

## Vishwaguru will attend in person: Congress's swipe at PM after Trump boycotts G20

► US President Trump will skip the G20 Summit in South Africa, while PM Modi is set to attend in person, prompting Congress leader Jairam Ramesh to take a pointed dig at the Prime Minister.

New Delhi (Agency)  
Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Saturday took a veiled dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that 'self-styled vishwaguru' will attend the upcoming G20 Summit in person, after United States President Donald Trump announced that he would boycott the gathering.

"Now that President Trump has announced that he will not be

attending the G20 Summit in South Africa on November 22-23, we can be certain that the self-styled vishwaguru will himself attend in person," Ramesh said in a post on X. Since becoming Prime Minister in 2014, PM Modi has attended all G20 summits, including those in Brisbane, Antalya, Hangzhou, Hamburg, Buenos Aires, Osaka, Riyadh (virtual, due to COVID), Rome, Bali, and New Delhi.

The senior Congress leader's remarks came hours after Trump declared that no US government official would participate in the summit, citing alleged "human rights abuses" against white farmers in South Africa.

Even earlier, Ramesh had taken a swipe

at PM Modi for skipping the 22nd ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, alleging he wanted to steer clear of a possible confrontation with President



Trump amid India's trade dispute with the US. PM Modi attended the ASEAN Summit held in October this year virtually, citing the ongoing Deepavali festivities in India as his reason.

US TO BOYCOTT G20 SUMMIT

In a post on his social media platform,

Truth Social, Trump said that no US government official would attend the Group of 20 Summit scheduled to take place on November 22 and 23.

"It is a total disgrace that the G20 will be held in South Africa. Afrikaners — people descended from Dutch, French, and German settlers — are being killed, and their land and farms are being illegally confiscated," Trump wrote. The President, however, said he looked forward to hosting the 2026 G20 Summit in Miami, Florida.

The Trump administration has long accused South Africa's ruling government of allowing violence and discrimination against white farmers, a charge repeatedly dismissed by Pretoria. South African officials maintained that white citizens still enjoy better living conditions than most Black South Africans, even decades after apartheid ended.

'We're not criminalising dissent': Priyank Kharge defends Karnataka's Misinformation Bill draft

Bengaluru (Agency)

The Karnataka government is likely to introduce the Karnataka Misinformation and Fake News (Prohibition) Bill, 2025 in the next Assembly session, IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge said on Friday, asserting that the proposed law targets only "harmful falsehoods presented as fact," and not dissent, humour, or creativity. Speaking at Truth, Trust & Technology: A Policy Dialogue on Online Speech Regulation, Kharge said the bill is being drafted in consultation with the Law and Home Departments. "We are not criminalising humour, dissent, or creativity. The bill excludes satire, parody, opinion, and art. We are only criminalising the spread of harmful falsehoods presented as fact," he said.

The minister described misinformation as a threat to democracy, society, and the economy. "The World Economic Forum's 2024 Global Risks Report ranks misinformation and disinformation as the number one short-term global threat. Disinformation is not harmless — it is weaponised deception," Kharge said.

He added that public consultation would be central to the bill's process. "We have started a very important dialog today. This should not remain within four walls — it must be debated publicly so that people understand the dangers of misinformation, disinformation, malinformation, and fake news." Kharge said the aim of the legislation is to build a society rooted in scientific temperament and economic growth.

## With PM Modi Inaugurating 4 New Vande Bharat Trains, Fleet Count At 164

Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) (Agency)

Indian Railways now operates a total of 164 Vande Bharat Express train services across the country after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday flagged off four new Vande Bharat trains from Varanasi, officials said. Dilip Kumar, Executive Director of Information and Publicity for the Indian Railway Board, told ANI, "We already have 156 Vande Bharat Express services across the country, and with the addition of 8 new services, the total will now be 164. Today, the Prime Minister flagged off the Banaras-Khajuraho Vande Bharat Express. Besides this, we are introducing Lucknow-Saharanpur Vande Bharat Express, Firozpur-Delhi Vande Bharat Express, and one Ernakulam-Coimbatore-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express."

The newly inaugurated Vande Bharat Express trains will operate on the Banaras-Khajuraho, Lucknow-Saharanpur,

Firozpur-Delhi, and Ernakulam-Bengaluru routes. By significantly reducing travel time between major destinations, these trains will enhance regional mobility, promote tourism and support economic activity across the country.



The Banaras-Khajuraho Vande Bharat will establish direct connectivity on this route and save about 2 hours and 40 minutes compared to the special trains currently in operation. The Banaras-Khajuraho Vande

Bharat Express will connect some of India's most revered religious and cultural destinations, including Varanasi, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, and Khajuraho. This link will not only strengthen religious and cultural tourism but also provide pilgrims and travellers with a fast, modern, and comfortable journey to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Khajuraho.

The Lucknow-Saharanpur Vande Bharat will cover the journey in approximately 7 hours and 45 minutes, saving nearly 1 hour of travel time. The Lucknow-Saharanpur Vande Bharat Express will greatly benefit passengers from Lucknow, Sitalpur, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly, Moradabad, Bijnor, and Saharanpur, while also improving access to the holy city of Haridwar via Roorkee. By ensuring smoother and faster intercity travel across central and western Uttar Pradesh, this service will play a key role in enhancing connectivity and regional development.

## Kids Can Grow Up But Should Be Obedient: BJP On Ajit Pawar's Land Scam Reply

Once a vocal critic of Ajit Pawar in the past, Rane refrained from making further comments on the issue.

New Delhi (Agency)

The controversial land deal linked to Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son, Parth, has given a new handle to the NCP stalwart's traditional political rivals to target him over his response to allegations. The BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP are constituents of the ruling Mahayati alliance.

Responding to Ajit Pawar's earlier remark that "when your children grow up, they do their own business," BJP MP Narayan Rane on Saturday quipped, "Children can grow up, but they should be obedient. What more can I say about it?" Once a vocal critic of Ajit Pawar in the past, Rane refrained from making further comments on the issue.

Maharashtra minister and BJP leader Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil has said that Ajit Pawar's "busy schedule" may have delayed his response to the controversy. "If Ajit Pawar had acted when he first got wind of the Pune land issue, this situation might not have arisen. But considering his busy schedule, sometimes a few decisions happen

automatically," Vikhe Patil told reporters on Friday. Vikhe Patil, a former Congressman, and the Pawars have been political rivals in western Maharashtra for decades. The controversy pertains to the alleged illegal sale of 40 acres



of government land in Pune's Mundhwa area, reportedly worth around Rs 1,800 crore, which Opposition leaders claim was purchased by a company linked to Ajit Pawar's son Parth for only Rs 300 crore with a stamp duty waiver.

## Can't Act Like A 'Yes Man': Chirag Paswan On Criticising Bihar Law And Order

Chirag Paswan justified his criticisms of the law-and-order situation in Bihar months back as a sign of a responsible alliance partner.

Patna (Agency)

The NDA is united in Bihar this time and will put up a record performance, LJP (Ram Vilas) chief and Union minister Chirag Paswan has said, pointing out that the alliance had managed to form a government despite having a divided camp in 2020. He also justified his criticisms of the law-and-order situation in Bihar months back as a sign of a responsible alliance partner.

Paswan had contested solo in the 2020 elections over differences with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar even though he backed the BJP. But now the situation has changed. The NDA camp is now united, whereas the Mahagathbandhan lies divided, stung by friendly fights and vote splits, he told while flying to attend a rally in a chopper. "The NDA was divided in 2020. Upendra Kushwaha ji and I contested separately (from the NDA). But despite the NDA being divided and a strong united Mahagathbandhan, we managed to form the government, though by a thin margin. Today, there is a united NDA and a divided Mahagathbandhan. There are vote splits and friendly fights. We will benefit from this unity. We will have a walkover even in difficult seats due to the RJD vote split," said the son of veteran politician, the late Ram Vilas Paswan.

This will help the NDA touch record figures in the assembly elections, asserted Paswan, claiming that he has received "positive feedback" from the 14 seats that voted in the first phase last Thursday.

"We will touch all-time figures this time. Under Nitish Kumar's leadership, NDA's best performance was in 2010. Given the current situation, after attending over a hundred rallies, I believe we will reach an all-time high figure. And since I believe in manifestation, I would like to believe that I will win all 29 seats (that LJP is contesting).

## Congress proud flagbearer of 'Vande Mataram': Kharge hits back at BJP's swipe

New Delhi (Agency)

As the political row over national song, 'Vande Mataram' escalates, Congress on Friday hit back at PM Narendra Modi saying Rabindranath Tagore had suggested that the first two stanzas of the song be adopted and it was "shameful" of the Prime Minister to accuse the Nobel laureate of harbouring a divisive ideology. The Opposition party also demanded an apology from Modi.

After inaugurating the year-long commemoration of "Vande Mataram" to mark 150 years of the national song, the prime minister said important stanzas of the national song were

dropped in 1937, which sowed the seeds of the partition, and asserted that such a "divisive mindset" is still a challenge for the country.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh shared extracts from Sabyasachi Bhattacharya's definitive biography of "Vande Mataram", giving the background of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) resolution of October 29, 1937 that adopted the song.

"Three days before the meeting, on October 26, 1937, Tagore wrote to (Jawaharlal) Nehru on this issue. It



was Gurudev himself who suggested that the first two stanzas of the song be adopted," Ramesh observed in a post on X. In another tweet, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge his party has been the proud flagbearer of

"Vande Mataram", which awakened the collective soul of the nation and became the rallying cry for freedom, whereas BJP and RSS have "avoided" the national song despite its universal reverence.

**'No outside dictation'**

After religious groups in J&K objected to singing of "Vande Matram" in schools, CM Omar Abdullah on Friday distanced his govt from the row, saying the decision on celebration of its 150th anniversary of schools in the UT was not taken by the Cabinet and asserted that there should be no outside dictation.

## Karnataka ends nine-day sugarcane farmers' stir; announces Rs 3,300 per tonne procurement price

The government also decided to consider the request of sugar factory owners to revise the tax of 60 paise per unit on the electricity procured from them.

New Delhi (Agency)  
The state government on Friday defused the nine-day, intense protests by farmers, which had spread across sugarcane growing districts of North Karnataka, by deciding to increase the procurement price for sugarcane from Rs 3,200 to Rs 3,300 per tonne. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held several rounds of talks with representatives of farmers and owners of sugar factories for over seven hours before announcing that the factories will offer Rs 3,250 per tonne of sugarcane and the government will extend a subsidy of Rs 50. The protesting farmers who had demanded Rs 3,500 per tonne called off their strike after the announcement.



Last year, 5.6 crore tonnes of sugarcane was produced in the state, while this year, it is expected to cross 6 crore tonnes. The government has to now bear the brunt of the incentive. The government also decided to consider the request of sugar factory owners to

revise the tax of 60 paise per unit on the electricity procured from them.

After the meeting, Siddaramaiah told the media that sugar mills should pay Rs 3,250 for 11.25% recovery of sugarcane, excluding the cost of harvesting and transportation. "The government has decided to pay an additional Rs 50. The new procurement price of Rs 3,300 per tonne is Rs 100 higher than the price of Rs 3,200 finalised by the Belagavi deputy commissioner. Almost all sugar factory owners have agreed to this. Separate procurement prices will be fixed which varies from district to district as per the percentage of recovery. I am confident that the farmers

## News box

**Cops step up heat on school buses, 67 fined for violating norms in Gurgaon****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

During a drive between Nov 3 and 6 across schools in the city, traffic police issued 67 challans to school buses and drivers for traffic rule violations, vehicle deficiencies and incomplete documentation. Officers conducted on-ground awareness sessions about safety norms, parking during pick-up and drop-off, bus capacity, first aid kits, replacement of expired fire extinguishers and ensuring functional surveillance cameras. Drivers were reminded of emergency helpline numbers — 112 and 1095 — for immediate assistance. The police also appealed to school operators to educate drivers about the "safe school vehicle policy" and promote full compliance.

**Lawyer, balloon seller & entrapment: How unlikely pairing ran fake Pocso case racket****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

A city lawyer, her husband and a balloon seller were arrested on Friday for allegedly running an extortion racket that blackmailed innocent men by fabricating them in fake Pocso cases. Geetika Chawla, the lawyer, her husband Harsh Kumar, and their associate Hanuman preyed on families already struggling with marital discord, police said. Police discovered the extent of the racket after a 17-hour raid at the couple's house in Sector 72, led by DCP (south) Hitesh Yadav and a seven-member special investigation team. The cops uncovered Rs 1.1 crore in cash, gold worth Rs 2.9 crore, forged documents, fake Aadhaar cards, and multiple mobile phones. The income tax department also launched a parallel probe into the unaccounted wealth. According to police, the gang's modus operandi centred on identifying men who were entangled in matrimonial disputes and came to Geetika for legal advice on divorce. The lawyer would first gain the trust of these men, and then collude with their estranged wives and Hanuman to gather their personal and financial information.

But why? "The lawyer would first persuade the men to opt for settlement out of court and pay the estranged wives a lumpsum to end the case," a police official said. If the men refused to pay for the so-called compromise, they were allegedly threatened and, in several cases, falsely implicated in Pocso or even rape cases. "The lawyer would reach a compromise with the estranged wives. That they should file fake cases against their husbands so that they give in to the pressure and end up paying more. This way, the wives would get their money and the lawyer, a hefty share," the official said.

One such victim recounted, "I went to Geetika Chawla for help. But she turned against me and joined hands with my wife to demand money. When I refused, I started receiving threatening calls from unknown numbers." Police have come to know about three such cases so far, where the estranged wives are believed to have shared their husbands' whereabouts, making it easier for the gang to trap them. One such plot unravelled on Oct 29, when balloon-seller Hanuman — posing as Rohit from Farrukhabad in UP — filed a complaint at Sector 65 police station, accusing Vishal Aggarwal of sodomising his eight-year-old son. Vishal was Geetika's client and had come to her for legal help in his divorce case.

**Noida murder mystery: Severed head, limbs of woman's body found in Sector 82 drain; cops scan over 500 CCTVs for clues**

**Noida.(Agency)** Twenty-four hours after the dismembered body of a woman was recovered from a drain in Sector 82, cops are yet to identify the victim or ascertain how it reached there.

On Friday, teams from Sector 82 police station widened their search and combed areas within a 3km radius of the spot where the body was first spotted by a sanitation staffer to locate the severed limbs and head. "Nearby forested areas, drains and parks were searched to trace the missing body parts. More than 500 CCTV cameras in and around the sector and connecting routes were scanned. But we are yet to pick up any lead," additional DCP Sumit Shukla said.

Cops have asked their counterparts in Delhi, Ghaziabad and Haryana to share lists of women, aged 30-40 years, who were reported missing over the past week. Investigators are also scanning social media platforms to pick up information.

While the autopsy report is still pending, police believe the woman may have been killed roughly 24 hours before her body was found around 11am on Thursday. They are analysing CCTV footage and toll data for about 550 four-wheelers that passed through the service road off the Noida Expressway since Monday. Forensic analysis has indicated the woman was murdered elsewhere, but her body was thrown into the Noida drain to derail the investigation. Her head and palms were severed, and clothes removed to prevent identification. Officers said multiple injury marks were visible on the torso, suggesting a brutal assault before death.

**25 acres of Aravali forest cleared of farmhouses, walls****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Around 25 acres of encroached land in the Raisina Hills of Sohna were cleared on Friday as part of a demolition drive in the Aravallis. The forest department led the operation, pulling down boundary walls, farmhouses and other illegal structures built on protected land. Officials said the action aimed to reclaim forest and PLPA-notified areas that have seen widespread illegal activity over the years. Encroachments on forest and Aravali land are being removed. More drives are planned in the coming days. We will publish notices in newspapers and allow 10 days for people to respond, after which demolition drives will be carried out across the district," Raj Kumar, divisional forest officer of Gurgaon told.

The Raisina Aravallis are classified as 'gair mumkin pahad', a notified and uncultivable hill zone that falls under the protection of Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900, and Aravali notification, 1992. The Union environment ministry's notification designates 'gair mumkin



pahad' (uncultivable land) as protected territory where construction, electrification and tree removal require official permission.

The Raisina stretch has remained under scrutiny since the National Green Tribunal (NGT) flagged violations in several petitions related to land sales and construction.

The tribunal directed Haryana to prevent any non-forest use and restore degraded patches. "We are focusing on restoring the ecological integrity of the area," the DFO added.

According to a forest department survey, at least 500 farmhouses have been built illegally on Aravali land in Gurgaon, concentrated in areas such as Gwal

Pahari, Abheypur, Gairatpur Bas, Sohna, Raisina and Manesar.

In May this year, an NGT bench led by chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava ordered the Haryana chief secretary to ensure that no illegal construction or tree felling took place in the area and to file an affidavit on the action taken. Last year, NGT took suo motu cognisance of a report on illegal construction at Ansals Aravali Retreat in Raisina. The tribunal issued notices to the authorities and stated that the rebuilding of demolished structures was a "flagrant violation" of its earlier orders.

On Dec 9 2022, NGT instructed the Haryana and Rajasthan govt to set up monitoring committees for quarterly reviews of encroachment clearance in 'gair mumkin pahad' areas in Gurgaon, Faridabad, Nuh and Alwar.

The district administration has carried out several demolitions, but unauthorised activities continue. The tribunal also directed the chief secretaries of both states to ensure compliance with its orders.

**Ex-serviceman shoots self in Gurgaon behind bank where he worked a year ago****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

A 55-year-old ex-serviceman allegedly shot himself behind the Sarva Haryana Gramin Bank branch in South City 2 on Thursday evening. A preliminary inquiry has found no foul play and financial distress is suspected to be behind the desperate act, police said.

Ashok Kumar was a resident of Tikli village. Police said he had served in the army till 2011, took voluntary retirement and later worked as a security guard at the same bank branch for around seven to eight years before leaving the job nearly a year and a half ago. He had been unemployed since then, an officer said. That day, Kumar allegedly left home around 10am, telling his wife he had to go and discuss terms for a job. He went to his former workplace instead and withdrew Rs 1 lakh from his bank account around 12pm. He returned to the bank around 2.30pm and met his former colleagues. He then sat near the rear side of the bank for nearly two hours.

Around 4.30pm, locals and bank employees heard a gunshot. Upon reaching the spot, they found Kumar lying in a pool of blood near an empty cart. Police were informed and the body was sent for a postmortem.

Police said he shot himself in the head from point-blank range with his licensed .32-bore revolver. They found his revolver and a suicide note in his bag that read, "Sabko Ram Ram. Jo mere se dukhi the, ab khush raha (Ram Ram to all. Those who were unhappy with me, be happy now.)"

"We have recorded the statements of his former colleagues. However, nothing suspicious has come to light as of now. We are verifying if he was under any financial or personal stress," said a senior officer. Kumar is survived by his wife and two sons. His elder son is a constable with Haryana Police. Police said no complaint has been received from the family so far and proceedings under Section 194 (inquest) of the BNSS have been initiated.

**70% of Haryana farm fires in last 2 weeks but total count still low****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Haryana's stubble burning season has entered its most active phase, with farm fires climbing around 70% in the past two weeks. Satellite data shows that the state recorded a total of 206 incidents between Sept 15 and Nov 6.

While the numbers are still the lowest in six years, the data reveals a clear late-season surge. In the week ending Oct 19, 12 farm fires were recorded. But in the next three weeks, the numbers were 46, 72 and 63, respectively. District-level data shows Jind (47 fires), Fatehabad (28) and Kaithal (27) account for nearly half of Haryana's total farm fires so far. Officials attributed this increase to the peak of paddy harvesting in central and northern districts. A senior HSPCB official, "Most

fires are now coming from Kaithal, Jind and Fatehabad. We expected a delayed peak this year because of late-maturing paddy varieties. But we will be

witnessing the peak as this year the harvest season started late because of delayed monsoon."

Compared to the same period last year, when 888 fires were recorded, this season's count is lower. However, the

recent surge mirrors the typical Nov spike that worsens air quality across Delhi-NCR. Daily detections rose from single digits in mid-Oct to 35 fires on Nov 6, marking the highest single-day total this year.

To combat farm fires, officials have deployed teams for night patrols and drone monitoring in high-burn districts. "The intensity is expected to taper off after Nov 25 if weather remains stable," the official said.

Darshan Singh, a technical assistant in the agriculture department, said the number of stubble burning cases has decreased over the years.

"We have been working to solve the problem since 2014 by providing full support to farmers. For instance, in Kurukshetra, all farmers who applied for compact bale machines had their applications approved," he said.

**Haryana to add 450 e-buses to fleet, Gurgaon set to get 100 more****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Haryana govt on Friday announced rollout of 450 e-buses, including 100 e-buses each for the city and Faridabad.

The initiative, under the sustainable mobility plan, aims to reduce congestion and vehicular pollution through "integrated transport planning", additional chief secretary (transport) Raja Sekhar Vundru said while speaking at 18th edition of Urban Mobility India Conference. The move marks progress in phase 2 of the PM eSewa scheme, under which Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) had allotted 450 buses to Haryana earlier this year. However, the agreement with the selected concessionaire could not be signed due to certain observations raised during the finalisation process. TOI on Friday reported that 100 e-buses would be allotted to Gurgaon and Faridabad under

Phase 1 of PM eSewa. In Sept, CESL announced that the bidding process for procurement and operations under Phase 1 was completed and urged the state govt to expedite the signing of agreements with



the selected operator.

Officials from the Gurugram Metropolitan City Bus Limited (GMCBL) confirmed that all issues have now been resolved. "The matter has been cleared, and it will

soon be placed before the high-powered purchase committee for final govt approval," said a GMCBL official. Once approved, the 200 e-buses for Gurgaon are expected to hit the roads by early next year. GMCBL has a fleet of 200 buses, but 50 of them were given to Faridabad at the direction of the state govt.

Effectively, Gurgaon has a modest fleet of 150 buses. Another eight air-conditioned buses were added in 2021. With the ageing fleet, most city buses are prone to breakdown, compounding gaps in the public transportation network. Speaking at the conference

Vundru said Haryana is emerging as a model of progressive urban mobility, with a major focus on sustainable urban development, infrastructure enhancement.

**Gurgaon air 'poor' for 5 days, AQI set to worsen as temp drops****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

The city's air, which was 'poor' for the fifth consecutive day on Friday with an air quality index (AQI) of 253, is expected to worsen as falling temperatures and weak winds set off an inversion effect, a weather phenomenon that traps pollutants close to the ground.

According to weather officials, the current conditions are ripe for a buildup of smog across NCR. Clear skies, declining wind speeds, and cool nights are likely to prevent vertical mixing of air, allowing fine particles to linger longer in the lower atmosphere. The air quality early warning system for Delhi has predicted that the region's air will remain in the 'very poor' category at least till Nov 10. Moreover, farm fires are likely to add to the pollution. The system noted that while daytime highs have dropped by

up to 5°C below normal and minimum temperatures by 2-4°C, wind speeds are expected to fall below 10kmph during evening and night hours — conditions that favour pollution stagnation.

"The ventilation index, which indicates how easily pollutants disperse, is projected to drop to around 6,000 m²/s by Sunday — the threshold below which air stagnation occurs," the forecast said.

Inversion layers form when cooler air near the ground gets trapped under a warmer layer above it, stopping pollutants from rising and dispersing. As a result, emissions from vehicles, construction sites, and crop residue burning stay suspended in breathing levels, reducing visibility and worsening respiratory distress. India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials

said there was little chance of relief unless wind speeds picked up or a western disturbance changed weather conditions. "This is the classic Nov inversion phase. Once winds calm and nights turn cooler, pollutants stop dispersing. Air quality is likely to dip further over the weekend," an IMD official said.

In the city, data from Haryana state pollution control board (HSPCB) showed that the three out of four stations that were active, Sector 51 (275), Vikas Sadan (219), and Gwal Pahari (263), recorded AQIs in the

'poor' range on Friday. Sector 51 continued to be the most polluted, as local traffic emissions, construction dust, and calm evening winds kept particulate matter concentrations high. Officials said the situation could worsen over the weekend as dispersion conditions weaken further.

Health experts warned that the rising pollution could mean a need for more care of the elderly and the children. "Prolonged exposure to poor air quality has serious ramifications on respiratory and cardiovascular health. On days when the AQI remains in the poor category, PM2.5 and PM10 can reach the lungs and even enter the bloodstream. Besides exacerbating asthma, bronchitis, and COPD, it also leads to heart attacks and strokes. The most vulnerable groups are children, the aged,

and those who have chronic ailments," Dr Nikhil Modi, senior consultant, respiratory, critical care.

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## NEWS BOX

**US urges court to overturn Trump hush money conviction over 'improper evidence'**

New York. (Agency)

The US government said President Donald Trump's hush money criminal conviction in New York should be thrown out, because it was based on improper evidence and a legal theory preempted by federal law. In a Friday filing with a state appeals court in Manhattan, the Department of Justice adopted Trump's view that he deserved immunity for official acts he took as president, and introducing evidence of such acts at trial "can never be harmless."

It also said federal law barred jurors from considering whether Trump violated federal election law by concealing a hush money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels, the disclosure of which could have disrupted his 2016 presidential campaign.

The Justice Department made its arguments in a friend-of-the-court brief supporting Trump's bid to overturn his May 2024 conviction on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records. Courts need not take such briefs into account when ruling. A spokesperson for Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, whose office won the conviction, declined to comment.

**JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CITES LANDMARK SUPREME COURT CASE**

Trump and the Justice Department cited the US Supreme Court's landmark July 2024 decision shielding presidents from prosecution over official acts, and barring prosecutors from discussing such acts in criminal cases about private behaviour.

**Brazil's top court rejects Bolsonaro's appeal against 27-year jail term**

World. (Agency)

A panel of Brazil's Supreme Court unanimously voted on Friday to reject former President Jair Bolsonaro's appeal challenging his 27-year prison sentence for plotting a coup to remain in power after the 2022 presidential election. Justices Flávio Dino, Alexandre de Moraes, Cristiano Zanin and Carmen Lucia voted to reject the appeal filed by Bolsonaro's lawyers. The panel has five seats, but one has been open since late October.

Lawyers for Bolsonaro, who has repeatedly denied wrongdoing, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The former president will only begin serving his sentence once all appeals are exhausted, which could happen as early as this month, court sources said. In September, four of the five judges on the Supreme Court panel voted to sentence Bolsonaro to 27 years and three months in prison for five crimes, including participating in an armed criminal organisation, attempting to violently abolish democracy, and organising a coup.

Typically, defendants sentenced by the Supreme Court need at least two justices to diverge on the ruling to request an appeal that could significantly change the decision. With only one dissenting, Bolsonaro's lawyers filed a lesser motion, requiring review of specific parts, including a reduction in prison time.

**FORMER PRESIDENT UNDER HOUSE ARREST**

Bolsonaro has been under house arrest for three months for violating precautionary measures related to his alleged attempts to persuade US President Donald Trump to interfere in his criminal case. His lawyers are expected to request he be allowed to remain under house arrest to serve his coup-plot sentence due to health concerns.

Bolsonaro has had recurring intestinal issues since he was stabbed while campaigning in 2018, including six related surgeries, the last one a 12-hour procedure in April.

**Mexico foiled Iranian plot to kill Israel ambassador, says US official**

World. (Agency)

Mexican authorities, working closely with US and Israeli intelligence agencies, foiled an alleged Iranian plot to assassinate Israel's ambassador to Mexico, Einat Kranz Neiger. The conspiracy was orchestrated by the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in late 2024 and remained active through the first half of this year before being disrupted, The Times of Israel reported, citing a US official.

"The plot was contained and does not pose a current threat," the official said. "This is just the latest in a long history of Iran's global lethal targeting of diplomats, journalists, dissidents, and anyone who disagrees with them, something that should deeply worry every country where there is an Iranian presence."

While the US official declined to detail how the plot was uncovered or thwarted, intelligence sources cited by Haaretz and Axios linked the operation to IRGC officer Hasan Izadi, also known as Masood Rahema.

Izadi allegedly helped coordinate the plot from Iran's embassy in Venezuela, where he served as an aide to the ambassador. The plan was reportedly advanced through the Quds Force's Unit 11000, which has been tied to attempts against Jewish and Israeli targets in Europe and Australia.

Israel's Foreign Ministry praised Mexican security and law enforcement agencies for preventing the attack. "We thank the security and law enforcement services in Mexico for thwarting a terrorist network directed by Iran that sought to attack Israel's ambassador," spokesman Oren Marmorstein said. He added that Israel's intelligence services would "continue to work tirelessly, in full cooperation with partners around the world, to thwart terrorist threats from Iran and its proxies against Israeli and Jewish targets globally."

**US official warns of 20% flight cuts if shutdown crisis deepens**

**Donald Trump formally endorsed Indian-origin entrepreneur, Vivek Ramaswamy, for the Ohio Governor race, praising his conservative record and leadership. The endorsement came months ahead of statewide polls in 2026.**

World. (Agency)

US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy on Friday warned that airlines could be forced to cut up to 20 percent of flights if the ongoing government shutdown does not end soon. The warning came as US airlines scrambled to cope with unprecedented government-imposed reductions.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has instructed airlines to reduce 4 percent of flights on Friday at 40 major airports due

to staffing shortages caused by the shutdown. The cuts are expected to rise to 6 percent on Tuesday and 10 percent by November 14 if the situation persists.

During the record 38-day shutdown, around 13,000 air traffic controllers and 50,000 security screeners have been working without pay, leading to growing absenteeism. Many controllers were informed this week that they would again receive no pay for a second consecutive period.

The Trump administration is increasing pressure on Democrats to approve a Republican plan to fund the federal government and reopen operations. The administration has used the threat of major air travel disruptions as leverage. Democrats, however, argue that Republicans are responsible for the crisis because they refuse to negotiate over health insurance subsidies. Duffy told reporters that additional flight reductions were possible if absenteeism among air traffic



controllers rises. "I assess the data," Duffy said. "We're going to make decisions based on what we see in the airspace."

The initial 4 percent reduction began at 6 am ET on Friday, affecting around 700 flights from major carriers including American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines, and United Airlines. New York Governor Kathy Hochul shared a photo of a flight board filled with cancellations, writing, "The GOP shutdown has grounded America just in time for the holidays!"

Separately, increased air traffic controller

absences on Friday forced the FAA to delay hundreds of flights across major airports, including Atlanta, San Francisco, Houston, Phoenix, Washington, D.C., and Newark. By midafternoon, over 4,000 flights had been delayed nationwide. FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford said earlier this week that 20 percent to 40 percent of air traffic controllers were not reporting for work each day. American Airlines CEO Robert

Isom said the initial impact on customers would be limited but warned that the situation could worsen. "This level of cancellation is going to grow over time and that's something that is going to be problematic," he told CNBC. American Airlines reported 220 flight cancellations on Friday, affecting 12,000 passengers, most of whom were rebooked within a few hours. United Airlines cancelled 184 flights on Friday and expects to cut 168 on Saturday and 158 on Sunday.

**5 Indians kidnapped in Mali as African nation faces al-Qaida, ISIS uprising**

World. (Agency)

Five Indian nationals have been kidnapped in Mali, officials confirmed on Saturday, as the West African nation battles mounting violence driven by al-Qaida and ISIS-linked terror group. According to news agency AFP, some armed men kidnapped the Indians on Thursday near Kobi in western Mali. They were employed by a firm involved in local electrification projects, a security source said. A representative of the company told AFP that all other Indian workers had since been evacuated to the capital, Bamako. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the abductions.

"We confirm the kidnapping of five Indian nationals. The other Indians working for the company have been evacuated to Bamako, the capital,"

the representative said. Mali, ruled by a military junta, has faced years of instability and growing extremist violence. The al-Qaida-linked Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims



(JNIM) has recently tightened a crippling fuel blockade, worsening an already severe economic crisis.

Kidnapping of foreign nationals are not uncommon in Mali, where repeated coups and jihadist attacks have eroded state control since 2012.

In September this year, JNIM fighters had abducted two Emirati citizens and an Iranian near Bamako. They were released last week after a ransom of around USD 50 million was reportedly paid.

Born out of a Tuareg rebellion in 2012, the JNIM has steadily expanded its reach from northern Mali into the country's centre and across borders into Burkina Faso and Niger. Mali's junta leader, Assimi Goita, came to power vowing to crush the insurgency, but his decision to cut defence ties with France and the United States and pivot toward Russia has delivered little success. While Bamako remains under government control, the prospect of JNIM advancing toward the capital worries many Malians. In areas it dominates, the group has imposed strict rules.

**Over 1,200 US flights cancelled as FAA orders cuts amid government shutdown**

World. (Agency)

More than 1,200 flights were cancelled across the United States on Friday as airlines reduced schedules to ease pressure on air traffic controllers working without pay amid the ongoing federal government shutdown. 40 major airports, including Atlanta, Denver, Newark, Chicago, Houston, and Los Angeles, were affected.

The Federal Aviation Administration ordered the reductions after an increasing number of controllers called in sick due to financial strain from missed paychecks. Flight reductions began at four percent and could rise to 10 per cent next week if Congress does not reach a funding agreement. Airlines emphasised that international flights were largely unaffected, but passengers still faced long security lines, delays, and last-

minute cancellations. American Airlines reported nearly 220 cancellations for Friday, Delta about 170, and Southwest around 100. Flight tracking site FlightAware also reported thousands of delayed flights, with major hubs like Boston, Chicago O'Hare, Atlanta, and Reagan National experiencing average delays of over an hour.

Some passengers at Houston's George

Bush Intercontinental Airport said security lines snaked through terminals, with travellers lying on the floor while waiting.

The disruptions highlight the tangible effects of the nearly six-week-long shutdown, which has left many federal employees either working without pay or furloughed. With the busy Thanksgiving travel season approaching, airlines warned that cancellations could increase if the shutdown continues. Travellers voiced frustration as their holiday plans were disrupted. "This is hurting a lot of people," said Rhonda, 65, at LaGuardia Airport. Retiree Werner Buchi added, "This will get serious if things drag on to Thanksgiving."

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy

reassured the public that air travel

remains safe despite the operational

disruptions.

**Islamists linked to terror groups spreading hardline ideology: Hasina jabs Yunus**

World. (Agency)

Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sharply criticised interim government chief Muhammad Yunus, claiming he lacks control over the administration and allowing Islamist groups linked to terrorist organisations to spread hardline ideologies. The Awami League leader, in a piece she wrote for The Week magazine, claimed extremist groups such as Hizb ut-Tahrir are spreading oppression and noted that attacks on religious minorities, women, and indigenous communities have risen sharply, citing incidents reminiscent of the 2016 Holey Artisan Café attack.

"These are the same extremist forces responsible for atrocious and deadly attacks such as the 2016 assault on the Holey Artisan Café -- groups we worked tirelessly to contain and root out."

Hasina, who has been living in India since the fall of her government in August 2024, said true democracy cannot exist under a

head of state with no electoral mandate.

The former prime minister claimed that crimes such as murder, rape, muggings, arson, and theft have become commonplace in Bangladesh, with perpetrators facing no accountability. "In the first weeks of the Yunus administration's rule, thousands of attacks targeting Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and indigenous people were reported. Still today we hear weekly reports of shrines, homes and places of worship needlessly destroyed," Hasina said. She accused Yunus of banning the Awami League, disenfranchising millions, and enforcing an unconstitutional charter aimed at legitimising authoritarian rule.

In the piece, she said Bangladesh, once known for its religious tolerance and secular values, is now plagued by daily acts of violence against religious



minorities, women, girls, and her party's supporters. "True democracy cannot exist while our country is governed by a head of state with no electoral mandate, who has banned the most popular political party, disenfranchised tens of millions of its own citizens and threatened our constitution with an unconstitutional charter," she said. "This charter does not reflect the voices of the people of Bangladesh and is nothing more than a political instrument designed to legitimise increasingly authoritarian

rule under the guise of reform," she alleged. Hasina criticised Yunus' governance, alleging that he is not in control of his administration and his lack of governance experience is woefully apparent to ordinary Bangladeshis.

"But the truth is that Yunus is not really in control at all. Highlighting her government's achievements, Hasina noted that Bangladesh had transformed into one of the world's fastest-growing economies, with GDP rising from USD 47 billion to nearly USD 600 billion, millions lifted out of poverty, growing female workforce participation, and unprecedented foreign reserves. "When we came to office, our economy was fragile, our people had little hope and our infrastructure lagged far behind. Sadly, following a golden period, Bangladesh is led by an administration with no constitutional basis, no experience of governance and no electoral mandate," she said.

**NEWS BOX**

Drivers of e-buses go on strike demanding better wages in Pondicherry

**PUDUCHERRY. (Agency)**

Demanding better wages, the drivers of e-buses—which were recently introduced by the Puducherry Road Transport Corporation (PRTC)—went on a sudden strike on Friday morning, causing inconvenience to commuters across the city. Normal services resumed by afternoon after talks between the drivers and transport authorities.

A total of 25 e-buses are being operated by the PRTC under the Smart City project, through private participation at a cost of Rs 23 crore. The eco-friendly buses, which were inaugurated on October 27, were well received by the public. However, just 10 days into operations, the drivers stopped work and parked all the buses at the depot opposite the Botanical Gardens, demanding better wages.

The protesting drivers claimed that though they had been promised a monthly salary of Rs 21,000, they received only Rs 17,000 after deductions and were not paid any daily allowance. They sought an increase in pay to Rs 25,000 per month. Following the strike, the transport administration held talks with the drivers and assured to look into their wage concerns. Subsequently, the drivers agreed to resume duty.

It may be noted that currently, 25 battery buses are in operation, and the administration has announced plans to recruit more drivers as Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured 75 additional battery buses for Puducherry under the Smart City initiative. A banner inviting applications from bus drivers has been placed at the depot.

**Kurnool bus tragedy: Owner of Vemuri Kaveri Travels arrested**

**KURNOOL. (Agency)**

Kurnool District police on Friday arrested Vemuri Kaveri Travels owner Vemuri Vinod Kumar in connection with the October 24 bus accident that killed 19 people near Chinnatekuru village in Kallur mandal.

The crash occurred around 3 am on National Highway (NH)-44 under Ulindakonda Police Station limits when the private bus, carrying several passengers, overturned, leaving multiple dead and injured.

Police booked both the bus driver and the owner for negligence and violation of transport safety norms. Investigation officer and Pathikonda DSP Venkata Ramaiah said a detailed probe was conducted into the incident.

Police earlier arrested the first accused, bus driver Miriyala Lakshmaiah, on October 28 and produced him before the court. Continuing the investigation, officers apprehended the second accused, owner Vemuri Vinod Kumar, around 7.30 am on Friday. He was produced before the Kurnool Judicial First Class Magistrate (Special Mobile Court), which granted him bail the same day. District SP Vikrant Patil said the investigation into the travel agency's role and vehicle maintenance practices is ongoing to ensure accountability for the fatal crash that shook the district.

**Justice league | Telangana HC directs govt to decide on retired surgeon's pending pension within eight weeks**

**MYSURU. (Agency)**

The Telangana High Court has directed the state Health, Medical & Family Welfare Department to decide within eight weeks the pending pension plea of Dr M Suresh Kumar, an 80-year-old retired assistant civil surgeon, who has been seeking his full pension and gratuity since 2006.

Hearing WP No. 33807 of 2025, the court asked Dr Kumar to submit a fresh representation within two weeks. It instructed the principal secretary and other officials to pass orders within eight weeks of receiving it.

Dr Kumar retired on November 30, 2006, but a 2001 ACB case delayed his benefits. Following his 2007 conviction, the state issued G.O.Rt. No. 142 in 2008, imposing a 100% pension cut and withholding Rs 1,35,788 in gratuity. However, the high court, in July 2024, acquitted him of all charges, holding that the prosecution failed to prove bribery allegations. Despite the acquittal, Dr Kumar said the department continued to rely on the 2008 order, causing him financial hardship. In his writ plea, he sought a Writ of Mandamus to set aside the GO and release his pension, arrears, gratuity, and medical benefits. While not deciding on the monetary claims, the court directed the department to resolve the matter in a time-bound manner.

**HC raps police for delay in filing counter in custodial torture case**

The Telangana High Court on Friday criticised Cyberabad police for failing to file a counter-affidavit in a writ petition alleging custodial torture of a private bank employee at KPHB police station in December 2023.

Justice NV Shrawan Kumar noted that despite earlier directions in April 2024, police had filed only a report instead of a counter. "When you are asked to file a counter, you file some report. Why is the counter not filed?" the judge asked. Though the police submitted CCTV footage from the station as directed, the counter-affidavit remained pending. Granting a final two-week extension, the court adjourned the matter. The petition, filed by Movva Pranee of Kukatpally, alleged that after lodging a complaint in December 2023, he was illegally detained and tortured.

# No street is unworthy of chariot or the god it carries, says Madras High Court

**CHENNAI. (Agency)**

Saying that faith can neither be fenced by caste or creed nor divinity be confined by human prejudice, the Madras High Court on Friday ordered the authorities of the Kancheepuram district administration and the HR&CE to ensure the Muthukolakkai Amman temple car is taken through the Dalit colony and the Dalits are permitted to enter the temple for worship.

Justice PB Balaji passed the orders on the writ petition filed by A Selvaraj, a Scheduled Caste man of Puthagaram village in Kancheepuram district and the impleading petition filed by S Anandan, district secretary of Tamil Nadu Untouchability Eradication Front (TNUEF) seeking to permit the Dalits to enter the temple for worshipping and the car be taken through their streets. Advocates S Kumaraswamy and R Thirumoolthy, appearing for the petitioners, submitted that the 'upper caste' men have been preventing Dalits from worshipping in the temple which is under control of the HR&CE and stall the care from entering into their streets.

Senior counsel G Karthikeyan, representing three private respondents ('upper caste' men), told the court the route of the car procession cannot be altered as it has been in practice for several decades, and if done so, it may open a Pandora's Box. However, Justice Balaji



disapproved of these contentions saying that he saw no reason why the private respondents should be worried about future and non-existent claims as on date.

"Faith cannot be fenced by caste or creed and divinity cannot be confined by human prejudice. God does not reside in certain streets alone. No street is unworthy of the chariot or the god it carries. God never discriminates. So discrimination cannot be wrapped in the sanctity of tradition," he remarked. He said the private respondents cannot use settled custom, tradition and practice as shields to resist change which the

society has witnessed. Recording the submissions of the collector on the feasibility of taking the car through the Dalit colony, the judge ordered the temple car shall proceed on the lines of the proposed integrated route suggested by the collector during trial and main run. He directed the authorities, including to "ensure that there is no form of discrimination practiced or permitted in allowing the people from worshipping the deity." The Constitution under Article 14 abolished untouchability. Such abolition was not just in physical form but in true letter and spirit.

## From St Chavara to Mother Eliswa: Koonammavu, where saints once walked

**KOCHI. (Agency)**

With only hours left for the beatification of Kerala's first nun, Venerable Mother Eliswa who established the first indigenous religious congregation for women (TOCD), all eyes are on Koonammavu on the outskirts of Kochi where she lived for 43 years.

However, apart from its association with this saintly woman, who also established the first convent school and boarding school for girls in Kerala in 1868, not many are aware that Koonammavu is the only place in India to be closely associated with eight saintly souls.

**Rich spiritual patrimony**

When European missionaries were active in evangelisation in Varappuzha and its suburbs



in the 17th century, Koonammavu became a hub of Roman Catholicism.

With the nearby island of Arappuzha being the epicentre of the missionary activities of European Carmelite friars, Koonammavu too inherited their spiritual patrimony. Here, a

### Andhra Pradesh scraps DPR tenders for Polavaram–Banakacherla Link Project

**HYDERABAD. (Agency)**

In an unexpected move, the Andhra Pradesh government has cancelled the tenders it had invited for preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Polavaram–Banakacherla Link Project (PBPL). Sources indicated that Andhra Pradesh is instead considering a fresh proposal to divert Godavari waters from Polavaram for another interlinking project. The development came to light during informal discussions between Central Water Commission (CWC) and Telangana officials at the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) meeting held in Hyderabad on Friday, chaired by CWC chairman and PPA CEO Atul Jain. Telangana officials, who attended the meeting, said that Andhra Pradesh had withdrawn the tenders issued on October 6 for the DPR preparation as per CWC

**guidelines.****New plan for Godavari diversion**

According to sources, Andhra Pradesh may shelve the Polavaram–Banakacherla proposal and is instead planning to use Polavaram as the off-take point for the Godavari–Cauvery interlink project.

The plan reportedly involves diverting water from Polavaram to a proposed reservoir near Gollapalem in the combined Prakasam district, named Narasimhasagar. From there, water would flow towards Somasila and eventually to the Cauvery.

It is uncertain whether the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) will agree to Andhra Pradesh's proposal, as the currently approved offtake point for the Godavari–Cauvery link is Ichampally in Telangana.

Telangana's response to this reported change is also awaited.

## Officials say too early to label tiger that killed farmer in Bandipur as man-eater

**BENGALURU. (Agency)**

In the wake of Friday's incident where a 52-year-old farmer was killed by a tiger, forest officials and experts said, it is too early to call it a man-eater. "The animal has dragged the farmer for a distance of around 100 metres to the border area. There are clear dragging marks, there are blood stains around, and a piece of flesh from the farmer's thigh is also missing. The animal needs to be captured," said Bandipur Tiger Reserve Director S Prabhakaran. "The identity of the tiger needs to be established, and it has to be confirmed that the earlier human deaths have been caused by the same animal. We are tracking the movements. The distance between each incident also needs

to be accounted for," Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, PC Rai said. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in 2007 issued a series of directions across India, on the criteria for declaring big cats as man-eaters.

"If a tiger/panther begins to seek out, stalk and wait for human beings and after killing one, eaten the body, it is established beyond doubt that the animal has turned

into a man-eater," it said. The NTCA also stated that there are several circumstances under which human beings are attacked. Such circumstances are, a man approaching an area where a tigress is sheltering her cubs; approaching a sleeping tiger/tigress; or a bent-in posture, when tiger consider them as to be an animal and attacks. If the tigress is with cubs and is confined to a limited area with a shortage of natural prey, she is more prone to eat the dead body. Praveen Bhargav, Trustee, Wildlife First, said, "There is a difference between intentional killing and incidental killing. Proper evidence now needs to be established with photographic proof; there is also a need to understand."

# SC order: Kerala faces tough task to shelter lakhs of stray dogs

**KOCHI. (Agency)**

The Supreme Court order directing states to remove stray dogs from public places and rehabilitate them in shelters after conducting sterilisation and vaccination in accordance with the Animal Birth Control (ABC) rules has landed the state government in a tight spot. At a time when Kerala is preparing for the local body elections, it will be a Herculean task for the government to implement the order within the stipulated time. The state has to file a compliance report before the apex court after eight weeks, on January 13, 2026.

"We will hold discussions with the department of local self-government (LSDG) on implementing the order. It is difficult to find space to open shelters for stray dogs in all districts," Minister for Animal Husbandry J Chinchurani told.

Kerala being a densely populated state, there is stiff resistance from the public against establishing ABC centres, she said. "We have decided to open ABC centres in the districts of Kollam, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, and

Kannur this year. Recently, I went to Ochira in Kollam to lay the foundation stone for an ABC centre, where we had to deploy police because of protests. In Kannur, we have established a centre, spending 1 crore, but the local residents are demanding to shift it," the minister said. The state has 19 ABC centres functioning under the animal husbandry department. According to officials, 15,767 stray dogs were sterilised and 88,744 dogs vaccinated in 2024-25. In the current financial year, 9,737 strays have been sterilised and 53,401 vaccinated, till September 30. As per the 2019 livestock census, there were 2.89 lakh strays in Kerala and the results of the 2024 census are yet to be released.

Despite the ABC drive, the stray dog population is estimated to have increased 30 to 40% after 2019. "We opened a portable ABC centre at Nedumangad in Thiruvananthapuram district on October 29 and plans are afoot to open such centres in



conditioned operation theatre requires Rs 28 lakh. Kennels will be arranged at such centres, where the dogs will be kept under observation for five days after sterilisation. We had submitted a report regarding the plan before the Supreme Court," the Chinchurani said.

The state has reported around 2.25 lakh dog

Karnataka Child Rights Commission expresses dismay over poor facilities in Mangaluru NRC

**MANGALURU. (Agency)**

Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights president Shashidhar Kosambe visited the Mangaluru district Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) at the district Wenlock hospital on Friday and expressed displeasure over poor facilities there.

Shashidhar Kosambe checked the quality of nutritional food provided to the malnourished children and gathered information on the facilities provided from the parents of the children.

Kosambe reprimanded the centre supervisor for failing to update the government-mandated daily wage rates. The mother currently receives Rs 370 per day for staying with her child at the centre, which covers both her meals and compensation for lost wages. "The old circular on the payment to malnourished children's mothers is still put up at the entrance. Even the register on children admitted at the centre is not maintained," he lashed out, directing Wenlock DMO Dr Shivaprasakash to issue a notice to the medical officers of the centre and submit a report.

Later speaking to the reporters, Kosambe said, "After assuming charge three days ago, I have visited Mysuru and Chamarajanagar. I had high expectations that malnourished children here in Mangaluru are provided quality service. But the facilities here are not satisfactory. The air conditioner which should be running 24x7 is not in working condition. The CCTV is also not working at a time when kidnapping children is increasing across the nation. The officials have claimed that they have identified 28 severely malnourished children (SAM category) but facilities for these children are unsatisfactory. The register is not maintained and the dietitian of the centre is providing information on accounts, nutrition food and the registry which is unfortunate," he said.

## The WTO is dead, long live the WTO

It was a clear and balmy morning when I arrived in Geneva as ambassador to the World Trade Organization. I was ushered into the VIP lounge. Ambassadors visiting Geneva as representatives of their countries at any of the missions there have the privilege of using this lounge twice: once upon arrival and once before departure. I had been working in Brussels for the previous three years as deputy chief of the Indian embassy. The gloom and incessant rain of Brussels had worn us out considerably, and it was great to see clear blue skies, the magnificent Lake Geneva, and the snow-clad Alpine mountains in the distance. My work was not easy. The counsellor in my mission, Mohan Kumar, who distinguished himself later in many key assignments in the foreign service, came to me and said that our reputation was at its nadir. This followed the single-handed crusade by former minister Murasoli Maran at the previous ministerial conference in Doha in 2001 against the introduction of new issues such as investment and competition policy into the WTO's work programme, making them subject to its powerful and rigid dispute settlement mechanism. My first task was, therefore, to re-establish friendly links with other ambassadors, which I achieved by visiting more than 40 of them and getting on first-name terms with all. While this is not the place to describe all that transpired over the next three years, I thoroughly enjoyed my stay, loved being part of the core negotiations, and attended meetings where I pitted myself against some of the finest diplomats worldwide. I am, therefore, sad to see the current status of the WTO, where it barely survives, with all its carefully crafted and negotiated trade rules in tatters, leaving global trade itself in a disarray. Trade is an essential component of global growth. As William J Bernstein puts it in his bestselling book, *A Splendid Exchange: How Trade Shaped The World*, "World Trade has yielded not only a bounty of material goods, but also of intellectual and cultural capital, an understanding of our neighbours, and a desire to sell things to others rather than annihilate them." Trump would probably disagree with Bernstein. He cast the first stone to break away from a well-established multilateral system of trade rules by arbitrarily raising tariffs on steel and aluminium in his first term. He struck an even more brutal blow later by rendering the WTO dispute settlement mechanism dysfunctional by disagreeing on the appointment of members to the appellate body. Any ruling from the dispute settlement panel cannot therefore be taken up on appeal, breaking the legal chain. This meant that even if a member country broke multilaterally-agreed trade rules, the affected country could not impose retaliatory tariffs. Back in 2018, Trump expressed his resentment towards the WTO, claiming that the WTO was set up "to benefit everybody but us", adding: "We lose the lawsuits, almost all of the lawsuits in the WTO." In his second term, he has virtually dismantled the WTO, although he recently paid a part of the amounts due to the organisation. He imposed a set of tariffs based on his perception of unfair treatment of the US. Not only did he impose high tariffs on many countries, but he also exercised his right to change them whimsically, at times based on extraneous factors such as his belief that an ally in Brazil, former President Jair Bolsonaro, was not being treated fairly by the judiciary, or that Indian companies were buying oil from Russia. He decided to flex his muscles against China and imposed a succession of increasing tariffs. He denied that the tariffs signalled a trade war, stating that the "trade war was lost many years ago by the foolish or incompetent people who represented the US".

In a continued attempt to re-assert its relevance in global energy markets, the US once more expended ammunition at Russian oil majors Rosneft and Lukoil. The sanctioned companies are being dislodged from the US banking system starting November 21. Markets are being cautiously apprehensive as prices are firming up. However, informal estimates predict a movement in narrow band despite the imminent initial decrease in Russian oil flows, a contentious issue, facilitate the resurrection of alternatives like the Russian 'shadow fleet'. Moscow-based Transneft, the largest oil pipeline company with more than 70,000 km of network, handles 80 percent of pipeline supplies of Russian crude; it remains a major facilitator of oil exports to China, Finland, Germany and a few east European consumers. Embargoes often act as catalysts for surrogate corporate entities that circumvent restrictions and facilitate covert trade. Meanwhile, fears of supply constraints are allayed with considerable OPEC capacity in abeyance. The Latin American flows are expected to surge in 2026. Stabroek Block, a massive field off Guyana's shore operated by ExxonMobil and partners, is expected to report substantially higher production. Petrobras resumed production at the Tupi field while clocking record levels at Búzios, two of the most prolific pre-salt offshore assets in Brazil that are slated to place the country among the top five oil producers. With rising oil sands production in Canada and sustained shale activity in the Permian Basin, production will significantly increase in the next two years. Prior to 2022, Russian crude constituted barely 2 percent of India's import basket, but touched 37 percent later on the back of discounts and favourable trade terms. China remained the largest buyer of Urals. However, energised Saudi ties with India and China helped Riyadh's share in India's imports to remain robust, and its exports to China hit a two-year high this August at 1.65 million barrels per day, a figure that could be re-visited soon. Aramco's recent offer of price cuts for Asia is evident of the kingdom's intent to corner a larger share of the regional demand. Mindful of the trade initiatives with US and burgeoning supply sources over the last couple of years, the dependency on Moscow is easier to taper. This column had earlier mentioned America's keenness to raise its share in the Asian markets, pre-dominantly India. The latest import figures corroborate it.

Buyers often consider energy security synonymous with economic security, a euphemism for bargain pricing. Though this time, it may be tough to ensure both; a steep rise seems a distinct improbability. While the markets decipher the financial implications of latest moves, a different scenario is unfolding in the background. As American efforts remain focused on strangling Moscow's financial resources in a bid to end the Ukraine war, a flashback to 2022 reveals a different narrative.

Russia, the third largest producer of oil, holds a vast incentive for exploration and production. The ageing infrastructure and obsolete technology needs fresh infusion. Downstream capacity and product mix warrant substantial upgrading. Donald Trump is reluctant to "fully arm" Kyiv with Tomahawk missiles, capable of inflicting damage on Russia's depleting refinery capacity.

Their use could invoke retaliation that would derail hopes of any 'collaboration and economic alignment' between Russia and America. Exxon quit Russia abruptly in 2022 in the wake of Ukraine war, leaving behind massive stranded assets including at Sakhalin-1, the large, foreign-funded oil-and-gas project with Chinese and Indian equity participation. The American oil major is currently engaged in protracted litigation seeking compensation of \$4.6 billion from the Russian authorities. Vladimir Putin recently signed a decree allowing Exxon to return to the project. At the Alaska Summit, he had suggested US cooperation for energy exploration in the Arctic. Oil majors seek cost-effective and guaranteed high-return opportunities as the conventional sources begin to exhaust. The geopolitics of the region could dramatically alter the US's oil dynamics.

Given the sensitivity of oil economics for Beijing, despite its close energy ties with Moscow and Tehran, oil was not on the agenda as Trump and Xi Jinping met recently at Busan in South Korea. Was it selective laissez-faire or a long shot at veiled diplomacy? The Trump-Putin détente at Budapest—a venue symbolising Hungary and Slovakia's continued dependence on Russian oil via the Druzhba pipeline—failed to materialise due to a political and strategic impasse. Berlin was accorded an exemption from the latest US sanctions for Rosneft's three Germany-based refineries. The relief comes in an aptly denoted 'Letter of Comfort' from the US government. In the present atmosphere of contradictions and vested interests, it is futile to focus on the price and availability. In *The Apprentice's* first season that aired in January 2004, the opening lines by a younger Trump, comfortably seated in a limo, speaks of his accomplishments but draws on his brush with heavy debt: "I fought back and I won... I used my negotiating skills... I worked it all out and I am having more fun than I ever had." These words, despite the present maze of confusion that prevails with his directives and rhetoric, kindle hopes for a finer realpolitik that's a global requisite. The world is eagerly waiting to see how much of real life merges with the real.

## Collaboration key to curbing menace of digital arrests

**Evidence suggests that a significant share of these crimes is orchestrated from across the border and the money laundered through organised financial networks**

Cyber swindlers continue to be on the prowl across India, ever inventive in their subterfuge. Notwithstanding regular warnings from the Reserve Bank, commercial banks, and law enforcement agencies, legions of citizens fall prey with dispiriting regularity. Fresh stratagems to defraud surface regularly, with the most lucrative one at present being the so-called 'digital arrest', in which impostors masquerade online as officers of the law and subject victims, often senior citizens, to a sustained psychological siege to rob them. Armed with sophisticated tools, these racketeers conjure convincing facsimiles of courtrooms and police stations until their targets surrender emotionally and transfer large sums for an 'official pardon' or 'bailout'. The Supreme Court's recent 'shock' at being told that more than ₹3,000 crore had been syphoned off through such digital arrests underlines the urgency in confronting this growing menace. The apex court took suo motu cognisance after an elderly couple from Haryana was 'virtually detained' on the basis of forged judicial and investigative orders, and coerced into parting with over ₹1 crore. The court has now



sought a comprehensive probe into the menace.

Evidence suggests that a significant share of these crimes is orchestrated from across the border and the money laundered through organised financial networks. This brings a human-trafficking dimension to the financial

crime. Indians recruited by transnational criminal syndicates with promises of lucrative IT or marketing roles are subsequently compelled to run online scams under inhuman conditions. Myanmar and Cambodia have emerged as big hubs for this industrialised criminal syndicates. Several hundred Indians have managed to flee these scam factories this year alone; many more are estimated to be still trapped.

This cross-border element makes coordination essential in tackling cybercrime—between states in the country or with the authorities in other nations. The training of law officers and inter-state collaborative work that the I4C or Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre has been doing must be vastly expanded. Its work with tech and telecom firms in thwarting crime must evolve constantly to anticipate novel ruses. Banks must deploy sharper analytics and resilient IT systems to flag high-value transfers to unrelated individuals and offshore accounts. Above all, sustained public awareness is indispensable. Only a well-informed citizenry, aided by agile institutions, can blunt these scamsters.

## Lokpal has flattered to deceive

**Fulfilling expectations raised by Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement remains a big challenge**

THE seven-member Lokpal team has sought seven BMW cars for its use. The demand has caused a public uproar, though there is nothing surprising about it. It's what all recipients of sinecures expect. The main question critics should ask is what they themselves expected the Lokpal to achieve? Poor Anna Hazare, an ex-soldier-turned-crusader, expected corruption to be reduced, if not eradicated, if the Lokpal kept breathing down the necks of the corrupt. Those who set Anna on the path of demanding such a solution, such as Arvind Kejriwal and Kiran Bedi, were themselves bureaucrats who should have known better. Hazare and the common man he cares about want a crackdown on the small-scale corruption that needles them daily. No Lokpal would be able to achieve that. Ranga Rao, my friend and colleague in the NGO called Public Concern for Governance Trust, is an old IB (Intelligence Bureau) hand. Fighting corruption is an important part of his personal agenda. When I had told him that the demand for a Lokpal, if conceded, was going to end in disappointment, he stared at me in disbelief. He admits now that I was right. Selecting a potential crusader as a Lokpal member is the first major hurdle to cross. There was a judge I knew who would fit the bill perfectly. Justice CS Dharmadhikari of the Bombay High Court, who graced the Bench during my police service, was one such crusader. When I returned to Mumbai after four years in Romania, where I served as India's ambassador, the good judge phoned me and invited me to meet him at his residence. I readily agreed. He wanted to confront corrupt police

officers and high court judges head-on so that the criminal justice system would at least become more acceptable to the people. What he suggested was that I should phone each of the recalcitrant IPS officers and request them to live within their means. He, on his part, would tread a similar path with their lordships. I replied that I was already unpopular with many of my ex-colleagues and I did not want them to even stop nodding at me in recognition. But Justice Dharmadhikari was not going to give up in a hurry. He contacted Principal Judge Agnir of the City Civil and Sessions Court (he later became an HC judge) and succeeded in arranging a meeting of all sessions judges in Mumbai which Justice Dharmadhikari and I addressed. Lacking the courage of the crusader, I did not dare to ask the police chief to arrange a similar meeting of IPS officers!

There is a strong feeling among those who care for justice and fair play that critics and opponents of the government are being targeted by probe agencies. Officers chosen for high office and judges given post-retirement sinecures will be selected from those who will not disturb the ideological divide, even if they do not personally subscribe to any ideology. In the absence of political will, no Lokpal, except a crusader, will be able to fulfil the expectations raised by the 2011 anti-corruption movement spearheaded by Anna Hazare. The creation of seven posts in the Lokpal setup will only be a drain on the exchequer—without any concrete reciprocal returns. If the polity wanted in its heart of hearts to combat corruption which troubled the anti-corruption

crusaders led by Anna, it should have strengthened the Right to Information Act and the Right to Service legislation. The latter, enacted by states such as Maharashtra, compels officials to decide



matters concerning citizens in a time-bound manner. Surprisingly, even officials who are supposed to dispose of files in a specified time frame do not know that such a legislation has been on the statute book for the past few years. Penal clauses have not been clearly defined in this case, even as they have been specified in the RTI Act. But all top posts have been filled! What do sinecures entail? Besides 'last pay drawn' at senior levels of the judiciary and the bureaucracy,

accommodation, transport, secretarial assistance, telephones and other paraphernalia that accompany high office are all assured. The most important aspect of such deals is that favoured judges and bureaucrats, who normally retire at the age of 60 or 65, are kept in clover for another five years or even longer. There is a great opportunity at present to re-employ judges to clear the backlog of pending court cases. Depending on the mental and physical health of those about to retire, they can be re-employed for five years at a time till they reach the age of 75. People will not grudge the expenditure incurred as the imperative of reducing pending cases in courts is of primary concern in upholding the rule of law. The focus should be on criminal cases as undertrials languish in our jails for years. This is against all tenets of jurisprudence. It makes us look uncivilised. Besides, delay in punishing the guilty breeds contempt of the legal system itself, leading to the proliferation of crime and criminals.

Coming back to the BMW demand, the principle of equality requires that officials favoured with such cars while in office should continue with the same perks if they are offered sinecures after retirement. I, for one, would not grudge them their BMWs if they could bring some big sharks to book.

The Lokpal can concentrate on defaulters favoured by the party in power. These offenders are mostly those who have switched parties so that they can continue with their corrupt ways.

## NEWS BOX

## Nod for Trivandrum Metro Phase I alignment

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)** Putting an end to uncertainties and inordinate delays, the state government has finally given in-principle approval for the first phase alignment of the long-pending Thiruvananthapuram Metro Rail project. The 31-km-long corridor will stretch from Pappanamcode to Enchakkal, covering 27 stations and connecting key points, including all three phases of Technopark, Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, Thampanoor bus terminal, central railway station, Secretariat and medical college hospital.

The decision was taken by the state government following the recommendations of the expert committee chaired by the chief secretary. The Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) has been asked to prepare the detailed project report (DPR) in line with the Metro Rail Policy, 2017. "KMRL will now finalise the DPR and submit it to the Centre for final approval. The finalised alignment links educational, administrative and IT hubs under a single rapid transit network," said an official.

The metro route will begin at Pappanamcode and pass through Kaimanam, Killippalam, Thampanoor, Palayam, Medic al College, Ulloor, Sreekaryam, Pangappa, Karyavattom, Technopark Phases I-III, Kazhakottam, Kochuveli, Veli, and the airport, before terminating at Enchakkal.

**Karnataka governor inaugurates Tumkur varsity's new campus; says digitisation reduces rural-urban gap**

**TUMKUR. (Agency)**

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated the new campus of Tumkur University at Bidarakatte near here on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, the governor said that through Digital India, the country has ushered in new era of transparency and equality. "These projects have brought education and governance to the fingertips of every citizen.

"It has reduced the gap between urban and rural India," Gehlot said, adding that the confluence of digital empowerment and self-reliance is leading the country towards the goal of 'Viksit Bharat', a developed India by 2047.

"Our universities are playing an important role in achieving this goal. Critical thinking, creativity, and the spirit of nation building are being cultivated in the young generation," he said.

He described the new campus 'JnanaSiri' as a symbol of knowledge flood, as it symbolises the ever-flowing stream of knowledge that enlightens students, teachers, and society. Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara said that as a result of former PM Jawaharlal Nehru's emphasis on education, there was an education revolution in the country. "The new campus of Tumkur University needs financial assistance for facilities such as creating a link to the highway and adequate teaching staff, and the government will provide the necessary assistance in the coming days," he said.

**Banakacherla project not in our purview: Polavaram Project Authority**

**VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)**

The Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) has made it crystal clear that the Polavaram-Banakacherla project does not fall under its purview, and the PPA is not the forum to discuss any issue related to it. The clarification came from top PPA officials during a meeting held in Hyderabad on Friday. According to sources, the issue was raised by Telangana's Water Resources Department officials towards the end of the meeting.

In response, the PPA reiterated that the Polavaram-Banakacherla project lies outside its jurisdiction, and advised the officials to approach the Godavari River Management Board or the Central Water Commission instead on the issue.

Senior officials from Andhra Pradesh, who also attended the meeting, confirmed that the Polavaram-Banakacherla project was not part of the agenda. They emphasised that the meeting's focus remained solely on reviewing the status of the Polavaram project.

**Officials say govt will issue fresh notification soon**

During the review, the PPA was informed that the first phase of the Polavaram project is expected to be completed by December 2027. Detailed updates were provided on key components such as the D-Wall, Gap-1 and Gap-2, with the PPA expressing satisfaction over the progress. Officials noted the PPA laid emphasis on land acquisition and rehabilitation and resettlement. Regarding the cancellation of tenders for the DPR of the Polavaram-Banakacherla project—originally notified on October 6—officials clarified that the decision was made prior to the PPA meeting. "The AP government is considering a revision in the project's scope, and a fresh notification will be issued soon," they added.

## DMK forms special cell to handle issues in SIR flagged by party cadre

**Chennai. (Agency)**

DMK has formed a special cell at the party headquarters to look into issues related to the SIR process reported by party workers on the field, said Chief Minister MK Stalin on Friday. Speaking at a meeting, Stalin said, "The Election Commission of India (ECI) has provided a helpline number for inquiries or to report issues related to SIR. We cannot rely on that alone and hence, we have formed a special cell at Anna Arivalayam under the supervision of the party's legal wing advocate NR Elango. We have announced a contact number to reach out to the cell. If the cadre requires any assistance or has confusion regarding SIR, they can contact the cell." Pointing to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi shedding light on irregularities in Haryana, the chief minister said, "That kind of situation should not happen in Tamil Nadu. Prevention should be our duty. Our party's booth-level agents have to shoulder this big responsibility." He further said that BLOs have been issuing the enumeration forms for the past couple of days.

"Only if we submit the filled-in forms, will the names be included in the electoral rolls. If we are not home or at work during the officials' visit, we may lose our voting rights. This is a major issue during this election time. Financially weaker sections, labourers, and

functionaries stood firm behind our leader Kalaignar Karunanidhi. I am saying this because nowadays some people have set out dreaming, they will destroy us. Their dreams will never become true," he added.

Anyone having queries regarding the SIR process can contact the DMK special cell on 8065420020. Sources said on Thursday alone they have received 627 calls.

Stalin directed the party's legal wing and the special cell to present the issues raised through these calls to the Election Commission of India.

**MDMK says SIR being carried out in haste**

**CHENNAI:** MDMK on Friday alleged that the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls was being carried out hastily to benefit BJP. During the party's administrative committee meeting held at its headquarters under A Arjunaraj and addressed by Vaiko, MDMK adopted several resolutions. One of them

stated that the EC had no authority to link the SIR process with CAA to determine citizenship. Another resolution urged the TN government to hold public consultations with residents affected by quarrying.



## Heavy rain delays mango flowering in Karnataka; may hit growers with late harvest, price drop

**BENGALURU. (Agency)**

Bountiful rain this year may not be of much help for mango growers in Karnataka. For, there may be a delay in mango flowering.

Usually, November-December is the flowering season in Ramanagara, Channapatna, Dharwad and other districts in North Karnataka. But in Kolar district, which accounts for around 70% of the state's annual production, it will be from January to February. The Kolar region, however, has not received adequate rain and mango flowering here will not be affected.

The delay in flowering may also lead to a delayed harvest in mango-growing areas of the state

except Kolar. Because of this, mangoes start arriving in markets after March and this may affect growers in Kolar, who also start harvesting by then. Karnataka produces an average of 11 lakh tonnes of mangoes, grown on 1.39 lakh hectares during a normal year. Of this, around four lakh tonnes are sold to people directly. The remaining seven lakh tonnes go to industries where juice, jam, pickles and other items are made.

Mangoes will be available for several months after harvest because of the variation in flowering season in Karnataka – between November and December in Ramanagara,

Srinivasapura in Kolar district, said the Kolar region received normal rainfall this year. There will be no change in the flowering pattern. It will happen in January-February and mangoes ripe by May. But with continuous rain in other mango-growing areas of the state, there will be a delay there in flowering due to moisture in the soil.

"We may see mangoes from across the state arriving in markets at the same time.

Moreover, the likely on-season may help growers harvest a bumper crop. Excess production may not be good news for growers as prices naturally come down," he said.



Channapatna, Dharwad and other districts in North Karnataka and between January and February in the Kolar region.  
Raja Reddy, a mango grower from

### Power outage in Vizag's King George Hospital underlines need for contingency plan

**VISAKHAPATNAM. (Agency)**

Patients at King George Hospital (KGH), the largest public healthcare facility in North Coastal AP, found themselves enduring a nightmare on Thursday when a major power outage plunged several wards into darkness, cut off water supply and halted vital medical services for almost ten hours.

The disruption, triggered around 2 pm after a critical underground cable was damaged during construction works, was finally resolved close to midnight.

Akula Vijaya Lakshmi, a brain tumour patient admitted to the Rajendra Prasad female ward, said, "There was no power, no water, and absolutely no airflow. I could not even get my MRI done. The doctors told us the issue would be sorted soon, but nine hours passed. We come to government hospitals only because we cannot afford private care — but this felt unbearable." She added, "Children and critical patients were crying or unable to express their discomfort. One woman in our ward became unresponsive for some time. Another family fled the hospital and returned only Friday morning. My husband had to bring a hand fan just to help me breathe." Mahesh, whose relative

is being treated for a cardiac ailment, called it "the worst day" of their stay. "No light, no fans, no water — we didn't know how to help our patient," he said.

KGH Superintendent Dr Vani said, "Backup generators ensured all critical areas were powered. The unfortunate death of a 45-

year-old woman yesterday was due to liver complications and not linked to the outage." Teams from APEPCL and hospital authorities worked through the evening to trace and repair the fault. Electricity was restored to all blocks by 11.45 pm. The KGH blackout exposed fragile hospital infrastructure, sparking demands for stricter safeguards, better construction monitoring, and stronger contingency plans. Serving Andhra, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh, families warned any future disruption.

"We repeatedly pleaded with the doctors to save him, saying he couldn't bear the pain anymore. But they were unwilling to provide pain relief or proper treatment. Only after several requests was he shifted to the ICU," she said. She further alleged that the family was later informed that Venu had been placed on a ventilator but was not permitted to see him. "I believe something had already happened to him by then. The staff behaved as though treatment was continuing even after his death," Sindhu said, demanding strict action



## Cardiac patient forced to lie on floor, family alleges negligence at Thiruvananthapuram MCH

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)**

The family of a patient who died after allegedly being denied proper treatment at the Government Medical College Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram, has accused the hospital of medical negligence.

They claimed that the patient, who had suffered a heart attack, was not provided with a bed or pain relief despite his critical condition. K Venu, 48, an autorickshaw driver from Panmana in Kollam, died of heart failure on Wednesday night after reportedly waiting five days for an interventional cardiac procedure. He had been referred from the district hospital in Kollam and admitted to the medical college last Friday for emergency cardiac care. His wife Sindhu said Venu was forced to lie on a cloth spread on the floor as no bed was available.

"We repeatedly pleaded with the doctors to save him, saying he couldn't bear the pain anymore. But they were unwilling to provide pain relief or proper treatment. Only after several requests was he shifted to the ICU," she said. She further alleged that the family was later informed that Venu had been placed on a ventilator but was not permitted to see him. "I believe something had already happened to him by then. The staff behaved as though treatment was continuing even after his death," Sindhu said, demanding strict action



Government Medical College maintained that Venu was provided with the best possible care. "He was admitted nearly 24 hours after the heart attack.

Performing an angioplasty at that stage could have worsened his condition. We administered clot-dissolving medication, but such patients face around 20 per cent mortality risk," said a senior doctor.

## New Tamil Nadu GO on hiring differently abled for govt jobs triggers row

**Chennai. (Agency)**

The Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons has issued a Government Order offering weightage marks in recruitment exams to persons with benchmark disabilities (PwBDs) working temporarily in non-sanctioned Group C and D posts. The order, however, has drawn sharp criticism as it simultaneously declared two earlier GOs on employment of differently abled as "inoperable" and "redundant." Issued on October 31, GO No.24 allows eligible PwBDs to earn additional marks in recruitment exams conducted for the next three years for posts in government departments, local bodies, universities, and public sector undertakings. The weightage will be based on years of service.

While candidates with 2 to 10 years of service will get 5% marks as additional weightage score, those with 11-15 years will get 8%, and those with over 16 years of experience will get 10% marks with a cap of 30 maximum marks. These marks will be added while finalising merit lists in written or non-written recruitment processes, it said. To qualify, candidates must be persons with benchmark disabilities working on consolidated pay, daily wages, or other non-permanent arrangements, and must have completed at least two years of continuous service as on July 24, 2023 and must be still in service. Those completing two years after the cut-off date will not be considered. The scheme applies only to identified Group C and D posts and not



Group A and B posts. The GO said the applicants must be below 60 years of age and possess a valid disability certificate or UDID card. According to official data, 1,077 PwBDs have been serving temporarily for more than two years and will now be eligible for weightage

marks. Recruiting agencies can allow these marks to be used not only for reserved vacancies but also for general and communal categories, provided candidates get the minimum qualifying marks.

The order, however, triggered a controversy as it declared two earlier orders, GO 151 and GO 20 inoperable and redundant, respectively. As per the new order, "No PwBDs were found working in permanent sanctioned posts and rendered two years of service on consolidated pay as on October 16, 2008," the condition required for regularisation under GO 151 issued in 2008. "Regularising 1,077 temporary workers in non-sanctioned posts would violate a Supreme Court order on regularising temporary employees, rendering GO 151 inoperable," the new order said.

**Kummar families face boycott in Telangana's Jangaon for 'supporting SC community'**

**JANGAON. (Agency)**

As many as 25 families of the Kummar community have been boycotted by BC community leaders in Oblakeshavpur village of Jangaon mandal for the past three months. The boycotted families approached Warangal police and lodged a complaint on Thursday. K Chandraiah, a member of the community, told that his community's families are engaged in pottery work and supply pots for village functions.

"There has been an internal clash between the BC and SC community members in the village. The SC members have refused to work for BC families. Following this, BC president N Pedda Komuraiah and vice-president D Uppalaiah instructed BC families to stay away from SC families," Chandraiah said. He added that though the Kummar community is also categorised as BC, they were unaware of the dispute. "As part of our vocation, we handed over pots to SC families for Bonalu celebrations. On learning this, Komuraiah and Uppalaiah directed the villagers to boycott us and not to purchase pots from our families. They told them to buy from Jangaon instead," he said.

"After hearing of the boycott, we questioned Komuraiah and Uppalaiah, who said we supported SC families. That is why they boycotted us," he added.

Following the complaint, the DCP instructed Jangaon Inspector P Satyanarayana Reddy to visit the village. He held a meeting with BC and Kummar community members and explained the possible legal consequences of continuing the boycott. Chandraiah said that even after the meeting, the BC leaders' stance remained unchanged. "They still say it is wrong to speak to SC people," he stated. The inspector said, "We have given them two days to resolve the issue, failing which we will take action."

Government Medical College maintained that Venu was provided with the best possible care. "He was admitted nearly 24 hours after the heart attack. Performing an angioplasty at that stage could have worsened his condition. We administered clot-dissolving medication, but such patients face around 20 per cent mortality risk," said a senior doctor.

# It's a shame Indira Gandhi didn't approve strike on Pak nuke facility: Ex-CIA officer

**Richard Barlow**  
said the  
proposed  
India-Israel strike  
on Pakistan's  
Kahuta nuclear  
facility in the  
early 1980s  
could have  
resolved many  
problems had it  
gone ahead.

**Agency New Delhi.**  
Former CIA officer Richard Barlow revealed that a proposed joint operation by India and Israel in the early 1980s to strike Pakistan's Kahuta nuclear facility was not approved by then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, calling the decision a "shame," as the mission could have resolved numerous problems.

"I was out of government from 1982 until 1985. And I think that may have occurred while I was out of government. I heard about it at some point. But I didn't get my teeth into it because it never happened. It's a shame that Indira [Gandhi] didn't approve it; it would have solved a lot of problems," Barlow told news agency ANI.

Reports and declassified accounts suggest that Israel and India had allegedly planned a preemptive airstrike on Pakistan's Kahuta uranium enrichment plant, the core of its nuclear program. The aim was to prevent Islamabad from developing nuclear weapons



and potentially proliferating them, particularly to Iran, which Israel views as a major adversary.

Barlow, who served as a counterproliferation officer during Pakistan's clandestine nuclear activities in the 1980s, noted that the United States, under President Ronald Reagan, would have strongly opposed any strike on Kahuta, especially if Israel were involved. Such an action could have jeopardized America's covert support for the anti-Soviet

campaign in Afghanistan. "I think Reagan would have cut Menachem Begin's ba\*\*s off if he did anything like that. Because it would have interfered with the Afghan problem," Barlow remarked, referring to the former Israeli Prime Minister's potential involvement.

He also highlighted how Pakistan leveraged its cooperation in Afghanistan to deter US intervention in its nuclear program. Pakistani officials, including Munir Ahmad Khan, used the flow of covert aid as leverage, warning US lawmakers that disrupting support would affect the anti-Soviet campaign. "As you alluded to, what Munir Khan said was that they were basically using the flow of covert aid to the Mujahideen as blackmail. I think that's what Munir was saying to (US Congressman Stephen) Solarz—if you pull aid, we're not going to support the Mujahideen anymore," he added.

## Massive fire near Rithala metro station in Delhi engulfs hundreds of shanties, one killed

**Agency New Delhi.**  
A massive fire broke out and spread around 500 shanties near Rithala metro station in Delhi's Rohini, leaving one man dead and another grievously injured, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said. According to top fire officials, several LPG cylinders were said to have exploded around 11 pm on Friday in jhuggis near Delhi Jal Board staff quarters, Rohini Sector-5, near Rithala metro station, intensifying



the blaze and triggering panic among residents, Police said.

Thick plumes of smoke were seen rising from the area even as locals scrambled to save their belongings and move to safer places. Munna, one of the residents, succumbed to the fire, while another man, identified as Rajesh (30), suffered burn injuries. The DFS said upon information, multiple fire tenders and firefighting robots were rushed to the spot. Police cordoned off the area, and additional fire tenders were kept on standby to prevent the fire from spreading further. The fire was brought under control by early morning, a DFS official said.

## Atal Canteens to offer meal at Rs 5 across Delhi

**Agency New Delhi.**  
The Delhi government will launch the Atal Canteen Scheme on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, providing nutritious meals at affordable prices to the economically weaker sections. Announced in the city's maiden budget earlier this year, the scheme will begin at 100 locations across the capital, with meals at just Rs 5. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Friday that the first phase of the scheme will see the opening of 100 Atal Canteens at pre-identified sites, with operations entrusted to selected organisations. An inter-departmental committee has finalised recommendations regarding site selection, menu, distribution system and management framework.

Each centre will serve 500 meals in the morning and 500 in the evening, with the menu including dal-chawal (lentils and rice), vegetables, and roti. The government will provide subsidies to ensure high food quality. The chief minister said that the distribution will be managed through a digital token system, eliminating the need for manual coupons. CCTV cameras will monitor all centres in real time via DSUB's digital platform.

Kitchens will feature modern appliances, LPG-based cooking systems, industrial RO water and cold storage. Food quality will be tested by FSSAI- and NABL-accredited laboratories, and implementing agencies will submit monthly reports covering food distribution, employee health certificates, fire safety certificates, and valid FSSAI licences.

CM Gupta described the scheme as a step towards ensuring dignity for every poor and working citizen of Delhi.

"Atal Canteen will become the soul of Delhi, a place where no one has to sleep hungry," she said. The initiative, she added, is inspired by Vajpayee's belief that "poverty is not merely a lack of money, but a lack of opportunity." She emphasised that the scheme is more than a food distribution programme, calling it a commitment to social equality. The Atal Thali Yojana aims to ensure that no citizen in the capital goes hungry while maintaining dignity and access to nutritious, clean meals.

## BJP renaming school reflects anti-Ambedkar mindset: AAP

**Agency New Delhi.**  
The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday accused the BJP-led Delhi government of insulting Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar and the Dalit community by allegedly renaming Dr Ambedkar Schools of Specialised Excellence (SoSE) as CM Shri Schools. The BJP, rejecting the charge, accused AAP of politicising Ambedkar's name for "petty political survival."

AAP Delhi state president Saurabh Bharadwaj, at a press conference on Friday, said the decision reflected the BJP's "anti-Ambedkar mindset." He alleged that after forming the government, the BJP had removed Ambedkar's portraits from government offices and was now erasing his name from premier schools. "In any photograph of CM Rekha



Gupta now, Babasaheb's portrait is nowhere to be seen. Only the Prime Minister's picture is visible," Bharadwaj claimed, adding that the move was a "deliberate insult to Dalit

community."

He said that the AAP government had earlier mandated portraits of Dr B R Ambedkar and Shaheed Bhagat Singh in offices of the chief minister, ministers and senior officials to

provide education and social equality.

once named after a great scholar who earned multiple degrees from Columbia and London are being renamed after the chief minister," he added. Rejecting the allegations, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva and General Secretary Yogendra Chandolia said it was "pathetic" that AAP leaders invoke Ambedkar's name for political gain. They alleged that in ten years of governance, AAP's only move was to rename 31 Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas as Dr B R Ambedkar Schools of Excellence, which later lost credibility after being affiliated with the newly formed Delhi Board of School Education.

"The upliftment of Dalits cannot be achieved by merely displaying Ambedkar's photographs," the BJP said, calling for genuine efforts to

provide education and social equality.

## Man linked to Khalistani terror group among 2 arrested in Punjab, arms recovered

**Agency New Delhi.**  
Punjab Police on Saturday arrested two men, including one allegedly connected to terrorist organisation Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), in a major breakthrough tied to the murder of Italy-based Malkit Singh, officials said. According to Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav, one of the arrested men, Bikramjit Singh, is associated with LKF and has a long criminal history, including cases under the Explosives Act, Attempt to Murder, and Arms Act.

"Bikramjit Singh is associated with the terrorist organisation Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) and has a

criminal history with cases registered under the Explosives Act, attempt to murder, and the Arms Act," Director



General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav said in a post on X.

He was also involved in the 2018 grenade attack on a religious site at

Raja Sansi town in Punjab. Preliminary investigation revealed that Bikramjit, acting on directions from foreign handlers, had procured illegal weapons from across the border to carry out sensational crimes in Punjab.

Police have recovered five firearms from the accused, including one PX5 foreign-made .30 caliber pistol, one .30 caliber pistol, one .45 caliber foreign-made pistol, one .32 caliber pistol, and one revolver, along with live cartridges. Further investigation is underway to uncover the full nexus, including both backward and forward linkages of the network.

## Parliament winter session to be held from December 1 to 19

**The Winter Session of Parliament will begin on December 1 and run until December 19, with a total of fifteen sittings scheduled during the 19-day session.**

**Agency New Delhi.**  
President of India Droupadi Murmu has approved the proposal of the Government to convene the Winter Session of Parliament from December 1 to 19, subject to the exigencies of Parliamentary business. Announcing the development on X, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said, "The President of India Droupadi Murmu has approved the proposal of the Government to convene the Winter Session of Parliament from 1st December 2025 to 19th December 2025 (subject to exigencies of Parliamentary business). Looking forward to a constructive & meaningful Session that strengthens our democracy & serves the aspirations of the people." The Winter



Session of Parliament will begin on December 1 and run until December 19, with a total of fifteen sittings scheduled during the 19-day session.

**Delhi HC split over MP Rashid's plea against order on travel expenses**



**New Delhi. (Agency)**

A split verdict in the Delhi High Court on Friday left undecided a petition by jailed Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid seeking directions that the central government pay for his travel from Tihar jail to attend parliament. A division bench split sharply on the question.

While Justice Anup Jairam Bhamhani said the government should meet the travel expenses, Justice Vivek Chaudhary took the contrary view that the state need not bear the cost. "We have not been able to concur on the manner in which the application is to be disposed of. There are divergent and discordant views," Justice Bhamhani said. The matter will be placed before Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya for appropriate orders. Rashid is lodged in Tihar as an undertrial in a terror funding case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. He was arrested in 2019. Despite being in custody, he won the Baramulla Lok Sabha seat in the 2024 polls, defeating Omar Abdullah by over two lakh votes. The dispute traces back to a trial court order that allowed Rashid to attend parliament on specified days but required him to bear the expenses for travel and security provided by the government agencies.

## Delhi Metro international edition coming soon

**Agency New Delhi.**

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Limited is going international. Minister for Housing, Urban Affairs, and Energy Manohar Lal Khattar announced on Friday that the Union government will soon establish the Delhi Metro International Limited (DMIL), which will explore global alliances and work towards expanding India's metro network to other countries.

Khattar was speaking at the three-day 18th Urban Mobility India Conference and Exhibition in Gurugram, through the government expects to generate policy recommendations urban development and improve public services. He said that, alongside, the government proposes to develop a mass rapid transit system in partnership with the DMRC to strengthen metro interconnectivity and ensure safe and reliable transportation facilities. He claimed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India was advancing toward self-reliance. "Integrating transport networks will help India become a developed nation by 2047, in line with the Make in India initiative," he said. He noted that India ranks third globally in metro coverage and is poised to surpass the US within the next three years. China is the global leader in metro coverage.

Khattar also announced the creation of a Delhi Metro Rail Academy and a Centre of Excellence, which will guide metro services through innovative approaches. Khattar said that he would discuss the issue of infrastructural improvement in Gurugram with Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

The agenda that Khattar proposed to cover would include creating Delhi-style world-class convention centres in Gurugram. Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu said India was currently undergoing a transformative era of infrastructure development, where urban transport had evolved beyond being merely a means of mobility and, instead, had become a driving force for economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social equity.

results is likely to be visible during the session. Opposition protests are expected, particularly over issues related to the second phase of the Special Revision of Voter Lists (SIR) — a campaign currently underway in 12 states and union territories. The opposition may also raise concerns about irregularities in the voter lists.

Meanwhile, the government is expected to push for the passage of several important bills, including the 129th and 130th Constitutional Amendment Bills, the Public Trust Bill, and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Bill, among others. The last notably short Winter Session was held in 2013, lasting only 14 days, from December 5 to December 18, with just 11 sittings.

## NEWS BOX

Liverpool perfect opponents for 1,000th game as manager: Man City's Guardiola

New Delhi. (Agency)

Pep Guardiola will mark his 1,000th match as a professional manager when Manchester City face Liverpool on Sunday, a fixture he described as the perfect stage for such a career milestone. Since his managerial debut in 2007, Guardiola has established himself as one of football's most successful coaches, and he expressed satisfaction at meeting City's most persistent domestic rivals on this occasion. "Liverpool have been the biggest rival in this country and it could not be better, to be honest," Guardiola told reporters on Friday. "I think we pushed Liverpool to be better and Liverpool pushed us to be better. That's for sure." As he approaches the landmark, Guardiola reflected on the fierce competition between Manchester City and Liverpool over recent years, a rivalry that has often defined Premier League title races. His journey from Barcelona B in Spain's fourth tier to the pinnacle of English football has yielded 12 domestic league titles and three Champions League crowns.

"The journey and the experiences have been unbelievable," Guardiola said, recalling his first game in charge of Barcelona B in 2007. In discussing his record, the Spaniard highlighted the remarkable achievement of 715 wins from his first 999 matches. "The numbers are insane," he admitted. "It's difficult to reach it, and if I started again, I would not reach it." Guardiola described the dedication required for sustained success at the highest level, crediting passion and precision for his longevity. "It's been a lot of hard work, a lot of dedication, passion, love, and in that, nobody beats me. I love the game, and I love to scrutinise the secrets of what we can do to opponents." Looking ahead to Sunday's clash, Guardiola said simply, "Hopefully we can continue." Recently inducted into the League Managers Association Hall of Fame 1,000 Club, Guardiola also addressed comparisons to other managerial greats with characteristic humour. When asked if he considered himself the best manager ever, the 54-year-old laughed: "They are completely right! Of course, I can say I've been part of history because the numbers show success, and it's been nice to watch my teams."

## BCCI raises Asia Cup trophy issue; ICC forms panel to resolve dispute: Sources

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has formally raised the issue of the missing Asia Cup 2025 trophy during the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board meetings in Dubai. The ICC has agreed to mediate the deadlock between the BCCI and Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chairman Mohsin Naqvi, who also heads the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

India defeated Pakistan by seven wickets in the final on 28 September in Dubai, but the team is yet to receive the winners' trophy. The silverware is reportedly still in the custody of Naqvi, and remains at the ACC headquarters in Dubai under his instructions. According to sources, the ICC has now formed a committee to help resolve the matter. "BCCI has raised the Asia Cup trophy row with ICC. ICC has asked India and Pakistan to amicably resolve the issue. ICC stated that both India and Pakistan are important for world cricket and has formed a committee to look into this," sources told India Today on Friday.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia, who represented India at the ICC Board meeting, emphasised that the trophy rightfully belongs to the Indian team and should be handed over without delay. Several ICC directors expressed concern that withholding a trophy from the champions reflects poorly on cricket's governance and urged for an early resolution.

The ICC Board decided that Oman Cricket Board chairman Pankaj Khimji, who enjoys cordial relations with both the BCCI and PCB, will head the committee. Khimji has previously been involved in mediating cricketing matters between the two boards, Telecom Asia Sport reported.

The controversy began after the Indian men's cricket team declined to accept the trophy from Naqvi during the post-match presentation ceremony. Naqvi, who also serves as Pakistan's Interior Minister, was set to present the trophy as ACC President. Following Suryakumar's refusal, the trophy was removed from the presentation area, leading to confusion and tension between the boards. The BCCI had written to Naqvi around ten days before the ICC meeting, requesting that the trophy be handed over to the Indian team. However, no response was received. Naqvi later offered to present the trophy at a separate ceremony in Dubai on 10 November, but the BCCI declined and instead took up the issue at the ICC meeting. Sources said the ICC meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere, with board members stressing the importance of maintaining professionalism and harmony between India and Pakistan. Saikia made it clear that India would not accept the trophy directly from Naqvi, adding that if the team had been willing to do so, it would have accepted it immediately after the final.

# Manchester United's Ruben Amorim relaxed despite Benjamin Sesko's lack of form

**Ruben Amorim has admitted that**

**Benjamin Sesko is finding it difficult to settle at Manchester United and urged the young striker to handle criticism as part of everyday life, "like a normal Monday."**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim has urged striker Benjamin Sesko to learn to accept criticism and use it as part of his growth process after a difficult start to life at Old Trafford. Amorim described the Slovenian forward as a "control freak" who needs to realise that not everything can go his way, especially in the high-pressure environment of the Premier League. Sesko joined United from RB Leipzig in August for 73.7 million pounds but has found the

early months challenging, scoring just twice in 11 appearances. While Amorim insists he remains calm about the 22-year-old's slow start, he admitted the player himself is struggling to cope with the scrutiny. "I understand how things are in football, and he's going to struggle," Amorim said ahead of United's clash with Tottenham Hotspur. "He has no experience here, and when everyone says that you are the next big thing, you hear that. If you don't perform every week, you are going to hear from club legends, pundits, and the media, and sometimes they are right."

"The ability to understand that this is normal and maintain your confidence is really hard for a kid, especially for a kid that wants to control everything. He's not going to control everything."

Sesko's meticulous approach to training has been well documented, with reports suggesting he often arrives at Carrington by 8 a.m. and stays until late afternoon. But Amorim said the young forward must learn that perfection is impossible in football,

and that criticism comes with the territory at a club of United's stature.

Following last week's 2-2 draw at Nottingham Forest, former United captain



Gary Neville criticised Sesko, saying the striker looked "miles off it" and "awkward" on the ball. Amorim acknowledged that such remarks can affect players but urged Sesko to take them in stride. "Nobody likes to hear that," the Portuguese manager said. "He has struggled a little bit, so let's embrace that. It's not personal - that's what I try to explain to the players. These opinions can change in a few weeks. What is true

today may not be true in three weeks.

"My advice to Ben is that you are going to get used to hearing such opinions, and then it's going to be natural - like your Monday here. We are going to help and protect him because he works so hard and wants to succeed." Amorim reaffirmed his faith in Sesko, calling him "our striker for the long term," and said that growing pains are inevitable for any young player trying to adapt to the expectations of Manchester United. "He is going to have these struggles and these bumps during the ride, and that is a normal thing in football," Amorim said. "We just need to make sure he learns from it and keeps his head up." Amorim also hinted that senior players such as captain Bruno Fernandes may need to adjust to future squad rotations if United qualify for Europe next season. "We have one game per week now, so I'm not thinking about rotation. In the future, yes, that's something Bruno needs to understand. If you want to win every game and have European matches, rotation will happen."

## After beating Pakistan, India lose to Kuwait and UAE in Hong Kong Sixes

New Delhi. (Agency)

It was a disappointing day for the Dinesh Karthik-led Indian cricket team at the Hong Kong Sixes on Saturday, November 8. After their tremendous victory against Pakistan on Friday, India suffered back-to-back defeats against Kuwait and UAE in the invitational tournament.

A star-studded Indian team lost to Kuwait in their first match of the day. The team bowled poorly, allowing Kuwait to score 106/5 in their allotted six overs. India had started well, reducing Kuwait to 38/4 in just 3.1 overs. However, Dinesh Karthik and Priyank Panchal conceded 23 and 32 runs respectively in the final two overs, boosting the opposition's total. Kuwait captain Yashin Patel starred with an unbeaten 58 off just 14 balls, coming in at No.5 to guide his team to a sizeable target.

India's batting did not improve the situation. Robin Uthappa fell for a first-ball duck, and the team continued to struggle against tight bowling. Abhimanyu Mithun's 26 off 9 balls provided some resistance, but India eventually finished at 79/6 in 5.4 overs. Captain Dinesh Karthik managed just 8 runs before being yorked by Patel.

Things went from bad to worse in India's second match against UAE. Once again, the team had a disastrous start, losing Bharat Chipli, Priyank Panchal, and Stuart Binny for just 12 runs in 1.4 overs. Abhimanyu Mithun and Dinesh Karthik tried to revive India's innings with an impressive partnership, adding 90 runs.

Mithun scored a quick 50 off 16 balls before retiring hurt, while Karthik remained unbeaten at 42 off 14 balls. India posted a total of 107/3, but their bowling let them down as UAE comfortably chased the target with four wickets in hand. Openers Khalid Shah and Sagir Khan added 86 runs in just 4.3 overs, almost sealing the game before UAE chased down the 107-run target with one ball to spare.

India had started their Hong Kong Sixes campaign in style with a thrilling two-run victory over arch-rivals Pakistan in a rain-affected clash. India scored 86 runs in six overs and then restricted Pakistan to 41/1 in three overs, falling just two runs short of the DLS target at the time.

## Rishabh Pant suffers injury scare in India A game, days before SA Tests

New Delhi. (Agency)

India wicketkeeper batter Rishabh Pant has suffered a massive injury blow ahead of his Test comeback during the Day 3 of the 2nd unofficial Test against South Africa A. Pant walked in to bat early on Day 3 as KL Rahul lost his stumps against Okuhle Cele at the BCCI Centre of Excellence. However, his stay at the crease lasted just 22 balls as he left the field after being hit on his arm.

Pant was struck twice in the morning session, first on his left arm, and later near the groin area off Tshepo Moreki's bowling. After two medical interruptions, he eventually walked off the field, with Dhruv Jurel coming in to replace him. His injury has raised concerns among fans ahead of much-awaited comeback to international cricket after three months.

Pant was out of action for three months after

suffering a toe fracture during the fourth Test of the Anderson Tendulkar Trophy against England at Old Trafford in Manchester. However, he marked his return in style during the first unofficial Test against South Africa A, scoring a sublime 90 (113) laced with 11 fours and four sixes.

The 28-year-old also looked agile as ever behind the stumps, taking four

catches. Following his impressive show in the first unofficial Test, Rishabh Pant was named in India's Test squad for the two-match Test series against South Africa, beginning on November 14 in Kolkata. Meanwhile, Pant will be racing against time to get fit for the first Test. Should he not regain fitness in time, Dhruv Jurel will fill in as his replacement.

Jurel has also been in remarkable form, having scored a century in the first Test

against West Indies and followed it up with an unbeaten 132\* in the second unofficial

Test against South Africa. India's Test

squad: Shubman Gill (C), Rishabh Pant (WK) (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash Deep

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## Josh Hazlewood confident in Australia's ageing bowling attack for Ashes

New Delhi. (Agency)

Veteran pacer Josh Hazlewood has dismissed concerns over Australia's ageing bowling attack ahead of the upcoming Ashes series, insisting that experience, not age, will be the decisive factor when the contest gets underway later this month. With Australia's Ashes squad unveiled this week, English media outlets were quick to dub it "Dad's Army" - a nod to the fact that only one of the 15 players, all-rounder Cameron Green, is under 30. But Hazlewood, 34, believes the narrative is misplaced and that the core of Australia's bowling group remains in top physical and mental condition.

"I feel in the best shape I've been in a long time," Hazlewood told reporters at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday. "I think the experience, not just through red-ball cricket but across all formats, adds up.



Australia will likely open the series with a pace attack featuring Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc and Scott Boland, with all three set to feature in domestic matches before heading to Perth for the first Test.

Starc, 35, remains a key strike weapon, while Boland, 36, continues to deliver accuracy and control in Australian conditions. Captain Pat Cummins, the youngest of the fast-bowling core at 32, will miss the opening Test but is expected to return later in the series.

Off-spinner Nathan Lyon, who turns 38 during the Ashes, will again be central to Australia's plans.

The veteran is on the brink of surpassing Glenn McGrath to become the nation's second-highest wicket-taker in Test history, behind only Shane Warne.

Lyon, echoing Hazlewood's sentiments, said modern professionalism has extended careers and kept the group competitive.

"The game has totally changed," Lyon noted earlier this week.

"It's far more professional now with all the science and recovery methods.

I feel like age is just a number. I still believe I've got my best cricket ahead of me."

## India's football future: Who are the overseas talents that Blue Tigers can call-up?

**With Ryan Williams becoming an Indian citizen and Abneet Bharti on trial, AIFF is looking to overseas talent to strengthen the national team. The OCI rule could bring in experience and skill from Indian-origin players abroad.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Indian football has always been a tale of hidden gems. While the country produces talent by the dozen, the national team often struggles to make a mark internationally. Recent developments, however, suggest that the team might finally get some star power from abroad. In a game-changing move, former Australian winger Ryan Williams has officially become an Indian citizen, taking a

major step toward including Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) in the national football squad. On a similar track is Nepal-born defender Abneet Bharti, who is currently on trial with the team ahead of India's AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Bangladesh. These moves reflect AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey's plan to widen the talent pool and bring in Indian-origin players who have honed their skills in competitive foreign leagues.

This is happening at a pivotal moment for Indian football. After missing out on the 2027 AFC Asian Cup, the team is in a rebuilding phase. Bringing in players with international exposure could inject experience, tactical awareness, and fresh energy into the team, giving India a genuine chance to punch above its weight on the global stage.

**OCI and FIFA rules: How it works**

Having Indian roots alone isn't enough. According to FIFA rules, players can switch national teams if they have played fewer than

three competitive matches for another country before turning 21, and none of those matches were in official FIFA or continental



tournaments.

In India, dual citizenship is not allowed. OCI and PIO (Person of Indian Origin) holders must renounce their foreign citizenship and obtain an Indian passport to play internationally. Without this, even talented players with Indian roots cannot represent

India. This rule has kept many overseas talents at bay - but Ryan Williams' citizenship shows it's possible. It also opens doors for other Indian-origin footballers abroad to don the national jersey, as long as they follow the legal path.

**Yan Dhanda (Centre Forward, England)**

Yan Dhanda, 26, is a product of the Liverpool and West Bromwich Albion youth systems and currently plays for Hearts of Midlothian in Scotland. A technically gifted attacking midfielder and forward, Dhanda has excellent vision, creativity, and instincts in the final third. Though born in England, he is eligible to represent India through his father. He has expressed a strong desire to play for India in recent years. Despite holding an OCI card, he could not feature earlier due to India's citizenship rules, but his inclusion could give the Indian attack a fresh dimension.

## Govt clears AMNS' slurry pipeline plan for steel plant in Andhra Pradesh

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Ministry of Steel has granted approval to ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AMNS India) for establishing an iron ore slurry pipeline from Chhattisgarh to Andhra Pradesh via Odisha, clearing the way for implementation of the company's proposed 17 million tonne per annum (MTPA) integrated steel plant at Anakapalle in Andhra Pradesh.

The approval has been accorded under the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of Use in Land) Act, 1962, enabling AMNS India to obtain the right of way for areas through which the pipeline will pass, an official statement from Andhra Pradesh government said. The slurry pipeline will transport iron ore in slurry form from Chhattisgarh to Andhra Pradesh, creating a cost-efficient logistics corridor that will reduce reliance on road and rail transport. The Anakapalle facility will be one of the largest greenfield steel plants in India. The approval paves the way for implementing AMNS India's 17 MTPA integrated steel plant with 8.2 MTPA planned in the first phase at Anakapalle.

Last week, the expert appraisal committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recommended environmental clearance for the project's first phase. With both environmental and pipeline approvals in place, the Anakapalle project is now set to move into the implementation stage.

Andhra Pradesh HRD, IT, Electronics and RTGS Minister Nara Lokesh said the AMNS project will generate thousands of direct and indirect jobs, boost local industry, and strengthen India's position in the global steel supply chain.

## Meritto's parent NoPaperForms files confidential IPO papers with Sebi

New Delhi.(Agency)

SaaS-based enrolment automation solution provider NoPaperForms has filed preliminary papers with markets regulator Sebi via a confidential route for raising funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

In a public announcement on Saturday, the company said it has filed "the pre-filed draft red herring prospectus with Sebi and the stock exchanges...in relation to the proposed initial public offering of its equity shares on the main-board of the stock exchanges". Founded in 2017 by Naveen Goyal and funded by Infoedge, NoPaperForms aims to build a unified, vertically-focused technology platform covering the whole spectrum of running an educational organization from student acquisition, student lifecycle, to student success and outcomes. Currently, the company supports over 1,000 customers across India, the UAE, and Southeast Asia. At present, NoPaperForms offers two flagship products, Meritto-- operating System for Student Recruitment and enrolment, and Collexo--full-stack payment solution that brings predictability and scalability to fee management for educational institutions.

The company has opted for the confidential pre-filing route, which allows it to withhold public disclosure of IPO details under the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) until later stages. This route is gaining traction among Indian firms aiming for flexibility in their IPO plans. In recent months, logistics service provider Shadowfax Technologies, commerce enablement platform Shiprocket, Tata Capital, edtech unicorn PhysicsWallah and Imagine Marketing, the parent company of wearables brand boAt and stock broking platform Groww also chose confidential filings.

## Gaurs Group eyes 2k cr from sale of flats in new Yamuna Expressway project

New Delhi.(Agency)

Realty firm Gaurs Group is expecting a revenue of around Rs 2,000 crore from its new premium housing project in Yamuna Expressway region on strong demand, its director Sarthak Gaur said. Gaurs Group, one of the leading real estate developers in the Delhi-NCR market, has already developed a 150-acre township on Yamuna Expressway. On Friday, Gaurs Group launched the first phase of its new housing project in the Yamuna Expressway region, Gautam Buddha Nagar district. Gaur said the company will develop around 950 units, with a saleable area of 20 lakh square feet, in the first phase of this 12-acre project.

"We are expecting a revenue of around Rs 2,000 crore from the first phase," Gaur said. Gaurs Group has launched this project at a basic selling price (BSP) of Rs 8,000 per sq ft. The price of an apartment starts from Rs 1.9 crore.

Sarthak said the company is witnessing good response from customers for this green project with lots of amenities.

The development of infrastructure projects, including the upcoming Jewar airport, would drive demand for residential and commercial properties in this region, he added. Yamuna Expressway connects Noida and Greater Noida to Agra. Sarthak also announced that the company would also develop a shopping mall and a 5-star hotel along this Expressway. In August, Gaurs Group had announced acquisition of a 12-acre land parcel in Sector 22-D to develop this new residential project.

# Weekly Review: Gold cools off post-festive rush, consolidates below Rs 1.22 lakh mark

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Gold prices traded in a narrow range during the week ended November 7, reflecting a phase of consolidation after recent highs. Domestic prices in India moved between Rs 1,21,000 and Rs 1,22,000 per 10 grams for 24-carat gold, showing mild volatility but no clear directional bias. On Monday (Nov 3), gold opened firm at around Rs 1,21,450 per 10 grams in Delhi, supported by steady global cues. Prices edged slightly higher midweek, touching nearly Rs 1,21,910 per 10 grams on Wednesday (Nov 5) as traders covered short positions and international spot gold found support near the \$4,000-per-ounce level. However, by Thursday (Nov 6) and Friday (Nov 7), prices eased marginally to around Rs 1,22,020 per 10 grams, down about Rs 55 per gram from the previous day, indicating profit-taking ahead of the weekend.

Across major Indian cities, gold prices reflected similar trends through the week.

In Mumbai and Delhi, 24-carat gold hovered around Rs 1.21 lakh per 10 grams for most of the week, while Chennai and Bengaluru saw slightly higher rates due to regional demand differences. Retail jewellers noted softer footfalls following the festive season, prompting minor discounts of Rs 200-Rs 300 per 10 grams to spur buying interest. The 22-carat segment also moved in tandem, ranging between Rs 1,11,000 and Rs 1,12,000 per 10 grams.

Despite subdued demand, market sentiment remained broadly stable, supported by expectations of a rebound in wedding-related purchases later in the month. Bullion traders said that while festive demand had cooled, buyers were likely to return ahead of the upcoming wedding season, keeping prices from slipping below key support levels.

The overall movement remained subdued, with buyers and investors adopting a cautious stance after October's strong

rally. Dealers in India reported weaker post-festival demand, prompting wider discounts on bullion to attract customers. According to a Reuters report, jewellery

VAT offset for gold retailers weighed on jewellery demand, contributing to a softer tone in international markets.

Despite the mild decline, analysts view the current phase as a healthy consolidation rather than a reversal. Support for domestic prices lies around Rs 1.20-1.21 lakh per 10 grams, while resistance is seen near Rs 1.23 lakh. A break below the support range could trigger a correction toward Rs 1.17 lakh, while any weakening in the US dollar or fresh safe-haven buying could push prices higher again.

### Outlook

Market experts expect gold to trade sideways in the near term as traders assess global monetary cues and consumer demand trends. Investors are advised to adopt a "buy-on-dips" approach, given the likelihood of renewed interest during the upcoming wedding season and geopolitical uncertainties supporting safe-haven assets.

## Marwadi University Makes a Remarkable Debut in QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026

New Delhi.(Agency)

Marwadi University, one of Gujarat's leading private institutions, has made a historic debut in the QS Asia University Rankings 2026, securing an impressive 353rd rank in its very first appearance. This milestone places Marwadi University among India's top private universities in the QS Rankings, marking the highest debut rank ever secured by any Indian university. With this milestone, Marwadi University in Gujarat is now officially Gujarat's No. 1 Private University and one of the best private universities in India in the QS Ranking 2026. Recognized in the QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026, the university is also Asia's youngest private university to debut at Rank 353 — a proud recognition of its academic and global excellence. The QS Asia University Rankings, published annually by QS Quacquarelli Symonds, highlight the best universities across Asia. These rankings evaluate institutions based on parameters such as academic and employer reputation, research performance, faculty-to-student ratio, and international diversity — capturing the distinct strengths and priorities of higher education in the region.

Marwadi University also achieved a Top 100 position in Asia for Internationalization and Faculty Quality, a testament to its strong global partnerships, diverse student community, and commitment to academic excellence. Representing Gujarat, Marwadi University's QS Asia Ranking 2026 now places it among Asia's most reputed universities, alongside institutions such as IIT Gandhinagar (Rank 300), Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad University (Rank 851-900), PDEU (Rank 851-900), Parul University (Rank 1001-1100), and MS University (Rank 1100-1200). This makes Marwadi University one of Gujarat's few universities featured in the QS Rankings 2026.

This debut marks a major leap forward for Marwadi University as it ventures into international rankings for the first time, solidifying its place among Asia's most promising centers of higher education. The recognition reflects the university's strong leadership, dedicated faculty, and a progressive education model that blends research-driven learning with global exposure.

**Dr. Sanjeet Singh, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Marwadi University, said,**

"Our debut at Rank 353 in the QS Asia University Rankings 2026 is a proud moment for everyone at Marwadi University. This eminent recognition is a testament to the collective spirit of our students, faculty, and leadership who continuously strive for excellence."



retailers saw a notable slowdown in footfall and orders once the festive season ended. Globally, gold held steady below \$4,000 per ounce amid mixed signals from the US Federal Reserve on future interest-rate cuts. In China, a policy move to curb full

## Indian steelmakers urge govt to enforce local sourcing

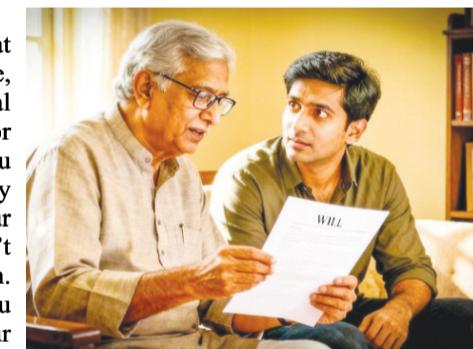
New Delhi.(Agency)

Indian stainless steel manufacturers are seeking the government's help to ensure that sectors like automobile, utensils procure locally manufactured steel, rather than importing cheap steel from overseas. They want the assurance that the relaxation on stainless steel imports, allowing the sale of non-BIS-compliant steel products, won't be extended beyond December 31, so that Indian steel manufacturers can sell their products to the industries.

The auto and utensils manufacturers should procure steel locally, rather than buying it from Japan, Korea, China and other countries. India has enough capacity to meet the demand. Domestically manufactured steel can be used," said Rajamani Krishnamurti, President Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA).

The government has extended the relaxation on stainless steel imports till December 31, allowing sale of non-BIS-compliant products to ease raw material shortages. This creates a non-level playing field for foreign steel manufacturers, who can continue to supply non-BIS-compliant input materials, particularly semi-finished products to India, while domestic mills remain bound by strict BIS quality standards. Local steel manufacturers cautioned that the domestic industry is buying overseas steel at 20-25% cheaper rate, and thus, they are not willing to buy locally manufactured steel.

The steel ministry said the move was needed due to limited local output, though domestic makers fear prolonged relaxations could hurt long-term market stability. Local manufacturers have assured that there will be no dearth of the output to meet the demand going forward, as they have up scaled their production significantly. Not only for stainless steel, but overall a surge in low-cost steel imports is hurting India's domestic producers. As per media reports, around 150 mills have been shut down and another 50 have cut output.



families that faced disputes due to the absence of a Will. He adds that estate planning should be viewed as part of overall wealth creation and not as a task for the elderly. "People should start viewing estate planning as integral to wealth creation rather than just a legal formality for the elderly," Kumar said.

### WHEN SHOULD YOU MAKE YOUR FIRST WILL

Kumar believes that a person should make a will as soon as they acquire meaningful assets or have dependents.

"A person should make their will as soon as they acquire significant assets such as a house, investments, or have dependents like a spouse or child," he said. He explained that estate planning is not only for the wealthy but for anyone who wants to make sure their assets reach the right.

Whether you're a young professional, an entrepreneur, or someone just starting to invest, making a will early can be one of the most responsible things you do for your future.

**WHY WILLS ARE SEEN AS SOMETHING FOR THE OLD**

Many people in India still associate making a Will with the end of life or

bad luck, says Abhishek Kumar, Sebi-registered investment adviser and Founder of SahajMoney. "Due to religious belief where planning for death is seen as inviting bad luck, there is anxiety and discomfort around the topic," he said. Kumar believes this mindset can slowly change through awareness campaigns and by showcasing real-life examples of

## Sebi to form working group to review short-selling norms: Pandey

**Amar Nath Dutta was arrested on Thursday under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and remanded to four days of Enforcement Directorate custody.**

New Delhi.(Agency)

As part of its efforts to deepen the cash market segment, capital market will shortly constitute a working group to overhaul the short-selling norms as well the stock lending and borrowing mechanism. "We will soon form a working group to comprehensively review short-selling and the securities lending and borrowing (SLBM) frameworks," Sebi Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey told a CNBC-TV18 event here on Friday. Stating that the regulator is focused on deepening the cash equities

market to spur capital formation, Pandey said, "An active securities lending and borrowing scheme is critical for improving price discovery and facilitating inter-linkages between the cash and derivative segments."

The SLBM facilitates the settlement of securities sold short, while lenders can earn a fee on their idle securities, while short-selling is an investment strategy wherein an investor borrows a share and sells it on the open market, betting the price will fall. The investor then buys the shares back at a lower price to return to the lender, pocketing the difference as profit or loss. It is a strategy used to profit from a decline in share prices.

SLBM allows an investor to lend her shares to other investors for a fee, or borrow shares she doesn't own, for a fee. This allows lenders to earn extra income on their holdings without selling them, while borrowers can use the shares for purposes like short selling or arbitrage. The whole process is governed by regulations, making it a secure and regulated process. Sebi had earlier sought the views of all stakeholders including exchanges,



clearing corporations and brokers for the proposed short-selling mechanism. Meanwhile, Pandey also said at another event that the Sebi is consulting the RBI to introduce bond derivatives for retail investors to deepen the corporate bond market which currently is Rs 54 trillion vs Rs 91 trillion bank credit.

"For the corporate bonds market, our way forward will be to make debt instruments more attractive for retail," he said, adding the outstanding bank credit to the industry and services stand at Rs 91 trillion while outstanding corporate bonds is only Rs 54 trillion, highlighting a primary challenge and greatest opportunity.

"Deepening our equity, bonds and alternative investment market is imperative to diversify and provide an alternative source of funding for our ambitions," he added.

He also said Sebi has floated a proposal to allow debt issuers to offer incentives to certain investor categories to encourage retail participation and other rationalisation measures. There are also plans for a nationwide education campaign to make investors aware about this market which will be rolled out shortly in consultation with all stakeholders. He said a consultation paper will be issued soon for IPO-bound companies to further rationalise existing contents of the offer document summary, adding that this summary will also be made available separately to investors from the offer document to encourage informed feedback from them. There is another proposal for companies whose pre-IPO shares are pledged that will ensure that lock-in requirements are automatically enforced even if pledge is invoked or released, thereby preventing listing delays.

Bigg Boss 19:

# ASHNOOR Kaur

Thinks Farrhana Bhatt 'Irritates Everyone To Get Noticed'

**B**igg Boss 19 is getting spicier day by day with contestants unveiling new sides in every episode. From the unfolding of a new drama to heated conversations between the inmates, viewers are simply glued to their screens. Recently, Kunickaa Sadanand, Ashnoor Kaur, Malti Chahar, and Mridul Tiwari discussed Farrhana Bhatt's behaviour in the house, sparking a debate on social media. In a video posted on the official Instagram page of JioHotstar Reality, we can spot Kunickaa Sadanand opening up about one of her recent revelations regarding Farrhana Bhatt. She tells Malti Chahar, Mridul Tiwari, and Ashnoor Kaur the real reason behind the Notebook star's rude behaviour.



#### Kunickaa Sadanand On Farrhana Bhatt's Behaviour

She said, "I have realised one thing. Nobody talks to her. She is sitting alone most of the time. Tanya is the one. Tanya aur Neelam bhi kab tak uspar focus karengi. Woh log aap baatein karte rehte hai. Ab usko dikhne ke liye attention ki liye woh ye sab cheezin karti hai. (How long will Tanya and Neelam focus on each other? Now, for her attention, she is doing all these things.)"

In response, Malti Chahar mentioned, "Apne ab realise kiya hai? Day 1 pe kiya tha ma'am (Have you cracked it now? I did it on day one, ma'am)." Interrupting them, Ashnoor Kaur, who was also standing over there, added, "Isliee irritate karti hai taaki woh dikhe sabko kyunki aur kuch toh hai nhi (That's why she irritates everyone because she has nothing else to show)."

#### Ashnoor Kaur Reveals Why Farrhana Bhatt Keeps Getting Into Fights

In the same conversation, Ashnoor further stated, "Ma'am real connections toh hain nahi uske paas, dostiyar hain nahi. Jiski dosti hai, unkto target karti hai aur faltu ki bhasar karegi. Chahe achchi dikh rhi hoon ya buri dikh rhi hoon. (She doesn't have real connections. She doesn't have friends. She will target friends who have friends. Whether they look good or bad.)" At the end of the video, Kunickaa exclaimed, "She irritates you to another level. But, I mean, how can you keep on behaving like this, yaar?" "Farhana ke behaviour par ho raha hai gharwaalon ka discussion, kya hai iss baat par aapka opinion (The housemates are discussing Farhana's behaviour, what is your opinion on this)?"



# Priyanka Chopra

## Mourns Zarine Khan's Death: 'Will Always Remember You With Greatest Joy'

**S**ussanne Khan and Zayed Khan's mother Zarine Khan passed away on November 7 at the age of 81. She had been battling age-related health issues for some time before her demise. Celebrities such as Hrithik Roshan, Saba Azad, Jackie Shroff, Bobby Deol, Jaya Bachchan and others paid their last respects to Zarine, and were seen offering condolences to her family. Priyanka Chopra has now shared an emotional note mourning Zarine Khan's demise, and

with the greatest joy and incredible energy. You will be very missed Zarine aunty." Check out her Instagram story below.

A few hours ago, Priyanka's mother Madhu Chopra also shared a post mourning Zarine Khan's demise. "RIP my dearest friend. You will be so missed!!" she wrote. Meanwhile, Kajol also expressed her heartbreak and wrote, "What a heart wrenching loss! Shocked and saddened..deepest condolences and prayers to the whole family..(broken heart emoji)."

Zarine Khan's last rites were performed at Juhu crematorium today. Family members and close friends arrived for the funeral. Her son Zayed Khan broke down as he performed her last rites.

Zarine is survived by her husband, and children Sussanne Khan, Simone Arora, Farah Ali Khan and Zayed Khan. She was a renowned model, actress and interior designer who made her mark in the 1960s and 1970s. Known for her striking beauty and poise, she was among the early faces who helped shape India's fashion and advertising industry. Zarine also appeared in Hindi films, with notable roles in movies such as *Tere Ghar Ke Samne* (1963), where she starred alongside Dev Anand. However, she was best known beyond her on-screen presence for her marriage to actor-director Sanjay Khan. The couple met in the late 1960s and eventually got married, becoming one of the most glamorous pairs in Bollywood's social circles.

remembering her with affection. She wrote that she will forever remember her with the greatest joy.

#### Priyanka Chopra Remembers Zarine Khan

On Friday, Priyanka Chopra shared a picture of Zarine Khan from her birthday celebration, and remembered her with love and affection. Expressing her grief over Zarine's death, she wrote, "Will always remember you



Jackie Shroff Asks Paparazzi To 'Behave' At Zarine Khan's Funeral, Maintains Dignity Amid Chaos



**B**ollywood gathered in grief on Thursday, November 7, as Sussanne Khan's mother and veteran interior designer Zarine Khan passed away at the age of 81. Known for her elegance, warmth, and influence across film and fashion in the 1960s and '70s, Zarine had been ailing for some time due to age-related health issues. Her final rites were performed at Mumbai's Juhu crematorium, where family, close friends, and colleagues arrived to pay their last respects. Among those present were Hrithik Roshan, Bobby Deol, Jaya Bachchan, Shweta Bachchan, Saba Azad, Aly Goni, Jasmin Bhasin, Rakul Preet Singh, and Nargis Fakhri.

**Jackie Shroff Steps In To Maintain Decorum** Amid the heavy silence of mourning, a brief moment of chaos unfolded when photographers began crowding near the entrance, trying to capture the celebrities arriving. Veteran actor Jackie Shroff, known for his humility and old-school charm, intervened.

In a video shared by a paparazzo account, the actor—dressed in an all-white kurta-pyjama and cap—was seen calmly but firmly asking the media to "behave." Standing tall amid the throng, he gestured with his hand, reminding the photographers to maintain dignity during such a sensitive occasion.

The clip, now viral on social media, shows Jackie—often fondly called "Jackie Dada"—addressing the media with restraint and composure. "Thoda tameez se, behave karo," he is heard saying, his tone more of a stern elder than an angry celebrity. His intervention quickly restored order, earning him praise online for protecting the sanctity of the moment.

#### Bollywood Mourns a Matriarch

Zarine Khan's passing leaves a void not only in her family but also in the creative fabric of Bollywood's golden era. She is survived by her husband, actor-director Sanjay Khan, and their four children—Sussanne Khan, Simone Arora, Farah Ali Khan, and Zayed Khan.

**Abhishek Banerjee, Ahsaas Channa 'Bring Refreshing Energy On Set' As They Collaborate For New Project**



The duo began filming this week for the project, which also stars Gajraj Rao and Anshumaan Pushkar.

**A**bhishek Banerjee and Ahsaas Channa are collaborating on a new project and they have begun filming for the same in Mumbai. The duo began filming this week for the project, which also stars Gajraj Rao and Anshumaan Pushkar. They have been causing quite a stir on social media as their behind-the-scenes images grabbed everyone's attention. According to a press release, a source close to the project shared, "Abhishek and Ahsaas bring a refreshing energy on set. Their pairing is unexpected yet incredibly endearing. It's going to be exciting to watch them together in a story that promises both charm and depth. The entire cast, including Gajraj Rao and Geeta Aggarwal, has been having a fantastic time collaborating on this project. The shoot has just begun and the cast is having a great time and bond on the sets."

#### Abhishek Banerjee-Ahsaas Channa Pair Up Creates Buzz

With a terrific ensemble, an intriguing narrative, and building anticipation, this untitled comedy is shaping up to be one of the year's most anticipated forthcoming productions. For Ahsaas, who has frequently played approachable, girl-next-door characters, this role could be her most mature performance yet, capturing her growth as an actor.

#### Abhishek Banerjee-Ahsaas Channa's Work

Ahsaas Channa is most recently seen in *Greater Kailash*, a fascinating and uplifting family drama that premiered on Netflix on October 17. The project is a remarkable milestone for Ahsaas, her breakthrough Netflix feature film. The movie is directed by Aditya Chandiok and written by Ritu Mago, who combine their talents to create a story that feels authentic, humorous and deeply human. While the specifics of the plot remain unknown, *Greater Kailash* appears to depict the everyday turbulence that distinguishes Indian families—moments that alternate between laughter, conflict and deep connection. Ahsaas Channa is known for her performance in the web series *Half CA*, *Mismatched*, *Girls Hostel*, *Kota Factory* and others. Abhishek Banerjee was last seen as Jana in the Amar Kaushik-directed film *Street 2* starring Rajkummar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor. The film was released in 2024 and became a smash.

# Make your Kitchen a sleek and stylish Space



**Your kitchen should be a sleek and stylish space. Here are some simple tips you need to keep in mind when you are choosing a modular kitchen.**

Yet stylish - that is what modular kitchens are all about. These kitchens not only make cooking convenient and efficient, they also make your kitchen look like a happier and fun place to be in. Modern modular kitchen furniture include various units of cabinets, each designed for a unique purpose, so it increases your efficiency. Pick one that has the most appropriate design to suit your particular needs.

Here are some simple tips you need to keep in mind when you are choosing a modular kitchen...

#### Know your Budget

With the variety available these days, you could easily tend to overspend. So, it is best to decide on a budget before you go out shopping for your modular kitchen. There are small-budget kitchens also available that do not compromise on functionality. And of course, there are very high-budget kitchens that are glamourous.

**You need to plan well**  
Measure the exact area and also keep in mind the layout and kind of space you have in your kitchen before you go out looking for a modular kitchen set-up. An important thing that you need to bear in mind is what your specific needs are — do you need a built-in hob, or would just a simple oven work? Do you need a microwave oven or grill? What kind of chimney do you want and how much space are you allocating for it? Would you opt for an L-shaped kitchen counter or would you need a kitchen island?

**Wood you?**



What would you choose — there is a variety of designs and materials available right from the more contemporary steel and glass, to the classic wood and stone. It would be wise to choose something that not just looks nice but is also sturdy and long-lasting. Another thing you need to keep in mind is that it should be easy to clean.

#### Size it up

Keep comfort in mind when you are selecting your modular kitchen. The cabinets that you get installed in your kitchen should be within your reach. You should be able to use them without straining yourself unnecessarily.

#### Flashy or functional

When you are selecting decorations and fixtures for your kitchen, you should ideally look for designs that are functional. The decorations should not obstruct your free movement in the kitchen.

#### Does it Cater to your needs?

Your modular kitchen should have cabinets and drawers that cater to your daily and specific cooking needs in the kitchen. Ideally, separate racks and storage units for your cutlery should be built. You should have your ovens and other electrical appliances fitted in according to your needs.

#### Light right

When you are getting your kitchen installed, make sure you know where you want the lights. If you have a large window in the kitchen, you should install your kitchen in a way that it does not get blocked — a dark kitchen area can hinder energies. It is a good idea to use accent lights, wherever needed. Under-cabinet lighting is also essential for your work area.



1. Anyone with the interest and little space for growing plants, even on a window-sill or balcony can build and enjoy Bonsai collection.
2. The 3 main techniques to grow your own Bonsai plants are growing, pruning and shaping.

**Growing-** select a tree from a nursery which has a thick trunk. take a small ceramic container to plant the bonsai - usually the depth of the pot should be equal to the thickness of the trunk of the plant. Place a plastic net at the base of the container, so that water can drain out. Now add the specially prepared bonsai soil made of garden soil, cow manure, broken brick pieces, sand and organic manure (available in the market). Trim 1/2 to 1/3rd of the existing roots of the plant, leaving most of the thin white roots (known as feeder roots) and some old thick roots. Plant the tree into the pot.

**NOTE-** materials matter, so if the soil good, the bonsai will take few months or even a year to grow, and two years for fruits to flower

**Pruning:** Generally, you have to prune the roots and the foliage. Pruning bonsais is one of the more enjoyable aspects of growing bonsais.

**Pruning roots:** Due to small containers, bonsai roots are stunted in growth. By pruning roots, you will ensure that there is space for the new roots to grow, which is critical for the health and growth of the bonsai. Prune roots twice a year and change the soil when it's done.

**Pruning Foliage:** This is vital for aesthetic purposes. Work out a specific design in the mind for your tree and shape it into the form you desire. Removing dead leaves help keep it healthy and beautiful.

**Shaping:** To create a desired shape, you can use a wire (copper wires are the best) to assist the branches to grow as per your design. Make sure that the wire is of the right thickness and does not break the branches. Hold the branch you are wiring in both hands and carefully wind the wire around it.

3. Select the plants which can be easily trimmed and shaped, and ones with a rough bark.

4. For the flower and fruit bonsais, four to five hours of direct sunlight is essential.

5. Avoid too much of watering. Alternate days are good enough.

6. Ready-made bonsais are available. Plant them into containers with the given steps

7. Bonsais are kept indoors, but a suitable place is on the window sill, balcony, terrace or a garden shelf. Avoid keeping them in an A/C room for long.

8. Although Bonsai trees can be grown from seeds,

**Beginners guide to Bonsai**

# Bonsai



**You can make your bonsai into master pieces provided you follow the right techniques. We list down the basics of bonsai.**

more developed material is already available. Seedlings, cuttings or young trees with smaller leaves are usually preferred.

