

Destroyed multiple Pak jets, including five high-tech fighters likely F-16s, JF-17s in Op Sindoor: IAF chief

Air Chief Marshal Singh credited India's recently inducted long-range surface-to-air missile systems for playing a decisive role in crippling Pakistan's aerial operations

New Delhi.(Agency)
Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh on Friday said that India launched Operation Sindoor with a clear and limited objective, and terminated the operation promptly once those aims were achieved. Speaking on the occasion of the 93rd Air Force Day, Air Chief Marshal Singh said, "In the aftermath of

the four-day conflict, it stands as a lesson. It will go down in history as a war initiated with a very clear objective and brought to an end swiftly. We called for a cessation of hostilities as a nation because our objectives were achieved. Then why should we not terminate a conflict? Why should we continue? Every conflict entails a price that must be paid, this is something the world needs to learn from us."

Rejecting Pakistan's narrative on the conflict, the IAF chief dismissed its claims as "manohar kahaniyan" (fictional tales). "Let them be happy, after all, they also have to show something to their audience to save their reputation. That doesn't matter to me," he added. "If they think they shot down 15 of my jets, let them continue to believe that. I hope they are convinced, and they will count 15 fewer aircraft in my inventory when they come to fight again," Singh remarked.

He refused to divulge details of the



incident, stating, "Even today, I won't reveal what happened, how much damage was caused, or how it happened—let them find out. Have you seen a single picture showing something falling on any of our airbases, a hangar destroyed, or anything hit? We released many pictures of their sites. But they couldn't show even a single image."

Detailing India's offence on Pakistan, the IAF chief has said that Pakistan suffered extensive damage during Operation Sindoor, with several of its airfields,

aircraft and critical installations struck.

Singh stated that radars at four locations were taken out, command-and-control centres at two sites were hit, and runways at two airbases were damaged. He added that three hangars across different stations were also targeted.

According to him, the strikes resulted in the destruction of a C-130 class transport aircraft and at least four to five fighter jets, most likely F-16s that were under maintenance at the time. One surface-to-air missile (SAM) system was also destroyed.

The Air Chief further said that the IAF had clear evidence of a successful long-range strike over 300 km deep into Pakistani territory, which brought down a high-value platform believed to be either an airborne early warning and control (AEW&C) aircraft or a signals intelligence (SIGINT) aircraft. He noted that five high-tech.

UP man posts objectionable image of Yogi Adityanath on Instagram, arrested

Baghpat.(Agency)

A young man in Baghpat was arrested and sent to jail after posting an objectionable edited image of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Instagram. The post, made from the account "Junnimalik_786", went viral on social media, drawing public outrage and a formal complaint to the police via X (formerly Twitter).

According to police, the complaint reached authorities, prompting swift action. With the assistance of a technical team, the accused was identified as Junaid (also spelled Junayed), a resident of the Khera area. Police conducted a raid and took him into custody. During questioning, Junaid reportedly admitted to creating the Instagram account and posting the edited image of the Chief Minister. Following standard procedure, the police filed a case under relevant sections of the IT Act and other provisions. He has been remanded to judicial custody. The police media cell shared details of the arrest on X, emphasising that authorities are monitoring social media closely. Senior officers warned that strict action will be taken against anyone posting objectionable or offensive content online, signalling a zero-tolerance approach to digital misconduct.



Habitual liar: AAP's Saurabh Bhardwaj jabs Rekha Gupta over liquor policy changes

Saurabh Bharadwaj's attack against the Chief Minister comes as the Delhi government is considering changes to the city's drinking age and may adopt a policy similar to those in UP and Haryana. Currently, the legal drinking age in Delhi is 25, whereas it is 21 in the two BJP-ruled states.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj on Friday launched a scathing attack on Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, calling her a "habitual liar" over reports that her BJP government is considering a liquor policy change in the national capital similar to those in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

The remarks come as the Delhi government is considering changes to the city's drinking age and may adopt a policy similar to those in the two BJP-ruled states. Currently, the legal drinking age in Delhi

is 25, whereas in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, it is 21. Addressing a press conference, the former Delhi minister said that the BJP initially opposed AAP's move to allow private liquor vending in Delhi, while states like Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have permitted private vending for years.

"When we came up with the liquor policy, BJP created hue and cry that private liquor vending is being opened in Delhi. While their states had private liquor vending all around," he said, while

highlighting AAP's concerns over what it sees as political

the drinking age change, AAP has demanded transparency on legal grounds to introduce such alterations.

Party leader Sanjeev Jha said the Chief Minister "should tell under what provisions she is bringing these changes, I had written so many letters to L-G Saxena urging them to set aside

double standards in the liquor regulation debate."The BJP lies, but now the Chief Minister has also started to lie as well. Rekha Gupta has become habitual liar," the AAP leader alleged. In view of

the court restrictions."Bharadwaj also criticised the Chief Minister's statements concerning restrictions on public festivities.

"No Panel For Manipur, Kumbh Stampede?" Stalin On BJP MPs' Karur Visit

Chennai.(Agency)

The political row over the stampede in Tamil Nadu's Karur last week - at a rally headed by actor and TVK chief Vijay, and in which 41 people died - escalated Friday after Chief Minister MK Stalin criticised the BJP for sending a delegation of opposition MPs on a fact-finding mission.

Stalin pointed out no panel was sent to BJP-ruled Manipur after ethnic violence in May 2023 or the stampede during the Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh, also ruled by the BJP, in January. He slammed the BJP for trying to score brownie points before next year's state election.

"No probe panel was sent to Manipur or for Kumbh... but delegates were sent to Karur immediately," the DMK leader said. The dispatch of a delegation is "not due to care for Tamil Nadu... but due to the election" and the BJP is looking for "political gain" from Karur, he said. The Chief Minister also criticised the dispatch of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who was born in Madurai and is a Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka, to Karur as a 'representative' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the federal government. The jab at the Finance Minister comes amid a separate row



between the Tamil Nadu government and centre over disbursal of funds.

On Tuesday the delegation - led by the BJP's Hema Malini, a hugely popular actor from the Tamil film industry -

visited Karur and met the families of victims and those who were injured.

Hema Malini criticised Stalin's administration for not providing a larger ground. "For a star of his stature, giving a small road... was unfair. Many women and young girls had come to see Vijay. If a bigger space had been allotted, this tragedy would not have happened," she told reporters. The TVK asked for more space and the government should have granted it, she said. Allegations and counter-allegations have been chucked about since the tragedy.

One can say I love Modi, not I love Muhammad: Owaisi fumes amid Bareilly unrest

Speaking in Hyderabad, Owaisi condemned police actions in Bareilly, questioned minority rights, and urged people to act within the law amid rising tensions.

Hyderabad.(Agency)

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday sparked debate over freedom of expression and minority rights, asserting that in India, one can openly say "I love Modi" but not "I love Muhammad." His remarks came amid ongoing tensions following the violent protests in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh over 'I Love Muhammad' posters recently. The 'I Love Muhammad' controversy, which began during the Barawafat procession in Kanpur on September 4, has triggered protests and rallies across several states, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Telangana, and Maharashtra.

The display of banners stating "I Love Muhammad" during the procession sparked objections from local Hindu groups, leading to clashes in cities such as Bareilly, Unnao, Kaushambi, Lucknow, Kashipur, and Hyderabad. Addressing a public gathering in Hyderabad, Owaisi questioned the direction in which the nation was heading. "In this country, one can say 'I love Modi' but not 'I love Muhammad'. Where are you taking this nation? If someone says 'I love Modi', the media also becomes happy. If someone says 'I love Muhammad', then that is objected to," he said. "If I am a Muslim, it is because of Muhammad. There is nothing above and beyond that for the 1.7 crore Indians who participated in the country's independence," Owaisi added.

Owaisi also commented on the law-and-order response in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, where protests had escalated outside the Aligarh Dargah and the residence of Ittehad-e-Millat Council (IMC) chief Maulana Tauqeer Raza Khan, who was later arrested for instigating violence.



As per sources, Karnataka Congress legislator Dr HD Ranganath has undertaken a nine-day Navratri fast praying that Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar becomes the state's Chief Minister by the end of 2025.

Karnataka.(Agency)
Karnataka Congress legislator Dr HD Ranganath, MLA from the Kunigal constituency, has undertaken a nine-day fast during Navratri, praying to God that Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar should become the Chief Minister of Karnataka by the end of 2025, according to sources. Dr Ranganath, who is also related to DK Shivakumar, recently expressed his confidence that Shivakumar would assume the role of Chief Minister. Following his remarks, the Congress party issued a show-cause notice, asking him to provide an explanation within one week regarding his comments on a possible change of leadership in

would complete his five-year term. A loyalist of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Dr Ranganath openly backed his colleague's leadership prospects. "One day or another, he should become the Chief Minister, that is the wish of all of us. I believe he will become Chief Minister one day. Voters, party cadre, and the people all want to see him as Chief Minister in the future," Dr Ranganath said.

The MLA described him as a political mentor, saying, "DK Shivakumar is our political guru. We have learned from him how to serve society, how to handle administration, and how to bring about development through action."

Congress MLA holds Navratri fast for DK Shivakumar to be Chief Minister: Sources



Karnataka. Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday dismissed speculation about power-sharing in the Congress government and warned party members against speaking on the subject, while Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday asserted he

News box

Nuh mob attack: 3 more held, 1 injured in gunfight**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Three more persons have been arrested in connection with the Sept 27 mob attack and firing on a police team in Indiana village of Punhana, bringing the total arrests in the case to 16. Police said one of them, identified as Akhlaq of Indiana village, was arrested after a shootout. According to ASP Nuh Ayush Yadav, a joint team of CIA Tauru and CIA Punhana went to Indiana on Sept 27 after being tipped off about vehicle thieves. When the team reached the house of the main accused, former district councillor Azad, he opened fire at the police and fled. The police team was attacked by villagers with stones and sticks and some even fired shots. Police personnel were injured and many vehicles were damaged.

Thirteen people were arrested, of whom three women were later sent to judicial custody, while the men were taken in police remand for further interrogation. During follow-up raids, Fakhrudin, Jahul and Akhlaq were arrested. Akhlaq was injured in an encounter with the crime branch, Punhana. "Police were tipped off about Akhlaq's location and a team set up a checkpoint at a culvert on the Hodal-Punhana road. When Akhlaq arrived on a motorcycle without a number plate, he opened fire at the police. A bullet narrowly missed a police officer. Despite warnings to surrender, Akhlaq fired again," Yadav said. He was shot in the leg in retaliatory firing.

2 pistols & live cartridges seized from Khanda shooting suspects**Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

Three days after two men were arrested for opening fire at the shop of a friend-turned-foe following a monetary dispute in Khanda, police have seized two country-made pistols and two live cartridges from them.

Police said the suspects had bought the weapons from Mainpuri in UP for Rs 10,000. The suspects, Sarthak (22) of Prayagraj and Shivam (23) of Gurgaon's Feroz Gandhi Colony, were arrested on Monday evening for attempted murder. Sarthak, who runs a video game shop in Krishna Nagar, had a monetary dispute with the shop owner's son, Lakshay. Police spokesperson ASI Sandeep Kumar said, "Shivam bought the weapons from UP. Around 8pm on Sunday, the accused fired a shot at the shop and another into the air." The officer added that Sarthak aimed at Lakshay, but the bullet struck the shutter of the shop, narrowly missing him. The incident was captured on CCTV located at the spot.

After being informed, Sector 37 police reached the spot along with a forensic team. A case was registered under sections 109(1) (attempt to murder) and 3(5) (crime done by several persons) of the BNS following a complaint by Lakshay's father, Sunil Kumar of Sector 10.

6-year-old playing by roadside in Ghaziabad dashes into traffic, crushed by car**Ghaziabad. (Agency)**

A six-year-old boy playing by the road died after he was hit by a car in Indirapuram on Thursday afternoon, police said. The boy, Yuvraj, was playing on the roadside near a church in Shakti Khand-4 around 1pm when he suddenly ran into traffic and was struck by the Harrier. Police said the vehicle's rear wheels ran over his head, killing him instantly. ACP Indirapuram, Abhishek Srivastava said the driver, 40-year-old Nikhil Dixit of Sahibabad, who works in an IT firm in Noida, was arrested at the spot and charged under BNS sections 106 (causing death by negligence) and 281 (rash driving).

Dixit told police he was driving home after meeting a friend on Dussehra and did not see the child. "The driver claimed that he initially got out of the car to check whether he had hit someone and realised it was a minor. When a crowd began to gather and started to become aggressive, he returned to the vehicle," the officer said. Police have seized his car. Cops said the child's family, originally from Bihar's Begusarai, lives in a slum near the accident spot. Yuvraj's father, Congress, fainted at the scene on seeing his son's disfigured body. He alleged that bystanders were taking photos and videos instead of helping. "When I regained senses, I heard a some cops telling the driver to run away," he claimed.

From barren strip to Noida's green lungs: Sorkha upvan now home to 88k trees**Noida.(Agency)**

In 2017, some youths from Sorkha village in Bisrakh block of GB Nagar noticed that about 15 acres of barren village land were under encroachment. They formed a team and launched a campaign to protect the barren land — also a dumping ground for waste and debris — from encroachers and land mafia. Today, it has become a "green lung for nearby communities" with a catchment of 3-5 lakh residents in Sorkha, Sector 115, Noida Extension and Greater Noida, according to Dr Nidhi Pundhir, senior vice president, global CSR, HCL Tech, who was roped in by the administration. Pundhir, also the director of HCL Foundation, is a major force behind the miraculous makeover of erstwhile barren 12.5-acre Harit Upvan Sorkha project. "It's my green space in the middle of a concrete mayhem," says Devesh Singh, a resident of Sector 78. Sorkha Harit Upvan today boasts a dense mixed native plantation with 88,442 trees from over 62 species, supported by an in-house nursery developed through seed collection and cutting methods. Sorkha Harit Upvan — which was developed in collaboration with the district administration, partner organisation Give Me Trees Trust and the local community as a PPP model — serves as a biodiversity hotspot with over 100 species of birds, insects and butterflies. Biodiversity at Sorkha Harit Upvan project — initiated in 2017 — includes insect hotels, bee boxes, bird nests and water baths, while percolation pits and a compost pit aid in water conservation and waste management.

Multilevel car park to be launched this month in Sadar Bazar**Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

The much-awaited multilevel car parking facility in Sadar Bazar is expected to become operational this month. To ensure smooth management, MCG is planning to outsource its operations and maintenance to a private agency for a period of five years. According to officials, a proposal that includes a detailed schedule of parking charges for different categories of vehicles has been sent to the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies (ULB) for approval. According to the plan, parking rates will be implemented in two phases: one for the first three years of operation and a revised slab for the following two years. MCG officials said the step was aimed at streamlining traffic congestion in the busy Sadar Bazar area, where unregulated roadside parking has long been a source of chaos. The car parking facility has been constructed over 3,187 sq metres of area with three basements

and six floors, which can accommodate 218 cars. Once ready, the facility is expected to ease parking woes in one of the city's most crowded and oldest markets. Construction of this parking facility was completed after a delay of four years. Scheduled to be completed in Dec 2021, the project was delayed. The civic body spent nearly Rs 54 on the construction of the parking. "Construction is over, and we will commence its operations this month. We have already sent a proposal to the ULB department to hire an agency for the operations and maintenance of the parking. The duration of the contract will be five years," said the MCG chief engineer Vijay Dhaka.

For cars, jeeps and vans, the charge for less than one hour has been set at Rs 20 in the first three years and Rs 30 in 4-5 years.



Parking between one and two hours will cost Rs 40 initially (first three years) and Rs 50 later. For two to four hours, the fee is Rs 60 (years 1-3) and Rs 70 (years 4-5), while for four to six hours, the rates are Rs 80 and Rs 100. Parking for over six hours

will cost Rs 100 in the first three years and Rs 120 thereafter. The monthly pass for this category has been fixed at Rs 1,750 for the first three years and Rs 2,000 for years 4-5. Meanwhile, for two-wheelers, parking up to one hour will cost Rs 10 in the first three years, which will increase to Rs 20 in years 4 and 5. Parking between one and two hours has been fixed at Rs 20 initially and Rs 30 later. For a duration of two to four hours, the charges will be Rs 30 (years 1 to 3) and Rs 40 (years 4-5), while for four to six hours, the fee will be Rs 40 and Rs 50, respectively. Parking for more than six hours

will cost Rs 50 in the first three years and Rs 70 in the later two. The monthly pass for two-wheelers has been fixed at Rs 550 initially, going up to Rs 600 in the fourth and fifth years.

Last-mile links missing in new sectors, condos cut off from Gurgaon, says plea in HC**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Residents of new sectors along Dwarka Expressway have approached Punjab and Haryana high court, seeking intervention for the construction of 24-metre and 30-metre internal sector roads. The missing links, residents say, hamper smooth access to homes, delay ambulances and fire brigades, and create dust and safety hazards across the area. This comes after the residents' repeated representations to civic and planning authorities yielded little progress. The citizen group — Dwarka Expressway Gurugram Development Association (DXP GDA) — filed a writ petition through advocate Seema Nain, who says "judicial intervention was now the only way forward".

Some societies are even forced to rely on tankers as supply lines cannot be laid without proper internal roads. DXP-GDA joint convener Sunil Sareen said, "Residents have been suffering from congestion, unsafe travel and lack of proper access to their own homes. Filing this writ petition is a first step to ensure the long-pending internal roads are completed without further delay."

Advocate Seema said, "Despite being an essential part of approved development plans, these roads remain incomplete, causing daily hardship to thousands of families. Through this petition, we are seeking action so that residents get the infrastructure they were promised." The missing 24-metre roads have been a perennial issue, especially in newer parts of the city. Under Gurgaon-Manesar Master Plan 2031, govt agencies were tasked with building the 60-metre sector dividing roads, but the responsibility of constructing the 24-metre internal sector roads was left to private developers. Each builder is mandated to construct only the portion falling within their licensed area. As a result, on any given stretch, different developers may build.

580 acres of Aravali foothills in Gurgaon marked for restoration**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Amid wildlife week celebrations, Haryana govt has decided to restore 580 acres of forest land across three villages along the highway corridor. The scheme, finalised under the Forest Landscape Restoration Model, aims to revive degraded forest tracts and establish a green buffer across Kasan, Khoh and Sehrhawan villages falling in Gurgaon district. The total cost of the revival project in the Aravali foothills will be Rs 25.9 crore. The scheme will be implemented in two phases. In the first phase, a total of 326 acres will be covered for compensatory plantation and ecological restoration, with the remaining area scheduled for restoration in 2026. The initiative is designed to offset the diversion of over 58 hectares of forest land for the NH 152-D highway project. The diversion of

forest land — for the NH 152-D corridor — took place across seven divisions: Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Karnal, Jind, Rohtak, Bhiwani, and Mahendergarh. If every citizen participates regularly in this campaign, Gurgaon will move towards becoming a green, clean, and developed city," Union minister for environment, forest and climate change Bhupender Yadav said on Thursday, adding, "The forest department has selected the site, which will be turned into a green patch soon by planting native plants and removing *prosopis juliflora* (vilyati kikar) systematically." Yadav — while announcing the scheme in Manesar, where Haryana forest and wildlife department organised the event to promote wildlife conservation, biodiversity protection and environmental awareness — added,

"Small efforts can play a major role in increasing greenery throughout the city, reducing pollution and keeping the environment healthy."

Chief conservator of forest (south Haryana) Subhash Yadav said, "This is a landscape-level intervention. We are restoring degraded land and reinforcing the principle that infrastructure development must include environmental accountability." Rs 12 crore has been allocated for afforestation charges and 10-year maintenance. Rs 1.54 crore is earmarked for additional CA dues. Rs 1 crore is set aside for operational costs, including soil working, fencing, machinery hire and nursery support. Restoration is mapped across khasra numbers in Kasan, forming the core of this year's implementation zone.

In village that worships Ravan, how youth is taking tradition forward**Noida . (Agency)**

While effigies of Ravan are burnt across the country during Dussehra, locals in Bisrakh, who consider this village to be his birthplace and worship him as their ancestor, are finding new ways to commemorate him. From a Ravan kirana store to Ravan DJ and Ravan RO water supply, several local businesses have been named so. Colloquially called 'Ravanyios' (people from Ravan's village), Bisrakh residents see no taboo in appending Ravan to their trades, arguing that it is, in fact, a blessing that has helped them grow.

Mohit Gurjar, the proprietor of Ravan DJ, called his music business so "on the suggestion of village elders as a mark of respect to our ancestor". But Mohit (31) also liked how the name stood out and had great "recall value". Ravan DJ, since its inception in 2016, did catch on, with bookings from Agra, Mathura, Bareilly,



Saharanpur and Haridwar vindicating Mohit's decision. But with success came competition from copycat businesses in the village, which also named themselves Ravan DJ and canvassed on social media. That's when Mohit regretted not having registered the name. "I consulted a lawyer when two more Ravan DJs came up in the

village by 2018-19," says Mohit, who added an 'a' and an 'asli' (original) to his business name, which is today known as Asli Ravan DJ. "But I don't mind more Ravan DJs as they are all from our village and spreading the name of our ancestor," adds Mohit, who has nearly 47,000 followers on YouTube. "The name has never been a problem," he says.

Vinit Bhati started his business around the same time as Mohit. His wasn't speakers, CDs and mixers but shelves, weights and containers. Bhati's Ravan kirana store opened doors in Sept 2017, selling rice, flour, pulses, biscuits, cooking oil, etc. Bhati says he took the name believing he would earn his ancestor's blessings. "Bisrakh is the place where Ravan's father, sage Vishrava, worshipped the swayambhu (self-existing) shivling," repeating the story he has heard since he was born.

Green credit door opens for realtors in Gurgaon's Matri Van**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Developers who plant trees in the city's Matri Van will now be able to earn green credits, Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav said on Thursday. Matri Van spans about 750 acres in the Aravallis.

The project was launched as a "memory forest" where organisations and companies could plant saplings in the name of loved ones or under CSR. Until now, it was a symbolic, voluntary effort. With the new announcement, plantations raised here can generate credits, similar to carbon credits, that may be sold or used against future environmental obligations.

Yadav added that if plantations in degraded land achieve 40% crown cover within five years, they will qualify as green credits. This will be applicable across the city. The Green Credit Programme, introduced in Oct 2023, is designed to attribute market value to a wide array of eco-restoration activities, including water conservation,

sustainable agriculture, waste management and afforestation. Each initiative generates credits based on specific performance metrics, such as tree survival rates, the areas restored or resources conserved.

Officials have announced that detailed guidelines for Matri Van-linked credits will be released soon, outlining baseline criteria for tree survival and independent verification processes. In Haryana, efforts have been made to promote forest patches across various districts to boost green cover in the Aravallis and Shivalik.

The policy, however, raises uncomfortable questions: should a natural forest landscape like the Aravallis, already shrinking under construction and mining, be treated as a site for private credit claims? Environmentalists said this policy in Aravallis can open a backdoor for developers and compromise the region's ecological integrity while

producing "paper green" gains on credit ledgers. They also said sites for green patches are located in forest areas that require ecological restoration, not token plantation drives.

"Developers may see this as an opportunity to carry out plantations in the Aravallis, but in effect, it could become a way to tighten their hold over forest land under the guise of compliance," said Col SS Oberoi (retd), an environmentalist. Critics argued the move could lead to a form of land capture, where forest patches are branded or controlled by private entities in the name of planting trees. "If industries and developers are going to carry out plantations in the Aravallis, then what will be the job of the forest department?" said Vaishali Rana, an environmentalist, adding that while the govt is promoting the scheme as a green opportunity, for the Aravallis, it risks becoming another move that prioritises compliance numbers



over genuine conservation. Monoculture or fast-growing plantations, according to activists, can be ecologically damaging in semi-arid zones like the Aravallis.

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After crackdown on traditional sources of income, gangsters turn to extortion

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: With traditional sources of revenue such as smuggling of firearms and drugs disrupted by aggressive policing, gangsters are increasingly relying on extortion to keep their operations alive. The police said the shift had been driven by changing underworld dynamics and reduced opportunities in other illegal trades. On the night of September 18, two men pasted a threatening note on a garments shop in Jafraab, Northeast Delhi, demanding Rs 1 crore from the owner. The note, captured on CCTV, claimed to be from gangster Vicky Pehelwan, who is lodged in Mandoli Jail. The note read: "I need Rs 1 crore, or else I'll get you killed." Earlier this month, three members of the Kala Jathedi gang were arrested after they allegedly threatened a restaurant owner in Janakpuri, West

Delhi, demanding money. In another incident, a Haryana-based gang

downs had weakened the gangs' earlier income sources, forcing them to

cer said. He explained that gangs use simple calculations to survive. "If even

gling and trafficking, which have been curbed by intensified enforcement. Unlike those trades, extortion is considered "low risk and high return," with many threats made over phones or from inside jails using smuggled devices. The police, however, insist they are

cracking down hard. Between August 22 and September 25, the Delhi Police have arrested 50 gang members across the city. Many women, trusting the story, ended up transferring funds. The police said further investigation was underway.

Engineer strangles wife to death, dies by suicide in Gurugram

New Delhi: A software engineer allegedly strangled his software engineer wife to death after a quarrel and then died by suicide, by hanging himself at a residential society in Sector 37. The accused had sent a video to a friend, saying he was going to die by suicide. The police reached the flat to find both dead. The family of the deceased woman alleged murder. Based on the complaint of the deceased woman's brother an FIR of murder was registered against her deceased husband at the Sector 10 A Police Station. According to the police, the deceased couple was identified as Ajay Kumar (30), a native of Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, and Sweety Sharma (28), a native of Asansol in Bengal. They had a love marriage three years ago and worked at an IT firm in Gurugram. Sweety was working from home these days. For the last two years, the couple was living on the 13th floor of Tower 7 of Millennium City Society in Sector 37. The police have kept the bodies in the mortuary.

Nigerian man posing as Britain-based Korean jeweller held for duping women

New Delhi: The Delhi Police have arrested a 29-year-old Nigerian national, accused of cheating more than 100 women by posing as a Korean jewellery businessman settled in the UK, it said on Monday. The case came to light when Anjali, a resident of Delhi, filed a complaint stating that she had met a man calling himself "Duck Young" on a language exchange app. She said he introduced himself as a Korean businessman living in London and after weeks of conversation, he said he had landed at Mumbai airport but was detained for not carrying a medical facility card. Believing the story, she transferred Rs 48,500 through UPI and when another Rs 2 lakh was demanded she refused, ceasing communication with them. The Cyber Police Station in Shahdara registered a case on September 24 — traced the phone records and bank details, and arrested Stephane, also known as K Cee Dominic, from Tilak Nagar. His mobile phone contained the fake talk profile and active chats with women from across the country, many of whom he was trying to lure with promises businessman living in London and after weeks of conversation, he said he had landed at Mumbai airport but was detained for not carrying a medical facility card. Believing the story, she transferred Rs 48,500 through UPI and when another Rs 2 lakh was demanded she refused, ceasing communication with them. The police said Dominic hailed from Nigeria. In 2019, he obtained an Ivory Coast passport to get an Indian visa, arriving here on a six-month tourist permit. When the visa expired, he stayed on illegally and shifted between locations in West Delhi. Struggling with money, he turned to online fraud, creating the identity of "Duck Young" to target single women. He claimed to be stuck at immigration while carrying a large cheque without clearance papers, and his associates would call victims as officials to demand money.

Drunk teacher abuses, snatches food from delivery agent in Delhi's Narela

New Delhi: A drunk man heckled a delivery agent and snatched a food order from him in Outer North Delhi's Narela, police said on Wednesday. According to the complaint, on September 29, two men ordered food online, and when the delivery agent came, they hurled abuses at him, snatched the order, and refused to pay, police said. A police team responded to a call made by Arjun, the delivery agent, by visiting the spot, and found a visibly drunk man, who was later identified as Rishi Kumar, a teacher by profession, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Hareswar Swami said. The officer said Kumar resisted the police's order to comply and was forced to undergo a medical examination, which confirmed that he was under the influence of alcohol. At the hospital, he said his name was 'Ram Kumar' to conceal his identity, he said. Arjun could not file a formal complaint at the time since he had to rush, the DCP said. Though at the time, Rishi Kumar was counselled and sent home, the matter is still being investigated, he added.

Woman hangs self in Delhi's Shahbad Dairy, husband held for dowry harassment

New Delhi: A 22-year-old woman allegedly hanged herself at her in-laws' house in outer north Delhi's Shahbad Dairy after being harassed for dowry, police said on Tuesday. The woman had married Ankit Kumar (25), a resident of Shahbad Dairy, on June 2, 2023, they said. According to the complaint filed by her father Rampal (53), she was harassed by her husband, mother-in-law Geeta and father-in-law Mahender for dowry. They initially demanded money to buy a motorcycle and later sought a television set and jewellery, the complainant said. "Upon refusal, the victim was abused, beaten and repeatedly sent back to her parental home. On the intervening night of September 28 and 29, around 2.30 am, Ankit informed Rampal that his daughter had hanged herself. She was taken to ESIC Hospital in Rohini where doctors declared her brought dead," a senior police officer said. The statement of the complainant was recorded before the sub-divisional magistrate of Narela under Section 196 (magistrate must conduct an inquiry into the cause of death under specific circumstances) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS), the officer said. Based on the complaint, a case has been registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), police said. Her husband Ankit Kumar has been arrested and further investigation is underway, they added.

NAME CHANGE

LARUNIKUMAR/ANURIKUMAR/SHALINI KUMAR/NEAR POST OFFICE/GARGH/HARSARU (46) GURGAON, HARYANA-122605, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ARUN KUMAR, ROHILLA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

NAME CHANGE

I SHALINI/NIKARUNIKUMAR/SHALINI KUMAR/NEAR POST OFFICE/GARGH/HARSARU (46) GURGAON, HARYANA-122605, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHALINI ROHILLA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

PUBLIC NOTICE

That, Mr. Mahesh seeking a loan from M/s Can Fin Homes Ltd. for the House Area measuring 52 Sq. Yards, Comprised in Khetwadi/Khata No. 4/4 Mustak No. 228 Kali No. 13/2(0-16), 147-15(1), 174-3(18), 270-10, Situated at waka Siwana Mauja Farukhnagar, Tehsil Farukh Nagar and District Gurgaon, (Haryana); hereinafter referred to as "said property"; That Mr. Mahesh has made us understand that previous owner Mr. Ashutosh Kumar S/o Mr. Surender Singh has lost or misplaced the following documents - Sale deed 460 dated 25-06-2020 and Transfer Deed 805 dated 12-06-2018 vide LR no. 13270412501087 somewhere, which are not traceable or cannot be found. If anybody or any person got or having any claim against the said above documents by way of legal heirs, Mortgage, Gift, Lease, Inheritance, Lien or otherwise or any objection with said above documents is hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned in writing in Delhi office address given below within 7 days from the date of publication these above documents should be declared null & void to such claims & the same if any shall be consideration as waved and failing which, it will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owners as if there are no third party claims/objection/disputes in respect of the said property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

Public Notice

It is for general information that, NAINA D/o RAJEEV KUMAR, R/o No.2590, Bagchi, Raghunath, Sadar Bazar, North, Delhi, Delhi-110006, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as RAJEEV in my educational documents. The actual name of my father is RAJEEV KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly.

Lost and Found

I, Kamal S/o Sh Surender Kumar R/o HOUSE NO. 700, JAUNTI, NORTH WEST DELHI, 110081 have lost FD DOCUMENT OF PUNJAB SIND BANK/DFD RECEIPT NO. 0903140004103) IN THE NAME OF MY GRANDFATHER Late RSD VATSA S/o KANWAL SINGH AND NOMINATED IN MY FAVOUR i.e. Kamal Kanti, IF ANY BODY FINDS CONTACT ABOVE ADDRESS.

NAME CHANGE

I, MD WAIZI BASHAR S/o KAFEEL AHMAD resident of C-174 2ND FLOOR OKHLA VIHAR JAMIA NAGAR DELHI-110025 have changed my name to ABDUL WAIZI BASHAR for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as PARAMJEET S/O Jagit Singh R/O H. NO. 144/13, OPP. DC OFFICE, KANJHALWA, North, West, Delhi-110006, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PARAMJEET DABAS.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as VIJAY KUMAR S/O Mahavir Singh, R/O HOUSE NO. 195, kamruddin nagar, NANGLI, West, Delhi, 110041, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VIJAY SHOKEE.

NAME CHANGE

I, Lakhindar Mahaseet S/o Ganesh Mahaseet, R/o 167 D, B 12 sector 34, noida, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201301, have changed the name of my minor daughter Anjana aged 10 years and she shall hereafter be known as Sanjana.

NAME CHANGE

I this is to inform you that Mr. Amit Kumar intends to purchase the built-up property bearing No. G-1/575, measuring 50 sq. yards, out of Khasra No. 76/197, situated in the area of Village Harsat Colony, known as Umat Nagar, Block-G-1, New Delhi-110059, from Mr. Pankaj Kumar and Mrs. Meenakshi. Mr. Pankaj Kumar and Mrs. Meenakshi had purchased the said property from Mr. Raj Kumar through a Sale Deed dated 04/08/2023, registered as Document No. 1003. Please note that one of the original chain documents has been lost. Specifically, the Registered General Power of Attorney, Document No. 14436137F, Rank-4H, Name-BRIL, Date 11/01/2024, registered with the Sub-Registration Office.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHIV RAJ S/o SHANKAR RAJ SOLANKI resident of 16/1530-E BAPNA NAGAR, ARYA SAMAJ ROAD, KAROL BAGH, Central Delhi, 110005, have changed my name to SHIV RAJ SOLANKI for all future purposes.

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NEWS BOX

Gaza crisis 'eclipses' march in Mexico City remembering 1968 Tlatelolco killings

MEXICO CITY. (Agency)

The annual march to commemorate the 1968 massacre of protesting students in Mexico's capital was eclipsed Thursday by demands to end a humanitarian crisis halfway around the world in Gaza.

The Oct. 2 march that has regularly been used not only to remember that earlier massacre, but also Mexico's tens of thousands of other missing and abuses of authority, was this year full of Palestinian flags and signs demanding an end to Israel's military operations in Gaza. "We feel empathy not only for ours, for those our grandparents died for, but for all men and women around the world who are suffering what at one time we suffered," said Edgar López, a 23-year-old economics student, who marched with a Palestinian flag on his back. Protesters marched from the Tlatelolco plaza where in 1968 Mexican troops attacked students demanding an end to Mexico's militarization and greater freedoms, leaving a never established death toll believed to be in the hundreds, to the capital's central plaza.

While much of the march was peaceful some groups vandalized storefronts and threw objects, including Molotov cocktails, at the hundreds of police guarding the National Palace. Mexico City officials estimated the march drew 10,000 people and authorities said there were about 350 who were masked and acting aggressively. AP journalists saw at least three other journalists attacked by police and protesters, and a police officer cornered and attacked by protesters.

Local press reported at least six injured police, but authorities did not immediately confirm that number. A smaller spontaneous protest had broken out in the capital the previous night after Israel detained members of a flotilla carrying humanitarian aid. Among those detained were six Mexicans.

Zelenskyy warns that Russian drones endanger Chernobyl, other nuclear plants in Ukraine

KYIV. (Agency)

Russia's sustained bombardment of Ukraine's power grid is deepening concerns about the safety of the country's nuclear facilities after a drone knocked out power for more than three hours to the site of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster in northern Ukraine, officials said Thursday. The drone strike adds to concerns raised more than a week ago when the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southeastern Ukraine became disconnected from the power grid following attacks that each side has blamed on the other. Both Chernobyl and Zaporizhzhia are not currently operational, but they require a constant power supply to run crucial cooling systems for spent fuel rods in order to avoid a potential nuclear incident. A blackout also could blind radiation monitoring systems installed to boost security at Chernobyl and operated by the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency. Russia is deliberately creating the threat of radiation incidents," Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late Wednesday, criticizing the U.N. nuclear watchdog and its chief Rafael Mariano Grossi for what he described as weak responses to the danger.

"Every day of Russia's war, every strike on our energy facilities, including those connected to nuclear safety, is a global threat," he said. "Weak and half-measures will not work. Strong action is needed."

Russian President Vladimir Putin rejected Ukrainian claims that Russia has been shelling the power lines around the Zaporizhzhia plant as "nonsense" and blamed Ukraine for attacking the Moscow-controlled plant, warning that Russia could respond in kind.

'India won't allow humiliation': Putin's big praise for PM Modi amid US tariffs

world. (Agency)

Russian President Vladimir Putin has reiterated his strong support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and stressed the strategic depth of India-Russia relations, even as the US ramps up pressure on New Delhi over its energy ties with Moscow. President Donald Trump recently slapped 50 per cent tariffs on India, half of them for doing oil trade with Russia.

The move came as a pressure tactic on both India and Russia in a bid to stop the Kremlin's ongoing military conflict with Ukraine. Calling Modi a "wise leader who thinks first about his country," Putin expressed confidence that India would not yield to Western pressure. He noted that India stands to lose either way, by abandoning Russian oil, it risks losing \$9-10 billion annually, while defying sanctions could lead to similar financial setbacks. "So why refuse if it also carries domestic political costs? [Indian people] will never allow themselves to be humiliated by anyone. I know Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi, he will also not make any such decisions," Putin said at the international Valdai discussion forum in South Russia. "The losses faced by India due to punitive US tariffs would be balanced by crude imports from Russia, plus it will gain prestige as a sovereign nation," he added. The Russian President also said measures were being devised to soften the trade imbalance between the two countries over high import of crude by New Delhi. "We are looking at increasing imports of Indian agricultural goods and pharmaceuticals," he said. He traced the Indo-Russian partnership back to the Soviet era, calling it a "privileged strategic partnership." Putin stressed that the mutual respect and historical ties continue to form the bedrock of bilateral cooperation. "In India, they remember this, and we value that deeply," he said.

Whoever becomes the LDP leader must also gain cooperation from main opposition parties or risk a cycle of short-lived leadership.

TOKYO. (Agency)

Japan's long-governing Liberal Democratic Party will choose a new leader Saturday to replace Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, but the winner must quickly restore political stability and regain public support for the struggling party to stay in power. Three of the five candidates in Saturday's intraparty vote are seen as the favorites. They include a woman who could become Japan's first female prime minister, the son of a former prime minister and a veteran moderate. The winner must act quickly to address rising prices if the party is to have any chance of winning back support after election losses to the LDP and its junior partner Komeito in the past year cost their coalition a majority in both houses of parliament.

The new party president is still likely to become prime minister because the LDP still has the most seats in the lower house, which chooses the prime minister, and opposition groups are splintered.

The winner will immediately face a big test — hosting a possible summit with U.S. President Donald Trump. A meeting is reported to be in the works as Trump travels to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in South Korea that starts Oct. 31. Whoever becomes the LDP leader must also gain cooperation from main opposition parties or risk a cycle of short-lived leadership. Only members and LDP lawmakers are voting.

The vote is being held within the LDP — its 295 parliamentarians and 1 million dues-paying grassroots party members. That's less than 1% of Japan's eligible voters.

If no one wins a majority in the first vote Saturday, a runoff will quickly follow between the top two vote-getters.

The lower house will then choose a new prime minister in a leadership vote expected in mid-October. The new LDP leader will need votes from some

opposition lawmakers to take office.

A woman, a young scion and a veteran moderate All five candidates are incumbent and former Cabinet ministers who have emphasised their willingness to work with



opposition groups that are more centrist politically. Surveys have suggested the front-runners are Sanae Takaichi, who could become the first female prime minister, Shinjiro Koizumi, who would be the youngest in more than a century, and Yoshimasa Hayashi, a veteran all-rounder. Sanae Takaichi, 64, admires former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and is a protégée of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. She is a wartime

history revisionist and China hawk. She regularly visits Yasukuni Shrine seen as a symbol of militarism. Takaichi has vowed toughness on immigration, a major issue in the race. Her staunch ultra-conservative stance is considered a major risk to Japan's relations with Asian neighbors. Shinjiro Koizumi, 44, is the son of a popular former prime minister, Junichiro Koizumi, and seeks to be the youngest prime minister in Japan's modern history. As agriculture minister for Ishiba, Koizumi released an emergency rice stockpile to lower prices and stabilize supply as he promoted a reformist stance. Koizumi has made rebuilding his party a priority and pledges to listen to the people's voices closely to address their concerns, such as rising prices, growing foreign population and public safety.

Yoshimasa Hayashi, 64, is the chief Cabinet secretary in Ishiba's government. He is a moderate who promises steady wage increases, a strong economy and defense. He also advocates a universal credit system to provide assistance to low-income families for basic goods.

Rescue crews pull three bodies from rubble of collapsed school in

SIDOARJO. (Agency)

The bodies of three boys were pulled early Friday from beneath the rubble of a school that collapsed in Indonesia and with more than 50 students still unaccounted for the death toll was expected to rise, authorities said. Rescue crews had been working by hand since the collapse of the school Monday as they searched for survivors, but with no more signs of life detected by Thursday, they turned to heavy excavators equipped with jackhammers to help them progress more rapidly. The structure fell on top of hundreds of people in a prayer hall at the century-old Al Khaziny Islamic boarding school in Sidoarjo on the eastern side of Indonesia's Java island. The students were mostly boys in grades seven to 12, between the ages of 12 and



19. Female students were praying in another part of the building and managed to escape, survivors said. Eight students have been confirmed dead and about 105 injured, many with head injuries and broken bones, and 55 remain unaccounted for.

Two of the bodies found Friday were in the prayer hall area and one was found closer to an exit as if he had been

attempting to escape, according to Suharyanto, the head of Indonesia's National Disaster Mitigation Agency, who goes by one name as is common in Indonesia. Authorities have said the building was two stories, but two more levels were being added without a permit. Police said the old building's foundation apparently was unable to support two floors of concrete and collapsed during the pouring process. School officials have not yet commented. Crews worked in the hot sun Friday to break up and remove large slabs of concrete, with the smell of decomposing bodies a grim reminder of what they would find underneath.

Suharyanto told reporters at the scene that the recovery efforts were expected to be complete by the end of Saturday.

With detentions and steep fines, harsh measures target anti-government protests in Georgia

TBILISI. (Agency)

Almost every day for nearly a year, Gota Chanturia has joined rallies at Georgia's parliament against the government and its increasingly repressive policies. He's done this despite mass arrests and police violence against demonstrators. And the civics teacher keeps marching even though he's racked up an astonishing \$102,000 in fines from the protests. That's about 10 times what the average Georgian earns in a year. "We've said that we will be here until the end, and we're still here," Chanturia told The Associated Press as he participated in yet another demonstration this week in the capital of Tbilisi. The protests began when the government halted talks about joining the European Union. That move came after the longtime ruling party Georgian Dream, won an election that the opposition alleged was rigged. The rallies, big and small, continue despite a multipronged crackdown by the government through laws that target demonstrators, rights groups, nongovernmental organizations and independent media. More protests are

planned for this weekend to coincide with local elections. The repression in the South Caucasus nation of 3.7 million has drawn comparisons to Georgia's powerful neighbour and former imperial ruler Russia, where President Vladimir Putin has stifled dissent. Georgian Dream has been



accused of steering the country into Moscow's orbit of influence. Human Rights Watch says Georgia is suffering a "rights crisis." The clampdown is unprecedented in the country's independent history and is escalating steadily, said Giorgi Gogia, the group's Europe and Central Asia associate director. But Georgia's vibrant civil society is pushing back, and it has become a question of "who would

blink first," Gogia said. If it's the public and civil society, they could wake up in an authoritarian country, "which would be a huge transformation from what Georgia used to be up until now," he added.

Fines, beatings and prison

Ketuna Kerashvili joined a rally in rainy Tbilisi on Wednesday despite the fact that her 30-year-old brother Irakli was arrested in December, convicted of disrupting public order, and sentenced to two years in prison. He had rejected the charges as unfounded. Kerashvili told AP her brother's trial was "tough to watch." "All of those boys and girls who are in prison now are trying to protect our country from pro-Russian forces and a pro-Russian government," she said. The violent crackdown escalated after largely peaceful protests in late November 2024, with over 400 people detained within two weeks; at least 300 reported severe beatings and other ill-treatment, according to Amnesty International. The group alleged that much of the brutality occurs out of sight in detention.

South Korea's president apologizes over poorly managed foreign adoption programs

BELGRADE. (Agency)

Every Serbian knows the clenched fist of Otpor -- it was stencilled on city walls, over government propaganda, and on flags above the mass protests that brought an end to strongman Slobodan Milosevic's rule.

Twenty-five years on, one of Otpor's founders, Srdja Popovic, sees a connection to the "brave, intelligent and highly creative" new generation marching under another emblem -- the bloodied hand -- in some of the largest demonstrations ever witnessed in the Balkan nation. "Otpor arose as a cry of a generation against wars, economic collapse and growing repression," Popovic told AFP, from the United States, where he teaches at the University of Virginia and Colorado



College. The current protesters, on the streets since November, call for justice and fresh elections over "an attempt to cover up corruption" linked to the collapse of a train station roof in Novi Sad that killed 16 people, he said. "Both generations realised that it was not enough simply to march, chant slogans and carry banners -- a whole new system of values has to be created."

Enemy Number One

When hundreds of thousands marched on Serbia's parliament on October 5, 2000, it was "the crown of a generational struggle", the 52-year-old said.

In a country scarred by NATO bombardment and economic collapse, Otpor helped build Belgrade's uprising through years of protest, alongside the political opposition. "For me, October 5 is above all a symbol -- proof that even the harshest regimes can fall if people unite, organise and persist in non-violent struggle." Otpor's campaign of peaceful resistance and stunts, often laced with satire and parody, targeted a nationalist government marked by war and sanctions. When Otpor left a barrel with Milosevic's face plastered on it in central Belgrade, people queued to batter it.

Decade after the European refugee crisis, a Syrian family 'finally' becomes German

Even though the family's integration into German society was a success, it was not without sacrifice.

BERLIN. (Agency)

Nearly a decade after fleeing Syria's civil war, Rahaf Alshaar sat on her couch in a leafy suburb of Berlin, sipping Arabic coffee spiced with cardamom. When she, her husband and their three daughters arrived in Germany as refugees, they adapted quickly to their new country: learning the language, finding jobs and attending school. "It was a lot of hard work, but I'm proud of what we achieved," Alshaar, 44, told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

Earlier this year, the whole family became German citizens and bought a house with a nice garden. "We are Germans," said 52-year-old Basem Wahbeh, Alshaar's

husband.

Their family arrived among an influx of migrants from war-torn Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan who took refuge in Germany, peaking at more than 1 million in 2015. The arrival of so many asylum-seekers in a single year strained the country's resources and brought consequences that Germany is still wrestling with a decade later, most notably the rise of far-right anti-immigration parties.

Even though the family's integration into German society was a success, it was not without sacrifice. They and many others had to leave behind their homes, culture and language, sometimes shedding traditions dear to them.

Germany opens its doors

On Aug. 31, 2015, as Europe faced what was then being called the refugee crisis, Chancellor Angela Merkel opened Germany's borders to migrants. Facing criticism at home and abroad, Merkel

famously promised citizens that "we will manage it." Refugees were initially



classes" for children and integration classes for adults to help them study German, get a job and find a home in their new country. "A lot of things worked out surprisingly well," said Jonas Wiedner, an expert on migration from the Berlin Social Science Center. He noted migrants' employment figures compare roughly to those of Germans, politicians acted quickly to offer help and money to local communities integrating the new arrivals and "civil society was very involved from the outset and has really achieved great things."

Germany became the top asylum destination in Europe, with its total population rising by 1.2% in 2015 — the highest since 1992 — because of immigration, according to the Federal Statistical Office. Over time, as more asylum-seekers arrived looking for better prospects, not necessarily fleeing danger, the surge of immigration fueled economic anxieties and xenophobic resentment among some Germans.

Gujarat BJP to get a new chief by October 4, nomination-filing process to take place today



Ahmedabad .(Agency)

Gujarat BJP is all set to get a new president by October 4 with the party issuing a notification for the election of its state president and national council members on Thursday. The term of current state president C R Paatil ended in July 2023 after which he has been on an extension for over two years.

According to a party release, interested candidates will have to file their nomination forms between 11 am and 2 pm on Friday. The forms will be scrutinised between 3 pm and 4 pm the same day. The candidates can withdraw their nomination forms between 5 pm and 5.30 pm. Apart from the post of the president, election has also been notified for 39 members of the national council from Gujarat.

If required, the voting will take place between 10 am and 11 am on October 4, Saturday, and the counting of votes will be done between 11 am and 11.30 am. If only one candidate files the nomination on Friday, they are expected to be declared elected unopposed. As per the party's Constitution, around 292 members are expected to vote in the election.

As part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Sangathan Parv in which its various taluka and district/city units have already been formed, the party has appointed Uday Kangad as the election officer and Dhaval Dave and Hitesh Patel as co-incharge for the election process.

Gang targets bystander who interrupted chase in Bengaluru

Bengaluru .(Agency)

A 29-year-old man learned the hard way that one can be at the receiving end of violence when he merely and unwittingly came in the way of a gang armed with lethal weapons chasing someone else.

The victim, N Raghavendra, a driver by profession and a resident of Bettadasanapura in Electronic City, sustained injuries on his hand and shoulder, when he came in the way of a six-member gang on three two-wheelers chasing someone in an autorickshaw at Vittasandra Cross in Electronic City Phase-I on Monday between 7 pm and 8 pm.

He was riding a friend's new bike which he had taken around for a trial ride, and was riding slowly when he suddenly found himself in between the chasing gang members and the autorickshaw.

His obstruction of the chasers, enabled the autorickshaw to get away, which made the frustrated gang turn their wrath on the hapless Raghavendra. One of the gang members attacked him with a machete, resulting on him sustaining an injury on his hand. And while he was escaping them another attacker hurled a weapon at him, which struck his shoulder, the police said.

"After managing to escape, the victim reported the matter to his friend from whom he had taken the bike. No arrests have been made yet. We are checking the CCTV footage for clues," said an officer. The Electronic City police have registered a case of attempt-to-murder along with other sections of BNS against the accused, and further investigations are on. The police are yet to find out who they were initially chasing and why, when an unsuspecting Raghavendra came in the way to himself become the victim of the attack.

'After namaz, go straight home': Week after clashes, cleric urges calm as Bareilly faces extended internet ban

Noida . A week after clashes erupted in Bareilly over the "I Love Muhammad" posters, authorities have suspended internet services in the district for another 48 hours, citing intelligence inputs of possible unrest after Friday prayers.

Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi, general secretary of the All India Tanzeem Ulama-e-Islam, also appealed to people to maintain peace. Internet services have been shut down since 3 pm Thursday and will be restored post 3 pm on Saturday. The order was issued by Home Secretary Gaurav Dayal from Lucknow. Officials said inputs suggested that "unruly elements" may attempt to trigger fresh protests and could even "use women and children to disrupt the atmosphere". Earlier, the internet was suspended for 60 hours following the September 26 violence.

In the run-up to Friday prayers today, Maulana Razvi said, "After offering namaz, people should go straight home, or to their work if they are traders, and not become part of any crowd at any time, no matter who calls

Child deaths' alleged links to cough syrup: Pune authorities seek details of manufacturers, products sold in district

The Food and Drug Administration has appealed to doctors and pharmacists in Pune to stay alert and advised retailers against stocking products from unverified sources.

Pune .(Agency)

Close on the heels of child deaths in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan allegedly linked to contaminated cough syrups, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Pune has sought details on whether similar products are being sold in its jurisdiction.

"We are tracking whether the cough syrups made by the specific manufacturers involved in the incident are sold here," Girish Hukare, FDA Joint Commissioner, Pune division that covers Pune, Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, and Solapur, said.

According to reports, at least two children died in Rajasthan after allegedly consuming cough syrup secured from a government hospital. According to reports, the child death incidents have prompted the authorities to test dextromethorphan hydrobromide syrup batches and order a halt



in their distribution. Officials in the Indian Council of Medical Research said that a team has visited the states to collect samples of the syrups and sent them for testing to

ICMR-National Institute of Virology in Pune. FDA officials have also appealed to doctors and pharmacists to stay alert and have advised retailers against stocking

products from unverified sources. They have also urged chemists to keep accurate and proper records relating to the medicines and their distribution and sale.

Anil Belkar, secretary, Chemist Association of Pune District, said that there were around 22,000 chemists in Pune district. "We have heard about these incidents but do not have stocks from these manufacturers," Belkar added. Meanwhile, according to reports, the National Centre for Disease Control has also collected water and entomological drug samples from some of the hospitals and sites in MP and Rajasthan. These will be examined to rule out any possibility of infectious disease.

In 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) made an urgent call for action to prevent, detect, and respond to incidents of substandard and falsified medical products.

In meeting with textile market stakeholders, Surat police discuss ways to keep 'fly-by-night cheater firms' at bay

Surat .(Agency)

To save Surat textile traders from being cheated by "fly-by-night" firms, the police department in the city held a meeting with stakeholders from various markets in the Saroli area on Thursday.

Explaining how the cheating takes place, a police officer said, "These firms rent shops in various textile markets and begin purchasing sarees and dress materials on credit for a period of 60 days. To gain trust of the people in the industry, they initially make timely payments. However, after a few more business dealings, they begin defaulting on payment by shutting down their shops and vanishing without a trace, leaving their debts unpaid."

To prevent a recurrence of such incidents, Saroli police station personnel contacted the maintenance or administration department officials of 17 different textile markets within their jurisdiction on Thursday.

During the meeting, which also saw representatives from various textile markets in attendance, the police instructed them to distribute a circular among shop owners, requesting that they submit a rental agreement between the tenant and shop owner besides the GST document and the current and permanent address of the tenant shopkeeper. These shops should get registered with the Federation of Surat Textile Traders Association, officers said. The police told the maintenance department of individual textile markets that they should verify the GST number of the shopkeeper who has taken a space on rent. Notably, there are over 200 textile markets comprising 70,000 textile trading shops in Surat. A majority of these shops are located on the ring road, specifically in the Salabatpura area. With barely any space left there, many new textile markets have begun springing up on the east side of the city in the Saroli area. Talking to, Saroli police station inspector SR Vekariya said, "New textile markets are emerging in our area, and for this reason, we have conducted meetings with their respective maintenance departments, advising them to follow specific guidelines so as to not fall victim to cheating."

Pune police book gangster Bandu Andekar, aides in land grab, extortion case

Pune .(Agency)

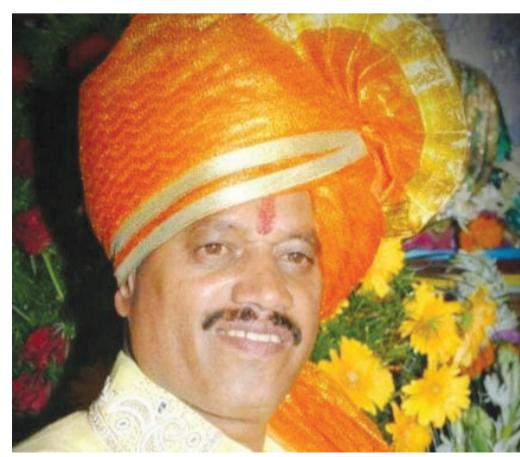
Continuing its crackdown on the dreaded Andekar gang, the Pune City police have now booked its leader, Suryakant alias Bandu Andekar, and his aides in a land-grabbing and extortion case.

A 51-year-old businessman lodged the First Information Report (FIR) in this case at the Samarth police station on September 30.

As per the FIR, the businessman, a resident of Bhavani Peth, and his family own a 12,500 sq ft ancestral property in Nana Peth. In 2017, Andekar allegedly encroached upon approximately 3,500 sq ft of the property and constructed a three-storey building at the site, comprising 12 rooms and two halls, with water and electricity connections.

According to the FIR, Andekar rented the rooms and the halls out for various functions and illegally earned about Rs 5.4 crore.

In the FIR, the businessman said he requested Andekar to vacate the property, saying he wanted to develop it. However, Andekar and his



aide, Manish alias Manoj Chandrakant Wardekar, allegedly demanded Rs 1.8 crore from him. They also allegedly threatened to kill

Meanwhile, the police intensified action against the Andekar gang after the murder of 18-year-old Ayush Komkar last month and issued an appeal, urging people to come forward and file complaints against the Andekars. This prompted the businessman to lodge the FIR. Ayush was allegedly shot multiple times by two gunmen in the parking lot of his residential building in Bhavani Peth on September 5, in what is suspected to be revenge for the murder of former Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) corporator Vanraj Andekar, Bandu Andekar's son, in September last year.

Ayush was the son of Bandu's daughter Kalyani Komkar, whose husband Ganesh Komkar is a prime accused in Vanraj's murder. The police have so far arrested 16 people, including Bandu, nine people from his family, and other gang members in the Ayush Komkar murder case. The police have also demolished several illegal structures owned by the Andekar gang in Pune.

Building Pune: Seven vehicle parking bays on JM road, five on Nagar road, three on Karve road to come up for Pune metro commuters

Pune .(Agency)

Due to the growing demand for vehicle parking from commuters using the Pune Metro, the Pune civic body has identified 20 locations for parking. These include seven on JM Road, five on Nagar Road, and three on Karve Road.

However, instead of meeting the Pune Metro's request for the land, the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) plans to develop these parking areas independently. This approach will allow them to maintain ownership of the land and generate a revenue source for the civic body.

The Pune Metro currently operates two lines: from Pimpri Chinchwad to Swargate and from Vanaz to Ramwadi, with extensions of both routes underway. However, the lack of vehicle parking has been causing inconvenience for commuters, making last-mile connectivity difficult. Very few metro stations offer parking facilities, and even those that do have insufficient space.

The feeder service, operated by PMPML through public transport buses, has not been implemented, leading to commuters parking their vehicles on the roadside and contributing to traffic congestion on the roads. The commuters parking illegally on roads are

penalised. Thus, the Pune metro has been seeking land to develop parking infrastructure near the metro station for the convenience of citizens. "There are many citizens who want to commute via metro rail to avoid loss of time in traffic jams. However, the lack of parking

using the metro service are likely to return to private vehicles, he said. There is a need for more parking options to attract additional commuters to the Pune metro rail and to help reduce traffic congestion on the city roads, he added.

"The PMC administration has identified 20 land parcels that can be developed for vehicle parking near metro stations. This will be for the convenience of commuters. The Pune metro has been demanding land for developing a parking facility, but the civic administration is exploring the possibility of developing it on its own," said Dinkar Gojare, chief engineer of the PMC.

The civic body has to acquire land or hand over its land for the parking facility to Pune Metro, he said, "If the PMC develops the parking facility, then it will continue to hold ownership of land and the infrastructure. It will also be a regular source of income for the civic body. This plan is under consideration."

The civic body is undertaking the same initiative for Line 3, from Hinjewadi to Shivajinagar, which is scheduled to be operational by March next year. This development is planned for the first two metro lines, according to a civic officer.



facilities is keeping them away from using the metro service as they find it inconvenient to travel from home to the metro station in the absence of a feeder service and insufficient parking for vehicles near the station," said a Pune Metro officer.

If parking facilities for private vehicles are not provided soon, commuters who have begun

soon after Friday prayers, when groups of people carrying "I Love Muhammad" placards took out a procession from a local mosque. When police stopped them and asked the crowd to disperse, an argument broke out. The situation escalated when some members allegedly began pelting stones, damaging vehicles and forcing residents nearby to run for cover. Officers said the crowd also raised provocative slogans, sparking tension across parts of the city. Tauqeer, who had called people to protest, was arrested on September 27 and sent to jail. Over six days, 10 FIRs have been registered in connection with the violence. Police said 200 people have been named among 2,500 accused, with 82 sent to jail so far — of which at least three people were arrested in shootouts, including Tauqeer's close aides.

Bareilly Additional SP Manush Pareek said that the people arrested fall into two categories — "those involved in planning the conspiracy and those who attacked the police after Friday prayers".



Uncorking angst: From hashtags to revolution

South Asia stands on the edge of a precipice powered by the ambition and angst of its young people. With half of the region's two billion people under 24 years of age, it is really moot whether the demographic dividend subsists or has morphed into a nightmare. For millions in the younger generations, it is almost impossible to find quality work or articulate their yearnings in an evocative manner on the public affairs of their Westphalian entities. Rather than becoming catalysts of transformative change, these young people have become unwitting instruments of instability and undemocratic regime change. Every day, a new cohort of about 100,000 young South Asians look for work, but the economies do not offer enough opportunity. The skill gap is devastating: 93 million children remain out of school, nearly three-fifths cannot read till age 10, and almost a third are neither in education, employment, nor training. This explosive combination of high aspirations created by dazzling media feeds and limited state capacity creates a lethal Molotov cocktail that propels spontaneous mobilisations at a mega scale. Unlike regions that trade and connect freely, South Asia remains one of the least linked in the world. Intra-ASEAN trade in 2024 was \$752.5 billion while intra-South-Asian trade stands at a meagre \$23 billion. This keeps economies stagnant and lets discords fester, thereby ensuring that the creative energy and potential of the region remain stifled and susceptible to the machinations of malefic external interests. Hillary Clinton's book *Hard Choices* has a whole chapter revealing that the Arab Spring of 2010-11 was not as organic as it seemed at first, but had activists schooled in technology camps run by Western powers. As Clinton's senior adviser Alec Ross admitted, the US state department collaborated with tech firms to shield protesters while instructing activists in online subversion methods. The apprehension that authoritarian states had that the Internet would be weaponised to "foster regime change" was indeed prophetic. South Asia is now the new battleground. In 2024, Bangladesh's Sheikh Hasina alleged 'the hyper power' had indulged in subversion after she refused to hand over St Martin's Island, a skerry with gargantuan strategic significance. In the blink of an eyelid, she had to flee. China has been quietly neo-colonising South Asia with its Belt and Road Initiative. Ports in Sri Lanka (Hambantota) and Pakistan (Gwadar), the Coco Islands off Myanmar and the Kyaukphyu port are its crown jewels. Major chunks of infrastructure in Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Maldives are now resourced by the Chinese who are also courting Bhutan aggressively. In this larger geopolitical context, the glaring inequality in South Asia is portentous. The entitled progeny of the political elite and corporate oligarchs' flashy lifestyles on social media contrast sharply with the subsistence employment that most young South Asians have to chase.

The contrast manifests online. Viral posts of debauchery and 'excess of the entitled' explode across social media platforms every day, inviting scrutiny and stoking anger. Resentment coalesces into protests that can be amplified by foreign tools. Social media platforms controlled by foreign companies amplify such demonstrations, blurring the lines between genuine protest and engineered unrest. The recent mega protests in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and now in the Philippines illustrate how social media weaponises organic gripes into revolutionary movements. Sri Lanka's Aragalaya (The struggle) movement organised using hashtags such as #GoHomeGota targeting Mahinda Rajapaksa and his coterie for gross economic mismanagement and personal profligacy.

The Trump administration's tariff turmoils have forced the world to find new markets and make exports easier—India is no exception. In June, the government provided relief to exporters by reinstating a scheme—remission of duties and taxes on exported products or RoDTEP—to reimburse exporters for taxes, duties, and levies at the central, state, and local levels that are not refunded under other programmes but are incurred during manufacturing and distributing export products. The commerce ministry said on Tuesday it would extend the scheme until March 2026. It's time to note what has been holding back the full effect of the incentive—the impact of frequent and often abrupt amendments done to keep up with the global trade rearrangement. Implemented in 2021, RoDTEP is a key tax-based incentive extended to exporters operating with advanced authorisation and from export-oriented units and special economic zones. It aims to improve competitiveness by preventing double taxation. The current remission rates in India range from 0.3 to 4.3 percent of the free-onboard value of exports. Such tax refunds on exports are allowed under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and are standard practice in many countries, such as the Reintegra rebate programme in Brazil and China's rebate on value-added tax on exports. RoDTEP replaced the earlier merchandise export incentive scheme or MEIS after the US challenged India's subsidies at the WTO. Under MEIS, exporters were reimbursed 2, 3, or 5 percent of the FOB value in the form of credit scrips. Rather than providing upfront incentives that offset costs, RoDTEP was explicitly designed to comply with WTO rules, refunding the embedded taxes and duties. The new scheme also expanded product coverage and brought in digitalisation, with electronic scrip replacing physical credit scrips. Since 2021, there have been more than 12 amendments to RoDTEP—changes in rates, inclusion of additional products, and, in some instances, removal of products from coverage. For example, the initial schedule of 2021 covered around 8,500 products. This list was amended three times in 2022. With an allocation of ₹18,233 crore for 2025-26, the scheme covers over 10,795 product categories. Some amendments also correspond to exporter eligibility. In September 2024, exports by AA, EOU and SEZ units qualified for the benefits for the first time, but only until December 2024. Their benefits were then paused for several months before being reinstated in June 2025. The frequent amendments present a dilemma for firms. Some may boost export intensity to seize the expanded benefits, while others may face substantial transition costs, prompting them to hold back or maintain the status quo

Steady hand in choppy trade waters

In an era of tariff trauma, India has reinstated and expanded a flagship export incentive after making it WTO-compliant. But changing the rules constantly makes it very difficult to claim benefits. Exporters—especially smaller enterprises—would appreciate policy predictability



regarding exporting. The transition costs are likely to be larger for smaller enterprises. The January 2025 Economic Survey 2024 highlighted regulatory compliance as a major barrier to MSME growth, noting that many firms remain small to avoid onerous rules. Frequent convulsions in RoDTEP may further discourage MSMEs from pursuing international markets. Challenges also arise with the new mandatory annual filing of detailed annual returns for exporters with claims of over ₹1 crore in a financial year. This return filing requires exporters to provide highly granular data on the taxes, levies and duties incurred, including those embedded in transport and electricity. The requirement was likely introduced to aid India's efforts to show the US and EU that RoDTEP is a refund of embedded taxes. In 2023, both the US and EU imposed anti-subsidy duties on Indian goods, claiming RoDTEP to be an export subsidy. With annual recurring revenue, the granular data could be used to demonstrate that the scheme reimburses only taxes already paid. Nonetheless, many exporters find the return filing complex and burdensome due to the challenge of tracking and compiling detailed data they were not previously required to maintain. The failure to file this

return by the designated deadline can lead to the denial of benefits and the freezing of e-scrips, in addition to late penalties. There is some degree of duality with RoDTEP. The government has rightly streamlined the scheme with clear mandates, including expanded coverage, digitalisation and ARR filing for eligibility, yet the scheme's constant revisions risk eroding these gains. Synergy at the subnational level could help resolve such duality by building firms' capacity to adapt to RoDTEP changes. For instance, state governments could support educating MSME exporters on proper documentation of taxes and ensuring accurate tax breakdowns in invoices. Some industry bodies such as the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry are already stepping up, organising events to raise awareness about RoDTEP updates. Amid the challenges posed by the recent US tariffs, further adjustments to the RoDTEP scheme could be warranted to help exporters stay competitive and thereby support India's goal of reaching \$1 trillion in exports by 2025-26. With the global trade order being recast, Indian firms must recognise that stability now comes from policy adaptability.

India needs better, not longer work

Growth should not come at the cost of drained human lives, especially as automation and AI promise more output with fewer workers

Across several Indian states, the eight-hour workday is being rewritten. In Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Odisha, the legal day now stretches from nine to 10, or 12 hours—so long as there is 'consent' and 'overtime' pay. The vocabulary of reform is familiar: productivity, competitiveness, investment. Yet behind it lies an old logic—the drive to extract ever more labour at minimal cost. Corporate titans push 70-to 90-hour weeks; states amend laws in the name of efficiency. But efficiency for whom? When a worker spends 10 hours on the shop floor and two more commuting, what remains of life? Can overtime compensate for missed childhoods, chronic fatigue, or eroded family ties? Advocates of extended hours argue that longer shifts create opportunity. History—and current practice—suggest otherwise. Lengthening the workday often reduces employment: one worker is stretched rather than two hired. Consent is tenuous in a labour market where refusal risks dismissal, and overtime pay is frequently evaded. At heart, this is not a debate about hours but about power—about who controls time. For employers,



productivity is measured in output per hour. For workers, it is measured in how much life remains after work. One side seeks maximum profit, the other preservation of self. A country that safeguards dignity within the workday can claim progress beyond it. The real question is not whether

India can work longer, but whether it can work better. Better means wages reflecting skill, productivity driven by training and technology, performance judged by innovation and quality—not endurance. A humane economy does not need to stretch the workday; it must make every hour meaningful, fairly rewarded, and leave time for life outside. Growth should not come at the cost of drained human lives, especially as automation and AI promise more output with fewer workers.

Extending work hours is one thing; shrinking employment is another. Odisha has a 3.1 percent unemployment rate, with 1.5 lakh government vacancies, only 29,000 of which were filled last year. Maharashtra has 71.7 lakh unemployed, but just 1.53 lakh government posts. Even in Gujarat, where unemployment is lower at 1.7 percent, the question remains: beyond stretching work hours, what concrete steps are being taken to create meaningful employment? Without addressing this, longer workdays risk exhausting workers and do not solve the deeper malaise of joblessness.

Trump's Gaza peace plan: How Netanyahu banks on winning back estranged allies, repair political base at home

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's support for Donald Trump's Gaza plan is a gamble that may win back estranged allies abroad and repair his political base at home but risks a battle with coalition partners opposed to any hint of a Palestinian state. Netanyahu, aligning himself with Trump, framed the plan as a joint effort that advances his government's goals while shifting international criticism about the war onto Hamas, which must now choose between accepting it or facing continued siege. The move could shore up Netanyahu's support at home by ending an increasingly unpopular war and winning the release of hostages still held by the Palestinian militant group, bolstering his chances at elections due in a year's time. But the plan's reference to a Palestinian state is likely to antagonise members of Netanyahu's governing coalition, the most right-wing in Israel's history, where ultra-nationalist allies Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich hold outsized influence. Plan puts all pressure on Hamas, asks little of Israel. Nadav Shtraubler, a former adviser to Netanyahu, called the deal a "win-win" for the prime minister, saying that it shifts all the pressure onto Hamas while easing international scrutiny of Israel, and leaves coalition critics with no alternative. "For him, it's checkmate. It's a very strong move," he said, that could see Netanyahu enter the next election with the hostages released and Israel's push to expand ties with Arab and

Muslim nations, a process derailed by the war in Gaza, revived. Trump's proposal, quickly endorsed by leaders across the Arab and Muslim world, asks little of Israel in the short term. Instead, it puts all the pressure on Hamas, demanding the freedom for all of the remaining hostages and the surrender of its weapons as a precondition for ending Israel's siege of Gaza. Israel's military would remain in Gaza for now, pulling back to positions along the border only once an international force assumes control. Netanyahu, who has insisted that Israel must retain overall security control after the war, said on Tuesday the military would stay in most of Gaza but offered no timeline. Coalition partner slams plan as 'Political Illusions'.

In a lengthy post on X on Tuesday, Smotrich, who has openly called for Israel's Gaza campaign to continue, denounced Trump's plan, arguing it would trade "real achievements on the ground for political illusions". His Religious Zionism party holds seven of the Knesset's 120 seats, though recent polls indicate that he would struggle to win any if elections were held today. Israel's war in Gaza, launched in response to Hamas' October 2023 surprise attack, has lost support among much of the public. A survey published on Tuesday by the Jerusalem-based Israel Democracy Institute found that 66% of

Israelis believe that it is time to end the war, including 48.5% on the political right. Eran Lerman, a former deputy national security adviser, said that Netanyahu knows Hamas' acceptance of Trump's plan could shatter his ruling coalition, but may still hope to be able to face voters with "a very



different perspective on what happened over the last two years" than he would be able to present today. "I'm not sure that this is true, but you know, politicians are easily tempted to believe in things that cohere with their ambitions," said Lerman, who is also vice president of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security think tank.

Israel's opposition, made up of right, center and left parties, has also called for an end to the war and is

often critical of Smotrich and Ben-Gvir, another far-right minister with outsized coalition influence. Many have also ruled out joining a future coalition with Netanyahu's ultra-Orthodox allies over their communities' refusal to serve in the military. A source briefed on the matter said that Netanyahu would not bring Trump's 20-point plan to government for approval and would instead ask ministers only to vote on the terms to free the hostages. Israel is to free hundreds of Palestinian detainees in exchange. Former Israeli diplomat Alon Pinkas cautioned that Netanyahu would likely draw out negotiations on issues that remain ambiguous, such as the withdrawal of Israel's military, with the aim of both surviving politically and undermining Trump's plan. For Netanyahu, Arab alliances may outflank right-wing fury. Israel has faced mounting international isolation over the nearly two-year-old war in Gaza. This month, some of its closest allies have formally recognized a Palestinian state despite Israeli objections, while others have sanctioned senior government ministers and imposed bans on weapons transfers to Israel. Hamas, for its part, has little diplomatic leverage. It can accept the terms or try to negotiate, but that would risk the plan being enforced in areas it no longer controls while Trump gives Israel a green light to continue attacking the group.

NEWS BOX

New shopping centre opened on Gandhi Jayanti, to provide 'pure, indigenous, natural products'

Lucknow. (Agency)

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, "Kaarmi Bhavan" was inaugurated at HLP Galleria, Phase 8, Mohali, under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The aim of this bhavan is to provide people with pure, indigenous, and natural products, thereby promoting village industries and giving swadeshi products a new identity in the market.

Inderjit Singh Sodhi, the manager of Kaarmi Bhavan, said that a wide variety of daily-use items will be available here, such as hand-woven clothes, handmade household goods, natural soaps, oils, herbs, and other organic products. A special highlight is jewellery made with pure silver and gold leaf, crafted entirely by hand. He added that around 11 artisans are associated with them, and through this store, employment has been provided to nearly 50 families.

Sodhi said that they already have a Gandhi Ashram in Phase 7, and this is the second MSME Bhavan opened at HLP Galleria. With the opening of Kaarmi Bhavan, people will not only get access to pure and healthy products, but the vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" will also be strengthened. Visitors at the event said that such bhavan encourages people to turn back to natural and traditional products, which are beneficial to both health and environment in today's times.

He also announced that on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, during the festive season, a 25% discount is being offered on all products and handicrafts, along with an additional 5% discount for women shoppers under the "Nari Tu Narayani" scheme. With GST rates reduced, these products have become even more affordable, giving customers maximum benefit.

CFO of Mumbai financial firm, who lost money in share market, embezzles Rs 1.18 crore, booked

Mumbai. (Agency)

The Mumbai police have recently booked the former chief financial officer of Marcellus Investment Managers for allegedly embezzling Rs 1.18 crore.

The accused, Pankaj Gupta, 41, was the chief financial officer of a firm based in the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) area, which has around 100 employees. He allegedly used the firm's money for personal purposes between December 2024 and July 2025, according to a police officer.

The MIDC police conducted an inquiry and registered a case against Gupta on September 25, based on a complaint by the firm's legal advisor in Andheri (East).

During the preliminary inquiry, it was learnt that he had lost money in the share market, said a police officer.

According to the police, the company had given Gupta a credit card from a private bank. He also had access to the current bank account of the firm to use the money for the company expenses. But employees of the account department found some objectionable payments made by him between December 2024 and July 2025. When confronted by the employees in July, Gupta gave them vague answers, prompting them to inform the company's director about the malpractices, said a police officer.

'Very heavy rainfall' warning in UP, red alert in 6 districts

Lucknow. (Agency)

A very heavy rainfall warning has been issued for parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh over the next few days, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) attributing it to fresh western disturbances and a deep depression that crossed the Odisha coast. The IMD's Lucknow centre has warned of thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds reaching 30-40 kmph. Following the sudden change in weather, temperatures are expected to hover between 32°C (maximum) and 25°C (minimum).

What can residents expect?

Officials said heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely across parts of Western and Eastern Uttar Pradesh in the coming days, with peak intensity expected on October 6.

"A fresh Western Disturbance is likely to affect Northwest India from October 4. High moisture feeding is likely from the Arabian Sea as well as the Bay of Bengal to Northwest India at lower tropospheric levels majorly during October 5-7. Due to this system, along with confluence of winds and high moisture, there is possibility of heavy to very heavy precipitation with hailstorm over Northwest India during the same period with peak intensity on October 6," said the Met department. The department also forecast isolated extremely heavy rainfall (≥ 21 cm) over East Uttar Pradesh on October 4 and strong surface winds of 40-50 kmph on October 3-4.

The warnings come as a deep depression over south Odisha moved north-northwestwards at around 10 kmph on the intervening night of October 2-3.

Haryana student hung upside down, beaten up: HHRC seeks report, says assault 'grave violation of child rights'

Assaulting and threatening a seven-year-old amounts to 'trampling on his dignity and rights, while also eroding trust in the education system,' the Haryana Human Rights Commission stated.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The Haryana Human Rights Commission (HHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports on the incident where a Class 2 student of a Panipat private school was allegedly hung upside down from a window and beaten up by a school driver at the behest of the principal, saying the "case highlights a grave failure of the school's duty of care, warranting urgent intervention".

The HHRC has sought reports from the Panipat district education department, the police and the administration on the alleged incident that took place at Srijan Public School in August.

"It is alleged that the school Principal, Ms. Reena, along with school bus driver Ajay, subjected the child to inhuman corporal punishment merely for not completing homework. The child was allegedly tied upside down to a window, slapped repeatedly, and a video of this cruel act was recorded and circulated.

The complainant, mother of the child, came to know of the incident only after seeing the video on social media," the HHRC observed in its order pronounced on October 1, and released to the media on Friday.

The Commission also referred to another video where the principal was allegedly seen slapping students and pulling their ears, and

said that "she routinely forced children to clean toilets and classrooms as a form of punishment." During confrontation, the Principal admitted to calling the driver to discipline the child but denied authorising such cruelty. However, the facts reveal that instead



of ensuring safety, the school staff inflicted severe physical and mental trauma on the child. The driver allegedly threatened the boy with dire consequences if he disclosed the incident," the Commission's order states.

The order further mentions that when the complainant's family approached the driver, a group of men threatened them not to pursue the matter further. It also records that the police have registered an FIR under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and

the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

The full bench of the Commission, comprising chairperson Justice Lalit Batra and members Kuldip Jain and Deep Bhatia, observed that "the incident is a direct violation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), particularly: Article 19 – Protection from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse; Article 28(2) – Discipline in schools must respect the child's dignity; and Article 37(a) – No child shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment."

It further noted that the incident amounts to a violation of statutory safeguards under Indian law, including sections of the Juvenile Justice Act, the Right to Education Act, and Article 21 of the Constitution.

Justice Lalit Batra, heading the bench, remarked, "The accused persons' actions constitute grave violations of human and child rights. Assaulting and threatening a 7-year-old amounts to trampling on his dignity and rights, while also eroding trust in the education system." "Education must be rooted in positive discipline, empathy, and constructive guidance. Corporal punishment has been consistently condemned by psychologists, international conventions, and Indian law.

Mumbai to get respite from heavy rain, monsoon withdrawal likely delayed: IMD

Mumbai. (Agency)

Mumbai will get respite from heavy showers as rain activity is slated to recede over the coming days amid likelihood of only light to moderate showers this week. However, monsoon withdrawal in Mumbai is likely to be delayed this year owing to the possibility of extended rain activity.

After experiencing heavy rain activity over the past two weeks in what spurred the total showers in September nearly two times above the average, extreme rain has eluded Mumbai with the city experiencing intermittent spells of moderate rainfall this week. On Thursday, records showed that Santacruz observatory received 0.4 mm rainfall between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm, while the Colaba station received 14 mm rain. Meanwhile, 15 mm rainfall was recorded at the IMD's observatory in Thane.

According to the IMD, rain activity is set to remain subdued over the next 3-4 days with no



alerts sounded in the region until at least Monday. The forecast of reduced rain comes as the city heads into a week of typical monsoon

withdrawals. The official date of monsoon withdrawal in the city is October 8. However, monsoon withdrawals are likely to be delayed this year with meteorologists pointing to a fresh low pressure system in the Bay of Bengal which is likely to keep monsoon active in the region for the next week at least. Amid the possibility of extended showers, the IMD has also forecast above normal rainfall in Maharashtra for the month of October.

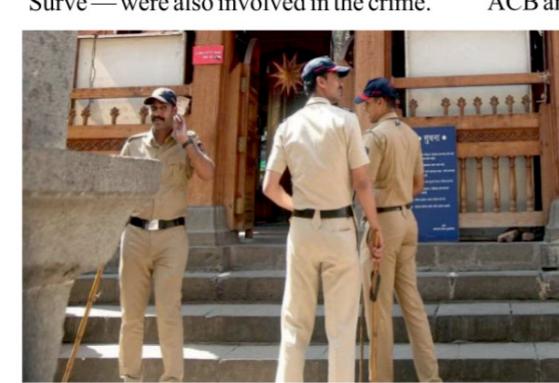
For the record, a delay in withdrawal of monsoon showers is not unusual for the city. Last year, for instance, Mumbai experienced monsoon withdrawal on October 15 while in 2023 and 2022, the withdrawal of monsoon in Mumbai was declared on October 23.

Thane deputy municipal commissioner among two held in bribe case

Mumbai. (Agency)

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Wednesday arrested a deputy municipal commissioner of the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) and another person in connection with an alleged bribery case.

According to the agency, on instruction of TMC official Shankar Patole, two private persons — Omkar Gaikar and Sushant Sure — were also involved in the crime.



25 lakh to take action against the illegal structures. He allegedly accepted the first instalment of Rs 10 lakh from the developer in Sure's bank account in July, an ACB official said, adding it would be verified.

In September, Patole increased the bribe amount from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 50 lakh when the complainant approached the ACB and registered a complaint.

The ACB laid a trap on September 30 in Mulund where Patole was supposed to come to accept the bribe amount but instead asked the complainant to meet him in Thane on October 1 morning.

The ACB again laid a trap around 10 am but he did not turn up and said his person would meet him in the afternoon. The third time trap was laid and the official of the Mumbai ACB managed to nab Omkar Gaikar when he

came to accept the second instalment of the bribe amount, said the ACB official.

Based on the recording of the conversation in which Patole instructed the complainant to hand over the bribe amount to a private person, Patole was arrested in the evening, added the official. Both were produced in a court Thursday that remanded them in police custody till October 4.

According to the ACB official, the complainant, a private developer, has been developing a property in Thane and approached the TMC to remove three illegal structures on the plot. Patole was on deputation in TMC, holding the charge of anti-encroachment department.

Initially, when the complainant approached Patole in July, he allegedly demanded Rs

Guru Nanak birth anniversary: Centre allows Sikh jatha to visit Pakistan, albeit with riders

Amritsar. (Agency)

The central government Thursday allowed the members of the Sikh community to visit Pakistan in November for the birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev, reversing the restriction placed following Operation Sindo.

According to a communication by the Ministry of Home Affairs, "The Government has decided to allow travel of Sikh Jathas to Pakistan on the occasion of birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji".

The communication, which coming following several appeals from Sikh organizations and leaders, however, outlines that only "duly-filled in applications sponsored by Sikh religious organisations in their jurisdiction" will be accepted by states and Union Territories. Further, each application will undergo review by the state police, CID, and Intelligence Agencies, "in consultation with the Central Security Agency, before being forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs by October 22, 2025".

An official source in the MHA said, "Only such pilgrims who have been recommended to the MHA and the Ministry of External Affairs, and who have been granted visa by Pakistan shall be allowed passage as Sikh Jatha member via Attari." "No other person, even if he is holding a valid visa to Pakistan, shall be allowed to travel," the source added. The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and Akal Takht welcomed the decision to allow Sikh jatha to visit gurdwaras in Pakistan on the occasion of Parkash Purb of the founder of Sikhism. "The SGPC appreciates this decision," its president Harjinder Singh Dhami said. He said the Parkash purb of Guru Nanak Dev, the first of the ten Sikh gurus, holds great significance not only for the community but for the entire humanity.



On this sacred occasion, Sikh devotees have a deep emotional desire to pay obeisance at the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev, Nankana Sahib in Pakistan. He added that the earlier decision to "restrict" the jatha had caused disappointment among the "Sangat", following which the SGPC had appealed to the government to reconsider.

In this regard, a letter had also been written by SGPC to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on September 29, and it is satisfying that the government has paid attention to it, the SGPC chief mentioned in the statement.

IMD warns of record-breaking rain in Punjab, Himachal, Haryana from today; red alert issued

The authorities have directed people to be prepared for extreme weather events, including possible floods and landslides, across North India till Wednesday as rare event delays monsoon withdrawal.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

North India is set to face an unprecedented weather event from Saturday to Wednesday, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting record-breaking rain over Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Chandigarh due to the convergence of three powerful weather systems. Authorities have issued heightened warnings, including red alerts for extremely heavy rain exceeding 21 cm in a day, alongside thunderstorms, lightning, and possible hailstorms.

The rare event will begin with the arrival of a fresh western disturbance over northwest India on Saturday, drawing moist air from

both the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. This circulation will interact with a deepening low-pressure system over the Northeast Arabian Sea and a second depression strengthening near the Bay of Bengal, channelling moisture into the region. Meteorologists describe this as "very unique", with the competing systems expected to push the Western Disturbance's cyclonic circulation into Punjab and Rajasthan by October 5, amplifying rainfall and possibly causing flash flooding and landslides in hilly terrain. Widespread rain and thunderstorms are expected from Sunday to Wednesday, peaking on Monday,

excess rainfall this monsoon, could see flood risks increase further, while Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand remain vulnerable to landslides. Rescue and disaster response teams have been placed on standby, with officials urging people to stock essentials, avoid travel, and closely monitor weather alerts in high-risk areas.

As the systems interact and delay the monsoon's withdrawal, district administration authorities are urging residents across the region to remain vigilant and prepared for rapidly changing and potentially hazardous conditions in the coming days.

3 girls, including 2 sisters, drown in seasonal rivulet in Una while washing their schoolbags

Shimla. (Agency)

Three schoolgirls aged between 13 and 14 years, including two sisters, allegedly drowned in a seasonal rivulet (khad) near Bangana in Himachal Pradesh's Una district Thursday.

The victims were identified as Khushi, daughter of Manjeet; and Komal and Sonakshi, daughters of Ajay Kumar. All three were Class 5 students at a local school.

The police said that according to eyewitnesses, the girls had gone to the rivulet near Chapoh village in Bahl panchayat to wash their school bags. While doing so, one of them slipped into deep waters. The other two entered the stream in an attempt to rescue her, but were also swept under.

When the girls failed to return home by evening, their families began searching for them. During the search, a slipper was found on the rivulet's bank. A little further downstream, villagers discovered the bodies of the three girls. They were rushed to the local Adarsh Hospital, Thanakalan, where doctors declared them dead.

Surinder Singh, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Una, said no foul play is suspected in the incident. "The victims' parents have also not raised any suspicion. The bodies have been kept for post-mortem at the Civil Hospital in Una, where a board of doctors will conduct the autopsies," he said.

"Locals frequently go to the rivulet for washing clothes and take their cattle to drink water there," the ASP added. The police have initiated inquest proceedings under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

Meanwhile, villagers have urged the administration to take safety measures at dangerous spots along the rivulet to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Witch hunt, media trial: Zubeen Garg's fest organiser in plea to Supreme Court

Festival organiser
Shyamkanu Mahanta has filed a petition in the Supreme Court requesting transfer of the investigation into Zubeen Garg's death to a central agency. Mahanta alleges a biased probe, media trial, and public threats impacting his safety and the fairness of the investigation.

3 women aides of Chaitanyaananda arrested for abetment, threatening students; released on bail

Agency New Delhi.
 Three women aides of self-styled godman Chaitanyaanand Saraswati, who has been arrested for the alleged sexual harassment of 17 female students at an institute in South Delhi, were arrested and later released on bail on Thursday.

The accused, identified as Associate Dean Shweta Sharma, Executive Director Bhawna Kapil and Senior Faculty Kajal, were booked for abetment, threatening, and destruction of evidence, police said. On Tuesday, police had questioned them face to face with Chaitanyaanand. Police said that during questioning, the three admitted that they followed the directions of 62-year-old Chaitanyaanand and pressured students on the pretext of discipline and punctuality. They also allegedly threatened the victims and made them delete Chaitanyaanand's lewd messages from their phones.

A police team in Almora had visited the alleged guest house where Chaitanyaanand had reportedly stayed with girl students, a senior officer said. Digital evidence recovered from mobile phones reportedly showed him making inappropriate comments on photos of students shared in a yoga group on WhatsApp. Chaitanyaanand had served as Chancellor of Vasant Kunj-based Sri Sharada Institute of Indian Management-Research run by Sri Sri Jagadguru Shankaracharya Mahasamsthana Dakshinamanya Sri Sharada Peetham in Karnataka's Sringeri. The religious organisation had expelled him in August — before the allegations of women students became public — for misappropriation of funds. He was arrested from Agra last Sunday after being on the run.

Bold, experimental to deeply personal narratives weaved into art: A contemporary showcase in Delhi

Agency New Delhi.
 The 34th Annual Ravi Jain Memorial Foundation (RJMF) Exhibition opened recently at Dhoomimal Gallery with an exclusive preview that brought together leading figures from the art fraternity, collectors, and cultural enthusiasts.

This year's edition highlights the creativity of 60 emerging artists selected from over 500 nationwide entries, showcasing more than 120 works across paintings, printmaking, sculptures, video installations, and digital art. The exhibition will remain on view until October 15, 2025, culminating in the Annual RJMF Awards ceremony on October 14, where four winning artists will be felicitated. Each awardee will receive ₹1,00,000 along with continued mentorship and opportunities to grow their artistic journey.

Speaking about the opening, Uday Jain, Director of Dhoomimal Gallery said, "The exhibition and the awards carry forward my father's vision of nurturing talent and building a vibrant ecosystem for art in India. We remain committed to supporting young artists and providing them with a platform that recognizes both their creativity and potential." He further added, "What excites me most is the diversity and freshness of voices represented this year. From bold experimental practices to deeply personal narratives, the works on display reflect how contemporary art in India continues to evolve and inspire. It is a privilege for us at Dhoomimal to be part of their journey."

This year's winners will be chosen by a distinguished jury panel comprising Vibha Galhotra, a leading contemporary artist known for her practice addressing ecology and urbanism; Rekha Rodwittiya, a celebrated painter and mentor whose work embodies feminist and socially engaged narratives; Anish Gawande, writer, curator, and cultural commentator shaping critical dialogues on art and politics; Arunkumar H.G, an acclaimed artist recognized for his experimental forms and material practices rooted in ecology; and Ina Puri, an eminent writer, biographer, and curator with decades of experience chronicling Indian art. Beyond selecting winners, the jury plays a crucial role in encouraging innovation, experimentation, and diverse practices, reflecting the evolving dynamism of India's art landscape.

Agency New Delhi.
 Shyamkanu Mahanta, organiser of the North East India Festival and an accused in the case linked to the death of legendary Assamese singer Zubeen Garg, has approached the Supreme Court seeking transfer of the ongoing Assam Police probe. In his petition, Mahanta claimed that he was being subjected to a "well-calculated witch-hunt," alleging false narratives are being spread against him in the media. Garg, one of Assam's most beloved singer, was scheduled to perform at the festival in Singapore on September 19 following a scuba diving accident, just hours before he was to take the stage. The festival was later cancelled.

In his plea, Mahanta, who was arrested earlier this week along with the late singer's manager Siddharth Sharma and charged with murder, said, "Top executives of Assam have gone to the extent of publicly making derogatory and damaging remarks against him on their official social media handles during the pendency of the investigation, which renders the

investigation process futile." He claims that such public remarks are likely to influence the ongoing investigation by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted



by the Assam government. Mahanta further alleged that there have been "serious threats to his life and personal liberty due to public and media outrage." He has also requested that the investigation be transferred from the SIT to a central agency such as the National Investigation Agency (NIA) or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He asserts that only a probe by these

agencies can ensure impartiality and prevent further influence from state-level officials or the media. The plea also urged the top court to direct authorities to preserve all crucial evidence, including post-mortem reports and records from Singapore authorities. "Singapore authorities said no one was at fault. These reports should be preserved. Video recordings of the accident show Mahanta was not present at the scene. The videos should be taken on record by the probe team," it noted. Mahanta has firmly dismissed the allegations against him, while emphasising that they were "ludicrous". The petition details that

the In his appeal, Mahanta continued to maintain his friendship with Garg, stating, calling the latter "my very dear, personal friend." Before their arrests, Lookout notices via Interpol were issued against Mahanta and Siddharth Sharma. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said the two men must appear in Guwahati on October 6 to record their statements before the probe team.

Fake ghee racket busted in Delhi: 6 held in festive season crackdown

Agency New Delhi.

In a major festive season crackdown, the Delhi Police busted an adulterated desi ghee racket, arrested six men, and seized 1,625 kg of spurious stock from three illegal units, officials said on Thursday. The Central Range of the Crime Branch arrested the men following coordinated raids in Shiv Vihar, Karawal Nagar, and Mustafabad. The police said the units in North-East Delhi were being operated on a large scale to exploit the surge in demand during Dussehra and Diwali.

In the first raid at Shiv Vihar, 520 kg of duplicate ghee was recovered, and one accused, Sajiq, 30, was arrested.

A second raid in the same locality led to the arrest of four men, including 50-year-old Yusuf Malik, described by police as a habitual offender previously arrested for similar crimes. His son Mehboob, 22, and two Ghaziabad residents, Shakir and Sharukh, were also arrested. The police said that 440 kg of spurious ghee, gas cylinders, stoves, and chemical substances were seized.

The third raid in Old Mustafabad led to the arrest of Zamaluddin, 40, and the recovery of 665 kg of adulterated stock.

"During interrogation, the accused disclosed that they purchased Dalda (vanaspati ghee) and cheap refined oil in bulk, which were heated and mixed to imitate pure desi ghee. To mimic authentic flavour, chemical-based flavouring agents, synthetic colour, and unsafe substances were added. The product was then packed in tins and packets resembling genuine brands and supplied to dairies, shops, and distributors, especially during the festive season. This crude and hazardous process not only deceived consumers but posed a serious health risk," Vikram Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch, said.

Three states, 21 days, and a stroke of luck: Delhi Police rescue missing brothers at Golden Temple

Agency New Delhi.

It took three weeks of back-and-forth rides in a car through UP, Haryana, and Punjab for Sub-Inspector (SI) Amit Sharma and his team to track down two brothers, aged 15 and 9, who had gone missing from their home in Badarpur last month. On the trail of the children, the police team followed grainy CCTV footage, chased clues on Instagram reels that led to nowhere, and examined and filtered out claims on sightings that turned out to be fake.

The children were ultimately found at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on Wednesday evening — only hours after the team had paid an initial visit to the shrine, and had come away disappointed.

It might just have been divine intervention, feels SI Sharma. "We had checked the Golden Temple in the morning but we did not find the children. We went back in the evening — and suddenly, without warning, the younger child appeared in front of us," Sharma said.

The search for the children began in the morning of September 10, after a case of kidnapping was registered at Badarpur police station. The father of the missing children has a business, and their mother is a dietitian, police said.

"The parents of the children quarrelled frequently, and the children did not like it. Their mother was also strict with them, so the children decided to leave home," Sharma said.

Apart from some CCTV camera footage, the police had very little to go on. They scanned pictures from railway stations, but a lot of the footage was of poor quality or incomplete. They helped the team make some progress, but steps had to be often retraced to cross-check or verify information. After scanning footage from dozens of cameras on September 10, police reached the Ghaziabad and New Delhi railway stations. It seemed the boys had entered the New Delhi station around 5 pm but could not be seen on the CCTV footage anymore after 6.30 pm.

Criminal who demanded Rs 100 crore extortion from Gujarat businessman nabbed after shootout in Delhi, 1 more held

The criminal, Akash Rajput, has joined hands with Rajasthan's wanted gangsters Jagdish Jagla and Abhishek Gaur, through whom he became linked with gangsters Rohit Godara, Goldy Brar, and Virender Charan.

Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi Police on Friday arrested two alleged criminals, wanted for extorting businessmen in Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat, after an encounter in the Kapashera area of southwest Delhi, an officer said.

The accused have been identified as Akash Rajput, a resident of Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan, and Mahipal, a resident of Bharatpur, Rajasthan, said P S Kushwaha, Additional Commissioner of Police (Special Cell). One of the accused was injured during the exchange of fire and has been admitted to the hospital, the officer added.

"The police laid a trap based on a tip-off early in the day in Kapashera. On seeing the police, the duo opened fire, and in the retaliatory firing, Rajput was injured in his leg. He was taken to

the hospital, while his companion, Mahipal, was nabbed," an officer said.

According to the police, Rajput was involved in a July 2022 incident of

firing outside a hospital in Assandh, Karnal, carried out for extortion on the instructions of foreign-based gangster Daler Kotia. "He was also wanted in connection with a July 2025 kidnapping case in Gujarat for extortion, in which foreign-based gangster Kirit Singh Jhala had

demanded a ransom of Rs 100 crore from the victim. The Rajasthan Police have declared a reward of Rs 20,000 on him," Kushwaha said.

Currently, he has joined hands with Rajasthan's wanted gangsters Jagdish Jagla and Abhishek Gaur, through whom he became linked with gangsters Rohit Godara, Goldy Brar, and Virender Charan, and has nearly completed the process of obtaining a fake passport to flee abroad. Akash Rajput's crime graph reflects the alliance between gangsters of Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Haryana, the police said.

Mahipal, who had been arrested earlier in connection with the Assandh, Karnal firing incident, was out on bail and had since established links with foreign-based gangsters along with Rajput.

'Space crunch': MA Philosophy students of DU attend classes in corridor

Agency New Delhi.

On Wednesday evening, students of Delhi University's (DU) MA Philosophy programme sat on plastic chairs with backpacks and notebooks spread across their laps in a corridor, as a faculty member conducted a class.

This is not new to them. The timetable for Semester 1 students of MA Philosophy — issued for the August-December period — explicitly states that at least two classes will be conducted in the corridor every Wednesday. The reason: Space constraint, as per Head of Department Enakshi Ray.

"There is a space constraint with many optional courses and tutorials being offered... It is difficult to slot each

class, since many are overlapping," she told. Asked about the timetable mentioning "corridor", Ray said: "We have mentioned the word corridor for

opens to the outer area (walkway) on the campus."

She added this is not the first time that the space is being used to conduct classes. "Earlier, this space was used by PhD scholars, even before Covid-19 pandemic, to read. I would have to check the current timetable... wouldn't be surprised if this space is being used to conduct tutorials or hold classes for optional courses for small groups of students. as there is a serious space constraint."

"Recently, the number of courses has increased... we also teach tutorials and optional subjects separately," said Ray.



terminological convenience. Technically it is not a corridor, it is the empty space behind the professor's room (in the Arts department), which

We want impartial probe, not politics, says Rajiv Pratap's brother

Journalist Rajiv Pratap's body was recovered from Joshiada Barrage in Uttarkashi, with his family alleging he was threatened to delete videos before his death.

Agency New Delhi.

The family of journalist Rajiv Pratap, whose body was recovered from the Joshiada Barrage in Uttarkashi on Sunday, has alleged that he was threatened before his death.

Speaking on the matter, Rajiv's brother said, "I spoke to my brother a day or two before his phone was switched off. When he was at home, we noticed he was receiving calls. Sometimes, the callers would tell him things like, 'Delete the video you made,' or give similar instructions. He always responded directly, without fear; he was not someone who could be easily intimidated. Rajiv's brother also requested everybody not to politicise the matter. "I request that a thorough and

impartial investigation be carried out in this matter. I also want to emphasise that this should not be politicised in any way. Our only concern is the investigation—to find out exactly what happened and reveal the truth," he said.

Rajiv's body was recovered from the Joshiada Barrage in Uttarkashi on Sunday by a joint team of police and disaster management personnel, and his family has confirmed the identification. The post-mortem report indicated injuries to the chest and abdomen. Uttarkashi Superintendent of Police Sarita Dobhal said, "Based on preliminary information, it appears to be electrocution," and clarified that CCTV footage shows Rajiv driving the car alone. "The incident occurred late on

September 28, although the victim's family has filed a complaint alleging



murder. The investigation will determine the exact cause of death," she said. Regarding questions of abduction or foul play, SP Dobhal added, "No evidence has been found to suggest such claims, but as per information provided by the family,

the investigation is ongoing." She confirmed that a case has been registered under number 403 and that further inquiry continues.

Journalist Chiranjeev Semwal described the case as a "blind case" and said, "High-level investigation should be conducted, although it would be premature to comment on car accident or abduction without full facts."

Background details reveal that Rajiv had left Gyansoo on September 18, driving a friend's car toward Gangotri. The following morning, his car was found near the Bhagirathi River at Syuna village, containing only his slippers. Concerned for his safety, the family suspected abduction, prompting police to initially register a case.

NEWS BOX

Afghanistan's Rashid Khan blames media for 'second-best in Asia' tag**New Delhi. (Agency)**

The Premier League is set to make a key decision on whether to scrap its divisive Profit and Sustainability Rules (PSR) in favour of a new financial framework based on squad-cost ratio, Chief Executive Richard Masters said on Thursday. The PSR, introduced in the 2015-16 season to curb excessive spending, has come under increasing scrutiny following breaches by several clubs. Critics, including Manchester City, Newcastle United, and Aston Villa, argue that the rules restrict their ability to invest in competitiveness. Speaking at the Leaders sports conference, Masters confirmed that discussions are ongoing about potentially replacing the current model with a system that would bring the league in closer alignment with UEFA's financial regulations. UEFA caps club spending on player wages, transfers, and agent fees at 70% of total revenue. The Premier League, however, is considering a higher threshold of 85%. "We are talking to our clubs about an alternative system. That's not to say we don't think the PSR system works," Masters said. "It's about closer alignment with European regulation



— which is the squad cost ratio, a revenue-based test. "The PSR is a look-back profitability test and has its own strengths and weaknesses. No system will be perfect. We have to keep these things balanced and continue the conversation with our clubs. That's an important decision, so we should take the time to get it right. But that decision is coming up." The Premier League, the world's most lucrative domestic football competition, will earn 6.7 billion (\$9.03 billion) from domestic broadcast rights alone in the 2025-2029 cycle. Masters noted that a more flexible spending cap would help maintain the league's competitive edge globally. "In UEFA, it's now set at 70%. Our system will be 85% because we always want our clubs to have the ability to invest," he said. "When you compare the Premier League system at 85%, if it happens, to the other big European leagues, we have a more permissive system — too permissive, some might say."

IND vs WI: KL Rahul hits home Test century after 8 years, unveils new celebration**MILAN. (Agency)**

KL Rahul ended a nine-year wait for a home Test century as the opener reached three figures on Day 2 of the first Test between India and the West Indies in Ahmedabad. Rahul brought up his hundred off 190 deliveries in the first session on Friday at the Narendra Modi Stadium. The 32-year-old unveiled a new celebratory gesture after ending a 3,211-day drought for a hundred in home conditions in red-ball cricket. He removed his helmet, raised his bat towards the dressing room to acknowledge the applause, and then put two fingers in his mouth, seemingly sending a message to his newborn daughter, Evaarah. Head coach Gautam Gambhir was visibly delighted,



applauding alongside the rest of the support staff. Chants of "KL Rahul, KL Rahul" echoed around the ground, despite the stands being far from full. Before Friday, Rahul's last home century came against England in December 2016 in a Test where Karun Nair scored his famous triple hundred. The opener has been in sensational form. He scored two hundreds in India's 2-2 draw in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, finishing the five-Test series with 532 runs at an average of over 50 runs per innings. The red-soil pitch in Ahmedabad has not been the easiest to bat on. While the West Indies folded for 162 in their first innings, India have shown the way, taking their time to keep the scoreboard ticking. The red soil pitch in Ahmedabad has not been the easiest for batting. West Indies folded for 162 in their first innings, but India have managed to show the way, albeit taking their time to keep the scoreboard moving. Rahul, showing remarkable composure at the crease, appeared to let out his emotions with the celebration, as though he had been waiting for this moment.

AB de Villiers divides opinions after questioning India over Asia Cup trophy row

Former cricketer AB de Villiers comments on the Asia Cup trophy presentation sparked backlash from Indian fans. India refused to receive the trophy from Asian and Pakistan cricket chief, Mohsin Naqvi, after outclassing Pakistan in the final in Dubai on Friday.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former South Africa cricketer AB de Villiers has come under fire from a section of cricket fans after sharing his views on the Asia Cup trophy presentation controversy, which has now snowballed into a major row. Speaking on his YouTube show, De Villiers remarked that politics should be kept away from sport, appearing to question India's decision to refuse receiving the trophy from Asian Cricket Council and Pakistan Cricket Board chief, Mohsin Naqvi. "Team India sort of

were not happy with who was handing out the trophy. I don't feel that belongs in sport. Politics should stay aside," De Villiers said earlier this week. "Sport is one thing, and it should be celebrated for what it is. Quite sad to see that, but hopefully they will sort things out in the future. It does put the sport, the players, the sportsmen, the cricketers in a very tough position, and that's what I hate to see. It was quite awkward there at the end," he added. De Villiers' comments, however, have not been received well by Indian fans on social media. "Meet AB de Villiers. He comes to India to earn money during the IPL. One shameless franchise feeds him money for no reason. And then he criticises the BCCI's stand for not collecting the Asia Cup trophy from the hands of politician Mohsin Naqvi," wrote one user in response to De Villiers' post. "I think AB de Villiers might not realize how serious this is, so that's why he said it. But again, if you are not in the loop, it's best not to comment as well," a user wrote. "Blud thinks Trophy is bigger than Country because he never touched the one," another one said. India had refused to accept

their trophy from Naqvi, who is also a sitting minister in the Pakistan government. During the Asia Cup, the PCB chief made a provocative remark while referring to the cross-border skirmish between India and Pakistan in May, which had followed the terror attack in Pahalgam.



In a bizarre twist, Naqvi walked away with the trophy, denying India the opportunity to celebrate with the silverware. The Indian team nevertheless went up on the dais and marked their victory without it. According to reports, Naqvi has since asked India captain Suryakumar Yadav to collect the trophy in

person from the ACC headquarters in the UAE, standing firm on his decision. Although Naqvi apologised to members of the cricket council after being grilled by BCCI officials in an ACC meeting following the final, he remained adamant about his stance. The Asia Cup had marked the first meeting between India and Pakistan on the cricket field since the Pahalgam attack, and, as expected, off-field tensions overshadowed the cricket itself. India captain Suryakumar Yadav refused to shake hands with his Pakistani counterpart, Salman Ali Agha, during the toss in their group-stage clash. The rest of the Indian players followed suit, snubbing handshakes with the Pakistani side after the match. Upset by the gesture, the Pakistan captain subsequently boycotted the post-match presentation ceremony.

Suryakumar later dedicated India's win to the victims of the Pahalgam attack and to the Indian armed forces. In response, Pakistan threatened to boycott the tournament unless match referee Andy Pycroft was removed, blaming him for enabling the handshake snub.

Australia's Cameron Green ready for bowling role in home Ashes: I feel stronger**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Australia all-rounder Cameron Green is preparing to resume his bowling duties ahead of the Ashes, confident he will be free of restrictions by the start of the series. The 26-year-old, who underwent spinal surgery last October following his fifth stress fracture, is set to bowl in Western Australia's Sheffield Shield opener against New South Wales at the WACA this Saturday. "It's been a long 12 months, but I'm feeling really good," Green told reporters on Friday. "The body's in a good place. It's

**Namibia and Zimbabwe qualify for ICC Men's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka****MADRID. (Agency)**

Namibia and Zimbabwe have secured their spots in next year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup, to be held in India and Sri Lanka, after triumphing in the Africa Regional Final semifinals in Harare. Namibia defeated Tanzania in the first semi-final, while Zimbabwe overcame Kenya in the second, claiming Africa's two allocated places for the tournament scheduled for February-March 2026. The semifinals carried high stakes, with only the winners progressing to the World Cup. Namibia recovered from an early batting collapse, while Zimbabwe chased a modest target efficiently, sending a strong message ahead of the main event. In the first semifinal, Namibia slipped to 41/4 by the fifth over against Tanzania, but an 88-run partnership between JJ Smit and Gerhard Erasmus steadied the innings. Erasmus anchored the middle order with a composed



55 from 41 balls, while Smit remained unbeaten on 61 from 43 deliveries, striking four sixes and energising the crowd with chants of "Smit can hit." Smit's impact extended to the bowling attack as well. The all-rounder took three wickets for 16 runs in four overs, including three of Tanzania's top five batters, effectively derailing the chase. Namibia's collective effort ensured their fourth consecutive Men's T20 World Cup

appearance, following their Super 12 campaign in 2021.

In the second semifinal, Zimbabwe batted first after captain Dhiren Gondaria won the toss. Despite a valiant 65 off 47 balls from Rakesh Patel for Kenya, Zimbabwe's bowlers kept the opposition in check, restricting them to 123. Zimbabwe's chase was swift. Opener Brian Bennett struck a brisk 51 from 25 deliveries, including six boundaries off Lucas Ndandason in a decisive over, guiding Zimbabwe to victory and marking their return to the T20 World Cup after missing the 2024 edition. With Namibia and Zimbabwe now qualified, only three spots remain from the Asia-East Asia Pacific (EAP) Qualifier for next year's tournament, according to the ICC. Namibia looks to build on its growing reputation as a regular participant, while Zimbabwe aims to re-establish itself after its 2024 absence.

Not thinking about retirement, focusing on strengthening my mind: Deepika Kumari

Deepika said her training currently revolves around refining both mental and technical aspects of her performance.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Four-time Olympian archer Deepika Kumari is not contemplating retirement just yet and is instead focusing on building mental strength to handle high-pressure situations, with an eye on a final hurrah at the Los Angeles Games. The 29-year-old, who will be 34 when the Los Angeles Olympics come around in 2028, said it would most likely be her final appearance at the Games, adding that her mindset for the next edition is "do-or-die." "This is not the last stage of my career? I haven't decided on that yet. I believe all my competitions so far have been really good experiences," she told PTI



Videos on the sidelines of the opening day of the Archery Premier League in New Delhi. Deepika said her training currently revolves around refining both mental and technical aspects of her performance. "I have been working on both the mental and technical aspects of my game, and this league is helping me improve further. Playing in front of a crowd brings pressure, but that pressure actually helps players grow and prepare better," she said. "I'm trying to master every technique. In the past, I have often struggled mentally during crucial matches in tournaments, which has cost me results. I'm doing a lot of

visualisation, mental training, thinking while walking, thinking while eating? all of it. I want my technique to be so deeply ingrained that I don't have to think about it during pressure moments. I'm training hard." Deepika welcomed the inclusion of compound archery in the Olympic programme, saying it will significantly enhance India's medal prospects. "I'm very happy because the compound is now part of the Olympics. Everyone was wondering when it would happen, and finally it has. Our medal tally has already gone up in many tournaments, and our compound team is very strong," he said. She also highlighted the strong bond shared among Indian archers, which, according to her, plays a crucial role in handling the mental challenges of the sport. "We support each other a lot as archers. On the field, we talk about archery, but we also help each other off the field. If someone is struggling mentally or technically, we talk and manage it together," she said.

been a really good rehab journey. I feel stronger, fitter. My action feels good. The first Test should be no restrictions. That's kind of the whole plan of the last year — to peak for the Ashes." Green has not bowled competitively since his operation but plans to bowl a limited quota of eight overs against New South Wales as he gradually rebuilds his workload. He will bat at number four for WA in the Shield match but expects to continue at first drop in the Test side when the Ashes begins at Perth Stadium on November 21. The all-rounder conceded that his bowling loads could be adjusted if he remains at No. 3, a spot he has occupied since returning to Test cricket mid-year purely as a batter. Green initially struggled in the role, failing to pass 15 in his first four innings, including the World Test Championship final against South Africa and the opening Test against West Indies in Barbados. However, he later found form, scoring 52, 26, 42, and 46 in the final two Tests of that series.

World Weightlifting Championships: Olympic medalist Mirabai Chanu wins silver

India's Mirabai Chanu returned to the World Weightlifting Championships podium with a silver in the women's 48kg, recording her first world medal since 2022, as North Korea's Ri Song Gum claimed gold with a world record total.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Mirabai Chanu returned to the World Weightlifting Championships podium after three years, clinching silver in the women's 48kg category in Forde, Norway. Her 199kg total (84kg snatch, 115kg clean and jerk) marked her third career medal at the event and ended India's medal drought at the

championships since 2022. North Korea's Ri Song Gum captured gold with a world record performance, while Thailand's Thanyathon Sukcharoen took bronze. Chanu's silver in Forde was her first World Championships medal since 2022 and her third overall, reinforcing her status as one of India's most successful weightlifters. This was her first appearance at the World Championships since the Paris Olympics, where she had finished fourth. Her performance also lifted India's total medal count at the World Weightlifting Championships to 18-all won by women athletes. Chanu began the competition with a successful 84kg snatch but missed her next two attempts at 87kg, leaving her third in the snatch segment. She bounced back in the clean and jerk, completing lifts of 109kg, 112kg, and 115kg. Her final lift of 109kg matched her best from the Tokyo Olympics and secured silver in both the clean and jerk and the overall total. North Korea's

Ri Song Gum dominated the event, registering 91kg in snatch and 122kg in clean and jerk for a total of 213kg. Her last two lifts-120kg and 122kg-set new world records in both clean and jerk and total. Thailand's Thanyathon Sukcharoen claimed bronze with a total of 198kg (88kg snatch, 110kg



lifts-120kg and 122kg-set new world records in both clean and jerk and total. Thailand's

Thanyathon Sukcharoen claimed bronze with a total of 198kg (88kg snatch, 110kg clean and jerk). The Forde Championships marked Chanu's first world championship appearance since 2022 and her second international event since finishing fourth at Paris 2024, where she lifted 199kg (88kg snatch, 111kg clean and jerk) in the 49kg division. She had previously won gold in the 48kg category at Anaheim 2017 with 194kg and silver at Bogota 2022 with 200kg. Last month, Chanu had also won gold at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2025 in Ahmedabad, lifting 193kg (84kg snatch, 109kg clean and jerk), a victory that secured her direct qualification for the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games. Chief coach Vijay Sharma had earlier told PTI that the team's aim for these World Championships was to breach the 200kg mark and to start lifting the weights Chanu had been handling in the 49kg category.

Sensex opens 205 points lower, Nifty below 24,800; Tata Steel up 3%

New Delhi. (Agency)

Benchmark stock market indices opened lower on Friday, resuming trending after a holiday, dragged by a decline in FMCG and auto stocks.

The S&P BSE Sensex was down by 208.31 points to 80,775.00, while the NSE Nifty50 lost 75 points to 24,760.80 as of 9:30 am. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said that the positive impact of the central bank's bold initiatives to boost credit growth in the economy has the potential to sustain the momentum in the market, particularly in Bank Nifty. But this momentum is unlikely to sustain in the context of the sustained FII selling in the market. FIIs are likely to further accelerate selling since the market construct provides them the opportunity to sell aggressively. The huge short position in the market indicates that the bulls will be on the defensive," he added.

The top five gainers in early trade on the Sensex were Tata Motors, which jumped 5.54%, Kotak Mahindra Bank up 3.45%, Trent gaining 3.31%, Sun Pharma higher by 2.58%, and Axis Bank advancing 2.43%.

The top 5 losers were Bajaj Finance falling 1.10%, State Bank of India slipping 0.97%, UltraTech Cement down 0.86%, Tata Steel losing 0.71%, and Asian Paints dropping 0.62%. Among the sectoral indices, several showed positive momentum with Nifty Metal leading at 0.76%, followed by Nifty Pharma at 0.28%, Nifty PSU Bank at 0.28%, Nifty Private Bank at 0.25%, Nifty Consumer Durables at 0.22%, Nifty Realty at 0.06%, and Nifty Healthcare at 0.03%.

Nifty Media faced the biggest decline at 0.71%, followed by Nifty Financial Services which dropped 0.40%, Nifty Auto at 0.38%, Nifty FMCG at 0.22%, Nifty Oil & Gas at 0.13%, and Nifty IT at 0.10%.

WeWork India's Rs 3,000-crore IPO opens for subscription; early subscription subdued

New Delhi. (Agency)

Early subscription numbers on Day 1 of WeWork India's Rs 3,000-crore initial public offering (IPO) were subdued, with the issue subscribed only a fraction of the total. The retail investor portion saw about 7% subscription by mid-morning.

The co-working space major launched its IPO today (October 3). The issue, which closes on October 7, is being offered entirely as an Offer for Sale (OFS), with no fresh capital being raised. Promoter and investor holdings are being offloaded in this sale. The price band has been fixed at Rs 615-Rs 648 per share, with a total of about 4.63 crore shares on offer. At the upper end of the band, the issue size is pegged at Rs 3,000 crore. The allotment of shares is expected on October 8, with a tentative listing scheduled for October 10 on both the NSE and BSE.

Ahead of the IPO, the company raised RS 1,348 crore from 67 anchor investors at the upper band price of Rs 648. In the grey market, the IPO is quoting at a modest premium of around 15% over the issue price, indicating limited listing enthusiasm. Analysts suggest the lukewarm grey market premium reflects cautious investor sentiment rather than strong demand. WeWork India is among the country's leading flexible workspace providers, operating multiple centres across major cities under long-term lease arrangements. Its asset-light model involves leasing premium commercial real estate, customizing it, and sub-letting on flexible terms. The company has improved its financial performance in recent years, moving toward profitability in FY25. Its revenue-to-rent multiple, reportedly around 2.7 times, is considered a key strength compared to peers. Analysts caution that since the IPO is entirely an OFS, WeWork India itself will not receive fresh capital from the listing. High fixed lease commitments remain a structural risk—any dip in occupancy or tenant renegotiation could pressure margins.

TRAI clears digital radio plan for 13 cities, auctions to begin soon

New Delhi. (Agency)

New Delhi: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has come out with its detailed recommendations on how private radio broadcasters in India should move towards digital radio. The plan sets the stage for starting services in 13 cities, including the four biggest metros and nine other large cities. The proposal has been under discussion since last year when the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting asked TRAI to frame a policy.

A consultation paper was released in September 2024, followed by months of discussions and an open house in January 2025. The regulator says it studied over 40 responses and more than a dozen counter-comments before finalising the new framework. The idea is to give private broadcasters a way to run both analog and digital channels side by side, while keeping options open for a complete shift to digital in the future. Digital radio rollout plan

The core recommendation is to start services in simulcast mode. That means a broadcaster can use the same spot frequency to run one analog channel, three digital channels and even a data service. TRAI has said only one digital technology standard should be used in India to avoid fragmentation.

The first phase will cover Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata under the A+ category, along with Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Ahmedabad, Surat, Jaipur, Lucknow, Kanpur and Nagpur from the A category. The government will run auctions for new digital frequencies in these cities.

Will Zerodha end its zero-brokerage model for equity delivery trades

Zerodha, long known for offering free equity delivery trades, could soon charge for delivery trades for the first time, signalling a major shift for investors.

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Since its launch, Zerodha has been a pioneer in India's discount broking sector by not charging any fees for equity delivery trades. This unique offering set Zerodha apart, but the company is now rethinking this model. Founder and CEO, Nithin Kamath recently shared that the firm may start charging for delivery trades for the first time, citing revenue challenges. In a blog post marking

Zerodha's 15th anniversary, Kamath said a steep drop in brokerage revenue—down 40% year-on-year for the June 2025 quarter—has forced the company to rethink its strategy. "The time has finally come for business to pivot," he wrote, confirming that charging for delivery trades is now being considered.

WHY IS THE REVENUE FALLOUT

The decline in earnings comes after several regulatory changes targeting derivatives trading, Zerodha's main revenue source. These include higher securities transaction tax (STT) on options, reduced weekly contract expiries, the removal of exchange fee rebates, and general market fatigue. Kamath said the impact became visible from October 2024. He also warned that



further regulations, like a possible ban on weekly options, could hit revenues even more. Kamath stressed that relying too heavily on short-term growth can be risky. "Chasing MoM, QoQ, or YoY metrics can be misleading. We focus on long-term, five-year trends," he added.

ZERODHA'S STRONG FINANCIAL

India can't be passive spectator: Nirmala Sitharaman talks tough amid US tariffs

New Delhi. (Agency)

India cannot afford to remain a passive spectator as geopolitical conflicts and actions such as sanctions and tariffs reshape global supply chains, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Friday. India's capacity to absorb these shocks remains strong, Sitharaman also said as she inaugurated the Kautilya Economic Conclave 2025 in New Delhi. In her opening remarks, Sitharaman spoke about the uncertainty shaping today's world and how it affects both global and Indian interests. She said geopolitical tensions and economic shifts were changing how countries work and trade with each other. She further said that India has shown strength despite global disruptions. "For India, these dynamics highlight both vulnerability and resilience. Our capacity to absorb shocks is strong, while our economic leverage is evolving," she



said. According to her, what India chooses to do now will shape its future position in the world. "Our choices will determine whether resilience becomes a foundation for leadership or merely a buffer against uncertainty," she added. Sitharaman also pointed out that today's fractured global order may eventually bring new opportunities for cooperation if approached with the right mindset. "History teaches us that

crises often precede renewal. The fragmentation we see today may give rise to more sustainable and unforeseen forms of cooperation," she said.

However, she stressed that fairness and inclusion must guide any new economic partnerships. "The challenge is to ensure that inclusive principles shape cooperation. For developing countries, this is a necessity, not just a romantic aspiration," she said. The minister urged emerging economies to take a more assertive role in shaping decisions that affect them. "In a world where decisions elsewhere determine our destinies, we must be active participants, shaping outcomes where possible and preserving autonomy where necessary," she said.

Gold vs Silver—What's the better investment right now

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Gold and silver prices continue to command investor attention, with both metals trading at record highs. In the Indian market, gold futures recently crossed the Rs 1,17,000 per 10 grams mark, while silver touched around Rs 1,44,200 per kilogram. The rally has been fueled by global safe-haven demand, expectations of US interest rate cuts, and geopolitical uncertainties. While gold remains the traditional store of value, silver has delivered sharper percentage gains this year, supported not only by safe-haven buying but also by its strong industrial demand, particularly in electronics and renewable energy. However, analysts caution that both metals are showing signs of being overbought, raising the risk of short-term corrections.

Gold: The Defensive Play

Gold continues to be a preferred hedge against inflation, currency volatility,

and market instability. Its relatively lower volatility makes it suitable for conservative investors. Analysts believe that as long as global monetary



easing and geopolitical tensions remain in play, gold could stay well supported, though immediate upside may be capped after its steep rally.

Silver: The High-Beta Option

Silver offers a mix of safe-haven appeal and industrial use, which gives it

stronger upside potential in growth cycles. However, its higher volatility means prices could fall sharply if industrial demand weakens or global risk appetite fades. For investors with a higher risk tolerance, silver remains an attractive tactical bet, especially if bought on pullbacks.

Market experts suggest gold should remain the core holding for most portfolios due to its stability, while silver can be considered for diversification and higher return potential. A staggered buying approach is recommended to reduce the risk of entering at peak levels.

Market analysts say that gold offers resilience and stability in uncertain times, while silver carries greater risk-reward potential. Therefore, a balanced allocation—anchoring on gold with selective exposure to silver—may offer the best hedge and growth opportunity in the current market environment.

Billion-Dollar IPO Rush: Tata Capital, LG, WeWork India IPOs To Raise Rs 30,000 Crore Next Week

Tata Capital, LG Electronics India, and WeWork India launch IPOs worth Rs 30,000 crore next week, marking a major surge in the primary market after a subdued first half of 2025.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The primary market remained subdued in the first half of 2025, weighed down by an overvalued secondary market, record-level FII outflows, and a global shift of investors towards other asset classes. However, momentum began to turn from May–June, with a flood of IPOs hitting the market as sentiment improved, investor confidence strengthened, and listing gains attracted fresh participation. The market is set to reach a peak moment next week, with IPOs collectively worth around Rs 30,000 crore

either opening or remaining available for subscription. The upcoming bellwether issues include Tata Capital, LG Electronics India, and WeWork India. This surge raises concerns over the market's ability to absorb such a large fund demand, already stretched by a heavy pipeline of IPOs across both the mainboard and SME segments in recent months.

Tata Capital To Raise Rs 15,500 Crore

Tata Capital, the non-banking financial arm of the Tata Group, is set to launch its initial public offering (IPO) on Monday, October 06, 2025. The issue size has been pegged at Rs 15,500 crore. The public issue will be closed for subscription on Wednesday, October 8, 2025.

Tata Capital has fixed the price band for its much-awaited Rs 15,512-crore IPO at Rs 310-326 per share, making it the largest issue of the year. With this, the non-banking financial company's valuation stands at about Rs 1.38 lakh crore at the top end of the band. Tata Sons, which currently holds an 88.6% stake in Tata Capital, will offload about 23 crore shares. International Finance Corporation (IFC), which owns 1.8%, will sell 3.58 crore shares. Proceeds from the fresh issue

will be used to bolster Tata Capital's Tier-1 capital base, helping the NBFC meet future capital requirements, including lending operations.

This IPO comes as part of the Reserve Bank of India's mandate, which requires all



upper-layer NBFCs to be listed within three years of classification. Tata Capital was identified as an upper-layer NBFC in September 2022.

Founded in 2007, Tata Capital today serves over 70 lakh customers with a wide portfolio of more than 25 lending products, catering to individuals, SMEs, entrepreneurs and corporates. Apart from lending, it also distributes third-party products like insurance and credit cards, provides wealth management services, and acts as a sponsor and investment

POSITION

Despite these headwinds, Zerodha's financial base is solid. The company's net worth stands above 13,000 crore, which is more than half of all its clients' funds, and it operates with zero debt. Zerodha holds a 10% share of India's retail and HNI assets under management (AUM) and has built a 5,000 crore margin trading book within nine months.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR INVESTORS

If Zerodha starts charging for delivery trades, it will bring its model in line with most other brokers in India. For customers used to free trades, this could be a significant change. While no final decision has been made, Kamath's blog suggests that Zerodha is preparing for a new chapter, balancing the need to stay profitable with its commitment to customers.

Wintrack's explosive charge opens Customs 'can of worms'

New Delhi. (Agency)

What began as Wintrack Inc's public fight against Chennai Customs over alleged bribery has now sparked a much bigger conversation about corruption in India's trade infrastructure.

After the Finance Ministry confirmed an official probe into Wintrack's charges, importers, customs brokers, and business owners across the country have started sharing their own accounts of harassment, bribery demands, and delays at ports. The Ministry of Finance issued a statement confirming that the issue is being investigated. The ministry said, "The Government has taken cognisance of the matter raised by M/s Wintrack Inc (Chennai). The Department of Revenue (DoR) has been asked to undertake a fair, transparent, and fact-based inquiry into the present issue. A Senior Officer from DoR has been deputed to conduct a detailed factual enquiry, hearing the parties concerned, officials and thoroughly examining all relevant documentary evidence. The matter is being dealt with utmost seriousness, and the Government is committed to taking appropriate and expeditious action in accordance with the law."

Industry voices called the probe overdue, adding that corruption complaints have been common for years.

IMPORTERS AND BUSINESSES SPEAK OUT

The Wintrack case has encouraged others to come forward. Chennai-based businessman Udhaya Sambath said a friend "paid Rs 47,000 as bribe to Chennai customs to release the consignment. After that he started going to Bangalore and was not ready to fight against them as it may affect his business." Another importer, Yusuf Unjhawala, wrote, "From my own experience and hearing from other importers, demands can be 10–50% of the shipment value. Or they threaten to put shipments for scrutiny. That is time consuming, it costs in demurrage and loss of business. So we have no option but to settle. Anyone who says this doesn't happen, is lying! But no one can win against the State. Definitely not small businesses." In Rajkot, businessman Vinit Vekaria claimed: "The customs dept in Rajkot demands between 5–7 lakh for a MOOWR scheme or else the endless delays. Your entire dept is corrupt to the core."

INDUSTRY INSIDERS CONFIRM PATTERN

Some long-time industry professionals also backed Wintrack's claims. A customs clearance veteran, Salman, said, "I concur with Wintrack Inc with every word they have said. I salute their courage and bravery."

manager for private equity funds.

For FY25, Tata Capital reported a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 3,655 crore, compared to Rs 3,327 crore in the previous year. Its revenue jumped to Rs 28,313 crore in FY25, up from Rs 18,175 crore in FY24. LG Electronics' Rs 11,607 Crore BetLG Electronics India Ltd, the local arm of South Korea's LG conglomerate, has fixed the price band for its much-awaited Rs 11,607-crore initial public offering (IPO) in the range of Rs 1,080-1,140 per share. At the upper end of the price range, the company is valued at about Rs 77,400 crore. The public issue will open for subscription on October 7 and close on October 9, while anchor investors can bid on October 6. The IPO, which is entirely an offer for sale of 10.18 crore shares—representing nearly 15 per cent stake—will see all proceeds go to the South Korean parent, as LG Electronics India itself will not receive any funds from the issue.

WeWork India IPO

WeWork India Management Limited, one of India's leading premium flexible workspace operators, has launched its Rs 3,000 crore initial public offering (IPO) on Friday, October 03, 2025.



Rise And Fall

Akriti Negi

Slams Manisha Rani For Calling Her An 'Undeserving Ruler'

Akriti Negi, best known for her fiery presence in reality shows like MTV Roadies 19 and as the winner of Splitsvilla X5, is currently grabbing all the attention in the ongoing reality show, Rise and Fall. In a recent episode of Rise and Fall, tensions rose during a discussion about the "ultimate ruler race," where Manisha Rani openly questioned Akriti's capability. Manisha didn't hold back and said, "I've noticed one thing — Akriti lacks leadership qualities, and I don't think she can be a good ruler. She always keeps herself away from people. A true ruler should have humbleness, and I feel that's missing in Akriti. If you're giving reasons, at least have the courage to speak the truth."

Akriti immediately responded to the remark, making her stance clear. She firmly said, "I'm not disagreeing with what you're saying, but if you're judging my personal life or my personality to decide whether I'm a ruler or not, that's wrong. All I want to say is that my personality shouldn't be dragged into this. If I choose to stay quiet or prefer being alone, it doesn't mean I'm not capable of being a ruler."

She further added, "I will push myself as much as I can, but I cannot force myself beyond my limits. For you, it became very easy because you came here after watching the game from outside and chose to follow the crowd, maintaining good relations with them. But somewhere, I also understood your game very well. So don't say that Akriti doesn't deserve it. By that logic, even you don't deserve to stay in the game, the way you're playing is completely wrong."

This heated exchange has left fans divided, with many applauding Akriti's confidence and others questioning her game strategy. Rise and Fall premiered on September 6, 2025, on Amazon MX Player. The show establishes the stark divide between the Rulers, who enjoy luxury in a penthouse, and the Workers, who fight it out in a bare-basics basement. The tagline says it all, "16 contestants. Two worlds. One ultimate power struggle." With its eclectic celebrity cast, the bold social experiment, and Ashneer Grover's unfiltered hosting style, Rise and Fall is shaping up to be one of the most talked-about reality shows of the year.



Sharvari wagh

Begins Shoot For Imtiaz Ali's Next, Calls Film With Vedang Raina 'Very Special'

Bollywood actress Sharvari has begun shooting for her next big project, a film directed by acclaimed filmmaker Imtiaz Ali, co-starring Vedang Raina. The announcement came on the auspicious occasion of Dussehra, making the moment even more special for the actress. Sharvari shared a heartfelt post on her social media story, where she revealed that she couldn't be home for

and team." In June, the official announcement of the film was made public. Sharing the news on her feed, Sharvari expressed excitement and gratitude. "What an incredible surprise to see this announcement happen on my birthday. Best birthday ever! Imtiaz Ali, Sir, I have manifested to be directed by

you ever since I have dreamed of being an actor." She added, "This will be the most amazing learning experience for me. It is an honour to be a part of your vision. Thank you for choosing me. It feels so special to be a part of this dream team. So excited for this new journey."

Sharvari made her acting debut with Kabir Khan with Yash Raj's "Bunty Aur Babli 2" in 2021, where she starred alongside Rani Mukherjee, Saif Ali Khan and Siddhant Chaturvedi.

Despite the film's mixed response, Sharvari was widely appreciated for her screen presence and freshness.

The actress will also be seen in "Alpha" opposite Alia Bhatt and co-starring Bobby Deol. With Imtiaz Ali's upcoming film adding to her lineup, fans are extremely thrilled and excited to see their favourite star in a big project.

Saraswati Puja. Instead, she performed a small puja in her room with her film script, alongside a picture of a notebook which she inscribed on it, decorated with fresh hibiscus flowers. She wrote, "Couldn't be home for Saraswati Puja today, so I did my own little puja with the script in my room. 'Happy Dussehra! Vijay Dashmi ki Hardik Shukkam Nai! Starting to shoot a very special film with a very special director



Bigg Boss 19: Awez Darbar Had 'No Fear' Of Ex-Shubhi Joshi Wild Card Entry, Refutes Cheating Claims



Baseer Ali and Amaal Mallik put serious allegations against Bigg Boss 19's evicted contestant Awez Darbar, but he chose to give it back to them without any drama. Outside the house, Splitsvilla fame Shubhi Joshi also slammed Awez with grave accusations, and his eviction gave birth to reports that the content creator's family paid 2 crore to makers for his voluntary exit out of fear of the family's reputation getting distorted if Shubhi entered the show as a wildcard. But what is the reality behind such claims? Awez Darbar, in an exclusive chat with News18, revealed it all.

While speaking to us, Awez slammed reports of his voluntary exit and said, "Are voluntary exit mein 2 crore dekar kyu bahar aaunga? Agar mil rahe hote to baat alag hoti. Honestly, mein tab bhi wapas nahi aata because mujhe honestly bohot maza aaraha tha." However, there's a possibility that there might not be an eviction this week due to the festival week. When asked if Shubhi's wild card entry had something to do with him, the influencer strongly said, "He had no fear," and while refuting the cheating claims, said, "Sab wildcard chahte hein, ye naya trend ban gaya hai. I want to say now that I am out, there's going to be no wildcard" (thumbs down action).

While speaking about Shubhi, Awez added, "Just like she has proofs, I too have things against her, but I won't demean her just like how I didn't defame Baseer (Ali) and Amaal (Mallik). Nagma, who is the most important person to me, knows everything, and that's what matters to me. I only want to think about her and not about the person who doesn't matter to me." "All of these people want fame, but please go somewhere else. I won't give you footage. I am happy with whoever I am with, so that's it," he concluded.

About Awez Darbar's Eviction

Shubhi, in an interview, also confirmed that she and Awez had a past relationship, which sparked speculation that he had cheated on Nagma Mirjkar. Awez's eviction came after he was in the bottom three, along with Ashnoor Kaur and Pranit More.

Vicky Jain Calls Himself 'Blessed', Showers Love On Ankita Lokhande: 'Stay With Us Forever'



Television superstar Ankita Lokhande and her husband Vicky Jain are giving major festive couple goals this Dussehra. Vicky recently took to his social media account to share a heartfelt note dedicated to Ankita, expressing his gratitude for having her as his life partner. Sharing a video of their festive celebrations, Vicky posted a beautiful video reel that shows glimpses of his gorgeously decorated spaces at home. One frame features a nameplate with Vikas and Ankita in stylish script, while another shows a colourful rangoli made of flowers and green leaves, setting a vibrant festive mood.

In the video, Ankita, who is seen all decked out in a



beautiful red net sari, can be seen decorating the flower rangoli and lighting up the diya. Vicky seemed to have got emotional and overwhelmed on seeing his beautiful wife taking care of her home and filling it with love and joy. Vicky wrote, "Happy Dussehra. Blessed to have a wife like you, Manku, who takes care of me and our home with so much love. The way you decorate and fill our house with festive joy means the world. May good always win over evil and happiness. Stay with us forever."

He shared, tagging Ankita Lokhande in the post. The note reflects not only the couple's festive spirit but also the affection and appreciation they share for each other. Ankita and Vicky, who tied the knot in December 2021 after dating for a few years, have often been vocal about their bond. The two, post their wedding, were seen in the reality show Smart Jodi that they won, followed by being seen in the television superhit reality show Bigg Boss Season 17, where their relationship was put through several tests and went through a series of ups and downs. But Ankita and Vicky came out stronger and closer to each other. Ankita has always stood by Vicky in all his tough times. Recently, when Vicky met with an accident, Ankita Lokhande was seen standing by him, rock solid.

5 ways to Relax your Mind

Worrying, controlling, trying to keep things together makes relaxation tougher. Here are 5 ways to help even the most wound worriers relax



Finding it difficult to Concentrate?

No matter how old you are, your ability to concentrate can take a hit due to a variety of reasons. We live in a world today where it is easy to get distracted — thanks to easy virtual access. Here are some of the most common reasons that could be making it difficult for you to concentrate...

- Gone are the days when there were just a handful of ways to get in touch with relatives and friends. Today, thanks to the incredible strides that technology has taken, smartphones allow us to constantly stay in touch with people in any part of the globe. While this has its benefits, it also distracts us. Those constant pings and alerts of instant messages more often than not break your line of concentration.

Tip: Mute those alerts and resist the urge to constantly check your phone.

- Social media has literally exploded in our lives. Almost everyone you know, irrespective of age, now has a social media account that they either use to update their day-to-day activities or keep a track of other people's escapades! This constant uploading or surfing on social media accounts can cause your concentration levels to literally go haywire.

Tip: If you absolutely cannot do without logging in to your social networking account daily, do it twice a day at most. And avoid logging on when you're working. Constantly checking your emails because you're scared of missing an important mail or worse, a flash sale? Constantly logging in to check your

Are you going through life with body clenched, stress and tiredness doggedly following your every step? How long does it take you to relax and unwind every day? According to research, some people are so wound up in everyday stress they are unable to relax. According to relaxation coach Jane Jackson, constant connection to the internet contributes to distraction and stress. Screen time is also directly related to insomnia, which affects four in 10 people. Here's a to-do relaxation guide:

Don't get too needy about relaxation:

If you cannot relax, don't hit the stress button. Just remember there are 6-year-olds to 60-year-olds, who are trying their best to unwind, but can't. Don't try too

hard to relax. Just let go. Says BK Shivani, a member of the Bramhakumaris spiritual organisation, "Just loosen yourself up. Tell your kids to think nothing. Hug your worries. Make them your friend. Focus on breathing. Try to be at complete peace. If you are tense, let it be, allow the tension to settle in. Don't fight anything. It is this fighting that doesn't allow you to unwind. Feel every thought, there's nothing positive or negative."

Relax your focus:

Don't pay attention to anything in particular. Think about the abstract. Pay attention to nothing. According to mathematicians at Case Western Reserve University, stopping a thought burns more energy than thinking of stopping a truck on a downhill slope. Says Atul Vyas, a Jaipur-based yoga guru, "Yoga teaches you to focus on one point, but that can stress you more. So, just be. Try not to focus on any one point. Don't make any rules for the mind. Watch how it eases."

Accept:



- While multitasking is a good thing, not everyone is good at it. And if you can't manage to do things simultaneously, you'll simply end up getting distracted and wasting more time completing your tasks.

Tip: Sometimes it is better to do one thing at a time instead of everything together.

- It often happens that when you don't have much to do, it results in boredom, which may lead to an inability to concentrate even on the most mundane of tasks.

Tip: Deal with this by telling yourself that once you focus and complete the task, you will reward yourself with something.

- Feeling anxious can also impair your ability to concentrate on things — this is because your mind is so caught up with that one particular subject, everything else pales in comparison and you may end up making mistakes in what you're attempting to do.

Tip: Calm yourself down — take a couple of deep breaths — clear your mind and then attempt your task. There's no point getting anxious over things beyond your control.

emails will cause the task you're currently doing, to suffer. If you stop to check and reply to each mail that you get, you'll never be able to work without getting distracted.

Tip: Unless you're in a job, which demands you constantly stay glued to your emails, there is no need to check your inbox more than twice or thrice a day at most.

- Your smartphone is called 'smart' for a reason. Apart from the plethora of tasks it can accomplish, it also has options for playing games, listening to music, surfing the web or even watching a movie. However, being stuck to your smartphone all the time will cause you to neglect other parts of your life not to mention, distract you from your chores.

Tip: Make a conscious effort to dedicate not more than a certain amount of time to your smartphone every day. While it might seem difficult at first, with patience and practice, you'll soon realize that you can do without your precious smartphone all the time.

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This is the 'miracle' way to relax. Whatever is happening around you, in your life — good or bad — just accept it. Says Ma Naina of Osho ashram, "Don't struggle or fight what is happening. You will exhaust yourself. Nobody can control what is happening around them."

Don't chase perfection:

Most people get exhausted by their wish-list and high expectations. Visual images from social media dictate the way we should live, that leaves us sad. Set your standards low, there will be less pain and disappointment. Says relaxation coach Mark Gibson, "Simplify your life goals, do some habit restructuring, be okay with not doing

well and having disappointments too. Conquer your emotional suffering by eliminating negative attitudes and limiting beliefs. Shift from fear to freedom."

Hug uncertainty:

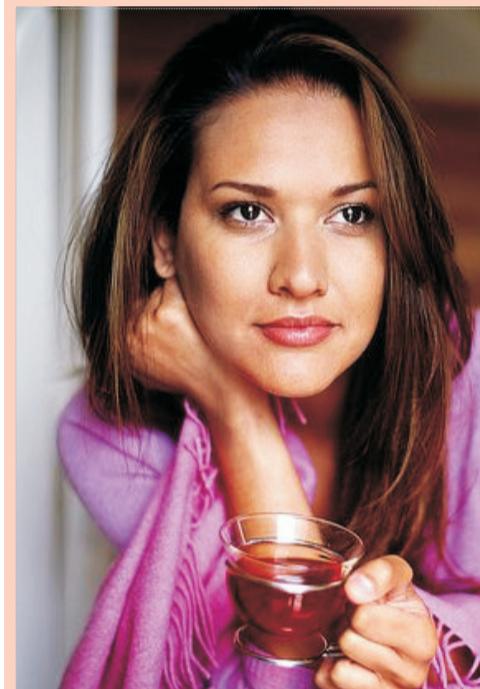
Don't try to control your life too tightly. Make uncertainty your best friend and learn how to deal with changed plans. Says spiritual coach Katja Rusanen, "Take life to be an unknown destination, with no guarantees. Loosen up to life's mystery. Be joyful in the journey."



Make this season your healthiest with supplements

Fight off the chills, the seasonal flu, cracked feet and chipped nails with healthcare products and simple tips.

easy to get rid of. Prepare them for winter with a nourishing cream that has moisturizers and natural oils. These also smell lovely and if used daily, it'll keep your paws protected. Drink up. Aside from combating dehydration and curbing cravings for snacking, drinking more water also works to improve skin and hair hydration. For an extra kick, have a hydrolysed collagen drink. This activates your collagen-producing cells to give your skin a plumper appearance. This could be the perfect prep for the party season.



Home remedies for tummy aches

A tummy ache is a common complaint and affects people of all ages. The causes could be several — indigestion, menstrual cramps, irritable bowel syndrome or even gastritis. Simple home remedies might not cure you of your ailment but will definitely ease your symptoms and give you temporary relief. Here's what can help...

- When your tummy aches during your period, try sipping on a cup of hot chamomile tea. It will ease the cramps and lessen the spasms. Even a regular stomach ache can also be treated with chamomile tea. Its anti-inflammatory properties will relax the muscles of your upper digestive track so that the contractions that thrust food in your system, will ease up and reduce cramps and soothe your stomach.

- A hot compress is also an effective way to treat a stomachache. Use a hot water bag or an electric heat pad that will relax your abdominal muscles and ease the discomfort.

- An old remedy but an effective one, drinking a cup of rice water will also help ease tummy aches.

Instead of throwing away the water that is left after the rice is cooked, add some to a cup and sip on it. It is said to soothe inflammation and provide relief.



ensures easy digestion.

- Ginger tea is another good option. Simply add some ginger bits to a cup of hot tea and drink it. The chemicals present in ginger relax the stomach muscles and relieve cramps. You could also add ginger bits to honey and warm water and drink it.