hair with these tips



Want big bouncy hair? Follow these tips for volume that stays...

### A layered haircut gives a more voluminous look

When your hair is cut in layers, it does not take a lot of weight on the strands on top and that is the reason they do not look flat and weighed down. And this kind of a haircut also helps to retain the shape given to thick hair at

the time of cutting, for a much longer time.

### Stay clean and clear

Product residue can weigh down your hair and make it look limp. Make sure that you are thorough with your cleansing.

### Mix and match hair products

After a wash, use a leave-in conditioner, then apply a serum. If you are blow-drying, then spritzing on a heat-protect serum makes

sense. If you want to boost roots then spray some thickening product with the ends coated with a little shine serum.

### Sleep your way to voluminous hair

This is the easiest way to have big hair — shampoo and condition your hair. Let dry naturally. Before you hit the sack, twist the entire length of your hair and then roll it up into a bun. If your hair is too short for one bun, make sections of it and tie them up in soft scrunchies. You could make little braids too. The morning will see you with stunning, wavy hair.

### Blow-dry the right way

Blow-dry your hair upside down with the dryer directed at the roots. After most of it is dry, flip your head upright. Now, pick up sections with a paddle brush and dry again. You could also use a root-boosting product.

### Curls can add volume

Whether you have thin or thick hair, curls and waves can get you that instant volume you want.

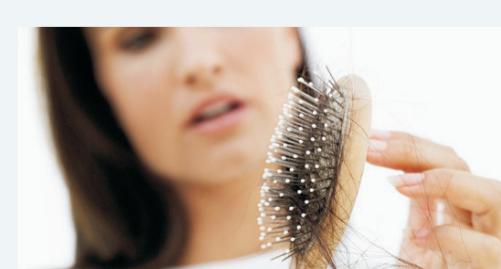
## Home remedies for hair fall in winter season

Using curd and lemon, or getting a hot oil massage during winter months, can prevent hair fall and dandruff, says an expert.

Rahul Agarwal, CEO, Organic Harvest, has shared home remedies:

**- Curd and lemon:** This combination helps you to reduce hair fall and acts as a natural conditioner during the winter season. It cures dryness of the scalp and reduces dandruff. Squeeze a few drops of lemon in curd and apply on your hair as a mask. Let it dry and then rinse.

**- Hot oil massage:** To regain strength and shine of your hair, massage your scalp with hot oil. It nourishes the hair skin and helps your scalp against winter winds.



**- Oil and camphor:** To keep your head and hair cool, mix small amount of camphor and oil and apply it on your scalp. It reduces dandruff and the itchiness on the scalp.

**- Steam:** This helps you regain the moisture

content and strengthens your hair. It opens the follicles of hair so that they can absorb more nutrients. Above all, steam helps in healthy hair growth, reduces hair fall and makes them shine.

**- Neem and coconut oil:** It acts as anti-fungal oil against the fungus that affects scalp, which makes it red and extremely itchy. Neem and coconut oil together becomes an antiseptic against dandruff and scalp irritation.

**- Neem paste and curd:** A mix of neem leaf paste with curd, when applied on the scalp reduces hair fall, prevents the greying and boosts up hair growth.

### primer

A generous application of a light-reflecting moisturiser will soften your skin. Priming your face is the next important step before you apply a foundation.

### Choose a good base

Apply a light foundation with your brush if your skin is blemish-free. If not, then choose one that gives good coverage. Brushes are quick and give an even finish much faster than when you apply by hand.

Cover up with concealer

Use a mineral concealer with light reflecting properties to disguise under-eye dark circles. Apply this in a triangular patch



Use a bronzer and blush in tandem to cut and shape your face. This also helps to slim down your face and gives the cheeks some definition.

### Embrace bold lips

Dark red lips spell party like nothing else can. Outline with a lip pencil first and then fill in colour with a lip brush. This is extremely important if you are applying dark colours. If not properly lined, it could ruin your look.

### Opt for a quick blow-dried look

Brush and spritz some spray to plump up your hair. Use a paddle brush to lift your hair and backcomb a few sections to get extra volume.