

Free India from Macaulay's slavery mindset: PM Modi sets 10-year roadmap

Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged a national resolve to shed what he called the "Macaulay mindset," launching a 10-year mission to reverse the colonial-era impact of the 1835 education overhaul.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called for a national resolve to "free ourselves from the mindset of slavery that Macaulay imposed on India," setting a 10-year timeframe leading up to the 200th year of Macaulay's campaign to reverse its legacy. The PM was referring to the 1835 introduction of the Macaulay education system, which established English as the medium of instruction and prioritised Western literature and science over traditional Indian learning.

"In 1835, British Parliamentarian Thomas Babington Macaulay launched a major campaign to uproot India from its own roots. He declared that he would create Indians who would appear Indian but think like the British," he said. PM continued, "Macaulay broke our self-confidence and filled us with a sense of inferiority. He threw our entire way of life into the dustbin in one stroke. That was when the belief took root that Indians must adopt foreign ways to achieve anything. This mindset only strengthened after Independence. The sense of pride in what is ours gradually weakened."

The Prime Minister said this inferiority complex persisted long after 1947. He noted that India's

traditional education system had once instilled cultural pride and placed equal weight on skill and scholarship.

"That is why Macaulay decided to break the backbone of India's education system, and he succeeded. Macaulay ensured that British



language and British thinking received greater recognition during that period, and India paid the price for it for centuries to come," he said.

PM Modi further noted that Mahatma Gandhi's swadeshi philosophy stopped receiving attention because of this and Indians started looking towards the West for innovation.

"The swadeshi philosophy, which Mahatma Gandhi

made the foundation of the freedom movement, stopped receiving attention. We began to look abroad for governance models and innovation. This mindset led to a tendency where imported ideas, imported goods and imported services were all considered superior," he said.

The Prime Minister said that when a nation fails to honour itself, it ends up rejecting its indigenous ecosystem, including the Made in India manufacturing framework. "I want to appeal to the entire country: over the next decade, we must resolve to free ourselves from the mindset of slavery that Macaulay imposed on India. The coming 10 years are extremely important," PM Modi said while delivering the sixth Ramnath Goenka Lecture. Citing tourism as an example, the PM said that in every country people take pride in their historical heritage, while post-Independence India witnessed efforts to disown its own legacy.

"Without pride in heritage, there is no motivation for its preservation, and without preservation, such heritage is reduced to mere ruins of brick and stone. Pride in one's heritage is a prerequisite for the growth of tourism," he said.

Congress releases audio alleging CPM pressured booth officer over SIR before suicide

Congress released audio clips alleging CPI(M) pressure on Kannur BLO Aneesh George, who died by suicide. The clips capture Aneesh speaking of "trouble" and difficulty working in the area. Congress and BJP have demanded a detailed probe.

Kerala.(Agency)

The Congress in Kerala on Tuesday released a set of audio clips, alleging that CPI(M) cadres had threatened Aneesh George, the Booth Level Officer (BLO) from Kannur who died by suicide. Kannur DCC president Martin George made the clips public, claiming they showed the mental pressure Aneesh was under while distributing SIR forms. In the clip, Aneesh is heard telling a Congress Booth Level Agent (BLA): "They are creating trouble for me. They asked why I am taking you along."



He also says, "They will make it difficult for me this is their area, you know that." At no point in the clips are either of them heard taking CPI(M)'s name. The BLA is heard advising Aneesh to complain to his superiors, saying he had not personally been threatened but that the issues were being raised

only with Aneesh. The clip ends with the BLA telling him he would call back in five minutes. Releasing the audio, Martin George claimed that Aneesh faced pressure from CPI(M) workers in the area. "That area is a CPI(M) centre. Congress and UDF are asking for a detailed inquiry. It is a serious issue," he said. The BJP has also alleged that the BLO died due to pressure from CPI(M). Authorities have not confirmed any political involvement so far.

Photo shows Dr Shaheen, Muzammil buying Brezza seized from Al-Falah University

New Delhi.(Agency)

A new photo has emerged showing Dr Shaheen Shahid, arrested in connection with the Delhi Red Fort blast, purchasing a brand-new Maruti Brezza, which is one of several vehicles allegedly being prepared to transport explosives, as investigators probe what they describe as a "white-collar" terror network.

The probe has revealed that the terrorists were planning multiple car blasts across various cities and several vehicles have already been recovered. The Brezza was found parked at Al Falah University, from where police seized a massive cache of explosives just hours before the Delhi blast.

A Khrinov rifle was also recovered from a Maruti Suzuki at the university, and the vehicle was reported to belong to Shaheen. The new photo, exclusively obtained by India Today, shows Shaheen, along with Muzammil Shahid, who was also arrested from Al Falah University, receiving the keys and documents for the car, apparently at a showroom. The vehicle was purchased and registered in Haryana on September 25.

Authorities allege that Shaheen was a key figure in what they describe as a "white-collar" terror module with links to the

Pakistan-based group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). She is also reported to have been tasked with establishing and leading the women's recruitment wing of JeM in India.

Investigators have further found that the network was allegedly planning a major fidayee attack on December 6 and Shaheen, along with key operatives linked to the Red Fort blast, including Dr Umar un Nabi of Al Falah Medical College, was reportedly central to this plot.

In the days following the November 10 Red Fort explosion, multiple doctors associated with Al Falah Medical College, including Shaheen and Muzammil, have been arrested.

Urge Centre, Bihar govt to order probe if my parents subjected to mental harassment: Tej Pratap Yadav

PATNA.(Agency)

RJD supremo Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav on Tuesday came out in support of his sister Rohini Acharya following her recent public allegations of humiliation by her brother Tejashwi Yadav and the latter's aide Sanjay Yadav, and also urged the Centre and the Bihar government to order a probe if his parents were subjected to any form of mental harassment.

The former Bihar minister, who lost the election from Mahua assembly seat, voiced his sentiments in support of his sister Rohini Acharya in a post on his X handle, blaming the crisis on "Jaichand", a metaphor for traitors.

He also urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the Bihar



government to investigate if his parents have been subjected to any form of mental harassment.

It is being said that some people, Jaichands, are making attempts to

keep my parents Lalu Prasad ji and my mother under mental and physical pressure. If there is even a shred of truth in this, then this is not just an attack on my family, it is a direct blow to the very soul of the RJD."

"I request the PM, Amit Shah ji, and the Bihar government that an impartial, strict, and immediate investigation be conducted in the matter," he said in a social media post shared from his Janshakti Janta Dal's account.

Irregularities in ticket distribution, giving tickets in exchange for money, and the collusive politics of flatterers have ignored those pillars who dedicated themselves day and

night to build the RJD over the years, he wrote. Today, these same Jaichands, driven by greed and sycophancy, are destroying both the family and the organisation, he said.

"My father is already unwell, he absolutely cannot bear such pressure. I also request the government that if anyone has misbehaved, pushed or manhandled, hurled filthy abuses, or inflicted mental/physical harassment on my sister, my mother, or my father, then people such as Sanjay Yadav, Rameez Nemat Khan and Pritam Yadav must immediately be booked and FIRs should be registered against them," he wrote.

'Glad Was In Audience': Shashi Tharoor Praises PM Again, Risks Congress Fury

Tharoor's praise for the Prime Minister's speech is unlikely to receive favourably by other Congress leaders, particularly since this is not the first time he has spoken glowingly of the PM.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor invited another spat with his party leadership Tuesday after he praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, again. In a post on X the Thiruvananthapuram MP said he had been invited to a private event in Delhi, at which the Prime Minister spoke on "India's constructive impatience for development and pushed strongly for (the growth) of a post-colonial mindset".

The Prime Minister, he said, "emphasised that India is no longer just an 'emerging market' but an 'emerging model' for the world", which had taken note of its economic resilience in having survived global events like the pandemic and is navigating through the conflict in Ukraine. "PM Modi said he had been accused of being in 'election mode' all the time... but he was really in an 'emotional



mode' to redress the problems of the people," Tharoor said, recounting what the PM said in his speech, which focused on colonialism's impact on education in India. Tharoor said a key part of the PM's speech was dedicated to "overturning Macaulay's 200-year legacy of 'slave mentality' (i.e., a colonial mindset)". The PM, he said,

appealed for a 10-year national mission to restore pride in India's heritage, languages, and knowledge systems. "On the whole, the address served as an economic outlook and a cultural call to action, urging the nation to be restless for progress. Glad to have been in the audience..." Tharoor declared. Visuals from the event showed Tharoor sitting amicably with BJP leader and former Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad to his left. Former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad was to his right. The PM was referring to Thomas Babington Macaulay, a 19th century British MP who came to India in 1834, and is credited with the introduction of the Western education system – which included making English the official language of instruction in all schools – in this country.

Maharashtra lynching case accused joins BJP, party halts membership amid row

Mumbai.(Agency)

Ahead of the upcoming local body polls in Maharashtra, a major row has erupted after Kashinath Chaudhari, an NCP-SP leader allegedly accused in the 2020 Palghar lynching case in which two sadhus and their driver were killed, joined the BJP, triggering major criticism from the opposition.

On Sunday, Chaudhari, along with over 3,000 supporters, formally joined the BJP in Dahanu in the presence of MP Hemant Savara and the party's district President Bharat Rajput. But as a result of the widespread backlash, the BJP has temporarily halted his membership.

On his part, Chaudhari rubbished the allegations that he was involved in the lynching case, adding that it was causing him and his family immense stress. The incident took place on April 16, 2020, when the three victims were

killed by a mob in Palghar's Gadchinchale village on suspicions that they were child lifters. The villagers were on alert as rumours of people abducting children were circulating on WhatsApp groups for at least two weeks leading up to the incident. The case occurred during the regime of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and the BJP, which was the then opposition party, attacked the administration of former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde had even cited the inability to bear the sadhus' killing as one of the reasons for his rebellion against the MVA. At the time, the BJP had also vehemently accused Chaudhari of being the main conspirator in the lynching case. CHAUDHARI RUBBISHES CLAIMS

In an address to the media, Chaudhari said his family is under immense mental stress due to

the reports circulating in the media. At the time of the incident, he said he had gone to



Gadchinchale to assist the police, but was instead blamed for the incident. According to him, the police had taken him there to help save the lives of the sadhus, but the crowd was so aggressive that they were unable to control the situation. Adding that he did not wish to discuss politics at the moment, he said he had

informed district-level BJP office bearers about his intention to join the party. But some BJP members later made false allegations against him regarding the lynching, causing severe mental distress to him and his family.

OPPOSITION BACKLASH

The move to induct him into the BJP immediately triggered sharp criticism from the opposition, including NCP-SP leaders Supriya Sule and Rohit Pawar, who questioned the party's hypocrisy. "The BJP was a well-cultured party under Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pramod Mahajan leadership but not any more," Sule said. On his part, Rohit Pawar said the BJP had put Chaudhari through its "washing machine" and said the decision by the BJP state president to halt Chaudhari's membership contradicted the Chief Minister's earlier "clean chit".

News box

Man out for morning walk dies in hit & run near KMP Expressway

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 60-year-old man out for a morning walk in IMT Manesar died after a vehicle hit him on KMP Expressway service road on Sunday morning. Police said the incident occurred around 8.30am. Virender Singh was a resident of Baslambi village and was a farmer. According to a police officer, Singh was walking along the stretch when the vehicle, allegedly speeding, hit him from behind and fled. Locals spotted him lying unconscious and informed police, who rushed him to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Police said there were no eyewitnesses. "The spot does not have CCTV coverage, and police teams are scanning cameras installed at adjoining intersections and commercial units to trace the vehicle's movement," the police officer said. A case under BNS sections 106 (death by negligence) and 281 (rash driving) has been registered at IMT Manesar police station. Police said efforts are underway to identify the driver and the vehicle involved. In a separate accident that took place a few hours later, a labourer undertaking repair work on a divider in Manesar's Sector 8 was killed after a canter truck hit her on the outer road leading towards Pataudi.

The deceased, Dayanku (60) from Jhansi, was part of a team carrying out repair work when the truck allegedly veered towards the divider and struck her. Following this, the truck driver fled the scene, leaving the vehicle behind. Passersby alerted the police, who arrived at the scene and seized the vehicle. The body was sent for a post-mortem. Police said a preliminary inquiry suggests the driver was speeding and lost control before hitting the victim. "A case under sections 106 and 281 of the BNS has been registered at IMT Manesar police station. Police teams are trying to trace the absconding driver through the vehicle's registration details," an officer privy to the investigation said.

Fog envelops Gurgaon, visibility drops, minimum temperature falls to 9°C



Gurgaon.(Agency)

After nearly a week in double digits, the city's minimum temperature dropped back to single digit on Monday, settling at 9.9°C, which was 0.1 degree lower than the previous day. The city woke up to a chilly morning, with fog and a steady breeze keeping most residents indoors. Visibility remained patchy in several pockets until mid-morning, but once the sun cut through the smog, the day turned noticeably more comfortable. IMD officials said there's no major change on the horizon. IMD has forecast dry conditions across Haryana for the next seven days, with cold mornings likely to continue. The maximum temperature was recorded at 26.2°C, which was 0.1 degree higher than the previous day.

The department said that for the next three days, there will be no significant change in minimum temperatures, which are expected to remain below normal by 2-4°C. IMD's extended forecast indicates that cold wave conditions are likely to develop over parts of the state, including the city, between Nov 20 and 21.

While residents enjoyed a sunny afternoon on Monday, the sharp dip in temperatures marks the beginning of a more pronounced winter phase for the region, typical of mid-Nov weather patterns in NCR.

Vehicle lifters' gang busted while moving stolen bikes

Noida.(Agency)

Three members of an inter-state gang involved in stealing two-wheelers from Noida, Ghaziabad and Delhi were arrested on Monday. Police have recovered 11 vehicles, nine motorcycles and two scooters from the accused. Officials said several criminal cases were already registered against the accused. The arrested suspects have been identified as Vinay alias Chhota Raja (24) and Vipin alias Kalua (22), both natives of Bulandshahr currently living in Bisrakh, and Sumit alias Nepali (19), a native of Kayani currently living in Badalpur. Acting on local intelligence and a tip-off, a police team intercepted the trio under Bisrakh police station limits on Sunday while they were attempting to move stolen motorcycles to another location, police said. According to Santosh Kumar, additional deputy commissioner of police, Central Noida, the three were caught by the Bisrakh police team during checking near a kutch road close to Supercast on Sunday. While verifying their motorcycles' registration, it was found that all the vehicles were stolen. ADCP Kumar said that the three accused are active vehicle lifters with a history of multiple cases across Gautam Budh Nagar, Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad and Delhi. Vinay and Vipin were found carrying illegal knives at the time of arrest. Preliminary interrogation revealed that the gang targeted parked motorcycles, especially Splendor models, and later sold them in parts or disposed of them in neighbouring districts using forged documents. Police said several cases of two-wheeler theft in Noida and Ghaziabad are likely to be solved with this arrest. "A total of 11 stolen vehicles have been recovered, including nine Splendor motorcycles and two Activa scooters. These vehicles were stolen from different police station areas in Noida, Ghaziabad and Delhi," officials said. The recovered vehicles include a Splendor Plus linked to a case registered in Bisrakh, another with a Delhi registration tied to a case at Govindpuri police station, and multiple motorcycles without number plates bearing tampered chassis numbers.

It's open! Noida's Bhangel Elevated Road launched for public use on trial basis

Noida.(Agency)

Noida Authority on Tuesday opened the six-lane Bhangel Elevated Road to the public on a trial basis. The 4.5km stretch, built at a cost of Rs 608 crore, had been awaiting formal inauguration. The move came hours after a farmers' group, BKU-Lokshakti, announced that its members would forcibly open the road, claiming it was complete and being unnecessarily delayed for a ceremonial launch. The Bhangel elevated road runs parallel to the Dadri-Surajpur-Chhalera (DSC) Road from Aghapur petrol pump to the Noida Special Economic Zone. Lokesh M. Noida Authority CEO, said the project was opened to the public on Tuesday as a trial. The road is expected to benefit commuters travelling from Noida sectors 40, 41, 43, 47, 48, 82, 88, 101 and 106 to NSE2, Surajpur and Dadri, as well as residents of villages including Sadarpur, Chhalera, Aghapur, Barolla and Salarpur. The authority had first conceived the idea of



constructing an elevated road on this stretch in August 2012. A detailed project report was prepared in May 2016, but work could not begin due to a fund crisis and was delayed until 2020. The project was launched in June 2020 with a deadline of December 2022, but it was completed in 2025. Earlier this year, in August, the Authority modified the

design after two unapproved buildings were found obstructing the alignment. In the revised plan, the width of the elevated road was reduced by 0.5 metres from the planned 90 metres to accommodate the structures. Chaudhury BC Pradhan, BKU-Lokshakti leader, said the project was due for completion in 2022 but was delayed by three years. "Local residents

and shopkeepers along the route faced severe traffic jams during the completion period. The road was ready but awaiting official inauguration, and hence we decided to open the stretch on our own. We welcome the authority's decision to open the road on Tuesday," he said. The Noida Authority had earlier sought a date from chief minister Yogi Adityanath for the formal inauguration, but he was unable to attend due to his busy schedule. Several vehicles were seen moving on the wrong side of this elevated on the first day, raising concerns about traffic discipline and enforcement.

A drive along the elevated road showed a smooth ride, with the authority's truck-mounted sprinklers spraying water on the surface. However, because the opening was sudden, many commuters were unaware of the new route and hesitated to take it, opting instead for the DSC Road. This resulted in congestion at both ends of the elevated stretch in the morning.

Gurgaon's air quality turns 'poor' after two 'very poor' days

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The city logged an AQI of 253 (poor) on Monday, with two local stations recording readings in the very poor range. Gwalpahar recorded an AQI of 320, Sector 51 at 310 and Teri Gram was at 178. Vikas Sadan didn't record AQI data on Monday. The month began with high PM10, but from Nov 5, PM2.5 became the dominant pollutant, pointing to a heavier load of combustion-linked fine particles rather than dust. What has made the picture even murkier is the long-running gap in monitoring. More than half of the city's AQI stations remained offline for most of the year, including long stretches in Oct and Nov when pollution levels were climbing. With key sites offline, the city entered its worst pollution season without a full set of working monitors, leaving large pockets without reliable real-time data.

The worst spike was recorded on Nov 11 when the AQI shot up to 378 with PM2.5 in the lead. Nov 12 and 15 followed at 300 and 305. Readings above 300 fall in the very poor bracket and can affect even healthy individuals.

Even the milder days were far from reassuring. Most readings hovered between 225 and 260, still firmly in the poor category. The only brief shift came on Nov 4 when CO emerged as the lead pollutant at an AQI of 219, before particulate matter took over again the next day. Gurgaon has been breathing polluted air for more than two straight weeks, with no significant improvement in air despite changing weather conditions.

Forecasts suggest little relief ahead. Light winds, shallow fog, and clear afternoons will continue to trap pollutants close to the surface.

Air quality is likely to stay in the very poor range at least until Nov 20. Unless wind speeds improve, Gurgaon's Nov haze is unlikely to lift anytime soon.

In Delhi, meanwhile, the average air quality index on Monday was 351 against 377 a day earlier, both very poor. Three air quality monitoring stations were in the severe category, with Wazirpur being the worst impacted at 409.

Midday meal scam: 25 govt schools in Gurgaon, Faridabad face probe

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The probe into alleged fake admissions and mid-day meal irregularities in Haryana's govt schools has now intensified across the city and Faridabad. The irregularities date back to 2013 and involve the 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic sessions. The investigation — which has been underway for over a year — centers on the use of forged transfer certificates and illegal manipulation of the MIS portal to create 'ghost' students, allegedly enabling the misuse of govt benefits such as mid-day meals, scholarships, uniform grants, stationery and other entitlements. While Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has already demanded records from 10 primary schools in Gurgaon, in Faridabad, around 15 govt primary and middle schools from Ballabgarh and



Faridabad blocks have submitted key documents earlier this week.

The fresh summons for documents on Nov 3 and 4 have created panic among teachers and officials, who now fear field visits by the CBI team. With more than 25 schools across Gurgaon and Faridabad now under investigation and multiple govt schemes at the center of the suspected scam, officials anticipate

deeper scrutiny as the 10-year-old fraud continues to unravel. District elementary education officer (Gurgaon) Saroj Dahiya said, "We have sent reports related to mid-day meals and student admissions from 10 Gurgaon schools to the CBI. This matter is almost 10 years old. We do not have many details beyond the submitted records." Earlier this week, schools in Faridabad deposited admission registers, transfer certificates, fee receipts, MIS data and other crucial documents at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) in Shikshak Colony.

In Gurgaon, the CBI has sought decade-old records from schools including Government Primary School Khandas, Sarai Khwaja, Naharpur Kasan,

Drain infra set for overhaul to avert monsoon flooding in Gurgaon

Chandigarh.(Agency)

One of the city's main stormwater lines is set for a major overhaul after years of structural failures, blockages, and monsoon flooding. GMDA has begun the process to rebuild a 1.4km stretch of the master storm water drain (leg-II) between Ashok Vihar and railway culvert no 50 near Bhirgarh Kheri. Officials said the section is vulnerable because of weakened walls and parts that have collapsed. The authority has invited bids for the project, estimated to cost Rs 20.2 crore, with a 12-month completion target. Administrative approval was granted in April. Leg-II, one of the key elements of the city's drainage network, begins in Sector 27 and ends at the Najafgarh drain, passing through densely populated areas including Sectors 29/41, NH 8, Atul Kataria Chowk, Sheetla Mata Road, Ashok Vihar, railway culvert no 50, Dharampur village and Sector 107.



While most of leg-II is covered, the stretch in Ashok Vihar remains an open brick-lined drain. Several portions have partly collapsed, reducing capacity and slowing

and hydraulic efficiency, leading to overflowing during heavy rainfall," a senior GMDA official said. Moreover, frequent dumping of garbage in the open drain has added to the problem. Silt, plastic waste and debris restrict the flow of water, causing repeated flooding around Ashok Vihar, Sheetla Mata Road and parts of Atul Kataria Chowk. GMDA now plans to rebuild the drain into a concrete and covered one, using load-bearing reinforced cement. "The new design will improve both structural stability and flow capacity," the GMDA official added. Leg-II was built decades ago when the catchment had fewer residential areas and much less commercial activity. The rapid growth around Sheetla Mata Road and Ashok Vihar has increased stormwater runoff and in recent monsoons, residents have reported waterlogging in Ashok Vihar's internal roads, Atul Kataria Chowk, areas near Sheetla Mata Mandir and surrounding localities.

MCG faces probe after complaint flags violations in tender to catch stray cattle in Gurgaon



Faridabad.(Agency)

The district administration has initiated an inquiry after a complaint was filed, alleging that MCG has violated norms while allotting a tender for catching stray cattle. The complaint was filed by a member of district bar association at a public grievance redress camp — Samadhan Shivir — on Monday.

Advocate Vijaypal Chauhan —

the complainant — has alleged that MCG executive engineer Sunder Sheoran awarded the tender to the company that "lacks the required equipment and machinery". Sheoran issued the work order on Nov 13 to Pestek Complete Solution Pvt Ltd for capturing and transporting stray animals in the city. The tender amount was Rs 3.6 crore, Chauhan said. "The company made false claims

about the vehicles and machinery at the time of filing the tender and MCG awarded the tender without mandatory verification of the claims," Chauhan said adding, the work order is the last step of any tender. The complaint said the verification report has to be put on record, clearly mentioning the basis of verification done by the executive engineer in the case of machinery promised to

be supplied by the bidder and the conclusion of verification. The complainant demanded the immediate cancellation of the tender and blacklisting of the company. He also called for action against the MCG officer.

Deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar said, "An appropriate action would be taken as per the norm if the allegations are found true." A senior MCG official said, "We float several tenders daily and ensure that the selected bidders meet all the criteria when we award the tenders. It usually takes a day's time to reach the complaints from Samadhan Shivir to us." As per the condition of the tender, the company must have hydraulic vehicles, but in this case, the company attached the registration copy of an agricultural tractor, and it was approved by MCG in violation of the tender condition and norms. The executive engineer is required to conduct a parade of machinery and vehicles to be provided by the company and verify the ownership, quality, type, etc., of the machinery and vehicles according to the rules

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Diabetes burden rising, women at greater risk across life, say experts

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: With lifestyle-related risk factors such as obesity, physical inactivity, and unhealthy diets on the rise, experts warn that the country is facing a growing public health challenge, one that particularly affects women at different stages of life. Speaking at the Illness to Wellness Awareness Conference on Prevention and Management of Diabetes held in New Delhi ahead of the World Diabetes Day, Dr Ashok Kumar, Director, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences, and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital said women's health must be a focus of India's diabetes response. "Gestational diabetes, which can develop during or before pregnancy, poses risks to both mother and child. Diabetic mothers are more likely to experience hypertension and delivery complications, while their children face higher chances of developing Type 2 diabetes later in life. Awareness and lifestyle intervention are essential during and after pregnancy."

cy," he said. Rajesh Bhushan, Former Health

essential. Our health system must prioritise system-

social burden. "The growing number of cases

must go hand in hand," he said. The conference, organised by the Illness to Wellness Foundation, focused on diabetes across life stages and brought together doctors, policymakers and public health experts. Experts also pointed out that diabetes was no longer limited to urban or affluent populations. From 33 million diabetics in the 1990s, India's diabetic population

crossed 100 million in 2023, according to a major ICMR study published in The Lancet.



Secretary, Government of India, and Chairperson of the Governing Council at the Illness to Wellness Foundation, said diabetes had become one of India's most pressing non-communicable diseases. Nearly 90 million adults in India are diabetic. Early detection, screening, and adherence to treatment protocols are

atic screening and preventive care," he said. Dr Shuchin Bajaj from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Task Force said diabetes added a heavy economic and

reduces productivity, increases healthcare costs, and puts stress on families and the healthcare system. Prevention and management

NAME CHANGE

I, Vijay Prakash S/O. Malakhan Singh R/O-87, Sarai Kale Khan, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi-110013 have changed my name to Md Imran

name and shall hereafter be known as KRITIKA SINGH.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as KRITIKA alias KRITA SINGH D/o RAJ KUMAR SINGH R/o F-28/28 A, Near Taxi Stand, Basti Kunihar, Malviya Nagar, South Delhi-110017, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BABAL.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANUJ ALANKRITA W/O Shri Jitender Kumar D/o Shri Bhagmal Mehta, R/o House No.RZ-31, L-Block, New Roshanpura, Nizamgarh, South West Delhi-110043, have changed my name from ANUJ MEHTA to ANUJ ALANKRITA. I shall be known as ANUJ ALANKRITA in future for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rupi D/o Paramjeet Singh and Sardar Singh Pali Singh R/o 10, Main Post Office Road, N.G.M.H.O., Kota, Rajasthan-324007, have changed my name to Ravinder Kaur

It is for general information that I, Vikas Kumar S/O Ashok Kumar R/o FF-29, G/F, Gali No.17, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110029 declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as Mishti in my minor daughter Mishti Thakur aged 14 years in her School Records. The actual name of my minor daughter is Mishti Thakur.

It is for general information that I, Vikas Kumar S/O Ashok Kumar R/o FF-29, G/F, Gali No.17, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110029 declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as SAROJINI RAWAT in my 10th Class Roll No. 5388922 and 12th Class Roll No. 961744 and B.Sc. Degree Roll No. 1905667072, Educational Documents. The actual name of my minor daughter is SAROJINI RAWAT , Which may be amended accordingly.

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NEWS BOX

12 abducted children among dead from Colombian military strikes

BOGOTA . (Agency)

Colombian military strikes targeting guerrilla fighters have claimed the lives of 12 children since last month, all of them abducted by the same armed groups in the soldiers' crosshairs, authorities said Monday. President Gustavo Petro reported the deaths of five children in two recent military bombings, adding to seven reported by the office of Colombia's human rights ombudsman. Their ages were not provided. All were "victims of forced recruitment by criminals who led them into hostilities," Petro wrote on X after the military and prosecutors announced an investigation into an attack on October 10 that killed 19 guerrillas and seven children. The UN Human Rights Office in Colombia had expressed "deep concern" over the reported deaths of minors, urging the security forces to do whatever possible to protect children kidnapped by guerrilla groups. One minor is abducted every two days on average in Colombia, often to be trained as fighters. Petro, who said he had ordered the bombings to protect soldiers' lives, said he regretted the painful loss of children. "I will carry this sorrow in my conscience," he wrote, asking the victims' mothers for forgiveness. But Petro refused a request from the ombudsman's office to halt the strikes targeting a faction of dissidents of the FARC guerrilla group that disbanded after a 2016 peace deal. Prosecutors say more than 1,100 children were abducted by armed groups between 2019 and 2023.

Pictures: Haitian Gangs Are Profiting From Baby Eels Sold Abroad

SANTIAGO . (Agency)

Gangs in Haiti are profiting from a lucrative trade in baby eels caught in the crime-ridden country's rivers and estuaries and sold abroad for thousands of dollars. Demand for the worm-like creatures with dots for eyes comes largely from Asia and is filling the coffers of the criminal organizations terrorising Haiti, experts warn. Known in Haitian creole as "Zangi," the glass eels drift each year from the Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic to the ocean's coasts -- including along the coasts of the island of Hispaniola, shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic. They infiltrate the rivers where they grow until they return to sea to reproduce. The global trade of European eels has been strictly controlled since 2009 by the CITES convention on endangered species, but the trade of American eels is not. They are however classed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species -- primarily due to overfishing of the species which commercial fish farms cannot breed in captivity. They are used to supply farms where they are fattened up for sale in Asia where eels are a highly sought delicacy.

Haiti along with the Dominican Republic has become a key exporter of American eels in recent years, CITES says. To protect American and European eels, indistinguishable to the naked eye, from continuing to be shipped to Asia under false labels, the EU and Panama want CITES to restrict the trade of all eels. If their move is adopted at a meeting in Uzbekistan starting on November 24 "it will certainly penalize several stakeholders -- exporters in particular -- as well as poor and vulnerable small-scale fishermen" in Haiti, Natural Resources Minister Vernet Joseph told AFP.

To protect the species, Haiti -- which is not a party to CITES -- has implemented a "modest approach," significantly reducing the overall harvest, while acknowledging a lack of reliable data on exploitation of the species. Like the Mafia!

Haiti's glass eel industry is entirely geared to export, is not "organised" and does not record "clear and reliable data -- whether at the level of fishermen or the government," an environmental activist told AFP on condition of anonymity.

US, European Aid Cuts Could Cause 22 Million Deaths By 2030: Study

UNITED NATIONS . (Agency)

Abrupt cuts to development aid by major donor countries could cause up to 22.6 million additional deaths in developing countries by 2030, including 5.4 million children under five, according to a new study by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal) and other organizations.

The warning comes as the United States, Britain, Germany and France have each reduced development aid for the first time in nearly three decades and are planning further cuts in 2025. The ISGlobal study said continued cuts could reverse decades of progress in global health and poverty reduction. The global health research centre's report, a copy of which was viewed by Reuters, examined data from 93 low- and middle-income countries to estimate the impact of further reductions in official development assistance (ODA) in 2025, on top of sharp cuts over the past five years.

It concluded that a severe reduction in that assistance would lead to 22.6 million additional deaths, including 5.4 million children under five, by 2030, significantly higher than the research institute had estimated in a previous study that focused on US cuts. The authors modeled both a severe and a mild scenario for future aid cuts, along with one that would have maintained 2023 funding levels.

A severe reduction would involve cuts of up to 25% in the poorest countries and 28% in sub-Saharan Africa. A mild scenario with less severe cuts could result in 9.4 million preventable deaths, including 2.5 million children under five, they said. Human rights and development experts have warned that US President Donald Trump's moves to dismantle USAID and sharply cut its development aid - moves that have been mirrored in other countries - will cause increases in preventable deaths.

UN says verdict against Sheikh Hasina 'important' step for victims but regrets death penalty

UNITED NATIONS . (Agency)

The United Nations has said that the verdict against Bangladesh's ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina on charges of crimes against humanity is an "important moment" for the victims, but expressed regret over the imposition of the death penalty. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres "fully" agrees with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk on the position that "we stand against the use of the death penalty in all circumstances," the UN chief's spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said at the daily press briefing here on Monday. Dujarric was responding to a question on the Secretary-General's reaction to a Bangladeshi court sentencing Hasina to death in absentia. Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal on Monday found Hasina guilty of crimes against humanity committed during the widespread protests against her government in July last year. Hasina, 78, who has been living in India since her government was toppled on August 5 last year, was sentenced to death in absentia by the tribunal. Hasina's aide and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was

also sentenced to death on similar charges. Dujarric referred to a statement issued by Turk's office on the verdict, noting that UN human rights officials have been calling "diligently for perpetrators, including individuals in positions of command and leadership, to be held accountable." "Accountability is critical. It is, of course, very important that people remain calm in Bangladesh following the assurance of the verdict and for all to exercise restraint in response to these developments," he said. Geneva-based UN Human Rights Spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani said in a statement that the verdicts delivered by the tribunal against Hasina and the former home minister mark "an important moment for victims of the grave violations committed during the suppression of protests last year."

"We also regret the imposition of the death penalty, which we oppose in all circumstances," she said. Shamdasani noted that since the UN fact-finding report was published in February, "we have been calling for perpetrators, including

individuals in positions of command and leadership, to be held accountable in accordance with international standards. We have also called for victims to have access to effective remedies and



during the student-led mass protests as the Hasina-led government ordered a sweeping security crackdown.

Shamdasani said while the UN Human Rights office was not privy to the conduct of Hasina's trial, "we have consistently advocated for all accountability proceedings, especially on charges of international crimes, to unquestionably meet international standards of due process and fair trial. This is particularly vital when, as was the case here, the trials have been conducted in absentia and led to a capital punishment sentence." Underlining Turk's call for calm and restraint, she said the High Commissioner hopes Bangladesh will move forward with a comprehensive process of truth-telling, reparation and justice as the pathway to national reconciliation and healing. "This should include meaningful and transformative security sector reform, which respects international standards, to ensure that these violations and abuses are never repeated," Shamdasani said, adding that the UN stands ready to support the government and people of Bangladesh in these endeavours.

Bangladesh's interim govt warns media against publishing statements of 'fugitive' Hasina

The National Cyber Security Agency claimed that Hasina's statements may contain directives or calls capable of inciting violence, disorder and criminal activities and disrupting social harmony

DHAKA . (Agency)

Bangladesh's interim government has warned all print, electronic and online media outlets to refrain from reporting statements issued by "convicted and fugitive" deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, citing concerns over national security and public order. The National Cyber Security Agency (NCSA) in a press release issued on Monday claimed that Hasina's statements may contain directives or calls capable of inciting "violence, disorder and criminal activities" and disrupting social harmony. The Daily Star newspaper reported, "We urge the media to act responsibly in the interest of national security," the release said. The agency said it was "deeply concerned" that some media organisations were broadcasting and

publishing remarks attributed to "convicted" and "fugitive" Hasina. Noting that airing or publishing statements from individuals who are both convicted and fugitive violates provisions of the



Cyber Security Ordinance, the agency warned that authorities are empowered to "remove or block content that threatens national integrity, security or public order, promotes ethnic or religious hatred, or directly incites violence". It further said that using a false identity or illegally accessing systems to spread hate speech, ethnic incitement or calls for violence is a punishable offence, and provides for penalties of up to two years of imprisonment and/or fines of up to Tk 10 lakh. Emphasising that it respects

freedom of the press and expression, the NCSA urged media houses to "avoid" carrying any "violent, instigating or criminally provocative" statements from convicted individuals and to "remain mindful of their legal obligations". Hasina, 78, was on Monday sentenced to death in absentia by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) for "crimes against humanity" over her government's brutal crackdown on student-led protests last year. It also handed the death sentence to former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on similar charges. Hasina has been living in India since she fled Bangladesh on August 5 last year in the face of the massive protests. She was earlier declared a fugitive by the court. Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has hailed the verdict, saying the ruling affirmed a fundamental principle, "no one, regardless of power, is above the law". Commenting on the verdict, Hasina denied the charges as "biased and politically motivated" and said the judgment has been made by a "rigged tribunal" established and presided over by an "unelected government with no democratic mandate".

UN approves the Trump administration's plan for the future of Gaza

UNITED NATIONS . (Agency)

The Trump administration's blueprint to secure and govern Gaza won strong approval at the United Nations on Monday, a crucial step that provides international support for U.S. efforts to move the devastated territory toward peace following two years of war. The U.S. resolution that passed the U.N. Security Council authorizes an international stabilization force to provide security in Gaza, approves a transitional authority to be overseen by President Donald Trump and envisions a possible future path to an independent Palestinian state. "This will go down as one of the biggest approvals in the history of the United Nations, will lead to further peace all over the world, and is a moment of true historic proportion!" Trump posted on

social media. The vote endorses Trump's 20-point ceasefire plan and builds on the momentum of the fragile ceasefire he helped broker with allies. It marks a key next step for American efforts to outline Gaza's future after the Israel-Hamas war destroyed much of the territory and killed tens of thousands of people. The proposal calls for a yet-to-be-established Board of Peace as a transitional authority that Trump would head. It also provides a wide mandate for the international stabilization force, including overseeing the borders, providing security and demilitarizing the territory. Authorization for the board and force expire at the end of 2027. Arab and other Muslim countries that expressed interest in providing troops for an international force had signaled

that U.N. authorization was essential for their participation. Russia, which had circulated a rival resolution, abstained along with China on the 13-0 vote after fears Moscow might use its veto in the Security Council. However, Hamas opposed the resolution, saying in a statement that it does not meet the "Palestinian people's political and humanitarian demands and rights." Stronger language on Palestinian state helps get the US plan over the finish line. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Mike Waltz said the resolution "represents another significant step towards a stable Gaza that will be able to prosper and an environment that will allow Israel to live in security." It came about following nearly two weeks of negotiations.

Trump leaves military action against Venezuela on the table but floats possible talks

WASHINGTON . (Agency)

President Donald Trump on Monday did not rule out military action against Venezuela despite bringing up a potential diplomatic opening with leader Nicolás Maduro, who has insisted that a U.S. military buildup and strikes on alleged drug boats near his South American country are designed to push him out of office. Trump reiterated that he "probably would talk to" Maduro, but underscored that he is not taking off the table the possibility of military action on Venezuelan territory. Hours later, Maduro said he is open to dialogue with the Trump administration. "I don't rule out that. I don't rule out anything," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office a day after he first floated the possibility of having "discussions" with Maduro. Trump, however, sidestepped questions about whether Maduro could say anything to him that would lead to the U.S. backing off its military show of force. "He's done tremendous damage to our country," said Trump, tying Maduro to drugs and migrants coming into the U.S. from Venezuela. "He has not been good to the United States, so we'll see what happens." The comments from both leaders

deepened the uncertainty about the Trump administration's next steps toward Maduro's government. The U.S. has ratcheted up the pressure in recent days, saying it was expecting to designate as a terrorist organization a cartel it says is led by Maduro and other high-level Venezuelan government officials.

The USS Gerald R. Ford and accompanying warships arrived in the Caribbean this weekend just as the U.S. military announced its latest in a series of strikes against vessels suspected of transporting drugs.

Can turn policy on a dime?

The administration says its actions are a counterdrug operation meant to stop narcotics from flowing to American cities, but some analysts, Venezuelans and the country's political opposition see them as an escalating pressure tactic against Maduro. The Trump administration has shown it "can turn policy on a dime," said Geoff Ramsey, an expert on U.S. policy toward Venezuela who is a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council. He pointed to the diplomatic talks the administration held with Iran "right up

until the point" that the U.S. military targeted Iran's nuclear facilities in June. But, Ramsey added, the timing of



Trump's remarks — after Secretary of State Marco Rubio's announcement of the impending terrorist designation of the Cartel de los Soles — underscores that the administration does not want to repeat failed attempts at dialogue. "They really want to negotiate from a place of strength, and I think the White House is laying out an ultimatum for Maduro," Ramsey said. "Either he engages in credible talks about a transition, or the U.S. will have no choice but to escalate." Maduro has negotiated with the U.S. and Venezuela's political opposition for several years, most notably

in the two years before the July 2024 presidential election. Those negotiations resulted in agreements meant to pave the way for a free and democratic election, but Maduro repeatedly tested their limits, ultimately claiming victory despite credible evidence that he lost the contest by a 2-to-1 margin. Among the concessions the U.S. made to Maduro during negotiations was approval for oil giant Chevron Corp. to resume pumping and exporting Venezuelan oil. The corporation's activities in the South American country resulted in a financial lifeline for Maduro's government.

During his weekly television show Monday, Maduro addressed Trump's comments, saying that "free countries and governments should only understand each other through diplomacy." "Anyone who wants to engage in dialogue will find in us people of their word, decent people, and people with the experience to lead Venezuela," he said. Later, in English, he added: "Talk, yes. Peace, yes. War, no. Never, never, war." A spokesperson for Venezuelan opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner María Corina Machado told reporters Monday that she would not comment on Trump's remarks.

NEWS BOX

Passengers block doors, Bengaluru metro Yellow Line services hit



BENGALURU. (Agency)

Services on Namma Metro's Yellow Line were delayed on Monday morning after a group of people deliberately obstructed the departure of the first train at RV Road station. The 6 am train left only at 6.35 am, causing a cascading delay across the line. The group were questioning why Yellow Line operations start at 6 am while the Green and Purple lines start at 5 am.

Having reached by the Green Line, they were forced to wait for a considerable time for the Yellow Line service to begin. According to a BMRCL official, "The group obstructed the automatic closure of the door by standing between the doors. The first train on the Yellow Line at RV Road Metro Station was delayed because of this, and the train left at 6.35 am instead of the scheduled 6 am, which caused delays to all following trains. To stabilise services, one train had to be short-looped at Central Silk Board."

As per the Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, such disruptions can lead to imprisonment, fines, or both. A formal complaint has been filed with the Jayanagar police station, BMRCL added.

GCC sets up voter help desks at all 947 polling stations for SIR from November 18 to 25

CHENNAI. (Agency)

The District Election Officer (DEO) cum Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) Commissioner J Kumaragurubaran announced that electors' help desks will function at all 947 polling stations across the district from November 18 to 25 as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the state's electoral roll.

As per the directions of the Election Commission of India, the SIR exercise is being currently carried out across all 16 Assembly constituencies in the city. Booth Level Officers are also visiting door-to-door households to distribute and collect filled enumeration forms from voters, an official release said.

To resolve doubts related to the forms and to help voters verify details from the 2005 electoral roll, help desks will operate for eight days from 10 am to 6 pm. Senior citizens and persons with disabilities may visit with an accompanying assistant.

The help desks will provide guidance on filling enumeration forms, clarification on documents to be attached and immediate verification of voter details through computer access, the release said.

Moreover, political parties' Booth Level Agents have been permitted to submit up to 50 filled forms daily before the publication of the draft roll, along with a required declaration confirming the accuracy of the information, it added.

Kerala's growing artsy socks business

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)

In Thiruvananthapuram, far from the usual global fashion circuits, a small group of friends are experimenting with socks. The project started three years ago. They never imagined how far the idea would eventually take them. Now, the project has turned into Hapsō — a brand that exclusively designs socks.

Hapsō didn't begin as a business idea at all. It grew out of an art community called Happyccino, formed five to six years ago by engineers, designers, photographers, and self-taught artists who simply wanted a space where creativity felt accessible. They gathered over coffee, small workshops, and started experimenting with wall and pebble arts.

"We were constantly thinking about how to bring our designs into a real, but unique, product. We tossed around a lot of ideas, but nothing felt like us. Around that time, I saw a friend receive a pair of bright, funky socks as part of a Google Local Guide reward. It caught my attention. We had never seen socks with that kind of design language here," says Vijiith VS, co-founder of Hapsō. So Vijiith started digging deeper. "That's when I realised there was an actual business opportunity. Big brands like Nike, Adidas, and Jockey all make socks, but there's barely any innovation. The designs look exactly the same. When I brought this up with the group, the idea clicked. That conversation eventually became Hapsō."

Vijiith, along with other co-founders Anees S S and Ananthu S B, began researching textile technology, knitting constraints, the challenges of manufacturing, etc. They discovered that India had only a handful of homegrown designer sock brands, and almost none operating in south India. Minimum order quantities were intimidating. Getting the right materials and reliable manufacturing partners took time. Still, the idea felt aligned with the collective's creative instincts, so they kept going. And two more joined the core team, Amal Dev and Nanda Gopan.

CISF averts knife attack at Bengaluru airport; accused held

CISF personnel at Bengaluru airport foiled a machete attack after spotting Sohail Ahmed charging at two taxi drivers. The attacker was overpowered, disarmed and handed over to police.

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Following the high alert issued after the Delhi blast, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel at Kempegowda International Airport averted a knife attack late on Sunday night.

On November 16, around 11:59 pm, a man later identified as Sohail Ahmed was seen running toward two taxi drivers with a machete near the arrival lane of Terminal 1.

"Assistant Sub Inspector/Executive (ASI/Exe) Sunil Kumar, along with two on-duty CISF personnel, on noticing the incident, quickly intervened, overpowered the attacker, and secured the weapon without allowing any harm to the public," sources told the.

A preliminary inquiry revealed that Ahmed and the targeted individuals, taxi drivers Jagdish JR and Renu Kumar, knew each other. "During interrogation, the accused told CISF that he was assaulted by Jagdish along with two drivers, Renu Kumar and Gangadhar



Angadi, on the previous night. Ahmed returned armed to attack the duo in what appears to be an act of retaliation," the sources said. The accused, along with the seized weapon and the other involved parties, were immediately handed over to the KIA Police Station for further legal action. The

CISF at KIA, headed by Commandant Ravi Kumar Sharma, is on high alert after the Delhi terror blast on November 10.

The prompt action on Sunday night reflected its commitment to ensuring the safety and security of passengers, airport personnel, and critical aviation infrastructure at KIA.

MRTS extension to St Thomas Mount set for year-end opening as Southern Railway begins safety preparations

CHENNAI. (Agency)

With the completion of civil works and load tests on the 5-km MRTS extension from Velachery to St Thomas Mount, Southern Railway has begun preparatory activities ahead of the safety trial to be carried out by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS).

These preparations are being undertaken for the inspection by the Electrical Inspector General (EIG) of Southern Railway.

According to official sources, Ganesh, principal chief electrical engineer (PCEE) of the zone, is functioning as the de facto EIG and will inspect the track electrification before the CRS begins its assessment. "A high-speed AC trial run will be

conducted on the new line. Once the EIG grants clearance, the CRS inspection will follow. The line is expected to be opened by the end of December or the first week of January," an official said.

Once operational clearance is obtained, all 43 existing services between Chennai Beach and Velachery — and the return services — will be extended to St Thomas Mount. "All trains will originate from St Thomas Mount, ensuring direct connectivity to the Chennai Metro Rail (CMRL) services on the first floor and Chennai Beach-Chengalpattu suburban services on the ground floor," the

official added. During non-peak hours, a few services may still terminate at Velachery for maintenance. "There will be no

on either direction starting at 10.20 pm. The stretch includes Puzhuthivakkam, Adambakkam, and St Thomas Mount stations.

The first and last services may be advanced and postponed by 10-15 minutes respectively once the section is extended upto St Thomas Mount. A revised timetable will be released after operational clearance, added the official.

CMRL's upcoming 47-km Corridor V, running from Madhavarman Milk Colony to Sholinganallur, passes through both St Thomas Mount and Adambakkam MRTS stations.



significant changes in the timetable," the official noted.

Currently, MRTS services begin at 5 am from Chennai Beach and Velachery, with the last service

at 10.20 pm.

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Action will be taken to recover the revised amount as per rules from the entrepreneurs paying tax amount less than the prescribed

amount and action will be taken against businesses running illegally and against zonal classification as ordered by the high court," he said.

Government Hospital to monitor the protesters' health. The UUI has also deployed its own doctors, the workers said.

Speaking to the, Bharathi S (39), one of the four workers, said, "We do not want to continue this protest,

but we have been pushed into this situation because our demands are still not being addressed by the

GCC or state government. We want the chief minister to listen to us and stand with us as he always says 'Ungaludan Stalin'."

She

added, "I have two daughters, one

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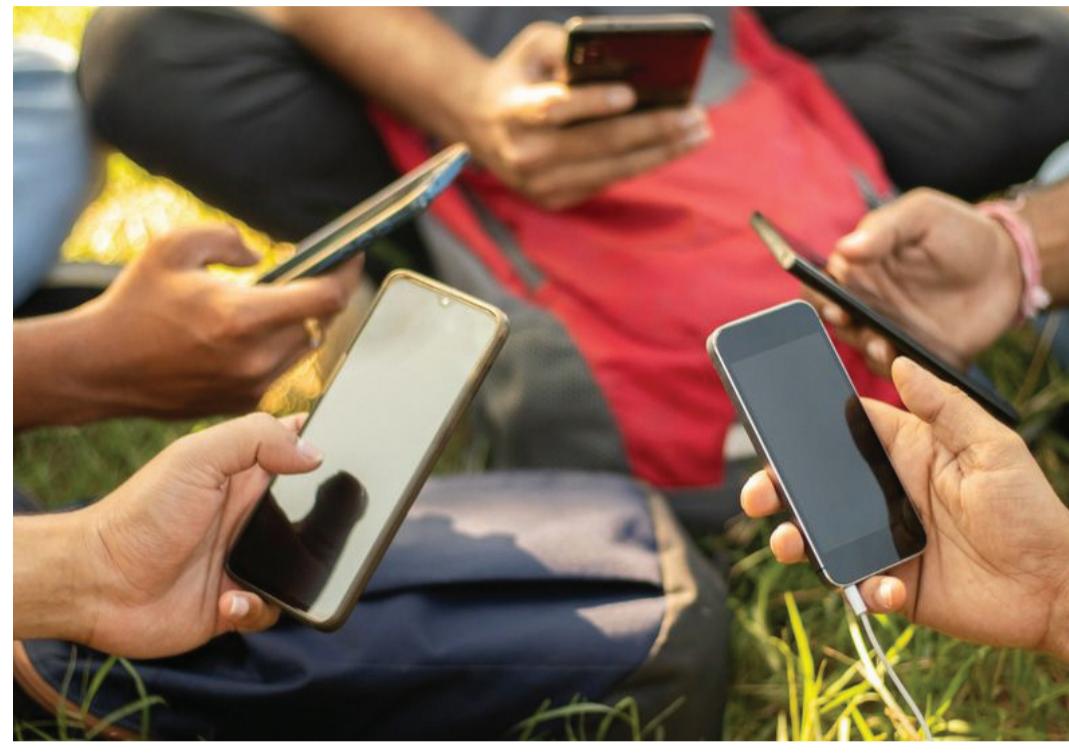
Soft steps of Hemant

Something beautiful is happening if we but hark. The holy month of Agrahayana or Margashirsha begins on November 22 this year and ends on December 21. The North Indian panchang says it began on November 6 and ends on December 4, so by that reckoning, we are already in it. It is the ninth month of the Hindu lunar calendar and the Indian national calendar. The name of the month comes from the position of the moon near the Mrigashirsha nakshatra on full moon day. Its season is pre-winter, when the harvest is done; the delightful time we call Hemant. Since pre-winter begins earlier in the temperate zone of the North than in the tropical zone of the South, the dates slide, too. That is how it was once explained to me. Sri Krishna tells Arjuna in the Bhagavad Gita, Canto 10, Verse 35: *b?ihat-sama tatha samna? gayat?i chhandasam aham/masana? marga-shir?ho 'ham ?ituna? kusumakara?*, meaning, 'Among the hymns in the Samaveda know me to be the Brihat-sama; amongst poetic meters I am the Gayatri. Of the twelve months of the calendar, I am Margashirsha, and of seasons I am Spring, which brings forth flowers.' On a mundane level, tummy upsets are common in India when seasons change, so one of the rules made 'holy' so that the public will follow it for its own good, is: 'Do not eat stale food in the month of Margashirsha. Always eat fresh food.' This is actually a good rule for the whole year, though obviously, we are now able to keep food edible for days in the fridge, even frozen for months at a time. A hardcore South Indian friend was amused when she visited an NRI friend in London, and the friend said, 'What about dinner? Shall I take out a brick of rasam?' I, too, belong to the fresh food brigade, which sometimes causes problems with leftovers. Back in the day, if I came home late from work, I found myself preferring to toast some fresh bread rather than warm up those little katoris of leftover dal and sabzi. But each to their own in this matter, as in so many others. Another old practice during Margashirsha is to fast on Thursdays and pray to Goddess Lakshmi for health, wealth, and happiness. These rites are gently urged on the public to help them enter the spiritual side of things, first by addressing their need for material security. Because, once the mind is soothed of its earthly worries, having put in a request to Mahalakshmi, it can dwell pleasantly on the holy events contained in Margashirsha.

This month, called Margazhi in Tamil, is special to both Vaishnavas and Shaivas. Andal's Thiruppavai is recited across Tamil Nadu, especially in the holy city of Srirangam, the Vaishnava Central of the South. Andal 'vanished' at this temple in the ninth century. Sri Ramanuja, the founder of Sri Vaishnavism in the tenth century, was greatly inspired by Andal's devotion. He fulfilled her promise to feed the public a hundred pots of a particular sweet pudding if Krishna would accept her. So, he is fondly seen as her spiritual brother. Sri Ramanuja's influence spread North and became an all-India movement, carried to the far corners of the land by various holy men. If we think about it, one of the greatest egalitarian socio-religious movements to transform India was a lamp lit by a girl-child from long ago. It was this month, when the star Arudra was in the ascendant, that Lord Nataraja performed his divine dance for the sages Vyagrapada and Patanjali at Chidambaram. There are so many uplifting, moving stories about Lord Shiva's lilas or games with his devotees at Chidambaram that we'd need a large hankie or a box of tissues handy to hear them out. The Tamils lovingly called him Koothan, meaning 'Dancer', and sculptors meditated deeply before fashioning his images. The poet Muthu Tandavar (1525–1600 CE) 'vanished' into the sanctum at Chidambaram on the very day of the Arudra nakshatra. Tandavar was cruelly kicked out by his parents as a little boy from his home in Sirkali town in the Kaveri delta, because he had an incurable skin infection. He joined the line of beggars at the local Shiva temple because where else could he go? But Parvati healed him and advised him to compose a new song for Shiva every day at Chidambaram.

THE system of education faces several external threats today that it prefers to ignore. There is no easy way to respond to them, and the system's priorities have changed. One such threat is the smartphone. Children are introduced to it early, mostly by parents. Horrible incidents that remind us about the nature of its threat keep happening without drawing sustained attention. One such incident occurred in Mohali recently. The place is hardly important, as similar incidents are often reported from various regions and places. Three boys, aged 10-11, were reportedly watching pornography on a smartphone. A seven-year-old boy came by, and they sexually assaulted him. The smaller boy's mother lodged a complaint with the police. They will investigate the nasty episode from the viewpoint of bringing the juvenile perpetrators of the crime to justice. For schools and teachers, the three older boys should also arouse deep concern. Indeed, society and the country should worry about all four children in equal measure. Worry, however, is hardly an adequate response. Easy access to pornography in childhood concerns children's right to be protected. This right reminds us how vast a canvas of children's life at home and school we must take into account while interpreting the term 'protections'. For a long time in our modern history, we assumed that paedophilia was a Western problem. Now we know it is not. The vulnerability of little girls is now an acknowledged cultural and educational fact, but the smartphone has changed all previous understanding of children's vulnerability. The Mohali incident is hardly rare, except in the sense that it highlights a danger we don't want to think about, perhaps because we can see no solution, whether easy or difficult.

Sociologist Gail Dines is the best-known campaigner against pornography. She spares no words or statistics to remind us that pornography is deeply entrenched in the Internet. Its financial grip is bigger than any single industry dependent on the Net. We don't need to speculate how major a contribution it makes to the economy of the Internet and the smartphone. Prof Dines has written and spoken extensively about the decisive impact that exposure to pornography makes on the minds of children, especially if the exposure occurs around the age of 11 or 12, and particularly for boys.



can claim that it has a strategy to protect children from potential exposure to pornography or to combat its influence on their minds. No nation in the world has evinced an interest in developing such a strategy. In our case, the State has demonstrated no anxiety about the potential problems that the smartphone can create in children's lives — both because of its addictive power and what all it offers access to, including pornography.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, when schools were shut down for a prolonged period, several states in India distributed free smartphones, obviously to ensure equal access to online teaching. Like many other debates suspended during the Covid ethos, the option and length of online education were treated as a timely, benign decision that would bring benefits alone. No studies have been conducted to find out how state-sponsored access to the smartphone influenced a child's life. Online education became part of school life after the pandemic and the smartphone maintained its edge over all other

devices in providing it. Along with the teacher's messages and homework, the phone brings a vast adult world into homes and children's hands. Never before have kids been exposed to a borderless milieu. They are now surrounded by the global market which treats every child as a consumer — of every possible object and experience. No parent or teacher can restrict a child's access to this global market. The risks inherent in this unprecedented situation can only intensify as children gain greater facility for using the smartphone. Expecting that the school authorities or the government can establish a measure of control on how market forces reach the child is to live in a fantasy world. A handful of countries have banned smartphones from schools; one or two countries have banned access to social media for children below 16. These firefighting measures underline the threat that the new technological environment poses to children's lives and minds. In India, the State's role in meeting this threat has not come under any public debate so far. Gung-ho adoption of all new digital devices in the education system continues to

dominate the discourse of educational reform. Children's access to pornography is an unacknowledged issue. If you acknowledge it, you will immediately realise how difficult it is to address it — that is, if someone wants to. Several years have passed since it received a mention in the media and courts. The options discussed at the time were the familiar ones. Banning pornographic sites, creating technological barriers for child users of smartphones, compelling access providers to protect children — these were among the options discussed. None seemed practical or possible, so the only choice left was to create public awareness. This all-purpose remedy has accumulated far too many demand orders since the advent of the Internet. In the context of children, this remedy implies parental education on a vast range of matters concerning children's life at home. Who might be responsible for providing parents the knowledge they need to cover the risks their children face is a question seldom thrashed out in policy circles.

Kerala rises in reforms, but ground reality lags

Kerala's high wages and its long history of aggressive labour union activity still make large, labour-intensive industries think twice before setting up shop. Local pressures should not be allowed to derail decisions



Kerala's achievement in improving the investment climate is laudable, considering it was long seen as business-unfriendly. Yet, the state has much to do to catch up with other truly business-friendly states. Kerala's sustained efforts to enhance its ease of doing business (EoDB) profile are reflected in its billing as a 'top achiever' in the latest rankings. For reforms to yield lasting, practical change, they must be applied fully and institutionalised at all levels of governance. Kerala has emerged as a top performer among the fast-moving states in the latest ease of doing business rankings. It completed an impressive 99.3 percent of the Business Reforms Action Plan for 2024 and advanced stronger digital governance. The evaluation placed the right emphasis where it matters — 30 percent on completing reforms and a much larger 70 percent on investor feedback — giving a clearer picture of what businesses actually experience on the ground. Kerala's high score is the direct result of institutionalising platforms such as K-SWIFT for single-window clearances, streamlining licences and permits,

and delivering critical improvements in electricity and water provision, and in business registration. These measures nurture existing businesses and attract new investment. However, the state must eliminate the persistent hurdles hindering its full business potential. Projects like the Elappully (Palakkad) brewery, where the

government's approval is being stalled by the grama panchayat, and the Fresh Cut poultry waste plant (Kozhikode), which was raided and set afire by those opposing its operation, demonstrate that state-level clearances are often negated by local political opposition and violent citizen action, reflecting a deep-seated public mindset against industry.

Kerala's high wages and its long history of aggressive labour union activity still make large, labour-intensive industries think twice before setting up shop. Local pressures should not be allowed to derail decisions taken at the executive level, and the state needs to offer businesses a sense of stability and predictability. That means building public support, enforcing regulations clearly, and ensuring local bodies fall in line. The government has to lead the push for compliance, remain in active dialogue with interest groups, and establish a robust grievance-redressal system to settle disputes quickly. Only then can Kerala create a steady, welcoming climate for industry.

New federal compact from south India

The peninsular states must begin fostering cooperation among themselves. This is feasible and desirable as the South is relatively economically and socially advanced

In 2014, the term 'cooperative federalism' was in vogue. Twelve years on, it rings hollow. A fiscally weak central government has steadily increased cesses, not taxes; because cesses, unlike taxes, are not shareable with the states. The Niti Aayog, which replaced the Planning Commission, is both ineffective and a mouthpiece of the Centre. When it refers to the states at all, it does so like a classroom monitor, obsessed with regulation and comparative evaluation. It's ludicrous 'aspirational districts' programme, the Prime Minister's direct annual meetings with police and district chiefs, reductions in contribution to centrally sponsored schemes, the disgraceful behaviour of some of the governors in opposition-ruled states, and the withholding of resources from states that do not agree with central policies (like language policies), all point to a centralising Union government scrambling to deny the states resources and extracting maximum credit for joint ventures.

In such a situation, it is important for states to reclaim agency. This is particularly true of the five peninsular states, which are at the cutting edge of economic growth and human development. They are especially hobbled by the removal of their legitimate resources in the form of cesses and by borrowing limits. Also, these states currently do not belong to the National Democratic Alliance, with one recent exception. But I see no kinder treatment for Andhra Pradesh, as a consequence of the shrimp tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump, for instance. For now, the peninsular states are on their own when it comes to furthering their development transformation. They must court foreign investment, build their global capability centres and infrastructure, and support their manufacturing base with little help from the Centre. They are also under pressure to provide better social services than the Indian average — no one in Tamil Nadu is going to accept the pitiful carb-heavy, protein-free mid-day meal scheme in states like Madhya Pradesh. If the Centre acts as a hegemon, the peninsular states must begin fostering cooperation among themselves. This is both feasible and desirable because

the peninsula is relatively economically and socially advanced, has stronger social and economic governance systems, and is better equipped and resourced to deliver complex infrastructure and social development initiatives compared to the rest of India.

Law and order is an immediate area where cooperation can be enhanced. Creating joint police databases, using State forces and specialised agencies to address economic crime across the peninsula, working jointly to promote women's safety in conjunction with the many progressive schemes being implemented across the peninsula, are areas where cooperation would both save costs and increase effectiveness.

In the area of social policy, too, there is considerable scope for cost-effective cooperation. It would benefit all southern states if education standards were harmonised across the peninsula. In my view, the peninsular governments need a larger pool of well-educated (not just trained and skilled) human resources over the next 30 years if they are going to rise up the productivity ladder — an essential prerequisite for future prosperity. Jointly planning and thinking through how to do this, from the primary level through to higher education and vocational training, would be an important catalyst for quality. This is especially so because national institutions are failing us. Peninsular educators privately complain about the antiquarian and corrupt practices of national-level education regulators, from the University Grants Commission to the Medical Council of India. A joint body with better standards

would be a great initiative. A similar initiative is possible in healthcare here; each state enjoys specific comparative advantages. Interoperability of social welfare schemes, labour standards, and minimum wage policy would go a long way toward creating an integrated single market that is indispensable for the next



phase of high productivity and high skill, transforming double peninsular per capita incomes in 10 years. The most important area of collaboration is fiscal policy. A joint-peninsular fiscal strategy is essential to implement the reforms needed for effective future fiscal operations. Peninsular states are revenue-constrained. There is not much they can do about this with respect to taxes in the divisible pool, but they all punch well below their weight when it comes to their own tax revenue, especially property tax and real estate taxes — these are essentially

giveaways to rent-seekers. There is a resultant over-reliance on sin taxes. Equally, harmonising procurement and tendering by creating a peninsular professional body would reduce corruption and improve the standards and quality of public goods and infrastructure services. The peninsula is rapidly urbanising. So, coordinated action plans for financing urban infrastructure through the creation of an aggregator financing entity that leverages the considerable economic and fiscal weight of the five states would enable access to finance capital on more favourable terms. Joint debt management and pooling of domestic debt ceilings would also increase fiscal prudence and improve debt sustainability metrics.

Peninsular states are economically and socially more advanced than the rest of India. They are dealing at this time with a churlish and uncooperative central government that seems only interested in extracting resources to subsidise geographies where it is politically dominant and favouring its own crony capitalists — look at what happened to India's airports in just five years. Peninsular cooperation is, therefore, an imperative, not a luxury. The socio-economic conditions are already in place but shaping such cooperation will require individual states to put aside their parochial concerns, stop taking potshots at neighbours, and invest political capital in muting petty ground-level rivalries. This will also help the peninsula present a united front against religious bigotry. Peninsular cooperative federalism is a grand idea whose time, I believe, has come. Just as in years past, a spluttering, ineffective and parochial Union government in Delhi is now an unwitting catalyst for co-operative change. It is now for the peninsula's political leadership to seize the moment.

NEWS BOX

In Gandhinagar village, forest dept sets up cage with bait after 'unidentified animal' kills two buffalo calves

Ahmedabad .(Agency)

The state forest department last week launched a surveillance in areas around Gandhinagar's Palaj village, around 37 kms from Ahmedabad, to look for the presence of any wild animal – such as a leopard – after two buffalo calves were killed by an "unidentified animal" last week. Palaj is located around 10-12 km from Gandhinagar.

As part of the surveillance, officials have set up a cage near the spot where the buffalo calves were found dead. A night patrolling drive has also been carried out since November 14. Officials say no trace of any wild animal has been found so far and they believe that the calves have likely been killed by dogs. Early on November 14, two buffalo calves were found dead, with the possibility of "unidentified animals" killing them at the stable of Jashwantsinh Bihola, the former Sarpanch of Palaj village.

Speaking with, Bihola said, "The two buffalo calves were found killed on Friday morning. The buffaloes and their calves were tethered inside the stable. And the calves were killed by some animal. Some dogs were barking at that time in the night. We live on a farm very nearby. Hearing the sound of dogs barking, I woke up and used the torch but did not find anything except for two pigs. I thought the dogs were barking because of the pigs, so I went to sleep again. Next morning, when our men went to milk the buffaloes, they found the calves killed. We do keep a man at the stable every night, but on that night he was away and nobody was at the stable. We then informed the forest department about the incident. We told the forest officials that it seems to us that a leopard has killed the two calves."

Summer Placement Process for MBA Class of 2027 | HDFC, Apple among 50 new recruiters at IIM-Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad .(Agency)

Among more than 50 new recruiters that participated in the Summer Placement Process for the MBA Class of 2027 of the Post Graduate Programme (PGP) at Indian Institute of Management (IIMA) Ahmedabad, the major ones are Apple, Dainik Bhaskar, FirstPrinciples, Fitpass, Gaja Capital, Haleon, HDFC AMC, Hero MotoCorp, JioStar, Lighthouse Canton, Medtronic India Pvt Ltd, Neo Group, Philip Morris International, Purple, Sahana Group of Companies and Sameeksha Capital.

The campus also saw international opportunities – for the Middle East, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore – offered by various firms in different cohorts. HSBC and Goldman Sachs made offers for international roles in the investment banking and markets cohort and fast retailing in the retail-B2B and retail-e commerce cohort. Firms from multiple domains participated across the three clusters in the summer placements, with all 410 students being placed across 25 cohorts. The consolidated report of the Summer Placement process, completed on November 3, reveals management consulting cohort to be the largest recruiter with 166 roles (40 per cent) followed by banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) with 105 roles (25 per cent) and Consumer Goods (FMCG) and durables 37 (9 per cent).

Gujarat DGP: Make dossier on 'anti-national elements' booked in past 30 years

Ahmedabad .(Agency)

Gujarat Director General of Police Vikas Sahay Monday directed all police stations in the state to make a dossier of "all anti-national elements booked in the last 30 years" – updating it with their current status – to be readied in the next 100 hours (by Friday). The action is in conjunction with the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) arresting a doctor from Hyderabad in Telangana and two others from Uttar Pradesh on November 8, suspected to be involved in an alleged terror plot using ricin, extracted from castor beans. Two days later a blast outside the Red Fort in Delhi killed 14. Police chief Sahay's message was shared via a video on social media platform X. Meanwhile, the Gir-Somnath district police on Sunday found and seized four sharp-edged weapons from the compound of a dargah in Kodinar. The Special Operations Group (SOG), conducting verification checks in light of the bomb blast in Delhi, found the weapons including two swords, an axe and a dagger from the compound of the Kutchi Pir Ni Dargah, in Mul Dwarka village of Kodinar taluka. An FIR was subsequently filed at Kodinar police station. The FIR, filed on the basis of a complaint by Head Constable Gopalsinh Deepsinh Mori of the SOG on behalf of the State, said that on November 16, his team along with staff from Talala police station, were out combing for suspicious migrants from other states, they reached Kutchi Pir Ni Dargah.

Saini raises SYL: Haryana not getting its full share of water

Chandigarh .(Agency)

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini Monday said his state was not receiving its full share of water from Punjab due to the non-construction of the Sutlej Yamuna Link canal and said the neighbouring state must remember the sacred traditions of the Gurus while addressing water disputes.

Speaking at the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Saini said that proper arrangements must be ensured for supplying each state its rightful share of water.

"Haryana has consistently been giving Delhi more water than its own share. However, due to the non-construction of the SYL canal, Haryana is not receiving its full share of water from Punjab. Once Haryana receives its rightful share of water, Rajasthan too will get its due share."

Punjab is the land of Gurus, the sacred soil where Bhai Kanhaiya served even enemy soldiers on the battlefield by giving them water," Saini said.

The Haryana CM said that water is a "shared resource" and keeping it clean is the collective responsibility of all states. Recalling that rivers are revered as mothers in Indian culture, he

assured that Haryana is making every effort to keep Yamuna clean. Notably, the SYL canal issue has been a bone of contention between the two states for the past several years. Referring to Panjab University, Saini said, "If some colleges of Haryana get affiliated to the PU, it

always been connected with Punjab's legacy and heritage.

Saini, while touching upon other issues at the meeting, said that ensuring the safety of children is everyone's responsibility. With the implementation of the three new criminal laws in Haryana, cases under the POCSO Act are being disposed of more swiftly, he said.

The chief minister said that to ensure affordable healthcare for every citizen, the state government strengthened Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana by integrating its own Chirayu Yojana with it. "This is an example of accelerated development under the 'double-engine' government," he said.

He said that banking facilities are now available even in the smallest villages of Haryana.

"Haryana has submitted detailed comments on each agenda item to the Council. I hope that the deliberations of this meeting would promote cooperative federalism, help build consensus on inter-state and Centre-state issues, and make the NZC meeting an example of Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat," Saini said.



NFR Enhances Renewable Energy Footprint with 11.95 MWp Solar Installations across Its Zone

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 18th November: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) continues to strengthen its commitment towards renewable energy by steadily expanding solar capacity across the zone. As on 31st October 2025, NFR has installed a cumulative total of 11.95 MWp rooftop solar capacities since year 2011, at important stations, offices, workshops and service buildings of its divisions, i.e. Katihar, Alipurduar, Rangiya, Lumding, Tinsukia. Also, these installations were carried out at NFR Headquarter at Maligaon and its workshops. This initiative forms a key part of Indian Railways' mission towards enhancing green energy adoption and reduce reliance on conven-

tional power sources. During the current financial year till 31st

an average generation capacity of approximately 8.98 lakh units of



October 2025, NFR achieves a total of 2.80 MWp solar capacities installed at several important locations of its zone. Hence, it attained

solar energy per month, resulting in estimated average savings of Rs. 66 lakhs monthly. Further, to enhance the solar power genera-

Panic in UP village: Cow dies of 'dog bite', over 130 that had prasad made of its milk get rabies shots

Lucknow .(Agency)

For the past four days, over a hundred residents of Ramdeeh village in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur have been rushing in panic to get anti-rabies shots. The reason? They had eaten puja prasad (chana amrit), made from the milk of a village cow that



died on Saturday evening – ostensibly from a dog bite. Following the villagers' distress, the Health Department on Monday set up a special medical camp to counsel families, assess risks, and reassure the community amid rising fear and confusion. Ramdeeh is a village with a mixed population of about 3,000 people. Speaking to, village pradhan Anil Kumar said about a week ago, a cow belonging to his relative, Dharmendra Gour – who works in a private firm in Gorakhpur –

suddenly fell ill. "Dharmendra called a veterinarian. After examining the cow, the doctor said it appeared to have been bitten by a dog and that the rabies infection had spread through its body," explained Anil, who is serving his first term as pradhan.

He added that the veterinarian also recorded a video of the cow and shared it with his senior. After reviewing the video, the senior doctor confirmed that the animal was likely suffering from rabies and warned that it would soon start showing abnormal behaviour and might not survive. "The doctor advised Dharmendra and others present that anyone who had consumed the cow's milk should immediately take anti-rabies injections, before the infection

— if any — could spread. The doctor also warned that once rabies develops, there is no cure," the pradhan said.

He said a meeting was called to discuss the situation. That's when it dawned on the residents that milk from the same cow had been used to prepare prasad during two puja ceremonies held on October 29 and November 2. "The milk was added to the prasad because it is considered shubh (auspicious)," the pradhan explained.

These seeds are vital because farmers can multiply them for future planting. However, the delivery of these seeds has been significantly delayed, disrupting the sowing seasons. The state received 12,500 quintals of Berseem seed, and 5,000 quintals (cumulative all districts) of lentil, several 1,000s of quintals of wheat seeds and gram seeds. The state placed a demand under NFSNM for these seeds in the third week of October, even though Berseem sowing in Punjab is usually completed by the second week of October. The ideal sowing window for wheat, gram, and lentils begins at the end of October and continues until November 15. However, district officers argue that the supply of seeds for all these

Operation Trackdown: In biggest crackdown, Haryana Police nets hardened criminals across Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sonipat

Chandigarh .(Agency)

In a special state-wide campaign conducted over the past 11 days, Haryana Police arrested 610 individuals accused of heinous and serious crimes. Among those apprehended are hardened criminals involved in murders, extortion, and firing incidents. In addition, 2,562 persons were arrested in other cases, taking the total number of arrests to 3,172.

These numbers reflect a tangible impact on crime disruption, particularly in districts like Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sonipat, Karnal, and Rohtak, where notorious criminals have long operated with impunity," said DGP OP Singh.

The 16-day Operation Trackdown, launched on November 5, was aimed at habitual offenders, violent criminals, and organized gangs. Arrests were made under charges including murder, attempt to murder, extortion, robbery, dacoity, snatching, kidnapping, and illegal possession of arms. Specifically, the operation resulted in 138 arrests related to attempted murders and 67 linked to murders, underscoring strong action against violent crime. Offenders were also apprehended in 25 extortion cases, 23 robberies, 14 dacoities, 46 snatching incidents, and 18 kidnappings.

According to the DGP, Gurgaon, with its thriving industries and upscale residential hubs, topped the list with 116 arrests in heinous crime cases under the operation. "The city's proximity to Delhi and rapid urban growth have made it

vulnerable to organized gangs and arms trafficking," he said.

Faridabad recorded 43 arrests, Sonipat 57, Karnal 36, Rohtak 39, Palwal 31, along with several other districts where coordinated efforts yielded significant results. "Collaboration between district police units and specialized task forces has been instrumental in orchestrating these crackdowns," noted OP Singh.

The DGP said, "Operation Trackdown does not merely rely on arrests; it is driven by intelligence-based policing, raids on verified leads, and inter-agency coordination. A key focus has been on seizing illegal weapons including pistols, revolvers, cartridges, and magazines, thereby disrupting supply chains for violent crime." He further said that the operation stands as an example of thematic policing, showing how "focused, data-driven campaigns strengthen broader law enforcement".

As the state continues to urbanize and its population grows, such specialized operations provide a blueprint for other regions confronting organized crime. Sustained analysis, transparency, and community engagement will be vital to maintaining momentum," said DGP. Beyond arrests, the police have opened history sheets and personal files for many of the accused to ensure continued vigilance and monitoring.

Punjab: Delayed supply of seeds under NFSNM; farmers, officers in dilemma

Chandigarh .(Agency)

Senior officers across Punjab are raising concerns over chronic delays in the supply of Berseem (green fodder), lentil, gram, and wheat seeds, which are meant to be free for flood-affected villages and on subsidy for others. These worries come even as the Punjab Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department has recently begun sending these seeds procured under the National Food Security and Nutrition Mission (NFSNM).

The seeds are arriving after the sowing windows of these crops have closed. With farmers not needing the seeds anymore, the district officers are forced to find ways to sell them. Punjab had demanded for high-yielding seed varieties under NFSNM from the Central government, with the expectation that these would be provided to

farmers at subsidised rates. These seeds are vital because farmers can multiply them for future planting. However, the delivery of these seeds has been significantly delayed, disrupting the sowing seasons.

The state received 12,500 quintals of Berseem seed, and 5,000 quintals (cumulative all districts) of lentil, several 1,000s of quintals of wheat seeds and gram seeds. The state placed a demand under NFSNM for these seeds in the third week of October, even though Berseem sowing in Punjab is usually completed by the second week of October. The ideal sowing window for wheat, gram, and lentils begins at the end of October and continues until November 15. However, district officers argue that the supply of seeds for all these



crops arrived too late for timely distribution. This has left little to no demand among farmers for the seeds. The ideal sowing window for wheat lies between November 1 and 15. Most districts have already completed wheat sowing. Berseem (green fodder) must ideally be

'Criminals killed during police engagement... are very hardened with no respect for law': UP DGP on encounters

Lucknow .(Agency)

Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Rajeev Krishna was appointed chief of the biggest police force in the country on May 31. A 1991-batch IPS officer, he has backed the current Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government's zero tolerance policy against crime and criminals. When he took charge, he put forth 10 priorities that he would work on aggressively to make policing more efficient, people friendly and beneficial to those in need. These were: zero tolerance towards crime and criminals; women empowerment and addressing crimes against women; cyber crime prevention; police training; police welfare activities; strategic utilisation of talent; use of AI in policing; enhancement of public service apps; improving the public grievance redressal system; and maintaining public order through better traffic management, with a focus on reducing road accidents and congestion.

Five months into his tenure, in an interview with The Indian Express, DGP Krishna speaks about why one of his priorities is tackling cyber crime. He also addresses police encounters in the state and why police personnel are forced to resort to gunfire.

On the first day that you took charge of the force, you put forth 10 priorities to make policing result-oriented. In the last five months, which of these has started showing results?

Under the CM's overall vision with regard to policing, the UP Police had formulated 10 priorities. There were certain areas where the force was working very well, and there were certain priorities where more needs to be done. Crime and zero tolerance towards criminals is, and has always been, the main priority... It has improved tremendously over the last 8 years, and we are working further in this direction. Second, there is zero tolerance on crime against women. We have... taken certain initiatives in that direction... The Mission Shakti Abhiyan has been the state government's flagship scheme for the last five years, and we have made certain innovations and modifications to improve delivery on the ground... It has shown very encouraging results.

sown between September 15 and October 10, and farmers are already harvesting their first cutting. For lentil and gram, sowing typically concludes by November second week. Documents from Chandigarh indicate that the state had requested 12,500 quintals of Berseem seed worth Rs 12.50 crores on October 23, aimed at covering 50,000 hectares. By that time, the Berseem sowing window had already closed, and farmers are now well into their first harvest of the season. The experts and officials report that despite these timelines, the Agriculture Department began sending the seeds only around mid-November, long past the optimal sowing period. The district-level officials are voicing frustration over the delayed seed supply.

Jaish's WhatsApp channel used for white-collar outreach in India shuts down

New Delhi.(Agency)

A WhatsApp channel operated by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and used to circulate radical content in India has been closed after a report by India Today TV exposed its targeted outreach to white-collar professionals.

The channel, which boasted more than 13,000 followers, emerged as a key online tool for the group's propaganda efforts among influential sectors such as doctors, journalists, and other professionals. Meta, the parent company of WhatsApp, removed the channel after the India Today report was published. The channel's activities included sharing audio and video messages, as well as ideological briefings, designed to amplify JeM's narratives to a diverse audience.

WHAT WAS THE MODUS OPERANDI?
India Today's investigation involved undercover reporters who, after the 2019 Balakot strikes, worked for weeks to

establish contact with JeM operatives in Pakistan. The team used SIM cards linked to Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar, building credible covers before the operatives revealed key details about their operations and losses.

Historically, JeM refrained from using modern communication channels. The group discouraged mobile phone and internet use, and its leader Masood Azhar maintained a very low online presence, primarily limiting communications to closed Telegram groups and obscure blogs.

JeM's operational culture changed significantly after Operation Sindoar in 2024, which caused major damage to its headquarters. On June 27, 2024, Azhar made a rare public appearance at a wedding and allowed his speech to be recorded, which was later verified by India Today's OSINT team. This event marked a new phase in the group's outreach



strategy. Following Operation Sindoar, JeM began to exploit WhatsApp as a channel to influence Indian smartphone users susceptible to

radicalisation. The group launched open channels, including one named after Markaz Sayyedna Tamim Dari (MSTD), quickly amassing over 13,000 followers since its creation in January 2024.

In addition to the main channel, JeM-affiliated channels such as Madrasah Sayyidina Zayd Bin Sabit attracted thousands more followers. These platforms regularly distributed sermons, ideological messages, and calls for followers to adopt a hardline religious stance.

JeM also pushed recycled speeches, digital literature, e-books, nasheeds and remote classes from Bahawalpur, Pakistan, into India via these channels. The open nature of these platforms provided JeM's leadership with direct and unfiltered access to individuals in India considered vulnerable to radicalisation.

A Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) WhatsApp channel, spreading radical content to Indian white-collared workers, has shut down following an investigative report by .

2 CRPF Schools In Delhi Receive Hoax Bomb Threats



New Delhi.(Agency)

Two CRPF-run schools in the national capital received bomb threats on Tuesday morning after an unidentified man called the Police Control Room (PCR) claiming that explosives had been planted on the premises, officials said.

The call, made around 9 am, warned that bombs were placed in the CRPF schools located in Prashant Vihar and Dwarka, prompting immediate mobilisation of local police, bomb disposal squads and the Delhi Fire Services. "After receiving the call, teams were rushed to both locations and the school buildings were evacuated as a precaution," a senior police officer said. He said the caller's phone switched off soon after the threat was issued, and attempts to trace him are ongoing. "We thoroughly inspected the schools, and nothing suspicious was found. The threat was declared a hoax," a Delhi Fire Services official said.

Police are analysing call records and technical details to identify the caller and ascertain the motive behind the hoax threat, the officer added. No injuries or damage were reported.

Hidma hid well, but a Maoist split, betrayal and dogged hunt got him killed

New Delhi.(Agency)

The killing of Madvi Hidma, one of the India's most-feared Maoist commanders, is akin to driving the last nail into the coffin of Left-Wing Extremism in the country. This is a major setback for the Maoists and comes close on the heels of the killing of Nambala Keshava Rao alias Basavraj in May, and the surrender of Mallojula Venugopal Rao (aka Bhupathi) in October.

Among those killed with Hidma was his wife, Rajee, and some close followers, according to reports. The encounter happened between Alluri Sitarama Raju and Sukma districts.

The decline of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) in India began with the 2021 killing of Milind Teltumbde, a CPI (Maoist) Central Committee member. The intense back-to-back operations came as Union Home Minister Amit Shah resolved for a "Naxal-mukt Bharat".

Maoists are surrendering in large numbers amid the counter-insurgency operations, not only fearing death, but mainly because of their disillusionment with a revolution that they now realise will never arrive. The big hit by the security forces on Chhattisgarh-Andhra Pradesh border follows a pattern.

SURRENDERED NAXAL LEADER REVEALED RIFT WITHIN MAOISTS

There is a deepening leadership crisis within the CPI (Maoist), which was triggered by the killing of ex-general secretary Basavraj, which escalated with the surrender of politburo member Bhupathi on October 14, in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, with over 60 cadres. Bhupathi, considered an ideologue, had called for a temporary halt to the armed struggle, and revealed in interrogation about internal fractures in CPI (Maoist), its declining public support, and opportunistic links between some Maoist factions and politicians in Telangana. These divisions intensified when a hardline faction opposed Bhupathi's ceasefire proposal, leading Hidma and a small group of loyalists to attempt consolidating control over remaining military formations.

Red Fort blast: Umar's 'video' surfaces, says 'suicide bombing a misunderstood concept'

New Delhi.(Agency)

A purported video of Umar Nabi, who drove the Hyundai i20 car that exploded near the Red Fort on November 10, has surfaced on social media. In it, he is heard talking about "martyrdom operations" and "suicide bombing".

In the 1-minute-20-second purported video, Umar, sitting on a chair in a room, claimed that multiple arguments have been raised against martyrdom operations. "One of the most misunderstood concepts is the concept of suicide bombing... It is a martyrdom operation. When a person assumes that he is certain to die at a particular place and time, he goes against the presumption that he will die in a specific situation," he said.

While the video has been doing rounds on social media, the Delhi Police said

they are verifying it. It is suspected that he made this video and later circulated it to his associates, police sources said. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Delhi Police Special Cell are probing

the blast case. Umar was employed as an assistant professor in the general medicine department of Al Falah University in Faridabad. Officials had earlier said DNA samples taken from Umar's mother confirmed

Delhi blast: Terrorists using Hamas-style tactics India's new headache?

New Delhi.(Agency)

Over the past year, an unseen and more sinister force has emerged as a challenge for the Indian security agencies. While Hamas, a US-designated terror group, may be on its last legs following its conflict with Israel, its ideological influence has expanded into South Asia, particularly Pakistan. The Pahalgam attack earlier this year had striking similarities to the Hamas massacre in Israel in 2023. And now, it has emerged that the "white collar" terror module busted in Haryana was planning to carry out Hamas-style attacks using drones.

The plot unravelled following the arrest of Jasir Bilal Wani, alias Danish, a co-conspirator behind the

Red Fort attack, which left 14 dead. Investigators said the module, associated with the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), was in the process of modifying drones to use them as rocket-style bombs for attacks across multiple cities. The drones were also to be equipped with a camera. The modus operandi is similar to how Hamas launched its invasion in Israel on October 7, 2023, when it used weaponised drones for maximum destruction.

HAMAS EXPANDS FOOTPRINT IN PAKISTAN

Hamas's growing imprint in South Asia over the past 12 months has been hard to miss. Decimated in the Middle East following a two-year war with Israel in Gaza, Hamas operatives are

it was him behind the wheel of the car. The Indian Express earlier reported that investigators had relied on key forensic clues to establish that Umar was driving the car, including a charred portion of a leg found near the accelerator and a black sports shoe lying beside the wreckage.

The NIA has arrested two close associates of Umar — Amir Rashid Ali, a resident of Pulwama, and Kasir Bilal Vani alias Danish, a resident of Anantnag — in connection with the blast.

It was in Ali's name that the Hyundai i20 was registered, said the agency. "Amir had come to Delhi to facilitate the purchase of the car, which was eventually used as a vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device to trigger the blast," a spokesperson of NIA had said.

finding refuge in Pakistan, according to a report by the US-based Middle East Forum.

In fact, recently, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi mentioned Hamas among the terrorist organisations that India was concerned about.

It was the first time that a top Army official named Hamas alongside Pakistan-based terror groups like Jaish and Lashkar-e-Taiba. Interestingly, India has not officially designated Hamas a terrorist organisation.

"The terrorist groups such as Hamas, LeT, TRF... they will be the permanent part that India is concerned about," the Army chief said at an event hosted by IIT-Madras in August.

Rekha Gupta Presses Neighbouring States For Urgent Joint Action On Delhi Air

Rekha Gupta pushed for tougher curbs on stubble burning, stricter enforcement of industrial pollution regulations, improved road-dust control, and a transition to zero-emission inter-state transport.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The issue of Delhi's worsening air pollution took centre stage at the Northern Zonal Council meeting in Faridabad on Monday, with Chief Minister Rekha Gupta urging neighbouring states for immediate and coordinated action. Chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the meeting

brought together the region's top leadership, as Gupta stressed that Delhi's pollution crisis cannot be tackled in isolation. During the meeting, Gupta pushed for tougher curbs on stubble burning, stricter enforcement of industrial pollution regulations, improved road-dust control, and a transition to zero-emission inter-state transport.

Her intervention came as Delhi's air quality continued to deteriorate, with CPCB data at 4 pm recording an AQI of 351, placing the city firmly in the "very poor" category and adding to residents' health concerns.

The political push comes shortly after the Supreme Court criticised Punjab and Haryana for what it described as "mere eyewash" in preventing farm fires,

questioning the accuracy of reported pollution data and flagging poor enforcement of environmental laws.



The court has demanded detailed action reports, signalling impatience as air quality continues to worsen across Delhi

and the NCR region. Data from recent months highlights the scale of the problem. Delhi recorded 27 polluted days in October, with several periods classified as "severe." Experts note that stubble-burning smoke contributes over 22 per cent of Delhi's PM2.5 on peak days, while vehicle emissions, construction dust, and local industrial activity keep pollution levels high.

Environmental researchers continue to advocate for multi-pronged interventions, including technologies like the "happy seeder" to reduce crop residue burning.

Residents are growing increasingly frustrated, staging demonstrations across the capital and demanding more than repeated promises from authorities.

NEWS BOX

Smithy's mind was racing: Starc on Hazlewood-Abbott injury blow during Shield tie

New Delhi. (Agency)

Australia pacer Mitchell Starc revealed the chaos that ensued during the Sheffield Shield game where both Josh Hazlewood and Sean Abbott suffered injuries ahead of the first Ashes Test. Hazlewood and Abbott were taking part in the New South Wales vs Victoria Shield game, when both men decided not to return to the field after lunch on Day 3. Abbott was ruled out of the first Test against England shortly after, but Hazlewood was initially cleared. But scans later revealed that the star pacer had suffered a hamstring strain injury and was out of the Perth Test. Speaking on LiSTNR's The Howie Games: Ashes Diaries, Starc first wished a speedy recovery to Abbott and said it would be different without having Hazlewood and Pat Cummins alongside him during the match. "I feel for the big fella. Sean [Abbott], his original scan came back, and it wasn't great news for him. He's always been so close to being in the Test squads, so hopefully it's a speedy recovery for Sean," Starc said. "We found out today that his [Hazlewood's] follow-up scan was not too good. It's not ideal. It's been quite a while since I've been in the squad without Josh [Hazlewood] and Pat [Cummins] it's going to



be a bit different this week.

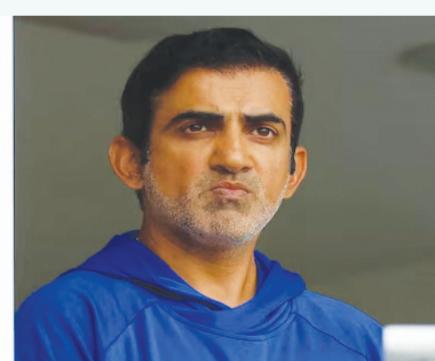
CAN'T TAKE MORE CHANCES!

Starc went on to reveal the chaos that ensued after Hazlewood and Abbott went off and said that Steve Smith was scrambling a bit. The Australia stand-in skipper for the first Test then decided to take off Starc and Scott Boland, who was playing for Victoria, from the game to protect them. On the ground, it was a bit of chaos. I didn't even see Josh go off the field originally. He finished the over and it was meant to be the end of his spell anyway, so I thought he was just getting a fresh kit on. Sean disappeared as well, and then we were scrambling a little bit — Smithy being captain, and I was in the gully — and we got the message that neither of the boys were going to bowl again, and Josh had awareness in his hammy."

Rank turner haunting: When India didn't learn from mistakes during home Tests

New Delhi. (Agency)

"The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing." This is a famous quote by Henry Ford, and at this point in time, it seems to be the one that the Indian cricket team management hasn't heard of. The leadership under Gautam Gambhir were expected to bring in a new attitude to the Test team and the hopes were really high. At the end of the day, what speaks for anyone in sports are the results and they don't seem to be going in India's favour. The Kolkata Test saw India get beaten by South Africa by 30 runs, their fourth loss at home in the last six. It was the pitch at the Eden Gardens that grabbed all the headlines, with fans and pundits slamming it for creating an



imbalance in the game. While the first blame was directed at the Eden Gardens curator and the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB). However, CAB president Sourav Ganguly said that the Indian team had specifically asked for such a wicket, something that Gambhir later confirmed in his press conference. However, the Indian coach's remarks and justifications didn't sit well with many former cricketers, who questioned why India need such tracks to win Tests. Kris Srikkanth was unhappy after the game and asked what was the need for such wickets. "The point I don't understand is, Gambhir told there are no demons and you should show better technique and all that. How can you play on this kind of a wicket? So many batters tried to defend and got out at slip or lbw. Let's face it, this South Africa is not a strong batting line-up or a strong side. Why do you want to keep on persisting on these kind of bad wickets and then blame the technique of the players?" said Srikkanth.

IND vs SA: Shock defeat spurs India to training in Kolkata before Guwahati trip

Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh criticised the team management following India's defeat to South Africa in the opening Test at Eden Gardens, saying that the obsession with preparing rank-turners is damaging both the spirit of Test cricket and the development of Indian players.

TBLISI. (Agency)

India wasted no time in returning to the training ground after their embarrassing 30-run defeat to South Africa in the first of a two-match series in Kolkata. Two days after being outspun by the visiting Proteas, the Indian team were back in training for the second Test even before flying out to Guwahati, which will host the series finale from Saturday, 22 November. On Tuesday, India players and members of the support staff, led by coach Gautam Gambhir, were

seen training at Eden Gardens, making the most of the extra days available before their next challenge.

While captain Shubman Gill was not in attendance, several Indian batters were sweating it out on a bright morning at the iconic venue. Wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja had a hit in the nets, facing the likes of Akash Deep, Washington Sundar and some local Kolkata bowlers. India lost the first Test inside two-and-a-half days, failing to chase 124 in the final innings. Without Gill, who suffered a neck injury, India were undone by South Africa's all-round bowling attack. Off-spinner Simon Harmer, left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj and part-timer Aiden Markram ran riot as India's decision to prepare a dry surface in Kolkata backfired. Incidentally, groundstaff were seen watering the pitches on Monday to get them ready for the training session. However, the surface had not been watered in the lead-up to the first Test after the Indian team management requested a track that would turn from the opening day.

On Tuesday, the focus was on Sai Sudharsan, who was seen wearing his trademark headband and taking on the fast bowlers in

one of the nets. The left-hander, dropped for the first Test, was crisply timing a few deliveries and looked as focused as he has been in recent training sessions, as seen in a video shared by journalist Kushan



Sarkar. Washington Sundar, who replaced Sai at No. 3 in the series opener, was seen bowling to Ravindra Jadeja in the nets. Dhruv Jurel, who played alongside Rishabh Pant in the first Test, was also facing the net bowlers.

Indian team nets Eden Gardens. Dhruv Jurel in the nets. #INDvSA #CricketTwitter pic.twitter.com/GV00F1NMn4— Kushan Sarkar (@kushansarkar) November 18, 2025

India are unlikely to have captain Gill available for the second Test in Guwahati. The skipper

was discharged from a Kolkata hospital where he had been undergoing treatment for the neck injury suffered during the first innings of the opening Test. India may not want to risk their captain, given the nature of the injury and the fact he required hospitalisation to recover.

WILL SAI REPLACE GILL?

Sai Sudharsan remains the frontrunner to replace Gill, but India may hesitate to include too many left-handers in their XI, considering how effectively South African off-spinner Simon Harmer operated in the first Test. For the first time in Indian Test history, India fielded as many as six left-handers in their XI after selecting three spin-bowling left-handers—Jadeja, Sundar and Axar Patel—all of whom bat left-handed. There is speculation that India may bring in Abhimanyu Easwaran, Sarfaraz Khan or Ruturaj Gaikwad for the second Test in Guwahati. All three right-handers are currently playing in the ongoing round of the Ranji Trophy. The pitch in Guwahati is something of an unknown, as the east Indian venue will host a men's Test for the first time in its history. Owing to the early sunset, the session timings have been adjusted, with tea to be taken before lunch.

BAN vs IND: When and where to watch Ryan Williams' debut for Indian football team

AUCKLAND. (Agency)

Ryan Williams could make his debut for the Indian football team when the Blue Tigers face Bangladesh in the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers clash at Dhaka on Tuesday, November 18. The Australia-born winger recently joined the national setup and has quickly become the main focus ahead of the match, with fans eager to see how he fits into India's attack and whether he can solve the ongoing striker void. Williams is expected to add pace and energy in the final third. His debut also comes at a significant moment, as India plays in Bangladesh in Dhaka for the first time in 22 years. Although both teams are already out of the qualification race, the match still holds importance due to the long-standing rivalry and the opportunity to gain FIFA ranking points. India and Bangladesh will meet for the 30th time, with India holding the



against the West Indies, which begins on December 2 at Hagley Oval. The medical team remains optimistic about his recovery



being ruled out of a series early on with injury, particularly when you're in hot form like Daryl is," said New Zealand coach Rob Walter. He has been our standout performer in the ODI format so far this summer, so he'll be missed for two important matches."

"The positive is that the injury is only minor and we should see Daryl recovered and fit for the Test series." In the interim, Henry Nicholls steps in as a replacement. Nicholls has demonstrated strong form in the domestic Ford Trophy competition and brings substantial international experience to the squad, which is expected to help fill the gap left by Mitchell's absence. "Henry has been in top form in the Ford Trophy and is an experienced international cricketer, so it's great to welcome him back into the side." "It's always pleasing to be able to reward players who are in good touch, and we know Henry will be raring to go if given an opportunity," said Walter.

Germany, Netherlands secure World Cup 2026 qualification with big wins

New Delhi. (Agency)

Germany and the Netherlands became the latest teams to book their spots in the World Cup 2026, following their big wins over Slovakia and Lithuania respectively. Germany overwhelmed Slovakia 6-0 to secure direct qualification for the 2026 World Cup, finishing at the top of Group A with 15 points. Slovakia, who had previously beaten Germany in September, was left second in the group on 12 points and will proceed to the playoffs. Julian Nagelsmann's team took control early, scoring four times in the first half. Nick Woltemade opened the scoring in the 18th minute, bringing his tally to four goals in his last three matches. Serge Gnabry doubled the advantage, converting after his initial effort was saved by Martin Dubravka. Leroy Sane extended the lead with two goals, both assisted by Florian Wirtz, establishing a commanding 4-0 halftime scoreline. Slovakia were unable to replicate their earlier win over Germany, struggling defensively as the match progressed. After the break, Ridle Baku and Assan Ouedraogo added



further goals, capping off a comprehensive performance from the hosts. Ouedraogo's goal was notable as it made him Germany's youngest-ever debut goalscorer at 19 years old. With this result, Germany qualify for their 21st World Cup, aiming to regain international prestige after failing to reach a major final since their World Cup triumph in 2014. NETHERLANDS REACH WORLD CUP

In Group G, the Netherlands secured their

spot at the 2026 World Cup with a convincing 4-0 win over Lithuania at home. The Dutch ended their qualifying campaign unbeaten, topping the group with 20 points, three ahead of Poland. This will be the Netherlands' 12th World Cup appearance, having been runners-up three times in their history. Tijjani Reijnders, restored to the starting lineup due to Kluivert's injury, scored the opener in the 16th minute. He nearly doubled his tally, striking the post in the 30th minute. The Dutch continued to press, and a four-minute

spell early in the second half proved decisive. Cody Gakpo extended the lead with a penalty awarded by VAR for a handball by Tutyskina, followed by Xavi Simons, who dribbled past several defenders and struck a powerful shot for the third. Donyell Malen added a fourth on the counterattack, sprinting from halfway and finishing clinically. The Netherlands' dominance was clear, with the scoreline reflecting their control of the match.

historical edge. The team started their camp in Bengaluru before travelling to Dhaka, where a strong crowd is expected after tickets sold out quickly. Head coach Khalid Jamil has included several young players, and a few of them — along with Williams — could make their first senior appearance. For Williams, this game marks the start of his journey with India, and fans will be watching closely to see how he performs in his first international outing. When and where to watch the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers between Bangladesh vs India?

The Bangladesh vs India AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers Final Round match will be played at the National Stadium in Dhaka on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, with kick-off at 19:30 IST. How to watch the Bangladesh vs India match in the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers? You can watch the match live via streaming on FanCode, which holds the digital broadcast rights for the fixture. Simply log in to the FanCode app or website at match time to watch the game live. What are the squads for the Bangladesh vs India match in the AFC Qualifiers? India.

Russell's KKR release wrong, even 4 players like Cameron Green can't cover it: Kaif

Mohammed Kaif has claimed that Andre Russell's release from KKR is wrong and said that four Cameron Greens won't be able to fill the void left by the all-rounder. Russell won the IPL twice with KKR during his 12 seasons with the team.

NEW YORK. (Agency)

Former India cricketer Mohammed Kaif has claimed that Andre Russell's release from KKR wasn't right and the three-time champions should look to get the all-rounder back during the IPL 2026 auction. Russell spent 12 seasons with the Knight Riders and played 133 matches for them over the course of 12 seasons, and scored 2593 runs at a strike-rate of 174.97. He also



picked 122 wickets during this time at an average of 21.59. The two-time IPL MVP was retained ahead of IPL 2025, but KKR decided to let him go before the auction next month. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Kaif hailed the West Indies all-rounder as a once-in-a-generation player and said his release was astonishing. The former cricketer feels that the reason behind the call must be Abhishek Nayar, who took charge as KKR's head coach ahead of the new season. "Russell's release is not right," Kaif said on his YouTube channel. "You had him at Rs 12 crore and that is not a big amount really for a player like him. He is a once-in-a-generation player. Yes, he was out of form, but later on he scored runs too. But as coaches change, they bring some changes. I think this was a big call. You can say he was not at his peak, but I feel this is

such a format, especially in the IPL, where experienced players do well and there are many examples. I feel the straight answer to his release is Abhishek Nayar. He wants to make his own team now. But this was an astonishing call. "SHOULD GET RUSSELL BACK"

KKR are expected to be busy during the IPL

2026 auction, as they have Rs. 64.3 crore to spend and six foreign players to buy. Many are speculating that with the release of Russell, their main target will be Cameron Green. Kaif said that even four players like Green can't cover the quality that Russell can offer to KKR. "The quality and power that Russell has, even four players like Cameron Green cannot cover that. The way he plays, he can hit 100m sixes at will and he has won them so many games from situations where the game seemed lost. He got that respect because of this ability. There are very few players like him at number seven. If you play Green at seven, he cannot score even half the runs of Russell — he bats up the order. I feel they should buy Russell back," added Kaif.

Narayana Murthy now cites Chinese 9-9-6 system to back 72-hour work week call

New Delhi.(Agency)

Infosys founder Narayana Murthy has once again weighed his views on work-life balance, productivity, and the culture of long working hours. In a recent interview, the 79-year-old billionaire referred to China's well-known 9-9-6 work culture to support his long-held view that young Indians should work longer hours to help India grow faster.

Murthy had earlier caused widespread discussion in 2023 when he said Indians should work 70 hours a week for nation-building. This time, he expanded on the idea by pointing to China, a country that has grown rapidly in the past few decades and is often used as a benchmark for industrial and economic progress.

WHAT IS THE 9-9-6 RULE?

The 9-9-6 rule refers to a work schedule that was once common in Chinese tech companies, where employees were expected to work from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., six days a week. This amounts to a 72-hour work week. The practice became popular during China's tech boom, especially in companies like Alibaba and Huawei, but it also drew strong criticism for causing high stress, burnout, and poor work-life balance. In 2021, China's Supreme Court declared the 9-9-6 schedule illegal, although reports suggest that enforcement remains uneven. Speaking to Republic TV, Murthy cited China's approach to productivity and said young Indians should be prepared to work harder if they want the country to progress at a similar pace.

"There is a saying in China, 9, 9, 6. You know what it means? 9 am to 9 pm, 6 days a week. And that is a 72-hour week," he said, adding that he believes Indian youth should follow similar working hours.

US says sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil already cutting Russia's oil revenue

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control said in a statement that its analysis of the initial market impact of the sanctions announced on October 22 showed they "are having their intended effect of dampening Russian revenues by lowering the price of Russian oil and therefore the country's ability to fund its war effort against Ukraine."

The Treasury action was among the strongest US sanctions since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and the first direct sanctions imposed by President Donald Trump against Russia since taking office in January.

STORIES YOU MAY LIKE

The sanctions set a November 21 deadline for companies to wind down dealings with Rosneft and Lukoil. Violators could be cut off from the dollar-based financial system. But it was unclear how Treasury will enforce the sanctions. The two largest buyers of Russian oil have been China and India.

The OFAC analysis said that several key grades of Russian crude were selling at multi-year-low prices and noted that nearly a dozen major Indian and Chinese purchasers of Russian crude have announced intentions to pause their purchases of Russian oil for December deliveries. LSEG Workspace data on Monday showed benchmark Urals crude loaded at Russia's Black Sea oil hub of Novorossiysk URL-NVRSK traded at \$45.35 per barrel on November 12, the lowest level since March 2023. At that time, Russia was just beginning to assemble a "shadow fleet" of tankers to avoid a G7-led price cap of \$60 a barrel imposed in December 2023. Brent crude futures LCOc1 were \$62.71 on November 12 and traded at \$64.03 on Monday. Urals Novorossiysk rose to \$47.01 on Monday. Loadings resumed at the Black Sea port after being suspended by a Ukrainian drone and missile attack. Reuters reported earlier this month that Russian oil discounts to Brent had widened as major Indian and Chinese refiners cut purchases in response to the US sanctions.

Will Reliance do a Jio in India's pet-food market

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Reliance Retail's entry into the pet-food business has opened a new front in India's fast-growing consumer market, raising the question of whether the company can repeat the kind of disruption it triggered in telecom through Jio. Early signals suggest that Reliance Consumer Products Ltd is preparing for a large-scale, value-led play that could alter pricing, widen access and accelerate mass adoption of branded pet food, particularly in non-metro markets. But the category's dependence on trust, nutrition standards and vet endorsements means the outcome will be more complex than the rapid, sweeping change seen in telecom. India's pet-food market has been expanding steadily as pet ownership rises across cities and smaller towns. The segment is still dominated by global players such as Mars (Pedigree, Royal Canin) and Purina, alongside strong homegrown brands like Drools and SmartHeart. These companies command significant loyalty in urban and premium segments, where pet parents place a high premium on nutrition quality and brand credibility. Yet the market continues to have a large unbranded and homemade food component, especially in tier-2 and tier-3 markets—an area where Reliance sees clear opportunity. Reliance's strategy appears to hinge on aggressive pricing and wide distribution. Its private-label brand is expected to be positioned at substantially lower price points than established players, making packaged pet food more accessible to price-conscious households, according to reports. The company also brings unmatched reach: its supermarket chains, neighbourhood stores and JioMart platform give it immediate access to millions of potential buyers. This ability to place products everywhere, at once, has historically been a crucial factor in how Reliance scales new categories. Still, pet food is not telecom. While low prices can help expand the mass market, the category relies heavily on repeat purchases built on trust. Pet owners—especially those in urban and premium segments—often follow vet recommendations and seek products with proven nutrition standards.

Why chasing every new IPO can hurt your portfolio

Chasing every new IPO may feel exciting, but it often does more harm than good. Many recent listings have slipped below their issue price, showing that hype doesn't always translate into real returns.

New Delhi.(Agency)

In just two years, India's primary market has gone from buoyant to breathtaking. Between 2024 and late 2025, more than 200 mainboard IPOs and hundreds of SME issues have raised Rs 3.2 lakh crore, making India the fourth-largest IPO market in the world—behind only the US, China, and Hong Kong. The exuberance is palpable: retail participation has doubled, oversubscriptions run into hundreds of times, and the gray-market premium has become dinner-table talk. Yet behind the

fanfare lies a sobering statistic—one in four IPOs launched in 2025 is already trading below its issue price.

THE ALLURE OF QUICK GAINS

The thrill is undeniable. In 2024, 80% of IPOs (74 out of 93) listed at a premium, delivering average listing gains of 30%. The momentum split into early 2025, when over half of new listings opened in the green—though the average pop slipped to 12.7%. For short-term traders, the maths looked irresistible: invest Rs 2 lakh in three IPOs, flip on listing day, and pocket Rs 75,000 in a week. But by the third month, half of 2025's IPOs turned negative, erasing paper profits. Median post-listing returns fell below 5%, the lowest since 2020. The difference between success and disappointment was often just 48 hours between allotment and listing. For those who held beyond the initial hype, "instant gains" became "instant lessons." The deeper problem isn't participation—it's pricing. Take LensKart, India's most talked-about eyewear IPO. Valued at Rs 7,200 crore in mid-2024, it sought a Rs 70,000 crore valuation within months—a tenfold jump despite modest profits. At that price, it implied a P/E above 200 and a price-to-



sales multiple near 10, typical of Silicon Valley tech firms, not brick-and-mortar retail. Analysts noted that half the funds raised would go to operating expenses, not expansion—a windfall for private-equity investors. It wasn't an exception. From 2021 to 2025, over 60% of new-age IPOs—Paytm, Nykaa, MamaEarth—listed at rich valuations, only to fall 40–70% within a year.

WHO ACTUALLY MAKES THE MONEY

Follow the money trail. Early investors in Paytm, such as Elevation Capital and SAIF Partners, bought shares at Rs 15 and exited during the IPO at Rs 1,950—a 140x return. Retail buyers who entered at the issue price are still down 60%. This pattern repeats across new listings: VCs and anchor funds exit; small investors enter at

PhysicsWallah makes strong market debut as shares list at 33% premium

New Delhi.(Agency)

PhysicsWallah made an impressive start on Dalal Street on Tuesday, delivering a much stronger listing than what the grey market premium (GMP) had indicated before the debut.

The stock listed at Rs 145 on the NSE and Rs 143.10

on the BSE, marking a sharp 33% premium over its issue price of Rs 109. This comes as a surprise to many market watchers, as the GMP trend had pointed to only a modest gain. The upbeat listing shows that investor confidence in the company's growth story remains high, despite the subdued subscription numbers during the IPO. PhysicsWallah, founded by Alakh Pandey, is one of India's most recognisable education brands. What began as a YouTube channel has now expanded into a fast-growing hybrid education network. The company offers online and offline test-prep courses for exams such as JEE, NEET, and UPSC, along with a range of upskilling programmes. It has over 13.7 million subscribers on YouTube and operates 303 offline and hybrid centres across the country. The PhysicsWallah IPO was subscribed 1.92 times in total, with the retail category subscribed 1.14 times, the qualified institutional buyers (QIB) portion 2.86 times, and the non-institutional investors (NII) segment 0.51 times as of November 13. While the subscription levels were not high, analysts said the participation from institutional investors shows faith in the company's long-term potential. The IPO price band was fixed at Rs 103–Rs 109 per share, with a lot size of 137 shares, requiring a minimum investment of Rs 14,933 at the upper price. For small non-institutional investors (sNII), the minimum investment was Rs 2,09,062, while for large NIIs (bNII), it stood at Rs 10,00,511.

The company ranks among India's top five edtech firms by revenue, supported by its affordable pricing, wide reach, and strong digital engagement. Its hybrid model—combining free online content with paid courses and offline centres—continues to be a major driver of growth. PhysicsWallah's debut at a 33% premium has exceeded market estimates, including those based on the grey market premium. Analysts say this reflects strong trust in the company's long-term potential, its profitable track record in an otherwise troubled edtech sector, and growing demand for structured test-prep services across Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. The stronger-than-expected debut also suggests that retail investors and institutions are willing to back companies with established brands and clear revenue visibility, even in a market where new-age tech IPOs have been approached with caution.

Agrawal clarified that refunds involving smaller amounts are being processed without delay. He said the department found several incorrect claims during their analysis, which required deeper checks. According to him, the aim is to complete the pending refunds by



end of this month or by December. Official figures show that refunds dropped by about 18% to over Rs 2.42 lakh crore between April 1 and November 10 this year. This decline is

partly because refund claims have gone down even after TDS rates were eased.

PUSH TO REDUCE TAX LITIGATION

The CBDT chief also said the department is working to clear pending appeals. He noted that a large backlog had built up

during the Covid years, but this year the pace of disposal has improved. According to Agrawal, more than 40% more appeals have been settled this year compared to last year, and the department expects to close many more cases before the year ends.

Faster Refunds for Genuine Taxpayers

Agrawal stressed that all these measures are meant to make the refund process smoother and quicker for honest taxpayers. The department hopes that once the flagged cases are cleared, refund delays will reduce significantly.

Digital gold firms knock on Sebi's door, seek regulatory supervision: Report

With digital gold gaining traction across India, questions around safety and regulation are becoming louder. Industry bodies and platforms now want formal oversight to boost trust in the fast-growing segment.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Digital gold has exploded in popularity, especially among younger investors who prefer low-ticket purchases, instant liquidity and zero locker costs. But its rapid rise has also brought a sharp question into focus: who regulates these products?

Amid this uncertainty, the India Bullion & Jewellers Association (IBJA) has asked the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to bring digital

gold providers under a formal regulatory framework, saying clearer oversight could help address concerns about customer safety. The Economic Times reported. According to the report, IBJA wrote to the markets



regulator on November 11, urging that digital gold platforms be placed under Sebi or any other suitable regulator. The industry body said several digital gold companies themselves want regulatory supervision to reassure

consumers that they are not being misled. We have been approached by various digital gold companies and they have shown their willingness to be regulated," IBJA national secretary Surendra Mehta told ET. He added that

many digital gold products are backed by refiners accredited by BIS and NABL. The request comes after Sebi recently warned investors that digital gold products do not fall under its jurisdiction. The regulator said such products are neither classified as securities nor commodity derivatives, meaning they do not enjoy the protections available to gold ETFs, electronic gold receipts or exchange-traded derivatives.

It is worth noting that digital gold has seen rapid adoption among younger buyers, especially during festivals and discount-driven shopping events.

Exporters to get dedicated credit card, collateral aid under Export Promotion Mission

The initiative will be jointly implemented by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of MSME and Ministry of Finance, with a total budgetary allocation of Rs 25,060 crore for six years starting FY 2025-26

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) approved by the Cabinet last week, e-commerce exporters will gain access to dedicated credit cards and collateral support for export credit, the Ministry of Commerce said on Monday. The initiative will be jointly implemented by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of MSME and Ministry of Finance, with a total budgetary allocation of Rs 25,060 crore for six years starting FY 2025-26. Two schemes will be launched under the EPM — Niryat Protsahan and Niryat Disha. While Niryat Protsahan will focus



on strengthening India's trade finance ecosystem and bridging the MSME trade finance gap, Niryat Disha will work on enhancing India's export capacity by addressing non-tariff barriers, building export capabilities, and positioning Indian goods and services in key global markets. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Monday that the credit cards issued under Niryat Protsahan will "support e-commerce exporters with

alternative credit instruments to compensate for the lack of traditional export credit." The plan also includes interest subvention on pre- and post-shipment credit to reduce borrowing costs and ensure steady liquidity for exporters. Additional facilities for exporters under Niryat Protsahan will include broader access to alternative trade instruments such as export factoring and deep-tier financing. The credit card for e-

commerce exporters is intended to address the lack of access to traditional credit lines. The mission also proposes collateral support to ease security requirements, along with shared-risk and credit-enhancement tools to help MSMEs expand into new and emerging markets.

Niryat Disha, on the other hand, aims to "bridge the export compliance cost gap due to high fixed costs for testing, certification, and audits required to meet global standards," the Commerce Ministry said. The programme will support Indian exporters in quality upgrades and technical compliances and help them cover expenses related to testing, certification and audits required to meet stringent international standards. It will also provide market-access assistance for participation in global buyer-seller meets, trade delegations and product showcases. Other facilities include shared export warehousing to reduce fulfilment costs and incentives for inland transport and handling.

Palak Tiwari

Does It Again, Actress Turns Heads In A Strapless Gown

Palak Tiwari, who celebrated her 25th birthday last month, is making waves again. This time, she has stolen the spotlight for her sartorial prowess. On Sunday, the actress, last seen in the horror-comedy film *The Bhootnii*, attended Myntra's Glam Stream Fest 2025. Needless to mention, she commanded attention with her glamorous OOTN at the event.

In a video posted by a paparazzo account on Instagram, Palak Tiwari was seen posing for the shutterbugs. She flashed a smile at the camera, looking like a million bucks in an earthy-toned mesh gown. The strapless number was picked out from the shelves of the Vietnamese haute couture brand Phan Huy's Fall-Winter 2026 collection.

Palak Tiwari Makes A Case In Strapless Fit

Palak Tiwari's body-hugging silhouette featured hand-applied crystals and tiered layers in soft, pastel shades of brown, beige, gold and copper. Delicate diamond jewellery, minimal makeup and wavy tresses left loose sealed her pretty avatar.

Inside Palak Tiwari's Australian Escapade

Not long ago, Palak Tiwari treated fans to a series of pictures and videos from her Australian vacation on Instagram. She explored the nooks and corners of Sydney, including the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. In some of the snaps, the *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Jaan* actress enjoyed a serene boat ride, while in others she roamed the streets like a true-blue explorer. "Kept it 100 on the land, the sea AND the sky. Nothing in the world like Sydney," she captioned the post.

Palak Tiwari, the daughter of Bollywood actress Shweta Tiwari, stepped into the entertainment world with the 2021 music video *Bijlee Bijlee*, by singer-actor Hardy Sandhu. She got her first break into acting with the Farhad Samji directorial *Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan*. The action-comedy, headlined by Salman Khan, also starred Pooja Hegde, Raghav Juyal, Siddharth Nigam, Daggubati Venkatesh, Jagapathi Babu, Jassie Gill and Shehnaaz Gill, to name a few. The movie, however, failed to strike the right chord with the masses. Palak Tiwari's latest appearance was in *The Bhootnii*, helmed by Sidhant Sachdev, Sanjay Dutt, Mouni Roy and Sunny Singh, who were also a part of the film, which premiered in May.



Ananya Panday

Reacts To Himesh Reshammiya Singing Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri

Ananya Panday and Kartik Aaryan are gearing up for their second collaboration, *Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri*. Recently, makers also released a motion poster that went viral immediately. Well, on Sunday, Himesh Reshammiya was seen singing the film's title track during his concert in Mumbai. It grabbed Ananya's attention, and she immediately reacted. Taking to her Instagram stories, Ananya Panday shared the video of Himesh Reshammiya and Kartik Aaryan's collab and wrote, "wait this is my new favourite song!!!". Kartik also took to his Instagram handle and shared the video with the caption, "legendary." Fans also reacted.

Kartik Aaryan's Surprise Entry At Himesh Reshammiya's Concert Has Fans Saying 'Jabardast Jodi'

Mumbai turned into a vibrant musical hub on November 16 as Himesh Reshammiya headlined the much-anticipated Myntra Glamstream Fest, delivering a power-packed evening brimming with unforgettable performances, cutting-edge fashion moments and roaring fan enthusiasm. Devotees of the iconic composer-singer gathered hours in advance, eager to experience a nostalgia-filled concert that promised to be nothing short of spectacular. The atmosphere hit a new peak when Kartik Aaryan made a surprise appearance during Himesh's live concert. The duo's unexpected collaboration instantly sent waves of excitement through the packed venue. Himesh, known for his warm and animated stage persona, welcomed Kartik with an affectionate hug, a gesture that quickly went viral across social media platforms.

Their chemistry was effortless, filled with friendly banter, laughter and bursts of youthful energy that left the audience cheering nonstop. Kartik's visit was part of the promotional run for his upcoming film *Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri*, making the night a perfect blend of Bollywood glamour and musical thrill.



Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri: Christmas Release Locked

On November 3, Kartik unveiled the official poster of his film *Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri*, announcing that the movie will arrive in theatres this Christmas, on 25 December. Packed with romance, breathtaking visuals, and the irresistible charm of its lead cast, the film is gearing up to offer audiences a heartwarming festive release. Recently, he also launched the motion poster of the film which offers a breathtaking first look into the story's picturesque landscape. It opens with sweeping visuals of Croatia's azure skies, serene waterfronts.



Bipasha Basu Rings In Daughter Devi's 3rd Birthday With A Dreamy Beach Celebration



Bipasha Basu has enjoyed every bit of the parenting journey since she and her husband, Karan Singh Grover, welcomed their daughter Devi nearly three years ago. The duo recently celebrated their daughter's birthday in a cosy way and the pictures are simply adorable. Instead of a regular birthday party, Bipasha decided to celebrate Devi's big day on the beachside. The actress posted a picture of Devi enjoying her day at the beach. The little munchkin was dressed in a pink dress of the day and the area was also decorated with pink balloons. An aesthetic beachside shed was also seen in the picture with a banner that read "Happy Birthday Devi." In another video, the young girl was seen playing with rose petals on the beach.

Earlier, to mark her daughter's special day, Bipasha shared another candid photo of her and showered her with love. Devi is seen going forward with her back to the camera in the photo, which appears to have been taken in a hotel lobby.

Bipasha Basu's Moments With Devi

Bipasha Basu often shared adorable moments with her daughter on social media. Some time back she shared a set of picture featuring the trip, Bipasha, Devi and Karan. Bipasha looked effortlessly lovely in a pastel pink dress, while Karan dressed casually in a purple tee. Little Devi looked gorgeous in a pink top and black leggings, her hair neatly groomed with cute clips. One shot showed the loving parents holding their daughter close, while another showed Devi playing in a vibrant setting with a miniature slide and a wooden playhouse.

Bipasha Basu and actor Karan Singh Grover married on April 30, 2016, in a traditional Bengali wedding. Six years later, the couple became parents and welcomed their daughter Devi in November 2022. Bipasha has been out of the film profession since her marriage.

Natasa Stankovic Looks Uber-Cool In White, New Photos Make Fans Say 'So Pretty'



Natasa Stankovic often shares glimpses of her personal life on Instagram and never fails to impress everyone with her over-the-top fashion choices.

She has repeatedly proved that she can slay any outfit with her style. On Monday too, Natasa took to her Instagram handle and dropped a series of pictures, which are now setting fire online. In these latest photos, Natasa Stankovic was seen posing on a street in a simple yet elegant way. She sported a white top and paired it with a thigh-high slit printed skirt. The diva opted for matching heels with minimal makeup and left her tresses open.

Needless to say, Natasa's pictures have left everyone on social media gasping for breath. Among others, her best friend, Aleksandar Alex Ilic also expressed his admiration for the photos and dropped heart-eyes emojis in the comments box. Fans also rushed to praise the diva. While one of the users called Natasa a "queen," another simply wrote, "so pretty".

Natasa and Hardik Pandya's Relationship and Co-Parenting Journey

Natasa's personal life has often been under public attention, especially following her separation from cricketer Hardik Pandya. The couple, who tied the knot in May 2020 and renewed their vows in a beautiful dual-ceremony, both Hindu and Christian traditions in February 2023, officially announced their split in July 2024.

In a joint statement, they described it as a "tough decision" and emphasised their commitment to co-parenting their son, Agastya, with mutual respect and love. "After 4 years of being together, Hardik and I have decided to mutually part ways. We tried our best together and gave it our all, and we believe this is in the best interest for the both of us.

This was a tough decision for us to make, given the joy, mutual respect and companionship we enjoyed together and as we grew a family," the statement read. "We are blessed with Agastya, who will continue to be at the centre of both our lives and we will co-parent to ensure that we give him everything that we can for his happiness. We sincerely request your support and understanding to give us privacy during this difficult and sensitive time," it added.

Despite the challenges, both continue to maintain a dignified and friendly relationship for their child's well-being.



Bad beauty habits to fix now



Pause and take a look at your daily beauty ritual. Time to bring it back on track if the don'ts overpower the dos

It's natural to pick a bad habit or two even when it comes to beauty. But not many of us are aware of these. Says Narcis Jordan, a beauty professional, "Poor hygiene could lead to severe skin and hair infections. Following a beauty routine according to your skin and hair type is not enough, you need to make sure that you are doing it the proper and healthy way." There's more...

Sleeping with make-up on

Beauty experts have often spoken about the harmful effects of sleeping with make-up on. Nevertheless, many still forget to cleanse their face before going off to bed. No matter how tired you are, make sure to remove each and every trace of make-up before you retire for the night. It can clog your pores and can cause acne breakouts. It can also make your skin look dull due to the product buildup.



Beauty advice: Make-up professional Meghna Butani says, "Use a make-up remover to clean your face thoroughly, before washing it off with water and cleanser. You can use unscented baby wipes to remove your eye make-up. Make sure to apply night cream after that."

Touching your face too often

A common mistake that most women make, consciously or unconsciously, is to keep

touching their face throughout the day. Touching your face consistently can lead to a buildup of dirt and oil from your fingertips to your face; this will clog your pores and cause breakouts.

Beauty advice: "Sanitise your hands if you've been outdoors or to the washroom before you touch your face. Further, you need to make a conscious effort to remember

that touching your face too often can lead to a buildup of dirt on your face," adds Jordan.

Throw away old make-up

Make-up expires with time. Once opened, make-up products become susceptible to contamination and can also collect bacteria. Using old make-up items can cause blemishes and also lead to skin irritations.

Beauty advice: Always remember to throw away eye and face make-up products like mascara, kajal, foundation and compact which have been used for more than six months.

Overdoing the tweeze

Dermatologist Dr Aparna Santhanam says, "You might not have enough time to visit the salon, but plucking away uneven or extra hair with tweezers could be harmful for your facial skin. Do you know that too much tweezing of your eyebrows can completely change the look of your face? For example, if you have thin eyebrows and keep plucking it, it can make your face look larger

and older than you actually are."

Beauty advice: If you feel that you have unwanted hair around your eyebrows, stick to just plucking one or two. Further use a thin comb to shape your eyebrows and use a little bit of gel to shape them properly.

Clear off dirty make-up brushes

More often than not, one forgets to clean the make-up brushes on a daily basis. Think about all the surfaces your make-up brush comes in contact with — bathroom countertops, inside of your make-up bag etc. They breed bacteria, if you do not clean them properly. They will irritate your skin and also cause itching and burning eyes. Apart from this, using dirty brushes may also impact the look of your make-up. The application of your foundation or compact will not be smooth as it's supposed to be.

Beauty advice: Clean your brush at least once a week. Wash them with water and shampoo and lay them flat to dry out in the sun. However, you must never blow-dry these brushes, else they might stay damp.

Skincare for working Women



The facial skin is the most sensitive and deserves the highest attention. These days due to exposure to pollution, climatic changes and stress the skin loses its sheen very easily. Investing in a planned beauty treatment that works deep from within can be very helpful in such cases. Opting for therapies using organic products like argan oil, goji berry extract, avocado oil, gold elements etc over a couple of months show a lot of positive results.

The beauty of using organic products is that they blend with the body's natural system, supporting the skin in its regeneration process. Organic facial helps in fighting dead skin cell and reveal the new skin underneath, leaving the skin visibly lighter. Thus, washing your face with homemade ingredients is the best way to care for your skin.

Argan Oil is another ingredient used extensively for the skin, hair and body. Extracted from the magical Argan tree, it is the best secret weapon for red-carpet like radiance. It's deep conditioning properties works wonder on the entire skin. A lot of celebrities vouch by Argan oil for their perfect and blemish-free skin. After all, there is nothing more beautiful than having a naturally glowing skin for a woman.

Spa therapies

you must try before your wedding day



Heading towards your big, D-Day soon? The run-up to it is bound to be full of stress, to-do lists, shopping trips and more. And in all that, it's important to find the time to recharge, lose the fatigue and get prepared for your wedding day. To help you unwind, it's a good idea to chalk up trips to the spa for a mix of massages for your pressure points, body wraps, facials and other relaxation therapies. Here's more...

Skincare facials

Signature facials are definitely a part of the list. "Brides love the 'blue diamond' facial, with mineral ingredients and thermal spring water, which gives a brightening and even tone skin effect," says Husnavaz Dastur, spa director at a hotel at Lower Parel. And grooms get pampered, too. "Popular for men are facials that use

minerals to remove dead skin cells and clarifying masks. You also have eye treatments that are part of the facial," she says.

One of the best ways to de-stress is via an Ayurvedic massage, which effectively drains away toxins and restores the energy balance in the body. The masseur uses vigorous strokes (not painful) in order to balance the energy centers. There's a lot to try — Abhyanga, a hot-oil massage, Shirodhara, where herb-infused hot oil is dripped onto the forehead or Tanlepa, an oil massage followed by a wrap. There's also an international blend to help you relax and get shipshape. Says Gunjan Chawla, spa director at a five-star hotel at Juhu, "We do an odyssey, a total indulgence trip, which is an hour-long

massage followed by a scrub and a facial that enhances one's glow. Brides-to-be also love the Mediterranean sojourn — a luxe scrub with marine salt, brown sugar and lemon that softens the skin and the Egyptian one, where you relax in a milk bath with brown algae extracts and gold flecks, that lends the body a silky smoothness." And to bust fatigue, opt for a de-stress massage. Says Nalini Naegamvala, "This is a scalp, neck, shoulder, hand and foot massage that eases away aches. It's a lunchtime regimen that can be done without taking off the clothes or having a shower."

Skin pampering soaks for the bride and couple-to-be are also big on the agenda. Informs Dastur, "In demand are 'royal baths' that use rose bath salts, crystals with rose oil and coloured flower petals and Moroccan lamps — all of which go to enhance the whole experience. So it's really a colour therapy experience, which is very popular, now." Traditional herbal baths are also a great option. They offer a tranquil and beautifying experience. "You can use herbs such as triphala churna or mulgari churna which are added to water or milk and poured over the person. Not only does it help with skin disorders but it is also

