

People of Bihar don't need politics lessons, they teach world: PM Modi

"There are many in the Congress party with nationalist ideology, who at some point worked under the leadership of Indiraji and Rajiv Gandhi. They are unhappy with the conduct of the 'naamdar'. They say nobody can now save the Congress."

New Delhi.(Agency)

Crediting the people of Bihar for the massive mandate that returned the ruling NDA to power in the state, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday that they had rejected the "poison of casteism" and the "divisive" politics of the "Muslim League-Maowadi Congress (MMC) and allied parties" and opted for "new heights in development".

Targeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and RJD's Tejashwi Yadav — he did not take names but referred to a "naamdar" and a "jamanati beta" — Modi, who was addressing migrants from Bihar at the Surat International Airport, said, "Bihar ke logon ko rajniti samjhani nahi padti hai, woh dunya ko rajniti samjhane ki taat rakhte hain."

"One doesn't have to teach politics to the people of Bihar, they wield the power to teach politics to the world." "Go anywhere in the world, and you will find Bihar's talent. Bihar is now showing a willingness to reach new heights in development. This election reflected that willingness. Bihar's women and youth — Mahila and Yuva, M-Y — formed a combination that has strengthened the foundation of politics for decades to come. Those who analyse politics will take months to analyse the



"naamdar". They say nobody can now save the Congress."

"There is a jamanati beta (son out on bail) who went around Bihar giving lectures on casteism and used all his energy to spread the poison of casteism. Going by the past, they felt that maybe we would win the game. But this election has completely rejected the poison of casteism. This is a bright signal for the country," he said.

implications of Bihar's election results." "There are many in the Congress party with nationalist ideology, who at some point worked under the leadership of Indiraji and Rajiv Gandhi. They are unhappy with the conduct of the 'naamdar'. They say nobody can now save the Congress."

One of the leaders, he said, tore the Waqf law. "They said if they win, they will now allow the Waqf law. People of Bihar rejected this poison of communalism."

"You must have seen the Bihar Assembly, how it had become a fashion to humiliate (Chief Minister) Nitish Kumar. In Parliament too, the other naamdar, broke all decorum with his unbecoming conduct. People did not accept this." Targeting the Congress, he said it should be a "matter of introspection" that those who had ruled for 50-60 years were "finished in one or two decades".

"They are not able to explain to their own colleagues the reasons for their defeat. They have found an easy way: sometimes the EVM is defeating them, sometimes the Election Commission is defeating them, sometimes the matdata suchi ka shuddhikaran (Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls) is defeating them. This can last for some time, but will not be accepted by their cadres very long," he said.

"I know they (the Opposition) cannot talk of Swadeshi, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Viksit Bharat because their primary concern is not this country, nor the future of its people," Modi said. The Bihar verdict, therefore, is very important for India's politics, he said.

Unprecedented Development Work Underway for Rural Delhi: CM Rekha Gupta

The Sikh Times

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, 16 November: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta attended the Tridev Conference organised at Dichau Kalan in the Najaigarh area yesterday. She received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the large gathering of party workers and local residents. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister described the Tridev, Page Pramukhs, Booth Pramukhs and Shakti Kendra Convenors as the backbone of the organisation. She said that the dedication and hard work of these workers over the years have played a pivotal role in accelerating development across the Najaigarh-Kirari region. The event was attended by Member of Parliament



Kamaljeet Sehrawat, MLA Abhay Verma, BJP candidate from Dichau Kalan Ward-128 Rekha Rani, as well as a large number of respected citizens, party office-bearers and workers. The Chief

Minister said, "You have supported your

MP and MLA with an overwhelming majority. Now is the time to send an even stronger message by ensuring a decisive victory for your ward candidate, reaffirming that Najaigarh is united on the path of development." She emphasised that the Delhi Government has prioritised the development of village and colony areas by providing adequate budgetary resources to all honourable MPs and MLAs. As a result, major projects related to drains, roads, sewerage and other essential civic facilities have gained substantial momentum. The Chief Minister announced that projects worth over 200 crore are being launched in the Kirari-Najaigarh belt, which will play a decisive role in resolving long-pending infrastructural challenges. Contd.....page-3

"India Possesses Intellectual Depth To Resolve Global Problems": RSS Chief

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said India possesses the intellectual depth to offer answers to the problems faced by world.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday said that India has emerged as a nation the world now relies on for answers to pressing global challenges. Speaking at the Deendayal Smriti Lecture organised by the Ekatma Manavdarshan Anusandhan Evam Vikas Pratishthan in Jaipur, Bhagwat said, "The world looks towards India for solutions to global problems." Highlighting the country's rapid rise, Bhagwat said, "Instead of growing inch by inch, India is now growing mile by mile. India has a reputation worldwide." He added that India possesses the intellectual depth to offer answers to the problems faced by world. "India has the intellect and the thought to give answers to problems that the world faces," he said.



Reflecting on the history of global conflicts, Bhagwat added that wars stem from nationalism. "Wars happen because of nationalism, so global leaders started talking about internationalism. But we saw the ones who talk about internationalism, keep the interest of their nation

paramount," he said. He added that power dynamics continue to shape global instability. "The powerful are struggling the most to survive, and as a result, the weaker ones are suffering," he added.

Earlier today, RSS chief visited Jaipur as part of his city tour and paid a visit to the renowned Govind Dev Ji Temple. During his visit, he offered prayers and expressed his devotion before the deity. On arrival at the temple, Bhagwat was welcomed by local representatives and RSS volunteers. He emphasised that maintaining faith and cultural values at religious sites is crucial for the overall development of society. He also observed the temple's arrangements and the rituals performed there.

Filthy abuses, slipper raised to hit: Rohini Acharya on cutting Yadav family ties

New Delhi.(Agency)

BJP supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav's daughter, Rohini Acharya, who severed ties with the family and announced her exit from politics, blaming brother Tejashwi Yadav and his aides, said on Sunday that they tore her away from the family. She alleged that she was subjected to filthy abuses and even had a slipper raised against her in an attempt to hit her.

A day after the RJD was drubbed in the Bihar assembly polls, Acharya blamed two close aides of her brother Tejashwi Yadav — Sanjay Yadav and Rameez — for the debacle and said she was "quitting politics" and "disowning" her family. In an emotional social media post on Sunday, she wrote, "Yesterday, a daughter, a sister, a married woman, a mother was humiliated, filthy abuses were hurled at her, a

slipper was raised to hit her. I did not compromise on my self-respect, I did not surrender the truth, and solely because of this, I had to endure this insult."

"Yesterday, a daughter, out of compulsion, left behind her crying parents and sisters and came away; they tore me away from my maternal home... They left me orphaned," she said.

In a second post within minutes, Acharya alleged that she was told she donated a kidney to her father, Lalu Yadav, received crores in return, and even secured Lok Sabha poll tickets through it. "Yesterday, I was cursed and called 'dirty,' accused of having my father receive a kidney transplant from me, taking crores of rupees, buying a ticket, and having that kidney implanted," she wrote. The 46-year-old daughter of Lalu Yadav added



that no one should take the path she had walked, and no family could ever have a daughter or sister like Rohini.

Acharya, a doctor by qualification, chose to become a homemaker and settled with her Singapore-based husband. She had unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha election last year from Bihar's Saran

constituency. Announcing her decision on Saturday, Acharya wrote, "I am quitting politics and disowning my family. This is what Sanjay Yadav and Rameez asked me to do, and I am taking all the blame." Sanjay Yadav is an RJD MP, while Rameez, hailing from a political family in Uttar Pradesh, is a relatively unknown figure. Both are closely linked to Tejashwi Yadav and have so far refrained from commenting on the development. Speaking to the media later, she said, "I don't have a family. You should ask Tejashwi Yadav, Sanjay Yadav, and Rameez. They are the ones who threw me out of the family. They refuse to take any responsibility. The entire nation is asking why the party failed so badly. If you even mention the names of Sanjay Yadav and Rameez, you are insulted, thrown out, and abused."

**Rohini Acharya, Lalu
Yadav's daughter,
quit politics and
severed ties with
her family, alleging
abuse, humiliation,
and betrayal by
Tejashwi Yadav's
aides.**

New Bihar government likely to be sworn-in on November 19 or 20 at Gandhi Maidan

The Election Commission will submit the results of the 18th Bihar Assembly elections to Governor Rajendra Arlekar today, following which the notification for the formation of the new Assembly will be issued.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Bihar's government-formation process is set to move rapidly from today, with the swearing-in ceremony expected to take place on November 19 or 20, depending on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's final schedule. Preparations at Patna's Gandhi Maidan are already in full swing, with PM Modi and chief ministers of BJP-ruled states likely to attend. The Election Commission will today submit the results of the 18th Bihar Assembly elections to Governor Rajendra Arlekar, after which the notification constituting the new Assembly will be issued. This will also formally lift the Model Code of Conduct.



Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has called a cabinet meeting on Monday to approve the dissolution of the outgoing 17th Assembly. He is then expected to visit the Raj Bhavan and tender his resignation. Once he steps down, the NDA's constituent parties will hold their legislature party meetings to choose the next leader of the alliance, who will subsequently stake claim before the Governor to form the new government. In the background, the NDA has secured a clear majority in the 18th Assembly. The BJP emerged as the single largest party with 89 seats, followed closely by Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United), which won 85 seats. Among smaller partners, LJP (Ramlila) secured 19 seats, HAM (Secular) won 5, and Rashtriya Lok Morcha took 4. The Mahagathbandhan, on the flip side, managed just 35 seats. The 2025 mandate marks a sharp reversal from 2020, when the Mahagathbandhan was a formidable competitor across the state. This time, however, the opposition crumbled. The RJD's performance fell far short of expectations, while the Congress suffered a dramatic collapse, winning just 6 seats. Its 8.71 per cent vote share, slightly below its 2020 level, failed to translate into seats due to weak organisation and poor candidate choices.

BJP says Bihar results to impact Bengal polls, TMC debunks claim

KOLKATA/LUCKNOW.(Agency)

After the NDA's grand victory in the Bihar Assembly elections, the BJP hopes that the results will set the tone for West Bengal polls next year and Uttar Pradesh elections in 2027. The ruling Trinamool Congress in Bengal and the Opposition Samajwadi Party in UP rule out any such impact. BJP MLA and Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Suvidhu Adhikari said, "Bihar's victory is ours; now it is Bengal's turn. Just as the Bihar election was conducted after the SIR, the poll in Bengal will also be conducted with a pure and clean electoral roll."

UP Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, who was the co-convenor for Bihar elections, said: "Magadh jeeta, Awadh bhi jeetenge. 2027 mein 2017 dohryenge (After winning Magadh (Bihar), we will win Awadh (UP). Will repeat 2017 in 2027)." He was referring to the BJP winning 325 of 403 seats in UP in 2017.



Rubbishing the BJP's claim, TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee said, "Mamata Banerjee routed the CPM in Bengal ending the 34-year Left rule in the state. Only she can fight against BJP and we will form the next government with absolute majority." According to TMC insiders, SIR would backfire on the BJP and a vast section of Hindus would vote for the party. The TMC leadership is also confident of retaining its traditional minority vote base. "The NDA won in Bihar mainly because of welfare schemes, particularly pro-women programmes. Everyone knows that Mamata Banerjee's pioneering role in implementing most of the social security measures, starting from Lakshmir Bhandar, Swasthya Sathi, Sabu Sathi, Kanyashree and many others. She will get overwhelming support through the measures despite the SIR phobia unleashed by BJP," a senior TMC leader said. Political analyst Biswanath Chakraborty said, "The Trinamool had won in the 2021 Assembly polls with absolute majority within six months after Nitish Kumar's JD(U) and BJP formed."

News box

HSIIDC takes over maintenance of public amenities in IMT sectors 1-8 in Gurgaon**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

The maintenance of public amenities in sectors 1 to 8 of IMT Manesar will now be managed by the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC). A formal agreement was recently signed between MCM and HSIIDC in a meeting chaired by MCM commissioner Ayush Sinha.

All amenities like sewer, water, roads, street lights and the green belt will be managed by HSIIDC. "The objective of this initiative is to clearly divide responsibilities and bring transparency to maintenance work," the commissioner said. During the meeting, it was discussed that both departments will take joint action against illegally parked street vendors in the IMT area. Additionally, action will be taken against those who illegally dump garbage in the HSIIDC area.

There are four garbage hotspots in the area, which have been identified near Hayatpur village in Sector 92, Sector 6, near Greenberg Society in Sector 81, and near Shikohpur village in Sector 79. Boundary walls will be constructed here and guards will be deployed to prevent illegal dumping of garbage, said MCM officials. HSIIDC AGM Rajiv Goyal, Estate Officer Raj Kumar Jindal, and other MCM officials were present at the meeting. The MCM's jurisdiction, which was officially established by the state govt on Dec 24, 2020, encompasses 30 villages surrounding Manesar, alongside newly developed sectors within these villages. Subsequently, the Haryana govt, on Dec 16, 2022, amended the boundaries of MCM and MCG, as per which Dwarka Expressway now divides both the corporations, which fall under one district of Gurgaon.

New sectors subsequently added to the MCM limit include sectors 83, 84, 88 and 88A. The IMT Manesar area has several manufacturing industries, commercial and residential units. Areas under the MCM have been divided into two engineering divisions and seven zones for better administration. The duty of a corporation includes maintenance works such as water supply, sanitation, drainage and roads.

ToxiCity: AQI 'very poor' and data missing from 1 station in Gurgaon**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

The city's air quality slipped further to the very poor category on Saturday, with the overall AQI touching 305. It was in the poor category on Friday with an AQI reading of 278. Gwalpahari recorded the worst AQI among monitoring stations in the city with a reading of 384 (very poor). Sector 51 and Teri Gram remained in the poor category at 273 and 259. Meanwhile, data from Vikas Sadan could not be recorded.

Experts said there will be no major relief in the coming days. According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (Safar), the city's air quality is expected to worsen over the next few days, fluctuating between the very poor and severe categories due to unfavourable weather conditions which are preventing the dispersion of pollutants.

The forecast indicates that the sky will remain mainly clear with smog or shallow fog in the early hours. Winds from the northwest are expected to stay calm in the morning, increase to around 8kmph during the day, touch 12kmph in the afternoon, and ease again to below 5kmph in the evening, a wind pattern that restricts the natural dispersion of pollutants through most of the day. A mixing depth is likely to be 1,300 metres and a ventilation index of 6,000 m²/s on Sunday.

PM2.5 levels — the most harmful pollutant — remained significantly high across stations. Sector 51 recorded 416 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, over 27 times the WHO safe limit of 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, followed by Gwalpahari at 414 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and Teri Gram at 307 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. PM10 levels showed a similar pattern, with Gwalpahari logging 424 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, Sector 51 at 419 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and Teri Gram at 235 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Both PM2.5 and PM10 data were unavailable at Vikas Sadan.

Experts said the city is being hit simultaneously by local emissions, stagnant air and the tail-end impact of stubble burning in the region.

Primary school teachers away on SIR duty, students bear the brunt**Noida.(Agency)**

Primary school teachers across the district have flagged that the ongoing booth-level officer (BLO) duties under the special intensive revision (SIR) drive have severely disrupted teaching activities in govt schools, leaving thousands of students without regular classroom instruction. Out of nearly 2,400 primary teachers catering to around 96,000 students, over 1,500 were assigned for BLO work as part of the voter verification exercise. Teachers account for a major share of the 1,868 BLOs deployed. Teachers said that the additional responsibility, which will continue till Dec 3, has skewed the student-teacher ratio and crippled the pace of academic progress. "Classes have been suffering since the SIR drive began. With most teachers deployed on BLO duty, lessons are irregular, and revisions are getting delayed. Exams are just months away, and a large part of the syllabus remains incomplete," said the president of Noida Teachers' Association, Praveen Sharma.

Teachers also said they are forced to juggle between school hours and survey work. "We are expected to visit the school in the morning to mark attendance and then go door-to-door for BLO verification. By the time we return, the teaching hours are over. It's practically impossible to manage both effectively," said another primary school teacher in Ghaziabad. Several educators highlighted that this is not the first time classroom learning has been disrupted. Over the past few months, they said, classes were affected by extreme weather, poor air quality, and administrative assignments.

"During the summer, schools were shut due to heat waves; then came the pollution break. And now this BLO duty. The academic calendar is shrinking every year, but the workload outside teaching keeps rising," said Sharma.

Some batchmates detained for questioning for 3-4 days, Al-Falah students claim**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Faridabad: Though there have been no arrests from the campus since Al-Falah University doctors Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie and Shaheen Shahid were taken into custody for their involvement in the Delhi terror plot, nearly 50 from the university — both students and staff — have been detained for questioning for varying periods of time since the Nov 10 Delhi blast, sources told TOI. Among them are students from J&K, Bihar and UP. The Al-Falah student community is largely from these states. A student said some course mates were released after being detained for 2-4 days, after which they had shut themselves up in their hostel rooms and were not talking to anyone.

An intern told TOI on Saturday that those detained were individuals seen to be in regular contact with the arrested doctors and Dr Umar Un Nabi, who was in the i20 that blew up in Delhi on Nov 10, or those

who appeared to share a close rapport with them. "My roommate was taken by police for questioning. He returned after two days but hasn't spoken a word about what happened. It appears security agencies are questioning students who exchanged chats with Dr Umar, Dr Muzammil or Dr Shaheen, or were close to them," the intern said, adding investigators were scrutinising campus CCTV footage to identify those who were frequently seen with the accused.

A second-year MBBS student said no harassment took place during questioning and academic activity was not disrupted. "One of my classmates was taken for questioning and came back after four days. Investigators mainly asked about the accused doctors, their behaviour and their activities on campus. We took our exam on Friday without any disturbance," the student said.

A police source said extensive questioning was necessary because national security was involved and officers are ensuring the process is handled sensitively.



Some students pointed out that more than 50% of those enrolled across all six medical batches are from Jammu & Kashmir, as are a substantial proportion of faculty and nursing staff. "Doctors and nurses mostly speak in their local

language, which others do not understand," another intern said. A student said Umar Un Nabi's decision to remain on campus despite exceptional academic achievements had surprised some of them. "He cleared MBBS, then did his MD, and even secured a top 100 rank in a superspecialty exam. He could have taken a seat at AIIMS or other top hospitals but chose to stay here," a student said. "Whenever we asked him why he didn't move to other hospitals, he said he loved the campus."

Investigators said they were probing if Umar's prolonged stay at the university, despite better prospects elsewhere, holds relevance for the case. Questioning of students and staff is, meanwhile, expected to continue as agencies attempt to map the full extent of the network linked to the arrested doctors.

Gurgaon woman dies as roof collapses after days of leakage, family says warnings ignored**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

A woman died and her two children were injured after the roof of their rented home in Surya Vihar collapsed early on Saturday, a tragedy the family said could have been prevented. For days, water had been seeping through the ceiling after a gutter above the room broke, leaving the roof damp and unstable. Despite repeated pleas from the tenants, landlord Makdul Alam and landlady Ajmeri allegedly failed to carry out repairs. The victim's husband, Bihari Mukhiya, who works at a printing press, said his family had long warned the landlords that the roof had weakened under the weight of a heavy water tank and constant leakage.

Mukhiya said he had been staying overnight at his workplace due to wedding-season workload, while his wife Sunita (36), son Rohit (17), and daughter Anjali (15) remained in the room. Around 3.30am on Saturday, the dampened structure gave way. A section of the roof collapsed onto the sleeping family, trapping Sunita and the two children under the debris.

Rohit managed to call his father, who rushed from his workplace near Lakshmi Bazaar. Emergency services had already reached the spot. SI Anil Kumar of Sector 9A police station said they received a call reporting a burst water tank and a roof collapse with multiple people trapped. A police team arrived to find the trapped people and an ambulance. The victims were taken to Civil Hospital where Sunita was declared dead.

The children were treated for their injuries. Mukhiya later approached the police, alleging negligence by the landlord. He said the family had repeatedly complained about the leaking roof and asked for urgent repairs, but no action was taken — a delay he believes cost his wife her life. Acting on his complaint, police registered an FIR against the landlords under Sections 290 (negligent failure to prevent danger to human life) and 106 (causing death by negligent acts) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita.

Gurgaon civic body to set up material recovery facility in ward 21**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

MCG will set up a material recovery facility (MRF) in ward number 21 after a proposal was cleared in a recent House meeting. The unanimous decision to set

up the MRF was made after ward 21 councillor Sonia Yadav brought up the matter of scientific processing of waste in her ward. The MRF in ward 21 got approval. We are also planning to set up

such waste processing units in other parts of the city," said an MCG official. Meanwhile, at the Bandhwari landfill, where the entire city's fresh waste is dumped, MCG is once again struggling to find an agency to process the legacy waste piled up. It was on Nov 8 that the civic body floated a new tender, marking its third attempt in recent months to tackle the waste backlog. Environmentalists have repeatedly pointed out that the city needs to establish several decentralised waste processing units.

At the House meeting held on Wednesday, the MCG House unanimously decided to give a week's time to Faridabad to stop dumping their fresh waste at the Bandhwari landfill site. Officials said that the move is aimed at reducing the burden of fresh waste on the landfill, where around 2,200 metric tonnes of waste is dumped daily. Waste trucks from Faridabad won't be allowed after Nov 19.

Haryana retirement age policy for disabled employees arbitrary: HC**Chandigarh .(Agency)**

In a major respite to thousands of specially abled govt employees in Haryana, Punjab and Haryana high court has held that a state policy that restricts the enhanced retirement age of 60 years only to employees with 70% disability or blindness, is arbitrary and violative of constitutional provisions. According to HC, the rationale for restricting the benefit only to employees having a disability of 70% or above or blindness, while disability / benchmark disability under the Act of 1995 and 2016 remains at 40% and above, is not explained.

It is, therefore, apparent that the decision of the state of Haryana to restrict the benefit of enhanced age of retirement only to persons above 70% disability is not based on any intelligible differentia, nor any object is sought to be achieved," a division bench comprising Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra and Justice Rohit Kapoor said while hearing a bunch of

petitions filed by employees who possess officially certified disabilities above 40% but fall short of the state's 70% threshold. Under the existing rule, these employees must retire at 58, unlike their counterparts with higher disability ratings who can serve until 60. Counsel for some of the petitioners, senior advocate Vikas Chatrath, submitted that Rule 143 of the Rules of 2016, insofar as it limits the benefit of extended age of superannuation to persons suffering from a disability of 70% or more or blindness,

contravenes Article 14 of the Constitution as well as the provisions of the Act of 2016 and consequently is liable to be declared ultra vires. He argued that persons with benchmark disabilities "form a homogenous class" and any further division is legally untenable.

Responding to the petitions, the Haryana chief secretary acknowledged that no justification exists in govt records for why the enhanced

retirement age was limited in this manner, and that the original files dating back to the 1988 and 1996 policy decisions were "not traceable." The govt argued that the threshold was introduced after a representation from a disabled employees' association in 2006 — an explanation the petitioners strongly dispute.

After hearing all parties, the bench observed that it failed to understand how the state govt could come out with such a policy. "Mere making of representation by the Association of Differently Abled Employees cannot furnish a valid basis for the creation of a distinct class of differently abled employees in the matter of extending the age of superannuation.

No conscious decision appears to have been taken by the State of Haryana while restricting the benefit of extended age of superannuation to persons with a disability of 70% or above or blindness.

At centre of boxing world this week: Noida's Malakpur**Faridabad .(Agency)**

Noida: On most days, govt sports stadium in Malakpur is a training ground for local athletes. All through last week, it felt like the centre of the boxing universe. This week, it will hog even more attention. For the first time since its inauguration in 2016, the stadium is hosting international teams, and the energy is unmistakable.

Squads from Australia, Austria, Germany and England are sharpening their combinations, footwork and defensive drills on the two Olympic-standard rings laid out inside the complex. Their sessions come ahead of the World Boxing Cup Finals 2025, set to begin on Nov 16 at the Shaheed Vijay Pathik Sports Complex. India's 20-member squad, led by reigning world champions Jasmine Lamboria and Minakshi Hooda, along with Olympians Nikhat Zareen and Pooja Rani, arrived on Friday after a final training stint in Patiala. Security is tight with the stadium perimeter sealed off and access regulated for

officials and athletes. But there is one group that has been allowed in: registered trainees from the stadium's own boxing programme. They sit quietly in the stands, watching some of the world's best fighters go through their paces. For 12-year-old Karan Gautam from Lakhnawali village, it's a ringside education he never imagined. "I watched their punches, the way they

shadowbox. I've only seen players like this on TV. Seeing them in front of me is like a dream," he said. "I want to be an international boxer too." District sports officer Dr Parvez Ali said the teams started their drills at the two Olympic-standard boxing rings at the stadium. "It's a proud moment for us that the facility is being used at an international level. Local trainees are also being allowed

to watch the sessions to gain exposure to global boxing techniques," he said. Speaking to TOI, Austrian boxer Ahmed Haggag said that he was impressed by the arrangements and facilities. "The rings are well-maintained, and the atmosphere is good for focused training. I'm looking forward to making the most of the sessions before the championship begins," he said.

When asked whether the poor air quality in NCR has been an issue with the players, coach Roberto Ibanez Chavez said, "We are used.

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NEWS BOX

Lula's former human rights minister formally accused of sexual misconduct

RIO DE JANEIRO . (Agency)

Brazil's federal police formally accused President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's former human rights minister Silvio Almeida of sexual misconduct after he was fired over the allegations last year, a police official said Saturday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly speak about the case. Prosecutors will now decide whether to press charges. If they do so, the Supreme Court will either throw them out or accept them, in which case Almeida would face a trial.

Local media outlets reported that police had formally accused Almeida on Friday. He has not commented since then, but has previously denied allegations of wrongdoing. Lula fired Almeida last September after MeToo Brazil, an organization that defends women victims of sexual violence, said that it had received complaints of sexual misconduct by the former minister. The press named the minister for racial equality, Aniele Franco, as one of the alleged victims, and in the aftermath she saluted Lula's decision.

Franco entered politics after the murder of her sister Marielle Franco, a councilwoman in Rio de Janeiro, whose killing in 2018 reverberated around the world. The accusations were a blow to Lula's government. A Black law professor, Almeida was one of the most vocal people in the leftist leader's administration against racism—alongside Franco. Isabel Rodrigues, a professor in São Paulo state, said last year that Almeida sexually assaulted her. "There's still a long way to go before effective justice in this case," she said Saturday on Instagram. "As a victim I have something to say: don't let go of the hands of women," she added. Violence against women is rife in Brazil. More than one in three women was a victim of sexual or gender-based violence over the course of a year, according to a 2025 report by the think tank Brazilian Forum on Public Safety, the highest number since records began in 2017. All forms of violence against women have increased since then.

Are We Ready' Michelle Obama Questions America's Acceptance Of Woman President

World.(Agency) :

Former First Lady Michelle Obama has suggested that the United States may not yet be ready for a woman to occupy the presidency. Her comments come in the wake of unsuccessful bids by former Vice President Kamala Harris and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Speaking at an event and promoting her new book, Obama said, "As we saw in this past election, sadly, we ain't ready. We've got a lot of growing up to do, and there are still many men who do not feel they can be led by a woman." She added that insufficient opportunities have been created for women to assume the nation's highest office. Michelle Obama remains a prominent figure within the Democratic Party, prompting periodic speculation about a potential White House run. However, she has repeatedly dismissed such suggestions, stating in 2016, ahead of the Trump-Clinton race, "I will not run for president. No, nope, not going to do it." Similar rumours resurfaced during the 2024 presidential election, which featured a contest between Joe Biden and Donald Trump. During that election cycle, Obama campaigned actively for Kamala Harris, who had emerged as the Democratic front-runner amid voter dissatisfaction with President Biden. At a rally in Michigan, she warned against re-electing Trump, emphasising the risks to women's health and rights. "Please, please do not hand our fates over to the likes of Trump, who knows nothing about us and has shown deep contempt for us. A vote for him is a vote against our health and our worth," she said.

Gazans Launch Volunteer Campaign To Clean Streets, Restore Infrastructure

world .(Agency)

Dozens of volunteers began cleaning the streets of Gaza City, braving the rainy weather to restore vital infrastructure and remove rubble and debris left by the two-year war between Israel and Hamas, as part of a broader volunteer campaign. Gaza Municipality launched the campaign in partnership with the Gaza Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture and the Palestinian NGO Network, aiming to "shine a light of hope for community participation in construction and reconstruction," according to a statement published by the municipality on its official Facebook page. Hosny Muhamma, Gaza Municipality's public relations officer, told Xinhua that the campaign aims to remove waste and rubble, plant trees along the streets, and restore beauty to the war-torn city. For Yahya al-Sarraj, mayor of Gaza City, the campaign was launched to prove that the Palestinian people "will remain on their land," and that all Israeli attempts to "break them" will fail.

"When we see young people, men, children, and the elderly participating in this campaign, it sends a message to the world that Gaza is capable of life," al-Sarraj said during his participation in the campaign. Echoing the mayor, Amjad al-Shawa, head of the Palestinian NGO Network, said the campaign is the beginning of the path toward a larger goal of removing 60 million tons of rubble covering the Gaza Strip as a result of the war, in order to rebuild Gaza City "better than it was" before the war, Xinhua news agency reported. Ayed Abu Ramadan, head of the Gaza Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture, said during his speech at the campaign that Gaza has been subjected to killing and destruction over the past two years, but has also proven its ability to "rise from the rubble again." Volunteer Ibrahim Hassan, 30, from Gaza City, said he participated in the campaign because he is certain that Gaza will only return to life "by the hands of its own people."

Dubai unveils monumental artwork celebrating UAE's founding fathers and national progress

world .(Agency)

A monumental new artwork now commands the façade of Dubai International Financial Centre's Gate Building, honoring the UAE's Founding Fathers and celebrating the nation's journey from its historic roots to its bold future. Commissioned under the directive of H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Media Council, the installation serves as a striking centerpiece of Dubai's 'National Month' campaign, blending artistic vision with national pride. A Tribute to Visionaries As part of the ongoing 'National Month' celebrations in Dubai, Brand Dubai, the creative arm of the Government of Dubai Media Office, partnered with Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) to unveil a large-scale installation on the façade of The Gate Building, an iconic landmark of the Centre. The artwork pays homage to the UAE's Founding Fathers, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum. It forms a centerpiece of the #ZayedAndRashid campaign, organised

for the second consecutive year by Brand Dubai, which runs from UAE Flag Day on 3 November to the 54th Eid Al Etihad on 2 December. The installation visually narrates the story of the Union and the nation's continuous achievements across generations. Shaima Al Suwaidi, Director of Brand Dubai, highlighted the importance of the collaboration, stating, "We take pride in our renewed partnership with DIFC for the third consecutive year to mark key national occasions through creative works that express our deep gratitude to the founding leaders Sheikh Zayed and Sheikh Rashid, who together laid the foundations of the Union." The artwork, designed by Emirati artist Ahmed BaFadhl, captures the UAE's identity with a blend of national spirit and creative vision. It merges portraits of the Founding Fathers with symbols of modern achievement, including the Hope Probe, Etihad-SAT, Rashid Rover 2, and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre's Rashid Rover. This combination reflects the UAE's trajectory from its historic founding to its pioneering role in science and space exploration. Al Suwaidi emphasized that the installation



conveys both heritage and ambition. "The artwork reflects the enduring legacy and vision that continue to shape the UAE. It embodies values of determination and faith, while inspiring the community to carry forward the nation's journey of progress."

Alya Al Zarouni, Chief Operating Officer at DIFC, remarked, "The stunning artwork on The Gate Building blends heritage with future aspirations and symbolises how economic leadership and innovation are anchored in strong national foundations." Strengthening national identity through creative initiatives, Amina Taher, Member of the #ZayedAndRashid Campaign Organising Committee, noted that the installation exemplifies the power of art in

conveying a national message of loyalty and belonging. The campaign's creative initiatives, from murals to community events—have become tangible symbols of the Union's spirit, helping younger generations connect with their history while looking toward the future. Standing 50 metres tall, the artwork is part of a series of events organised by Brand Dubai with government, semi-government, and private sector partners. These activations pay tribute to the historic meeting of the Founding Fathers in Al Khawaneej, marking the beginning of the Union, while reinforcing the unity of Emirati society and its enduring bond with the nation's leadership.

The artist behind the vision

Ahmed BaFadhl, an architect and visual creator, drew inspiration from his late grandfather and the UAE's landscape to develop a style that blends simplicity with imagination. Starting with pencil and coffee sketches, he now uses digital art to create works that express both emotion and national identity. His approach embodies a distinctly Emirati perspective, connecting traditional values with modern creativity.

Colombian officials say seven minors killed in airstrikes on guerrillas this week

The operations are part of Petro's intensifying attacks against armed groups involved in cocaine trafficking, following fierce pressure from US President Donald Trump over his alleged inaction on drug production.



four girls and three boys, all teenagers. Colombia's military announced on Tuesday that it had carried out airstrikes in the Amazon region in the early hours of November 10, killing 19 members of an ex-FARC splinter group. The military also reported the "rescue" of three minors from rebel hands following the bombing. Additionally, a defense ministry source told AFP on Friday that the military had killed nine suspected guerrillas in strikes in Arauca province, near the Venezuelan border. The operations are part of Petro's intensifying attacks against armed groups involved in cocaine trafficking, following fierce pressure from US President Donald Trump over

his alleged inaction on drug production. In a Saturday post on X, Petro defended the military's actions in the Amazon operation. "Of course, every death is regrettable, especially those of minors. But if I had let Ivan Mordisco's 150 men advance through the jungle, they would have ambushed 20 young soldiers who were stationed just a few kilometers ahead," the leftist president said. "I made the decision, at a risk, to save their lives. It's easy to stain maps red; it's hard to acknowledge the risks of reclaiming territory," Petro added.

The president has launched a manhunt with million-dollar rewards to capture Mordisco, whom he likens to cocaine baron Pablo Escobar, who was slain in 1993. Defense Minister Pedro Sanchez asserted that the operation was ordered "given the imminence and severity of the threat" that endangered the soldiers. Local media reported that authorities were investigating whether the latest strike killed Antonio Medina, a high-ranking rebel commander responsible for a bloody war between ex-FARC fighters and the National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrilla group.

Thousands Hold 'Gen-Z' Protests In Mexico Against Mayor's Murder

Mexico City .(Agency)

Thousands protested across Mexico on Saturday under the banner of "Generation Z," denouncing rising violence after the public killing of an anti-crime mayor earlier this month.

In Mexico City, a small group of hooded protesters tore down fences around the National Palace where President Claudia Sheinbaum lives, prompting a clash with riot police who deployed tear gas, according to Reuters witnesses. Mexico City's public safety secretary Pablo Vazquez said in a press conference that 100 police officers were injured, including 40 who required hospital treatment. Another 20 civilians were also injured, Vazquez told local media outlet Milenio. The public safety secretary also said 20 people were arrested and another 20 "referred for administrative offenses."

Mexico City's public safety secretary Pablo Vazquez said in a press conference that 100 police officers and 20 civilians were injured.

Other marches took place in various cities across Mexico, including in the western state of Michoacan, where anger has flared over the murder on November 1 of Uruapan Mayor Carlos Manzo, who was shot dead at a public Day of the Dead event. Some demonstrators in Mexico City targeted their ire at Sheinbaum's party, chanting, "Out, Morena." Some also called for stronger state efforts to stop crime and

violence, shouting, "Carlos did not die, the government killed him."

A group calling itself "Generation Z Mexico" that called for the protests has said in a "manifesto" circulating on social media that it is non-partisan and represents Mexican youth that are fed up with violence, corruption and abuse of power. Generation Z refers to people born between 1997 and 2012, on the heels of the millennials, and protest groups in other countries across the globe have taken on the label to push for social and political change.

Sheinbaum's government has questioned the motives behind Saturday's marches, saying they were organized in large part by right-leaning political opponents and promoted by bots on social media.

Thousands protest crime and corruption in Mexico City as 'Gen Z' protests gain momentum

MEXICO CITY .(Agency)

Several thousand people took to the streets of Mexico City on Saturday to protest crime, corruption and impunity in a demonstration organized by members of Generation Z, but which ended with strong backing from older supporters of opposition parties. The demonstration was mostly peaceful but ended with some young people clashing with the police. Protesters attacked police with stones, fireworks, sticks and chains, grabbing police shields and other equipment. The capital's security secretary, Pablo Vázquez, said 120 people were injured, 100 of them police officers. Twenty people were arrested. In several countries this year, members of the demographic group born between the late 1990s and early 2010s have organized protests against inequality, democratic backsliding and corruption. The largest "Gen Z" protests took place in Nepal in September, following a ban on social media, and led to the resignation of that nation's prime



minister. In Mexico, many young people say they are frustrated with systemic problems like corruption and impunity for violent crimes. "We need more security," said Andres Massa, a 29-year-old business consultant who carried the pirate skull flag that has become a global symbol of Gen Z protests. Arizbeth Garcia, a 43-year-old physician who joined the protests said she

was marching for more funding for the public health system, and for better security because doctors "are also exposed to the insecurity gripping the country, where you can be murdered and nothing happens." Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum still has high approval ratings despite a recent spate of high-profile murders that includes the assassination of a

popular mayor in the western state of Michoacan. In the days leading up to Saturday's protest, Sheinbaum accused right-wing parties of trying to infiltrate the Gen Z movement, and of using bots on social media to try to increase attendance. This week some "Gen Z" social media influencers said they no longer backed Saturday's protests. While elderly figures like former President Vicente Fox, and Mexican billionaire Ricardo Salinas Pliego published messages in support of the protests. Saturday's march was attended by people from several age groups, with supporters of the recently killed Michoacan Mayor Carlos Manzo, attending the protest wearing the straw hats that symbolize his political movement.

"The state is dying," said Rosa Maria Avila, a 65-year-old real estate agent who traveled from the town of Patzcuaro in Michoacan state. "He was killed because he was a man who was sending officers into the mountains to fight delinquents. He had the guts to confront them," she said of Manzo.

Netanyahu, Putin Discuss Middle East After Russia's UN Resolution On Gaza

Jerusalem. (Agency)

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin held a phone conversation, during which the two leaders exchanged views on the Middle East situation, according to statements from both sides. Netanyahu's office said in a statement that the two leaders spoke at Putin's initiative, on Saturday evening following a series of previous talks on regional issues. It did not provide further information on the talks, Xinhua news agency reported.

According to the Russian presidency, the two leaders exchanged in details the recent developments in Gaza in light of the ceasefire, Iran's nuclear program, and Syria's further stabilization, among other issues.

READ: Israeli Officials Discussed Use Of Human Shields In Gaza: US Intelligence On Thursday, Russia introduced its own draft UN resolution on Gaza, challenging a US push for the UN Security Council to



approve a separate proposal that would support US President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan. According to media reports, the US proposal wants an international stabilization force in Gaza with broad independence from the UN, and grants Israel continued control over the security perimeter surrounding Gaza for an unspecified period. Trump has ruled out sending US troops into Gaza as part of the proposed 20,000-strong force. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Wednesday he was optimistic the resolution would be adopted, saying "good progress" was being made on negotiations around its language. Meanwhile, the Russian proposal focuses on creating an international stabilization force under direct UN authority, opposes to any demographic or territorial changes in Gaza, and urges implementing the two-state solution.

NEWS BOX

Memnagar travel operator's death reclassified as homicide

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

Eight days after the death of a sexagenarian travel booking operator, the case has taken a serious turn. Gujarat University police have registered a case of culpable homicide, after initially treating the incident as an accidental death.

Nathusinh Rathod, died on Nov 11 after being pushed off the platform outside Darbar Pan Parlour near Valinath Chowk in Memnagar during an altercation over passenger pickup spot. His family, who initially informed police they would file a complaint only after last rites, has now accused two men from Rajasthan of the crime. CCTV footage and a phone recording have been submitted as evidence.

The formal complaint, filed on Friday by Rathod's brother, Kishorsinh, names Pratapsinh Ratansinh and Lalsinh Ratansinh, both residents of SUNDIYAWADA in Rajasthan. Nathusinh's son, Bharatsinh, said, "The altercation began when my father asked the accused to not block the shop's entrance and move their cab further ahead to pick up passengers. The two men responded aggressively and assaulted my father, leading to his death." Kishorsinh told police, "The altercation was captured on the parlour's CCTV footage, which clearly shows the two men engaging in a physical confrontation with Nathusinh. Additionally, a phone call recording from an unknown number, received by Nathusinh on the night of the incident, revealed abusive language directed at him, further implicating the accused."

NCM chairman condemns 'abduction' of Sikh woman in Pakistan

Jalandhar. (Agency)

Reacting to the incident involving Sarabjit Kaur, a resident of district Kapurthala who was part of a Sikh jatha to Nanakana Sahib and stayed back in Pakistan, National Commission for Minorities chairman Iqbal Singh Lalpura condemned it as "abduction" and an "unforgivable crime." He also sought to put the gurdwara committees and the jatha leader in the dock, while urging the Indian govt to pressure Pakistan and compel the Pakistani govt to safely return Sarabjit Kaur. He questioned why the Guru Nanak anniversary could not be celebrated in Sultanpur Lodhi with devotion and questioned those who oppose stopping of Jathas.

"The kidnapping of Sarabjit Kaur from Kapurthala and the earlier abduction of Kiran Bala from Garhshankar in Pakistan in 2018 are both concerning and raise questions about the security arrangements for Sikh groups. The individuals travelling with these groups are recommended by gurdwara management committees, and the responsibility for their safety lies directly with the jatha leader. Additionally, ensuring the safety of Sikh pilgrims visiting Pakistan and their proper return is the responsibility of the Pakistani govt. If women's safety cannot be guaranteed, the purpose of visiting Pakistan is defeated," he said in a post on his Facebook page.

"Guru Nanak Dev spent a significant amount of time in Sultanpur Lodhi. Can the Gurpurab not be celebrated here with devotion? This question compels all Sikh groups, management committees, and govt systems to think deeply," he argued. "Those who oppose the stopping of jathas must also answer why they remain silent when a Sikh woman is left behind. The community will demand answers," he asked.

Booking fancy registration number for vehicles in Telangana to get more expensive

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

Booking a fancy registration number for vehicles in Telangana will get more expensive, with the state government finalising amendments to Rule 81 of the Telangana Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, increasing fees for premium vehicle registration numbers. The GO was issued on Saturday.

The popular '9999' number, which previously came with a base price of Rs 50,000, has now been revised to Rs 1.5 lakh. The revision has been in the works since August, when the Transport department released a draft notification and opened it up for public feedback through the Telangana Gazette. Not a single objection or suggestion was received during the month-long window, indicating broad acceptance of the hike.

Applications can now only be submitted online, and only for numbers within the next thousand of the current running series. The most sought-after combinations have been classified into slabs.

The coveted '9999' sits at the top at Rs 1.5 lakh, while numbers like 1, 9 and 6666 now carry a tag of Rs 1 lakh. Mid-tier favourites — 99, 999, 3333, 4444, 5555 and 7777 — will cost Rs 50,000. Sequential or popular patterns such as 123, 777, 1234, 6789 and 8888 are priced at Rs 40,000. Others fall into categories of Rs 30,000 or Rs 20,000, depending on demand. For all remaining options, the reservation stays at Rs 6,000 for four-wheelers and Rs 3,000 for two-wheelers. A running number can be reserved for Rs 2,000.

Extinct in Guj since '01, tiger reclaims turf with 9-month Ratanmahal stay

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

A tiger that wandered into Gujarat from Madhya Pradesh nine months ago has now made the forests of Ratanmahal its home ever since. This marks the state's most extended tiger stay since 2001 and raises hopes for the big cat's return to a region where it was officially declared extinct over two decades ago. The nearly four-year-old tiger began moving along the Ratanmahal and Madhya Pradesh border in mid-Feb and has since settled in the area, prompting forest officials to closely monitor its movements and undertake corrective measures to ensure its long-term survival. Officials said the last known tiger in Gujarat is believed to have died around 1985. The 1999 census recorded pug marks of one tiger in the state. But in 2001, the Gujarat govt officially declared the tiger extinct in the state after the census found no sign of them. Jaipal Singh, the principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife), stated, "The department is aware that the tiger has made Ratanmahal its home. We are observing its movement and activities." Another senior forest officer confirmed to that the tiger's

nine-month stay was the longest in the state since 1985. Since 2001, the only confirmed tiger sighting was in 2019 when a teacher, Mahesh Maher,



spotted the animal crossing a road into the wilderness in Boriya village of Mahisagar district, and captured it on his mobile. This tiger died after staying in Gujarat for 20 days. Regarding the latest sighting, forest officials said that since the tiger first moved to Gujarat, the department has increased CCTV

surveillance and even asked the staff to monitor its movements closely.

"Since the first week of March, we have been continuously monitoring the tiger's movement. We are constantly monitoring its pug marks and even capturing it on the CCTV cameras. The department has been keeping records of the sightings," said a senior officer from the department. To bolster the animal's prey base, forest officials have begun translocating chital and sambar deer to Ratanmahal.

"Recently, we noticed some new fawns, which indicated that the newly introduced chital and sambar have also settled there along with the tiger," said a senior officer. Wildlife Institute of India's former dean YV Jhala says, "This nine-month stay is the longest we have seen in the state. It appears the tiger has settled in Ratanmahal because it is finding good food and water there. The Gujarat govt should inform the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) that the tiger has been present for nine months, and work towards securing a female tiger to ensure a sustainable population of the species in the region."

Daily wager receives GST recovery notice for over Rs 35cr

Bathinda. (Agency)

In a curious case of GST fraud, a daily wager from Moga received a notice for the recovery of over Rs 35 crore from the office of the assistant excise and taxation commissioner, Ludhiana. Earlier in 2023, Ajmer also received a similar notice, but it was for the recovery of Rs 21 lakh. The notice is in the name of some Cee Kay International, but landed at the residence of the daily wager. The family, living in the Hari Nagar area of Moga, is shocked upon receiving the notice and, as in 2023, has approached the GST department and excise and taxation commissioner. The family has also filed a complaint

with the Moga South City police station.

Ajmer Singh says during Covid-19, some philanthropists visited him and others and got his Aadhar card while distributing ration. "It seems someone has misused my Aadhar while applying for a PAN card. I don't even have a PAN number," he said.

Moga councillor Jagjit Singh, who accompanied Ajmer in filing the police complaint, said, "When Ajmer Singh received a notice for Rs 21 lakh in 2023, he visited

the concerned office and narrated his position, and it is astonishing that no action was taken even

who is behind this fraud."

Ajmer and Jagjit Singh said after visiting the GST office, he was asked to file a complaint with the police, which they have done. The company to which the notice has been sent is shown to be operating from the industrial area on Gill Road, Ludhiana. Moga South City Police Station Inquiry Officer ASI Rashpal Singh said that the police have written to the Income

Tax department to know about the PAN number mentioned in the recovery notice and further antecedents about the notice.



AP to relaunch NTR Baby Kit scheme by January, adds more essentials for mothers in govt hospitals

VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)

In the quiet hours after childbirth, when a mother cradles her newborn for the first time, comfort and care matter more than ever.

Recognising this tender moment, the NDA government in Andhra Pradesh is preparing to relaunch the NTR Baby Kit scheme—a thoughtful initiative aimed at easing the first few days of motherhood for women delivering in government hospitals. Expected to roll out by the end of December or early January, the scheme is a revival of a programme first introduced during the NDA's previous tenure (2014–2019).

This time, it returns with renewed purpose and an expanded kit, reflecting the government's commitment to maternal and child health.

The scheme aims to support new mothers delivering in government hospitals by providing essential postnatal care items for both

mother and child. The initiative is designed to reduce infant mortality and improve maternal health outcomes across the state.

Each NTR Baby Kit is a carefully curated bundle of 13 essential



items: a baby bed with an attached mosquito net, baby clothing, towels, washable nappies, baby powder, shampoo, oil, soap, a soap box, a rattle toy, a carrying pouch, and a kit bag. These are not just products—they are symbols of support, dignity, and care for mothers who often have limited access to such comforts.

VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)

In a significant ruling, the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Saturday held that an accidental touch or push during a quarrel or confrontation could not be construed as an act intended to insult the modesty of a woman. The court made it clear that such incidents, occurring without deliberate intention to demean a woman, do not attract charges under Section 354 of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Delivering the verdict in a case, Justice Tallapragada Mallikarjuna Rao said there should be clear evidence of intent to outrage a woman's modesty to invoke Section 354 of IPC. The court made the observation on an appeal filed by police against a 2006 verdict of the Ongole Additional Assistant Sessions Judge, who acquitted four youths charged with obstructing a government servant on duty, and insulting the modesty of a woman.

The incident dated back to June 16, 2005. Mastan Vali, a home guard attached to Nagulappadu police station in Prakasam district, received a complaint that four youths were creating obstruction to vehicular movement near the bus stand. When he went to the spot, a scuffle broke out between Vali and the quartet. Vali's mother, who arrived there, fell down during the pushing and shoving.

Section 354 of IPC over woman's modesty cannot be invoked sans intent: Andhra Pradesh HC



Mumbai: VJTI experts advise slower drilling to reduce vibrations during Elphinstone Bridge demolition work

Mumbai. (Agency)

Following several complaints by residents over tremors felt during the Elphinstone bridge demolition work, VJTI experts have asked the contractor to slow down the drilling speed, measured in RPM (revolutions per minute), while boring through hard rock at the Elphinstone Bridge site. Slowing the RPM helps reduce vibrations and noise. The advisory came during a joint visit on Nov 14 by an MMRDA officer, VJTI professors, and project advisors, who also briefed residents on the safety checks being carried out.

Piling work is underway at pier locations P61 and P61A, with seven piles completed as of Nov 13. Work was briefly stopped after around 50 residents gathered,

saying vibrations could affect nearby buildings that are almost 100-years-old.

To address the concern, VJTI experts have installed instruments to track building safety, including vibration sensors (accelerometers), crack-width gauges, and tilt sensors. Residents were informed about these monitoring measures.

Local residents said the vibrations during demolition increased over the past few days. They warned that the problem might worsen in the coming weeks when heavy machinery is deployed for piling work.

The demolition work is scheduled to continue through Dec and is expected to be completed by Jan 2026. The new Elphinstone Road bridge, being built by Maharail



under the supervision of the MMRDA, has a targeted completion of Jan 2027. Once ready, it will feature a 132-metre-

long open-web girder spanning the railway tracks. The open web girder design offers a lightweight yet strong structure, ideal for heavy vehicular loads. It allows clear visibility across railway tracks, ensuring the safety of train operations, and facilitates easier maintenance. The open framework reduces wind resistance and helps extend the bridge's lifespan. The original Elphinstone Bridge was constructed in 1913 during the British era using basalt stone piers, cast iron and steel girders, and masonry arches. Designed for horse-drawn carriages and early trams, it later became unsafe due to corrosion, limited width, and heavy modern traffic loads. Once completed, the new double-decker bridge will decongest local traffic and provide a seamless east-west corridor linking south Mumbai to the city's emerging.

As GLP-1 drugs for obesity get popular, patients stare at costs

Mumbai. (Agency)

For thousands across the country, this year has brought a sudden relief from a lifetime of struggles with obesity, driven by the arrival of one weight-loss drug in March and then a couple more. But as the kilos drop and other health parameters improve, many are realising the harder part: generics are still distant and the financial strain is beginning to take shape.

The scale of what patients are spending is reflected in the numbers. By Oct, Mounjaro (tirzepatide) had become the highest-selling drug by value, with sales reaching Rs 100 crore, according to Pharmarack, which tracks major Indian pharmaceuticals. In volume terms, though, it sold just 85,000 units.

Gurgaon's Anish A (38, name changed), who works in real estate, had found himself spending an exorbitant amount within a few months he and his father began taking injectable tirzepatide. He lives with Type 2 diabetes and weighed 162 kg in May. "By Sept, I had lost 30kg but the costs that we incurred in five months were excessive. So, I started searching for alternatives," he said.

Soon, he slipped into a rabbit hole—trawling through research papers, online forums, videos and personal accounts from around the world, trying to understand peptides and how these drugs worked.

By the end of it, he had convinced himself that importing the powdered form of tirzepatide and another compound from China might offer a cheaper workaround. The alternatives he found are unregulated but it has been a month since Anish has been on them. Closer home, as demand soars, Pharmarack data shows within the city more than half the demand for weight-loss medications is in South Mumbai, followed by other upmarket areas like Juhu and parts of Andheri.

But this data doesn't account for how doctors are helping patients reach distributors directly; many rely on bulk supply orders of weight-loss drugs at discounted rates.

Plagued by suspended scepticism

The Mongols are believed to have used the first bioweapon in recorded history in 1346, when the forces of the Golden Horde under Khan Jani Beg catapulted a corpse infected by bubonic plague into the besieged Genoese citadel of Caffa in the Crimea. Caffa, now called Feodosia, has been an important port for centuries. It controlled the medieval Black Sea trade, including the eternally lucrative business of slavery, and was a terminus of the Silk Route. It is still strategically important—nominally Ukrainian, but administered by Russia. After the Russian invasion began, the world took note when Ukrainian aircraft attacked Russian warship Novocherkassk in the Feodosia harbour.

In 1346, the unknown soldier who served as a bioweapon decisively ended the siege of Caffa. The Genoese fled to Italy, carrying the plague with them into Europe, which it ravaged for the next four years, changing the course of history. For about 50 years, this one-man story has explained the rapid spread of the plague east to west across the Old World, from China to Iberia and the British isles. There's even a name for it: the quick transit theory. When the Covid-19 outbreak was traced to Wuhan, the story of Caffa was recalled, and it was suggested that deadly epidemics inevitably originate in China and travel west at top speed. Covid moved very fast because of air travel, but were earlier pandemics so fast-moving?

A paper in the October 31 edition of the *Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies* challenges the theory. In this edition focused on environmental challenges that shaped history in West Asia and Europe, authors Muhammed Omar and Nahyan Fancy of the University of Exeter argue that 'quick transit' is based on a misreading of creative writing as factual history. Their paper, 'Mamluk Maqamas on the Black Death', says that the theory rests on the work of American academic Michael Dols, a pioneer in the study of pandemics in history. He had relied on the Risalah al-naba an al-waba (1348-49) of the scholar Ibn al-Wardi, which described the arrival of the plague in West Asia like a tsunami coming down the Silk Road, destroying cultures in its path. But the Islamic tradition differentiates clearly between history (tabaqat or tarikh) and cultural products like maqamas, the genre to which the Risalah belongs. Maqamas were picaresque accounts of 'trickster' figures, a feature in almost all the world's mythologies—Loki being the best-known among them, thanks to American popular culture. In the Risalah, the trickster is the disease itself. A modern equivalent could be the story of Indian migrants walking home during the pandemic, which is essentially Neeraj Ghaywan's *Homebound*, based on Basharat Peer's *New York Times* newsfeature 'Taking Amrit Home'. It expresses the helplessness of mere mortals in the face of a global catastrophe, but future generations should not mistake it for formal history. Similarly, the Risalah expressed the feelings of people facing the imponderable. We, the future generations in this case, can read it for signs of what the plague did to the psyche of societies it overran. But we should not regard it as a factual account of the progress of the pandemic. The importance of the distinction would be obvious if we return to the story of the allegedly rapid transit of bubonic plague from a reservoir in China to Europe via a Crimean conflict. A story which begins with a disease-ridden corpse being catapulted into a fortress cannot but be compelling. But people have long suspected that history is not so tightly scripted. It tends to be slow and messy. There is, for instance, the question of the Justinian plagues that swept Europe from 541 CE, eight centuries before the Black Death, and recurred repeatedly across the Mediterranean, North Africa, Italy, Gaul, and West Asia until the 8th century. These plagues killed up to 50 million and contributed to the end of the Pax Romana—fortunately, not before the Laws of Justinian had established the basic principles of Western civil jurisprudence, which spread across the world during the colonial era and now underlie most legal systems.

THERE's a certain inevitability about the victory of the BJP-led NDA in Bihar, the punishing of Tejashwi Yadav's RJD and the decimation of the Congress party. Another thing is clear. Rahul Gandhi should go and settle in Colombia—or any of the other South American countries where he so fetchingly showed up in a white kurta-pajama and black bundi jacket in the middle of the Bihar campaign. There's a word in Hindi the Bihari—and Punjabi—voter must have had in mind when it voted against the Congress earlier this week, that translates as little more than indifference and a little less than loathing. *Tiraskar*. Contempt. Don't take us for granted. Because if you do we will show you your place by voting for a party that we may or may not have considered otherwise. In Bihar, voters were so filled with contempt for the Congress—read, Rahul Gandhi—that they have reduced the grand old party to six seats. This is the Congress' fourth straight defeat since the Lok Sabha polls a year and a half ago—after Haryana, Maharashtra, Delhi. The tragedy of Indian politics is that Rahul refuses to be accountable or go to South America or see the writing on the wall—which is, that he should step down and allow the winds of democracy that he loves to talk about, to sweep through his own party.

Both in Punjab as well as in Jammu & Kashmir, the people have shaken a few citadels—and given fair warning to the ruling AAP and National Conference, respectively. Don't take us for granted, the voter has said, both in Tarn Taran and Budgam. In Tarn Taran, in the heart of the hotbed, the rebellious Punjabi has sent a few of his/her own messages. First, she has put on notice the ruling AAP, 15 months before the Assembly elections in the state. Second, while the AAP candidate won, he has been given a rude shock by the Akali Dal candidate—even if the jury is out on whether or not this is an Akali comeback in Punjab politics, since the party lost its mojo when it walked out of the NDA in the wake of the Centre's imposition of the farm laws in 2020, won only three seats in the 2022 Assembly polls, was reduced to one seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and has been beset with factionalism.

Third, it's equally significant that Sukhwinder Kaur, the Akali candidate, has outwitted the candidate supported by the separatist Waris Punjab De (WPD) political outfit—he has come third. Never forget that only a year and a half ago, the pro-Khalistan WPD won two seats in the Lok Sabha—one is the son of Indira Gandhi's assassin, while the other remains in jail for attempted insurrection. So if Tarn Taran is now turning back towards moderation, the Akali Dal must certainly deserve two cheers and a pat on its back. Fourth, Tarn Taran has treated the Congress with withering contempt—whose pretenders believe they deserve the throne from which the people of Punjab

Tiraskar is the voter's terse message

THE GREAT GAME Bihar has treated the Opposition, particularly the Congress, with contempt



will, sooner than later, send AAP packing. Except, the Congress candidate lost his deposit, while the BJP was relegated to the fifth, also-ran spot. Then there's the don't-take-us-for-granted-message from Budgam, which J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had won last September, along with Ganderbal—he vacated Budgam, which is why it went to the polls. Clearly, all is not well within the ruling National Conference. Abdullah has been punished because he has not been able to fulfil the people's expectations of restoring the UT to statehood—never mind if it's not in his hands, but in the hands of the Centre. Abdullah is paying the price for the fact that he is, in truth, only half a chief minister, but that he still wanted the CM's chair. This unforgiving mood on the part of the voter sharply contradicts the huge applause for PM Modi's BJP as well as Nitish Kumar's JDU in Bihar. Many analysts have put the NDA's unprecedented win down to the large cash transfers for all voters, not just women—Jan Suraaj's Pavan K Varma told *The Tribune* that the BJP-ruled Centre paid out Rs 30,000 crore hours before the model code of conduct kicked in, a large sum of money in a deeply poor state. Perhaps the Bihar voter was scared into believing that 'jungle raj' would return with the RJD—certainly, Lalu's son has none of the fire for social justice reform that characterised Lalu Yadav himself, no

matter his other shortcomings. And while all these reasons are fully germane, none fully explain why Bihar has so willingly turned saffron and why it is treating the Opposition with such contempt, or *tiraskar*. The bottomline is the Opposition's refusal to put up a real fight. Rahul Gandhi abandoned Bihar (for South America), Tejashwi Yadav made rash promises that he knew he couldn't keep (one government job in every family) and Jan Suraaj's Prashant Kishor allowed both anger and arrogance ("I will leave politics if Nitish Kumar gets more than 25 seats") to come in the way of cold-blooded strategy. The Mahagathbandhan did not win because it was never really in the fight.

What do you do, then, when you're confronted with a juggernaut on the one hand and a lily-livered coalition on the other that doesn't even believe in itself? There are enough problems with the BJP to recount here—leading with the fact that the BJP had no compunction to leverage the resources of the Union government to tilt the election in its own direction, for example, the Rs 7,500 crore cash transfer to women. The BJP's hunger to win, as Bihar showed and has been clear in election after election, has never been in any doubt. Perhaps the Opposition should think about taking a leaf out of the book its political enemy has been reading for a while.

Preserving vision of a cinematic maestro

Ritwik Ghatak himself was *sui generis*—one of a kind. His influence continues to travel



In a world grown more chaotic, atomised, and close to breaking point, Ritwik Ghatak's cinema feels newly legible. What once seemed niche now reads like a map to our fractured times. As we mark his 100th birth anniversary, his legacy—especially his influence on students Mani Kaul and Kumar Shahani—is provoking a fresh round of screenings and conversations. Along with John Abraham, these filmmakers created a kind of cinepida drawn from myth, epic structure, music and memory—a shift that altered the grammar of Indian cinema. Ghatak himself was *sui generis*—one of a kind. His relationship with Kaul and Shahani was less about imitation and more about shared sensibility. Music bound them. For Ghatak, sound was not an accompaniment, but the emotional core of a film.

Few directors have used Rabindranath Tagore's songs with the creative daring and precision that Ghatak brought to them. Kaul worked with dhrujad, Shahani leaned towards khayal, and Ghatak absorbed both, creating sound-worlds where classical forms could speak directly to the politics of partition, displacement, and longing. The echoes between their works are subtle but unmistakable. The shadow of Ghatak's unforgettable Nita in *Meghe Dhaka Tara* falls gently on Janaki in Shahani's *Tarang*—both women carrying mythic burdens of

sacrifice and survival. Ghatak's 'epic method', where certain characters grow beyond the contours of plot into something timeless, can be felt in Kaul's *Siddheshwari*. What he gave his students was an orientation: to move past strict realism—even the refined realism of Satyajit Ray—and draw from theatre, folk tales, Sanskrit poetry, and Puranic lore. Ghatak's influence continues to travel. Actor Mita Vasisht, who worked extensively with Kaul and Shahani and has just made her first film, speaks of an acting tradition shaped by the "largeness of life"—a phrase echoing Ghatak's worldview. Shah Rukh Khan, who starred in Kaul's telefilm *Ahamaq* (1991) early in his onscreen journey, briefly sparked hope of renewing interest in such cinema when he starred in Amol Palekar's *Paheli* (2005), adapted from Kaul's *Duvidha*. Now, as Vasisht searches for theatres willing to screen her film, cineastes wonder if SRK—who has the reach, influence and the means—might help champion the preservation and promotion of India's great cinematic modernists.

Mandir narrative outshines Mandal calculus in Bihar

For the first time, the BJP has emerged as the largest party in Bihar. It did so by playing second fiddle to erstwhile socialists with pragmatism and keeping other allies close

The BJP has now firmly cemented its hold over the Hindi heartland with today's sweeping mandate from Bihar, a verdict that marks the party's first-ever emergence as the single largest force in the state assembly. For years, Bihar had remained the lone exception in the party's otherwise uninterrupted arc of dominance stretching from Rajasthan in the west to Bihar in the east—covering Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the Delhi NCR. That political map, almost entirely saffron, had one persistent gap. Bihar alone had resisted complete absorption. The BJP has ruled or is ruling every other state in this belt on its own; only Bihar kept it confined to the role of an indispensable, yet subordinate, partner.

For decades, the BJP functioned as a junior ally to one socialist formation or another. First came the Samata Party (SAP), the force that George Fernandes and Nitish Kumar built as an alternative to Lalu Prasad's dominance, which later transformed into the Janata Dal (United). Today's verdict breaks that long and unusually consistent pattern. The NDA's decisive win is not merely a tally but a structural shift: the BJP has overtaken the JD(U), seizing the pole position in a partnership that had historically tilted the other way. The margin—less than 10 seats—may look numerically modest, but politically, the symbolism dwarfs the mathematics. The BJP's strength has always been its instinct for alliance-making. Unlike the Congress, it is quick to identify potential partners, reach out across ideological lines, and stitch together functional coalitions. But its rise to power at the Centre changed the equilibrium. The party began to assume seniority in most alliances, subtly but firmly dictating terms. Nitish Kumar and the JD(U), fully aware of their irreplaceable relevance in Bihar's political mosaic, declined to concede that upper hand. Their refusal shaped the state's electoral chemistry for nearly two decades. Nitish had considerable political capital. His reworking of Mandal politics—from a discourse

centred purely on reservations to a broader promise of governance participation—earned steadfast caste loyalty. A series of targeted welfare programmes brought voters to him in impressive numbers. The carefully cultivated image of 'sushasan babu' allowed him to maintain an aura of administrative credibility even while navigating coalitions with ideologically incompatible partners such as the BJP. By contrast, the BJP entered Bihar with limited inherent advantages. It relied on its Jayaprakash Narayan lineage to open doors with socialist groups and prevent them from gravitating toward the Congress. It gathered the upper castes—long aligned with the Congress—under its banner, but that alone could not construct a winning majority in a state dominated by OBCs and Dalits. Bihar may have played a pivotal role in the Ram temple movement—after all, it was here that L K Advani was famously arrested by Lalu Prasad. Yet of the twin currents that defined the 1990s, Mandal decisively outweighed mandir. Hindutva remained a secondary force to the churn of backward caste and Dalit politics, even though the state witnessed occasional communal flashpoints such as Bhagalpur in 1989. Unlike Uttar Pradesh, however, Bihar did not experience repeated communal convulsions.

Although UP and Bihar are often clubbed as twin pillars of the Hindi heartland, the BJP has always treated them differently. Uttar Pradesh proved far more responsive to polarising politics, being the epicentre of the temple-mosque questions in Ayodhya, Varanasi and Mathura. Voting patterns echoed this receptivity: UP repeatedly swung towards the BJP, while Bihar required a broader BJP-plus formation. The RSS, too, had a far deeper organisational footprint in UP, with its extensive

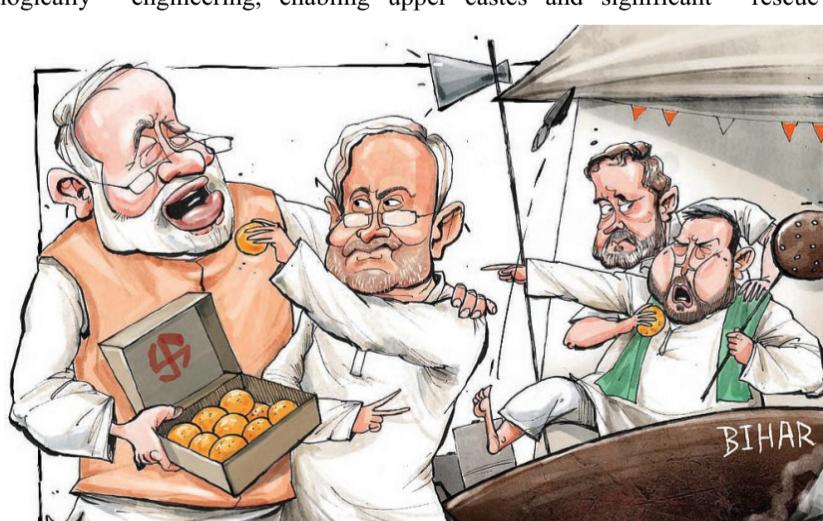
network of pracharaks and swayamsevaks enabling smoother cadre mobilisation. Moreover, UP offered the BJP a steady, recognisable leadership pipeline. Bihar, in contrast, still votes for Modi rather than any identifiable state-level leader. Crucially, UP's Mandal moment was eventually subsumed into the BJP's wider social engineering, enabling upper castes and significant

elections with the RJD and smaller parties, he suffered severe reverses in Lok Sabha contests. The 2014 elections—held after his acrimonious split with Narendra Modi, whom he had criticised for the 2002 Gujarat riots during the BJP's 2009 National Executive in Patna—ended the BJP-JD(U) alliance despite the rescue efforts of L K Advani and Arun Jaitley. The Modi wave then swept Bihar.

The 2015 assembly elections, however, demonstrated that a JD(U) integrated into the Mahagathbandhan (MGB)—the grand coalition of socialists and the Congress—could effectively halt the BJP. Yet Nitish could not long manage the revived antagonism with Lalu Prasad. He returned to the BJP, and Modi, displaying unmistakable pragmatism, set aside the previous affront and reinstated him as chief minister. Bihar was far too critical to relinquish. This election cycle, the BJP corrected its past errors. Amit Shah camped in Patna, entrusting micro-management to Dharmendra Pradhan and Vinod Tawde, both trusted organisational hands. Shah ensured the NDA functioned as a cohesive bloc, its constituents aligned rather than working at cross-purposes.

Nitish, in turn, repaired his ties with Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas Paswan), enabling smoother vote transfers.

With the victory secured, the BJP's real test begins: it must now evolve as a standalone force in Bihar and not merely as JD(U)'s companion. It must deepen its ideological footprint, build a durable social coalition, and craft a leadership bench that can one day command votes independent of Modi—all while maintaining the delicate balance that coalition politics in Bihar demands.



backward caste blocs to cohabit within the political 'parivar'. In Bihar, achieving such equilibrium proved possible only by leaning on socialist allies.

The BJP-SAP relationship flourished when George Fernandes was active. He brought ideological heft and offered the BJP a respectability it urgently needed after the Babri demolition pushed it to the margins in secular political circles. When Fernandes withdrew from active politics due to ill health, Nitish acquired the freedom to recalibrate his alliances repeatedly. He severed ties with the BJP more than once. While he fared well in state

NEWS BOX

Blind trust costs Ahmedabad jeweller gold worth Rs 42.3 lakh; duped by man posing as jeweller from Vadodara

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

In the world of high-value transactions, trust is gold. But a Navrangpura jeweller's faith in a seemingly reputable Vadodara dealer cost him ornaments worth Rs 42.31 lakh. It wasn't until the payment deadline passed and the accused's phone was switched off that the full, shocking extent of the alleged forgery and cheating became clear. The complainant claimed that the accused first contacted his business partner, expressing keen interest in acquiring antique jewellery sets for a supposed client. "He seemed genuine and had a good reputation in Vadodara, which made us trust him," the complainant told police. The accused requested photographs of the jewellery, selected some pieces, and assured the complainant that the payment of Rs 42.31 lakh would be cleared within eight to 10 days after the sale. Relying on these assurances, the complainant sent gold jewellery weighing over 380g through courier services.

However, when the agreed-upon payment deadline passed, the accused allegedly began making excuses, citing personal commitments and promising to clear the outstanding dues soon. "He kept delaying the payment, and eventually, switched off his phone," the complainant revealed.

Upon investigation, the complainant found that the accused had allegedly defrauded several other jewellers in Vadodara using similar tactics. "We found out that he was taking jewellery from various traders under false pretences before disappearing," the complainant added.

Punjab shocker: RSS-linked youth shot dead in Firozpur; family says murder was planned to create chaos

CHANDIGARH. (Agency)

Naveen Arora, reportedly associated with RSS, was shot dead by two unidentified men while returning home in Firozpur. The victim, aged between 30 to 40 years, comes from a family with strong RSS connections, with both his father and grandfather being senior workers of the organization.

Firozpur SSP Bhupinder Singh confirmed the incident and detailed the ongoing investigation. "Naveen, aged between 30 to 40 years, was shot dead while returning home by two unknown men. We are investigating the case and deployed teams and checking the CCTV footage as well. 3-4 SHOs, 2 DSPs are also working on this. The culprits will be punished as per law," he said.

Relative Ashok Bahl provided additional details about the incident. "The father and grandfather of the deceased were very senior workers of RSS. While he (Naveen) was going home from his shop, 2 men shot him and he might have died on the spot as the hospital declared him brought dead.

It seems that since his father is an RSS worker, this was done to create chaos in the city. The murder was carried out in a planned manner with a recce. This is a cold-blooded murder," he stated.

Two killed, six injured as TGSRTC bus hits parked truck on NH-163 in Jangaon

JANGAON. (Agency)

Two persons were killed and six others injured in a road accident in the wee hours of Sunday. A TGSRTC bus driver hit a parked truck on National Highway-163 at Nidigonda village outskirts under the Ragunathpally police station limits.

The deceased were identified as Pulumpuri Omprakash, a resident of Domalguda in Hyderabad, and Navjeet Singh, a resident of Balasamudram in Hanamkonda.

According to Ragunathpally Sub-Inspector (SI) D Naresh, there were about 16 passengers in the bus at the time of the mishap. The TGSRTC bus belongs to the Warangal-1 bus depot and was going from Hyderabad to Hanamkonda when it hit a parked sand truck.

He stated that around 1.00 am, at the Nidigonda Flyover Bridge exit area of Ragunathpally Mandal, a sand truck had parked without taking any precautions on National Highway-163. At the same time, an RTC Rajdhani going from Hanamkonda to Hyderabad hit the lorry from behind.

The two passengers travelling in the bus died on the spot, and the other six were injured. Upon learning about the incident, Ragunathpally police personnel rushed to the spot, and the dead bodies were shifted to Jangaon Government Hospital for postmortem. The injured persons were shifted to the Jangaon Government Area Hospital for treatment. A case was registered and is being investigated, said Naresh.

Police sources added that the truck had broken down after reaching Nidigonda village and was parked behind National Highway-163. The RTC bus driver did not notice the parked truck at the exit bridge and collided with it.

Mumbai civic polls: Congress to go solo in BMC elections; MVA allies seek flexibility after Bihar loss

Mumbai. (Agency)

Despite pressure from its MVA allies to be more accommodative in view of its rout in Bihar, Congress on Saturday said it would contest the BMC poll on its own.

Congress' Maharashtra in-charge Ramesh Chennithala made the announcement after a meeting with the Mumbai Congress committee on Saturday. "Since these are local body elections, we respect the opinion of our local units. As the Mumbai unit has expressed its desire to contest independently, the party has decided to go solo in BMC. We will field candidates for all 227 seats," said Chennithala.

Although he said the move was unrelated to the potential rapprochement between Shiv Sena (UBT) and MNS, there is strain in MVA over MNS's possible inclusion in the alliance in view of Raj Thackeray's political positions against Mumbai's non-Marathi population. Mumbai Congress chief Varsha Gaikwad, who said on Saturday that Congress workers want to fight BMC polls on their own strength, also said that while Congress followed the Constitution and took everyone along, "some parties were involved in violence and they assault poor people, which is

not tolerated in our culture."

Another Congress politician said MNS was into "divisive politics," which would cost the Congress its North Indian voter base and result in it shifting to BJP.

Some senior Congress politicians said the party might follow a similar strategy in other

election purely on local issues."

The announcement comes even as Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) have been advising Congress, in view of the Bihar debacle, to be more accommodative in seat sharing. Sena (UBT)'s Ambadas Danve had said on Friday, "Whenever Congress tries to get a bigger share in the alliance during seatsharing discussions, it results in a loss. The party needs to rethink its strategy."

Responding to the Congress' decision to go solo for BMC polls, Sena (UBT) politician and former mayor Kishori Pednekar said, "Their leaders have seen the verdict in Bihar. Even after that, if they want to contest on their own, let them. Their workers may want to contest on their own, and the leadership may have decided to allow it. Whether their decision is right or wrong will be known in the next few days." She added, "It will be more advantageous to contest together." NCP (SP) state president Shashikant Shinde said, "Every party in the alliance needs to remain flexible to accommodate others. We will discuss seat-sharing during the coordinating committee meeting in Mumbai." MVA's coordinating committee is scheduled to meet in Mumbai on Nov 18 or 19 to finalise coalition strategy.



municipal bodies too. But other Congress netas said it may still reach out to like-minded parties such as NCP (SP) and a faction of the RPI for possible partnerships. Congress functionary Sachin Sawant said, "We will ask like-minded parties if they want to form an alliance. We believe in inclusive politics and will fight this

Gujarat's first AI data centre to come up at GIFT IFSC

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

Taking Gujarat and India's digital infrastructure ambitions a step further, GIFT City is set to develop an artificial intelligence (AI) data centre, which will be Gujarat's first AI data centre, according to a top source familiar with the matter. The upcoming AI data centre will have up to 40 megawatts (MW) of capacity and will be in a vertical format, aligning with GIFT City's master plan.

"The tenders for implementation and construction of this data centre are expected to be issued shortly," a source said. "The project is expected to progress in phases. Timelines will be aligned with demand projections and infrastructure readiness."

The development also comes at a time when India is pushing for stronger AI compute capacity to support innovation, sovereign



digital initiatives, and the fast-growing startup landscape. AI data centres are specifically optimised for high-performance, data-intensive AI workloads (training and inference).

"The proposed facility is a significant evolution from conventional data centre architecture, adopting a vertical design to optimise land

use, streamline resources, and enhance operational efficiency. GIFT City is home to several techfin players in addition to leading banks and international stock and bullion exchanges. Hence, the AI data centre can prove useful, as vast financial transaction datasets can be analysed in real-time, identifying anomalies and potential fraud much faster and more accurately than traditional systems. AI streamlines the process of monitoring transactions for compliance with complex international financial regulations," said an official, requesting anonymity.

"This will also boost future investment prospects from techfin majors, global capacity centres (GCCs), and banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) players at the country's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)," the official further added.

At 58, cancer survivor from Vizag treks to Everest Base Camp, turning recovery into resilience

VISAKHAPATNAM. (Agency)
At an age when many begin to slow down, 58-year-old Munni Kaisare from Visakhapatnam, chose an entirely different path. A cancer survivor and a retired teacher from Timpamy School, she recently completed the arduous trek to the Everest Base Camp, turning a deeply personal journey of recovery into a quiet but powerful message of resilience.

Munni was diagnosed with cancer a couple of years ago. The news shook her family, but she recalls the moment with calm clarity.

"Everyone at home was devastated. But after chemotherapy and with God's grace, my health slowly improved. I didn't want to spend the rest of my life being afraid of what had happened," she says. One afternoon while watching a documentary on the Discovery Channel, she came across a programme on Everest trekking. "It fascinated me," she says, adding, "I thought, why not try it myself?"

Her family was startled when she expressed her desire. They asked, 'Why risk your health at this age?' But I had already made up my mind."

Munni successfully trekked Dayara Bugyal in Uttarakhand, located at 12,000 feet. That experience strengthened her confidence. "If I could do that, I felt I could aim higher," she says. She trekked nearly nine hours a day during the final stretch of the expedition. "When I started trekking, I had a severe cough. Doctors said it was due to exposure to animal droppings on the mountain trails," she recalled. On October 20, she stood at the Everest Base Camp, 17,598 feet above sea level, surrounded by snow-laden peaks and icy winds. For Munni, the moment was less about achievement and more about gratitude. "Up there, the cold is harsh and the climb is tough. But all I could think was, my body carried me this far after everything it has been through." Along the way, she met trekkers in their 80s and 90s, whose determination moved her deeply.

NFR's Railway Protection Force Continues Crackdown on Smuggling Across the Region

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 16th November: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) continues to demonstrate its commitment towards ensuring the safety and security of railway passengers and property. During the month of October 2025, the RPF/NFR apprehended 37 persons involved in the smuggling of narcotics items and contraband goods valued at approximately Rs. 9,40,79,933/- Recently, on 13.11.2025, the RPF of New Coochbehar recovered 37.1 kgs of unclaimed Ganja worth Rs. 3.71 lakhs at New Coochbehar Railway Station. The

recovered items were handed over to OC/GRP/ New Coochbehar for necessary action. On the same day, joint efforts by RPF & GRP of Agartala & Lumding recovered 23.61 Kgs of Ganja worth Rs. 2.36 lakhs at Agartala and Lumding Railway Station. The recovered items were handed over to respective OC/GRP for necessary action. Similarly, on 12.11.2025 RPF of Dharmanagar, Agartala & Rangapara North recovered 50.51 Kgs of Ganja worth Rs. 5.05 lakhs at Dharmanagar, Agartala and Rangapara North. The recovered items were handed over to respective OC/GRP for necessary action. Northeast Frontier Railway commends the dedicated efforts of RPF personnel across various posts and their effective coordination with GRP and Customs authorities, ensuring the safety of railway premises and curbing illegal activities within its jurisdiction.



Amid the slugfest between the Punjab govt and the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), the state cabinet on Saturday approved the proposal to create a separate cadre of 2,458 employees to be posted with the board. After the cabinet meeting, Punjab finance minister Harpal Singh Cheema said,

"It has been decided to create a separate cadre for the state govt's employees working with the Bhakra BBMB. Earlier, employees from the state water resources department and Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) used to go on deputation from the state. But there were instances when the employees would get their deputations cancelled, and the BBMB would then bring in employees from other states. The decision would offer around 3,000 job opportunities for youth in the state. The vacant posts will be filled up soon."

An official spokesperson added that it had been witnessed over time that a large number of Punjab quota posts remained vacant in BBMB, due to which the board filled up posts of Punjab quota with its own cadre. The Cabinet has given nod to create 2,458 posts for this

Bhakra board dispute spurs Punjab to create a separate cadre; cabinet okays creation of 2,458 posts for BBMB

Chandigarh. (Agency)

recruitment for the various departments and adopt rules in respect of posts of various departments, he added.

Over the past few months, the Punjab govt accused both the BBMB and the BJP-led Centre of decisions perceived as an infringement on its federal and riparian rights.



This conflict initially flared up in April 2025 over a BBMB decision to release additional water to Haryana, which Punjab vehemently opposed, going so far as to deploy its own police force at the Nangal dam to prevent the extra release. Further escalating tensions was the Centre's decision to deploy.

Maharashtra shocker: Made to do 100 sit-ups with bag for being late, girl dies

VASAI. (Agency)

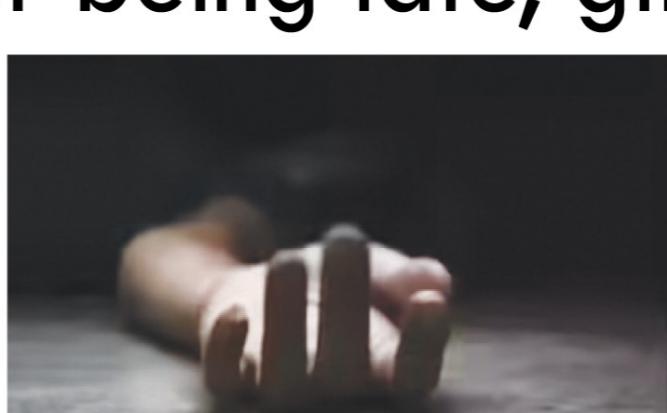
A 13-year-old girl from a Vasai school died at JJ Hospital Friday (Children's Day), a week after she was made to do 100 sit-ups with her schoolbag on her back by her class teacher for being late to school by ten minutes.

Kajal Gaud, a Class 6 student of Shri Hanuman Vidya Mandir in Vasai (E), experienced severe back pain after she was punished on Nov 8, along with a few other students who also come in late. While the girl's family has held the teacher and school responsible, Vasai police have lodged an accidental death report.

The health of the 13-year-old Vasai girl, who died after doing 100 sit-ups in school, first deteriorated after returning home that day, said her mother. She was admitted to a Vasai hospital, then shifted to another local

hospital, and eventually moved to JJ as her condition worsened. She died at around 11 pm on Friday.

Even as Alib police have lodged an accidental death report (ADR), a police officer said they are awaiting the postmortem report before deciding on recording statements and taking action. A local MNS functionary, Sachin More, claimed the girl had asthma/breathing issues and could not bear the punishment. After the girl's death, MNS workers reached the school and locked it. Kajal's mother said her daughter was asked to do sit-ups while she was carrying her schoolbag on her back. She said Kajal had



told her on coming home that she wasn't feeling well. Later, Kajal complained she had pain in the back all the way from the neck downwards and was not able to move freely, the mother said. A school official, Vikas Yadav, said the institution was willing

to accept its fault if the post-mortem report stated the punishment she had undergone had led to her death. The state's Vasai education officer, Pandurang Galange, said they were gathering all details. NCP (SP) functionary Rohit Sasane said the school authorities should be booked.

Locals said the school has permission to hold classes only up to Class 8 but has enrolled students for Class 9 and 10 as well. The school management confirmed this. Many schools in the Vasai-Virar belt enrol students in this manner and then get them shifted to schools which have permission for Class 9 and 10. Education officer Galange said this practice was illegal and added action would be taken.

Grandson of RSS stalwart shot dead in Punjab, CCTV footage shows attackers escaping

Police said
Arora had left his shop and was returning home to spend time with his children when the assailants fired at him near Budhwara Wala Mohalla. He died on the spot.

New Delhi.(Agency)
A 40-year-old man, Naveen Arora, whose late grandfather Dina Nath had served as the RSS city head in Firozpur and whose father, and he were also associated with the organisation, was shot dead by two unidentified men in Punjab's Firozpur on Sunday evening.

Police said Arora had left his shop and was returning home to spend time with his children when the assailants fired at him near Budhwara Wala Mohalla. He died on the spot. Family members and traders gathered at the scene and expressed anger over the shooting. "Naveen Arora is my son and we were all sitting and talking. He goes out and comes back to be with his kids every day. Just five minutes after he left, a couple of boys came and informed us that someone shot my son," his father Baldev said.

"Naveen was on his way home when two unidentified individuals shot him. Our team is investigating and we are also scanning CCTV footage," SSP Firozpur Bhupinder Singh Sidhu said. CCTV footage from the locality



shows two men running after the firing and escaping. Police said teams are using the visuals to identify the attackers.

SSP Firozpur Bhupinder Singh and MLA Ranbir



Singh Bhullar visited the spot and said multiple teams have been formed to trace the shooters. The SSP said the attackers would be arrested soon.

Arora is survived by two young children. Trade Association President Ashwini Mehta and relatives said he had closed his shop and was heading home when the two assailants shot him. They demanded that the police make swift arrests.

BJP leader Sukhminderpal Singh Grewal also reacted to the incident, issuing a strongly worded statement condemning the killing. "I strongly condemn the cowardly, gutter-born criminals who dared to unleash bullets in broad daylight in Ferozepur's Mochi Bazaar, murdering Naveen Arora, son of senior RSS leader Baldev Raj Arora," he said, alleging that the attackers "sprayed bullets at a hardworking shopkeeper heading home" and created panic in the market.

He said a similar firing incident had occurred in a nearby market a week earlier and demanded immediate arrests. "Enough of hollow assurances. Show results. Arrest these killers immediately," Grewal said, urging the police to take strict action. Police said efforts to identify and arrest the attackers are underway.

'Roz ki kamayi ka sawaal hai, isiliye hum aa gaye': Days after Red Fort blast, Chandni Chowk limps back to normalcy

New Delhi.(Agency)

On Saturday afternoon, people slowly began returning to Chandni Chowk and the Red Fort as Delhi Police cleared the blast site and reopened the streets to traffic. Curious onlookers stood in the middle of the road, phones out, taking pictures of a place they had seen only in news reports for nearly a week.

Five days after a car exploded outside the Lal Qila Metro station, leaving 10 dead and several injured, it seemed like business as usual in the market — except, a faint sense of unease still lingered. Across from the blast site, near the entrances to the Chandni Chowk market, three police personnel sat with stacks of paperwork.

One by one, people approached them, hoping to retrieve vehicles they had abandoned amid the chaos after the explosion.

Among them was Ramkar Yadav, who pleaded with a constable to return his scooter. "I parked my bike here for two minutes while I went inside to shop... I've come all the way from Faridabad, I don't know how I'll go back," he said.

On November 10, Yadav had unknowingly left his vehicle behind police tape and barriers, assuming it would be safer there. "Now that you've told me you're from Faridabad, I'm not giving your vehicle back," the constable told him sharply. As Yadav pleaded further, the officer snapped, "Are you mad? Haven't you seen the news? You know what happened in Faridabad, right? Do you want me to get into trouble?"

Yadav, fortunately, was carrying his registration certificate and Aadhaar card. After examining the copies, the constable relented. "Fine, take your vehicle and leave. I shouldn't see you here again," he said, waving him off. The policemen stationed in the area, much like the shopkeepers, remained visibly tense. The police chowki outside the Red Fort sat misspelled, its structure warped by the force of the blast. "The entire roof has collapsed," a constable whispered.

Nearby, charred display boards hung precariously over moving traffic. At the Lal Qila Metro station, workers dismantled what was left of the shattered window panes, while armed personnel inside scrutinised every passerby. Meanwhile, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, in a post in the afternoon on X, also said gates 2 and 3 are now open for commuters. Just outside, a black trash bag lay abandoned on the street. Rickshaw drivers and shoppers circled it warily, exchanging uneasy glances, until one man finally kicked it open, sending garbage flying. People scattered instinctively, pushing one another in the brief panic that followed.

Brother who helped with Math homework, world's 'best husband': Kin of Red Fort blast victims left picking the pieces

New Delhi.(Agency)

Sitting in her family's two-room home in Kanjhawla in north-west Delhi, a teenage girl remembers the brother who would help her with her school math — and would keep reminding her that she needed to stand on her own feet when she grew up. Some 40 km away, a young widow remembers the husband for whom she had cooked eggs and rice that he had said they would have for dinner together — and whom she would recognise only by the blue jersey that she had given him as a New Year's present last year.

Pankaj Kumar Sahni and Jumman Khan were among the 10 people who were killed in the explosion outside Red Fort on November 10 evening. It's been five days — and the families are struggling to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives in the void that the two men have left behind.

The protective brother

Twenty-three-year-old Pankaj kept a



"Injustice: anyaya", "Goal: lakshya." "Do you know of any good gym around?" "I'm Pankaj Kumar Sahni." "Isn't the park beautiful?" There are ingredients of a '75-day challenge' that Pankaj was perhaps thinking of taking up, beginning with having five litres of water every day.

And then, stuck between the pages of the register, there is a copy of his resume. Pankaj, a sports enthusiast,

got an A1 in physical education in Class 12. He left school to work after his father, who suffers from severe asthma, could no longer support the family on his own.

Pankaj drove an app-based cab, and had taken the day off on Monday. But he left home after a neighbour requested a drop to Old Delhi railway station. He was at the traffic signal outside Red Fort on his way back home when the blast took place.

"He told me to serve him rice, and that he would be back soon," sobs his mother Gayatri Devi, her face covered with a shawl, held tightly by a neighbour. "He would write in his register whenever he had the time. He used to tell me 'padh le, tujhe ghar baith ke khaana nahi banana hai. Mujhe maths padhate ho (Study, you can't expect to sit at home and cook. He used to teach me maths)," says Deepa, Pankaj's sister, who studies in Class 10.

Mothers whose passion did not fade with time

New Delhi.(Agency)

Chitra, Jyothi, and Kanchana — their mothers in their fifties proved that passion does not fade with time but grows deeper.

As young dancers stepped on the stage for their Arangetram (debut performance after completion of training) in the Karthiyani Auditorium in Mayur Vihar Phase 1, the showstopper was these three women, who chose to challenge convention, balancing rigorous training with family responsibilities, careers, and the demands of daily life.

"Arangetram" is a Sanskrit term that means "to ascend the stage". It marks a Bharatanatyam dancer's ceremonial leap from student to solo performer and usually lasts two to three hours. It is the

moment they first claim the stage entirely on their own, showcasing years of rigorous training.

The Arangetram on Saturday also



featuring teenage dancers, under the guidance of Guru Nisha Rani of the Thillana School of Dance and Music, was more than a debut. It was the culmination of a journey rooted in perseverance, self-belief, and a determination to honour long-nurtured

dreams.

The centrepiece, titled "Narayana Lokpalaka", in the Varnam genre and Reetigowla ragam composed by Nisha Rani, showcased their skills, command over rhythm, and expressive depth. Their execution of intricate jathis (beats per rhythm) was marked by precision, while their abhinaya (expression) carried the weight of real-life experience, adding layers of meaning that only maturity can bring. Each dancer brought her own story to the stage. Kanchana — an entrepreneur, mother of two, and writer — began her formal training in her 40s. Jyothilakshmi, who rediscovered her childhood passion decades later, resumed training at 46. She has been a consistent participant in Thillana School's cultural.

Man, Who Beheaded Lover In Noida, Said She Used To 'Extort Money' From Him

The accused disposed of the torso in a drain in Noida and dumped other remains and the weapon in a dry drain near Siddharth Vihar in Ghaziabad.

New Delhi.(Agency)

A 34-year-old man arrested for murdering his extramarital lover and dumping her body parts across Noida and Ghaziabad, said that the woman had been extorting money from him. The accused, Monu Singh, alias Monu Solanki, a bus driver, murdered his lover, Preeti Yadav, inside a bus. Yadav's headless and limbless body was found in a drain in Noida on November 6. Singh was arrested on Friday. He is married and has two

daughters and was in an illicit relationship with Yadav. Both were living in Noida's Barola.

Accused Claims Victim Issued Threat To Family

Speaking to the news agency PTI, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Yamuna Prasad said that during interrogation, Monu Singh revealed that Preeti Yadav had begun extorting money from him. Singh also claimed that Yadav frequently threatened to implicate him or involve his daughters in illegal activities.

The Murder
Singh murdered Yadav on November 5. DCP Prasad said that the accused confessed to picking up Yadav after taking a sharp-edged tool from her house without her knowledge. "They ate food inside the bus, after which an argument broke out. Singh claimed he attacked her with the weapon, beheaded

her, and severed her hands to hide her identity," Prasad said.

The accused disposed of the torso in a drain in Noida and dumped other remains and

body was found in a drain under the limits of the Sector-39 police station, Noida, with toe rings being the only identifiable clue.

Nine police teams were formed to trace the victim's identity and the suspect. "More than 5,000 CCTV cameras were scanned, and around 1,100 vehicles were checked. Of these, 44 vehicles were shortlisted, and their owners and drivers were questioned," Prasad said. As the investigation was ongoing, the police found a white-and-blue bus moving suspiciously near the crime scene on November 5 with its lights switched off.

The bus, which had the number plate UP16 KT 0037, was traced to Monu Singh. A First Information Report (FIR) was registered under Sections 103(1) and 238 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and further legal proceedings were underway.



the weapon in a dry drain near Siddharth Vihar in Ghaziabad. Forensic examination of the bus and seized items confirmed the presence of human blood, Prasad further said.

How Was The Accused Arrested?

DCP Prasad said on Saturday that Yadav's



contractors engaged in garbage collection, he said. "We will move a Cabinet note for additional funds to the MCD. Every possible help will be extended to the civic body for a neat and clean Delhi," he added.

The minister claimed that during the last two-and-a-half years of the AAP's tenure in the MCD, the city's sanitation system was derailed due to "improper contracts and mismanagement".

He said the government is working to resolve these issues and, on the chief minister's direction, all ministers are personally monitoring cleanliness and sanitation works across the capital. During the inspection drive, Sood visited several residential and commercial areas in Ward 95 and reviewed the problems faced by residents. He said the government is working at multiple levels to strengthen the sanitation system and improve waste management, assuring that citizens will see a cleaner city in the coming days.

NEWS BOX

Can India chase 124 and win Kolkata Test? Here's what history says

New Delhi. (Agency)

India will need to script history to win their ongoing Test against South Africa at Eden Gardens in Kolkata. To take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series, they must chase down 124, which would be the highest successful run-chase at the venue. India currently hold the record, having overhauled 117 in November 2004. Chasing in Kolkata is notoriously difficult; since 1934, only five teams have successfully reached their target in 30 attempts. India will need their very best to finish on the winning side and make sure that they take down the reigning world champions. Highest successful run-chase in Tests at Eden Gardens

India vs South Africa, Target: 117 - Nov 2004



India vs England, Target: 79 - Jan 1993

England vs India, Target: 41 - Dec 2012

Australia vs India, Target: 39 - Dec 1969

England vs India, Target: 16 - Jan 1977

INDIA ON TOP

India began the Test match brilliantly, bowling the Proteas out for 159 on the back of Jasprit Bumrah's five-wicket haul. Mohammed Siraj and Kuldeep Yadav also picked up two wickets apiece. Thereafter, India took a slender lead of 30 runs after KL Rahul's 39 and cameos from Washington Sundar, Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja. Thereafter, India bowled South Africa out for 153 in 54 overs, with Ravindra Jadeja claiming four wickets. For the Proteas, Temba Bavuma showed grit, becoming the first batter in the Kolkata Test to score a half-century. His 55 off 136 balls lifted South Africa to a respectable total after they had slumped to 71 for seven in 34 overs.

ATP Finals: Carlos Alcaraz sets blockbuster championship match vs Jannik Sinner

New Delhi. (Agency)

Carlos Alcaraz reached the ATP Finals championship match for the first time after beating Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-2, 6-4 on Saturday evening in Turin. The win at the Inalpi Arena sets up a blockbuster final against his great rival Jannik Sinner, a showdown between the world's top two players. It also capped a memorable week for the Spaniard, who had received the ATP Year-end No. 1 trophy just a day earlier.

Alcaraz's performance underlined the confidence and sharpness he has carried through the tournament. The 22-year-old needed only an hour and 23 minutes to overwhelm the Canadian, entertaining a packed crowd with his range and imagination. Controlling rallies from the baseline and finishing points with ease at the net, he never faced a break point and stayed in command from start to finish.



"I felt like I could do everything on court," Alcaraz said afterwards. "It didn't matter if it was a forehand down the line, a drop shot or a backhand down the line—I felt everything was going to be in. That confidence helped through the whole match, pushing him to the limit and forcing him to try something different." The foundation of his victory came early, with a break at 3-1 in the opening set sealed by a full-stretch volley at the end of a fierce rally. From there, Alcaraz kept Auger-Aliassime under pressure with his trademark drop shots and aggressive shot-making, riding that momentum to take the set 6-2. In the second, his composed serving and a crucial break at 4-4 allowed him to close out the match with conviction. Much of Alcaraz's success lay in the variety of his play. He blended weighty groundstrokes with subtlety at the net, anticipated superbly, and repeatedly pushed Auger-Aliassime into awkward positions. The tactical clarity ensured he reached the final without dropping a set.

IND vs SA: Shubman Gill in hospital after neck injury, ruled out of first Test

India captain Shubman Gill will take no further part in the opening Test against South Africa after sustaining a neck injury on Day 2 at Eden Gardens. The opener was taken to the hospital for scans after experiencing discomfort and is currently under observation.

New Delhi. (Agency)

India captain Shubman Gill has been ruled out of the remainder of the first Test against South Africa after suffering a neck injury on Day 2 at Eden Gardens. He was taken to hospital for further examination after the close of play on Saturday and remains under observation. The BCCI confirmed his unavailability for the rest of the match, adding that its medical team will continue to monitor him. Captain Shubman Gill had a neck injury on Day 2 of the ongoing Test against South Africa in Kolkata. He was taken to the hospital for examination after the



end of day's play. He is currently under observation in the hospital. He will take no further part in the Test match. He will continue to be monitored by the BCCI medical team," BCCI posted an update on Sunday morning. Gill had initially walked off on four, clutching the back of his neck after suffering what appeared to be a whiplash while slogging-sweeping Simon Harmer for four. The physio attended to him immediately, and he retired hurt after facing just three balls. Later in the evening, the situation appeared more serious as he was seen being taken to hospital with his neck secured in a cervical

collar. On medical advice, he will remain under observation while further tests assess the severity of the injury and determine the appropriate treatment.

India bowling coach Morne Morkel attributed the neck spasm to a benign cause rather than physical workload. "Yeah, I think we first need to determine how he got the neck stiffness, maybe just a bad night's sleep. I don't think it's, or we can put it down to the load," Morkel said when asked if Gill's packed multi-format schedule had contributed. Gill has indeed been on a relentless run of cricket, leading India during

the gruelling England Test series earlier this year, followed by assignments across formats and joining the squad straight after the Australia white-ball series that ended in Brisbane. He returned to Kolkata on Sunday, with India resuming training on Tuesday.

Morkel reiterated that the Indian captain is one of the best-conditioned athletes on the circuit. Calling the timing unfortunate, he added: "Gill is a very fit guy, he looks after himself very well, so it's just unfortunate this morning that he woke up with a stiff neck and that carried him into the day, which was crucial for us. Another sort of partnership with him batting around was going to be needed for us at the time and... just bad timing." Gill had walked in after the drinks break on Saturday, moments after Harmer removed Washington Sundar. Facing the off-spinner from round the wicket, he defended the first ball before slog-sweeping the next for four. Immediately after the shot, he was in visible discomfort, clutching the back of his neck and struggling to move his head freely, prompting the physio's intervention.

After a brief assessment, he retired hurt, with Rishabh Pant replacing him. He did not return for the remainder of India's innings, which ended at 189 for 9, securing a slender 30-run lead.

Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner to meet again in ATP Finals showdown

AUCKLAND. (Agency)

TURIN: Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner have been playing each other nearly all year for the biggest titles in tennis

Add one more important trophy that they will vie for on Sunday: the ATP Finals.

The top-ranked Alcaraz beat Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-2, 6-4 and No. 2 Sinner defeated Alex de Minaur 7-5, 6-2 before his Italian home crowd in the semifinals on Saturday to set up another meeting between the two players who have distanced themselves from the rest of the field. "I expect at least three to four people in the crowd cheering for me," Alcaraz said with a smile. "It's going to be really difficult. I'm just really happy to see Jannik in another final. Every time we face each other in a final we raise our level to the top." Alcaraz already secured the year-ending No. 1 ranking but will be contesting his first final at the event for the year's top eight players. "The No. 1 means that I've been playing really good during the whole season, (on all) surfaces," Alcaraz said. "He's playing the best on indoor courts. We're playing in front of his home crowd. I would say he's the favorite."



the first two days of the Kolkata Test. South Africa, batting first on a surface drier than usual, were bundled out for 159. Jasprit Bumrah was irresistible, exploiting the dryness for reverse swing and making the



most of the variable bounce. Spinners played the supporting act as India's master craftsman dismantled the visitors. India responded with 189. With Shubman Gill retiring hurt due to a neck injury, and no batter truly looking settled against off-spinner Simon Harmer, KL Rahul's 39 off

119 - the highest score of the match - felt almost monumental. South Africa's second innings began after lunch on Day Two and nearly ended within a session. Ravindra Jadeja was unplayable, combining pace, dip, and vicious turn to produce deliveries that bordered on the impossible. Temba Bavuma, battling grimly, ensured South Africa reached 93 for 7 and eked out a 61-run lead - just enough to stretch the match into Sunday. It remains a shame that a contest between two top Test nations, in one of cricket's most iconic venues, is unlikely to last more than two and a half days.

BAD PITCH OR POOR BATTING?

Reactions have been swift and telling. Former India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, one of the heroes of Eden Gardens in 2001, did not mince words. "Test cricket India vs South Africa, the game almost over on the 2nd day isn't finished yet. What a mockery of test cricket," he posted on X.

Maybe Ravindra Jadeja was done with CSK: Ex-India opener on RR move

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former Indian opener Aakash Chopra feels that there is more to Ravindra Jadeja's RR move and he may have been done with CSK. Jadeja made headlines ahead of IPL 2026 by agreeing to a notable pay reduction as part of his transfer from CSK to RR. Jadeja, a key all-rounder and previously retained for 18 crore by CSK for IPL 2025, was traded to RR for 14, representing a pay cut for the star all-rounder. This development involved a multi-player deal with Sam Curran moving from CSK to RR, and Sanju Samson heading the other way. Jadeja's decision to accept a lower salary has sparked discussion among cricket analysts and fans. Former India opener Aakash Chopra questioned the circumstances behind Jadeja's willingness to take a pay cut and highlighted the rarity of such moves among top players.

"RR have got Jadeja but he has taken a pay cut. I am thinking he left CSK by taking a pay cut? Without a player's consent you cannot



change their price. He has taken 4 crores less to leave Chennai and that is mind-boggling. Why does someone take a pay cut? Maybe he was done with CSK and did not want to stay there. But he could have

done that by going into the auction as well. Have RR offered him captaincy? Was that the incentive for which he has gone towards RR? It is very interesting. There has to be a bit more to it," said Chopra. WHAT CSK SAID ABOUT JADEJA TRADE

CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan said that letting Jadeja go was one of the most difficult decisions for the franchise, but it was made with future in mind. He also stated that Jadeja believed it was the right time to take a break from the team and explore new opportunities. "It was probably one of the toughest decisions CSK had to take as a team management. Considering the transition of CSK at this point of time, the team management took the toughest decision. It is a must that we should consult the players concerned, and it was after mutual agreement that we undertook this," said Viswanathan.

"When I spoke to Jadeja, he was also very clear that if there is an opportunity for him, because he's also felt that he's in the fag end of his career in white ball. So, he also felt that he can have a break."

Sinner will be playing in his third consecutive final in Turin and aiming for his second consecutive trophy. The Italian hasn't dropped a set at the Finals since getting beaten by Novak Djokovic in the 2023 championship match — a run of 18 consecutive sets. "These are matches I look forward to," Sinner said. "Also to see for me where my level really is but at the same time it's great before the off-season to have this matchup... of course, I feel comfortable on an indoor hard Sinner and Alcaraz have met in the last three Grand Slam finals: Alcaraz beat Sinner in a fifth-set tiebreaker to win the French Open; Sinner gained a measure of revenge by beating Alcaraz for the Wimbledon trophy; then Alcaraz again came out on top at the U.S. Open. "Every matchup is different. We saw it in Rome and Paris. Even if it's the same surface, it can change," Sinner said. Sinner also won the Australian Open — beating Alexander Zverev in the final — so he and Alcaraz each won two majors this year.

Temba Bavuma hits first fifty of Kolkata Test, earns standing ovation at Eden Gardens

India vs South Africa, 1st Test: Temba Bavuma brought up a superb half-century on a surface where no other batter had managed to cross 40 across three innings on a treacherous Eden Gardens pitch.

TURIN. (Agency)

Temba Bavuma stood tall amid the rubble at Eden Gardens, producing an innings of rare composure as South Africa were bowled out for 153 in their second innings on the third morning of the Kolkata Test. On a pitch where no batter had managed to touch 40 across three innings, Bavuma became the first to reach fifty in the match, finishing unbeaten on 55. His effort earned him a warm standing ovation from a crowd that

values resilience as much as flair. The landmark came via a streaky inside edge that trickled to fine leg, but everything before that boundary was crafted with discipline. Bavuma was compact in defence, patient in leaving deliveries he did not need to play, and unflustered when India's bowlers tested him relentlessly. It was exactly the kind of innings South Africa needed from their overnight batter and captain on a surface that has punished even the slightest technical error. He guided the tail with assurance after Neil Bosch was bowled by Jasprit Bumrah early in the session. Simon Harmer, who has two first-class hundreds and 33 fifties, joined him but did not last long. Mohammed Siraj, who had already beaten the bat multiple times, got a length ball to angle in and Harmer shouldered arms at the wrong moment. The off stump snapped in half, forcing the fourth



umpire to bring out a replacement. Siraj struck again two balls later. With the crowd roaring him in, he fired a yorker straight into Keshav Maharaj's toe to finish the innings. South Africa were all out for 153, setting India a target of 124, just inside the range. Axar Patel had mentioned the previous evening when he said they would prefer a chase of no more than 125 on this pitch. Bavuma walked off unbeaten on 55 from 136

balls, including four boundaries. It was his seventh fifty-plus score in his last 11 Tests and easily one of the most valuable, given the conditions. The applause around Eden Gardens reflected the appreciation for a captain's innings that combined control, discipline and calm decision-making.

India will begin the chase without their regular captain Shubman Gill, who has been ruled out of the remainder of the Test after suffering a neck injury on Day 2. Ravindra Jadeja, with figures of 4 for 50, ensured India kept South Africa within reach despite the visitors' defiance in the morning session.

South Africa at least have something to defend, and thanks to Bavuma's resolve, they have a performance worth rallying behind.

Fiscal impact of NDA's resounding victory in Bihar elections

New Delhi.(Agency)

One of the major factors behind Bihar's sweeping electoral verdict for the NDA is the state's expanding freebies economy. According to analysts, the massive win was powered in part by unprecedented female voter turnout, driven by a Rs 10,000 cash grant for women—underscoring how direct benefit transfers and populist spending have become central to electoral strategy. The Rs 10,000 grant was among several populist measures announced by the incumbent government ahead of the election. Other schemes included free electricity, a monthly stipend for students, a Rs 5,000 grant to construction workers, among others. However, several political economists and research reports warn that the politics of freebies could have serious fiscal implications, and Bihar may have to rely on additional debt financing to sustain this level of expenditure. Madhav Arora, Chief Economist at Emkay Global, said: "The outlay on these schemes could be more than ₹40,000 crore in FY26 alone, or nearly 4% of Bihar's GSDP. For context, this would be more than the state's budgeted capex outlay for FY26." The state's finances are already under significant strain in FY25, with total expenditure at ₹3.49 lakh crore while net receipts stood at just ₹2.45 lakh crore. This pushed the fiscal deficit to ₹82,478 crore, or 9.2% of GSDP, far above the budgeted ₹29,095 crore (3% of GSDP).

Revenue collection remains weak. With GST rate rationalisation expected to reduce revenues further, and the state's enforcement of alcohol prohibition resulting in near-zero excise collections, Bihar's own tax and non-tax revenue accounts for only 25% of its total receipts of ₹2.45 lakh crore. In comparison, Uttar Pradesh's own revenue accounts for 40% of its total receipts, while for Kerala, it is 74%.

Some economists argue that debt-financing may be the only viable way for the state to deliver on its promises. They also note that implementation could take time, as several of these schemes were not budgeted for in the current fiscal plan and were announced just weeks before the election. Economists caution that the freebies-led approach may also undermine long-term development.

"Bihar is running short of money and does not have enough resources. During his earlier three terms, the Nitish Kumar government primarily depended on one-time grants from the Centre for infrastructure development. So, if you try to give so much money to women in the form of monthly stipends or Jeevika Didis, it is ultimately going to impact development and infrastructure projects," said Bipul Kumar, political analyst and professor at the A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies.

IPOs next week: Two companies to float public issue; 7 shares to be listed

Kolkata.(Agency)

The IPO frenzy is going to ebb a little in the coming week as only two companies are going to hit D Street with the public issues. One is a mainboard IPO while the other is a SME one. These are Excelsoft Technologies IPO and Gallard Steel IPO. The amount that will be raised next week is also rather limited -- Excelsoft Technologies intends to mobilise ₹500 crore and Gallard Steel wants to raise ₹37.50 crore.

Excelsoft Technologies IPO

Excelsoft Technologies will launch its public issue to mop up ₹500 crore. The bidding process will begin on Nov 19 and will close on November 21. The price band for this share is ₹114-120. The issue will consist of both fresh shares and an OFS (Offer for Sale) segment. The OFS shares will come from Pedanta Technologies, the promoter company, which will sell shares worth ₹320 crore. The retail investors have to apply for a minimum lot of 125 shares. Therefore, a retail investor has to invest at least ₹15,000 for the smallest lot.

Gallard Steel IPO

The bidding window for Gallard Steel IPO will open on Nov 19 and will be open till Nov 21. This issue will comprise of fresh shares only. This is an SME issue that is designed to rise ₹37.50 crore. The price band for Gallard Steel IPO has been fixed at ₹142-150. Each lot contains 2,000 shares and retail investors have to apply for two lots, which will require them to invest ₹3 lakh at least.

Food price outlook: Better monsoon, sowing to cool H2FY26 inflation; adverse base could lift FY27 rates

New Delhi.(Agency)

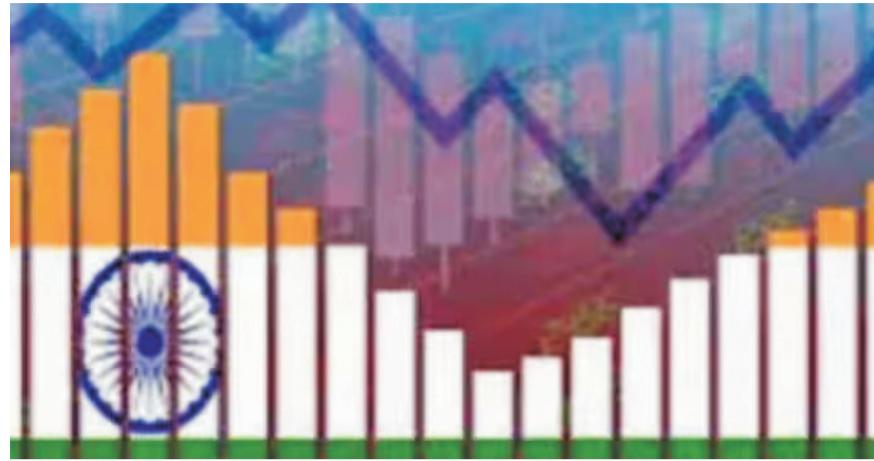
Food inflation is expected to remain under control in the second half of FY26, supported by better monsoon rains and improved sowing conditions. However, ICICI Bank's Global Markets sectoral update has warned that an "adverse base" could push food inflation higher in FY27. A base effect means inflation can be unusually high or low depending on the price levels in the same period last year. As per news agency ANI, the report stated, "Higher rainfall and sowing bode well for the outlook in H2FY26, but an adverse base should push food inflation higher next year (FY27)." The outlook comes at a time when India's wholesale inflation has eased to its lowest point in more than two years. In October, wholesale inflation slipped further into contraction, led by a sharp fall in primary food articles. Vegetable prices continued to ease due to steady supplies and favourable weather, while cereals, pulses, spices and fruits also recorded declines. Month-on-month food prices remained broadly steady, suggesting that the sharp disinflation seen earlier is stabilising. The wider primary articles category posted another month of contraction, extending its streak of negative readings because of weak pricing in both food and non-food items, as per ANI. The report highlighted that corrections in key high-frequency items such as tomatoes, onions and some grains have played a major role in pulling down wholesale food inflation this year. Fuel inflation also stayed in negative territory, helped by lower global crude oil prices compared to last year.

India's Retail Market Set For \$1 Trillion Leap By 2030: Fireside Ventures

Fireside notes that India's retail channels are undergoing their most dramatic reconfiguration yet. General trade, which accounted for more than nine-tenths of the market in 2014, is expected to shrink to about 70 per cent by 2030 as modern trade, e-commerce, quick commerce and direct-to-consumer (D2C) brands gain ground.

New Delhi.(Agency)

New Delhi: India's consumption story is entering a transformative decade, with the retail market on track to reach USD 1 trillion by 2030, driven by rising disposable incomes, rapid digital adoption and a widening aspirational class, according to a recent report by venture capital firm, Fireside Ventures. The venture capital firm says the shift is not merely about scale but about the structural rewiring of how India shops. Fireside notes that India's retail channels



are undergoing their most dramatic reconfiguration yet. General trade, which accounted for more than nine-tenths of the market in 2014, is expected to shrink to about 70 per cent by 2030 as modern trade, e-commerce, quick commerce and direct-to-consumer (D2C) brands gain ground. D2C platforms and quick commerce alone could command up to 5 per cent of the

market within the decade. As consumers adopt new formats and digital-first habits, branded retail is projected to double in size and approach USD 730 billion—nearly half of the country's total retail market. Fireside highlights that digital-native, new-age brands are expanding two to three times faster than traditional players, riding on data-led product

innovation, agile distribution, and sharper customer engagement. The firm's analysis maps a vast landscape of emerging consumer cohorts. In its report, highlighting the opportunity in the Indian consumer market to the investors, the VC firm added, "Map your audiences, and you'll see the opportunity take the shape of many substantial markets, whether India I, the 15 per cent population driving 35 per cent of retail, and 60 per cent of branded purchases; or Bharat, the larger, fast-digitising 85 per cent of the country, quick to adopt retail, and hungry for new brands and experiences. The report added that by 2030, India is expected to host 1.1 billion internet users and more than 400 million online shoppers, creating what Fireside calls the flattest consumption opportunity the country has ever seen.

Fireside Ventures believes the next hundred iconic consumer brands will emerge from founders who are rewriting the rules-building niche, culturally rooted, digitally fluent labels that speak to a new, experimental and proudly regional Indian consumer.

India May Gain Slight Edge As US Exempts Several Agri Products From Reciprocal Tariffs:

New Delhi.(Agency)

New Delhi: India is expected to gain a small edge as the US administration has exempted agricultural products from the reciprocal tariffs it had imposed on several countries, said trade think tank GTRI. The United States has removed a set of agricultural products from the reciprocal tariffs introduced earlier this year, meaning these items will now face only the standard MFN duties.

A White House Executive Order issued on November 12 excludes coffee, tea, tropical fruits, fruit juices, cocoa, spices, bananas, oranges, tomatoes, beef and certain fertilizers from the April 2 reciprocal tariff regime, according to a Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) report put out on Saturday. The exemptions took effect on November 13. These goods are either not

produced in adequate quantities domestically or depend on climate conditions the US cannot replicate, GTRI has asserted. For the tariff-exempt products identified in the order,



India today supplies only USD 548 million of America's USD 50.6-billion import basket--reflecting a narrow export footprint dominated by a few winners, GTRI noted. US' demand for

these items is heavily concentrated in categories. India's exports to the US are concentrated in a handful of high-value spices and niche products: pepper and capsicum preparations (USD 181 million), ginger-turmeric-curry spices (USD 84 million), anise and cumin seed categories (USD 85 million), cardamom and nutmeg (USD 15 million), tea (USD 68 million), and modest quantities of coconuts, cocoa beans, cinnamon, cloves, and fruit products. But India has almost no presence in several of the largest exempted lines--tomatoes, citrus fruits, melons, bananas, most fresh fruits, and fruit juices," GTRI noted. It's not clear yet whether Indian exports will be exempt from 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs or full 50 per cent tariffs.

A slowing wartime economy pushes the Kremlin to tap consumers for revenue

New Delhi.(Agency)

After two years of robust growth fueled by military spending on the war in Ukraine, Russia's economy is slowing. Oil revenues are down, the budget deficit is up and defense spending has leveled off. The Kremlin needs money to keep its finances steady—and it's clear where President Vladimir Putin intends to get it: at the cash register, from ordinary people and small businesses. An increase in value-added tax to 22% from 20% is expected to add as much as 1 trillion rubles, or about \$12.3 billion, to the state budget. The increase is contained in legislation already making its way through Russia's compliant parliament and would take effect from Jan. 1.

More tax and fee increases are on the way. On top of the rate increase, the legislation lowers the threshold for requiring businesses to collect VAT to a mere 10 million rubles (about

\$123,000) in annual sales revenue, in stages by 2028. That's down from 60 million rubles, or \$739,000. That change is aimed in part at tax avoidance schemes in which



companies split their operations to skirt the threshold. But it also will hit previously exempt businesses like corner convenience stores and beauty salons. The government also has proposed increasing taxes on spirits, wine, beer, cigarettes and vapes. For

instance, the tax on stronger spirits such as vodka would go up by 84 rubles per liter of pure alcohol, which works out to 17 rubles or about 20 US cents for a half-liter bottle, or about 5% of the minimum price of 349 rubles (\$4.31). Fees for renewing driver's licenses or getting an international license also are going up, and a key tax break on imported cars is being axed. The government is weighing a tech tax on digital equipment including smartphones and notebooks of up to 5,000 rubles (\$61.50) for the highest priced items, the *Kommersant* news site reported.

The economic slowdown and tax increases are signs that Putin and ordinary Russians will face harder choices in the months ahead between guns and butter—that is, between military spending and consumer welfare after 3 1/2 years of war against Ukraine.

Millennials vs Gen Z: How their crypto portfolios and risk appetites differ

Millennials and Gen Z are both active in the world of crypto, yet they approach it from very different angles. Their portfolios, strategies and risk appetite reveal how differently each generation views money, technology and long-term investing.

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Cryptocurrency has become a popular investment choice for young Indians, but Millennials and Gen Z approach it in very different ways. Their choices reflect their experiences, their understanding of technology, and the way they see risk. While both groups are helping crypto grow, their paths, and their portfolios, don't look the same. IndiaToday spoke with Ashish Singhal, co-founder, CoinSwitch and Ellie Doroudian, founder, The BestProp to understand these generational differences.

DIFFERENT STARTING POINTS, DIFFERENT MINDSETS

Millennials stepped into the world of investing long before crypto reached the

mainstream. They witnessed stock market cycles, economic downturns and the early, unstable phase of digital assets. That experience shapes their behaviour even today. Ashish Singhal said Millennials "tend to look for alpha from cryptos in a balanced and diversified portfolio." For them, crypto is an add-on rather than the starting point of their financial journey. Gen Z, meanwhile, grew up in a world where the internet, digital payments and online communities were already the norm. Many of them make their first investment in crypto. Singhal said, "Gen Z is digital-native and more experimental. In many cases, their first investment is crypto."

WHY GEN Z CONNECTS DEEPLY WITH CRYPTO

For Gen Z, crypto is more than just a money-making tool. It represents community, identity and the future of finance. They enjoy the technology behind it, the speed of transactions, and the sense of belonging that comes from online crypto communities. Crypto isn't just about making money; it's a way to participate in the future of finance," Singhal added. Ellie Doroudian described

Gen Z as digital natives who see crypto as "a banner of reclamation—sidestep



legacy institutions and embrace socially driven opportunities." Meme coins, NFTs and tokens built around online trends appeal strongly to them.

MILLENNIALS PREFER STABILITY AND LONG-TERM THINKING

Millennials, on the other hand, approach crypto with more caution. Their experiences with market crashes and economic slowdowns make them think in the long term. They prefer tried-and-tested tokens and rely on measured strategies. Doroudian said Millennials are "risk-aware rather than risk-averse," explaining that they use methods like

diversification, dollar-cost averaging and stop-loss limits. They rarely go all in and tend to keep most of their money in mainstream assets while allocating a smaller portion to crypto.

INCOME AND STABILITY SHAPE RISK APPETITE

Both experts agree that income plays a major role in how much risk people can take. Gen Z investors are early in their careers, so they put in smaller amounts and don't mind experimenting with high-risk tokens. Their losses feel manageable because their stakes are small, said Doroudian. Millennials, with higher incomes and greater responsibilities, invest more but do so carefully. Singhal explained that people with financial stability feel more comfortable exploring new assets, but they do so with "a balanced and diversified portfolio."

WHAT EACH GENERATION BUYS

"Millennials tend to be drawn to Bitcoin and large-cap altcoins that have stood the test of time. Having been brought up referring to major tokens like Ethereum, Solana, or Cardano, they trust in the good fundamentals and worldwide recognition of these tokens," says Doroudian.

Nora Fatehi

BREAKS Silence On Drug Syndicate Allegations Linked to Dawood: 'My Name Is an Easy Target'

A major drug racket uncovered by the Mumbai Police has revealed a network allegedly involving high-profile personalities, including actors Shraddha Kapoor, Nora Fatehi and Alishah Parkar, nephew of underworld figure Dawood Ibrahim. The operation, reportedly overseen by Mohammed Salim Mohammed Suhail Shaikh—also known as Lavish—spanned exclusive parties held across India and abroad.

Drug Racket Allegedly Operated From Dubai

According to India Today, investigators believe Salim managed the entire operation from Dubai, where he resides. His son, Taher Dola — brought back from the UAE in August — has reportedly provided crucial insights into how the group operated, including details of attendees, suppliers and locations of the alleged parties.

Officials told PTI that during interrogation, Salim claimed he organised drug-fuelled gatherings attended by celebrities from film, fashion and music, as well as Alishah Parkar. These allegations form part of what investigators are now examining based on digital evidence and remand documents.

Nora Fatehi Issues Strong Denial

Among the individuals named, Nora Fatehi was the first to address the matter publicly.

Taking to Instagram Stories, she issued a firm statement distancing herself from the allegations and warning against the misuse of her name. "FYI I DONT go to parties... I'm constantly on flights... I'm a workaholic... I don't associate myself with people like that... Don't believe anything you read!" she wrote.

She further added, "It seems like my name is an easy target, but I won't allow it to happen this time... Please refrain from using my name in situations that have absolutely NOTHING to do with me! This will come with a heavy, heavy price!" Her reaction came after reports claimed the remand copy explicitly listed her name among others mentioned by the accused.



Priyanka Chopra

Exudes 'Princess' Vibes At Globetrotter Event, Leaves Fans Awestruck

Desi girl Priyanka Chopra never fails to make heads turn, and this time was no different! Fans were eagerly waiting to see her look tonight for the highly-anticipated GlobeTrotter event, which was held at Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad. She attended the grand event with her co-stars Mahesh Babu and Prithviraj Sukumaran and director SS Rajamouli. PeeCee wowed fans with her stunning traditional look at the event, and several pictures and videos of the actress are going viral on social media.

Priyanka Chopra Rocks White Lehenga Saree At GlobeTrotter Event

Priyanka Chopra made a stylish entry at the GlobeTrotter event in Hyderabad. She was seen in a beautiful white lehenga saree, and exuded princess vibes in the traditional outfit. She completed her traditional look with an elaborate necklace, a matching maang tikka, bracelets, and a waist belt over her saree, giving a structured look to her ensemble. She looked absolutely stunning, and was seen greeting fans warmly with a 'namaste'. She flashed her brilliant smile and waved at her fans gathered at the venue. Soon after, she headed to her seat and sat next to Prithviraj Sukumaran. She was also seen interacting with Mahesh Babu's wife Namrata Shirodkar, and his daughter Sitaru. Check out her pictures and videos below!

Fans React

Fans couldn't stop gushing over Priyanka Chopra's stunning look. "It's giving princess Jasmine," commented one fan, while another one wrote, "Wow apsara." A third comment read, "She's a vision in white," while another one commented, "My jaw dropped when I saw her." Priyanka Chopra plays Mandakini in the film, and her



intriguing first look from the film was unveiled a few days ago by the makers.

Varanasi Title Reveal And Mahesh Babu's First Look

Meanwhile, the makers finally unveiled the title of SS Rajamouli's film. They revealed that it is officially titled 'Varanasi', and also shared the first look of Mahesh Babu's character, at the event. A massive screen was set up at the Ramoji Film City for the announcement of the official title of the film, along with the first look. Several videos on social media show Mahesh Babu's first look being displayed on the huge screen.

Pregnant Bharti Singh Reveals Her Sugar Levels Have Rapidly Increased: 'I Am Extremely Worried'



Star comedian Bharti Singh recently took to her vlog on her YouTube channel to update her fans about her health condition during her second pregnancy. The actress in her vlog stated that her sugar levels had rapidly increased and also expressed her grave concern over the same. She said, "My sugars have rapidly increased, especially the fasting sugars; they usually are never so high. I am definitely going to be scolded by the doctor today." She further added, "I am confused because I did not eat anything that would trigger my sugars or increase them, nor am I in any stress. I have been extremely particular about my diet; I only eat millets and have completely cut off rotis and rice and other forms of carbs, so I don't know why my sugar has come so high, and I am extremely worried because I don't know. I just want that it shouldn't affect my baby in any way." She further added that her husband, Haarsh Limbachiyaa, was in Dubai for some professional work, and that made her even more anxious. "Haarsh is not in town; he had to leave for Dubai for some work last night, and I am just feeling so lost right now," she informed.

"Whenever Harsh is around I feel more confident and more calm; he is not just my husband, but he is also my best friend, my confidant and everything in my life — so now that he is not there I am fretting even more." She also added that she would be taking her son Gola, aka Laksya, to the doctor. Talking about the same, she said, "Since Haarsh is not there, I will be taking my little son Gola to the hospital, to the doctor with me. When there is a man with you, you feel secure and a little calm, even if the man is my little son," Bharti quipped. Bharti further revealed that her average sugar (HB1AC) was at 4.5 some time ago, due to which the doctor was extremely happy and had lauded her, but now the average sugar has come to 6.7, which is in the diabetic stage, and that is making her extremely conscious and worried. After visiting the doctor, Bharti revealed that the doctor did scold her a lot and asked her to get more strict with her food and other things.

'Get That Child Away From Him': Netizens Fume As Nandamuri Balakrishna Pulls Harshaali Malhotra



The Thaandavam song from Akhanda 2 was launched on Friday at an event in Mumbai, and clips from the event are circulating all over Instagram, featuring Nandamuri Balakrishna and Bajrangi Bhaijaan fame Harshaali Malhotra. Now, netizens are angered by Balakrishna's behaviour towards Harshaali.

In one of the clips that is now going viral, Nandamuri Balakrishna is seen pulling Harshaali towards him, and this has left social media questioning his behaviour. One user said, "SOMEONE GET THAT CHILD AWAY FROM HIM."

"The panic in her eyes!!" another commented. A third user wrote, "The way he touches her..."

"Yeah, who the hell is he and what is she doing with him?!" another comment read. One user wrote, "Where is her family? Or manager? Anyone!!! No one should be touching her that way, GOD."

"Sometimes I wonder, does he see his own videos and consider changing himself?" another user wrote. A comment read, "Oh my God, she's a literal child! This man is so disgusting. Why isn't he getting cancelled? Her parents should know better bhyi."

"We as Indians have zero respect for personal space!! In a safer society, she could have easily communicated that she's not happy with all the manhandling... unfortunately not a possibility here. He's her grandfather's age and misogyny is at its peak here," one comment reads.

Another user shared, "If it ever comes out that she was hurt by him, Nandu won't have anywhere to hide from the outrage. No amount of brain-dead fans would be able to cover this one."

About Akhanda 2: Thaandavam

Directed and co-written by Boyapati Sreenu, Akhanda 2 promises to amplify everything that made the first film a cultural phenomenon: divine fury, stylised action, mythic undertones, and Balakrishna's signature mass appeal.

In this sequel, Balakrishna reprises his role as an Aghora who channels divine power to combat evil forces threatening humanity. The film stars Samyuktha and Aadhi Pinisetty in pivotal roles, alongside a strong supporting cast. The original Akhanda saw Balakrishna in dual roles, as Murali Krishna, a righteous farmer, and as Akhanda Rudra Sikandar Aghora, a divine warrior who emerges to fight injustice. The sequel, according to early reports, will expand this mythology further with a more intense spiritual narrative, elevated visual effects, and a grander scale.



7 signs that you are too stressed out at Your job!

Here's how you can come out of it



Are you battling with stress issues?

Sometimes, it is good to be a 'little' stressed at work. It helps you to push your boundaries, motivate yourself and bring out the best in you. But on the other hand, if you are always stressed, needless to say, it is surely a danger sign for your health and professional life as well. Here are some subtle signs, which indicate that you are dealing with high stress level at your office, and what you can do to tackle the situation...

You avoid taking breaks

Are you struggling to detach yourself from office work after reaching home?

If you want to strike the perfect work-life balance, it is important to detach yourself from office work after you reach home. Unfortunately, it is easier said than done. When we end up spending more time in office than being home, it is not an easy task to detach ourselves from all the office works and assignments. Deadlines and competition only make matters worse. It's okay to struggle to strike the perfect balance but the struggle can be made a little easier if we follow a few things:

Work-life balance goals should be realistic

This is the first and the most important step. Just like we make career goals, it's equally important to set some goals to strike work-life balance. However, be realistic when you are setting your work-life balance goals. If spending time with your friends in a bar helps you relax, then do not hesitate to include that in your list. If you want to spend eight hours in office and do not want to work overtime, be clear. Only you can figure out what is best for you and stick to your resolutions.



Set boundaries

Ah! We know how difficult this can be. With a demanding boss and competitive colleagues, no doubt we are forced to carry out passive office work even after we reach home. Be it attending calls or sending a few mails, although it might seem like a task that takes only few minutes, it does affect your mood and energy when you are home. You should be very clear about your boundaries. Working from home during

Do you worry too much about Office work even after you reach home?

emergencies is acceptable, but if you make it a habit your work-life balance will definitely go for a toss.

The importance of disconnecting...

Think twice before answering work-related calls or emails. Ask this question: Can this be answered next day? If yes, then just disconnect and keep your phone on silent mode. Try not to check your emails before going to bed because if you do so, it will not only increase your stress level if you happen to see some work-related emails but will also prevent you from having a good night's sleep.

Switch off personal social media account notifications during office time

There is no denying the fact that the world of social media—be it Facebook or Twitter—can be very tempting and once we are in it, we can hardly keep track of the time spent there. These can not only prove to be a big distraction but can affect our productivity at work. If we waste time in replying to personal messages or posting



Herculean task.

You are developing a negative attitude

You are gradually becoming a pessimistic person. You doubt your capabilities and find it difficult to make decisions. You are low on motivation and feel like running away from everything. You are slowly realising that you never felt this bogged down before, and can't remember the last time you felt really happy during office hours.

You have problem sleeping

You think about work all the time and always feel tired. Even your sleep cycle is disturbed. You either find it difficult to fall asleep, or feel like sleeping more than the usual hours. Even your dreams are work related, and you wake up anxious in the middle of the night.

Self-care has taken a back seat

You no longer feel like dressing up for office and taking care of your health. You have developed self-harming habits like biting your nails, drinking/smoking (or feeling the urge), eating junk food all the time, or not eating anything.

Here's what you need to do

Whether it is because of excessive work pressure, office politics, unrealistic work expectations, frequent deadlines or a personal problem, try to find the reason behind your stress. Try talking to your manager and figure out a pragmatic solution. Meanwhile, start practising deep breathing whenever you feel anxious, and do not skip taking short breaks. In fact, research shows that going for a walk,



listening to music and taking short breaks help to reduce the production of the hormone cortisol (that makes you feel anxious) and in turn, improves your productivity.

Speak up at work

If you feel you are overburdened with work, do not be afraid to raise your concern and opine what you feel is justified. For all the obvious reasons, maintain a healthy lifestyle and cultivate a positive attitude towards everything. Understand that nobody can wave a magic wand and simply solve all your problems. You are the only one who can help yourself.



pictures on social media, it is obvious that we will never finish our work on time and end up staying back beyond office hours. Turning off your social media account notifications can be a good practice.

The danger of over commitment

There is a saying that goes something like this: Good work means more work. We hardly say no to more or 'extra' work, which a manager or the boss asks us to do as a 'reward' for doing a good job. Sometimes it is a wise career move to pick up more work, but at the same time such a

move might push your personal life to the backseat. So, do not overcommit yourself to work at the cost of your personal space and life.

Be punctual

School days are the best days to learn the importance of punctuality. Unfortunately, as we start our work life, this is the first lesson that most of us unlearn. If we are assigned a certain number of hours as office hours, there must be a reason behind it. Reach office on time and wrap up work within office hours. Yes, we agree, this might be difficult but certainly this isn't impossible. Remember, punctuality does

not mean just reaching office on time, it also applies to everything—be it completing a project or leaving office.

Value your health and personal space

Remember, you can be productive only when you have a healthy mind residing in a healthy body. When you overwork and do not allow yourself enough time to relax, the stress would affect both your physical and mental health. Therefore, it is essential to realise the importance of inculcating work habits that allow you breathing space, which will help you to strike better work-life balance.